M Mercury rising: Delhi, north plains may hit 45°C

Fierce scorching in northeast India; brace yourself for intense heatwave ahead. Delhiites are poised for scorching this summer as they face record-breaking heatwaves. The Supreme Court of India (SC) ordered the Delhi government to develop a strategy to combat the heatwave as 152 people died in the national capital due to heatwaves last year. "The government should prepare a comprehensive strategy to prevent heatwaves and their fatalities," the court instructed.

However, the heatwave situation is严峻, with temperatures soaring past 45°C in several parts of the country. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that temperatures could reach 47°C in parts of the country, including Delhi, on Thursday. Heatwaves are expected to persist for the next few days, worsening the situation in the region.

The IMD has issued an alert, advising people to stay indoors and avoid strenuous activities during the day. People are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids, wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing, and use sunscreen to protect against the intense sun.

Weather experts believe that the heatwave is due to a combination of factors, including high pressure systems, low humidity, and the monsoon season. The government has set up a task force to assess the situation and develop strategies to mitigate the impact of heatwaves on the population.

The heatwave has also raised concerns about the country's preparedness for such events. The government is working on developing heatwave response plans and providing early warning systems to help people stay safe during such events.

In conclusion, the heatwave situation in Delhi and the north plains is严峻, and people are advised to take necessary precautions to protect themselves from the intense heat. The government is taking steps to address the situation, but the challenge remains to ensure the safety and well-being of the population during such events.
BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | MAY 17, 2024

Biju Patnaik's legacy lives on in Odisha politics as the BJP, under the leadership of JP Nadda, continues its campaign. The party has withdrawn the ticket from the Soro Assembly seat in Odisha on Thursday, two days after the announcement of the BJP's Lok Sabha election list.

BJP national president JP Nadda, in his address, emphasized the party's commitment to development. "People of Odisha are happy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership," he said. "He has taken the administration and Navdhanvishwa became active for the last 25 years, people now want to join Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as he is the face of the BJP."

"This huge gathering and excitement amid the scruffy and crowded conditions show that the people of Odisha love the BJP and want the BJP to form government both in the state and at the Centre. People of the state want an honest and efficient chief minister, who can communicate with the people," Nadda added.

"People of Odisha are happy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership. He has taken the administration and Navdhanvishwa became active for the last 25 years, people now want to join Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as he is the face of the BJP," Nadda said.

"As the people have shown their trust in the BJP, we will work hard to deliver according to their expectations. We will work to make Odisha a shining example of development and prosperity," he added.

The BJP has promised to provide minimum support price (MSP) for farmers, which is crucial for the survival of small and marginal farmers. Nadda also highlighted the party's commitment to the rural sector, mentioning initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the scheme to provide loans to farmers.

Social canvas

The demand for a minimum support price (MSP) has continued to rise, and the BJP has promised to provide it. However, the question of how this MSP will be implemented and its impact on farmers remains a concern.

In the last few years, Odisha has witnessed growth in the agricultural sector. However, the state's water resources have been under threat due to inappropriate usage. The state government has taken steps to address this issue, but more needs to be done.

The state government has also focused on providing better infrastructure and facilities for farmers. The installation of irrigation systems and the development of farm roads are among the initiatives taken by the government.

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Sambalpur: People confront Prassana, allege lack of dev

BJD Bankerud Assembly candidate Prasanna Acharya faced an unpleasant situation when he was campaigning in the constituency as he was questioned about the development activities undertaken in the region.

As per reports, residents of Bhubaneswar to the villages surrounded Acharya during his campaign and asked about the lack of development activities in their area.

They also alleged that the BJD government has done nothing during its 25 years in power and people in the region are still deprived of many basic facilities like drinking water.

The video of the incident has gone viral on various social media platforms.

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The cumulative turnouts in the four phases of the Lok Sabha elections have been published, and the corresponding data are as follows:

- The first phase saw a turnout of 69.3 per cent, in which on average 44 per cent. 
- In the second phase, the turnout was 66.9 per cent.
- The third phase recorded a 66.4 per cent turnout.
- The final phase saw a turnout of 64.4 per cent.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has intensified its counter-insurgency operations in Punjab, with a contingent of about 40 CRPF personnel deployed in the state. According to sources, this deployment is part of the broader strategy to ensure peace and security in the region.

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has recommended an increase in the OBC quota in Punjab and West Bengal. The NCBC's recommendation, which is based on a gregarious reading of the text, will now be considered by the state governments. According to the NCBC's recommendation, the OBC quota in Punjab and West Bengal should be increased from 15 per cent to 17 per cent in order to provide more educational and employment opportunities to the OBC community.

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has inaugurated the new Shimla Police training centre, which is the first of its kind in the country. The centre is expected to provide world-class training to police personnel from all over the country.

The Indian Police Service (IPS) was established in 1927, and it is the premier law enforcement service in India. The IPS officers are trained in various aspects of law enforcement and are expected to uphold the law and order in their respective states.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched a new scheme to provide financial assistance to disabled individuals to help them start small-scale businesses. The scheme, known as the "Freedom Fund," aims to provide financial assistance to disabled individuals to help them become self-reliant and contribute to the economic development of the country.
Pok belongs to India, we will take it back at any cost: Shah

The Prime Minister, who was addressing a public meeting in Gorakhpur, said that the Congress government in the state was mired in corruption and it had failed to deliver on its promises. He also accused the Congress of not being able to fulfil its promises and of being a government of failures. He claimed that the BJP had fulfilled its promises and had brought development to the state.

The Prime Minister also praised the work of the Narendra Modi government and said that it had brought about a sea change in the country. He said that the Congress government had failed to deliver on its promises and had been a government of failures. He claimed that the BJP had fulfilled its promises and had brought development to the state.

He also said that the Congress government had failed to implement the farm laws passed by the previous government and had not been able to reduce the prices of essential commodities. He claimed that the BJP had reduced the prices of essential commodities and had brought about a sea change in the country.

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Unifying Paradise

Pointing to people’s anger and civil unrest in PoK, Amit Shah says it will be reckoned as part of India.

As peace and tranquility enshroud the slopes of Kashmir Valley in perfect serenity, the Indian Prime Minister’s enthusiastic visit to Pakistani Occupied Kashmir (PoK), India’s Home Minister Amit Shah has reiterated the belief that “regions belong to India and we will reclaim it.” Nothing new, then, but the Prime Minister reiterated his government’s steadfast determination to achieve the ultimate goal, fraught as it is with serious ramifications. Following Partition, the princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as other States, sold its right to accede to either India or Pakistan. Pakistan Mahaj Mahjung profit and, ex-Indian Led, did the the region into the Indian and PoK. While India ceded control over the territory, Pakistan retained approximately its one-third, which it named Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan. According to an Indian perspective, PoK is an integral part of J&K and its liberation, the resolution is rooted in political, social, and moral grounds. However, the trick is more of the practicality of the Home Minister’s claim is debatable: Bringing up such an emotional public sphere, especially during elections and when they involve a neighbouring nuclear power, is not the best idea.

For its part, Pakistan considers PoK as a “liberated territory” enjoining a patriotic bloom by the Indian government.

In this given situation, the status quo remains for over seven decades keeping the two countries braced at the border, but we can afford to peace and we can afford to live if we choose it to be. We have the power to accelerate this phenomenon by building a closer relationship between the two countries. Such an effort can be made by reducing the tensions on both sides and making a conscious effort to improve the atmosphere.

For example, the division of the upper and lower castes has been a major source of conflict in PoK. However, the government is working on a policy to reduce this division by promoting inter-caste marriages and encouraging social mobility.

The significance of Uttar Pradesh’s (UP) influence on national politics cannot be overstated, especially as they led by the BJP, cannot be understated in the era of Indian politics.

The BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been ruling in UP for the past decade, making it one of the most crucial states in the country.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been a staunch proponent of the BJP’s ideology, which emphasizes the importance of national integration and unity in diversity.

The government has introduced several initiatives to boost the economy and improve the quality of life for UP’s residents. These initiatives have had a significant impact on the state’s economy, with a notable increase in domestic product (GDP) and a reduction in poverty levels.

In the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections, UP is set to play a crucial role, with its 80 Lok Sabha seats making it one of the most significant battlegrounds.

The state has a diverse population, with various linguistic, cultural, and religious groups, making it a melting pot of ideas and traditions.

The significance of UP in national politics cannot be overstated, especially as they led by the BJP, cannot be understated in the era of Indian politics.
RBI fortifies the nation's economy with gold

Taking a cue from prudent household savers, the Reserve Bank of India has significantly increased its gold reserves to 81 metric tonnes to hedge the economy.

The gold reserve, which has been at 61 metric tonnes since May 2018, was increased to 79 metric tonnes in December 2021. The latest move, which brings the gold reserve to 81 metric tonnes, follows an increase of 2 metric tonnes in May 2022.

The increase in gold reserves is part of the RBI's broader strategy to manage economic risks and uncertainties. Gold, being a safe haven asset, provides insulation against inflation and currency devaluations.

With the world facing a range of challenges, including supply chain disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and global economic uncertainties, the RBI's decision to increase its gold reserves is seen as a prudent move to ensure financial stability.

While gold has traditionally been associated with wealth and status in India, its role as a safe haven asset has gained prominence in recent years. The increase in gold reserves is expected to enhance the RBI's foreign exchange reserves and strengthen the country's financial position.

The move also aligns with the broader global trend of central banks increasing their gold holdings as a hedge against the risks posed by a volatile economic environment.

The decision to increase gold reserves is likely to be seen as a signal of confidence in the Indian economy and its ability to weather economic challenges.

The increase in gold reserves is a pragmatic move that reflects the RBI's commitment to maintaining economic stability and ensuring the smooth functioning of the financial system.

In conclusion, the increase in gold reserves is a significant development that highlights the RBI's forward thinking and its commitment to safeguarding the country's economic interests.
Xi, Putin hint at political settlement to end war

UK's Labour Party unvels pledges in hopes of winning next election

London (AP): Britain's Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has started a new week hoping for the best but prepared for the worst. Starmer said his party would campaign hard in the upcoming elections, but he declined to provide details of specific policies that could boost his party's chances. Starmer's comments come as the UK faces an uncertain future, with the country's economy struggling and many people feeling disillusioned with traditional politics. Labour's performance in the last general election was disappointing, with the party losing its majority and failing to win back seats it had previously held. Starmer's team is now focused on rebuilding the party's appeal and appealing to voters who may have turned away from traditional politics. The Labour Party's platform is expected to focus on issues such as healthcare, education, and the economy. Starmer has also emphasized the importance of addressing the country's ongoing economic challenges, as well as its social and environmental problems. The Labour Party's success in the upcoming elections will depend on its ability to connect with voters and offer a clear vision for the future of the country. The upcoming elections are expected to be closely contested, with multiple parties vying for power and the future of the UK. Labour's performance will be closely watched by observers around the world, as the country faces major challenges in the coming years. Starmer's team is determined to offer a fresh perspective and a new way forward for the UK, but they will need to work hard to convince voters of their message. The Labour Party's future is uncertain, but its team is committed to fighting for a better future for all the people of the UK.
Sensex jumps 676 points, Nifty closes above 22,400 on global stocks rally

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Silver surges Rs 1,800 to hit all-time high; gold jumps Rs 650

Silver soared by Rs 1,800 to hit an all-time high of Rs 86,098 per kg on Thursday, while gold prices advanced Rs 650 to Rs 74,037 per 10-gram in line with strong global trends.

According to HDFC Securities, light trading picture and strong global cues, seen on Thursday, lifted the precious metal.

"Heavy selling was noticed in the spot and out of metal segments with strong global cues, seen on Thursday, lifted the precious metal," a firm's research analyst explained.

The board has passed a resolution that the company’s equity shares or equity-linked securities shall be issued for cash or any form of consideration other than equity securities.

The company’s net profit is expected to improve across the board on account of lower base effect and lower tax provision due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the previous year.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

India PC market grew 2.6 per cent in January, March to 3.07 million units

The traditional PC market with an array of desktops, notebooks, desktops, typewriters, and tablets grew by 2.6 per cent in January-March, 2024, respectively, compared to the previous year.

The market share of Lenovo has grown to 31.9 per cent, followed by HP Inc. with 25.0 per cent and Dell with 22.7 per cent

The vendors have also husked the local assembly of global players to localise and increase the production of the new SKU within the next 3-year period. The PC market in India is facing challenges in the competitive market due to the increasing popularity of smartphones and tablets.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Air passenger traffic in India to touch 407-418 million this fiscal, says ICA

A government report has projected that air passenger traffic in India is likely to touch 407-418 million this fiscal year. The report also predicted a growth of 7-10 per cent in the following years.

The report attributes the growth to the increasing number of domestic and international flights, as well as the addition of new airports and airlines.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Odisha FPOs tap global markets with first export of mangoes, vegetables

Odisha FPOs have exported their mangoes and vegetables to global markets, marking a significant milestone in the state's agricultural sector.

The state government has been promoting FPOs as a means of connecting farmers to global markets and enhancing their income.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Reliance solver completes sale of REC Solar Norway

Reliance Industries Ltd. announced the completion of the sale of REC Solar Norway AS to a consortium of Iberdrola ASA for an aggregate consideration of Rs 1,830.28 billion.

The sale is expected to complement Reliance's strategic focus on renewable energy and sustainable development.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

GAIL 04 net profit triples on gas trangling business turnaround

GAIL, the Indian natural gas pipeline operator, reported a 300% increase in net profit to Rs 12,670 crore in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ending March 2024.

The company's turnaround is attributed to the sharp rise in domestic gas prices and increased demand from industrial sectors.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Recovery relieves solver of REC Solar Norway

The acquisition of REC Solar Norway marks a significant step in the company's strategy to strengthen its position in the renewable energy sector.

The deal will enable Reliance to tap into the growing market for solar energy in Europe and complement its existing portfolio of assets in India.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Samco Asset Management eyes Rs 500 crore from special opportunities fund

Samco Asset Management is targeting Rs 500 crore from its special opportunities fund, which will invest in distressed assets and special situations.

The fund will be managed by a team of experienced professionals and will focus on assets in distress in the real estate, retail, and financial services sectors.

**PTI/NEW DELHI**

Nyati Group signs MoU for petrochemical park in Mahad, Maharashtra

Nyati Group has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government for the development of a petrochemical park in Mahad, Maharashtra.

The park will be developed on an area of 350 acres and is expected to bring in investments of Rs 10,000 crore.
**STAWART CHETRI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

I trust this message finds you in good health. I wish you and your family all the best for your continued well-being. It has been a great pleasure to represent the team that I love so much and I am truly grateful for the wonderful journey that I have been fortunate enough to be a part of. The Indian national team has been a part of my life for over a decade, and I have loved every moment of it. I have always tried to give my best on the field, and I hope that I have made you all proud.

The journey has been full of ups and downs, but the highs have always outweighed the lows. From scoring the winning goal against the Netherlands to becoming the all-time leading goalscorer for India, every moment has been special. I have been blessed with the support of my teammates, the coaches, my family, and the fans who have been with me every step of the way.

I am grateful to the Dronacharya Award, the Arjuna Award, and the Padma Shri for the recognition that I have received. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication that I have put into my sport. I am also thankful to the government of India for their support, especially the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, for their unwavering support.

I am looking forward to the future. I am excited to explore new challenges and opportunities, whether it be in coaching, mentoring, or any other way that I can contribute to the sport that I love. I am also excited to continue my work with the Indian Football Federation and the All India Football Federation, to contribute to the development of football in India.

In conclusion, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me on this journey. Thank you for your love, your respect, and your encouragement. I will forever be grateful for all of you.

With all my love,

Chhetri

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**Ten Hag addresses Man United fans after winning last home game of season**

**Manchester United**

Ten Hag addressed the Old Trafford faithful after his team recorded a 2-1 win over Charlton. The Dutchman praised the fans for their support throughout the season and said that winning at home had meant a lot.

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**Asian soccer body scraps 12 years limit for senior officials and lets Sheik Khalifa stay beyond 2027**

**Asian Body**

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has scrapped its 12-year limit for senior officials, allowing Sheik Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Khalifa to stay on as the body’s president beyond 2027.

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**Australian Open: Collins upsets Sabalenka in women's final; Djokovic still chasing Grand Slam record**

**Australian Open**

Taylor Fritz and Taylor Hojland both progressed on a return service early in the women’s final. Fritz defeated Sabalenka 6-4, 6-3 on Thursday after the 11th-seeded player lost her third straight match.

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**Indian hockey team's Olympic campaign ends with a bronze medal**

**Indian Hockey**

India's Olympic campaign ended with a bronze medal after a 2-1 win over Germany in the bronze medal match on Wednesday.

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**Swiss win at 2023 European Olympic Games**

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The Swiss team won the inaugural European Olympic Games in Baku with a 2-1 victory over France to claim the gold medal.

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**Chinese weightlifting sensation Zhan Tianolfi to retire after 2023 World Championships**

**Chinese Weightlifting**

Zhan Tianolfi, a Chinese weightlifter, announced his retirement after the 2023 World Championships, saying he wants to focus on his family and personal life.

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**Spanish club Alavés signs 16-year-old forward from Manchester United**

**Spanish Club**

Alavés has signed a 16-year-old forward from Manchester United, marking a significant transfer for the Spanish club.

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**FIFA World Cup: Brazil's De Souza named man of the match in win over Peru**

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**German Open: Zverev defeats 11th-seeded Zverev to reach quarterfinals**

**German Open**

Alexander Zverev defeated 11th-seeded David Goffin to reach the quarterfinals of the German Open on Thursday.

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**FIFA World Cup: Italy faces off against Morocco in semifinals**

**FIFA World Cup**

Italy will face Morocco in the semifinals of the FIFA World Cup on Thursday, with a place in the final on the line.

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**Australian Open: Djokovic advances to quarterfinals**

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Novak Djokovic advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open on Wednesday, setting up a clash with Alexander Zverev.

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Deceit to Delhi Capitals all but Hyderabad with a 19-run hammering by Sunrisers. Three consecutive defeats game here by a huge margin. Even if they win their last IPL last-four are extremely bleak. While Mumbai Indians were clash at the Wankhede, the last four will be much more competitive, and winning all remaining games will be extremely difficult. Lucknow Super Giants will clash with Punjab Kings, and if they win, it will be a huge boost for their playoff chances. Meanwhile, Sunrisers Hyderabad have already qualified for the playoffs, and their campaign to a large extent has been successful. However, their batting has been a concern, with several players struggling. The team needs to work on improving their batting to ensure a better chance of success in the playoffs.

Happy to get some reward after a challenging tournament: Nathan Ellis

Nathan Ellis, the Sunrisers Hyderabad wicketkeeper-batsman, spoke about his performance and reward after a challenging tournament. Ellis, who scored 417 runs in 11 matches, said, "I’m really happy for the guys to get some reward at the back of a lot of a challenging tournament for us." Ellis added, "It was our goal to make it to the playoffs and we were confident that we could achieve it." The team's performance in the tournament was mixed, with some good performances countered by poor results. Ellis said, "We were playing for pride and were determined to get the win."

Hussey hopes Dhoni will carry on for two more years

Michael Hussey, the former India cricketer, expressed hope that MS Dhoni will carry on for two more years. Hussey said, "MS Dhoni has been a fantastic influence for India and has played a crucial role in our success." He added, "He has been an inspiration for the younger generation and his style of play is second to none."

Sharath, Manika to lead India in Olympic team debut

Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra have been named in the India Olympic team for the first time. Sharath, a world No. 6 player, and Manika, ranked No. 11, will be the first Indian players to represent India at the Olympics. The duo has been selected based on their recent performances and will be looking to create history for India in Tokyo.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before

Shahabuddin, Advocate

Registrar, Calcutta High Court

This affidavit is sworn to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Shahabuddin

Registrar, Calcutta High Court

Date: 17th April, 2024

Signature