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NCP, BJP leaders didn't want Eknath Shinde as CM in 2019: Sanjay Raut

Sanjay Kumar

Mumbai, May 19: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed that NCP and BJP leaders, who are part of the present government in Maharashtra, did not want Eknath Shinde as the chief minister in 2019.

that they will not like Shinde as the CM, Raut claimed. Ajit Pawar and Fadnavis are currently deputy chief ministers in the state government led by CM Shinde.

AAP protest in Delhi: BJP has started 'Operation Jhaadu' to crush AAP: CM Arvind Kejriwal

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 19: The Delhi Police has beefed up security in and around the BJP headquarters here in view of a protest announced by AAP's national convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal there on Sunday, even as police said the party has not sought permission for the demonstration.

Chadha and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj will also be arrested. He said there will be bigger chal-



enges ahead and asked the cadre to be prepared to face them. "BJP thinks that this way they can do away with us. No, this will not happen, this is not a

party but a force of 140 crore people who have done immense work in Punjab, Delhi and across the country that people must have not seen in the past 75 years," he added.

Stay indoors, contact embassy: Indian students told amid Kyrgyz mob violence

New Delhi, May 19: Amid mob violence against international students in Bishkek, the Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan has advised the Indian students to stay indoors and get in touch with the mission.



population of expatriate Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Indians and Egyptians for the past one week. It all started with a brawl between foreigners and locals in a hostel of International University of Kyrgyzstan on May 13.

JP Nadda, ML Khattar, Haryana CM Nayab Saini hold meeting

Karnal, May 19: BJP national president JP Nadda, along with former CM Manohar Lal Khattar and CM Nayab Singh Saini, held a meeting with the intellectuals of the district in a hotel on Sunday.

Phase 5 Lok Sabha polls: Rae Bareilly, Amethi among 14 UP seats going to polls today

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Lucknow, May 19: Voting for the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, which will decide the fate of four Union ministers, including Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, will be held on Monday.

from Rae Bareilly, which was represented by his mother and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi earlier. Over 2.68 crore voters are eligible to exercise their polling rights and 144 candidates are in the fray.



Sabha MPs in this phase, while it had fielded new candidates in Barabanki (SC) seat and Kaisarganj. In the INDIA bloc, the Congress has fielded K L Sharma from Amethi, Tanuj Punia from Barabanki (SC) and Pradeep Jain 'Aditya' from Jhansi. The Samajwadi Party (SP) candidates are in the

poll fray on the rest of the seats. Defence minister Singh is eyeing a fourth term from Lucknow. He is pitted against sitting SP MLA Ravidas Mehrotra from Lucknow Central. From the neighbouring constituency of Amethi, Irani is in the poll fray.

3,300 CISF contingent to take full charge of Parliament security from May 20

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 19: More than 3,300 CISF personnel will take over the complete counter-terrorism and anti-sabotage security duties at the Parliament complex from Monday following the withdrawal of over 1,400 CRPF staff from the country's most important symbol of democracy, official sources said.

ment directed it to take over the task from the CRPF following the December 13 security breach incident of last year, a senior officer told PTI. In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, two persons jumped into the Lok



Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour on December 13, 2023, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered

by MPs. Outside the Parliament premises around the same time that day, two other persons sprayed coloured smoke from canisters while shouting slogans. Following this incident, a committee under the chairmanship of CRPF DG was set up to look into the overall security issues of the Parliament complex and make suitable recommendations.

Class 10 UP student suffers partial hearing loss after being beaten up by teacher

Ballia, May 19: A teacher of a private school here has been booked for allegedly thrashing a Class 10 student, leading to partial loss of hearing, the police said on Sunday. The incident took place on May 13 in the school located in Piprauli Barhagaon under the Ubhaon police station limits here during a mathematics class the 14-year-old victim was attending, they added.

'The corrupt will spend lifetimes in jail once new government is formed on June 4': PM Modi

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, May 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday issued an open dare saying he would ensure every corrupt leader spent a lifetime in jail once his new government took shape post the declaration of Lok Sabha election results on June 4.

ing the Congress, JMM and TMC, Modi said, "On June 4, after the installation of the new government, the life of every corrupt leader will be spent in jail. And the money of loot will be returned to those who are its original payees."

indicated TMC was losing which was why Manata Banerjee was openly



"intimidating people." Questioning the CM for publicly naming Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha

leaders at a rally in Bengal on Saturday, the PM said, "The TMC has crossed all limits to appease its vote bank. ISKCON, Ramakrishna Mission which Swami Vivekanand founded and Bharat Sevashram Sangha are known the world over for their services. They add to national glory. But Bengal CM is openly threatening them to please her vote bank.

2 killed as luxury car hits motorcycle in Pune

Pune, May 19: Two people were killed when a speeding luxury car driven by a juvenile hit their motorcycle in Maharashtra's Pune city on Sunday, police said. The 17-year-old car driver was detained after a case was registered against him under relevant provisions, they said.

driver as he tried to come out of the crashed car. The deceased have been identified as Anis Awadhiya and Ashwini Costa, as per the FIR. A case was registered against the car driver at the Yerawada police station under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 304A (causing death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide), 337 (causing hurt to any person by doing any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or personal safety of others) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The police are also in the process of taking legal action against the parents of the teenager in the case under the Motor Vehicles Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, the official said.

Museums are historical testimonies of time: Kadannappalli Ramachandran

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : Minister for Ports, Museums, Archaeology and Archives Kadannappalli Ramachandran said that museums were the empirical evidence of a period and history. He was speaking at the state-level inauguration of the International Museum Day celebrations at Thiruvananthapuram Museum Band Stand.

The minister said that the attempt to rewrite and tamper history must be recognised. "The right knowledge of the land and time should be imparted to the new generation. The theme for this year's International Museum Day is 'Museums for Education and Research.'

We should be able to convey this message to people and make the day meaningful," he said. He pointed out that the state government is taking a stand to ensure the protection and maintenance of museums.

"The modern day concept is a museum that tells story. Museums can also create intellectual and thought-provoking changes," he added. The minister also inaugurated traditional measuring instruments, artifacts and rare metal oil lamps at the Art Museum, a selfie point and an exhibition at the Njana Theruvu. International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year under the aegis of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). As part of it, seminars, quiz and presentation of folk art forms like 'parunthaattam' and 'kummatali' for the students will be organised.

Kerala's oldest theatre club to celebrate 75th anniversary

Director Adoor Gopalakrishnan will inaugurate the programme at Karthika Thirunal Theatre in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

ALAPPUZHA: Kerala People's Arts Club (KPAC), the oldest theatre organisation in the state, is all set to celebrate its 75th anniversary. KPAC secretary A Shajahan said that the club has decided to arrange year-long celebrations as part of its platinum jubilee and also to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of playwright Thoppil Bhasi. On the occasion, KPAC will re-launch the drama 'Olivile Oormakal' which was penned and directed by Bhasi. Director Adoor Gopalakrishnan will inaugurate the programme at Karthika Thirunal Theatre in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. Headquartered at Kayamkulam in Alappuzha, KPAC was very influential in popularising the Communist movement in the state. "During the past 75 years, KPAC has staged 66 dramas. Its dramas were performed on 2.5 lakh stages across the world including the USA, Canada and Gulf countries. The first drama of KPAC was 'Ente Makananu Sheri' (My Son is

Right). It is said that KPAC was formed in the 1950s by a group of law students -- N Rajagopalan Nair, G Janardhana Kurup, Sreenarayana Pillai and O N V together sought Prof M P Paul's advice and assistance to form a theatre and they decided to stage a drama, and later the name KPAC emerged at a discussion at CP Sathram in Thiruvananthapuram. Yet another version subscribes the naming of KPAC to "a project report submitted by writer Kottayam Sreeni to the Kerala State Committee of the Communist Party of India," Shajahan said. The deep friendship between N Rajagopalan Nair and Janardhana Kurup also saw them coming together to create the play 'Ente Makananu Sheri'. Janardhana Kurup, MLAs N Rajagopalan Nair and TA Mytheen Kunju,

M P Kuttappan, K S George, Sulochana and Janaki acted in it. Kottayam Sreeni was the troupe convener and Poojappura Krishnan Nair was its manager. The play was inaugurated at VJT Hall, Thiruvananthapuram, in 1951 and it marked the beginning KPAC's saga of success," Shajahan said.



Dostoyevsky's 'Karamazov Brothers' in Malayalam. Though a public notice was printed in the name of 'Kerala People's Arts Club', nothing came out of it and the name KPAC was later fixed when the four met at Ernakulam for the production of the same play," said Shajahan. However, he added that the origin of KPAC has been a

TN farmers fear opening river sand quarries will lead to water crisis

CHENNAI: The state government's attempt to reopen river sand quarries in the delta districts after nearly nine months has evoked mixed reactions from farmers, sand lorry owners and civil engineers. Farmers have voiced strong concerns, urging the government not to reopen the quarries, as they fear the extraction of sand from riverbeds will affect water storage and flow in the region. KV Elankeeran, president of Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, told TNIE, "The use of machines to take sand from riverbeds in the Cauvery region has led to water scarcity, especially in areas like Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai. These areas have seen a significant drop in groundwater levels." Pointing out that the neighbouring states such as Karnataka and Kerala have started using manufactured sand (M-sand) and plastering manufactured sand (P-sand), Elankeeran urged the state government to reconsider reopening the quarries. On the other hand, S Yuvaraj, president of Tamil Nadu State Sand Lorry Owners' Association, emphasised the importance of river sand for quality construction. However, he suggested avoiding the use of machines for mining in river beds. "Instead of machines, manpower can be used for sand extraction. The ban on machinery use in the Palar river should be applied to other rivers as well," Yuvaraj suggested. He noted the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court has instructed the water resources department not to use machines for excavating river beds. After the Model Code of Conduct for the parliament elections is lifted, Yuvaraj said, he is planning to submit a detailed proposal for mining activities to the government. MC Vasantha Kumar, secretary of Metropolitan Civil Engineering Association told TNIE, "Gujarat has a council for professional civil engineers, and Karnataka recently passed a bill for their own council. We have been requesting the state government for long to set up a similar council." He added, "If the council is established, civil engineers, along with the government, can spread awareness among the public regarding balanced use of both river sand and M-Sand."

Highlighting that the construction cost has gone up from '2,150 to '2,450 per square feet, he said this is the right time to intervene in the issue. A senior government official responded saying, "While discussions on reopening quarries in delta districts are under way, we are yet to decide on the number of quarries. After the MCC is lifted, the government will take a policy decision, and quarry operations may start by the end of June or July."

Offering water to those in need is an act of piety for Khalid Haji

He supplies four loads of water – amounting to 14,000 litres – every day.

KASARAGOD: For nearly a decade, Khalid Abdul Rahman has been a saving grace for fellow residents of Kottappuram, near Nileshwar. During the summer months, he collects water from a borewell on Kottappuram Shihab Thangal Charitable Trust land. And between 5am and 1pm every day, the 64-year-old supplies the precious liquid in a tanker to around 500 families in the locality. "I started supplying water to make up for the shortage in the area. We faced the same issue at my ancestral home. That is when I realised how precious a commodity water is. If anyone asks for water, I ensure that it is delivered," says Rahman, who is affectionately called Khalid Haji.

He supplies four loads of water – amounting to 14,000 litres – every day. Some days, this goes up to five. And Rahman, who

was based in Kuwait, doesn't charge a penny for his efforts. Every summer, for the last nine years, he has been coming home for his vacation just to supply water. Recently, he left his job in the Gulf and settled in Kottappuram. In addition to providing water to those in need, he also supplies it for special occasions, such as weddings. As his activity all these years was mostly confined to his vacation time, Rahman used to sell off his tanker lorries every two-three years – most of the time taking a big loss. Rahman sees his mission as an act of piety. "Once while I was distributing water, residents tried to offer money that they had collected from among themselves. I declined and said that I would stop supplying water to that area in the future. This proved an effective deterrent," he says.



Landslip halts Nilgiris rail service, ticket fare to be refunded

NILGIRIS/COIMBATORE: Rail services were disrupted on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as a landslide occurred between Kallar and Hillgrove station due to heavy rain on Friday. Trains between Mettupalayam and Udhagamandalam were cancelled. Mud and boulders fell over the railway line, obstructing traffic as heavy rain lashed the surroundings of Coonoor on Friday. The Nilgiris district received 1,099 millimetre rainfall of which Coonoor received 171 mm in the last 24 hours ending at 7 am on Saturday, said sources.

The Mettupalayam to Udhagamandalam train (Train No 06136), which was scheduled to leave Mettupalayam at 7.10 am, and the Udhagamandalam to Mettupalayam train (Train No 06137), scheduled to leave

Udhagamandalam at 2 pm, were cancelled on Saturday. "We will refund the ticket fare to passengers. Workers are removing mud and boulders and the track would be restored at the earliest to resume train services," said a Salem Railway Division official.

Although heavy rain was reported in Coonoor, there were no report of major landslides or falling of trees. According to fire and rescue service sources, only one tree fell over a parked car. Likewise, Kotagiri also received 64 mm and Kil-Kotagiri received 81 mm rainfall. Overall Nilgiris district recorded only 176.20 mm rainfall on Saturday as there was not much rain between 7 am and 4 pm. A wayside tree fell on the middle of the road at Idukurai at 11.15 am and within half an hour the tree was axed and cleared for vehicle



movement. Likewise, another tree fell over a power line at Kannerimukku at 2.30 pm and within half an hour that tree was removed with the help of staff from the Tangedco. A fire station master told TNIE that based on district

collector M Aruna's order, one vehicle has been stationed at Burliar, Kunjappanai and Naadukani near Gudalur until May 20 to clear fallen trees and rescue people in case of emergencies around the clock.

Heavy rain was also reported across the Coimbatore district since Saturday 3 pm leading to flooding in a few places. Heavy traffic congestion was witnessed at Gandhipuram, Uppilpalayam flyover, CMCH, railway station and Gandhipuram and RS Puram areas. The roof of a temporary two-wheeler parking shed collapsed on vehicles and a tree fell over a parked taxi cab at RS Puram. A 22-member team attached to the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) camped at Mettupalayam police station to attend rain-related emergencies.

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The student was reportedly denied entry during end semester exams, and was allegedly told that he would not be allowed to sit for the college placements.

Karnataka: 4 die in 10 months at PES varsity, protestors seek government probe

BENGALURU: Large gathering of students, parents, and activists, assembled at Freedom Park to protest against the administration of PES University, following the recent suicide of a third-year engineering student of the university. With the recent suicide incident of a 21-year-old B.Tech student, the total number of suicides reported from PES University has risen to four, in the last ten months. The student was reportedly denied entry during end semester exams, and was allegedly told that he would not be allowed to sit for the college placements. The protest began at 10 am on Saturday and continued for over three hours. Protestors were seen holding placards with slogans such as 'Four is a Pattern', 'Say No to PES' and 'Criminalise Student Harassment', condemning such cases, and stressing for urgent reforms in the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. Protestors called for an official government investigation



into the university, and urged CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and Central Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to identify the cause, and pattern behind the suicides. Activist and social worker Dushyant Dubey, said, "Nine months

ago, we all gathered here for the suicide of a single student - Aditya Prabhu. It was then that we realized that changes were needed within the university administration. And yet, today we find ourselves with three more deaths from the same university. We have sent

multiple memorandums to the authorities, but no action has been taken against the university. Even three of the professors charged in connection with Aditya Prabhu's suicide have not even been suspended," Dubey added. Protestors also urged Karnataka Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar to advocate for amendments to the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, and to criminalise the harassment of students by higher education authorities, akin to measures against ragging. Calling the university as a 'suicide campus', Asha Prabhu, Aditya Prabhu's mother also questioned the non-suspension of the three faculty members who were named in the chargesheet in connection with her son's suicide case. When TNIE contacted PES University's Vice-Chancellor Dr Suryaprasad J, he denied the allegations, and asserted that the students who committed suicide must have been dealing.

NEWS BOX

Recycled water for new sectors to curb potable water usage

Gurgaon. To reduce dependence on potable water, GMDA plans to transport recycled water to new sectors along Dwarka Expressway through a new pipeline. The pipeline will distribute treated wastewater (TWW) from the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) in Manesar, which has a capacity of 55 MLD, to the existing recycle pipelines in sectors 81, 86, 87, 90, 91 and 92. It had earlier conducted a trial to supply recycled water to the green belts of these sectors. An official from GMDA said that although HSVP had previously installed pipelines to supply treated wastewater in sectors 81 to 104 from Dhanwapur STP. However, encroachments delayed the land acquisition at various locations. Now they have installed a pipeline from CETP Manesar to Sector 91. Out of 55 MLD at CETP Manesar, 5 MLD is being used by the HSIIDC for horticulture, and approximately 4-5 MLD is being used by builders for construction work. "We have laid a pipeline of around 3km and installed pumping machinery. The pipeline was connected with the existing network of treated wastewater near Sector 91 from CETP Manesar. Around 15-20 MLD of recycled water will be reused in the green belt area for watering purposes in new sectors," a senior GMDA official said. The project has cost GMDA Rs 2.2 crore.

We also published the following articles recently
To de-worm Mandur, new pipeline mooted
The contamination of tap water supply in Dongorim by worm-infested water has led to health issues for residents. Discussions included the old pipeline replacement, cleaning drains, preventing diseases, and emphasizing overall hygiene maintenance. Recent reports revealed the presence of E. coli in water samples.

Putin says oil pipeline could run alongside planned new gas link to China
Putin discussed plans to deliver oil and gas to China via Mongolia, including the proposed gas pipeline, Power of Siberia 2, with immunity to Western sanctions and transactions in national currencies. Challenges may arise as Beijing could drive a hard bargain on pricing and financing.

35% of women from IT sector are opting for egg freezing, claims report
Demand for egg freezing services rises as per EPIA study, offering hope for PCOD, PCOS patients, and couples exploring fertility preservation. Sakshi Bakshi emphasizes proactive fertility preservation options.

Cops raid party; 13 held for serving liquor and hookah without permit

Noida. In a late-night raid on a farmhouse party in Sector 135, police detained 13 people for allegedly serving liquor and hookah without permission. Police seized seven hookahs, 11 cans of tobacco and several bottles of alcohol meant for sale in Delhi and Haryana.

Additional DCP Manish Mishra said police were alerted to the event after a brochure with details of the party at Rajmahal farmhouse was circulated on social media. The organisers had organised the party in violation of the CrPC Section 144 imposed in the district since April 4 due to the Lok Sabha elections, the officer said. The section prohibits assembly of four or more people in an area. "Eleven people, including farmhouse owner Amrit Gupta, were detained. Cops said Gupta, a Delhi resident, co-organised the party with Rahul alias Vicky, who is absconding. They could not produce any permits for the party. The men had hired two women to perform on DJ songs," Mishra said.

Some of the men present at the party were from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, and Faridabad. The accused have been booked under IPC Section 294 for obscene acts, Excise Act and Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. They have been also booked for violating CrPC Section 144. We also published the following articles recently
Farmhouse in Noida's Sector-135 raided for 'unauthorized' party; several detained for serving liquor, hookah 'illegally'
Noida police detained individuals at a farmhouse party in Sector-135 for serving liquor and hookah without permissions, alerted by a viral social media post. Raid at Expressway Police Station confiscated illicit alcohol and hookah. Additional DCP Manish Kumar Mishra led the operation, revealing irregularities at the supposed launch party. Lack of temporary or occasional licence discovered. Chennai police deny permission for BJP protest, arrest party cadre
Chennai police denied BJP permission to protest against Sam Pitroda for linking south Indians to Africans at Valluvar Kottam. BJP's Karu Nagarajan detained. BJP criticized Congress, DMK govt, Tamil Nadu. BJP accused Stalin and alliance partners of silence. BJP planned to seek court permission

Man gets 3 yrs in jail for molesting minor

Noida. A 27-year-old man was handed three years of rigorous imprisonment on Friday for molesting a 12-year-old girl when she was returning home from a relative's house in Jarcha on April 19, 2017.

Special prosecutor Chawanpal Singh said the girl was walking back home from her uncle's house in the neighbourhood around 9pm when Wasim Quraishi grabbed and molested her. Hearing a girl shouting for help, some local residents rushed out of their homes. Quraishi fled but not before threatening the child against disclosing his identity.

When the girl got home she told her family about the incident. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against the accused under sections 354 (assault to outrage a woman's modesty) and 354A (punishment for sexual harassment) of IPC, section 7/8 of Pocco Act, and SC/ST Act. The accused was arrested and sent to judicial custody. On May 31, 2017, a chargesheet was filed against him, and charges were framed on June 3, 2019. Saurabh Dwivedi, special judge Pocco Act, said, "Wasim is sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 20,000 under Section 8 of Pocco Act." However, he was acquitted of the charge under the ST/SC Act. We also published the following articles recently
Pocco case survivor found dead at home
An 18-year-old Pocco case survivor was found dead in her home at Kattappana in Idukki.

Pumps at IFFCO Chowk underpass don't work at drill

Gurgaon: Three out of four pumps installed at IFFCO Chowk underpass were found malfunctioning, apparently due to a fault in cables during a drill conducted by GMDA on Friday. Following this, the metropolitan authority wrote to the highway authority, which is responsible for maintenance of this underpass, requesting it to rectify the cable fault to ensure optimal functioning of all four pump sets. The official said once the issue is rectified, they will conduct a follow-up drill to ascertain that all pumps are operating at their full capacity. As part of the monsoon preparedness, the metropolitan authority carries out drills at the underpasses every year to ensure all the machineries are functional. According to GMDA, a drill was conducted at the underpass connecting IFFCO Chowk metro station to MG Road on Friday in the presence of NHAI officials. During the drill, recycled water from a fire tender was released into the underground sumps in the underpass.

Once the sumps were filled, the pumps were activated to check their working and efficacy in pumping out water. "It was found that out of the four pumps installed in the underpass, only one was in working



condition. The other three pumps were non-functional. We have already written to NHAI, urging them to rectify the cable fault detected. A drill will be re-conducted on Monday to ensure that all four pump sets are working to their full capacity," said an executive engineer of GMDA. Earlier, the GMDA had conducted drills at

Ambience Mall underpass and Shankar Chowk. All the pumping machinery and DG sets were found to be in working condition, the official added.

Next week, the drills will be conducted at Signature Towers, Rajiv Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, and Medanta underpass. Simultaneously, the drills for the

underpasses on Golf Course Road will also be undertaken along with DLF. The drills of both the U-turn underpasses in DLF Cyber City, Sikanderpur, DLF-1, and the Genpat underpass will be carried out. Drills at Atul Kataria Chowk, Mahavir Chowk and Huda City Centre underpass will be conducted in collaboration with officials from the public works department (PWD).

Asked about the pumps malfunctioning, an NHAI official who averted to answer the question directly said, "Since Jan 2023, we have been requesting GMDA to take over maintenance of the underpasses."

We also published the following articles recently
NSG & elite US troops conduct counter-terror drill in Kolkata
NSG and US SOF conducting 'Tarkash' exercise in Kolkata to enhance interoperability for urban counter-terrorism. The annual Indo-US joint counter-terrorism exercise started on April 22 at the NSG hub in Kolkata. North Korea fires suspected missiles following US-South Korea joint drill
North Korea launched short-range ballistic missiles from the Wonsan region, threatening peace on the Korean Peninsula. Kim Jong Un oversaw recent weapons tests to modernize the arsenal amid diplomatic challenges with the US and South Korea.

Water scarcity in colonies as summer begins to peak

Gurgaon: As summer moves towards its peak, several parts of the city are again reeling under a water crisis. Residents of several colonies, including DLF 2, Sushant Lok 1-3, sectors 22A, 22B and 57, are bearing the brunt of it with very little water supplied to the areas in the past few days, they said. According to residents, water, when it does arrive, is supplied only for 15-20 minutes with low pressure that doesn't fill reservoirs. For many, particularly those residing in the 'tail-end' areas of the city, this has been happening for weeks. Residents said numerous complaints, and even protests, seemed to have fallen on deaf ears. "We are completely fed up," said Bhim Singh Yadav, president of Sector 22B RWA. "It's been a month and we have been struggling with water shortage in the sector. Since our area is located at the tail end of the supply line, we are the worst affected. Neither GMDA nor MCG is doing anything to improve the situation despite repeated complaints," he said. The water shortage has forced residents to depend on expensive and unreliable water tankers to meet their daily needs. "Water scarcity is

worsening with each passing day in blocks M, N and J. Supply is minimal, forcing reliance on costly private tankers which range between Rs 1,500 and 2,000. Despite receiving a no-objection certificate from GMDA for digging a borewell in March, DLF has taken no action on the ground. Similarly, work to construct a storage tank in J block has hardly seen any progress," said Ishwar Kewalramani, a resident of DLF 2. There is already a mismatch in the demand and supply, the combined filtration capacity of the Basai and Chandu Budhera water treatment plants is 570 million litres a day (MLD). The city's peak demand during summer, however, is around 675 MLD. This gap is met largely by private water tankers, and in some places, illegal borewells. Adding to residents' woes is the rampant misuse of potable water, particularly in construction activities, which isn't allowed as per the norms. Amid the crisis, GMDA has urged MCG to crack down on the wasteful practice and issue challans against individuals and entities found wasting potable water. It has also urged DHBVN to ensure

uninterrupted power supply at the Basai treatment plant. "Operations at the Basai treatment plant was affected due to power failure thrice on May 16 and twice on May 17. As a result, water supply in the DLF area was affected. We have already asked the DLF management to explore additional sources of water (borewell). In Sector 57, water supply has been increased from 1.4 MLD to 1.8 MLD. We have asked DHBVN to provide regular and uninterrupted electric supply from both electric feeders serving the Basai plant," a GMDA official said. "There is a systematic failure in the city as the authority failed to ensure a basic need such as water. Over the past three years, population has increased manifold but nothing has been done to augment supply. GMDA's Sector 51 boosting station is already unburdened as Sector 72 boosting station is yet to be commissioned. Also, no additional storage facility was provided by MCG. For the last 15 days, we have been highlighting the issue to no avail. We received some water on Saturday morning.

But liquor flows freely: 20k litres seized during polls

Gurgaon: The district administration has recovered 20,104 litres of illicit liquor worth Rs 61.16 lakh while 381 FIRs have been registered for the same after the model code of conduct was implemented on March 16. Officials said it is common for candidates during elections to lure voters with alcohol, which is often brought illegally from other states. Teams from the excise department and police are conducting checks at border points to seize cash, illegal liquor, and other items being transported illegally. Amit Bhatia, DETC (Excise), said, "Till May 16, police have seized 17,174 litres of illegal liquor worth Rs 53.43 lakh and registered 370 FIRs. The enforcement team meanwhile confiscated 2,930 litres of illicit liquor, with an estimated value of around Rs 7.7 lakh. As a result, 11 FIRs were registered against the individuals." Bhatia also mentioned that to avoid the illegal bulk purchase of alcohol, the district election officer has appointed duty magistrates and nodal officers at all licensed warehouses to monitor the activities. Five flying squad teams and cops are conducting checks and campaigns in various constituencies.

Gurgaon, along with the entire Haryana, is set to vote in the sixth phase on May 25.

District election officer and DC Nishant Kumar Yadav stated that action will be taken against those carrying more than Rs 50,000 cash while the model code of conduct is in place. He said that if one needs to carry more cash, they should carry a transaction slip from the bank to avoid police intervention. Additionally, to carry expensive gifts, gold, silver, or other valuable items, required documents and details are to be readily available.

Earlier, Haryana chief secretary, T.V.S.N. Prasad had urged more stringent measures to combat illegal liquor smuggling during the 2024 Lok Sabha general elections. He emphasized the critical role of intensified intelligence gathering at the micro-level by police commissioners, deputy commissioners (DCs), superintendents of police (SPs), and officers from the excise department.

We also published the following articles recently
Multiple FIRs registered for illegal tree cutting in Powai
Three FIRs by AU Mhatre to Powai police for cutting trees between Aug 2023 and Jan 2, 2024, at Durgah Compound, IIT Market, Paradise Society, and near a hotel during construction work. 110216236

Chennai Airport Police files case against DMDK leader and others for violating model code of conduct
Chennai Airport Police filed a case against DMDK General Secretary Premalatha Vijayakant for violating Model Code of Conduct at Chennai Airport upon her return with the Padma Bhushan Award.

After Mum tragedy, MCG eye on illegal hoardings

Gurgaon: The MCG commissioner has appointed a nodal officer to check and take action against illegal billboards and hoardings installed in the city. The nodal officer will also check illegal construction. The move comes after a hoarding collapsed on a petrol pump in Mumbai on May 13, killing 16 people and injuring 75 others, sparking concerns about illegal billboards and advertisements across the city. The nodal officer, MCG joint commissioner Pradeep Kumar, will inspect and remove such hoardings. "Pradeep Kumar (HCS), joint commissioner, is hereby appointed as nodal officer to coordinate with the MCG joint commissioners concerned for enforcement against illegal encroachment/unauthorised construction and illegal advertisements/hoardings and randomly check and verify the cases... and to suggest appropriate action to be taken against erring employees," read the order issued by MCG commissioner Narhari

Singh Banger on Friday. MCG carries out drives to remove illegal ads from time to time. In March this year, the corporation issued recovery notices to 46 agencies that installed advertisements in the city without seeking its approval. It also lodged police complaints against 36 unauthorised advertisers who caused revenue losses to MCG. The corporation misses out on advertisement revenue if agencies don't get approval for hoardings or pay advertisement fee. MCG earned around Rs 55 crore from advertisements in 2023-24, against the set target of Rs 85 crore. According to MCG data, it suffered losses of Rs 71.2 crore from 2018 to 2023 by not auctioning 233 sites for displaying advertisements. The figures were revealed in an audit carried out by the principal accountant general (audit). The

report was released in July last year.

We also published the following articles recently
Chennai Cororation starts removing illegal hoardings after Mumbai accident
After the Mumbai tragedy, the Greater Chennai Corporation removed 460 unauthorised hoardings, including 250 structures over 30 feet. Out of 1,100 applications, 40 were rejected, awaiting licenses. Zonal officials are tasked with clearing illegal hoardings for public safety. Thane Cong demands action on illegal hoardings in Thane
Congress in Thane alleges political leaders, advertising agencies, and officials colluding to install illegal hoardings, posing risks to pedestrians. BJP MLA Sanjay Kelkar demands action. Activists claim rules on hoarding installation openly flouted. Govt: Earning 12L/year from illegal hoarding.

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Congress in Thane alleges political leaders, advertising agencies, and officials colluding to install illegal hoardings, posing risks to pedestrians. BJP MLA Sanjay Kelkar demands action. Activists claim rules on hoarding installation openly flouted. 110123974

Govt: Earning 12L/year from illegal hoarding
The river navigation department and Captain of Ports department permitted a hoarding in a no-development zone along the Mandovi river, earning Rs 12 lakh annually. The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority is taking action against violators, including the departments, and the high court has directed fixing environmental damage in the area. Electricity connections of hoardings are to be disconnected

NEWS BOX

6 dead, 10 injured as car crashes into passenger van in Idaho

Idaho. Six people were killed Saturday in Idaho in a two-car accident that included a large passenger van, authorities said. Ten others were injured in the crash on US Highway 20 in Idaho Falls and taken to local hospitals, Idaho State Police said in a statement. An eastbound pickup crossed the centreline about 5:30 a.m. and hit a westbound passenger van, police said. The van's driver and five passengers died from their injuries at the scene. Nine other passengers in the van and the pickup's driver were hospitalised, according to police. Police have not released other details of the accident, including where the 15 people in the van were from or where they were headed. Idaho State Police, which is handling the investigation, did not immediately return phone messages or emails Saturday to The Associated Press.

3 killed in Ohio shooting, 2 critical after sustaining gunshot wounds

Columbus, Ohio. Three people died, and three others were wounded in an early morning shooting in Ohio's capital over the weekend, authorities said. Columbus police said the shooting was reported shortly before 3 am Saturday in the Italian Village neighbourhood north of downtown, with what may have been semi-automatic or automatic gunfire and cars "taking off." Deputy Chief Gregory Bodker told reporters that officers arriving two minutes later found a "very chaotic scene" with six people shot. Two men were pronounced dead at the scene, and a third man died at a hospital, police said. They were identified later Saturday as 27-year-old Malachi Pee, 26-year-old Garcia Dixon Jr, and 18-year-old Da'ondre Bullock. Three other people were taken to hospitals, where one was in critical condition and two others were stable, Bodker said. Police said all were expected to



survive. Investigators are talking to several witnesses who were cooperating, Bodker said. There is a bar on the corner nearby, but it wasn't immediately known whether anyone involved had been a patron of the establishment, he said. No suspects were immediately identified. The motive for the shooting wasn't immediately known, and it was unclear how many people were involved, Bodker said. The Franklin County sheriff's office was using a drone to help document the large crime scene, where police were collecting evidence and video.

Georgia's president vetoes controversial foreign agents bill amid protests

Georgian. President Salome Zourabichvili has announced that she has vetoed a draft law on foreign agents, Russia's state-run TASS news agency reported on Saturday. Zourabichvili had said previously that she would veto the bill, which has sparked street protests, but her decision can be overridden by another vote in Parliament, controlled by Georgia's ruling party and its allies. "Today I vetoed a Russian law. This law is Russian in its essence and spirit," TASS quoted her as telling a briefing. "It contradicts our constitution and all European standards, therefore it represents an obstacle to our European path." Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili has announced that she has vetoed a draft law on foreign agents, Russia's state-run TASS news agency reported on Saturday. Zourabichvili had said previously that she would veto the bill, which has sparked street protests, but her decision can be overridden by another vote in Parliament, controlled by Georgia's ruling party and its allies. "Today I vetoed a Russian law. This law is Russian in its essence and spirit," TASS quoted her as telling a briefing. "It contradicts our constitution and all European standards, therefore it represents an obstacle to our European path."

Singapore witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases

World. Singapore is witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases in the last two weeks, according to Health Minister Ong Ye Kung. "We are at the beginning part of the wave where it is steadily rising," Ong has been quoted as saying by The Strait Times. "So I would say the wave should peak in the next two to four weeks, which means between mid- and end of June," the minister said. Quoting the Ministry of Health, the report said the



estimated number of Covid-19 cases in the week of May 5 to May 11 rose to 25,900 cases, compared with 13,700 cases in the previous week. The average daily Covid-19 hospitalisations rose to about 250 from 181 the week before. The average daily intensive care unit (ICU) cases remained low at three cases, compared with two cases in the previous week. The minister, according to the report, said that there are no plans for any form of social restrictions or any other mandatory type of measures for now, as Covid-19 is treated as an endemic disease in Singapore. He added that imposing additional measures would be a last resort. Ong said that with Singapore being a transport and communications hub, it will be one of the cities to get a wave of Covid-19 earlier than others.

Trump's ex-lawyer served Arizona fake electors indictment on 80th birthday

Phoenix. Arizona's attorney general says former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has been served an indictment in the state's fake elector case alongside 17 other defendants for his role in an attempt to overturn former President Donald Trump's loss to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes posted the news regarding the Trump-aligned lawyer on her X account late on Friday. "The final defendant was served moments ago. @RudyGiuliani nobody is above the law," Mayes wrote. The attorney general's spokesman Richie Taylor said in an email to The Associated Press on Saturday that Giuliani faces the same charges as the other defendants, including conspiracy, fraud and forgery charges. Giuliani's political adviser, Ted Goodman, confirmed Giuliani was served Friday night after his 80th birthday celebration as he was walking to the car. "We look forward to full vindication soon," Goodman said in a statement on Saturday. The indictment alleges that Giuliani "pressured" Arizona legislators and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to

change the outcome of Arizona's election and that he was responsible for encouraging Republican electors in Arizona and six other contested states to vote for Trump. Taylor said an unredacted copy of the indictment will be released Monday. He said Giuliani is expected to appear in court on Tuesday unless he is granted a delay by the court. Mark Meadows, Trump's former chief of staff, is among others who have been indicted in the case. Neither Meadows nor Giuliani were named in the redacted grand jury indictment released earlier because they had not been served with it, but they were readily identifiable based on descriptions in the document. The Arizona attorney general's office said on Wednesday that Meadows had been served and confirmed that he was charged with the same counts as the other named defendants, including conspiracy, fraud and forgery charges. With the indictments, Arizona becomes the fourth state where allies of the former president have been charged with using false or unproven claims about voter fraud related to the election. Giuliani faces other legal proceedings, and a



bankruptcy judge this past week said he was "disturbed" about the status of the case and for missed deadlines to file financial disclosure reports. Giuliani filed bankruptcy after being ordered to pay \$148 million to two former election workers for spreading a false conspiracy theory about their role in the 2020 election. Giuliani was also indicted last year by a grand jury in Georgia, where he is accused of spearheading Trump's efforts to compel state lawmakers in Georgia to ignore the will of voters and illegally appoint pro-Trump electoral college electors. Mark Meadows, Trump's former chief of staff, is among others who have been indicted in the

case. Neither Meadows nor Giuliani were named in the redacted grand jury indictment released earlier because they had not been served with it, but they were readily identifiable based on descriptions in the document. The Arizona attorney general's office said on Wednesday that Meadows had been served and confirmed that he was charged with the same counts as the other named defendants, including conspiracy, fraud and forgery charges. With the indictments, Arizona becomes the fourth state where allies of the former president have been charged with using false or unproven claims about voter fraud related to the election. Giuliani faces other legal proceedings, and a bankruptcy judge this past week said he was "disturbed" about the status of the case and for missed deadlines to file financial disclosure reports. Giuliani filed bankruptcy after being ordered to pay \$148 million to two former election workers for spreading a false conspiracy theory about their role in the 2020 election. Giuliani was also indicted last year by a grand jury in Georgia.

Eye on election, Biden advised against engaging pro-Palestine campus protesters

Washington. Several top White House aides say they are confident protests across US college campuses against Israel's offensive in Gaza will not translate into significantly fewer votes for Joe Biden in November's election, despite polls showing many Democrats are deeply unhappy about the US president's policy on the war. The White House optimism on the issue, which is shared by many in the Biden campaign, runs contrary to dire warnings from some Democratic strategists and youth organisers who warn misjudging the situation could cost Biden dearly in a tight race with Republican rival Donald Trump. Several aides told Reuters they are advising Biden to remain above the fray, rather than directly engage with the relatively small groups of protesters on college campuses, arguing their numbers are too insignificant to harm the president's re-election campaign. Faced with a choice between Biden and Trump in November, many officials remain confident even Democrats who oppose US policy will choose Biden. Reuters interviewed nearly a dozen top White House officials in recent days, but only two

expressed concern about the impact of the protests and Biden's handling of the issue. The issue returns to the spotlight on Sunday, when Biden makes the commencement address at Morehouse College, over some objections by



students and faculty, and a warning from the college's president that the ceremony will stop if there are protests. Most officials Reuters spoke to said they believe housing costs and inflation were the issues top of mind for young voters, not the war in Gaza, pointing to a recent Harvard poll that ranks Israel/Palestine 15th on a list of issues, after taxes, gun violence and jobs. Several aides refer to the protesters as "activists" rather than students. Asked for comment on the issue, White

House senior deputy press secretary Andrew Bates said Biden understands this is a painful moment for many communities and is listening. He has said too many civilians have died in the "heartbreaking" conflict and that more must be done to prevent the loss of innocent lives, Bates added. Biden and Trump are nearly tied in national polls, and Trump has the edge in the battleground states that will decide the election, multiple recent polls show. On economic issues like inflation, Trump scores higher with voters overall than Biden. A new Reuters/Ipsos poll found Democrats deeply divided over Biden's handling of both the war in Gaza and the US campus protests against it, with 44% of registered Democrats disapproving of Biden's handling of the crisis, and 51% of his handling of the protests. Young voters still favour Biden, but support has dropped significantly since 2020, polls show. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in March showed Americans aged 18-29 favoured Biden over Trump by just 3 percentage points - 29% to 26% - with the rest favouring another candidate or unsure if anyone would get their vote.

UK's Brighton city gets its first Muslim mayor

World. A council in the UK has elected Mohammed Asaduzzaman, a Bangladeshi-born, as its first-ever South Asian Muslim mayor. Councillors unanimously voted for Asaduzzaman who was elected to Brighton and Hove City Council in the Hollingdean and Fiveways ward in May 2023, according to a BBC report. Council leader Bella Sankey described Asaduzzaman as "warm, kind, funny and ambitious for our city." Brighton and Hove can look forward to a mayor whose compassion has already left a mark on the city's social, cultural, economic and political landscape," she said. Asaduzzaman has lived in Brighton for 30 years and earlier worked with the state minister



for irrigation and water development in Bangladesh. He also has a degree in political science. Asaduzzaman provided 500 meals free of cost to essential service providers during the Covid-19 pandemic. He acted as an interpreter for those who needed legal help and supported

people who were victims of crime. He also pushed for vaccinations for those who faced uncertainty over their immigration status. "With three decades of residency in Brighton, he has woven himself into the very fabric of the community. His journey from Bangladesh to Brighton exemplifies a life dedicated to public service and community betterment," Sankey was quoted as saying by BBC. As a first citizen, the mayor's role in Brighton and Hove is largely ceremonial, and he chairs meetings of the full council. On the other hand, Labour councillor Amanda Grimshaw was elected as deputy mayor. She is expected to take office in a year.

Trump endorsed by rifle association as he assures to protect gun rights

Dallas. Former President Donald Trump urged gun owners to vote in the 2024 election as he addressed thousands of members of the National Rifle Association, which officially endorsed him just before Trump took the stage at their annual meeting in Texas on Saturday. "We've got to get gun owners to vote," Trump said. "I think you're a rebellious bunch. But let's be rebellious and vote this time." Trump, in his speech, said the Second Amendment "is very much on the ballot" in November, alleging that, if Democratic President Joe Biden "gets four more years, they are coming for your guns, 100% certain. Crooked Joe has a 40-year record of trying to rip firearms out of the hands of law-abiding citizens." The Biden administration has taken a number of steps to try to combat gun violence, including a new rule that aims to close a loophole that has allowed tens of thousands of guns to be sold every year by unlicensed dealers who do not perform background checks. Trump has pledged to continue to defend the Second Amendment, which he claims is "under siege," and has called himself "the best friend gun owners have ever had in the White House" as the United States

faces record numbers of deaths due to mass shootings. Last year ended with 42 mass killings and 217 deaths, making it one of the deadliest years on record. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee has been criticized by Biden, specifically for remarks that Trump made this year after a school shooting in Iowa. Trump called the incident "very terrible" only to later say that "we have to get over it. We have to move forward." Trump, during his speech, also laced into independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., calling him "radical left" and "a disaster," and noting that Kennedy had once called the NRA a "terror group." "Don't think about it. Don't waste your vote," he said. "He calls you a terrorist group, and I call you the backbone of America." (Kennedy later said in a Fox News interview that he didn't remember his 2018 tweet. "I don't consider them a terror group, and I support the Second Amendment," he said.) Trump noted he will be speaking next week at the Libertarian Party's



convention and said he will urge its members to vote for him. "We have to join with them," he said. "We have to get that 3% because we can't take a chance on Joe Biden winning." Earlier Saturday, Trump's campaign and the Republican National Committee announced the creation of a new "Gun Owners for Trump" coalition that includes gun rights activists and those who work in the firearms industry. Biden has made curtailing gun violence a major part of his administration and reelection campaign, creating the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention overseen by Vice President Kamala

Harris. Biden also has urged Congress to ban so-called assault weapons — something Democrats shied from even just a few years ago. "Tonight, Donald Trump confirmed that he will do exactly what the NRA tells him to do — even if it means more death, more shootings, and more suffering," said Biden spokesman Ammar Moussa. When Trump was president, there were moments when he pledged to strengthen gun laws. After a high school mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people and wounded 17 others, Trump told survivors and family members that he would be "very strong on background checks." He claimed he would stand up to the NRA but later he backedpedaled, saying there was "not much political support." On Saturday, Trump also brought up the criminal cases against him as his hush money trial heads into the final stretch next week and accused Democrats of being behind these cases because he is Biden's opponent. "Never forget our enemies want to take away my freedom because I will never let them take away your freedom," he said.

Karnataka: Bus suspends mid-air, pax escape narrowly

BENGALURU: Passengers of a KSRTC bus had a narrow escape, as the bus was dangling in the air, after it lost control and hit a flyover median and jumped on to the other side of the flyover. The bus was heading to Bengaluru from Somwarpet via Tumakuru with 15 passengers along with the driver and the conductor. The accident could have been fatal for many, as the bus would have fallen down 40-feet, if not for the adjoining flyover. In the accident, eight passengers including the bus driver and conductor were injured. The



incident took place on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru highway at Madanayakanahalli flyover on Saturday morning.

The police said that around 11 am, the driver took a right turn on the highway and lost control, hitting the divider. Public alerted the police, who rushed to the scene. Injured passengers and staff were admitted to a nearby hospital, and two of them suffered major injuries.

The incident caused a traffic jam on the flyover for around two hours. Nelamangala Traffic Police have registered a complaint against KSRTC and the bus driver under IPC 279 and IPC 337.

New guidelines: CCTVs at colleges, hostels in Kerala, ex-servicemen for security

KOCHI: In what could turn out to be a controversial move, the state government has decided to install CCTV cameras at select points with common access in colleges and hostels, like the entrance and exit gates. This is stated in the standard operating protocol and procedures to be followed by educational institutions for the smooth functioning of campuses and hostels. The government guidelines also say that "the security of the campus and hostels is to be entrusted with ex-servicemen as far as possible"

The government had constituted a committee -- in the wake of the stampede that killed four youths and left nearly 50 injured at an event on the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) campus -- to put forward a set of guidelines for the smooth functioning of campuses and hostels of universities and affiliated colleges. The committee filed the report and the government framed the guidelines keeping in mind the safety and security of students. The government also produced the set of guidelines before the High Court in response to a petition filed by Kerala Students Union (KSU) president Aloysius Xavier seeking the appointment of a judicial commission to conduct an independent and impartial inquiry into the stampede that happened on the Cusat

campus on November 25, 2023.

The guidelines state that college councils have to constitute separate committees for boys and girls, comprising five members each, to monitor and supervise the functioning of hostels. The institution head will be the chairman and the hostel warden the convener. "If any complaint is received from hostel inmates or the public



to the head of the institution about the misbehaviour of students or about activities like keeping weapons, consumption of alcohol, using drugs on campus or hostel rooms, steps will be taken as per rules. The room for security personnel should be located near the entry gate," the guidelines state. Restricting the entry of the public, the guidelines

stipulated that outsiders including former students would be allowed to enter the college campus only for genuine reasons. They will not be allowed to enter the classrooms and hostel rooms in any case.

The guidelines said that all celebrations on the campus, including union activities, should be held only after getting permission from the head of the institution. During summer vacation, the union office key should be kept with the head of the institution, the guidelines state.

Other stipulations

No type of vehicle should be used during celebrations inside college campuses and hostels. Student vehicles will be allowed only up to the designated parking area. The college authorities must provide security for the vehicles parked and the expenses in this regard will be met from college/PTA funds.

Bike races, motor car races, and elephant processions should not be permitted inside the campus. For all student programmes on the campus, the presence of teachers is mandatory and the programme should not be permitted beyond 9pm. Complaint boxes must be installed in all colleges. One complaint box is to be separately marked for lodging complaints addressed to the police. The mobile number of the police officer at the district level must be mentioned in the complaint box.

Bomb threats in Bengaluru on the rise, 19 FIRs in 4 months

BENGALURU: In slightly over four months, Bengaluru city has recorded 19 FIRs in connection with bomb threat calls, which targeted hundreds of schools and hospitals. Six hospitals and eight schools received threat calls on May 13 and May 14 as well, however, no suspects have been identified so far in any of the cases. Initial forensic analysis of the mail sent to one of the schools indicated that either the sender did not provide any personal detail to the service provider, to complicate the investigation and making it nearly impossible to trace the sender, or in majority of the cases, the mail was sent through platforms like Beeble or Proton, that don't track user's internet activity, or share the information with any third party, which is a major roadblock in the investigation, the official said. On May 1, several schools in other cities, including Jaipur and New Delhi also reported multiple bomb threat calls. In all instances, the mails contained identical content, riddled with deliberate grammatical errors and each case involved different service providers, all with high privacy standards that do not record the activities of the sender, the officials pointed out. Tracing the sender involves multiple layers of investigation. In one of the cases, the email was initially traced to Cyprus, but as additional Virtual Private Network (VPN) layers were uncovered, the information was traced to Afghanistan. However, further layers could not be cracked as authorities across borders did not cooperate, a senior official said. A criminologist, who has been tracking bomb threat incidents, told TNIE that these emails are deliberately crafted to induce panic. They are frequently sent to schools during busy mornings or exams, leading to disruptions and requiring administrators to rearrange schedules. Similarly, hospitals are targeted during critical times, to add to already stressful situations for patients, caregivers, and medical personnel. Tumakuru: Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Saturday said the law and order situation in the state is under control, and the situation cannot be assessed based on a four-month-old report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). "The NCRB report has come to my attention and it will be discussed with the authorities. But analysis cannot be done based on a report as the cause of incidents differ from one to another," he told in response to the BJP's allegation that crime rate has increased in the state.

"The law and order situation is under control and we need not take lessons from the BJP. No matter how much the BJP tries to destroy law and order, we are ready to take strict measures for the safety of the people," he said. Comparative figures on murders reported during BJP's rule and during Congress rule will be released soon, for people to know the facts, he said.

Devarajan Master's statue eclipsed by rolls of construction materials

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : At Manaveeyam Veedhi, the cultural hub of the city, stands the commemorative statue of G Devarajan, fondly known as Devarajan Master. However, this tribute to the celebrated composer is now barely visible behind huge rolls of construction pipes and other materials, thanks to the ongoing Smart City project. "Once the construction works on Manaveeyam Road were completed, we thought that the materials would be removed. But it's still here, covering Master's face. Such negligence towards an iconic figure is unacceptable. Either the statue must be relocated or the materials must be removed as soon as possible," said the artistic community of Manaveeyam.

The community's frustration is palpable, as they see this clutter as more than just a physical obstruction. They say it is a snub to a man who brought great cultural richness to the state. "The pile of construction materials is not just an eyesore but a symbol of misplaced priorities," said Hari, a local artist. Smart City project officials have said that the materials will be cleared within a month. "The Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society Ltd (ULCCS) is managing the Smart City project. A minor road cutting at Vazhuthacaud needs to be completed. After finishing the work at Manaveeyam Veedhi, the works are ongoing on the Vellayambalam road. All the work is expected to be concluded within a month. The materials stored on the road will be removed once the work is completed," said an official. As the Smart City project advances, the community hopes that the legacy of Devarajan Master will not be overshadowed by the development. They call for a balance between progress and preserving the cultural heritage that defines Manaveeyam Veedhi. "The statue of Master is a reminder of the importance of honouring those who have influenced the cultural scene in the state. This respect should be reflected in the city's efforts towards development," added Hari.

or years, Devarajan Square has been a focal point for many musical programmes held at Manaveeyam. The square is where annual events are held on the master's birth and death anniversaries, organised by the Devarajan Master Foundation.



Death of APP: Sanctity of inquiry report comes under scanner

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : Serious doubts have been raised about the way a fact-finding inquiry has been conducted on the suicide of Aneeshya S, assistant public prosecutor, Munsiff Magistrate Court Paravur, Kollam, and the allegations of ill-treatment she raised against her colleagues in her suicidal note. The director general of prosecution on January 23 ordered a fact-finding inquiry and deputed Sheeba K, deputy director of prosecution, as the inquiry officer. However, the family of Aneeshya and the Justice for Aneeshya Solidarity Committee which are demanding a CBI inquiry into the death have questioned the sanctity of the report. In reply to an RTI application, the Prosecution Directorate has revealed that no terms of reference were mentioned while ordering the fact-finding inquiry. And the RTI reply also revealed that "No criteria were formed for recording statements from officials. It was the inquiry officer, acting on her logic, who decided to record the statements of officials in Kollam district." P E Usha who is associated with the solidarity committee, told TNIE that by not framing the terms and conditions of the inquiry, the basic right to justice has been denied. "The director general of prosecution has deputed deputy director of prosecution for inquiry when one of the accused is also in the same rank. The inquiry officer recorded the statement only from Kollam while many of the officials with whom Aneeshya had shared her ill-treatment from higher authorities and colleagues were transferred to other districts. By avoiding them, the inquiry officer committed a grave mistake. The RTI reply revealed that no one had ever approached the inquiry officer voluntarily to give a statement," she said.

Kin of caste violence victims in Tamil Nadu seek justice

MADURAI: Aggrieved family members of several victims of alleged caste atrocities in the state gathered at Sterling V Grand Hotel in Madurai on Saturday, and submitted petitions to Evidence Executive Director A Kathir seeking action and justice. The rendezvous was called 'Caste Atrocities in Tamil Nadu', where around 30 cases were discussed in the presence of panel members Kathir, Advocates B B Mohan and Jayana Kothari, Madras High Court Advocate Ezhil Caroline, Director of Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation Edwin, LAAS Director Advocate A Sandhanam, and Loyola College Professor Semmalar. The cases included that of Ajithkumar, from scheduled caste community, who studied in Thanjavur Medical College. He

was allegedly killed in 2017. His parents said their son had taken part in a protest against the death of Anitha, which they claimed, backfired. The victim's mother said, "The warden passed derogatory remarks based on our caste. On March 16, I got a call saying my son had died of stomach ache, but the postmortem report concluded heart attack."

One of the victims of the Vengaivayal case, in which human faeces was allegedly mixed in a water tank of the scheduled caste community by caste Hindus in 2023, said that despite an FIR being filed, no action has been taken. He alleged that the police diverted the case against the victims. Advocate B B Mohan said, "The evidence has been destroyed by the police."

In a case of alleged honor killing

from 2023, pregnant woman Ramya was killed by her in-laws after she refused to abort her three-month-old fetus. Ramya's father from Andipatti said that she had a love marriage with an ambulance driver, a caste Hindu. Based on Ramya's father's complaint, the accused was arrested. "The government provided us 10 lakh, pension, and a job," said the panel.

The next was about Rajesh (26), who was allegedly killed by Mariyappan and Mandhira Murthi at Viswanathapuram in Tenkasi. Rajesh's father said the family received 12 lakh compensation and pension. But, he called the government job an eye wash. Edwin, a panel member said, as per norms, the victims should be given a home, pension, job, farmland, emergency relief, and free education to their children.

KOZHIKODE: Attacks on travelling ticket examiners (TTEs) have become a daily occurrence in Kerala. Last Wednesday, two separate incidents of attacks on TTEs were reported. In Kozhikode, a man from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was arrested for attacking a female TTE on the Mangalore-Chennai Mail train. On the same day, Manoj Varma from Uttar Pradesh and Shammi Raja from Thiruvananthapuram were attacked in Wadakkanchery on the Bengaluru-Kanyakumari Express. These repeated incidents are not only alarming but also raise serious concerns about the security provided to railway employees. According to railway data, there have been four reported attacks

on TTEs in 2024. However, considering the frequent clashes between TTEs and passengers in Malabar region, the actual numbers could be much higher. Most of these attacks occur when TTEs question passengers who board reserved compartments with general tickets. Some of these clashes have resulted in serious injuries to TTEs and even fatalities. On April 2, 48-year-old TTE K Vinod was pushed to death from a moving train by a migrant worker. Vinod's death caused significant panic among railway employees. Yet the attacks continue. On May 12, another TTE Vikram Kumar Meena, a native of Rajasthan, was attacked when he asked a passenger to produce his ticket. Meena, who suffered

a blow to his nose, is currently undergoing treatment for his injuries. The railways is taking rigorous actions to address these altercations. "We are trying our best to provide safety for our employees. As part of preventive measures, the railways has strengthened RPF/GRP escorts, implemented preventive checks, and is closely monitoring suspicious persons. We are also conducting extensive patrolling and passenger checks both on station premises and on board. Additionally, we are organising awareness campaigns among passengers," said an official of Southern Railway Palakkad division. Officials also stated that the railways is assisting victims in

pursuing legal action against offenders. "We are trying to avoid unnecessary altercations between TTEs and passengers. However, if any incidents occur, the railways will assist the victim employees in lodging complaints with the GRP or local police.

In 2024 alone, four such cases have been reported in Kerala, all of which have resulted in the arrest of the offenders," the official added. Deboarding unreserved passengers from reserved coaches is the primary cause of these altercations. "Increased passenger footfall during the summer vacation has led to overcrowding in general compartments. As a result, passengers try to board reserved coaches with general tickets.

Three districts in Tamil Nadu likely to get very heavy rain on May

CHENNAI : The heat has paved way for rains in the state, with three districts -- Theni, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi -- likely to get isolated heavy to very heavy rain to extremely heavy rain on Sunday, Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) said. The centre has issued a heavy rainfall warning for some parts of the state in the coming week as well. Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Kannyakumari, Virudhunagar, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Dindigul districts and heavy rain at isolated places over Madurai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Pudukkottai districts. Coonoor and Mettupalayam received heavy rainfall of around 17 cm each in the

24 hours between 8.30 am on Friday until 8.30 am on Saturday, according to the rainfall data from RMC. Usilampatti in Madurai recorded 9 cm of rainfall while Sivagiri in Tenkasi, Kil Kotagiri Estate and Burlari in the Nilgiris along with Madathukulam in Tiruppur received 8 cm rainfall each. From 8.30 am to 5.30 pm on Saturday, the Ooty observatory recorded an average of 3.8 cm of rainfall and Coimbatore recorded 3 cm. Valparai, Dharmapuri and Kodaikanal recorded 1.9 cm, 1.2 cm and 1 cm on average during the period. Vellore, Yercaud, Kannyakumari and Madurai received light rains. On Monday, isolated heavy to very heavy rain with extremely heavy rain is likely over

Kannyakumari, Theni, and Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts, and heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Virudhunagar, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Dindigul districts. Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Sivaganga, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur, Tiruvavur, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli districts and Karaikal areas are also likely to get heavy rain. For Chennai, light to moderate rain is on the cards for the next 48 hours ending Monday afternoon. Maximum temperature is likely to be 34-35°C and minimum temperature is likely to be around 26°C.



Xi-Putin rapport keeps West on its toes

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's visit to China (May 16-17) and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's European tour (May 5-10) have helped both leaders win the perception battle against the Western bloc. This was apparent from the bloc's inability to bring any clarity over the future of the Ukraine war, reinforced by Israel's relentless Gaza operations despite a global outcry over massive civilian fatalities. That Russia and China have agreed at this summit to oppose "further escalation" of the Ukraine conflict is considered a logical outcome of their earlier assertion of their relations being a 'stabilising force' in a chaotic world. There was no surprise that Putin chose China for his first international visit after his reelection in March. During his visit in February 2022, Russia and China concluded a "new era of cooperation" and "no-limits partnership".

Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, one of the best China watchers in the world, had then said that Putin had "signed on Xi's global agenda". This also proved how prescient then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was in 1952 when he told US Ambassador Chester Bowles that "there may be more chance of China running Russia 20 years from today than Russia running China". This was recorded by the late Ambassador Howard B Schaffer in Bowles' biography, published in 1994. Meanwhile, Xi's recent visit to France, Hungary and Serbia received global attention as it revealed Europe's differences with America in facing a strengthened Russia-China axis led by Beijing. Also, by design or otherwise, it also coincided with the 25th anniversary of NATO's bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

French President Emmanuel Macron could not obtain any specific concession from Xi over the lopsided bilateral trade, even in the presence of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. However, observers say that the visit yielded some benefits to the French President for leading "a quest that Europe's allegiance to the US foreign policy must yield to a multipolar global order by accommodating the rising powers' interests and concern". It also improved Macron's relationship with Xi, which is part of his strategy to make France a crucial partner for all emerging world powers. However, Xi's trip brought tangible benefits to Hungary and Serbia, both members of the Belt and Road Initiative. In Hungary, Xi seems to have promised more investments in transport and energy, the construction of a high-speed railway connecting the capital city centre to its airport and cooperation in the nuclear sector. For Serbia, a \$2.1-billion project to connect the Hungarian capital with the Serbian capital was approved. Serbia also earned a special mention by Xi, who said it became China's first strategic partner in central and eastern Europe eight years ago, and "it becomes the first European country with which we shall build a community with a shared future".

A case study of the China-Serbia relations would prove what intel historians have been saying, that China is perhaps the only country which became a superpower through deft use of its intelligence agencies. Initially, Mao Zedong had followed Joseph Stalin's diktat and did not have any contact with the rebellious Josip Tito. After Stalin's death in 1953, the position changed, and Mao welcomed a Yugoslav Communist delegation with profuse apologies, as recorded by the Wilson Centre digital archives. This happened between September 15 and 28, 1956, when the Chinese Communist Party's Eighth National Congress was in session. In 1977, Tito, then 85, took with him his close aide Stane Dolanc, a Slovenian leader, during his first visit to Beijing. Dolanc was later interior minister (1982-84). Tito, who stayed in China from August 30 to September 8, was heartily welcomed in China by Hua Guofeng, the designated successor of Mao. That was when close intelligence cooperation was formalised.

Onus on India to exert pressure on China over Tibet

It is time for India to take a call on Tibet as Beijing digs deeper into Arunachal Pradesh and continues with Sinicisation of Tibet.

AFTER needling China for its unilateral breach of protocols and attempts to alter the status quo in eastern Ladakh, India went on to call China a bully and expressed hope — for the first time since 1962 — that the US would come to its aid against the Dragon (going by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane's statement at the India-US Defence Summit in February). A few weeks ago, India reached out to the Philippines with a pledge to stand by it in its dispute with China in the South China Sea and sold it BrahMos missiles. All this is quite something, but New Delhi has stopped short of talking about Tibet, even though Beijing has continued to rename in Mandarin several places in 'south Tibet' (parts of Arunachal Pradesh). The last time New Delhi upped the ante over Tibet was in 2010, when it stopped talking about the One China policy during parleys with Beijing. Of late, former Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane has spoken at public forums on Tibet's annexation and its demand for autonomy. The Forum for Non-Violent Alternatives (FNVA), an NGO, is espousing the Tibetan cause. It has several former government officials and veterans supporting it. Since 2008, it has issued policy papers, with the most recent in 2022: Resetting India's Tibet Policy. Prior to Independence, Gen Sir Francis Tuker, in his paper, Defence of India, had highlighted the strategic salience of Tibet and advised early occupation to pre-empt the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) from doing so. The rest is history. On April 25 in Dharamsala, Sikyong Penpa Tsering, the political leader of the Central Tibetan Administration, repeated its longstanding demand for the return of the 11th Panchen Lama at a function to celebrate his 35th birthday. Panchen Lama, who was abducted by the Chinese government, has been missing for the past 29 years. Tsering informed journalists at the ceremony that the Tibetan government in exile had been engaged in back channel talks with Beijing since last year; dialogue being resumed after nine rounds ended in 2010. Tibetans are pitching for greater autonomy in sync with the Dalai Lama's Middle Way policy. Promptly, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, without refuting the back channel claim, reacted: "China does not legitimise government in exile at Dharamsala; the



so-called Xizang (Chinese for Tibet) government in exile is totally against the Chinese constitution and laws and is illegal. No country has recognised it". He clarified that talks had been held with representatives of the Dalai Lama and not with the envoys of the government in exile. In February, the US House of Representatives had passed a Bill that would push China to resolve the outstanding Tibet-China dispute through talks with the Dalai Lama's envoys. In response to the BJP seeking public suggestions for its election manifesto, the FNVA sent recommendations to the saffron party and the RSS — re-establishing India's diplomatic mission in Lhasa as a quid pro quo for additional Chinese missions/offices in India; no foreign interference in the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama; preservation of Tibetan Buddhism; and creating a joint India-China commission on the Brahmaputra river, similar to the one in the Indus Water Treaty Commission with Pakistan. Other recommendations were the restoration of pilgrimage routes to Kailash Mansarovar through Nathu La, commencing one from Demchok and reviving the routes via Nepal; and encouraging China to continue with an outcome-related dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives for early resolution of the Tibet-China dispute. The ruling party has not bitten the bullet, though in the 1970s, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh had sought autonomy for Tibet in its manifesto. The most worrying aspect of recent developments in Tibet is the depth and scale of Sinicisation of the region. Since President Xi Jinping took charge in 2013, China has been trying

to erase Tibet's cultural identity of Tibetan Buddhism. A white paper issued in November 2022 titled CPC Policies on the Governance of Xizang in the New Era: Approach and Achievements is silent on the colonial boarding school system and massive relocation programme to diminish Tibetan culture. Around 8,00,000 children/youngsters in the age group of six to 18 years are being educated in Chinese in a highly politicised curriculum. Tibetans are forced to send their children to these schools in cities. If parents refuse, they are blacklisted, their welfare benefits are stopped and kids can't go to school ever. Their political indoctrination is systematic. Inter-marriage with Hans yields a reward of 20,000 yuan. The military buildup is spectacular: six-lane highways, double-line railway to Shigatse from Lhasa and from Lhasa to Gormu. Of the seven million Tibetans, only around 8,000 have joined the PLA, but that will change with military conscription being ordered in the mainland. Reports suggest that over 2.3 lakh Han Chinese were settled in Tibet till 2020. The Tibetan population in Dharamsala is diminishing as Tibetans are unable to flee Tibet since Nepal has clamped down on free passage. A decade ago, 2,000 youth used to escape from Tibet every year. Now, it is just a trickle of six to eight persons. Last year, two women — Namkyi and Tsering Kyi — escaped from Tibet via Nepal and reached Dharamsala to narrate the grave human rights violations in their homeland. At this rate, the Tibetan population in US could overtake the 66,000 Tibetans left in Dharamsala, and the government in exile might consider shifting there. The Central Tibetan Administration is frustrated with India for its silence on Tibet but extremely grateful for the sanctuary and hospitality. It is time for India to take a call on Tibet as Beijing digs deeper into Arunachal Pradesh and continues with Sinicisation of Tibet. China's latest warning was on the construction of the Sela tunnel and the planned deployment of an additional 10,000 troops opposite central Tibet. As China ratchets up its claim to south Tibet, India needs to gently open the Tibet front by urging Beijing to settle the Tibet-China differences and follow up with reopening its mission at Lhasa.

Assault on Maliwal

Case a test for political ethos on gender justice

THE disturbing allegations against Bibhav Kumar, an aide of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, have turned a harsh spotlight on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its commitment to women's safety and justice. The alleged assault on Swati Maliwal, an AAP MP, at the CM's residence has put the party in a spot. Her harrowing account of being slapped, kicked and verbally abused by Kumar, as detailed in her FIR, is troubling. Unverified videos targeting Maliwal have further muddied the waters. Such tactics are not new in Indian politics, where perception often eclipses reality.

Amid the Lok Sabha elections, the incident has become a flashpoint for rival parties to challenge the moral high ground taken by AAP. Its political implications are profound. Kejriwal, who has been a vocal advocate for women's rights, is being accused of hypocrisy. His silence on the issue speaks louder than party leader Sanjay Singh's defence.



Singh's emphasis on strict action against Kumar also appears insufficient in the backdrop of political manoeuvring. This case brings to the fore the fact that

when it comes to harassment of women, no political party is unblemished. This is borne out by the allegations of sex abuse against Prajwal Revanna, the JD(S) candidate from Karnataka. BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a former president of the Wrestling Federation of India, is accused of molesting female wrestlers. These cases represent an alarming trend, exposing the deeply masculinised nature of power. Political considerations seem to trump the welfare of the victims. Even as the National Commission for Women has taken suo motu notice of Maliwal's case, the Delhi Police must probe the matter in a free and fair manner. How Kejriwal handles this crisis will determine whether AAP can salvage its credibility on gender justice. It will also be a litmus test for the Indian political ethos on women's safety.

Contraction in demand, profits to test govt's mettle

If things don't improve for India Inc and the richest 10 per cent, they will get restive.

IN less than three weeks, we will have a new government in New Delhi. If the opinion polls have got it right, Narendra Modi will get a third term as Prime Minister. Indeed, the PM is so confident that he has already set tasks for his babus that have to be completed within the first 100 days. Whoever wins, the next two years are not going to be easy. And the reasons for that lie in the structure of our economy, specifically the way income has got distributed between social groups in the past five years.

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's count of more than 33,000 companies shows that between 2013-14 and 2018-19 — the first term of the Modi regime — total sales of the corporate sector grew at an average annual rate of 9.5 per cent, which works out to about 5 per cent if you adjust for inflation. Profit after tax actually decreased at an annual rate of 2 per cent, or by a massive 6.5 per cent in real terms. During the same period, the total wage bill increased at 14 per cent per year in nominal terms and 9.5 per cent in real terms.

So, owners of capital saw their returns shrink, while they had to pay more to their employees. Anecdotal evidence tells us that most of this extra expenditure on salaries and wages would have been cornered by the top 10 per cent of earners in any company — the cream of the white-collar segment. This is borne out by the income estimates made by the Paris-based World Inequality Database (WID). It suggests that the richest 1 per cent saw their real income grow at the rate of 3.8 per cent per year during PM Modi's first term, while those in the next 9 per cent, in terms of income, did marginally better, with their real income rising at 4.3 per cent per year.

The slowest income growth happened for those between the 50th and 90th percentile, with those in the 80-90 per cent bracket seeing the lowest growth



of just 1.9 per cent in real terms. This explains why most corporates found it difficult to make money. They couldn't really expand beyond the top 10 per cent of earners, as the middle-income groups barely witnessed any improvement in their ability to spend. Then, how did Modi retain power in 2019? The answer is clear when you look at the income growth of the poorest 30 per cent of Indians, whose real income grew at a decent 3.9 per cent per year, exactly the same as that of the top 10 per cent of the earners. On the other hand, the average real income growth in the 50-90 per cent bracket was just 2.4 per cent. So, both the rich and the poor had reason to vote for the BJP, while the middle class had reason to hope for achhe din. When the BJP began its second term, it immediately decided to solve the problem of corporate profits by cutting taxes. During Modi's

first term, profits before tax rose at 5.5 per cent annually, while tax provisions increased at more than twice that rate. Between 2019-20 and 2022-23 — the three years for which we have comparable data — profit before tax increased at 29 per cent per year, while tax provisions increased by just one-third that rate. The net result was that post-tax profits for India's corporate sector increased at an incredible rate of 45 per cent per year in the first four years of Modi 2.0. The wage bill, on the other hand, increased by less than 11 per cent annually, and just 5.5 per cent if adjusted for inflation. Anecdotally, we know that middle management salaries have not increased much in the past few years, while that of top management have shot up. This again is backed by the WID's income distribution estimates. The richest 1 per cent of earners had an average inflation-

adjusted real income growth of 4.4 per cent per year between 2019 and 2022, which was better than how they fared between 2014 and 2019. The next 9 per cent, however, have seen their real income growth collapse to just 1.9 per cent per year, less than half the growth they experienced in the Modi government's first term. Again, the bottom 30 per cent have seen a decent 4.2 per cent annual real income growth, with the poorest 10 per cent's real income growing at 5.5 per cent per year. Those in the 50-90 per cent bracket have done even worse than before. Their real income grew at just 2.2 per cent annually in the first three years of Modi 2.0. This is why the premium segments of the economy have grown very fast, while companies that cater to wider markets have stagnated. Till now, corporate profits have boomed, even though sales have not kept pace with GDP growth, because of lower financing costs and taxes. This process is now gradually coming to a close. While sales are inching forward at a snail's pace, profits have also started to stagnate. Around 1,100 listed companies have declared their results for the first quarter of 2024 — their net profit has grown by just 1.8 per cent compared to last year. The situation is worse for non-financial companies among them; their profit has fallen by 7.6 per cent. Any new government will have to deal with this contraction in demand and profits. It is not going to be easy, because there is not much leeway available to cut taxes or reduce interest rates significantly. If things don't improve for India Inc and the richest 10 per cent, they will get restive. The spurt in premium real estate sales will peter out. The corporate-controlled sections of the media will start voicing their reservations about government policies, and public opinion will begin to shift. This is what happened to the UPA within a year of retaining power in 2009.

Recipe: Tandoori pomfret

Tandoori Pomfret is a delicious fish delight. Here the exotic flavors of spices all wrapped in the fish and then grill in the oven. Resulting really juicy and scrumptious grilled fish.



Ingredients:

- 8 Pomfret fish
- 1/4 tsp Turmeric powder
- 2 tbsp Red chilli powder
- 1 tsp Garam masala powder
- 1/2 tsp Carom seeds/ ajwain
- 1 tbsp Roasted gram flour/ Besan
- 1/2 cup Hung Curd
- Salt to taste
- 4 tbsp Mustard oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tbsp Coriander paste
- 1 tsp Ginger-garlic paste

Directions:

1. Trim tails, fins and other unnecessary things. Then wash it thoroughly.
2. Make incisions on a clean fish. Keep it aside.
3. In a bowl, add all the ingredients mentioned in the ingredient list. Adjust the amount of besan and yogurt to get a nice thick paste.
4. Apply this marinade to the fish on both sides very well.
5. Keep it for at least 30 minutes in the fridge.
6. Preheat the oven to 180 Degree Celsius (356 Degree Fahrenheit).
7. Grease the pan or rack. Place the fish on grill rack and cook it for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.
8. Serve with Onion rings and lemon.

Recipe: Stuffed tomatoes

A low-cal vegan option that pleases the palate as well

- Preparation time: 15mins
- Cooking time: 15 mins
- Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 4 medium sized tomatoes
- 200g boiled potatoes
- 100g paneer (cottage cheese)
- 1 tbsp desi ghee (clarified butter)
- 1 tsp finely chopped green chilies
- 1 tsp finely chopped coriander leaves
- 1/2 tsp amchur powder (dry mango powder)
- 1/2 tsp black pepper powder
- 1 tsp sendha namak (rock salt)

Recipe Method:

Cut off the top of the tomatoes and scoop out the seeds and pulp to get a cavity. Set aside.
Grate the paneer and the boiled potatoes. Mix in all the other ingredients. Heat the ghee in a pan and add the mixture. Saute for 3-4 minutes stirring continuously. Cool the mixture and stuff in the tomatoes. Grill or bake in a preheated oven at 200 degree centigrade for 10mins. Alternatively you can shallow fry in 1 tbsp till the tomatoes are cooked but firm.



Though broccoli has been bumbling with a not so good reputation still there are people out there who love eating broccoli. Just follow few simple steps and you can make this green a popular veggie of your diet.



Cook broccoli the right way

As a beginner you just need to remember two things while tackling broccoli.

Undercooking is Wrong

Do not undercook broccoli. The modern art of cooking might believe at al dente of food to the point of crunchy but do not do this to broccoli. A little softer the better it is. Broccoli has a marvelous texture because of its extravagant head of hair. While cooking beyond al dente, they soften and start to break up a little after which you are free to add any dressing. It sucks up the dressing giving it a juicy tang with sublime results. All you need to remember is to drain it well and allow it get plenty of steam so that it doesn't get soggy.

Don't Cut off the Stalks

Peel the stalks and cut them into to boil them with the florets. In case you have not tried this before you will love the stalk's sweet meat.

Here are a few things to do with broccoli. Have you any tips with broccoli? We'd love to hear them in the comments under this piece.

1. Dress them with some fresh lemon juice, salt and olive oil. Make sure that it is cooked soft.
2. You can serve it with pasta. Boil the broccoli in salt water till it gets soft. Drain and let them steam for a few minutes. Fry some garlic in olive oil and add pine nuts and broccoli. Squeeze some lime juice, season and serve with pasta with some parmesan sprinkled on it.

3. In half a cup of water at room temperature, sprinkle 1 tbsp of gelatin and let soak for 1/2 an hour. Pour 1 1/2 cups of boiling water over and mix well to dissolve. Leave to cool. When cool and beginning to set, mix in the broccoli, walnuts, salt, pepper and corn.

Transfer into the mould and leave to chill and set in the refrigerator. When ready to serve, pass a knife around to loosen edges, place an inverted plate over the mould and turn upside down. Your Broccoli and Walnut Mould Salad is ready.



'Malay cuisine perfect for Indian market'

The common usage of ingredients like coriander powder, turmeric, green chilli, red chilli powder and ginger between Indian and Malaysian cuisines makes it suit Indian tastes well, says Malaysian chef Muhammad Lisarni, who feels food from his country can be an instant success here.

"Malaysia's population is divided amongst three major ethnic groups -- Malays, Chinese and Indians. The taste of Malaysian food is subtle and unique as it is the fusion of Chinese vegetables blended with Indian spice, which makes our food rich and fresh."
"But since we use the same spices like coriander powder, turmeric, green chilli, red chilli powder, palm sugar (jaggery) and ginger, it suits the Indian palate to perfection and should be an instant success in the Indian market," Lisarni told IANS in an interview here. The Kuala Lumpur-based chef is on his debut visit to the country to



conduct an exclusive masterclass as part of a Malaysian food festival being held at the Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel here. The festival, in association with Tourism Malaysia and the Malaysian High Commission, started on May 23 and will conclude on May 31. He hopes to entice Indian food aficionados with the

distinct "hotness" of his native cuisine. "In Malay cuisine, fresh aromatic herbs and roots are used, some familiar, such as lemongrass, ginger, coconut, pandan leaf's garlic, shallots, kaffir limes and fresh chilies. Both fresh and dried chilies are used to add hotness which will definitely satiate the Indian tastebuds," Lisarni said. As a specialist in Malay cuisine, Lisarni has played an integral role in the production of the Malay kitchen at Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel in Kuala Lumpur - a popular business hub and tourist destination of Malaysia, where over 10 percent of the nearly 30 million population is ethnic Indian.

Lisarni's cooking style is based on traditional methods, showcasing simplicity, freshness and natural textures, and it is imbued with cultural influences.

He felt that in today's time, people are opting for organic and healthy way of living - and it is something that Malay cuisine can stand out for in the culinary world.

"Today, our lifestyle has evolved into a more organic and healthy way of living. Malay cuisine in particular is a perfect fit in the Indian market as it provides a touch of freshness to the various meats and vegetables, but keeping the flavours similar to those accustomed to the Indian palate," he said.

Lisarni, whose passion for cooking is visible in his meticulously prepared and

skilfully presented dishes, also pointed out that while "trends in the culinary industry are ever-changing, the flavours and textures are

everlasting". "The challenge we face is to present the same ingredients in different ways," he said.



Swati Maliwal assault could've been 'fatal', Bibhav Kumar evasive: Delhi Police

New Delhi: The Delhi Police in its remand paper submitted late Saturday evening seeking seven days custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar regarding the alleged assault on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal said that it was a "serious case" where the "brutal assault" could have turned "fatal". Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal, who sent Kumar to five-day police custody, was told by the investigating agency that he did not cooperate with the police and had been evasive in his replies.

"This is a very serious case where a Member of Parliament, a public figure, has been brutally assaulted, which could have been fatal. Despite specific questions, the accused has not cooperated in the investigation and has been evasive in his replies," said the remand paper signed by North District Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Anjitha Chepyala. The remand application said that Maliwal's testimony before the magistrate was corroborated by the medical evidence. According to Maliwal's allegations, Kumar

screamed, threatened and used abusive language against her, besides being "brutally assaulted", dragging and banging her head on a centre table, the report said. It said that the "most vital evidence" was the digital video record (DVR) of the spot, but it was yet to be provided to the police. According to the plea seeking police custody, a junior engineer in the Chief Minister's residence, after admitting that he did not have access to the place where the DVR and CCTV cameras were installed, provided a video of the dining room, but it was later found to be blank at the time of the alleged incident. The remand application said that on Saturday, Kumar was present at the Chief Minister's residence and after being questioned, provided evasive replies. "His presence at the scene of the crime (SOC) raises a strong possibility of tampering with crucial evidence, including electronic evidence. The accused is an influential person and, having worked more than nine years in an authoritative position, can influence and



pressure the witnesses in the Chief Minister's house," it said. Explaining the reasons for police custody, the application said after being terminated as the Chief Minister's personal secretary in April 2024,

Kumar was still working in the Chief Minister's residence and needed to be quizzed about the capacity and authority under which he was working. It said another case was registered against Kumar in Noida

for allegedly assaulting an on-duty public servant. "Since a brutal attack is made on a public figure who is a sitting MP, a sustained interrogation is very much required to find out the motive behind the brutal attack and to ascertain the conspiracy angles or involvement of some person or organisation inimical to our country," the paper said. It said that according to Kumar, he had formatted his mobile in Mumbai on Friday and that his mobile phone was password protected.

"Without the personal presence and assistance of the accused, as this instrument is password protected, the phone and its apps cannot be accessed. Also, he has to be taken to an expert to retrieve the mobile data and to ascertain the fact of formatting of the mobile phone of the accused, which is an important piece of evidence," the plea for remand said. It said that Kumar could threaten witnesses and tamper with evidence as he was in a "position of command" and also had "access to the SOC".

Naturals Ice Cream founder Raghunandan Kamath passes away

New Delhi: Naturals Ice Cream founder Raghunandan Kamath has passed away, the dessert maker announced in an X (formerly Twitter) post on Sunday. The X post shared by the handle @NaturalIcecream read: Our thoughts on the sad demise of our patron and founder of Naturals Ice Cream, Late (Shri) Raghunandan Kamath. Indeed a very sad and unfortunate day for us.



The ice cream company's official X handle posted a happy picture of Kamath holding a company hologram, clubbed with an obituary note, reading "A smile that will never be forgotten. A smile that will keep inspiring us that his era will never end. to the Ice Cream Man of India, who will forever stay in our hearts and yours". Raghunandan Kamath died after a brief illness.

Were Voting Machines Introduced In India In 2009? A Fact Check

New Delhi: A viral post on social media has claimed that electronic voting machines (EVMs) were used for the first time in the country in 2009 under the Congress-led government. Vishvas News in its investigation found this claim to be misleading. EVMs were used in all 543 Lok Sabha seats across the country in 2004 and before that they were used during several assembly elections. In 2001, EVMs were deployed in all seats during the Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal assembly elections. Furthermore, EVMs were introduced in a phased manner during the assembly elections of different states, commencing in 1998 with the elections for 16 assembly seats of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

What Is Viral?

Social media user 'rsonu_sr', while sharing the viral post (archive link), wrote, "EVM came in 2009 and was installed by the Congress government, if EVMs were hacked then Congress would have done it first... and BJP would have done it. Never lets you come to power... Understand that EVMs are not hacked..!"

Investigation:

To verify the viral claim made regarding the use of EVMs, we checked the documents available on the Election Commission's website. In our investigation, we found a copy of the Status Paper on EVM (Edition - 3), which provides step-by-step information about the use of EVM. According to available information, following a consensus reached in 1998 to conduct elections using EVM, they were used in the elections for 16 assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

In 2001, the assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, and West Bengal were entirely conducted using EVMs and it continued to be used in other subsequent assembly elections as well.

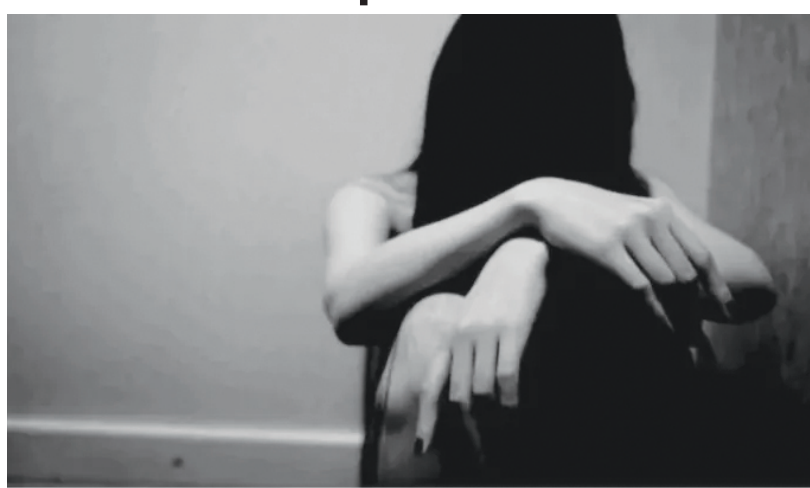
2004 Lok Sabha elections

In the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, EVMs were used for voting on all 543 seats. According to this document released in 2018, "Since 2000, EVMs have been used during voting in a total of 113 state assembly elections and three general elections (2004, 2009 and 2014) in India." The 2019 Lok Sabha elections were also conducted entirely through EVMs. Therefore, the claim made in the viral post that the use of EVMs began in 2009 is false. It is noteworthy that on May 19, 1982, the ECI issued guidelines under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution and used EVMs in 50 polling stations in the 70-Paravur assembly constituency of Kerala. After this, EVMs were also used in 10 by-elections in 1982-83. However, due to the lack of specific law, these elections were challenged in the Supreme Court (Election Petition 01 of 1982 filed by AC Jose) and on March 5, 1984, the Supreme Court ruled that without a specific legal provision, EVMs cannot be used in elections.

Man inserts nails into wife's private parts, puts lock on it over suspected affair

New Delhi: A 30-year-old Nepali national was arrested in Maharashtra's Pimpri-Chinchwad after he allegedly assaulted his 28-year-old wife, police said. The accused pierced her private parts with a sharp blade, inserted two iron nails and put up a brass lock there. The incident occurred on May 11 when the man thrashed his wife, also a Nepali, after he suspected her of having an affair with someone, and tied her hands and feet with a cloak. The accused then took a sharp blade and cut two holes in her private parts, put iron nails and affixed the lock on it. As her husband continued with his brazen assault, the woman screamed for help and writhed in pain as she lay on the floor bleeding. The woman was rushed to a hospital where she is currently undergoing medical treatment.

Despite the woman suffering grievous injuries, she later filed a complaint at



the police station. The husband works as a watchman while the woman is a homemaker.

A case was registered against the accused under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including sections 326 (voluntarily causing

grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 506(2) (criminal intimidation), and 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt). The police condemned the brutality meted out to the woman and said strict action would be taken against her husband.

Visiting Vaishno Devi Temple? You May Not Get Prasad Anymore; Know Why

New Delhi: In an innovative initiative, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has resolved to distribute plant saplings as 'Prasad' to the pilgrims visiting the Shri Vaishno Devi temple. To facilitate this, a state-of-the-art facility has been established at Katra, the starting point of the sacred journey. The Vaishno Devi Shrine is regarded as one of the most sacred shrines in India. They have attracted approximately 10 million devotees annually. Located on the Trikuta Hills, the Shrine Board officials explained that the motive behind this initiative is to inspire individuals to plant an increasing number of trees, thereby contributing to the fight against climate change and global warming.

These saplings, given as Prasad, will also serve as a divine blessing and a memento of the sacred pilgrimage. Viney Khajuria, the Assistant

being planned at the Nahirika complex in Katra for this purpose, where devotees can receive the saplings as a blessing from Maa Vaishno Devi.



Conservator of Forest at SMVDSB, stated that the Board is soon going to officially commence the distribution of plants as 'Prasad' to the pilgrims of Vaishno Devi. A high-tech outlet is

Khajuria also revealed that a sophisticated nursery has been established by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the village of Kunia in the Panthal area near Katra in Reasi. The indigenous plant species are suitable to the local climate and are easy to transport and transplant.

The devotees have expressed their delight and enthusiasm about this novel concept. Devotees have called it a 'unique idea', and are 'thrilled' to bring home the blessing of Mata Rani in the form of a plant.

Security Tightened At BJP Headquarters In Delhi Ahead Of AAP Protest

The traffic police has also issued an advisory in view of the protest planned outside the BJP office at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, while entry and exit have been disallowed at the nearest ITO metro station.

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has beefed up security in and around the BJP headquarters here in view of a protest announced by AAP's national convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal there on Sunday, officials said. The traffic police has also issued an advisory in view of the protest planned outside the BJP office at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, while entry and exit



have been disallowed at the nearest ITO metro station.

"In view of the proposed protest by a political party at DDU Marg Delhi, Traffic will remain heavy at DDU Marg, IP Marg, Minto Road and Vikas Marg.

DDU marg may be closed for traffic movement between 11 am to 2 pm. Kindly avoid these roads and plan your journey accordingly," the traffic police in a post on X. A senior police officer said security at the BJP headquarters has

Food Authority Asks Traders Not To Use Banned "Calcium Carbide" For Fruit Ripening

New Delhi: Food regulator FSSAI has asked traders and food business operators not to use the banned product 'calcium carbide' for ripening of fruits.

In an official statement, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has "alerted traders/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season". FSSAI has also advised Food Safety Departments of states/UTs to remain vigilant and take serious action and deal stringently against person(s) indulging in such unlawful practices as per the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006, and rules/regulations made thereunder. Calcium carbide, commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas, which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus. "These substances, also known as 'Masala', can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc," FSSAI said. Additionally, acetylene gas is equally hazardous to those handling it. "There are chances that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits," the regulator said. Due to these dangers, the use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under the Regulation of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011. This regulation explicitly states, "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas". Considering the issue of rampant use of banned calcium carbide, FSSAI has permitted the use of ethylene gas as a safer alternative for fruit ripening in India. Ethylene gas can be used at concentrations up to 100 ppm, depending upon the crop, variety and maturity.

Ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone in fruits, regulates the ripening process by initiating and controlling a series of chemical and biochemical activities. The treatment of unripe fruits with ethylene gas triggers the natural ripening process until the fruit itself starts producing ethylene in substantial quantities. Further, the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB & RC) have approved Ethephon 39 per cent SL for the uniform ripening of mangoes and other fruits.

been heightened as a precautionary measure. "An adequate number of police personnel has been deployed and the area (around BJP office) has been barricaded," said the police officer. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) closed ITO Metro Station, which is near the office, for entry and exit.

On Saturday, addressing a press conference, Kejriwal accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "playing the game" of sending AAP leaders such as Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, and Sanjay Singh to jail.

"They are after our party and sending our leaders in jail one after another... Today you have sent my PA (Bibhav Kumar) to jail," he said, adding the BJP is saying they will send AAP MP Raghav Chadha and Delhi ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj to jail too.

"I along with my MLAs and MPs would go to the BJP office at noon tomorrow so that the prime minister can send anyone he wants to jail," he said.

Two quick ways to cook corn



Hot corn tastes great in the monsoon. Here's how to cook with it in these two easy ways...

CORN SALAD

Yield:

Ingredients: Corn kernels - 1 cup Red bell peppers - 1 tbsp Onions and spring onions chopped - 1 tbsp each Chopped Kairi- ¼ tsp Celery stalk, diced - 1 tsp Cherry tomatoes - 5 Pineapple diced - 1 tsp Parsley - 1 tsp Cilantro leaves - 1 tsp Basil - 3 leaves Avocado, diced - ½ each Olive oil - 1 tsp Lemon juice - 2 tsp Black salt - to taste Tacos - 3 shells

Method: Blanch the corn in hot water with salt. Do not overcook it. Drain and set aside. Now, cut the onions, peppers, pineapple, kairi (raw mango), celery and avocado. Also dice the cherry tomatoes and add the herbs like basil, parsley and cilantro basil to the vegetables. Season this. Add the lemon juice and olive oil. Toss it well and serve it in the shells with herb buttered rice on the side.

Corn broth

Yield:

Ingredients: Onions, chopped - 1 Leeks, chopped - ½ cup Celery, chopped - ½ cup Potatoes, diced - 1 cup Corn kernels - 2 cups Yellow peppers, chopped - ½ cup Garlic, chopped - 1 tsp Vegetable stock - 1 litre Milk - a cup Parsley - 1 tsp Chives - 1 tsp Cream - ¼ cup Olive oil - 1 tsp Butter - to taste

Method: Heat a pan and drizzle the butter into it. When it melts add some of the oil and the onions, chopped potatoes, leeks, celery plus the yellow bell peppers and corn kernels, taking care not to over cook it. Add the garlic and saute too. Add the milk and vegetable stock. Cook till the vegetables turn soft. Blend this and add cream plus the seasoning, as well as the chopped herbs. Serve hot with garlic bread.

Gourmet products you must use in your kitchen

Don't be scared by the word Gourmet. Here we list some fancy ingredients along with easy ways to use them at your next party at home.

Vanilla Beans

The sweet aroma of vanilla can live up to the most bland dish and that hold true even more for toothy desserts. You might have tasted vanilla in the form of artificial essences and now its turn to upgrade and treat yourself to the real deal. Even though a bit expensive vanilla beans can be used in desserts such as ice cream or waffle syrup and they will make you feel like you've seen heaven! Look for whole vanilla beans that are about 6 to 8 inches in length for best results. Glossy dark brown in colour and ever so slightly moist are the best ones.

Fish Sauce

Just the mention of fish sauce makes people rethink altogether. They probably imagine their dish soaked in fish liquid. The truth being much different, first fish sauce should be used in mild quantities. It is tangy in nature that adds zest to the preparations. Here are a few ways to include fish sauce in your food:

You can use a spoon of fish sauce in the marinade of a



large chicken waiting to be grilled. Use a drop or two in pastas and salads. Be careful not to use more than required as it may ruin your dish. For all Thai food lovers, a pinch of fish sauce can add a punch to your gravy.

Exotic Salts

You cannot even imagine any dish without salt. If normal salt can add such value to your food imagine what different gourmet salt can take the level of your food onto. Gourmet salt is mostly used to finish the dish and therefore sprinkled just before serving the dish. Some of the top gourmet salts are Black salt, Himalayan Pink salt, Sea Salt, Kosher Salt and Fleur de sel. Here are a few useful tips:

Flake salts do wonders to salads.

Japanese salts are ideal for fish preparations. Hawaiian Black Salt makes meat even more delectable.

Flavored Vinegars

Well, this ingredient may not be considered as gourmet but can definitely add X factor that will turn an ordinary dish to extraordinary.

Balsamic Vinegar is best for Italian preparations. You can also whip it along with salad dressings and you're good to go.

Wine Vinegar is also a result of fermented wine and does wonders to prep up a dish. Use it in sweet and sour dishes, pickles and even chutneys.

There might be a surfeit of food shows on TV but they will never replace the good old cookbooks, says chef Milind Sovani, who has, in his three-decade-long career, served Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Dutt - and created awareness about Indian cuisine in Singapore where he worked for 13 years.

"In the time of internet and TV, printed cookery books are facing a challenge of existence...but, no, things are not all that bad yet. We have to accept the forces of change, but still there are many positives in owning and using cookery books - and of course writing them too," Sovani told us in an e-mail interview.

"Cooking with the help of a cookery book in the kitchen is always the best help around. You can keep it on your table, you do not require electric connections, or WiFi and the like. You can always mark some points on them, make earfolds for important pages, make small notes on them for your future reference and pass them down to

the next



TV shows will never replace Cookbooks

generation or even share them easily with friends," added Sovani, who has worked with establishments like New Delhi's Hotel Samrat and Hotel Jaipur Ashok.

Then, books are always handy to keep, loan and borrow and have good mobility.

This apart, "in a country like India, where internet or TV signals are not widely or easily available, books can be of great help in any place and location. The visual charm of using a cookery book, which is attractively and artistically printed with appetizing photos, is always a delight. Coffee table books also look good on your book shelves," Sovani maintained.

Elaborating on the theme, Sovani said: "While cooking using a cookery book, your imagination is also at work and you tend to draw from the experience and skill of the writer. Books can be handed over from one generation to another, especially books rich in traditional and regional cooking for newly-wed brides. Books are a rich source of history tradition and culture too.

"Lastly, but most importantly, I feel cookery books are more trusted than the cookery shows on TV or internet recipes. As these books are written by experts or chefs, they are also

considered more authentic and accurate too,"



Sovani explained.

Now, he is penning an autobiography to inspire others with his journey. Writing a book on his life has been on the mind of the 52-year-old for the last five years, but it was in 2012 when he returned to India from Singapore that he gave it a serious thought.

"I have been working on it for a year and half now. I want to share with readers, especially youngsters, about the journey of a chef, the hardships faced and the sweet success moments. I wish to do this to inspire people and also spread awareness among the masses. Recipes... anyone can write, but the experiences I have and can share are unique," Sovani said.

To be available on stands after six months, the book "will be a very good read for everyone".

"It covers stories of my celebrity interactions, glorious moments, mega banquets, international experiences, my cookery tips, guidance to aspiring chefs and more," he said.

The chef often travels to Singapore as he has his own consultancy firm, Hospitality Innovations Pvt Ltd, which works for innovations in restaurants and cuisines. He was even honored with the 'Culinary Trail Blazer of Singapore' award by 'Michelin Star Guide' for his work of transforming the image of Indian cuisine from a mundane, ordinary five-to-seven-dollar-cuisine to a modern high-end one.

Asked how one can popularize Indian food in other countries, he said: "Firstly, you need to be honest with your roots and have in-depth knowledge of Indian cuisine.

"Secondly, understand the market need of that country, the current perceived image of Indian cuisine and how you can develop the taste buds of the local population towards Indian cuisine. Open Indian restaurants which can offer good, healthy and modern food."

But, as of now, he has plans of increasing the number of branches of his restaurant April Rain, which has two outlets in Pune. "I plan to take this brand pan-India and the next outlet would surely be in Mumbai," said the Mumbai-based chef.

The many delectable avatars of

Momos

The history of dumplings, it is said, dates back to the 16th century during the time of the Ming Dynasty. Today, dumplings can be found in dozens of versions, from the street food variety to the more nuanced, fine dining ones.

We take a look at some of the avatars.

From classic Chinese dim sum to Italian ravioli, Japanese Gyoza and Tibetan momos, these little pockets of heaven have seen many transformations. Filled with meat, veggies and adequately flavoured with aromatics, the succulent wraps are everyone's comfort food. From crab fillings to spinach dumpling skins, you'd be surprised that the city has an array of

dumplings to offer. We scoured around looking for the most unique options available. Siu Mai Siu mai originated in China. Unlike wontons, these deceptively simple dumplings are wrapped but left open-faced and served as dim sum. Traditionally filled with pork and shrimp, dim sums are styled like a flower and served as appetizers. If you do not eat pork, choose from chicken



or fish filling.

Har gow Essentially prepared with minced shrimp meat stuffed inside almost-transparent dumpling skin with multiple pleats. The lump of shrimp mixed with scallions and water chestnuts is sauteed and flavoured with salt, pepper, garlic and sauces of your choice and steamed in a bamboo steamer. Juicy prawns wrapped in succulent wheat wrap — what's not to love?

Momos

These originated in Tibet and migrated to Nepal. Filled with veggies, meat (chicken, mutton, pork) and flavoured with spices, the dumplings are snugly folded and served steamed, fried or pan-fried. Momos are typically served with a red chilli and garlic sauce known as sepen and



chicken or vegetable stock.

Gyoza Dim sum's Japanese counterpart, the gyoza, is a delectable dumpling wrapped in a thin wonton wrapper, filled with finely minced meat, veggies, scallions, celery and served with a dipping sauce. The wrapper of a gyoza is thicker and chewier than other dumplings. Served as steamed fried, deep fried or pan grilled, a platter of gyoza is typically served with a gyoza sauce (made with soya sauce and chilli oil) and salad.

Wontons Some 2000 odd years back, wontons were simply known as dumplings. It was only during 618-912 that it got its name and has been on everyone's mouth ever since. A staple in China, wontons are dumplings filled with meat, fish or shrimp. Here is a variety of wontons available in and around the city — Chinese cabbage and pork wonton, chicken wonton dumpled in clear soup, fried wontons served as appetizers with a puddle of zesty sauce and the classic steamed wontons served alongside. chicken broth or stock.

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NEW DELHI. Naturals Ice Cream founder Raghunandan Kamath has passed away, the dessert maker announced in an X (formerly Twitter) post on Sunday.

The X post shared by the handle @Naturalicecream read: Our thoughts on the sad demise of our patron and founder of Naturals Ice Cream, Late (Shri) Raghunandan Kamath. Indeed a very sad and unfortunate day for us. The ice cream company's official X handle posted a happy picture of Kamath holding a company hologram, clubbed with an obituary note, reading "A smile that will never be forgotten. A smile that will keep inspiring us that his era will never end. To the Ice Cream Man of India, who will forever stay in our hearts and yours".

Oyo withdraws IPO on technical ground, to refile



NEW DELHI. Hospitality firm Oravel Stays Ltd, which operates the brand OYO, has withdrawn its IPO after material changes in its finances. The withdrawal, as per sources, is on technical ground and the IPO papers would be refiled after accounting for material changes in the company's finances. Sources told TNIE the company is planning to refinance its \$450 million loan in the international bond market. "After refinancing of the loan, the interest cost of the company is likely to fall from 14% currently to 8-9%. This would bring material change in the finances of the company.

Investors reject Nestle India's plan to hike royalty to parent

NEW DELHI: Institutional investors of Nestle India have rejected a proposal by the company's board to raise royalty paid to its Switzerland-based parent.

The proposal to increase the royalty fee to company to Societe des Produits Nestle SA to 5.25% of the net sales in a staggered manner over five years from 4.5% per annum currently was rejected by 70.8% of the institutional investors. Votes by institutional investors accounted for 80% of the votes polled on the proposal. Institutional investors hold 21.28% in Nestle, non-institutional investors hold 15.95%. The proposal was to raise royalty to Nestle India's parent from 4.5% of net sales currently to 5.25% in a staggered manner, 0.15% every year over the next five years.

Company spokesperson said they have no comments on the issue. Earlier, proxy advisory firm IiAS had advised shareholders to vote against the proposal. IiAS said since rising revenue compensates the group by way of sales linked royalty, it doesn't approve of a further hike in royalty rates as increased royalty will exceed revenue growth. It said as a good practice, it should have capped royalty payments as a percentage of profits. The proxy advisory firm said the proposed rate of 5.25% is higher than royalty payments by other MNCs in India. "In Indian currency, Nestle India's revenue has grown at a CAGR of 11.5% over last five year. Assuming a growth rate of 12%, aggregate licence fees for next five years comes to Rs 6,090 crore at existing rate of 4.5% of net sales and Rs 6,700 crore at revised rates, an increased payout of Rs 610 crore over five-year period," said IiAS report.

Reliance seeks access to ATF pipelines, storages of PSU oil firms

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries Ltd has sought access to pipelines and storages that public sector oil companies have built over the years for supplying jet fuel (ATF) from depots and oil refineries to airports, as it looks for a larger pie of fuel trade at some of Asia's busiest airports.

Reliance, which produces a fourth of India's aviation turbine fuel (ATF), wants access to storage depots outside the Delhi airport as well as to pipelines leading to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad airports. It currently supplies small volumes of ATF when compared with supplies made by state-owned firms.

The firm made the suggestion in its comments to oil regulator PNGRB's draft regulation calling for supply of ATF in all existing and future airports through pipelines that can be accessed by any supplier so as to bring in competition and cut fuel cost. While the fuel market is open, airplanes at the country's busiest airports are fed by pipelines that were built by state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) over decades.

Reliance, which has been for more than a decade now seeking access to pipelines that supply ATF to airports especially at Mumbai, stated that "the common carrier pipeline scope (which gives third parties access to pipelines built by PSUs) should encompass the associated storage facilities and pumping stations at the 'off-site' oil terminal facilities as they form an integral part of the ATF supply chain." "This will promote a competitive market for supply and distribution of ATF to the airport 'on-site' storage facilities," it said. Out of the 17.12 million tonnes of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) produced by public and private sector refineries, 8.2 million tonnes is consumed within the country and the rest is exported. Reliance's twin refineries at Jamnagar produce close to 5 million tonnes of ATF, a large part of it is exported. ATF demand in India is growing in double digits as more people fly. It rose by 11.8 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

Government should not tamper with balance sheet of RBI: Former RBI governor D Subbaroa

NEW DELHI. In his new book -- Just a Mercenary -- former RBI governor D Subbaroa details his journey from a Sainik School to Mint Road in Mumbai. The book delves into several unknown chapters of India's economic policy making. In an interaction with Dipak Mondal of the New Indian Express, the former RBI governor shares his view on many economic and financial issues facing the country. You are among a long list of IAS officers who ended up heading the RBI. Do you think bureaucrats make good RBI governors?

The RBI over the last 90 years has been served by 25 governors, and they came from different backgrounds. Some were economists, some came from academia, while some were civil servants like Dr (YV) Reddy and me. I don't think you can find a correlation between the background of the governor and his performance if the governor responds to the macroeconomic situation of his time, and delivers the service. Whenever the governor's position falls vacant, I think the government must draw from the entire

available pool and choose the best person, not necessarily driven by a particular background. There have been references in your book about the tussle between the government and the RBI on policy issues. Do you think central bank of a country can function completely free from government intervention?

It should, in theory, function free of interference. And, even if there is interference each of its decision and action should not be influenced by it. The RBI consults all stakeholders in determining its monetary policy. It consults banks, non-banks, financial institutions, farmer bodies, microfinance institutions, and takes view of their suggestions and concerns. Similarly, the RBI also consults the Centre because the government is a big stakeholder.

The RBI should listen to all stakeholders, including the government, with an open mind, but I believe it should act in its best judgment. Now, there are attempts to interfere, influence or criticise the central bank, but that is not unique to India. It happened in other countries as well -- it

happened in Japan, the UK, the US, Brazil, Turkey, and many other countries. But in countries where institutions are not very mature, these tensions or alleged interference might create some problems. In his new book -- Just a Mercenary -- former RBI governor D Subbaroa details his journey from a Sainik School to Mint Road in Mumbai. The book delves into several unknown chapters of India's economic policy making.

In an interaction with Dipak Mondal of the New Indian Express, the former RBI governor shares his view on many economic and financial issues facing the country. You are among a long list of IAS officers who ended up heading the RBI. Do you think bureaucrats make good RBI governors? The RBI over the last 90 years has been served by 25 governors, and they came from different backgrounds. Some were economists, some came from academia, while some were civil servants like Dr (YV) Reddy and me. I don't think you can find a correlation between the background of the governor and his performance if the governor responds to

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Elon Musk arrives in Indonesia's Bali to launch Starlink satellite internet service

INDONESIA. Elon Musk arrived in Indonesia's resort island of Bali on Sunday to launch Starlink satellite internet service in the world's largest archipelago nation. The billionaire head of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of social platform X arrived by private jet on the idyllic "island of the gods".

Musk is slated to launch the service alongside Indonesian President Joko Widodo in a ceremony later Sunday at a public health clinic in Denpasar, the provincial capital of Bali. Musk will also sign an agreement on enhancing connectivity in the country's health and education sectors, said Indonesia's Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, who welcomed Musk at the airport.

Pandjaitan, a close ally of Widodo, did not provide more details about the agreement between the Indonesian government and Musk's SpaceX, the aerospace company that operates



Starlink services. He said launching the service at a health clinic aligns with Starlink's broader mission of providing affordable access to high-speed internet services, particularly in underserved and remote regions.

During his first in-person visit to Bali, Musk is also scheduled to participate in the 10th World Water Forum, which seeks to address global water and sanitation challenges.

Musk spoke in 2022 at the B-20 business

forum ahead of a summit of the Group of 20 leading economies that took place in Bali. He joined the conference by video link weeks after completing his heavily scrutinized takeover of Twitter.

Musk's visit comes just weeks after Apple CEO Tim Cook met Widodo on April 17 and said the company would "look at" manufacturing in Indonesia. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella visited on April 30 and said the company would invest \$1.7 billion over the next four years in new cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure in Indonesia. Indonesia under Widodo has promoted development of the digital technology and information sectors, aiming to achieve the government's Golden Indonesia 2045 Vision. The country hopes to become one of the world's top five economies with a GDP of up to \$9 trillion, exactly a century after it won independence from Dutch colonizers.

Market Drivers in Holiday-shortened Week: Global Cues, Q4 Results, Foreign Investors Trading Activity

NEW DELHI: The last batch of quarterly earnings, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors will guide the equity market movement in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

Volatility may continue amid investors' cautious approach in the election season. Markets will remain closed on Monday due to the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Mumbai.

"We are at the end of Q4 earnings. Positive earnings reports could provide some relief in this uncertain market," said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

US Fed Chair Jerome Powell is scheduled to deliver a speech on Monday, which is likely to influence market sentiments, Gour said.

Furthermore, upcoming economic data releases from Japan and the US, along with movements in the global

currency market, will also be important factors to consider, he added. ONGC, SAIL, BHEL, JK Tyre, One97 Communications, Power Grid, InterGlobe Aviation, ITC and NTPC will announce their quarterly earnings this week. "The outlook for the market will be guided by the major domestic and global economic data, such as India's PMI manufacturing and service data, UK inflation data, US initial jobless claims, S&P global services data and S&P global manufacturing PMI and Q4 corporate results," Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Services Ltd, said. Investors will also keep an eye on the rupee-dollar trend and global oil benchmark Brent crude. "The outlook for the market will be guided by the major domestic and global economic data, such as India's PMI manufacturing and service data, UK inflation data, US initial jobless

claims, S&P global services data and S&P global manufacturing PMI and Q4 corporate results," Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

Investors will also keep an eye on the rupee-dollar trend and global oil benchmark Brent crude. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE conducted a special trading session in the equity and equity derivative segments on May 18 to check their preparedness for handling major disruptions or failures at the primary site. Stock Market Holiday on Monday, May 20 Benchmark Indian equity markets, both BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty, will remain closed on Monday, May 20, on account of Lok Sabha general elections. According to the BSE's website, equity, equity derivatives, and SLB and currency segments will remain closed on Monday.

FPIs withdraw Rs 28,200 crore from Indian equities on poll jitters, attractive Chinese market valuations

The withdrawal was way higher than a net pullout of over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

NEW DELHI: Foreign investors have pulled out a massive Rs 28,200 crore from Indian equities so far this month, owing to uncertainties about the outcome of the general elections and attractive valuations of Chinese markets. The withdrawal was way higher than a net pullout of over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields. Before that, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February. Going forward, there is likely to be a dramatic

change in foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) equity flows in response to election results. Political stability will attract huge inflows in the Indian market, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Following the Lok Sabha elections, FPI inflows into India could strengthen due to three key factors -- potential easing of interest rates by the US Federal Reserve, positive resolutions in global geopolitical tensions and India's increasing weight in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index projected to exceed 20 per cent by mid-2024, said Karthick Jonagadla, smallcase Manager and founder, Quantace Research. According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors experienced a net outflow of Rs 28,242 crore in equities this month (till May 17). There are two main reasons why FPIs have been selling in FY2025. First, there's uncertainty about the general elections. FPIs



generally don't like uncertainty; they prefer to play it safe and lock in the profit they made last year. Second, the market valuations are high, said MojoPMS Chief Investment Officer Sunil Damania. In addition, FPIs are reallocating funds to China and Hong Kong, which are trading at attractive (cheaper) valuations compared to Indian stocks, said Anirudh Naha, CIO-Alternatives of PGIM India Asset Management. On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 178 crore in the debt market during the period under review. "With economic challenges, such as

recessionary pressures and inflationary concerns, along with geopolitical tensions, it's not surprising to see volatility in FPIs. This situation has made investors cautious," Bharat Dhawan, Managing Partner of Mazars in India, said. Before this outflow, foreign investors put in Rs 13,602 crore in March, Rs 22,419 crore in February, and Rs 19,836 crore in January. This inflow was driven by the upcoming inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index. JP Morgan Chase & Co in September last year announced that it will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging market index from June 2024. This landmark inclusion is anticipated to benefit India by attracting around USD 20-40 billion in the subsequent 18 to 24 months. Overall, FPIs withdrew a net amount of Rs 26,000 crore in equities in 2024 so far. However, they invested Rs 45,000 crore in the debt market.

NEWS BOX

Arsenal are not winning Premier League title: Cristiano Ronaldo takes dig

New Delhi, Legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has joked that Arsenal are not going to win the Premier League this season. Speaking to a fan in Riyadh during Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk's bout, Ronaldo said that there was no chance in the world that Arsenal clinch title by erasing the 2-point deficit against Manchester City.

Arsenal are playing Everton in the final game of the season, while Manchester City are playing against West Ham United. Both teams have won five games in a row and it is unlikely that City will drop points in their final match. MARTIN ODEGAARD'S WANTS UN-EMOTIONAL ARSENAL

Arsenal players must not let their emotions get the better of them as they chase the Premier League title into the final day of the season, captain Martin Odegaard said ahead of their match against Everton. Arsenal are two points behind leaders Manchester City going into Sunday's final round of fixtures. The Gunners must win to stay in contention, while City could lift their fourth title in a row if they beat West Ham United.

Arsenal's hopes of ending their 20-year wait for the league title dwindled after City's 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday put the Manchester side at an advantage.

We spoke about it the day after (City went ahead)," Odegaard told TNT Sports. "We have to focus on ourselves, we can't get too emotional about it." "We have one more game, at home, it's the last game of the season and our goal and our task is clear, we have to win that." "We'll see what happens. That's our mindset now, win that last game, give the fans a good last game and we'll see. It's out of our control, we just focus on our game."

The Norwegian midfielder said his side have been amazing this season. "We've taken good steps and I feel like we're a much better team compared to last season," he added.

"We've had some really good games, some good results, and we are now there until the last day, to push for it."

Italian Open 2024: Iga Swiatek thumps Aryna Sabalenka to win third title in Rome

New Delhi, Iga Swiatek beat Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-3 to win her third Italian Open title on Saturday as the Pole came out on top once again in a battle between the top two in the women's rankings following her Madrid Open triumph earlier this month. The title was the 21st of Swiatek's career as the world number one extended her unbeaten run to 12 matches on clay to sound out a warning to her rivals ahead of this month's French Open where she is a three-time winner and the defending champion.

"After Madrid I knew it would not be easy. It can always go both ways," 22-year-old Swiatek said. "Thank you (Sabalenka) for sharing the court with me and pushing me to be better." Swiatek broke Sabalenka twice in the first set where the Belarusian conceded 12 unforced errors in a lopsided start to the match. Sabalenka fought back, reaching five break points in a bid to lead 2-0 in the second, but Swiatek held her own serve.

I will come back stronger next year

Sabalenka failed to break again with Swiatek holding her nerve to save two break points on her next serve. The set progressed to 3-3 before the Pole broke twice, ensuring her victory in the tournament without dropping a set. "I love this tournament... I'll come back stronger next year and hopefully win the trophy," Sabalenka said as she congratulated Swiatek. "I hope we make it to the final at Roland Garros and I will get you there."

Ruturaj Gaikwad has got the hallmarks of MS Dhoni: CSK coach Eric Simons

New Delhi, CSK bowling coach Eric Simons said that Ruturaj Gaikwad has the hallmarks of MS Dhoni and has all the qualities to shine as the skipper of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise. On Saturday, May 18, the Super Kings crashed out of IPL 2024 after losing to RCB by 27 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. A day before the start of the tournament, the 42-year-old Dhoni handed over the mantle of captaincy to Gaikwad, who has been with the team since the 2020 edition. He had his ups and downs as he agonisingly fell short of taking his team through to the playoffs in the



cash-rich league. CSK bowling coach Eric Simons said that Ruturaj Gaikwad has the hallmarks of MS Dhoni and has all the qualities to shine as the skipper of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise. On Saturday, May 18, the Super Kings crashed out of IPL 2024 after losing to RCB by 27 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. A day before the start of the tournament, the 42-year-old Dhoni handed over the mantle of captaincy to Gaikwad, who has been with the team since the 2020 edition. He had his ups and downs as he agonisingly fell short of taking his team through to the playoffs in the cash-rich league. Against RCB, CSK needed to score 201 runs to book their berth in the playoffs while chasing 219. Rachin Ravindra scored 61 runs off 37 balls with 5 fours and 3 sixes, but his efforts went in vain. Gaikwad was arguably the standout batter for CSK in the tournament.

Accidental' shooter Sarabjot on course to Paris Olympics

BHOPAL. He calls himself an accidental shooter. If anything, Sarabjot Singh's life resembles that of blackjack, a game of chance. Shooting is no doubt a game of skills but until he started, it was not even part of his lexicon. The 22-year-old had no inkling about the sport until the Summer of 2016 when he was 16. His friends joined a Summer Camp in school and he was tempted to follow them. Until then, Sarabjot was dabbling with football. In fact, sport was not a meaningful pursuit for him. "Some of my friends joined shooting and I wanted to join them," he told his daily after topping the Olympic Shooting Trial (T4 qualification round) at the MP Shooting Academy here on Saturday. With the day's outcome, he has virtually sealed a Paris berth in the men's 10m air pistol category. Sarabjot's father, a farmer in a village (Dhin) near Ambala, did not agree with the son and naturally said no. But fortunately for Sarabjot, the school chairman encouraged him to join shooting. "That changed my life," he said.

"I am an accidental shooter," Sarabjot confessed. "I started to shoot in 2016 in school during a camp. My friends were shooting and I wanted to join them. But my father did not agree. Then the chairman of the school asked me to shoot. Then I won a silver medal in a district competition. After that, I started to take the sport seriously."

The next big task was finding a coach. It was not easy either. Sarabjot's uncle then spoke to him about coach Abhishek Rana, who is



considered very good.

"I went to Abhishek sir and I have been training with him for the last eight years. I won a bronze medal in the youth nationals. In 2019, I won my first international medal in the junior World Cup. In 2021, I graduated to seniors and the initial stages were not good... but here I am now." Coming from a family of farmers, Sarabjot knows how to work on the field. Till February, he did not even own a car. "I used to commute on a bus or other modes of transport that was convenient for me," he said. Around 6.30 AM, his father used to drop him off at the bus stand and he used to commute for 45-50

minutes to reach the centre. He would spend the whole day there before returning in the evening. "Sarabjot used to take a bus to the centre from Dhin and then take the bus back. He used to have home-cooked food and his mother used to pack lunch for him. Food is important for a sports person and that helped him do well," Abhishek said. Now he owns a car, thanks to the prize money he got from various sources.

Sarabjot, who earned the quota for the country last year, felt competition in India is much tougher. "It's tougher in India than abroad," he said. "Here you have to shoot somewhere above 580 and hope you win. But abroad, it

is different — 570 or so is good. There is pressure in the trials and this is the case for every athlete. And most think about how to win a quota or top the table. However, my focus was to improve my technique. But I felt some pressure in the last series. It was not there the whole time but I think that was natural." To calm the mind, he has a psychologist. "Shivam sir is there and I have been working with him for the last year or so," he said. That helps him to calm him down to recover mentally as well.

There is no one in the team that he looks up to. But outside, he talks about Abhinav Bindra quite reverentially. "He (Bindra) is the only one. I had met him during an event and what he said I liked," said Sarabjot. "Someone asked a question to him 'what is that zone in shooting?'. He said there is no such thing as a shooting zone or anything. Then I realised that in shooting, there was nothing called a zone. Earlier, I thought there was a 'shooting zone'!" he said, accompanied by a laugh.

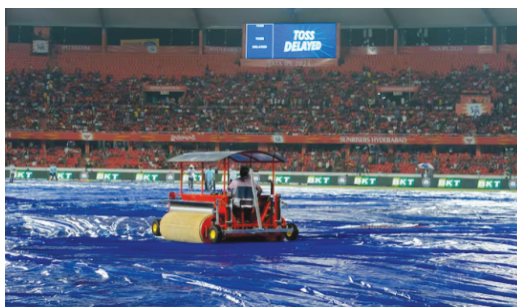
The 22-year-old has a slew of support staff working with him too. He has a trainer to look after his fitness, a physio and a psychologist all provided by Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ). "Now, I will take some rest, then will go to the Munich World Cup and then go to France," he said.

The coach also shared a few words on his ward and their training rituals too. "Earlier, there used to be more tours but now we have changed a bit. We train in Ambala more. Our earlier routine was quite successful.

SRH vs PBKS: Rain-threat looms in Hyderabad as Cummins' and Co. push for top 2

New Delhi, SRH take on PBKS in their final match of the group stage in the Indian Premier League 2024. SRH are currently placed in the 3rd position in the points table and are aiming for a top 2 finish. It is crucial for the Pat Cummins side to finish in the top 2 as it gives them an added cushion in the playoffs stage. However, the Hyderabad weather might prove to be a hindrance for the team in the day game. SRH's previous match against GT was also washed off due to the weather. While the 1 point helped SRH qualify, it also took crucial game-time away at the final stage of the tournament. The weather in Hyderabad has been pleasant over the last few days and it is expected to be the same on Sunday, 19 May. However, chances of

showers in the afternoon could either curtail the game or depending on the intensity, wash out the match as well. The Sunrisers, led by Pat Cummins, have been



one of the feared teams in IPL 2024, especially due to their aggressive brand of cricket. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma

have laid down the marker by going hammer and tongs in their powerplay. If SRH win their last league game, they will give themselves a chance to finish in the top 2.

IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Schedule | Their opponents, PBKS, have nothing to lose from their last game. Being already knocked out of the competition, the Kings will be aiming to bag a victory and bow out on a high.

SRH vs PBKS: Head-to-Head

The Sunrisers and the Kings have faced each other 22 times since they first met back in 2013. SRH have dominated their opponents with a 15-7 lead. SRH beat PBKS by 2 runs in their previous meeting on April 9 in Mullanpur.

MS Dhoni knows what he is going to do: CSK coach Eric Simons on retirement speculations

Eric Simons opined on MS Dhoni's retirement speculations

➔ Dhoni scored 25 runs off 13 balls against RCB on Saturday

➔ CSK failed to make their way through to the playoffs

New Delhi, CSK bowling coach Eric Simons opened up on the speculations surrounding the retirement of MS Dhoni in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Talks about whether Dhoni would bid goodbye to the IPL or return to play, maybe, one more season, have been doing the rounds. Nearing the age of 43, Dhoni is yet to drop any hint as to what his plans are. On Saturday, May 18, Dhoni played his last game in IPL 2024 after the Super Kings failed to make their way through to the playoffs following their 27-run defeat at the hands of RCB. Simons, however, said that Dhoni will take a call on his future and also heaped praise on him for wielding the willow to good effect.

"Anybody who wants to speculate about his future, it's going to be crazy. MS knows



what he is going to do. I have seen him hit the ball from the pre-tournament camps to now as well I have seen him hit it for many years. So, he is playing extremely well and he'll make a decision. But he is a fantastic guy to be around. He's an incredible cricketer and individual in terms of his understanding of cricket and life," Simons said in the post-match press conference. Dhoni had an impressive season with the bat as he scored 161 runs from 11 innings at an average of 53.66 and a strike-rate of 220.54 with 13 sixes to his name.

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

Schedule

'Incredible self-belief'

In the game against RCB, CSK needed to score 201 runs to qualify for the playoffs while chasing 219. Dhoni kept the Super Kings in the hunt by scoring 25 runs off 13 balls with 3 fours and 1 six. With CSK 17 runs away from qualification before the last over, Dhoni spanked Yash Dayal for a 110-metre six, keeping his team in the hunt.

But once he got out on the second ball of the over, CSK failed to carry on his good work. Although Dhoni could not finish it off against RCB, Simons lauded the veteran for putting his hands up in a crisis.

"There are so many memories of MS Dhoni. The knocks that he plays get you out of trouble. With your backs to the wall when he's at the wicket, you just don't stop believing. He can win it for you and one of the things he brings to the group is incredible self-belief." But he has a very simple structure and understanding of the game and that's one of the things that lot of cricketers strive for. He does, and he helps guys with that sort of information and knowledge. It's not to play like MS but understand your game, and that's where MS is tremendous," Simons added.

MS Dhoni's 110-metre 6 best thing to happen: Dinesh Karthik jokes after RCB beat CSK

New Delhi, Dinesh Karthik showed his humorous side, saying that MS Dhoni's 110-metre six helped RCB beat CSK in the IPL 2024 match on Saturday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Although the Super Kings were asked to chase down 219, they needed 201 runs to hold on to their fourth spot and qualify for the playoffs.

With CSK 17 runs short of a playoff berth before the last over, Dhoni hit Yash Dayal out of the park. Dayal bowled a hip-high full toss on leg stump and Dhoni pulled the ball out of his sight. But Dayal made amends on the second ball with a slower delivery that got the better of Dhoni. From there on, Dayal found his mojo as RCB defeated CSK by 27 runs to qualify for the playoffs. In an inspiring



dress room speech, Karthik said that Dayal found it easy to bowl with the replaced ball after Dhoni's humongous blow.

"The best thing to happen today was Dhoni hitting that six outside the ground, and we got a new ball, which was much better to bowl with," Karthik said. Yash, that was good bowling. When in doubt, always bowl a hip-high full toss on leg stump. Wherever he is, it's a good mantra to follow when the ball is wet," Karthik joked.

People will remember this team'

Karthik also lauded RCB for making an incredible turnaround. The Challengers once found themselves at the bottom of the table as they were on a 6-match losing streak. But from there on, Farf du Plessis' men won 6 matches in a row and turned their fortunes around. "Jokes apart, we should be really proud of the journey we are having. People will always remember certain journeys. The way we have come back after 8 games, winning 6 games, people will remember this team for a very very long time," Karthik added.

Oleksandr Usyk beats Tyson Fury to become undisputed heavyweight champ

➔ Oleksandr Usyk scored a razor-thin split decision over Tyson Fury to become undisputed heavyweight boxing world champion in a thrilling contest at the Kingdom Arena in Riyadh in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Riyadh, Oleksandr Usyk scored a razor-thin split decision over Tyson Fury to become undisputed heavyweight boxing world champion in a thrilling contest at the Kingdom Arena in Riyadh in the early hours of Sunday morning. Dwarfed by his enormous opponent, Usyk had to weather a



storm in the middle of the fight but he came roaring back, forcing Fury to take a standing count in the ninth round as he blazed his way to victory. The 37-year-old Ukrainian is the first boxer to hold all four major heavyweight belts at the same time and the

first undisputed champ since the end of Lennox Lewis' reign in April 2000. Usyk got the better of the opening rounds before Fury hit his stride in the fourth, engaging in some showmanship as he started to catch Usyk with vicious body shots, but the Ukrainian

battled back with several stinging reminders of his power. Usyk turned the tide in the eighth round and few would have been surprised had the referee stopped the fight in the ninth as the Ukrainian's powerful punches to the head left Fury reeling.

The previously undefeated Briton managed to hang on until the bell but he struggled through the final three rounds of the fight as Usyk chased him down to edge him out on the judges' scorecards. Thank you so much... It's a big opportunity for me, for my family, for my country... It's a great time, it's a great day," a tearful Usyk said in a post-fight interview in the ring, adding that he would grant Fury an immediate rematch.

In the co-main event, Australia's Jai Opetaia won a unanimous decision over Mairis Briedis of Latvia to win the vacant IBF cruiserweight title, and Ireland's Anthony Cacace scored a TKO win over Joe Cordina of Wales to retain his IBO super-featherweight title and claim the IBF belt.

Nora Fatehi

Looks Sultry Lounging By A Pool In Bodycon Dress

Nora Fatehi is a well-known actress who rose to prominence due to her stellar career as an actress and dancer in Bollywood. In 2018, she starred in the blockbuster music video *Dilbar*, which has over one billion views on YouTube and has provided her with additional opportunities to showcase her ability. Ever since then, the actress never fails to serve glamorous looks and up her fashion game with every appearance. On Saturday, Nora took to her Instagram handle to drop a hot video of herself lounging by a pool. She wore a bright pink bodycon dress and flaunted her curves by the poolside. Check out the video here:

Having gained immense popularity as a dancing diva with *Dilbar*, *Kusu*, *Kamariya*, and *O Saki Saki*, among many others, Nora Fatehi is now on the road to carving a niche for herself as an actor. Last month, she was seen headlining Kunal Kemmu's directorial debut, *Madgaon Express*, along with Divyendu, Pratik Gandhi and Avinash Tiwary. The film opened to rave reviews and has been doing exceptionally well at the box office.

Nora, of Moroccan descent, was born in Canada and landed in Mumbai many years back to try her luck in the movies. She has often spoken about coming to India with just Rs 5000 in her pocket and how she was mocked at auditions for not knowing Hindi.

Eventually, she decided to quit films but as luck would have it, she has become a sensation today. Recently, in an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, she said that she plans to adapt her life for the screen. She told us, "I have a story, and one day, I would want to make a documentary and talk about how this random girl named Nora belonging to the most random place in the world and who's not even Indian came to Bollywood, assimilated, learned the language and broke barriers. She acted in a bunch of films with some good actors. People told her that she won't be able to make it but she made it happen and became a global star. This is my story. I think my life is documentary-worthy."



Rakhi Sawant's Tumour Surgery 'Successful'; Ex-Husband Ritesh Says 'Abhi Hosh Nahi Aaya'



The internet was abuzz on Tuesday night as photos of actress Rakhi Sawant in a hospital circulated on social media, causing quite a stir. Following this, it was reported that Rakhi Sawant had a tumour in her uterus. As she had her surgery on Saturday, her ex-husband Ritesh Singh has now confirmed that the operation went well while addressing the media. In a video that was shared by the popular paparazzo handle Viral Bhayani, Ritesh Singh shared, "Abhi Rakhi ji ki health kaafi achhi hai. Main surgery successful rahi. Halaki tumour kaafi bada hai, abhi tak woh hosh mein nahi aayin hai. Operation theatre mein unko 3 ghante ke liye rakhe the. Kaafi bada operation tha aur tumour kaafi bada tha."

He proceeds to show the blurred picture of the tumour on his phone, "Kuch log bohot hass rahe the. Main bolta hu aise logo mein insaniyat nahi hai jo dussro ke dard ko mazaak samajhte ho. Aap dekhiye ye tumour kitna bada hai. Rakhi, you don't worry, we'll take care of you but still kuch jaahil log Jo abhi bhi media mein tarah tarah ke bayanbaazi kar rahe hai, Rakhi ko defame karne ki koshish kar rahe, main unko bata du ki aapki ulti ginti bohot jaldi shuru hojayege. Maarne wala bachane wala eshwar hai aur jo doshi log hai, unko bohot jaldi salakho ke peeche bhi bhejenge. Aur jitne bhi jhund ke log hai, abhi bhi mauka hai, nikal lo patli gully se nahi toh tumhara bhi jaana taye hai," he concluded. Earlier in the day, Ritesh, known for his appearance on 'Bigg Boss 15', posted a video of Rakhi Sawant on social media just before her surgery. The footage showed Rakhi seated in a wheelchair, with a drip attached to her hand, dressed in hospital attire. In his post, Ritesh had revealed his concern for his ex-wife. He wrote, "Dil ro raha hai, dar bhi lag raha hai but mujhe upar Wale par vishwas hai ke Mera bura nahi karege. Rakhi je operation theatre me jarahi hai. Wahapni mako mis kr rhi hai and logo ko vote kame ke request ke hai."

Nikki Tamboli's Racy Video In Backless Crop Top, Slit Skirt Is All Things Hot



Bigg Boss 14 fame Nikki Tamboli's latest Instagram photos are very, very sexy! The 27-year-old actress-model has fans buzzing as she went bold for a very racy photo shoot. Nikki, who is known for flaunting her enviable figure in sexy bikinis and other bold outfits, shared a video on Saturday from her latest shoot. Talking to her Instagram handle, Nikki captioned the video, "Keeping it real since 1996..." In the sexy video, Nikki can be seen showing off her hot curves as she strikes a series of sensuous poses wearing a black crop top with a matching slit skirt. The video went viral in no time, with Nikki's fans drooling over her sexy look.

Nikki Tamboli is no stranger to turning heads! The former Bigg Boss 14 contestant frequently grabs attention for her bold fashion statements. She recently caused a stir online with a glamorous photo showcasing her impeccable fashion sense. Have a look at the hot photos here:

In an exclusive interview with News18 Showsha, Nikki spoke about how she is glad that people are starting to see her beyond her looks. "Earlier, I had to skimmish the stereotype of primarily being more of a pretty face. Filmmakers and producers are grasping at the fact that I'm a lot more than that," Nikki told us. "Slowly and steadily, all thanks to the work opportunities I've been bestowed with, I've been able to paint the fact that there's a lot of finesse in my craft as a performing artist. I'm glad that the people in the industry who matter are acknowledging the performer in me and are bringing work offers to me accordingly," she added.

Janhvi Kapoor

Recalls Being 'Sexualised' By The Media At The Age Of 12-13; Here's What She Said

Janhvi Kapoor is preparing for the release of the sports drama 'Mr and Mrs Mahi'. In a recent discussion featured on the official YouTube channel of Dharma Productions, she was joined by co-star Rajkumar Rao and producer Karan Johar. During the conversation, Janhvi spoke candidly about being 'sexualized' at a very young age. When Karan inquired about Janhvi's response to the persistent objectification she experiences, she replied, "I feel like this is also an aspect that I have been navigating for a long time. I think the first time I felt sexualized by the media was when I was 12-13 years old. I went for an event with mom and dad. There were pictures of me in the media and social media had just started. I found pictures of me in what seemed like a pornographic site, and boys in my school were like looking at it and laughing. Janhvi added, "It is a very weird thing to navigate and I have been navigating it for a very long time. I think I am very apologetic about where I come from and I need to get over that. I am sure other people deal with it in a much more different sense. I still think the way I am explaining it and my experiences of it are very privileged. But it was complicated... There is a sort of character assassination that a girl faces when she dresses in a way that makes it seem like she is comfortable with her sexuality."

Directed by Sharan Sharma, known for his debut with 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl' (2020), 'Mr And Mrs Mahi' will mark Janhvi Kapoor's fourth theatrical release, following *Dhadak* (2018), *Roohi* (2021), and *Mili* (2022). She is set to star in two more films this year, the political thriller 'Ulajh' and the Pan India project 'Devara' alongside Jr NTR and Saif Ali Khan. For Rajkumar Rao, after 'Srikanth' and 'Mr And Mrs Mahi,' his upcoming 2024 releases include 'Street 2' and 'Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video'. In an interview with Mid-Day, Janhvi had earlier revealed that she underwent a grueling six months of intensive training in order to adapt to the mannerisms of a cricketer for 'Mr and Mrs Mahi'. The actress had said, "It was an exhaustive process of six months to get into the skin of the character and sync into the role."

