



भारत विश्व के प्रमुख कृषि प्रधान देशों में से एक है और इसकी संपत्ति के सबसे बड़े स्रोतों में से सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण है- भूमि की पैदावार। देश के आर्थिक विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। इसका योगदान सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 29.4 प्रतिशत है। इससे करीब 64 प्रतिशत सेवा क्षेत्र जुड़ा है। खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में वर्ष दर वर्ष कृषि उत्पादन में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति दर्ज की गई है।

कृषि विज्ञान आधारित उच्च प्रौद्योगिकीय क्षेत्र है तथा इसमें रोजगार संभावनाएं हैं। पशु और पादप शोधकर्ता, खाद्य वैज्ञानिक, वस्तु ब्रोक पोषणविद, कृषि पत्रकार, बैंकर्स, बाजार विश्लेषक, बिक्री व्यावसायिक खाद्य संसाधक, वन प्रबंधक, वन्यजीव विशेषज्ञ आदि के रूप में कृषि क्षेत्र में करियर बनाया जा सकता है।

कृषि अनुसंधान और शिक्षा कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों, संस्थानों तथा कृषि शिक्षा और पशु चिकित्सा विज्ञान महाविद्यालयों द्वारा संचालित की जाती है। कृषि विज्ञान के प्राकृतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक विज्ञान भाग हैं, जिन्हें कृषि के व्यवहार तथा इसे समझने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। इस क्षेत्र में उत्पादन तकनीकें जैसे सिंचाई प्रबंधन, अनुशासित नाइट्रोजन इनपुट गुणवत्ता और मात्रा की दृष्टि से कृषि उत्पादन में सुधार, प्राथमिक उत्पादों का अंतिम-उपभोक्ता उत्पादों में परिवर्तन, विपरीत पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों का रोकथाम तथा सुधार जैसे मिट्टी निम्नीकरण, कचरा प्रबंधन, जैव-पुनर्स्थापना सैद्धांतिक उत्पादन पारिस्थितिकी, फसल उत्पादन मॉडलिंग संबंधित परंपरागत कृषि प्रणालियां, कई बार इसे जीविका कृषि भी कहा जाता है, जो विश्व के सर्वाधिक गरीब लोगों का भरण-पोषण करती है। परंपरागत पद्धतियां काफी रुचिकर हैं क्योंकि कई बार ये औद्योगिक कृषि की बजाय ज्यादा प्राकृतिक स्थितियों की व्यवस्था के साथ समाकलन स्तर कायम रखती हैं जो कि कुछ आधुनिक कृषि प्रणालियों की अपेक्षा ज्यादा दीर्घकालिक होती हैं।

कृषि विज्ञान में कैरियर की संभावनाएं

न घबराएं ग्रुप इंटरव्यू से



सिंगल इंटरव्यू की बजाय आजकल कंपनियां ग्रुप इंटरव्यू का कॉन्सेप्ट ज्यादा पसंद कर रही हैं। इसमें रिक्रूटिंग मैनेजर्स का बोर्ड कैडिडेट का इंटरव्यू लेता है। अगर आप कुछ बातों का ख्याल रखें, तो इसे आसानी से विलय कर सकते हैं। नए फाइनेंशियल इंटर में तमाम कंपनियां अपने रिक्रूटिंग प्रोसेस को फिर से शुरू करने की प्लानिंग कर रही हैं। गौरतलब है कि पिछले दिनों कुछ ऑर्गेनाइजेशंस ने काफी संख्या में रिक्रूटमेंट करने के संकेत भी दिए थे। हालांकि अब कंपनियां वन बाई वन इंटरव्यू की बजाय ग्रुप इंटरव्यू का कॉन्सेप्ट फॉलो कर रही हैं। इसके पीछे कंपनी के पास तमाम रीजन हैं। उनका मानना है कि इस तरह के इंटरव्यू में कम टाइम लगता है, क्योंकि एक कैडिडेट को एक साथ तमाम लोग परखते हैं। अगर एक इंटरव्यूअर एक कैडिडेट का इंटरव्यू करने में आधा घंटे का वक्त लगाता है, तो उनका ग्रुप कुछ मिनटों में ही कैडिडेट की एबिलिटी जांच लेता है। इसके अलावा, मैनेजर्स के ग्रुप के पास कैडिडेट के बारे में डिस्कस करने का भी ऑप्शन होता है, जबकि अकेले इंटरव्यूअर के पास ऐसा कोई ऑप्शन नहीं होता।

करना होगा कुछ खास

बेशक, वन बाई वन इंटरव्यू और ग्रुप इंटरव्यू में कोई बहुत ज्यादा फर्क नहीं होता, बावजूद इसके कैडिडेट्स को इस नए कॉन्सेप्ट के लिए कुछ खास तैयारियां करने की जरूरत होती है। एक्सपर्ट्स की अगर मानें, तो ग्रुप इंटरव्यू को बिजनेस मीटिंग की तरह ट्रीट करना चाहिए। आपको यह मानना चाहिए कि वहां इंटरव्यूअर आपके क्लाइंट हैं। बेशक, इस खास तरह के इंटरव्यू में आपका सामना न सिर्फ अलग-अलग तरह के लोगों से होगा, बल्कि वे आपसे असहमत भी हो सकते हैं। हालांकि अगर आप कुछ रूल्स को फॉलो करें, तो आप इसे विलय करके जॉब हासिल कर सकते हैं।



जीके या जनरल अवेयरनेस के बिना आप कोई भी कॉम्प्यूटिव एग्जाम पास करने की सोच भी नहीं सकते। बैंकिंग एग्जाम्स के लिए भी यही बात लागू होती है। जनरल अवेयरनेस के तहत इकॉनमी, जियोग्राफी, हिस्ट्री, स्पोर्ट्स आदि सबजेक्ट्स काफी अहमियत रखते हैं और एग्जाम्स में इनसे ही संबंधित नेशनल और इंटरनेशनल लेबल के सवाल ज्यादा पूछे जाते हैं। दायरा बड़ा या यूं कहें कि अनलिमिटेड होने के कारण इस सबजेक्ट की तैयारी करना हर किसी के लिए बड़ी चुनौती होती है। सवालों को लेकर कयास भी नहीं लगाए जा सकते हैं। कहीं से कुछ भी पूछा जा सकता है। बैंक एग्जाम्स की बात करें तो इस सबजेक्ट का फोकस उन टॉपिक्स पर ज्यादा होता है, जिनका बैंकिंग और इकॉनमी से वास्ता होता है क्योंकि बैंकिंग सेक्टर में काम करने वालों का इनसे ही वास्ता पड़ता है और एग्जाम में यही देखा जाता है कि इनमें स्टूडेंट्स की कितनी समझ है? वैसे तो इस सबजेक्ट की तैयारी के बाद कोई यह नहीं कह सकता कि उसने सब कर लिया है, लेकिन अपने आप को देश-दुनिया की घटनाओं से अपडेट रख अपने लिए जमीन जरूर तैयार कर सकते हैं।

आपकी सफलता बहुत हद तक जनरल अवेयरनेस पर डिपेंड करती है। इसकी कई वजहें हैं। अब तो यह कि हर एग्जाम में इसके अंक काफी होते हैं। दूसरा यह कि जनरल अवेयरनेस के सवालों को हल करने में बहुत ही कम समय लगता है। इसलिए आप इस सेक्शन में समय बचा कर अन्य सेक्शन में लगा सकते हैं। एग्जाम में भी इस सेक्शन को पहले करने की जरूरत होती है। जो लोग पहले दूसरे सेक्शन करते हैं, वे अक्सर समय न मिलने के कारण सवाल छूटने की शिकायत करते हैं। अन्य सेक्शन में अच्छा होने और अच्छा करने के बावजूद बहुतों के लिए एग्जाम में फेल होने का यह भी एक कॉमन रीजन है।

इकॉनमी और फाइनेंस

बैंकों के एग्जाम के लिए जनरल अवेयरनेस की तैयारी कर रहे हैं तो फोकस इकॉनमी और फाइनेंस पर ही रखें। आपसे कुछ भी पूछा जा सकता है। वर्ल्ड बैंक और एडीबी से लेकर रिजर्व बैंक तक के बारे में। नामी कंपनियों और उनके प्रदर्शन से भी खुद को वाकिफ रखें। बैंकिंग और फाइनेंस सेक्टर में इस्तेमाल होने वाले टर्म और शब्द संक्षेप पर भी पकड़ बनाएं। हिस्ट्री, पॉलिटिक्स और खेल की भी अच्छी तैयारी रखनी चाहिए।

रेग्युलर बनें

जनरल अवेयरनेस की तैयारी को काफी लोग हल्के में लेते हैं। लोग मान लेते हैं कि बैंक के लिए रीजनिंग और मैथ्स अहम है, जनरल अवेयरनेस नहीं। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है और यह भी नहीं है कि आप इस सबजेक्ट की तैयारी थोड़े दिनों में कर सकते हैं। सबसे पहले तो जरूरत है चीजों को समझने की। अगर बैंकिंग और फाइनेंस के टर्मस आप समझ जाएंगे तो बाद में आसानी से खुद को अपडेट रख सकते हैं। किसी

बैंकिंग सक्सेस के लिए जीके भी जरूरी

अन्य चीज की तरह इस सबजेक्ट में अच्छा करने के लिए भी नियमितता जरूरी है। करंट अफेयर्स से खुद को अपडेट रखने का रूटीन बनाएं इसलिए तैयारी अडवांस में ही शुरू कर देनी चाहिए। ऐसा करते खुद और दूसरों में अंतर देख सकते हैं। खुद को अपडेट रखने के लिए सबसे पहले तो न्यूज पेपर्स का सहारा लें। इसके अलावा करंट अफेयर्स की एक दो अच्छी पत्रिका भी नियमित रूप से पढ़ें। जनरल अवेयरनेस के सवालों का जायजा आप पिछले एग्जाम्स के सवालों से ले

सकते हैं। एक और बात भी ठीक तरह समझ लें कि जनरल अवेयरनेस की तैयारी के लिए आप किसी एक बुक के सहारे नहीं रह सकते हैं। बाजार में हर जरूरत के हिसाब से काफी पुस्तकें और मैगजींस आ रही हैं। आप उनमें से कुछेक के नियमित पाठक बन सकते हैं। इस क्रम में समाचार चैनलों और इंटरनेट का भी सहारा लिया जा सकता है। नेट पर भी अब हिंदी और इंग्लिश, दोनों भाषाओं के अलावा क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में भी काफी कुछ उपलब्ध है।



जर्नलिज्म, बेस्ट कैरियर

इन दिनों ज्यादातर युवाओं के लिए मीडिया आकर्षक कैरियर बनता जा रहा है। यदि लिखने-पढ़ने के शौकीन हैं और आपकी कम्युनिकेशन स्किल बढ़िया है, तो मीडिया आपके लिए बेस्ट कैरियर साबित हो सकता है। दरअसल, आज मीडिया का काफी विस्तार हो चुका है। न केवल अखबार, टीवी और रेडियो, बल्कि इंटरनेट, मैगजींस, फिल्म भी इसके विस्तारित क्षेत्र हैं। करंट इवेंट्स, ट्रेड्स संबंधित इन्फॉर्मेशन कलेक्ट करना, एनालाइज करना आदि जर्नलिस्ट के मुख्य काम हैं।

ज्यादातर इंस्टीट्यूट्स एंट्रेंस एग्जाम आयोजित करते हैं। इसमें रिटर्न टेस्ट, इंटरव्यू और ग्रुप डिस्कशन भी होता है। लिखित परीक्षा में स्टूडेंट्स के राइटिंग स्किल्स, जनरल अवेयरनेस, एनालिटिकल एबिलिटी और एप्टीट्यूड की जांच की जाती है। एमसीआरसी के ऑफिशिएटिंग डायरेक्टर ओबेद सिद्दीकी के अनुसार, एंट्रेंस एग्जाम के लिए कोई विशेष तैयारी नहीं करनी होती है। टेस्ट के माध्यम से एप्लीकेंट के सोशल, कल्चरल और पॉलिटिकल इश्यू संबंधित ज्ञान को परखा जाता है।

करंट अफेयर्स की जानकारी एशियन कॉलेज ऑफ जर्नलिज्म के प्रोफेसर संपत कुमार कहते हैं कि जर्नलिज्म के लिए जरूरी तत्व है- करंट न्यूज पर आपकी पकड़। ऐसे कैडिडेट ही अच्छे जर्नलिस्ट बनते हैं, जिन्हें न्यूज की अच्छी समझ होती है और जिनकी राइटिंग स्किल बढ़िया होती है। साथ ही, उनका अपने पेशे के प्रति कमिटमेंट होना भी जरूरी है। दरअसल, किसी भी खबर का विश्लेषण कर उसे सरल रूप में पेश करना ही

मास कम्युनिकेशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य होता है। यदि आप इस पेशे में सफल होना चाहते हैं, तो न्यूज पेपर्स, मैगजींस और करंट अफेयर्स संबंधित बुक्स जरूर पढ़ें।

इंटरव्यू है असली परीक्षा: दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी से जर्नलिज्म में बैचलर करने के बाद मैं पीजी करना चाहता था। मैं प्रतिदिन एंट्रेंस एग्जाम की तैयारी के लिए दो लीडिंग न्यूजपेपर्स और कई मैगजींस पढ़ा करता था। एंट्रेंस एग्जाम राइटिंग स्किल और सामयिक घटनाओं के प्रति आपकी जागरूकता की जांच के लिए किए जाते हैं। इसमें सफल होना आसान है। असली परीक्षा इंटरव्यूज के दौरान होती है। इस दौरान आपके न्यूज सेंस, कम्युनिकेशन स्किल और पेशे की भी जांच-परख होती है। यदि आप दबू किस्म के इंजान हैं या जल्दी अपना धैर्य खो देते हैं, तो आपको इस क्षेत्र में सफलता नहीं मिल सकती। इसलिए आपको अपने लक्ष्य के प्रति स्पष्ट नजरिया बनाना होगा कि आपका स्वभाव इस पेशे के अनुकूल है या नहीं।

To recoup life while it's still throbbing

In August 2022, Salman Rushdie was almost killed for being “disingenuous”. That was one of the reasons put forth by the writer’s would-be assassin, who confessed to having read only two pages of ‘The Satanic Verses’. Rushdie’s fourth novel was also his most controversial. Published in 1988, it had sparked a fatwa, launched a thousand protests, triggered numerous killings (including that of the Japanese translator of the book) and compelled Rushdie to live under the shadow of death. Though he had anticipated an attack in the decade after the fatwa, it had somewhat receded until the murderous attack on his “last innocent evening” in upstate New York, where Rushdie was to ironically give a talk on the safety of writers. Death, or rather the nearness of it, is what Rushdie reflects on in his new book ‘Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder’.

How do writers under the shadow of death confront it, grapple with it every day, and yet make meaning out of it and use it as material? Is death a battle to be fought and won, an inevitability to be made peace with, or a fear that haunts till the last living breath? Poet John Donne throws a gauntlet of irreverence at “proud” death, when he says, “Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so! For, those, whom thou think’st, thou dost overthrow/ Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.”

If death made several failed encounters with Rushdie, it was an “imposing itinerant visitor” for Paul Kalanithi, the young neurosurgeon who faced it with equanimity and courage. Diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer at the age of 36, Kalanithi writes in his memoir ‘When Breath Becomes Air’, “I began to realise that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything.” Nothing, because he knew someday he would have to die though he didn’t know when. Everything, because now he knew it more acutely. There was also the more profound realisation that “even when I’m dying, until I actually die, I am still living”. In the case of both Rushdie and Kalanithi, it is love and language that illuminate their lives in their darkest phases. Both harness the power of literature to recoup life while it’s still throbbing. “Language was my knife,” Rushdie ruminates in ‘Knife’, “the knife I could use to fight back” and a tool to reclaim his world, while Kalanithi, “searching for a vocabulary with which to make sense of death”, found it in writing. “Words,” he writes, “have a longevity I do not.”

Christopher Hitchens, the literary world’s best known contrarian, too, became that “finalist in the race for life” when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and reflects how he had been in denial for long. “But I can’t see myself smiting my brow with shock or hear myself whining about how it’s all so unfair: I have been taunting the Reaper into taking a free scythe in my direction and have now succumbed to something so predictable and banal that it bores even me,” Hitchens writes in his memoir ‘Mortality’ that documents a very public dying.

“I have more than once in my time woken up feeling like death” is how Hitchens begins the book. He details his diagnosis as “a very gentle and firm deportation” into the land of malady, a land that he says is quite welcoming, where “everybody smiles encouragingly and there appears to be absolutely no racism” though the humour in this new country is “a touch feeble and repetitive” and the cuisine the worst of any destination. Then comes the rather numbing realisation that “I don’t have a body, I am a body”.

More pervasive though is the wry Hitchensian humour, when he describes how “the novelty of a diagnosis of malignant cancer has a tendency to wear off... even to become banal. One can become quite used to the spectre of the eternal Footman, like some lethal old bore lurking in the hallway at the end of the evening, hoping for the chance to have a word”. Are life and death therefore two mutually exclusive or mutually constitutive binaries? Philosopher Jacques Derrida, mining for some understanding of this quandary from science, philosophy and psychoanalysis, argued that death must be considered neither as the opposite of life, nor as the truth or fulfilment of it, but rather as that which both limits life and makes it possible.

Navy women script sailing history

Lt Cdr Dilna K (left) and Lt Cdr Roopa A during the flag-in ceremony of INSV Tarini.

Amid the hype and hoopla of the IPL, a significant sporting achievement has been relegated to the margins. On April 21, Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K and Roopa A, two Indian Navy officers, completed a historic transoceanic voyage on the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini. In the process, they became the first Indian women to achieve the distinction of undertaking a transoceanic expedition in double-handed mode. The two travelled by sea, to Mauritius and back, propelling on wind power alone. They spent nearly two months on a small sailing vessel braving rough seas, strong winds, high waves, treacherous currents and much else that nature throws at you in the wilderness of oceans. While India has in its ocean sailing catalogue feats of solo sailing and sailing by a group of people (usually six), this is the first time it has been done double-handed — crewed by only two — over such a long distance. Dilna and Roopa will now prepare for their next big challenge. The Navy is preparing to flag off the ‘Sagar Parikrama IV’ expedition, a circumnavigation of the globe, on INSV Tarini, scheduled to commence in September.

Interestingly, both have an armed forces background — Dilna’s father was in the Army while Roopa’s served in the Air Force. Both were also actively involved in the NCC before joining the Navy and have led Navy’s Republic Day marching contingents. Dilna is a commerce graduate who joined the Logistics branch in the Navy. She has also been a national-level shooter. Roopa has been a university rank holder in aeronautical engineering who joined the Navy’s Armament Inspectorate branch. She is an active marathon runner. Both have logged an impressive 38,000 nautical miles of sailing under their belt.

Ever since they volunteered for ‘Sagar Parikrama IV’ in 2022, both women have made INSV Tarini their home. They often stay on the ship even when it is berthed alongside its home port in Goa and they are the ones who clean its decks and sweep its floors and do all the ‘ship’s husbandry’ tasks. The Navy’s Ocean Sailing Node in Goa gives them a full range of off-shore support, infrastructure and academic guidance. INS Mandovi acts as the mothership nurturing the vessel and the sailors, and the Indian Naval Sailing Association at Delhi handles the overall development of sailing in the Indian Navy.

The Navy has exhaustively trained these officers in all aspects of ocean sailing. Further, a full-fledged medical support team, which includes a psychologist



and sleep medicine specialist, monitors their health and medical fitness. Above all, they have an ace in the form of the legendary Abhilash Tomy, who joined them as a mentor in August 2023.

In praise of the sailors, Tomy says, “My job was tremendously reduced thanks to the willingness and effort that the women have put in... Personally, I think they have done well, especially in comparison to the other crew who have sailed the route. They have been safe and quite professional in dealing with

defects in the boat and navigating it, and have brought the boat back in an excellent state of preservation.”

Quite fascinatingly, in Cowes, UK, on April 22, sailing yacht appropriately called ‘Maiden’ won the McIntyre Ocean Globe Race, becoming the first all women crew to win an around-the-world yacht race. The crew included two Indians who sailed in different legs. Lt Cdr Payal Gupta is a serving Navy officer and Dhanya Pilo is the daughter of a retired Navy officer. Their triumph needs a separate telling.

Reviewing NOTA

Need to make it a potent option for voters

THE electoral no-show in Surat, where BJP candidate Mukesh Dalal was declared the winner unopposed, has reignited the debate on the NOTA (none of the above) option for the voters. The episode underscores the need for reforms to ensure that the fundamental right of citizens to choose their representatives is not violated or denied. The introduction of NOTA in 2013 on the directions of the Supreme Court was a landmark step aimed at empowering voters and holding political parties accountable. However, the Surat fiasco highlights the limitations of NOTA in its current form. Lacking teeth, it has repeatedly failed to influence the poll result. The latest outcome has raised questions about the integrity of the electoral process and the centrality of voters in a democratic exercise. Should a candidate be declared victorious without having faced any opposition? Should NOTA necessitate a repoll if it gets more votes



than any contestant? The apex court has issued a notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea seeking a repoll in

constituencies where NOTA receives the majority of the votes. This calls for a re-evaluation of NOTA’s role in the electoral process. While NOTA serves as a symbolic gesture of dissent — a negative vote — its true potential lies in catalysing systemic change and deterring parties from fielding unsuitable candidates. Countries like Indonesia mandate a repoll if NOTA emerges ‘victorious’, thus ensuring that citizens’ dissatisfaction is addressed comprehensively. The ECI must explore ways to enhance NOTA’s effectiveness, including considering proposals to annul the elections in constituencies where it bags the highest number of votes. This will compel political parties to nominate candidates with an unblemished reputation. Promoting NOTA — or the right to reject — as a ‘fictional’ nominee can make it a potent tool of democratic expression.

A strong case for corrective advertisements

Patanjali Ayurved has finally issued an “unconditional public apology” for its disobedience of the directions and orders of the Supreme Court, through large advertisements, but is it enough

Patanjali Ayurved has finally issued an “unconditional public apology” for its disobedience of the directions and orders of the Supreme Court, through large advertisements, but is it enough?

The apex court will obviously deliberate on this issue at its next hearing, but for consumers, who have been misled for years, nothing short of a series of court-directed ‘corrective advertisements’ to set right the erroneous impressions created by the company’s campaigns and advertisements will do. Consumers have a right to information and informed choice and it is imperative that Patanjali informs, through corrective advertisements, that it advertised its products despite knowing fully well that it was violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and also admits the misrepresentations. The prominence and duration of such advertisements should correspond to the original ones. Such advertisements would not only hold the company accountable for its misdeeds, but also send out a warning to all those businesses who unabashedly peddle lies and half-truths about their products and services, at the cost of consumers’ health and safety. In fact, such misrepresentations strike at the very root of the citizen’s fundamental right to life and flowing from it, right to health, safe food and drug. The concept of corrective advertisements may have its share of naysayers, particularly among businesses, but I have always been a strong votary of corrective advertisements as the most effective legal remedy for false and misleading advertisements. First, it cures the erroneous impression created by such advertisements in the minds of consumers. Second, if used effectively, it can be a very strong deterrent against misrepresentations because the perpetrator is forced

to invest heavily in advertisements that actually expose him and hold him accountable for misleading the public. Third, even when a false advertisement is pulled down, there is always a time lag between its appearance and its withdrawal, by which time it would have already conveyed the misinformation. It’s for this reason that every law, regulation, irrespective of the sector, dealing with false and misleading advertisements should have a provision for corrective advertisement and it must be enforced extensively and effectively. I put particular emphasis on the enforcement because having successfully pushed for the corrective advertisement provision in the Consumer Protection Act as well as the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, I am extremely disappointed that most often, the provision is ignored. Even when applied by consumer courts, there is a lack of understanding of its objective and therefore, the corrective advertisement does not serve the intended purpose. One of the best examples of corrective advertisements can be found in the directions of a federal court in the United States in what is commonly known as the Civil Racketeering lawsuit against tobacco companies. Accordingly, in 2017, major tobacco companies had to issue corrective statements as full-page advertisements in at least 50 newspapers around the country once a



week for one year and also broadcast them as 30 and 45-second prime time shots on major TV networks. The corrective statements had to refer to the manipulation of cigarette design and composition to enhance nicotine delivery, adverse health effects of smoking, addictiveness of cigarette smoking and nicotine, absence of health benefits from smoking low tar, light, ultra-light, mild and natural cigarettes, and adverse health effects of exposure to secondhand smoking.

Patanjali’s promotion of its drugs makes a strong case

for corrective advertisements because the company has constantly flouted laws with impunity and misled consumers for years. It cocked a snook at the enforcement authorities. It even tried that with the Supreme Court! The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act prohibits advertising and promotion of any drug for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and prevention of any disease, disorder or condition specified in the Schedule of the Act. And the Schedule covers almost all diseases, including diabetes, high or low blood pressure, glaucoma, and goitre. Yet, Patanjali advertised drugs for these diseases consistently, despite notices from the Uttarakhand licensing authority, following complaints.

The law also prohibits misleading advertisements, and many of its advertisements, forwarded by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs to the Advertising Standards Council of India (on complaints from consumers), were found to be misleading. And such infractions have gone on for years.

In fact, Patanjali’s belligerence also speaks very poorly of the enforcement agencies and calls for strict action against officials who failed to act suo motu, and also on complaints. It also calls for more transparency in the working of enforcement agencies and regular scrutiny of their work through independent agencies.

FirstCry refiles IPO papers with Sebi after facing scrutiny. Details here

NEW DELHI. Brainbees Solutions Limited, FirstCry's parent company, has resubmitted its draft initial public offering (IPO) documents to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) after facing scrutiny. Sebi requested the refiling due to insufficient disclosure of key performance indicators (KPIs). In the latest draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) dated April 29, FirstCry's IPO size remains unchanged, aiming to raise approximately \$218 million (around Rs 1,815 crore) through the issuance of new shares and divestment of 54 million shares from existing investors. For the nine months ending in December 2023, the Pune-based company reported operating revenue of Rs 4,814 crore and a net loss of Rs 278 crore, as per the latest DRHP.

Approximately 77% of its total sales are generated online, with the remaining portion coming from offline retail stores. During the same period, it recorded a gross sales figure of Rs 5,650 crore. The launch of FirstCry's IPO is not expected to occur until around July. The size of the IPO is anticipated to be around \$500 million (approximately Rs 4,163 crore), contingent upon the final valuation of the company during the public offering. FirstCry, backed by Premji Invest, was last valued at under \$3 billion in the private market.

Google lays off employees ahead of developer conference: Report

New Delhi Google has let go of employees from its Flutter, Dart, and Python teams just weeks before its annual developer conference, reported TechCrunch, which cited social media posts from affected staff.

A Google spokesperson informed the news portal that the company made these changes to its teams in the latter half of 2023 and into 2024, aiming to streamline operations and prepare for future opportunities. "We're simplifying our structures to allow employees more chances to work on our most innovative and important projects, focusing on our top priorities, while reducing bureaucracy and layers," the spokesperson said. According to the report, Google clarified that the layoffs are not across the entire company, and affected employees have the option to apply for other roles within Google that are currently hiring. This development follows a previous round of layoffs by Google aimed at cost-cutting, which targeted departments such as real estate and finance. In the finance sector, employees were released from roles in treasury, business services, and revenue cash operations.

Ruth Porat, Google's finance chief, communicated in an email to staff that the company would expand its "growth hubs" in locations like Bangalore, Mexico City, and Dublin as part of this restructuring. According to media reports, Google recently laid off its entire Python team as part of a cost-saving initiative aimed at hiring cheap labour outside the US. The company reportedly intends to establish a new team in Munich, Germany, where labour costs are perceived to be lower.

In response to these layoffs, a former member of the Google Python team expressed disappointment in a post on Social.coop's Mastodon. The employee, who had a two-decade career at Google, described the job as the best they ever had and criticized the layoffs as unfair. Another affected employee lamented the pain of witnessing their entire team, including the manager, being let go and replaced with remote workers from overseas.

Sensex, Nifty continue positive run as auto stocks rally; M&M jumps 4%

New Delhi Benchmark stock market indices opened Tuesday's trading session on a strong note, continuing their positive run. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 207.81 points at 74,879.09 at 10.11 am, while the Nifty50 was up 67.65 points to 22,716.50. All the other broader market indices were also trading in the green, even as volatility remained high. Nifty Auto was the top gainer among sectoral indices, with Mahindra shares gaining nearly 4% after the launch of its new vehicle, XUV 3XO. Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services indices were also trading in positive territory. However, the Nifty IT index was trading in negative territory. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Mahindra and Mahindra, Hero MotoCorp, HDFC Life, Tata Motors and Bajaj



Auto. On the other hand, the top losers were JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Hindalco. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "Today, the outlook remains positive with factors like net buying by FIIs and DIIs, WTI oil slipping below \$83 a barrel, and anticipation of a pre-election rally. Focus shifts to the FOMC meeting decision on May 1 and the April jobs report on May 3." "Preferred trades on Nifty and Bank Nifty are outlined, along with bullish recommendations on select stocks. The one stock to buy right now is IRCTC, with momentum play investments in mind," he added.

India's Gold Demand Rises 8% In Jan-march Despite Soaring Prices

Gold purchases have increased despite rising prices, reflecting higher incomes in a growing economy, according to market analysts.

Mumbai. India's gold demand rose to 136.6 tons in the January-March quarter which represents an 8 per cent increase over the same quarter of the previous year, according to figures released by the World Gold Council (WGC) on Tuesday. Gold purchases have increased despite rising prices, reflecting higher incomes in a growing economy, according to market analysts. Out of the total gold demand, the jewellery demand in India increased by 4 per cent to 95.5 tonne from 91.9 tonne. The total investment demand (in the form of bar, coin among others) grew 19 per cent to 41.1 tonne from 34.4 tonne.

India's gold demand in value terms rose 20 per cent to Rs 75,470 crore during the



quarter compared to the same period last year. The increase in the demand was higher from investors who saw gold as a safe-haven asset amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the

Russia-Ukraine war. The Reserve Bank of India also stepped up buying of the precious metal which saw its gold reserves increasing by 19 tons in the January-March quarter this year,

surpassing last year's net purchases of 16 tons, the WGC said.

Demand for gold from India is likely to range between 700 and 800 metric tons in 2024, with the figure falling near the lower band if prices continue to increase, said Sachin Jain, CEO of WGC's Indian operations. Domestic prices of gold soared to a lifetime high of Rs 73,958 per 10 grams in April after steadily rising by more than 13 per cent in 2024. The increase comes on top of a 10 per cent rise in 2023. Rising gold prices are leading to higher returns for investors, but the consumption demand for use in jewellery is being dampened due to the higher cost, Jain said. Increased purchases of gold during the Gudi Padwa festival further fuelled gold prices this month. The sharp increase in prices could lead to some moderation in gold purchases during the Akshaya Tritiya festival compared to last year, according to jewellers.

Wipro new CEO Srinivas Pallia's salary revealed. Details here

New Delhi Srinivas Pallia, the newly appointed CEO and MD of Wipro, is set to receive a maximum compensation of \$7 million per year for the first two years of his tenure. The compensation includes a cash component ranging between \$1.75 million to \$3 million per annum.

In a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Wipro also disclosed that the former CEO, Thierry Delaporte, will be paid \$4.33 million in cash compensation and applicable social security contributions, after necessary deductions. Additionally, another exchange filing revealed that Delaporte recently sold all his Wipro shares, totalling approximately 4,72,292 shares, valued at Rs 21.4 crore this month. According to the company's filing, Pallia's basic salary will be between \$1,750,000 and \$3,000,000 per annum. He will also be eligible for a target variable pay ranging from \$1,750,000 to \$3,000,000 per year.

The actual payout of Pallia's compensation will depend on the



achievement of organisational targets related to revenue, profit, and other criteria determined by the Board of Directors over time. Moreover, the new CEO will receive long-term incentives in the form of stock compensation, specifically through the grant of American Depository Shares (ADS) Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) and ADS Performance Stock Units (PSUs) amounting to \$4,000,000. This includes \$1,400,000 in ADS RSUs and \$2,600,000 in ADS PSUs.

The vesting schedule for these RSUs and PSUs is as follows: 25% on May 2, 2025, another 25% on May 2, 2026, and the remaining 50% on May 2, 2027.

Vesting of PSUs will be contingent upon meeting revenue, margin, and free cash flow targets as per company policy and other criteria set by the Board of Directors. Pallia's contract as CEO and MD of Wipro is for a five-year period, effective from April 7, 2024, to April 6, 2029. The BSE filing also outlined the terms for termination, stating that either party may terminate the agreement by providing notice or paying salary in lieu of the notice period. The termination terms require that if Pallia decides to end the agreement, he must provide the company with six months' written notice or pay an amount equivalent to six months' base pay. Conversely, if Wipro initiates the termination, the company will be obligated to provide Pallia with severance pay equivalent to 12 months' base salary.

JNK India shares list at 50% premium. Should you hold or sell

New Delhi JNK India Limited made a stellar debut on the stock exchanges on Tuesday, surpassing even optimistic pre-listing forecasts. The company's shares opened at Rs 621 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), marking a 50% premium over its IPO issue price of Rs 415. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, highlighted that it was indeed an impressive listing, citing the surge in share price. "JNK India Limited, the manufacturer of process heating equipment, defied even optimistic pre-listing forecasts with a spectacular debut on the stock exchanges," Nyati said. She also highlighted that the listing surpassed

the anticipated 30% premium predicted by the grey market, highlighting overwhelming investor confidence. While the initial surge may lead to some volatility, Nyati suggests that the company's strong fundamentals and positive outlook indicate long-term potential.

"Existing investors may hold their shares with a stop loss at Rs 560 and monitor the performance closely," she added. The JNK India IPO witnessed strong subscription rates across all investor categories, underscoring widespread interest. Retail investors, QIBs, and NIIs subscribed significantly, with an overall subscription rate of 28.13

times. The IPO, which opened on April 23 and concluded on April 25, allocated shares to retail investors, QIBs, and NIIs. The company's public offering included a fresh offering of Rs 300 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) by promoter selling shareholders, totaling up to 8,421,052 equity shares. It may be noted that the net proceeds will be utilised to meet working capital requirements and advance the company's objectives.

IIFL Securities Ltd. and ICICI Securities Limited served as the book running lead managers, while Link Intime India Private Ltd. acted as the registrar for the issue.

'There is some fluff': Raghuram Rajan doesn't buy India's 8% GDP growth

Rajan said that after removing what he termed as 'fluff' from the growth numbers, the real rate of growth could be in the range of 6-6.5%, rather than the reported 8-8.5%.

NEW DELHI. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan questioned India's reported economic growth figures, suggesting that the actual growth rate might be lower than what is officially stated. Rajan said that after removing what he termed as 'fluff' from the growth numbers, the real rate of growth could be in the range of 6-6.5%, rather than the reported 8-8.5%. Speaking at an event held at Northwestern University's Kellogg Business School alongside Krishnamurthy Subramanian, India's former Chief Economic Advisor, Rajan

expressed scepticism about India's economic performance. He highlighted the need for sustained growth rates of 9-10% if India aims to achieve developed country status by 2047. Rajan's doubts stem from his observations on inflation and employment trends in relation to economic growth. He questioned why inflation rates do not reflect the reported growth rates of 6 to 7%. "What creates this kind of inflation is when you are growing fast and you run out of supply. Typically, your labour wage rates start going up but in India they are not," said Rajan. He also highlighted surplus labour issues in agriculture compared to other sectors like manufacturing and services.

"For a fast growing country, for agricultural employment, growth is a travesty. Why do people find jobs in agriculture? That's low productivity. They should be finding jobs elsewhere," said the former RBI chairman. He also criticised the state of India's labour market, citing a preference for government jobs due to lacklustre



opportunities in the private sector. Rajan highlighted a discrepancy in manufacturing growth, noting that it tends to occur in capital-intensive segments rather than labour-intensive areas. "If you look at the labour intensive parts of manufacturing in 12 out of 23 sectors that form the IIP were actually lower in production than in 2016. A lot of the damage was done during the pandemic that in the pandemic you saw a whole bunch of this industry shrink. Why it's not come back is partly a mystery to me. But there is a potential answer, which is that our demand also has not

picked up strongly since the pandemic," said Rajan.

Examining consumer demand, Rajan pointed out disparities between the sales of four-wheelers (typically purchased by wealthier consumers) and two-wheelers (commonly used by the middle class). He noted that while four-wheeler sales have exceeded pre-pandemic levels, two-wheeler sales remain sluggish, reflecting underlying issues with employment and economic recovery. The former RBI chief characterised India's economy as 'two-faced,' with one side boasting about high-profile investments like Apple's foray into manufacturing, while the other side depicts a struggling middle and lower-middle class desperate for employment opportunities. One is a face we all see which we talk about in conferences about China plus one, Apple creating factories in India. The other face is a hurting middle and lower middle class, which is desperate for work," said Rajan.



Ho, who joined Tesla in 2013, previously served as a program manager for the development of models such as the Model S, 3, and Y before assuming responsibility for all new vehicles. Tinucci, on the other hand, joined Tesla in 2018 as a senior product manager. The departures of two other senior leaders, Patel and battery development chief Drew Baglino, were announced earlier this month.

Tesla had also initiated layoffs affecting over 10% of its workforce. Facing a decline in sales and heightened competition, Tesla reported a decrease in quarterly revenue for the first time since 2020 in its recent earnings report.

Musk's recent visit to Beijing saw progress in the rollout of Tesla's advanced driver-assistance package in China, amidst the ongoing EV price war in the region. This trip followed his cancellation of a planned visit to India, where Tesla has been eager to establish operations, citing "very heavy Tesla obligations."

Red alert issued for 4 states due to heatwave, temperature touches 45 degrees

Government agencies have issued health warnings due to the intense heat in parts of the country, while the increasing temperature has put pressure on the power grids.

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha for the next two to three days due to a heatwave. Parts of the country are already reeling under intense heat due to which government agencies have issued health warnings, while some states have suspended classes. In its latest weather bulletin issued on Monday night, the weather office said "intensely hot conditions" are expected in east India until Wednesday, while it will continue in the south peninsular region for the next five days. The IMD has also issued an orange alert for parts of Telangana, Karnataka and Sikkim. On Monday, a heatwave prevailed in parts of West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh's Kalaikunda and Kandala recorded a maximum temperature of 45.4 degrees Celsius, which was eight notches above normal, while it was 45 degrees Celsius in



the state's Nandyal city. Meanwhile, the third-highest temperature on Monday was 44.8 degrees Celsius recorded in Odisha's Baripada, followed by Sheikhpura in Bihar with the fourth-highest at 44 degrees Celsius. According to the IMD,

the areas under red alert could "develop heat illness and heatstroke", the PTI news agency reported. The weather office asked people to take "extreme precaution". Meanwhile, in areas under the orange alert, people could fall ill if exposed to the heat for a prolonged

period of time, or if they do heavy work while out in the scorching heat. In the next five days, Assam, Tripura, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa, Kerala and Karnataka are likely to witness high humidity, the weather office bulletin said. According to the IMD, this is the second heatwave in April as heatwave conditions have prevailed in Odisha since April 15 and in the Gangetic West Bengal since April 17. The Met Office has said four to eight heatwave days are expected in different parts of the country in April against a normal of one to three days. Ten to 20 heatwave days are expected against a normal of four to eight in the entire April-June period. The areas and regions predicted to witness a higher number of heatwave days are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Bihar and Jharkhand. Some places may record more than 20 heatwave days. The intense heat could strain power grids and result in water shortages in parts of India.

"Ready For Fight": Rajnath Singh On Buzz Over Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi Contest

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed confidence today that the BJP would score 80/80 in Uttar Pradesh, shrugging off any concern that low voting could be bad news for his party. Rajnath Singh, who is the BJP candidate from Lucknow, also slammed what he called the opposition's 'politics of obfuscation' in an interview with NDTV on the campaign trail. "PM (Narendra Modi's) popularity is unparalleled. He has raised India's stature in the world. The country wants him to be the Prime Minister. People trust Modi," the Defence Minister said. "The BJP will win all 80 seats in UP," he added. On the buzz about Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra both contesting from UP - in Amethi and Raebareilly - the BJP veteran remarked: "What's the delay then? Anyone can contest. We are ready for the fight." Mr Singh attributed the low voting percentage to the lack of enthusiasm among the opposition's voters. "Some of the low voting is because of the heat. Besides, everyone knows the BJP will return with a bumper majority and Modi will be PM. So those who vote for the opposition are not able to muster any enthusiasm," said Mr Singh, dismissing analyses that linked the low turnout in some parts of the country with disillusionment on the ground and anti-incumbency. Mr Singh hit out at the opposition for raising allegations of probe agency targeting, especially the incarceration of leaders like Arvind Kejriwal, in their Lok Sabha campaign. "If agencies are wrong, then anyone has the option of approaching courts. Why isn't the court granting them relief? Are courts under pressure too? The opposition should stop spreading lies." Rajnath Singh is fighting for a third consecutive term from Lucknow, which will vote in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls on May 20.

7 Maoists Killed In Encounter In Chhattisgarh, Many Weapons Recovered

New Delhi: At least seven Maoists, including two female members, have been killed in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district today, officials said. A huge quantity of weapons, including one AK 47, have also been recovered from the encounter site. The encounter between Maoists and a joint security team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Special Task Force (STF) broke out in a forest at around 6 am today, officials said. The security personnel had left for a Maoist operation in Abujmahar of the Narayanpur and Kanker border area on Monday. An encounter took place between the police party and Maoists in the forest between village Tekmeta and Kakur. During the search of the incident site, the bodies of a total of seven Maoist cadres, including two female Maoists, were recovered and their identifications are underway, an official said. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including one AK 47, and items of daily use have been seized from the Maoist camp, the official said. Earlier this month, security forces killed 29 Maoists, including a senior rebel leader - Shankar Rao, on whom there was a bounty of ₹ 25 lakh - in a gunfight in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district. The encounter took place on April 16 in the Hapatola forest between Binagunda and Koronar villages in Chhotebethiya. This was the highest number of fatalities suffered by Maoists in a single encounter in the history of Chhattisgarh's fight against Left Wing Extremism. **Amit Shah Warns Chhattisgarh Maoists** Union Home Minister Amit Shah last week issued a stern warning to Maoists in Chhattisgarh and asked them to surrender or else they will be rooted out from the state. Speaking at an election rally in Kanker town on April 22, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said that in the last four months alone, about 90 Maoists have been killed in Chhattisgarh. While 123 Maoists were arrested, 250 others surrendered (during this period), he said. Elect (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji for a third term and the menace (of Maoists) will be rooted out from Chhattisgarh in two years," Mr Shah asserted.

2 ill after eating at Noida's McDonald's, Theobroma, action initiated

The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department collected samples of palm oil, cheese and mayonnaise from McDonald's, while it also took a sample of the alleged stale pineapple cake from the Theobroma bakery.



New Delhi: The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) Department has initiated action against a McDonald's outlet at Noida Sector 18 and a branch of the Theobroma bakery in Sector 104 following complaints that two customers "fell ill" after consuming food at the eateries. While one customer had fries and a burger at McDonald's, the second person consumed an allegedly stale pineapple

cake ordered from the Theobroma outlet. An ANI news agency report said the complaints were filed at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's online Food Safety Connect Portal. Citing officials, the report said that a team of the FSDA in Gautam Buddha Nagar visited the McDonald's outlet in Noida Sector 18 to collect the samples upon receiving the complaint from the customer.

Speaking to ANI on Monday, Assistant Commissioner (Food) FDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Archana Dheeran said the team immediately acted and samples of palm oil, cheese and mayonnaise were collected from the outlet. "The customer fell ill after consuming aloo tikki and french fries. We have taken action in this regard," she said, adding that the report of the samples was expected within 15 days to a month. Regarding the Theobroma bakery incident, Dheeran said that "we received a complaint that the customer fell ill after consuming a stale pineapple cake ordered from the outlet". "The complainant also said that the icing of the cake was sour. We have taken a sample of the cake as well and sent it to the laboratory," she added. The official informed that if the samples fail in the test report, a case is then registered against the accused outlet.

India's Oil Import Bill Could Reach USD 101-104 Billion In 2024-25: Report

New Delhi: India's net oil import bill could widen to USD 101-104 billion in current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24 and any escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict could impart an upward pressure on the value of imports, ICRA said today. The domestic rating agency said based on its analysis, lower value of Russian oil imports is estimated to have led to savings of USD 7.9 billion in 11 months (April-February) of 2023-24, up from USD 5.1 billion in 2022-23. "With India's oil import dependency expected to remain high, if the discounts on purchases of Russian crude persist at the prevailing low levels, ICRA expects India's net oil import bill to widen to USD 101-104 billion in FY2025 from USD 96.1 billion in FY2024, assuming an average crude oil price of USD 85/bbl in the fiscal," ICRA said. Additionally, any escalation in the Iran-

Israel conflict and an associated rise in crude oil prices could impart an upward pressure on the value of net oil imports in the current fiscal year, it added. As per ICRA's calculations, a USD 10/barrel uptick in the average



crude oil price for this fiscal pushes up the net oil imports by USD 12-13 billion during the year, thereby enlarging the current account deficit (CAD) by 0.3 per cent of

GDP. Accordingly, if the average crude oil price rises to USD 95/barrel in FY2025, then the CAD is likely to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP from ICRA's current estimate of 1.2 per cent of GDP for 2024-25. CAD, which is the difference between value of India's imports and exports, is estimated at 0.8 per cent in 2023-24. India is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its needs of crude oil, which is converted into fuels such as petrol and diesel at refineries. ICRA said the value of India's imports of petroleum crude and products declined by 15.2 per cent YoY during April-February of last fiscal, even as volumes rose slightly in this period. This was supported by the fall in average global crude oil prices as well as savings from stepped up purchases of discounted Russian crude.

Sandeshkhali survivor and BJP candidate Rekha Patra gets security cover

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) gave the 'X-category' security protection to Rekha Patra, who led the protests against suspended Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali. She is now the BJP candidate for the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat. Voting in Basirhat will take place on June 1, the last phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Patra has been pitted against Trinamool Congress's Haji Nurul Islam, who was nominated after current MP and Bengali actor Nusrat Jahan was dropped. Commandos from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will provide security for the



Sandeshkhali survivor. The Ministry decided to provide the 'X-category' security protection following an Intelligence Bureau (IB) report that indicated danger. Besides Patra, five other BJP leaders were also given security cover by the MHA. The 'X-category' security cover was provided for Pranat Tudu, the party's candidate from Jhargram, as well as for Nirmal Saha from Bahrampur, Ashok Kandari from Jaynagar and Ashok Purkait from Mathurapur. Meanwhile, the Raiganj BJP candidate Karthik Paul was given the 'Y-category' security protection. Since the announcement of Lok Sabha elections earlier this month, the MHA has provided security to more than two dozen BJP leaders in West Bengal. Currently, more than 100 BJP leaders have got security protection from the Central government. CISF commandos provide security to these leaders.

India slams US media report linking RAW officer to Pannun plot: 'Irresponsible'

India has slammed as "unwarranted" the Washington Post report alleging that a former RAW officer hired a hit team to target Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun in the US.

New Delhi: India on Tuesday strongly rejected a report in the Washington Post alleging that a former Indian intelligence officer plotted to assassinate Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun on American soil. The report claimed that Vikram Yadav, a former officer with India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), hired a hit team to target Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, a designated terrorist by India who resides in the United

States. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called the report "unwarranted and unsubstantiated."

Jaiswal stated that there is an ongoing investigation by a high-level committee established by the Indian government to address security concerns raised by the US regarding criminal and terrorist networks. "Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," he added. This comes after tensions flared in November 2022 when the Financial Times reported that the US had thwarted a plot to kill Pannun and issued a warning. A subsequent indictment filed in a Manhattan court named Indian national Nikhil Gupta as a conspirator who allegedly collaborated with an unnamed Indian official, referred to as "CC-1," in the plot. The Washington Post identified

"CC-1" as Vikram Yadav. India has consistently denied these accusations, calling them "contrary to government policy." A high-level inquiry committee was formed in November 2023

to investigate the allegations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said earlier this month that India's national security interests are involved in its investigation into the alleged involvement of a

government official in the assassination plot aimed at Pannun. The Washington Post reported that the Biden administration has refrained from making charges against Vikram Yadav.

Meanwhile, the White House said that it expects the Indian government to take accountability based on the outcome of the investigation. "This is a serious matter and we're taking that very, very seriously. The Government of India has been very clear with us that they are taking this seriously and will investigate," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. "We expect accountability from the government based on that. But we are going to continue to raise our concerns. That's not going to stop. We're going to continue to raise our concerns directly, with the Indian government," she added.



NEWS BOX

4 killed, 32 injured in Russian missile attack in Ukraine's Odesa

Odesa, Ukraine. A Russian missile attack on an educational institution in a popular waterfront park in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Odesa on Monday killed at least four people and injured 32, local officials said. Regional governor Oleh Kiper, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said that in addition to those killed in the attack, one man died after suffering a stroke attributed to the assault. Kiper said seven of the injured were in serious condition, including a four-year-old child. Among the injured were another child and a pregnant woman. Reuters Television footage showed the roof of the ornate building, a private law academy, all but destroyed after the strike. Firefighters were directing water onto small fires still burning actively. "Monsters. Beasts. Savages. Scum. I don't know what else to say," Odesa Mayor Hennadii Trukhanov said in a video posted on Telegram. "People are going for a walk by the sea and they are shooting and killing," Trukhanov added.

Pictures posted earlier online showed the building ablaze and smoke billowing skyward. Video footage, which could not be immediately verified, showed people receiving treatment on the street alongside pools of blood. One photo showed officials examining part of a missile. A student at the academy who identified herself by her first name, Maria, said the blast was caused when the missile was intercepted. "In front of my eyes, a missile was shot down, this was just in front of me. My doors were blown open and the glass was shaking. And then I saw this," she told Reuters, pointing to the burning building. "Just before this happened, we wanted to go down there for a walk, but thank God we weren't there when it happened," she added. Ukrainian navy spokesperson Dmytro Pletenchuk, in a posting on a military Telegram channel, said the strike was conducted by an Iskander-M ballistic missile with a cluster warhead. Those missiles are harder to intercept.

Public broadcaster Suspilne said the academy's president, a prominent former member of parliament, Serhiy Kivalov, was among the injured.

Odesa has been a frequent target of Russian missile and drone attacks, particularly port infrastructure.

Thousands evacuated as Indonesia volcano erupts, triggers tsunami threat

Manado. Indonesia's remote Mount Ruang volcano erupted several times on Tuesday, authorities said, issuing the highest level of alert and ordering thousands of people to evacuate due to the threat of a tsunami from debris sliding into the sea.

The country's volcanology agency had warned the threat from the volcano was not over after it erupted more than half a dozen times this month, sparking the evacuation of more than 6,000 people. Ruang, located in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province, erupted at around 01:15 am local time on Tuesday (1715 GMT Monday) and then twice more that morning, the volcanology agency said in a statement. The volcano sent a tower of ash more than five kilometres (3.1 miles) into the sky, it added, as well as a fiery column of lava.

The national disaster agency BNPB estimated 11,000 to 12,000 people had to be relocated from near Ruang's crater, spokesman Abdul Muhari told a press conference. "Currently, the local disaster mitigation agency, military and police are evacuating residents," he said. Images released by the agency showed a molten red column bursting into the sky, a large ash cloud spilling from the crater and burning embers near local houses.

The disaster agency imposed a seven-kilometre exclusion zone around Ruang after volcanology officials warned locals of "the potential for ejections of incandescent rocks, hot clouds and tsunamis due to eruption material entering the sea". Abdul said a rescue ship and a warship had been dispatched to help move thousands from neighbouring Tagulandang island north to Siau island because of the tsunami warning.

Columbia University suspends pro-Palestine students after they defy ultimatum

New York. Columbia University in the United States on Monday (local time) began suspending pro-Palestinian activists who refused to dismantle the encampment on its New York City campus after the Ivy League school declared a stalemate in talks seeking to end the polarising protest. University President Nemat Minouche Shafik said in a statement that days of negotiations between student organisers and academic leaders had failed to persuade demonstrators to remove the dozens of tents set up to express opposition to Israel's war in Gaza. The crackdown at Columbia, at the centre of Gaza-related protests roiling university campuses across the US in recent weeks, came as police at the University of Texas at Austin arrested dozens of students whom they doused with pepper spray at a pro-Palestinian rally. Columbia sent a letter on Monday morning warning that students who did not vacate the encampment by 2 pm ET and sign a form promising to abide by university policies would face suspension and become ineligible to complete the semester in good standing.

"We have begun suspending students as part of this next phase of our efforts to ensure safety on our campus," said Ben Chang, a university spokesperson, at a briefing on Monday evening. "The encampment has created an unwelcoming environment for many of our Jewish students and faculty and a noisy distraction that interferes with the teaching, learning and preparing for final exams," Chang said. Earlier, Shafik said Columbia would not divest from finances in Israel, a key demand of the protesters. Instead, she offered to invest in health and education in Gaza and make Columbia's direct investment holdings more transparent. Protesters have vowed to keep their encampment on the Manhattan campus until Columbia meets three demands: divestment, transparency in university finances, and amnesty for students and faculty disciplined for their part in the protests.

"These repulsive scare tactics mean nothing compared to the deaths of over 34,000 Palestinians. We will not move until Columbia meets our demands or we are moved by force," leaders of the Columbia Student Apartheid Divest coalition said in a statement read at a news conference following the deadline. Hundreds of demonstrators, many wearing traditional Palestinian keffiyeh scarves, marched in circles around the exterior of the encampment chanting, "Disclose! Divest! We will not stop, we will not rest."

Trump, DeSantis bury the hatchet at 'great meeting', discuss fundraising

New York. Former President Donald Trump met privately with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis over the weekend, marking a détente between the former rivals after a brutal Republican primary contest marked by insults and bruised egos, according to three people familiar with the discussion. The meeting, which lasted three hours, was organised to help the men bury the hatchet and discuss potential joint fundraising efforts, according to one of the people, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity to share details of the private get-together. The governor, during the conversation, committed to helping Trump as he faces President Joe Biden in the general election, said the person. It ended with the two shaking hands, said another. The meeting, which was first reported by The Washington Post, was orchestrated by Florida real estate investor Steve Witkoff, and took place at his Shell Bay Club in Hollywood, Florida. Witkoff did not immediately respond to a request for comment through his office. On Monday,



Trump said the two had had "a great meeting yesterday" and that he was "very happy to have the full and enthusiastic support of Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida." "The conversation mostly concerned how we would work closely together to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN. Also discussed was the future of Florida, which is FANTASTIC!" he wrote

on his social media site. "I greatly appreciate Ron's support in taking back our Country from the Worst President in the History of the United States." DeSantis has a deep network of donors from his runs for governor and president. He amassed an enormous war chest for his White House run, entering the race with \$130 million in the bank. Though he

endorsed Trump when he dropped his bid for the GOP nomination in a video after failing to gain traction, DeSantis has yet to campaign or fundraise on Trump's behalf. Instead, he has, at times, needled Trump, including responding to a news story about some Republicans in the Florida legislature wanting to help fund Trump's legal bills by posting, "But not the Florida Republican who wields the veto pen â€œ" The GOP primary was marked by a bitter rivalry between the two men, who had once been allies. Trump lambasted DeSantis as disloyal and nicknamed him Ron "DeSanctimonious," while DeSantis suggested Trump would lose again in November and said he'd "lost the zip on his fastball" over the years.

DeSantis' allies believe the Florida governor has a clear path to another presidential bid should he want one. But that path could be complicated by lingering hostilities in a party that overwhelmingly backs the former president, especially if he wins in November.

Immigrant from Laos battling cancer wins \$1.3 billion lottery in US

Salem One of the winners of a \$1.3 billion Powerball jackpot this month is an immigrant from Laos who has had cancer for eight years and had his latest chemotherapy treatment last week.

Cheng "Charlie" Saephan, 46, of Portland, told a news conference held by the Oregon Lottery on Monday that he and his 37-year-old wife, Duanpen, are taking half the money, and the rest is going to a friend, Laiza Chao, 55, of the Portland suburb of Milwaukie. Chao had chipped in \$100 to buy a batch of tickets with them. They are taking a lump sum payment, \$422 million after taxes. "I will be able to provide for my family and my health," he said, adding that he'd "find a good doctor for myself." Saephan, who has two young children, said that as a cancer patient, he wondered, "How am I going to have time to spend all of this money? How long will I live?" After they bought the shared tickets, Chao sent a photo of the tickets to Saephan and said, "We're billionaires." It was a joke before the actual drawing, he said, but the next day they won. Chao, 55, was on her way to work when Saephan called her with the news: "You don't have to go anymore," he said. Saephan



said he was born in Laos and moved to Thailand in 1987, before immigrating to the U.S. in 1994. He wore a sash at the news conference identifying himself as Lu Mien, a southeast Asian ethnic group with roots in southern China. Many Lu Mien were subsistence farmers and assisted American forces during the Vietnam War; after the conflict, thousands of Lu Mien families fled to Thailand to avoid retribution and eventually settled in the U.S. Tens of thousands of Lu Mien people live along the West Coast, with a sizeable and active community in Portland. Saephan graduated from high school in 1996 and has lived in Portland for 30 years. He worked as a machinist for an aerospace company.

In the weeks leading up to the drawing, he wrote out numbers for the game on a

piece of paper and slept with it under his pillow, he said. He prayed that he would win, saying, "I need some help — I don't want to die yet unless I have done something for my family first."

The winning Powerball ticket was sold in early April at a Plaid Pantry convenience store in Portland, ending a winless streak that had stretched more than three months. The Oregon Lottery said it had to go through a security and vetting process before announcing the identity of the person who came forward to claim the prize. Under Oregon law, with few exceptions, lottery players cannot remain anonymous. Winners have a year to claim the top prize. The jackpot had a cash value of \$621 million before taxes if the winner chose to take a lump sum rather than an annuity paid over 30 years, with an immediate payout followed by 29 annual installments. The prize is subject to federal taxes and state taxes in Oregon. The \$1.3 billion prize is the fourth-largest Powerball jackpot in history, and the eighth largest among US jackpot games, according to the Oregon Lottery.

3 officers dead, 5 injured in North Carolina shooting, suspect killed

Charlotte, North Carolina. Three officers on a US Marshals Task Force serving a warrant for a felon wanted for possessing a firearm were killed and five other officers were wounded in a shootout on Monday in a North Carolina home, police said. The wanted suspect first shot at the officers as they approached the suburban home in Charlotte and they killed him in the front yard, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Johnny Jennings said. A second person then fired on officers from inside the home where a high-powered rifle was found, Jennings said. A woman and a 17-year-old male were found in the home after a three-

hour standoff that included armoured vehicles crashing into the suburban home in a tree-lined neighbourhood and tearing off doorways and windows. The two were being questioned, Jennings said. One other member of the task force, which is made up of federal agents and other officers from across the region, was injured. The Marshal's Service confirmed one of the agents was killed and did not release a name. The agencies where the two other officers worked were not released. Four Charlotte-Mecklenburg officers who responded to the scene were also shot while trying to rescue the wounded officers. One remains in

critical condition, Jennings said. Neighbours said gunfire continued for several minutes after the shooting erupted. WSOC-TV said their helicopter captured an armoured vehicle driving through yards and knocking over recycling bins before officers removed a person with blood on their shirt who was then loaded into an ambulance. After the home was cleared, the helicopter pilot said he couldn't show the front lawn of the home because the scene was too disturbing. Several armoured vehicles were on nearby lawns and driveways of the older suburban neighbourhood of a tree-lined street with brick homes.



agreement on the new program by early July. Islamabad says it is seeking a loan over at least three years to help achieve macroeconomic stability and execute long-overdue and painful structural reforms. Aurangzeb has declined to give details on the amount the country is seeking. Islamabad is yet to make a formal request, but the Fund and the government are already in discussions. If secured, it would be Pakistan's 24th IMF bailout. The \$350 billion economy faces a chronic balance of payments crisis, with nearly \$24 billion to repay in debt and interest over the next fiscal year - three-time more than its central bank's foreign currency reserves.

North Korean Hwasong-11 missile used in Ukraine, in breach of sanctions: UN

➤ **The debris from a missile that landed in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Jan. 2 was from a North Korean Hwasong-11 series ballistic missile, United Nations sanctions monitors told a Security Council committee in a report on Monday.**

United Nations. The debris from a missile that landed in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Jan. 2 was from a North Korean Hwasong-11 series ballistic missile, United Nations sanctions monitors told a Security Council committee in a statement on Monday. In the 32-page report, the UN sanctions monitors concluded that "debris recovered from a missile that landed in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on 2 January 2024 derives from a DPRK Hwasong-11 series missile" and is in violation of the arms embargo on North Korea. Formerly known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), North Korea has been under UN sanctions for its



ballistic missile and nuclear programs since 2006, and those measures have been strengthened over the years.

Three sanctions monitors traveled to Ukraine earlier this month to inspect the debris and found no evidence that the missile was made by Russia. They "could not independently identify from where the missile was launched, nor by whom."

"Information on the trajectory provided by Ukrainian authorities indicates it was launched within the territory of the

Russian Federation," they wrote in an April 25 report to the Security Council's North Korea sanctions committee.

"Such a location, if the missile was under control of Russian forces, would probably indicate procurement by nationals of the Russian Federation," they said, adding that this would be a violation of the arms embargo imposed on North Korea in 2006. The Russian and North Korean missions to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for

comment on the report by the sanctions monitors. The US and others have accused North Korea of transferring weapons to Russia for use against Ukraine, which it invaded in February 2022. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the accusations, but vowed last year to deepen military relations. At a UN Security Council meeting in February, the US accused Russia of launching DPRK-supplied ballistic missiles against Ukraine on at least nine occasions. The UN monitors said the Hwasong-11 series ballistic missiles were first publicly tested by Pyongyang in 2019. Russia last month vetoed the annual renewal of the UN sanctions monitors - known as a panel of experts - that has for 15 years monitored enforcement of UN sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The mandate for the current panel of experts will expire on Tuesday. Within days of the Jan. 2 attack, the Kharkiv region prosecutor's office showcased fragments of the missile to the media, saying it was different from Russian models and "this may be a missile which was supplied by North Korea."

NEWS BOX

Spinners need variation to survive: Kumar Kartikeya amid run-fests in IPL 2024

New Delhi. MI bowler revealed the strategy for the spinners to survive the carnage being carried out by the batters in the ongoing edition of IPL 2024. He reckoned that spinners needed to have variations to get the batter of batters. This season of the cash-rich league has witnessed 29 200-plus runs being scored in 43 matches. While talking to the media ahead of MI's clash against LSG at the Ekana Stadium, Lucknow on April 30, Kartikeya reckoned that seeing the latest trends of the league, where 200-plus runs are being scored and chased at ease, the spinners need to bring variations in their bowling. He pointed out that the pitches have not been offering any help to the bowlers and hence, the onus comes on them to put their skills to the test.

"I have been seeing that in this season of IPL, 200-plus runs are being scored and also being chased down easily. For spinners, if you have a variation, you have an extra weapon in your arsenal. I feel that variation should be there. As there is no help for the spinners on the wicket, not even bowlers, then it becomes important to add more variation for the spinners. That is the only way to survive," Kartikeya said in the pre-match press conference. The likes of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal have found some success in the tournament because of the variation they brought while bowling. These 2 have been the only spinners in the race for the Purple Cap, with the list being dominated by the pacers. Kartikeya also suggested that it is important to keep things simple to reap benefits against the batters. He also gave the example of KKR bowler Sunil Narine and his bowling against DC. "I saw the match and the areas in which Sunil Narine bowled, no matter how good the wicket is, no matter how much help there is for the batters or the bowlers, if you won't bowl in the good areas. He kept it simple and reaped benefits. Hence, we also try to do the same. The simpler you keep, the more benefits you will get. If we complicate it more that a lot of runs are being scored, then we are creating problems for ourselves. If we keep it simple, it is easier," Kartikeya added.

T20 World Cup squad: Should Indian selectors get swayed by IPL form

New Delhi. There is a super selector in each one of us as cricket fans and every IPL whenever we see young players dazzle, that guy wakes up as we try to convince ourselves and others that those performers should be picked for India. As this year's IPL precedes a marquee global competition like the T20 World Cup, there is a familiar clamour building up to pick may be an Ashutosh Sharma or a Shashank Singh as finishers, as they have engineered a couple of stunning heists for Punjab Kings.

In the IPL, some of the Indian batters do not face four or five quality international bowlers for their full quota. Also, the wickets in the Caribbean and America, may not be as flat as they are in the IPL and may require batting skills and not just hitting skills as we are currently witnessing in the IPL. India's matches are all going to be day games to suit the broadcast timings for an Indian audience which means dew won't be a factor and the wickets may offer some grip for the spinners and clearing one's front leg and depositing the ball into the stands may not be so easy. May be, we will see lower scores and there may be place for someone who plays the role of a traditional sheet anchor. Also, players shining for their franchises in certain positions may not get to bat at that position for the national team as India already have proven performers in those roles. Abhishek Sharma (SRH) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (CSK), who have done well as openers, are competing against Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal. At No.3 and No.4, India have players who answer to the name of Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav.

In two back-to-back T20 World Cups, the selectors paid a heavy price of going for a couple of IPL performers. In 2021, when the event was held in the UAE, they opted for Varun Chakravathy, who had a great season for KKR, but was ineffective in the same conditions for India when he played in the World Cup.

Hardik Pandya explains 'art of finishing' matches with foodie analogy

New Delhi. Hardik Pandya hasn't had a memorable time since his return to the cricket field after recovering from an ankle injury he suffered during the ODI World Cup last year. Neither his bowling nor his batting has clicked amid furore over his appointment as the Mumbai Indians' captain, replacing Rohit Sharma.

IPL 2024: Results | Points Table

While the MI captaincy debate has largely settled despite the five-time IPL champions' indifferent show so far this season, Hardik now wants to know his fate as far as India's T20 World Cup squad is announced as he leads MI in their next IPL match against Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday. Ahead of the game, in the 'Captains Speak' segment on Star Sports, the allrounder made an interesting comment on the "art of finishing" matches, using an analogy related to food.

"If you go to a fancy restaurant and they present you something, the taste might be amazing; but if they don't add the finishing touch (to presentation), it does not add to the charm to the dish, no matter how good it is.

'Hurt' KKR proud of strong comeback: Vaibhav Arora emotional after win vs DC

← KKR bowling unit made a tremendous comeback in the Indian Premier League. After getting thrashed for 262 against DC a few nights back, KKR bowlers choked DC to a 153-run total in Kolkata.

Kolkata KKR bowlers staged a tremendous comeback in the Indian Premier League. After getting smashed by Punjab in their previous fixture, KKR bowlers restricted DC to just 153 runs. Vaibhav Arora and Varun Chakravathy spoke to the IPL website after their win against DC and revealed that the team was really hurt after conceding 262 runs against Punjab in their previous game. KKR bowlers put in an incredible shift in the first innings against DC playing a crucial role in the side's 7-wicket win in the IPL at Eden Gardens. Vaibhav said that KKR showed incredible mettle to make a comeback after the PBKS



game. "We were hurt. We were very much hurt after we lost to PBKS while defending 261 runs. These things happen in cricket and what matters is how you come back from a loss like that," Vaibhav Arora said after the

match. KKR mystery spinner Varun Chakravathy spoke about the trend of high scoring games in the IPL and how the bowling unit have been left unprepared for the assault that they are facing in the

majority of the matches.

"This season has definitely taken all the bowling units by a storm. The amount of runs that are being scored, the size of the boundaries, all those things have been playing a part," Varun Chakravathy said in a video on the IPL website.

Last game against PBKS few shots that Bairstow hit, any other ground, it would have gone to someone's hand," Chakravathy further added. Chakravathy was named the player of the match for his 3-wicket spell. KKR pacer Vaibhav Arora was also proud of how the pacers set up the game for the rest of the bowlers in the first innings of the match. "It was quite a satisfying game because we restricted the other team to 150, something that has not been happening in the tournament too often. I was able to execute my role of getting wickets in the powerplay, which made me very happy in today's game," Vaibhav concluded. KKR are currently in the 2nd spot in the points table with 12 points from 9 games.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi gets valuable tips from Ricky Ponting after KKR vs DC

New Delhi. KKR's young batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi received some valuable batting lessons from Ricky Ponting after KKR's match against DC at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata on April 29, Monday. IPL has always been seen as a platform where youngsters get an opportunity to interact with international stars and learn some valuable cricket tips. KKR registered a thumping win over DC by 7 wickets to climb to the 2nd spot in the points table. The official social media of IPL shared a special video on their social media handle featuring Ponting and Angkrish. DC team's head coach Ponting took out some time to give some priceless input to the 18-year-old batter. Ponting shared his batting tips as they worked on Angkrish's pull-shot. Australia's 2-time World Cup winning captain and one of the greatest batters of his era, Ponting did not shy away from passing on his knowledge of the game to Angkrish. The youngsters look to make the



most out of the opportunity they get while interacting with coaches and players of opposing teams. While they do get to work with world-class coaches within their own team, the newbies ensure they also interact with the opposing team after the match.

IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule

Raghuvanshi has strengthened his position at the No. 3 position for KKR after Nitish Rana suffered an injury. On his debut for KKR, Angkrish played a gem of an innings, where he scored 54 runs in 27 balls in Vizag. The 18-year-old was roped in by KKR during the IPL 2024 auction at the base price of Rs 20 Lakh. He became the 2nd youngest player in the KKR team to hit a half-century after Shubman Gill. His performance was also praised by KKR team's co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, who stood to applaud the young batter. In IPL 2024, Angkrish managed to score 118 runs at a strike rate of 161.64 at an average of 23.60. He stepped into the limelight with his performance in the 2022 Under-19 World Cup, where the batter accumulated a total of 278 runs in only 6 innings to finish as the leading run-scorer in the tournament.

LSG tease Mayank Yadav's return with latest social media post

← IPL 2024: LSG have teased the much-anticipated return of Mayank Yadav ahead of their clash against MI. The speedster was declared fit and would be expected to return for the team in Lucknow on April 30.

New Delhi. LSG have teased the much-anticipated return of speedster Mayank Yadav in their latest social media post. Lucknow's bowling coach, Morne Morkel, had informed that Mayank is fit and available for the match against MI at the Ekana Stadium, Lucknow on April 30, Tuesday. The fast bowler had missed out on LSG's last 5 games and will be expected to make a return to the side. The official social media handle of the LSG franchise posted a special video featuring Mayank where he is



roaring. The video had background music from the Tamil movie, Vikram Vedha's popular track Karuppu Vellai. The caption in the video had a timer emoji on it. This could mean that the clock is ticking for Mayank's comeback. The new Indian fast-bowling sensation made headlines for his fierce speed. Mayank made his debut against PBKS and scalped 3 wickets in his very first outing to win the Player of the Match award. However, what caught everyone's attention

was Mayank's speed. The bowler was continuously clocking over 150 kph in his 4 overs. He went on to bowl the then-fastest delivery of IPL 2024 at 155.8 kmph. The youngster went on to break his own record in the very next match by bowling at a scorching speed of 156.7 kmph. He turned out to be LSG's hero yet again as he picked 3 wickets against RCB and won back-to-back Player of the Match awards. WHY MAYANK MISSED LAST 5 MATCHES FOR LSG?

During LSG's match against GT, the gun bowler managed to bowl only one over, where he conceded 13 runs. He walked off the field during the match, and later it was revealed that he had experienced soreness in his lower abdominal area. Morkel, while speaking to the media ahead of LSG vs MI, gave a much-needed update on Mayank's fitness. "Mayank Yadav is fit. He has passed all his fitness tests. We are excited to have him back in the squad and in the potential playing 12 tomorrow," Morkel said in the pre-match press conference.

Shah Rukh Khan's son AbRam puts cake on Birthday boy Andre Russell

← IPL 2024: Shah Rukh Khan's son AbRam took part in the birthday celebrations of Andre Russell. In an adorable manner, AbRam put chocolate cake on Russell with his fingers.

New Delhi. The KKR team had double the reason to celebrate on Monday, 29 April at the Eden Gardens. After the team registered a thumping win over DC, KKR side celebrated Andre Russell's 36th birthday. It was a joyful night for the Kolkata team as they celebrated the special day of the legendary West Indies

player. The celebrations doubled up as the team was joined by team's co-owner Shah Rukh Khan and his son AbRam Khan in the dressing room. The official social media handle of the Kolkata-based franchise shared a special video of the birthday party. What caught everyone's attention was AbRam's adorable gesture of putting cake on Russell's face. In a super cute manner, AbRam took the chocolate cake's frosting and smeared it on Russell with an infectious smile on his face. Bollywood Superstar Shah Rukh also hugged Russell and wished him Happy Birthday as the duo posed for pictures together. In the video, Russell had specifically mentioned earlier that he did not want the cake to be smothered on his hair. However, his West Indies and KKR teammate, Sunil Narine, did the complete



opposite. He had a separate cake altogether, especially for Russell's hair, which was smeared all over his head. He was also smothered with cake all over his face as the Knights enjoyed the birthday bash.

WHEN ABRAM STOLE LIMELIGHT DURING KKR VS DC

AbRam had accompanied his father, Shah Rukh, for the match against DC at the Eden Garden Stadium on April 29, Monday. The

Injured Anmol Kharb in tears as India lose to host China in Uber Cup

New Delhi. India qualified for the quarter-finals of the Uber Cup in the second spot of Group A after losing to China 5-0 on Tuesday. The young Indian women's team were not able to match the host's experience and guile on Court 1 in Chengdu.

India had rested Ashmita Chaliha on Tuesday and started with Isharani Baruah. Baruah was not able to give a winning start to the tie and lost her match in straight games 21-12, 21-10 to Chen Yu Fei. The first doubles pairing of Priya Konjebam and Shruti Mishra also lost in straight games to Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan 21-13, 21-12. The promising Anmol Kharb was up next but she was bested by Han



Yue in the first game - 21-4. In the second game of the tie, Kharb rolled her ankle and was seen in agonising pain. Tears rolled down her eyes as she was helped off the court, forcing her to retire hurt from the fixture.

There was not much left in the game after India lost the first three matches. The second doubles pairing of Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker lost in straight games to Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning. Possibly the most impressive show came from the 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma, who was playing the final tie of the match. After losing 21-7 to Wang Zhi Yi, Sharma brought her cool head to the game and tried to dictate terms against a much higher ranked player. Sharma even led for a little bit in the first half of the second game but eventually lost 21-16.

INDIA'S WIN VS SINGAPORE AND CANADA

Indian women's team had assured themselves of quarter-final spot in the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup 2024 with a dominating 4-1 win over Singapore in their Group A clash in Chengdu, China, on Sunday, 28 April. The young squad, which had defeated Canada 4-1 in their group opener, came back after Yeo Jia Min got the better of Ashmita Chaliha 21-15, 21-18 in the first singles. The Asian champions had registered a winning start to their Uber Cup campaign thanks to a spirited display by their young squad.

Katrina Kaif

Says Rajneeti, ZNMD Played A Big Role In Her Career: 'I'd Call Them Moments In My Life'

Even after more than 21 years in Bollywood, Katrina Kaif feels she still has a long way to go and more to achieve. Currently, she's busy trying to work with her favorite directors. Recently, she got to work with Sriram Raghavan for the first time on their film Merry Christmas, which was released earlier this year. The film, also featuring Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathy, was based on Frédéric Dard's French novel Le Monteccharge (Bird in a Cage). Speaking to Variety, Katrina expressed her love for the book, praising its tender, poetic, and mysterious qualities, reminiscent of Hitchcock, and its mix of drama, mystery, and murder presented in a unique way. Praising Raghavan, she said that his characters on screen have a realness and depth to them. "There's a certain rawness and realness to the characters in his films when you watch them on screen. They're very flawed, they're very imperfect, but



there's like a tangible, humane quality about them. They feel very real, like I've seen this person or I know this person. He has a certain grip on having something relatable to what he depicts on screen, even though sometimes the situations are so outlandish, but yet the characters are so you can feel you can understand what they're going through, and you relate to their emotions," she said. However, Merry Christmas isn't the

only movie she's proud of. Katrina Kaif also mentioned a few titles that played a big role in her career. These include Namaste London (2007), Welcome (2007), Singh Is King (2008), New York (2009), Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani (2009), Rajneeti (2010), and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (2011). She also said she doesn't just see them as movies but like top moments in her life. "I wouldn't call them films, I would call them moments in my life. They were surrounded by an entire emotion, an entire feeling. It wasn't just playing a character and going home, it seeped into my life at that time, the film would become my entire life. That film, that crew, that moment, that environment would become my whole life. I'd be consumed and then the film would release and there would be a moment of emptiness and loss. And then you would go on to the next one. These are all incredible moments for me as an actor, as a performer," added Katrina.



Aamir Khan To Have A Cameo Appearance As Don For Imran Khan's Comeback Film Happy Patel: Report



After a hiatus of almost 9 years, Bollywood actor Imran Khan is all set to make his comeback in cinema. The actor is all set to star in a comedy venture produced by his maternal uncle Aamir Khan's production house. However, Buzz says that Aamir will also be starring in the film. According to a report by peepingmoon.com Aamir Khan will be making a brief cameo appearance in the movie. Reportedly, Aamir will be playing the role of Don, which will add more thrill to the plot. If these reports are true, this will mark Aamir and Imran's first on-screen appearance in a film together. The upcoming film is said to be a satirical spy comedy based on the popular American film series, Austin Powers. A source close to the production house revealed, "It's a spy film with a dash of comic touch and explores an untapped and brand new terrain in Bollywood cinema. Imran will be playing a secret agent in this film, alongside Vir Das, who is also directing, writing, and co-producing it. This is a fun entertainer packed with comedy, action, drama, and lots of twists, much like their highly acclaimed black comedy, Delhi Belly." Described as a laughter-filled riot, the film embraces a blend of familiar elements and a unique, refreshing setting that harks back to Imran's past works. According to an industry insider, filming has already begun in Goa for this eagerly anticipated movie. The source revealed, "Imran has finally locked in his comeback project, nearly eight months after he hinted at the possibility of returning to movies last year. He will star in and play Happy Patel in a quirky comedy produced by Aamir Khan Productions. The film is a laugh-riot and is set in a familiar yet uniquely fresh world, reminiscent of Imran's previous works. Shooting has already commenced in Goa.

Actress Kranti Redkar Shares She Lost 5 Kg In 10 Days



Actress Kranti Redkar is one of the popular actresses in the Marathi cinema. She often shares pictures and videos that set the internet on fire. Recently, she dropped a video and shared about losing 5 kg in 10 days. The video is now gaining traction on social media. In the viral video, the actress is seen taking a weight loss challenge. She wore a traditional ensemble as she recorded a video for her fans. Keeping it minimal, she wore perfectly drawn eyebrows, bindi, mascara-laden eyelashes, and a brown lip shade. In the video, she was also seen pairing her outfit with a pair of exquisite earrings. So far, the video has garnered over 7,59,000 views and is still increasing. Several social media users have commented on the video. One user wrote, "We don't want to name anyone else, we want what we have". Another user added, "You look very beautiful". "Don't lose weight for anyone," wrote one person. Some time back, she posted a similar video sharing a quick way to lose weight. The clip generated a huge noise on the internet. In the video, Kranti revealed the secret to losing two and a half kilos in a short period. She jokingly suggested, "I lost two and a half to three kilos in the last one and a half weeks. Now, how did I do it? What's the secret? Well, there's no secret. It's quite simple. Just apply white nail polish on your right hand. If it's a gel and a bit pricier, even better."

Kranti Redkar is well-known for her performances in films such as Gangaajal, Shikshanachya Aaicha Gho and Majha Navra Tujhi Bayko. Her notable projects also include movies like Karaar, Rocky, Baalaa, Murder Mestri and Yudh. Astitvachi Ladai. She made her directorial debut with Kaakan in 2015. Kranti Redkar, who is married to IPS officer Sameer Wankhede, became a mother to twins named Zyda and Ziya a few years after their wedding. During a challenging time when Sameer faced criticism from Maharashtra politicians for his role in the narcotics case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan, on a Mumbai cruise, Kranti remained supportive of her husband.

Ranveer Singh

Teams Up With Prasanth Varma For A Mythological Thriller 'Rakshas'



Ranveer Singh is gearing up to team up with 'Hanuman' director Prasanth Varma for his upcoming film. Buzz is that the film that he has signed is set against the backdrop of Indian mythology and that the film has been tentatively titled Rakshas. Reportedly, Ranveer's character will also have shades of negative forces in the film. A source close to the development informed Pinkvilla that "it's a part of the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe, where the director is introducing several characters before bringing them all together in the finale. Ranveer is blown away by the vision and long-term plans that his director has for the universe and is excited to embark on the journey of Rakshas soon." Reportedly, the script and the pre-visualisation of the film have been in place, and the makers are now figuring out the timelines of the shoot. The source added, "Ranveer has met Prasanth Varma and the team multiple times over the last few weeks and has already done a pooja for the film on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in Hyderabad. Rakshas is positioned as a historical drama unfolding in the pre-independence era, enriched with mythological elements. Ranveer's role in the film is rumoured to embody a complex character with shades of negativity and darkness. While the specifics of his character arc remain undisclosed, the narrative promises to delve into the realm of Indian mythology.

Ranveer Singh is also slated to appear in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again', featuring an ensemble cast including Deepika Padukone, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Kareena Kapoor Khan. Additionally, he is involved in Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3'. Last year, Farhan Akhtar unveiled Ranveer Singh as the new Don in the teaser for Don 3: The Final Chapter. The teaser included Ranveer's voiceover, resonating with the awakening of a lion: "Sher jo so raha hain woh jagega kab, puchte hai yeh sab. Unse keh do phir jaag utha hoon main, aur phir samne jald aane ko."

