



Illiterate or less educated PM is very dangerous for country, says Kejriwal

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# Afternoon

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## Gujarat high court fined Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal ₹ 25,000



### SETS ASIDE PM NARENDRA MODI'S DEGREE CONTROVERSY

An order directing the Gujarat University to disclose details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree was put aside by the Gujarat High Court, which said the information, is not needed. The Gujarat High Court also fined Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ₹25,000 for asking for these details. Kejriwal has to deposit the money with the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority within four weeks.

Responding to the order and the fine, Kejriwal tweeted: "Does the country not have the right to know how educated their Prime Minister is? They vehemently opposed revealing his degree in court.

Why? And the person asking to see the degree will be fined? What is happening? An uneducated or less educated PM is dangerous for the country."

In 2016, responding to a Right to Information (RTI) request, the Central Information Commission directed the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Gujarat University and Delhi University to furnish information on PM Modi's graduation and post-graduation degrees. The Gujarat University challenged the order before the High Court.

PM Modi's election documents say he graduated from Gujarat University in 1978 and completed his Master's de-

gree from Delhi University in 1983. Last month, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued during hearings that the university should not be compelled to disclose this information.

"In a democracy, there won't be a difference if a person holding the office is a doctorate or an illiterate. Also, there is no public interest involved in this issue. Even his privacy is affected," the top government lawyer had said, insisting that the information on the PM's degrees had no bearing on his role. "We cannot be asked to furnish the information to satisfy someone's childish and irresponsible curiosity," Mehta said.

The Solicitor General also said information requested under RTI should be related to public activity. "They cannot ask what breakfast I had. But yes, they can ask what amount was spent for the breakfast," he remarked. Kejriwal's lawyer pointed out that election nomination forms listed educational qualifications. "We are asking for a degree certificate, not his marksheet," said Percy Kavina. The court order comes in the middle of an aggressive campaign by Mr Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) highlighting the PM's educational qualifications. The party has put up posters in many cities targeting PM Modi.

### Mamta Di and Abhishek Banerjee, both are in clash to open a quagmire

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The riots in West Bengal can be directly attributed to the frustrations of people from both the side and also the political plots to fuel it further. In the recent past there is no sign of development in the state. Goons are allowed to loot, minorities are given all sorts of advantages and Muslim migrants choose the state for safe haven. Education and health prospects are meagre. Apart from this, they are being radicalized by fundamentalist elements of their community. If it were not for this reason there would not have been a communal riot for just a Facebook post that too by a juvenile.

Earlier it was the BJP which used to play the communal card. The minority religious fundamentalist of west Bengal are follow-

ers of Trinamool and less action is taken against them(Since they are TMC's vote bank).The kind of appeasement politics has long been a case of irritation for Hindus dwelling there which made the situation blow out of proportion. The situation should be brought under control through proper law and order. Using communal riots as a case for gaining votes is the biggest curse. The real reason of violence in WB is that politics has captured every part of life. Say jobs, construction, education everything, event cinema. That is the reason whoever is in power gets the power to rule these sectors as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

*Sad to say, but it is the Bengalis themselves who have brought politics into everything. Politicians just used them to their advantage.*

*A large police force was deployed following the violence between two groups. They had gone on a rampage, burning vehicles, throwing stones and damaging shops.*

*Meanwhile Bengal BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari meets the Union Home Minister in Delhi and then returns to Kolkata. He holds a public meeting the next day and says 'watch TV tomorrow'.*

# Mamta Di and Abhishek Banerjee, both are in clash to open a quagmire

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Sad to say, but it is the Bengalis themselves who have brought politics into everything. Politicians just used them to their advantage. This political culture must be stopped. Whoever forms the government should pull out politics from every part of life. People get very serious here with politics and this is the reason of violence. Violence broke out between two groups when a Ram Navami procession was taken out in West Bengal's Howrah city, where several vehicles were torched and shops were ransacked if something was not planned. Police detained many youths in this connection. Both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP have shared videos as evidence to show who is responsible for the violence.

A large police force was deployed following the violence between two groups. They had gone on a rampage, burning vehicles, throwing stones and damaging shops. The BJP shared videos showing some men vandalising shops and throwing stones at the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the police. In the videos shared by the Trinamool Congress, the party of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, red circles are drawn over some men to highlight them as they are seen holding guns and other weapons at the Ram Navami procession, which allegedly took an "unauthorised route to target and attack one community according to her. She believes the BJP is instigating violence in Bengal.

The next day there are riots again. BJP approaches the high court seeking a probe by the National Investigation Agency, a central body, as they want to avoid being investigated in the state to "escape action". They know they will be caught if the probe happens here. Whereas BJP says if the probe happens in state then the ruling party will try its best to blame BJP and its workers. Frankly speaking at this hour there is no point in talking about investigations because this is not the first communal violence. And there is no concrete investigation in previous violent incidents.

The Home Minister called Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and state BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar to assess the law and order situation after the Ram Navami clash but he did not do any dialogue with the state government or its CM. The Governor, who will soon be visiting the riot-hit areas, is believed to have given details to Shah about the violence and the present situation. But how these visits are going to solve the burning communal

issues in the state no one knows.

On the other hand Mamta Banerjee has accused the BJP for trying to stoke communal tension during the procession. She alleged the BJP had hired goons from other states to orchestrate communal riots. BJP slammed Banerjee stating that the "Hindus in Bengal are under threat" and accused Ms Banerjee, who is also the state's Home Minister, of appeasement politics.

Currently in India in the name of secularism only appeasement and further communal politics is being played and Didi is no different than the herd. She has been walking along the same path of secularism or shall I say "pseudo-secularism" ever since she became the Chief Minister of the state. She has been trying to woo the Muslim voters by making symbolic gestures rather than making any substantial improvement. She is afraid that if arrests are made and Muslim rioters end up in jail, she may see her "cherished" vote bank drifting away from her. The situation has further worsened because of the continuous influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Mamata knows that the key to retain her chair for the coming term is to have the Muslim voters in hand and hence she comes up with different ideas to attain her objective. It has further enhanced the polarisation of the state. When the nation has already witnessed a partition on the communal lines where Bengal was ripped apart, is it really wise to air the communal feelings? India is already facing problems due to overpopulation. Is it smart to allow illegal immigrants to settle in India and lay share on our resources? On the other hand BJP is also aiming to gain power in West Bengal, they will never allow the state to settle in peace.

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Precaution is always better!

At the beginning of the year 2020, Coronavirus had spread throughout the world. The same Corona is now becoming active again. There is an alarming increase in the number of patients. It needs to be stopped in time. Avoid going to crowded places and eating open street food. The use of masks should be mandatory in crowded places. There should be limits on purposeless vagrancy. Preventing Corona is the moral responsibility of all of us. Precaution is always better.

**Sudhir Kangutkar**

### Chinese Spy ships

China regularly sending its navy ships to the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea in order to capitalise on these seas and oceans in the future. A Chinese "spy ship," Hai Yang Shi You, was spotted close to the Indian coast - nearly 150 nautical miles off the coast of Paradip in Orissa last week which is clearly appears to be highly suspicious one. The ship was found roughly northeast of the port of Paradip and is now in the Bay of Bengal. Even though the "research vessel" was tasked with gathering surface-level information such as depth and salinity in parts of the Bay of Bengal, one can easily say that it is closely monitoring Indian navy's and other activities. Therefore, Indian defence and regime has to swiftly take necessary actions to regulate these miscreant's activities carried out by Chinese in the name of research in seas and oceans.

**Vijaykumar H K**

### Don't get fooled on April 1

The first day of the month of April is called 'All Fools' Day' or 'April Fool's Day'. On this day, people take delight in playing practical jokes on each other. The custom started in Rome when king Leopold of Belgium, who was married in Rome, was made a fool of by his sister-in-law when he went to his father-in-law's palace on the first of April by mistake as he had been invited there on first of May.

Today, several centuries later, April fool is played on people on a large scale. It is played by students in schools and colleges and also by employees with their colleagues in offices. It is also played at home with neighbours and family members. So be alert and don't get April fooled this year.

However, instead of playing jokes on people on April Fool's Day, I suggest you plant at least one sapling in your surroundings to make it an April Cool Day. This small campaign of yours may help in making this earth cool and a better place to live in.

**Jubel D'Cruz**

# Over 100 slums residents have come on streets due no shelter and rent by developers in Kandivali

**M**umbai residents of more than 100 people in Apna nagar, Akurli road at Kandivali east are struggling with the rents for the slums which was given for the re-development and the land has been left alone as nobody is willing to take responsibility for the rents to be paid neither they are given any alternate option of survival which is forcing them to go on a hunger strike.

More than 240 slums were been given for the redevelopment some were in favour of it while others were been forced to vacate their house for the redevelopment and when the land has gone for the redevelopment with one builder called Navkar construction gave an agreement to the residents of the redevelopment work to be completed around 3 years but redevelopment has not even started yet and now residents are not even paid rent as per their contract. Some residents claim that there is another developer which is suddenly been involved without any information named Poddar housing developer which paid them rents some time but not willing to pay anymore or take any responsibility.

There are some authorities involved in this case two developers which is Navkar constructions and Poddar housing developers, Independent authority - Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and politicians which are now running away from this case after giving resident hope of redevelopment in that area.

We spoke to some Residents of apna nagar society, resident Bhiku Chauhan, "This area has gone for redevelopment for approximately 14 years and we were not aware of the two builders will be entering the agreement but from last 5 years approximately another builder named poddar developer was paying the rent but they have also stopped it due to 13(2) and to know about this issue when we asked SRA about it there is

no concrete answers given by them neither there replied been given through right to information (RTI) report".

"When we did not receive rents for the redevelopment area we tried reaching all the possible to the developer but no one responded neither through phone calls or office address said, resident Ismail Abdul Khan.

Resident Fatima Khan said, "Approximately 315 houses were broken some were in favour of it while other were done forcefully with a help of strangers and there were many bouncers brought in that place to vacate the rooms but later we were also fine with the redevelopment concept and developer assured the redevelopment work to be completed as per the agreement within 3 years but its been more than 5 years now and we don't have our shelter. Some people were been told to sign on blank papers in name of rent to be paid in cheque and they signed on it as many of them are not literate. Later on we got to know 13(2) notice has been sent which we have not received it and to check on this when we went to SRA there was no response due to which from last 2 years we have not received the rent amount apart from that there were many strangers been called even when our residents were conducting meeting to understand situation and how to move forward".

When Afternoon Voice tried reaching out to the developer of Navkar constructions office address at thakur complex, V mall in Kandivali east this office was registered in a different name called V. M construction and head of this developer Vinod Kumar Yadav was not available in the office but there were some people in the office said that "They are running a yoga classes via online which trains many people in overseas and when asked if they were the tutors they said, "they are not tutors but the classes are going online".

Another developer Poddar

housing and development which is based in lower Parel but no one was able to speak on this matter.

When spoke to SRA officials in which Tahsildar department said, "They were not sure if the hearing of 13(2) is happening on this case or not and when they looked at the paper they mentioned the case is ongoing with Sahakaari vibhaag ( Co-operative department) in which they said if residents are facing the issue of rents then they should have filled a form of it and kept the matter for hearing so that justice can be delivered"

When spoke to the residents of the area whose land has gone for the re-development said "Residents did not appeal or fill the form in SRA for the rents not been given to them as they were told by some SRA officials if 13(2) is applied on this case then cannot seek rents".

In this case BJP MLA, Atul Bhatkalkar said, "I would be helping all the slum people and will allow them to build their houses again by themselves. Also I will be providing connection of electricity and water supply and build toilets in that area".

While resident Bhiku Chauhan resident said, "There is no construction work started yet and every now and then when we visit the BJP MLA, Atul Bhatkalkar office at that time we are only given future dates and hopes of the work will be done".

The section 13(2) of the slum act 1971 states it is implied to the society when 70 % of the eligible slum dwellers decide to terminate the contract of existing developer of that area.

**- Brena Soni**

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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**No postal letters will be entertained**

(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

## Urban forest coming up on Mithi river banks to tackle Mumbai's pollution



To bring down Land Surface Temperature (LST) and to tackle the industrial dust as well as carbon footprint, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) controlling Mumbai city is creating an urban forest at Marol industrial estate at Andheri (east) in the Western suburbs. Ever since the construc-

tion of Metro Railway lines had begun, an increase in land surface temperature was recorded in the area. Between 2005 and 2010, the average LST alongside land parcels of Metro line 1 stretch ranged between 29 and 33 degrees Celsius. However, after the construction began, the average maximum LST temperature var-

ied between 34 and 38 degrees. Ever since the construction of Metro Railway lines had begun, an increase in land surface temperature was recorded in the area. Between 2005 and 2010, the average LST alongside land parcels of Metro line 1 stretch ranged between 29 and 33 degrees Celsius. However, after the construction began, the average maximum LST temperature varied between 34 and 38 degrees.

The BMC is expected to spend Rs 7 crore to set up the urban forest and the contractor for the project was appointed in January. The BMC has kept the deadline for the project until the end of 2023. Once the space is ready, the contractor will be responsible for the maintenance of the forest for three more years.

## Clash during Ram Navami procession in Mumbai, 20 people arrested



The incident occurred on Thursday night at Malvani in suburban Malad (West) when the procession was going on and some people objected to high volume DJ and loud music accompanying it. Twenty people were arrested and a case was filed against more than 300 unidentified people in connection with a clash between two groups during a Ram Navami procession in Mumbai's Malvani area

on Thursday night. "One person suffered minor injuries in the incident. But the police handled it & the situation is under control. Legal action is being taken & further probe is underway," Mumbai DCP Ajay Bansal, was reported saying by news agency ANI. The incident occurred when the procession was going on and some people objected to high volume DJ and loud music accompanying it.

## "Procession taken out after police permission": Maharashtra Minister on the Rama Navami clash incident



Reacting to the violent clash that broke out between two groups during the 'Ram Navami' Shobha Yatra, Maharashtra minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha said that the procession was taken out after permission from the police and such incident is unfortunate. "The procession was taken out after permission from the police, it was stopped in between during the time of namaz. Despite

that such incident is unfortunate. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered the probe. Normalcy was restored and many people were arrested," said Mangal Prabhat Lodha on the Rama Navami incident in Malad. Earlier in the day, Mumbai Police arrested 20 people after a scuffle occurred on Thursday between two groups during the 'Rama Navami' Shobha Yatra in Malad's Malvani area. (ANI)

## Special court to pass order on the bail application of Anil Jaisinghani tomorrow

Special court to pass order on the bail application of bookie Anil Jaisinghani and his cousin Nirmal Jaisinghani on Saturday. The court today heard arguments on bail by the accused's lawyers and the Mumbai police and reserved it for orders tomorrow. The two are booked on allegations of blackmail and extortion of Amruta Fadnavis, wife of deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. Meanwhile, the special court has allowed a transit remand plea filed by Madhya Pradesh police seeking Anil Jaisinghani's custody in a Excise Act case filed in the state. The court



directed the MP police to return Jaisinghani to the jail in Maharashtra after his police custody is concluded. Goa Police officials

also came before court seeking his custody in a case filed there. The plea is likely to be heard on April 5.

## With arrival of 9 trains by July, a key step forward for first underground Metro

The commercial operations for the first phase of Mumbai's first underground metro – Aqua Line – will be carried out with nine trains, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) has

told The Indian Express. The arrival of the trains, each having eight coaches, is expected by July. It will be a key step forward for the Aqua Line Phase-1 launch, targeted to be completed by December

## Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar clashes: Man injured in police firing dies

A man injured in the police firing that took place in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (previously Aurangabad) on Wednesday night after communal clashes broke out in the Kiradpura area succumbed to his injuries on Thursday night. The incident occurred on Wednesday night after an argument outside a Ram Mandir on the eve of Ram Navami escalated into violence. Two groups squared off and indulged in stone pelting leading to



the intervention of the local police. Subsequently, the police were also targeted with a mob attacking po-

lice officials. Around 14 police vehicles were damaged and 17 police officials were injured.

Nation

# Illiterate or less educated PM is very dangerous for country, says Kejriwal



Does not the country have the right to know the academic qualification of the prime minister, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked on Friday after the Gujarat High Court set aside an order of the Central Information Commission for providing information on Narendra Modi's degree to him. Allowing the Gujarat University appeal against the seven-year-old order of the Central Information Commission (CIC), Justice Biren Vaishnav also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal and asked

him to deposit the amount within four weeks to the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSL-SA).

Reacting to the high court verdict, Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi, "Doesn't the country even have the right to know how much the PM has studied? He vehemently opposed showing the degree in the court. Why? And those who demand to see the degree will be fined? What's happening?" "Illiterate or less educated PM is very dangerous for the country," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief

alleged in the tweet.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sanjay Singh termed the high court verdict "surprising". "CIC passed an order and asked Gujarat University to provide information on Narendra Modi's degree.

Then, the university files an appeal against the CIC order but fine has been slapped on Arvind Kejriwal. What kind of decision is this?" Singh said at a press conference here. "This proves that the prime minister is actually not educated and he doesn't want the people of the country to know about his educational qualification," he charged, asking "will the country continue to pay the price for having an illiterate prime minister." The AAP leader took a swipe at Modi and asked him to at least show his "entire political science degree" which he once mentioned. "Yesterday some posters were pasted which asked if the country's prime minister should be educated. Modi sent police to tear these posters," he charged. PTI

# Those who resort to fire for Adharma, will be dealt with strictly": Bengal Governor on Howrah clash



A day after a clash erupted between two groups amid Ram Navami celebrations in Howrah, Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Friday said that strict and decisive action will be taken to prevent recurrence of such criminal intimidation. In a press note issued on Friday, Bengal Governor Ananda Bose stated, "Those who resort to violence under the illusion that they can hoodwink the people will soon realise they are in a fool's paradise".

He said that there will be effective and concerted action to book the culprits and bring them before the law.

"Setting fire to public property, that too on the sacred Ram Na-

vami day, is a highly provocative act and will be viewed seriously. Hanuman set fire to Lanka to uphold Dharma. Those who resort to fire for Adharma will be made to swallow the fire themselves or those who are mandated to douse the fire, will do it decisively," the release stated. Ananda Bose added that Bengal stands united against the perpetrators of this heinous crime against humanity. "Trouble makers and abettors will be made to realise that they cannot play Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde in Bengal anymore. Police should be objective, strong and fair, and should not let down their masters and the peace-loving people," the release added. ANI

## Untimely Rains, Hailstorms, High Wind Damage Around 20% Mango Crop: Govt Body ICAR

The mango crop in the country has been damaged up to 20 per cent because of untimely rains, hailstorm and strong wind, according to senior ICAR officials. Many mango growers said the damage has been huge in North India due to hailstorm and thunderstorm. Mango is an important fruit crop in India and popularly called the 'King of Fruits'. India is a major mango growing country, contributing nearly 42 per cent of the world's production.

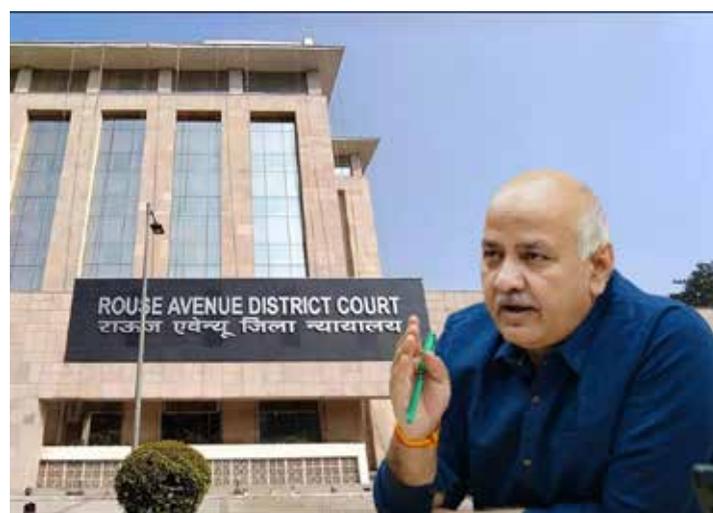
Since last few days, unseasonal rains, hailstorm and gusty wind due to the western disturbance have impacted both foodgrain and horticultural crops in some parts of the country. "First untimely rains did not cause damage, but later rains and hailstorm have badly impacted the mango crop. We anticipate the total damage to be about 20 per cent as of now," Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Deputy Director General (Horticulture) A K Singh told PTI. PTI

# Delhi excise policy: Court denies bail to Manish Sisodia in CBI case

The Rouse Avenue Court on Friday dismissed the bail plea of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case pertaining to alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the excise policy of the Union Territory government. Special Judge MK Nagpal dismissed the bail plea moved by Manish Sisodia. He is presently in judicial custody and scheduled to be produced before the court on April 3, 2023.

The court last week reserved the order on bail plea after the counsel representing the CBI submitted brief written submissions and judgements concerned, as directed by the court on the last date of the hearing. The CBI also submitted case dairy detail and several statements of witnesses in the matter.

Sisodia, in his bail petition in a trial court stated that no fruitful purpose would be served to keep



him in custody as all the recoveries in the case have already been made. Sisodia also stated that he joined the investigation as and when called for by the CBI. The other accused persons arrested in this case have already been granted bail, Sisodia noted further, adding that he held the important constitutional post of deputy CM of Delhi and has deep roots in the

society. However, Sisodia later tendered his resignation as deputy CM in light of his arrest in the liquor policy case.

The CBI, represented by advocate DP Singh, opposed Sisodia's bail plea stating, "If he is granted bail this will scuttle and compromise our investigation as the influence and interference are writ large," CBI said. ANI

## Wearing face mask mandatory in TN hospitals from April 1

The Tamil Nadu government has made wearing of face masks mandatory at all government hospitals across the State from Saturday owing to an increase in Coronavirus positive cases. Doctors, nurses, medical staff, patients and visitors have been asked to ensure cent percent compliance at around 11,300 health facilities because infection initially started in hospitals, Health Minister Ma Subramanian said on Friday. "So, as a

precaution we have made wearing face masks compulsory from April 1," he said. Speaking to reporters here, the Minister said though the infection spread has not escalated it has become essential to exercise precaution. "We should ensure that we wear face masks to protect ourselves. At present, Omicron sub variants XBB and BA.2 are in circulation not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in India and other parts of the world," he said. PTI

World

# Amid political instability Pakistan moving towards anarchy



Pakistan is currently facing a precarious impasse on multiple fronts, encompassing political, economic, security, and human rights issues. More significantly, the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition has failed to provide the necessary stability that the country desperately needs.

Despite enjoying the explicit support of the powerful military establishment of the country, the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition has been unable to resolve even the most rudimentary issue in the last one year - former Prime Minister Imran Khan's political

movement.

It is unprecedented in Pakistan's 75 years of independence, where an opposition political leader is not succumbing to the combined pressure from the Pakistan army and the government in power. The head-on collision between the two sides is reaching a saturation point and may possibly lead to an anarchic situation in Pakistan. Imran Khan's massive public rally, or jalsa, in Lahore on March 25, has dealt a significant blow to the confidence of the ruling PDM alliance and its military supporters, who now appear clueless.

Furthermore, Pakistan's judiciary has apparently expressed its support for Imran Khan amidst the ongoing onslaught against him and his party members by government agencies. Unless Khan is either disqualified or prevented from participating in future elections, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) appears unstoppable in its quest to reclaim power.

In a media interview, Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah expressed his utter frustration against Khan's growing popularity, stating that Imran Khan has transformed politics into enmity and brought it to a point "where either he or the ruling coalition will be eliminated" from the political arena.

Sanaullah said, "When we feel our existence is being threatened, we [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)] will go to a point where we will not bother whether a move is democratic or not." The desperation in Sanaullah's remarks is unmistakable. The PML-N and the Sharif brothers are rapidly losing public support in their home province of Punjab.

# UAE wins bid to host third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels

The UAE, represented by the General Civil Aviation Authority, has won the bid to host the third edition of the ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels. All member states of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) unanimously accepted the UAE's bid in a recent meeting of the Council held at the ICAO headquarters at Montreal in Canada. The conference is organised every seven years.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), said, "The UAE's hosting of the ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels coincides with its preparations to host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), a global platform and an important opportunity to achieve a set of goals."

Facilitating the global transition to a green economy, achieving sustainability, economic diversification and increasing green growth are such most important goals, in addition to discussing climate



challenges and solutions to address them, he pointed out. This aligns with the UAE's declaration of 2023 as the year of sustainability to enhance the country's efforts in leading the climate action in the aviation sector, Al Marri stressed. He added, "The next stage will witness the strengthening of joint action to address the environmental and climatic challenges facing the world, which will contribute to achieving the goals of the country's national strategies." Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, director general of the General Civil Aviation Authority, said, "The UAE has a proven track record in environmental action, and regional and international cooperation to address the challenges of climate change."

# Finland's membership will make alliance stronger: NATO Gen Secy



North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), General Secretary on Friday said that Finland's inclusion will strengthen the inter-governmental military alliance and added that the body hopes to welcome Sweden as full member soon. In a video shared by the official Twitter account of NATO Spokesperson, Oana Lungescu, the NATO General Secretary, Jens Stoltenberg, is heard welcoming and congratulating Finland.

Stoltenberg said, "I welcome

the vote by the Turkish Grand National Assembly to ratify Finland's membership in NATO. All 30 NATO allies have now ratified the accession protocol." "And I have just spoken with President Sauli Niinisto to congratulate him on this historic occasion," Stoltenberg said.

"Finland will formally join our alliance in the coming days. The membership will make Finland safer and NATO stronger. Finland has highly capable forces, advanced capabilities and strong democratic

# Russia's new foreign policy strategy identifies China, India as main allies

Russia's new foreign policy strategy adopted by President Vladimir Putin on Friday identified China and India as its main allies on the world stage.

The new 42-page document singled out ties with China and India, stressing the importance of "the deepening of ties and coordination with friendly sovereign global centers of power and development located on the Eurasian continent."

India and Russia maintained a close strategic, military, economic, and diplomatic interaction during the Cold War. Both Russia and India refer to this alliance as being unique and privileged.

The strategic partnership between India and Russia is based on five main pillars -- politics, defence, civil nuclear energy, counter-terrorism cooperation, and space. India and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of their diplo-



matic relations.

According to the document, Russia will continue to build a particularly privileged strategic partnership with India with a view to enhancing and expanding cooperation in all areas on a mutually beneficial basis and place special emphasis on increasing the volume of bilateral trade, strengthening investment and technological ties, and ensuring their resistance to destructive actions of unfriendly states and their alliances.

"In order to help adapt the world order to the realities of a

multipolar world, Russia intends to make it one of priorities to enhance the capacity and international role of the interstate association of BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the RIC (Russia, India, China) and other interstate associations and international organizations, as well as mechanisms with strong Russian participation," read the document.

# Importance of an Aptitude Test in Education



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**T** Verbal Ability: It comprises the English speaking skills of a person. Spelling and grammar are included in it. It is based on the understanding of the accurate meaning of the words, formation sentence or sentence structure, idioms and proverbs. It tests the skills like understanding the information, recalling the information, and understanding of language concepts. The questions included in verbal ability can be of the following types:

- Spelling questions
- Missing word questions
- Missing word questions
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Word pair questions
- Comprehension
- Reasoning questions

**Numeric Ability:** It includes basic mathematics like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. In some tests, data interpretation is also present which means the interpretation of charts and graphs. The numeric ability can be categorized as a speed test. A speed test means that the questions are very simple and the methods used to solve them are very clear. It is just considered with how many questions you can answer correctly within a given period of time. You are not allowed to use a calculator. The questions included in numeric ability can be of the following types:

- Arithmetic questions
- Sequence and series
- Numbers represented by the alphabet
- Data interpretation

**Abstract Reasoning:** It includes the questions which have a very little or no application in the real world. The question tests your understanding of patterns and figures and also the similarities and



differences between shapes and figures. This test does not require any educational qualification.

**Spatial Reasoning:** It includes your ability to draw or interpret drawings. It tests your imagination. The question may require you to imagine a given drawing rotated at some angle or visualize a 2-dimensional drawing in a 3-dimensional view. It may also include visual assembly or disassembly of an object. The questions included in spatial reasoning can be of the following types:

- Shape matching
- Group rotation
- Combining Shapes
- 3 dimension views
- Maps and plans

**Mechanical Reasoning:** It tests your knowledge of mechanical and physical concepts. Your score significantly depends on your knowledge. The various aspects included in it are:

- Levers
- Gears
- Pulleys
- Electrical circuits
- Springs
- Tools

**Fault Diagnosis:** It tests your ability to find faults in mechanical and electronic systems. This type of test is taken by those who want to work as technical personnel.

**Data Checking:** It tests that how accurately and speedily you can find out errors in the given data. Mostly,

you would be given two columns of data and you have to find the differences between the two. The data is not much meaningful. This type of test is done for clerical jobs, administrative jobs, or jobs related to banking and accounting.

**Work Sample:** In this, you will have to give the sample of the work you are expected to do after you get the job. Therefore, it will involve a specific skill.

## What is the Importance of an Aptitude Test?

The Aptitude Test can be used as a measure of the abilities of a person. These tests give the complete picture of a person's mind. The aptitude test is of a great importance for the students studying in school or those people who want to change their profession. The test will give them a precise result of what is the actual abilities of a person. The importance of an aptitude test can be understood by the fact that they being widely used now for various purposes. Some of them are:

**Placement Purpose:** If a job requires some specific skill or some particular trait in the person, it is evaluated by aptitude tests. For example, if you have applied for a data entry job, they will test your data checking skills or if you have applied for a job in the technical field they will test your mechanical reasoning or fault diagnosing ability. Mostly, the aptitude test is used in conjugation with a personal

interview or a group discussion or both for job placement. It is difficult to cheat in an aptitude test, therefore, they are considered reliable by most of the interviewers. These tests give the interviewer an idea of the natural abilities, strength, and weaknesses of the interviewee.

**Choosing a Career:** The result of the aptitude test tells us about the skills or abilities of a person. This result is of great help in choosing a career. A person will get to know what he is good at and he should choose a career accordingly. For example, a person takes an aptitude test and the result shows that the person's verbal skills are excellent but the numerical skills are very poor. In this case, rather than choosing a career which requires him to enhance his numeric ability, it would be beneficial for him to choose a career which requires his verbal skills. Therefore, an aptitude test becomes guidance in choosing a career. One should definitely opt for an aptitude test before choosing a career. The right time for this test is after passing the 10th standard exam. It will guide you to choose the correct stream.

**Academic Improvement:** If a student takes an aptitude test, it will directly or indirectly tell him his strong and weak subject. The student can, therefore, work on his weak subjects and improve them.

It is very important to include aptitude tests in education. As most of the multinational companies take the aptitude test of the person trying for the job, the tips and tricks for solving the aptitude tests must be taught to the students from the very beginning. If the students practice aptitude tests from the very beginning they will be able to solve them in proper time correctly. This would be beneficial for them when they go for recruitment. The schools should test the aptitude of the students at regular intervals so that the faculty can know the weak areas of their students. Moreover, it will tell the faculty if there is any fault in the curriculum or teaching methodology.

(To be Continue...)

## Entertainment

### Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas bring daughter Malti Marie to India for the first time



Actress Priyanka Chopra is back in India and that too with her husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti Marie. On Friday, Priyanka, Nick and their one-year-old daughter Malti Marie were spotted at Mumbai airport. The family of three is in India on Malti's first trip to the country.

Nick and Priyanka happily posed for the paps stationed outside the airport. Priyanka can be seen wearing a bright pink co-ord set with a thigh-high slit in a skirt. On the other hand, Nick is seen donning a cool sweatshirt with a cap. Take a look at the pictures in which Priyanka is seen holding baby Malti in her arms.

If reports are to be believed, Priyanka and Nick are in Mumbai to attend Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre's launch. Priyanka is also expected to kick-start 'Citadel' promotions in Mumbai next week. Created by the Russo Brothers, Citadel will premiere exclusively on Prime Video on Friday, April 28, with two adrenaline-fueled episodes, followed by a new episode released weekly every Friday through May 26. ANI



### Oscar fever grips IPL 2023 opening ceremony as Rashmika Mandanna performs on 'Naatu Naatu'

Actor Rashmika Mandanna, on Friday, rocked the dance floor with her power-packed dance performance on the Oscar-winning song 'Naatu Naatu' at the IPL 2023 Opening ceremony in Ahmedabad Gujarat. The IPL 2023 began with a grand opening ceremony at the Narendra Modi Stadium where B-town celebs like Arijit Singh, Tamannaah Bhatia and Rashmika Mandanna entertained the audience with their amazing performances.

Previously, while talking about her performance at the IPL Opening ceremony, Rashmika said, "I always wanted to witness a match. But I never got the opportunity. And today I am performing for the opening ceremony... it's like I made it!" ANI

### Ben Affleck spills the beans about Wonder Woman's cameo in 'The Flash'

Ben Affleck, who is currently promoting his directorial 'Air: Courting a Legend', revealed details about a key DC character cameo in Andy Muschietti's upcoming 'The Flash'.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, "I don't want to give spoilers but it was a scene where I get caught -- I get saved -- by Wonder Woman during a conflagration with some bad guys," Affleck shared, acknowledging that the "spoiler DC assassins" might be listening. "She saves me ... with the lasso of truth. And so what happens is that Batman divulges some of his real feelings about his life and work."

The actor added that his performance in 'The Flash' was the first time he really understood the character and it ultimately made him want to come back to play the hero again. "It's the best I've done as [Batman]," he said, excitedly.

"I finally figured out how to play the guy. I was like, 'Hold on, I quit. I know I quit. But I got it now!'" Ecstatic about the project, Ben further added, "I nailed it in The Flash. For the five minutes I'm there, it's really great. A lot of it's just tone. You've got to figure out, what's your version of the person. Who is the guy that fits what you can do?" he continued. "I tried to fit myself into a Batman."

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