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18 killed as mini goods vehicle plunges into valley in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham

Sanjay Kumar Kawardha, May 20: Seventeen women and a man were killed and four others injured when a mini goods vehicle they were travelling in plunged into a valley in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district on Monday, police said. The accident occurred around 1.45 pm on Banjari Ghat near Bahpani village under Kukdur police station limits, an official said. The victims were returning after plucking tendu leaves from a forest in the vehicle meant for transporting goods, he said. The vehicle skidded off the road, tumbled down considerably and crashed onto the road below the valley, the official said. After being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot and launched the rescue, the official said. "Twelve women and a man were killed on the spot, while nine others sustained injuries and were shifted to a hospital, where five women died," Kabirdham Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said. The remaining four injured persons, including three women, were referred for further treatment, he said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai consoled the deaths and instructed the district administration to provide the best possible medical assistance to the injured. "Learnt about the tragic accident in which 18 villagers died and four were injured after a pickup vehicle overturned near Bahpani village in Kabirdham district. Necessary instructions have been given to the district administration to provide better treatment to the injured."

Lok Sabha election 2024 Phase-5 : Around 65% voter turnout till amid sporadic violence

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, May 20: Over 47 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 3 pm on Monday in 49 constituencies in six states and two Union Territories in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections amid sporadic incidents of violence in West Bengal and poll boycott in a village of Uttar Pradesh. EVM glitches were also reported in some booths of Odisha and West Bengal. While Maharashtra recorded the lowest voter turnout till 3 pm with 38.77 per cent voters exercising their franchise, West Bengal recorded the highest voting percentage of 62.72. Among other states Bihar recorded 45.33 per cent turnout, Jammu and Kashmir 44.90 per cent, Jharkhand 53.90 per cent, Odisha 48.95 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 47.55 per cent and Ladakh 61.26. According to the Election Commission, the approximate polling percentage recorded at 3 pm was 47.53. Scattered incidents of violence marred the polls in seven parliamentary con-

stituencies of West Bengal where TMC and BJP workers clashed in various parts of Barrackpore, Bongaon, and Arambagh seats. The poll panel said it has received 1,036 complaints from different political parties alleging EVM malfunctioning and agents being stopped from entering booths. Clashes broke out between supporters of TMC and BJP in Khanakul area of Arambagh constituency. In neighbouring Hooghly constituency, BJP sitting MP and party candidate Lockett Chatterjee faced protests from TMC activists led by TMC MLA Ashima Patra. As Chatterjee was on her way to a booth, TMC activists staged protests and shouted "Chor Chor (thief thief) slogans" following which the BJP MP got down from her car and shouted slogans against them. A huge police and central forces contingent rushed to the spot and stopped the two groups. Violence was also reported from various parts of Howrah constituency. In the Liluah area of Howrah, the BJP accused TMC workers of booth jamming leading to clashes between both groups. The central police forces rushed to the area and dispersed them. In Bongaon constituency's Gayeshpur area, local BJP leader Subir Biswas was allegedly beaten by TMC supporters outside a booth. He was later shifted to hospital. In the Kalyani area of the same constituency, Union Minister and BJP candidate Shantanu Thakur caught a person using the identity card of his rival TMC candidate Biswasjit Das inside a polling booth. The person was later removed from the booth by central forces. TMC workers also staged protests in some areas following allegations that central forces were assisting BJP workers for allegedly intimidating voters at some booths of Hooghly. In Uttar Pradesh, the Congress claimed EVM malfunctioning and accused the BJP of not allowing people to cast votes in three booths in Bela Khara village in Rahi block. In a post on X, the Uttar Pradesh unit of the Congress, said, "Booth number 5, Rasulpur in Sareni in Rae Bareilly is closed since 8 am (and) voters are going back. So this is how (the target of) 400 (seats) will be crossed!" Samajwadi Party candidate from Gonda constituency Shreya Verma complained to the Election Commission that fair polling is not taking place at booth numbers 180 and 181 in the Mankapur area.



School timings changed in Himachal after heat wave alert in 8 districts

Shimla/Dharamshala/Bilaspur, May 20: The Directorate of Higher Education in Himachal Pradesh on Monday ordered change in school timings for places in the lower hills after a heat wave alert for several districts. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a heat wave alert for eight out of 12 districts, barring Shimla, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti. The heat wave has also left the political leaders in quandary as they are unable to move out during the daytime for campaigning across the state, which goes to polls on June 1 in the last phase of Lok Sabha elections. Amarjeet Sharma, Director, Higher Education department said that instruction has been issued for adjusting the class timings from 7.30 am to 1 pm in the schools in Kangra, Hamirpur, Una, Bilaspur, Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh area of Solan, and Poanta Sahib and Nahan in Sirmour district. In a notification issued on Monday, Sharma said that these areas are experiencing unprecedented rise in the maximum temperature up to 45 degrees Celsius and students are facing difficulties due to the harsh weather conditions. Meanwhile, Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa also announced that classes will now start at 7.30 am and end at 1 pm. The new timings will apply to all sub-divisions of Kangra district, except Dharamshala, Baijnath, Jaisinghpur, and Palampur and will remain in effect until further notice, he said. Additionally, schools have been advised to avoid any outdoor activities during this period and ensure proper drinking water availability for students, Bairwa said. In Bilaspur district, the opening and closing time of schools has been changed. Classes will now be conducted from 8 am to 2 pm, Bilaspur Deputy Commissioner Abid Hussain Sadiq said in a notification in this regard. The new system will come into effect from Tuesday. Besides, Bilaspur regional manager of Himachal Road Transport Corporation has also been requested to reschedule the bus timings for the convenience of students and teachers. Most parts of the state on Sunday reeled under scorching heat as maximum temperatures stayed three to six degrees Celsius above the season's normal. Una was the hottest in the state on Sunday with the maximum temperature reaching 44.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Neri recording 44 degrees Celsius, Bilaspur 42.4 degrees Celsius, Dhaula Kuan 41.9 degrees Celsius, Sundernagar 40.3 degrees Celsius, Berthi 40.2 degrees Celsius and Kangra 40 degrees Celsius. The meteorological centre in Shimla on Sunday issued a yellow alert for heat wave for the next four days. The prolonged heat wave can lead to increased hospital admissions for heat-related illnesses, cardiovascular and respiratory disorders, and various heat stress conditions, such as heat stroke, according to doctors.

Govt announces state mourning on May 21 for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi

New Delhi, May 20: A one-day state mourning will be observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, the Union Home Ministry has announced. The national flag will be flown at half-mast on all buildings where it is regularly flown across India and there will be no official entertainment during the period of state mourning. The Iranian president, the country's foreign minister and several other officials were found dead on Monday, hours after their helicopter crashed in a foggy, mountainous region of the country's northwest, Iran state media reported. A home ministry spokesperson said Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Hossein Amit-Abdollahian, the country's foreign minister, passed away in a helicopter crash. "As a mark of respect to the departed dignitaries, the government of India has decided that there will be one day's state mourning on May 21 (Tuesday) throughout India," the spokesperson said. "On the day of mourning, the national flag will be flown at half-mast throughout India on all buildings where the national flag is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment on the day," the official added.

Gujarat ATS arrests 4 Sri Lankan nationals with IS links

Navdeep Singh Sahni Ahmedabad, May 20: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested four Sri Lankans with links to the banned outfit Islamic State (IS) who were allegedly on a mission to carry out terror activities in India, police said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the ATS apprehended the accused at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel airport here after they travelled from Sri Lanka's capital Colombo via Chennai on Sunday night, an official said. The men travelled to India to carry out terror activities at the behest of IS, Director General of Police Vikas Sahay said. The ATS team also recovered three Pakistan-made pistols and 20 cartridges lying abandoned at a location in the city's Nana Chiloda area based on geo-coordinates and photographs found on the mobile phone seized from the accused, Sahay said. The men were allegedly directed by their

Pakistani handler to collect these weapons, he said. The accused, Mohammad Nusrat (35), Mohammad Faarukh (35), Mohammad Nafran (27) and Mohammad Rasdeen (43), took a flight from Colombo and reached Chennai in the wee hours of Sunday. They then took another flight to Ahmedabad, where they landed around 8 pm on Sunday, the official said. The men informed investigators that they were earlier associated with the banned Sri Lankan

radical militant outfit, National Thowheeth Jamath (NTJ), and joined IS after getting in touch with Pakistani handler Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi, he said. They are members of IS radicalised by a leader from Sri Lanka who is living in Pakistan, Sahay told reporters. "They got in touch with Abu (the IS leader in Pakistan) in February this year and remained in contact with him through social media and were completely radicalised by the ideology," he said. Their leader ordered them to carry out terrorist activities in India, to which they agreed, and even showed readiness to carry out suicide bombings, Sahay said. The men were paid Rs 4 lakh in Sri Lankan currency to carry out the activities, he said. The mobile phones recovered from the accused had photographs and documents showing their association with IS, and an IS flag was also recovered from their bag, and two such flags were recovered from the abandoned parcel containing weapons, the official said.



BJP to score big in South, NDA will cross 400: PM Modi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Bhubaneswar, May 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that the BJP will emerge as the single largest party in the south, as he remained unwaveringly confident that his NDA alliance will cross 400 seats in Lok Sabha when election results come out on June 4. "Our strategy for the entire nation is the same. Phir ek baar modi sarkar. Aur chaar June 400 paar," Modi said in an interview to PTI Videos on Sunday night. Modi said his opponents have created a myth that the BJP has no strength or presence in the southern states. "Look at 2019 elections. The largest party even then in the south was BJP. Again, I say this: the largest party in the south this time will be BJP, and its allies will add more (seats) to it," he added. "We will be the single largest party in Southern India and by an even bigger margin than the

last time. "We have seen a jump in mind-share already. We will see a big jump in seat share and vote share for us across the region," Modi said. Southern India accounts for 131 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats. In the outgoing House, the BJP has

ple in sections of the media and politics in Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and even in Delhi," Modi said. Recalling how using a presentation a few years ago he had delved into development deficit in Eastern India in great detail, Modi said the NDA government was specifically working to empower this region. As a result, in the last decade, the region has seen the difference that a BJP government, an NDA government can make, he added. "The so-called 'red corridor' will become a 'saffron corridor' in these elections." The prime minister said all assessments of the past phases of the elections show that the NDA is in "pole position" and the Congress along with its INDI alliance partners is struggling to even open its account in some states. "The blessings of the people will take us to a record-breaking mandate. We will see more seats from all parts of the country, particularly from the south and the east," he added.



Why Rae Bareilly and Amethi may become turning points in India's politics

Naresh Malhotra Chandigarh, May 20: Interestingly, a key focus of phase-5 Lok Sabha election remained on two constituencies — Amethi and Rae Bareilly—in battleground Uttar Pradesh. While there were around 144 contestants in the fray on Monday, media attention remained centred around Union Minister Smriti Irani in Amethi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Rae Bareilly. The two constituencies were watched closely as, according to political observers, results from Amethi and Rae Bareilly had the potential to become "major turning points in the political history of not just Uttar Pradesh but perhaps the entire country". Though he seems to have a "safe bet" in the form of Wayanad in Kerala, the fate of Rahul Gandhi, who lost Amethi to BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019 Lok Sabha election, in Rae Bareilly is being watched closely. Likewise, all eyes are on whether Smriti is able to retain Amethi against the long-time Gandhi family confi-

dant KL Sharma—the man who has been managing election campaigns of the fam-

Congress save the last bastion and will Priyanka Vadra, who has been campaign-



ing extensively in the two constituencies, prove her worth as an effective campaigner. Or will the BJP be able to snatch another family borough—Rae Bareilly—this time as well. In 2014 Lok Sabha elec-

Kangana Ranaut's carcade 'pelted with stones' in Lahaul-Spiti's Kaz

Mandi/Shimla, May 20: Congress workers on Monday showed black flags to BJP candidate from Mandi parliamentary constituency Kangana Ranaut at Kaza in Lahaul and Spiti district. She was accompanied by Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur and BJP candidate from Lahaul and Spiti Assembly Ravi Thakur and other local leaders. Upon reaching Kaza, the Bollywood actress had to face agitated Congress workers who raised "Kangana Ranaut go back" slogan at a rally. Former CM Jai Ram Thakur alleged that one person was injured after Congress workers pelted stones at the carcade of Kangana. A clash also took place between Congress workers and BJP workers, he said. Thakur condemned the act of Congress workers and raised fingers on the functioning of local authorities. He said when the BJP had already taken permission for a public meeting at Kaza, then why the Congress was allowed to take out a protest rally close to the venue of BJP meeting.

The protesters not only created disturbance at our function but also pelted Kangana carcade with stones, Thakur claimed. He said this has happened for the first time in Himachal that stones were pelted at the carcade of a candidate during poll campaigning. Keylong DSP Rajkumar said that no formal complaint was received yet from the BJP in this regard. We have asked them to provide digital evidence, if any, and action will be taken accordingly, he added. Meanwhile, the BJP filed a complaint to the ECI regarding the attack on a party worker while terming it as a "premeditated plan" of the Congress. In its complaint, the saffron party also sought enhancement of security protocol at political events. Blaming the district administration for the incident, the BJP termed the showing of flags to the procession of Mandi candidate Kangana Ranaut and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur as a 'life threatening' attack by Congress workers, putting to risk the lives of participants at the BJP rally.

Karnataka: Murder victim Anjali's sister survives suicide attempt

HUBBALLI: Days after Anjali Ambiger, 20, was brutally murdered by a youth at her residence in Hubballi, her younger sister Yashodha, 18, tried to commit suicide by consuming toilet liquid cleaner late Saturday night. She was rushed to KIMS hospital for treatment where doctors who treated her said she is out of danger.

On Saturday, during a mass protest held to condemn the gruesome murder of Anjali in Hubballi, Yashoda took ill and was taken back to her residence on Veerapura Street. Later in the night, she consumed phenol and collapsed on the ground. Some family members and neighbours shifted her to the hospital. Yashoda has been the voice of the family ever since her sister was stabbed to death by the accused Vishwanath alias Girish Sawant.

Yashodha, a witness to the murder of her sister, has been demanding severe punishment for Sawant ever since Anjali's murder took place. She had also given a statement to the media in which she accused the police of negligence. She said the family members had approached Bendigeri Police Station after Sawant had threatened to kill Anjali at her residence. This matter was allegedly taken lightly by the police and no complaint was filed. After the murder, the police suspended a woman constable and an inspector of Bendigeri Police Station. On Sunday, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP leader Aravind Bellad called on the family members of Anjali. Meanwhile, Lingayat seers have been demanding suitable compensation for the family which is poor.

Liquid nitrogen paan puts hole in 12-year-old's stomach, surgery done

Liquid nitrogen poses significant health risks and when it evaporates in an enclosed space, it generates a tremendous amount of force.

BENGALURU: In a reminder of the hidden dangers behind trendy foods, a 12-year-old girl was hospitalised in HSR Layout after consuming a liquid nitrogen-infused paan at a wedding reception in Bengaluru recently.

The hospital diagnosed her condition as perforation peritonitis a hole in the stomach. The patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy with intraoperative OGD scopy, where an endoscope was used to examine the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum. During the surgery, an unhealthy patch measuring approximately 4x5 cm was found on the lesser curvature of the stomach.

A sleeve gastrectomy was performed and a portion of the stomach was removed. Following the surgery, the patient was admitted for two days in the ICU and was discharged after a six-day stay at the hospital. Dr Vijay HS, Operating Surgeon, Surgical Gastroenterology, at Narayana Multispeciality Hospital, said multiple such cases have been reported from various parts of the country and it is crucial to take these isolated incidents seriously before they become a pattern. They point to inherent risks associated with experimental culinary practices and the need for safety measures.

Liquid nitrogen poses significant health



risks and when it evaporates in an enclosed space, it generates a tremendous amount of force. This volatile substance can damage the skin and pose severe health threats to chefs and other food handlers. Inhaling the vapours can cause breathing difficulties, and there have been reports of tissue damage due to the hazardous nature of liquid nitrogen, a health expert explained.

No ban on liquid nitrogen in Karnataka yet

In April, the Tamil Nadu health department issued an order stating that the liquid nitrogen must be entirely evaporated from

food or beverages before serving. The directive was issued after a boy reportedly suffered a severe stomach pain and developed complications after consuming "smoke biscuits" at an exhibition in Davangere.

While a senior official from the Karnataka health department had earlier told TNIE that the department has asked the food safety officers to take action on such misuse if found, as per Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the department is yet to officially issue a detailed directive on the usage of liquid nitrogen.

Seanz Cruise: Tamil Nadu's first floating restaurant to open in June

CHENNAI: Tourists in the state can soon have a dining experience on the water, as the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department's 'floating restaurant' project in Muttukadu Boat House on East Coast Road is completed and all set for inauguration. This Rs 5 crore project is the first of its kind in the state and is implemented through a public-private partnership with the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation and Cochin based Grandeur Marine International. The cruise will be inaugurated in the first week of June and will be operational throughout the week, said officials. Named 'Seanz Cruise', the floating restaurant is a double-decker of 125 feet in length and 25 feet in width. The entire facility will be air conditioned. Though the tariff packages for the cruise are yet to be finalised by TTDC and Grandeur Marine International, the officials said that they have already started getting inquiries from people looking to book the cruise for high tea and other gatherings.

"The tourists will be taken up to 1.5 km distance in water (to and fro) and a separate passage and jetty



is being readied from Muttukadu boat house for this," Managing Partner of Grandeur Marine International Ojus Sebastian told TNIE. The lower floor will have live music performances and a stage with a DJ along with a television screen. People can use this floor for holding office conferences, small parties and events like birthday celebrations. The cruise has a dining capacity of 100 and the upper floor will have an open air view for sunset. The cruise will have a buffet system with Indian cuisine. But the menu may be modified to suit the needs of the international passengers, he added.

The officials informed that the cruise will have all safety features like lifeboat and fire fighting equipment, and all passengers including children will be given life jackets. The restaurant will start functioning as early as 7.30 am for breakfast. If any passengers place an order for group breakfast it will be prepared and served, officials said.

Dramatic weather shift wreaks flood havoc in Thiruvananthapuram

MLA Kadakampally Surendran told TNIE that the state government should come up with a comprehensive project to address the flooding issue in Kazhakoottam.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With the weather in Kerala taking a dramatic turn, the scorching heat has given way to torrential downpours, plunging the state into a flood crisis. The state capital faced the brunt of nature's fury, leaving many in Kazhakoottam - the bustling IT hub - grappling with the aftermath on Sunday. Overnight rainfall caused waterlogging at residential areas opposite Infosys in Kulathoor, forcing as many as 20 families to flee for safety amidst the darkness of Saturday night. Rajesh Rajendran, a resident of SNN Nagar in Kulathoor, recounts the harrowing experience of evacuating his wife and two children as floodwaters breached their home, leaving them with no choice but to seek refuge elsewhere. "It was midnight and our compound wall was knocked down by the floodwater. Within no time, the water entered our home. My in-laws are also living in another house on the same compound. We informed the Thumba police and they came to rescue us at 1 am. My wife's parents are sick and they moved to another house nearby as they had difficulty walking," says Rajesh, who, along with his family, moved



to a nearby apartment. "I don't want to risk our lives as more rain is in the offing," says Rajesh, who was one amongst many who had to leave their houses on Saturday night. Unscientific drain and road construction by NHAI and rampant development activities spearheaded by Technopark have compounded the misery, exacerbating flooding woes for many in the IT city.

hithra Das, another affected resident of Chithra Nagar in

Kulathoor, also shifted with her elderly mother and brother to a relative's house to seek refuge from the floodwater. "The flooding was triggered by the blocking of the drainage on the service road by the authorities. This is for the first time that the floodwater has entered into residences," she says. MLA Kadakampally Surendran told TNIE that the state government should come up with a comprehensive project to address the flooding issue in Kazhakoottam. He blamed the NHAI for not giving due consideration to the residents while planning development projects. "We have to reinstate the Thettiyyar Canal to prevent flooding. As a solution, Smart City is planning to execute a project in the Kulathoor area which will link the drainage of the railway station road with the existing one. The NHAI should also link the new drainage with their drainage system. They are refusing to cooperate. I have written letters to the government to come up with a comprehensive project to address the recurring flooding issue in the Technopark and Kazhakoottam region," he said.

Spending patterns are leaving Malayalis 'overleveraged'

KOCHI: Talking about an employee who earns around Rs 13,000 a month who took a Rs 50,000 'interest-free' loan to buy a mobile phone, Nikhil Gopalakrishnan, a Kochi-based investment advisor, says, "The cost of the mobile was Rs 58,000. He put down Rs 8,000 and the remaining as loan to procure the iPhone." "He failed to realise is that his monthly income will decline substantially due to the purchase," Nikhil said. The consumption levels of Keralites seem to be reaching worrying proportions with many taking loans from banks, NBFCs, unregulated entities such as chit funds, 'kuris', and even the neighbourhood money lender to finance their purchases. From lavish ceremonies to foreign trips, purchase of expensive cars and motor bikes to high-end

mobile phones, Malayalis are spending beyond their means, increasingly depending on high-interest loans to do so. Last week, Mumbai-based stockbroker Elara Capital published a report which said 'overleveraging' was very visible among borrowers in Kerala. The report, titled 'Parivartan - Capturing Change 2024', has chapters on 18 states. Elara sent its 100-plus analysts to 22 states, 77 districts and 96 villages to understand the 'character and grit' of India, coinciding with the general election.

hile the report said that India was racing ahead, it did not paint a rosy picture of Kerala. "The penetration of leverage in Kerala was sharp. Overleveraging can be gauged from the fact that on an average, loans per customer rose



from three lenders to six to seven (without considering the unorganised sector). We saw cases where customers with a CIBIL score of 300 were running four active loans, with two overdue," wrote Elara Capital analysts.

A good CIBIL score, which is between 700 to 900, improves the chance of a borrower getting loans at a lower interest rate. With household savings stagnating, leverage has risen. "We also noticed instances of suicides in small border areas amid the stress," Elara said. Rundra Sensarma, professor of economics at IIM Kozhikode, pointed out that overleveraging was not just a Kerala phenomenon, but an all-India trend. "It is the result of easy access to credit due to fintechs and new mobile apps," he said. Last November, the RBI expressed concern about the growth of personal loans and overleveraging, which was leading to regulatory tightening of lending norms. "The problem in Kerala, as I view it, is two-fold. First, the dominance of NBFCs.

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Farmers are our great gamblers who have to contend with the vagaries of a scorching summer and stormy monsoon

Double trouble of drought & rain for farmers in Karnataka

Bhopal. The severe drought over the past year had plunged Karnataka's farmers into deep distress, and just when the State government started disbursing compensation, heavy rain and winds are adding to their woes. Since the last week of April, heavy pre-monsoon rain accompanied by gusty winds have been reported in many parts of the state, leaving crops damaged.

Farmers who depend on agriculture and horticulture crops in Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Mysuru, Haveri and Kalaburagi have lost their banana, onion and tomato crops, besides others. Principal Secretary of the Revenue department Rashmi Mahesh said it is too early to say that rain is causing damage, as crops have been affected in a few pockets. Compensation is being paid as per norms. After the Southwest and Northeast monsoons failed last year, the State government declared 223 taluks as drought hit, and sought Rs 18,177 crore in financial

assistance from the Centre for drought relief. An estimate of crop loss on 46.11 lakh hectares of agricultural land and 2.06 lakh hectares of horticulture land was drawn up. The state government paid drought compensation to over 32.12 lakh farmers. Officials are verifying documents of over two lakh farmers, and have given each Rs 4,000. The Revenue department also decided to pay compensation to 1.63 lakh farmers whose lands were not registered under the compensation list. "There are 16 lakh farmers who have small landholdings, and the government decided to pay them compensation of Rs 3,000," sources said.

Saving the lemon trees
 Mohammed Rafique Patel is making every effort to help his 25 lemon plants stand in an upright position, to prevent them from withering. But he



is well aware that a majority of the plants were fully uprooted and may never stand again. "I know I am making futile efforts, but I can't see

my plants drying up, therefore, with the hope that nature will shower mercy on me, I am trying to salvage the plants with the support of bamboos," he said. This is the struggle of Patel who has lost 25 lemon plants which are nearly 15 years old, to the recent gusty winds and rain in his native Ingalagi village in Indi taluk, where Patel has a farm. What has added to his misery is that these are the same plants he was trying hard to save from drought for nearly 60 days, spending around Rs 1,000 each day to supply water through private tankers. The problem with lemon plants is that if they wither away, they will never become green again. The farmer has no choice but to cut it down. Each plant takes at least six years to reach the fruit-bearing period. Farmers like me struggle to save plants, even supplying water through tankers," he said.

NEWS BOX

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. Police are investigating all angles, including the possibility of suicide. Verification of possible suspects' alibis is ongoing. 10-year rigorous imprisonment for 4 in hooch tragedy that killed 106 in Mumbai, a sessions court sentenced four individuals to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for selling illicit liquor that caused 106 deaths in the Malwani hooch tragedy. The judge stated that the accused spent nine years as undertrials, with prosec 17-year-old on way home from school abducted, thrashed. Two minors detained in Ghaziabad for kidnapping and beating a 17-year-old student in Modinagar. The accused abducted the boy while he was on his way home from school in Modinagar, thrashed him inside their car, and recorded the incident, circulating it on social media.

Fire breaks out in week-old Noida hotel, its first guest suffocates to death

Noida: A 27-year-old woman suffocated to death while her friend is battling grievous injuries after a fire broke out in a hotel in Sector 104 on Saturday evening. A physiotherapist by profession, Palak, and her engineer friend Tarun Kumar of Delhi's Mayur Vihar phase 1 were the first customers of Hotel Moon, which opened on Akshay Tritiya on May 10. They had taken a room on the top floor of the six-storey building. Chief fire officer Pradeep Pal said that the hotel staff wasted some 30 minutes trying to douse the flames on their own and called up the fire department only when the blaze went out of control.

"We got a call at 5.35pm. Ten fire tenders were sent to the spot from various fire stations. The blaze was brought under control in 25 minutes. The flames would not have spread to other floors had the fire, Pal said, broke out on the fourth floor while the smoke barbelled up the AC duct to the sixth-floor room of Palak and Tarun. ce of the adjacent building and brought out the two persons. Both of them were unconscious and sent to a nearby hospital, where the woman was declared dead on arrival," he added. The hotel was inaugurated on May 10. "Vimlesh Jha, who owns the building, had leased it out for three years to Akash Sharma, a resident of Shamli in UP. We have come to know that the hotel staff did not even try to call the two customers and inform them about the fire. There were only two guests at the hotel then," Pal said. Preliminary investigation revealed a short circuit might have caused the fire when ACs were being installed on the fourth floor.

"No, the hotel did not have any objection certificate from the fire department. Though it did have all the equipment in place. We will file a police complaint against the hotel owner," Pal said. A hotel staffer admitted they did not know what to do for the first few minutes when the fire broke out. "Some shop owners rushed to the reception and informed us. We rushed to the fourth floor to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher and buckets of water. But heavy smoke had already filled the corridors, making it difficult for us to see," he told TOI. Palak and Tarun had checked into the hotel on Friday. Palak and Tarun had checked into the hotel on Friday. lak and Tarun had checked into the hotel on Friday. lak and Tarun had checked into the hotel on Friday.

Woman crushed to death by crane, driver on the run

Gurgaon: A 42-year-old woman died after being hit by a crane on Garhi Hayatpur road in Sector 10 on Saturday. The crane driver fled the spot before cops arrived. Police said Maina was walking from Kilachand Nagar in Harsaru towards Hayatpur Chowk around 11.50am on Saturday with daughters Diksha and Yashvi, when she was fatally hit by the crane. "While we were walking on the left side of the Garhi Hayatpur road, a yellow crane hit my mother from behind. She fell on the road and came under its rear tyre," Diksha told cops, adding that the driver tried to speed away after the accident, but hit a tree on the right side. Maina died on the spot. Passersby stopped the accused from fleeing and Maina was taken to the mortuary from there. Sailendra Kumar, ASI at Sector 10 police station, said the accused had accompanied the victim's family till Hayatpur Chowk but abandoned the crane and fled before cops arrived. The vehicle has been seized and based on a complaint by Diksha, an FIR has been registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving on a public way) and 304A (causing death due to rash or negligent act). Maina is survived by her husband and three children. "After the postmortem, we handed over the body to the family on Sunday. We are trying to identify and arrest the accused," the ASI said. e also published the following articles recently: ISRO's Mars mission strategy unveiled: Helicopter, robotic car, and crane to navigate red planet. ISRO's Mangalyaan-2 mission aims for Mars success with rover, helicopter like NASA, supersonic parachute, and Marble-equipped helicopter for aerial exploration.

Listen to the call of democracy, do not take away your rights. Vote not elections, build a new India: Ramdas Malik

New Delhi Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party Delhi Pradesh and co-head of the resource department of the Election Management Committee and social worker Ramdas Malik said that voting is to be held in the sixth phase on May 25 in the seven Lok Sabha seats of the capital Delhi. In such a situation, big leaders of different parties have started contesting elections. He said, "On the issue of some leaders making Swati Maliwal a BJP leader, you have said that it is very shameful. He said that Arvind Kejriwal is demolishing the character of Swati Maliwal, who has been associated with him for more than two decades. Now that Kejriwal's associate Rishav Kumar has been arrested, as you all know, the day is not far when several dirty pages of Arvind Kejriwal's politics will become public. Delhiites say that there will be garbage and dirt in schools, hospitals and everywhere in Delhi. There is an Aam Aadmi Party government in which several senior Aam Aadmi Party leaders are also in jail

on charges of corruption. How can it make Delhi clean and especially the future of Delhi children, even medicines

Kanhaiya Kumar did this to make BJP a pawn. had said that India will be divided into pieces, Afzal had raised slogans like

we are ashamed, Kanhaiya Kumar himself had been thrown ink by Bharat Gathjod workers. So that they have done the work of attracting the people of Delhi, this is all the action of Bharat Gathjod which happened with Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal during the last several elections,

Bharat Gathjod is also doing the same to mislead the people. Adopting attitude The drama was done. Ramdas Malik said that democracy is based on the belief that the common people have special power. Voting is a way to exercise that special power, to exercise your rights. Seeing the name in the electoral roll, going to the polling booth, standing in the queue and then voting for the candidate of your choice, the whole process is like a cele-

bration. Now there is celebration, so there should be excitement and joy. Voting is a responsibility. A vote only matters when it is given, it has no value if kept for itself. Who else to give? This also increases the price, thus no one can be robbed. This is the voice of a vote country. Ramdas Malik conducted many programs among the people of Delhi in the capital Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. A large number of people from the society participated in this program. There were a lot of women in it. Meanwhile, senior leaders and workers were also present. He appealed to all to participate in the development of the area by supporting the BJP candidate on May 25. He said that people across India support the nationalistic policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP, that's why programs are being conducted in all the seven seats of Delhi. Attacking the Congress, he said that from the capital Delhi, the Congress has given tickets to those anti-national forces, who raise slogans about the division of India, they are the people who are dividing the country. Therefore, I appeal to the people of every section of the country to vote for BJP in this great festival of democracy and make Modi ji the Prime Minister for the third time.



Snag in transformer sparks outages in city for 5 hours

Noida: A transformer at the 400 kV substation at Pali in Greater Noida broke down on Saturday evening, leading to a six-hour-long power outage in the city, which was ultimately fixed after 11pm. "Power transmission was disrupted as the transformer at the Pali substation got damaged around 5.49pm on Saturday. So, power supply to Sector 20 and the Botanical Garden substation was stopped. As a result, there was a prolonged outage in the city as power supply to Noida is majorly sourced from Pali. The damage could be fixed by 11pm and the supply was resumed after that," Shivam Tripathi, executive engineer of PVVNL, told.

With the mercury rising up to 43 degrees Celsius, the power demand in the city has reached 2200 MW, and is expected to rise even further. "We had a power demand of about 2100 MW last week which reached about 2200 MW this week. It is expected to rise further up to 2300 MW in coming days," said Tripathi, who further assured that there

would be no supply shortage. However, he did not rule out electrical equipment like transformers, cables panels, etc. heating up, given the scorching heat. Meanwhile, Deepak Sharma—RWA president of Sector 105—complained that the electricity supply to the sector was disrupted due to a fire in an underground cable near C-69 in the sector. "SDO and junior engineer along with other staff of the electricity department were present to fix the problem. One transformer was shut down and the outage lasted for a couple of hours" said Sharma.

In Sector 53, VS Singh—RWA general secretary—was also at ground zero with the Discom team at the sector's substation. He apprised that SDO Prem Raj and Vikrant Singh along with junior engineer OP Verma and other staff members, were occupied for a couple of hours to solve the outage through alternate lines. Areas affected by the Sector 53 substation shutdown were sectors 53, 52, 61, 23, village Hoshiarpur, etc. As supply stopped in

Sector 20 and Botanical Garden substation, sectors that experienced outages included 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 33 to 117, 105, 122 and 72.

Umesh Sharma, RWA president of Sector 122, stated that there was unprecedented power failure in Sector 122 and nearby areas. "Assurance by the UP power minister have turned hollow. Residents were left without electricity. Evening water supply was also disrupted due to no power," said Sharma.

Kavita Jamil, vice chairperson of AVRWA, Arun Vihar, said that there was no clarity from officials on restoration of supply after the breakdown at Pali. Similarly, Anita Singh and Pradeep Vohra confirmed that there was no electricity in sectors 36 and 22 respectively from 5.30pm on Saturday. Kosinder Yadav, RWA president of Sector 117 and Somendra Yadav, another resident of the sector, reported no power supply past 5pm on Saturday till late at night.

Connectivity to society poor, buyers protest against builder

Gurgaon: Residents of M3M Marina—an upscale residential complex in Sector 68—protested against the developer for their failure to ensure adequate road connectivity to society. Residents are compelled to rely on revenue roads, which are narrow and riddled with potholes and devoid of proper light, rendering the commute a perilous affair, particularly for women. Also, for the past four years, residents have been dependent on water tankers for their daily requirements, while the society also grapples with an unreliable power supply, further exacerbating the woes. A group of residents gathered at the developer's office in Sector 62 to express their frustration over the developer's negligent attitude. Marina, which was launched in 2015, comprises more than 1,000 flats, with 850 families currently residing there.

According to residents, the internal sector road that was promised to them has still not built, leaving residents to navigate the narrow revenue road of Tikli. "The revenue road is in an abysmal condition. It is full of potholes and becomes nearly impassable during the monsoon season. Commuting is an absolute nightmare, and we are perpetually worried about accidents and vehicle damage," said Satish Kumar, a resident of Marina.

"We were promised direct connectivity to Sohna Road for our society, but we are relying on the road which is in a deteriorated state. As a result of the developer's failure, we are facing challenges with poor accessibility and safety," said Ankur Sethi, another dissatisfied resident. When contacted, a representative of the developer refused to comment on the matter.

Another problem the residents are facing is the erratic power supply, as they are dependent on a temporary 11 KVA rural feeder connection. With frequent tripping and prolonged outages, they are compelled to rely on power backup, which costs an exorbitant Rs 30 per unit. "Even after four years, the 33 KV power infrastructure has not been developed, leading to regular outages. Our appliances are damaged, and lifts are often out of order, making it difficult for everyone, especially the elderly and those with disabilities," said Ravij Singh, another resident.

Ranip resident arrested for travelling to US on fake Passport. Jitendra Patel arrested at Ahmedabad Airport for using a fake passport, caught by immigration officer Rakesh Pandey without departure immigration stamp, traveled to New York from Mumbai airport with help from Kallol-based agent Jagga, worked in Georgia, USA at a parlour job, paid Rs 50 lakh for Rs 60 lakh deal.

19 govt schools don't have a single student in Haryana

Gurgaon: A govt report released recently has found that 19 schools in the state do not have any student enrolled with them while 811 have one teacher each. A total of 3,148 schools have less than 50% students. The report—which contained highlights of a meeting conducted by the Union education ministry's project approval board in Feb this year—identified 14,562 govt schools in the state. The report was released in the second week of April. The document also raised concerns about the lack of teachers, especially at the elementary level, and urged the govt to fill vacancies at the earliest. According to the report, vacancies for teachers at the elementary level have increased 11.1% since 2021-22. But posts for secondary teachers haven't been filled since 2021-22.

The shortage of teachers has also affected central grants that are used to pay salaries. At the elementary level, for instance, the financial aid has come down to Rs 14 lakh from Rs 19 lakh in 2021-22. At the higher level too, grants have plunged from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 14 lakh as a number of posts are vacant. The report also identified 31,068

out-of-school children from the state, who, it said, needed to be trained in formal education for the session 2024-25. Apart from the shortage of teachers, the report also pointed to



lack of basic infrastructure for students in these schools. While the schools are 18% short of their target for additional classrooms, toilets for boys and girls are 1% and 1.8% fewer than what they should be. Smart classrooms are also 1.4% behind the required number. "The benefits of digital education can be passed on to students only when these labs and smart classrooms start functioning. Labs are specially a cause for

concern, more so because funds are being allocated for them every year," said Sanjay Kumar, secretary (school and elementary education).

According to data, more than 50% of schools do not have integrated science labs, while 17.2% lack information and computer technology labs. A total 13% of schools do not have facilities for skill education. All these facilities are a must in keeping with the National Education Policy of 2020, which the state has already implemented.

The report stated, "With respect to previous non-recurring approvals, for which no action has been taken up by the state over the years, it was reiterated that as per the Samagra Shiksha framework these are committed liabilities which would become the sole responsibility of the state after a point of time i.e., 5 years after the approval." Kumar said schools that failed to implement facilities should surrender their earlier proposals and consider new ones.

Greenbelts encroached by vendors, traffic takes a hit

Gurgaon: Over 80 illegal shops have come up along Golf Course Road Extension, one of the busiest stretches in the city, over the past two years. The greenbelt along the road has turned into a makeshift market, occupied by temporary shops and makeshift dwellings. Footpaths have almost completely been encroached upon by vendors, leaving pedestrians with no space to walk. Residents said they have raised the issue several times, but the civic authorities have turned a blind eye. The situation is worse on weekends, as hordes of people flock to the unauthorised market, resulting in a traffic nightmare. Sector 48 resident Amit Sethi said commuting to his office in Sector 43 now takes 45 minutes, compared to 15-20 minutes earlier.

NAME CHANGE
I. Arman Mohammad S/O Mohd Sharif R/O 2-5, Commercial Enclave, Shani Bazar Roda, D.K.Mohan Garden, Uttar Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, Have Changed My Name To Mohd Armaan For All Purpose

NAME CHANGE
I. Krishan Kumar S/O Ved Parkash R/O C-2/12, U.G.F, Front Side, Gali No.2, Vashist Park, Sagarpur, Delhi-110046, have changed my name to Krishan Goel permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I. JAPHURDEEN S/O ABDUL HAMEED KHAN R/O B-127 GROUND FLOOR KANCHAN KUNJ MADANPUR KHADAR, EXTN.PART-2 DELHI-110076 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO JAFRUDDIN SAIFI FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I. JOGINDER RAO S/O SHAM RAO residing at H NO-282/229, 2ND FLOOR, HIMALYA APARTMENT, TUGHLAKABAD EXTENSION, DELHI-110019 have changed my name to JOGINDER SHAM RAO for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. Shakil s/o Sharif Ahmed R/O 66, Musafir Khana Basti, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Shakeel Ahmed for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. DAVENDER SINGH S/O SATWANT SINGH residing at GB-5 FIRST FLOOR USHA PARK JAIL ROAD DELHI-110064 have changed my name to DEVENDER SINGH for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. Gayasuddin S/O Saimuddin R/O B-204 Gali no-14 Maan Singh Nagar old Mustafabad Delhi-110094 have changed my name from Gayasuddin to Gayasuddin Saifi for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I. KIRN RAJBHAR W/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O Plot no 786 A Iff block R-3 A-3 motan garden uttam bagar new delhi -110059 have changed my name to KIRAN RAJBHAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I. Deepika W/O Yogesh Kumar R/O B-3305, IREO Vignette Valley, Sector-67, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, Have Changed My Name To Deepika Ahlawat Raigar Dated 08/05/2024 Before Notary Nilesh Sharma

NAME CHANGE
I. WAQIL KHAN S/O BUNDU KHAN R/O H NO.B-11/36,GALI NO-5, KABIR NAGAR, GOKALPUR, NORTH EAST DELHI-110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME VAKHEEL KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I. VINOD SHARMA S/O SAMAY SINGH SHARMA residing at 3365 GALI NO-8 DHARAMPURA GANDHI NAGAR DELHI-110031 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR SHARMA for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. SHAFI MOHAMMAD S/O ABDUL WAHID residing at H NO-13/306, KALYAN PURI, CHILLA SARODA KHADAR, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to SAFI MOHAMMAD for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. SAYYED NISHAT HOSSAIN S/O ANWAR HOSSAIN residing at H NO-2100, KUCHIA CHALAN, NAHAR KHAN STREET, DARYA CANJ, DELHI-110002 have changed my name to SYED NISHAT HUSSAIN for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. ANEeq AHMED S/O AQIL AHMED residing at H NO-5132, SHARIF MANZIL, BALLIMARAN, NEAR BY HINDUSTANI DAWAKHANA, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to ANIQ AHMED for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. ANIQ AHMAD KHAN S/O AQIL AHMAD KHAN residing at H NO-5132, SHARIF MANZIL, BALLIMARAN, NEAR BY HINDUSTANI DAWAKHANA, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to ANIQ AHMED for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I. Krishan Goel R/O C-2/12, U.G.F Front Side, Gali No.2, Vashist Park, Sagarpur, Delhi-110046, have changed my minor Son's name from Harsh to Harsh Goel permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I. RIHA BAKK W/O AJIT BAKK R/O Permanent address village/ town Garkash P/S Tangla, Sub Divn - Udalguri District Udalguri Assam- 784521, Present address HNO -616 GADDA COLONY/SULTANPUR, NEW DELHI -110030 have changed the name of my minor-son AYUSH Aged 11 Year and he shall hereafter be known as AUSH BAKK.

NAME CHANGE
I. NO-14849213P Rank-Nik Name-EBUNGE SANJAY JAGGANATH S/O JAGANNATH NATHU BUNGE R/O VPO-VADNER, TEH-MALEGAON, DISTT-NASHIK, MAHARASHTRA-423206 have changed my name from BUNGE SANJAY JAGGANATH to BUNGE SANJAY JAGANNATH for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 20/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I. Borade Sachin Jagannath Army No. 14839278P Rank-Nik Posted at Unit 38(81) SUP PLASC, Co -56ARQ, Pin -905388 & Permanently Residing at Village+Post - Shegan, Tel - Jath, Dist - Sangli, State - Maharashtra Pin -416404 have changed my Date of Birth from 02/08/1964 to 02/06/1964 for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 20 May 2024 before The Notary Public at Delhi (Govt. of India) in presence of Advocate Sunita Pagnia

NAME CHANGE
I. Mona W/o Dinesh Kumar R/O House No-109, Village Dundaheera, Gurgaon, Haryana-122016, Have Changed My Name To Mona Devi For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE
I. Mohita Dalal, D/O Jogender Singh, Village Dundaheera, Gurgaon, Haryana-122016, Have Changed My Name to Mohita for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rajender Kumar Jain is the owner of Freehold Commercial One Shop Pvt. No. 6, on Ground Floor upto Ceiling Level Without roof rights, area measuring 11.14 Sq. Meters & First Floor Portion up to Ceiling Level Without Roof Rights, Land area measuring 100 Sq. Yards i.e. 83.61 Sq. Meters, a Part of Property Bearing No. H-12, Built-on Plot No. 12, Out of Kharsa No. 63/8, Situated in the abadi of H-Block, at Garhwal Mohalla, Laxmi Nagar, area of Village Khureji Khas, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092. By Virtue, Sale Deed Dated 17.12.2011 as Doc No. 22076, Vol. No. 5956, Page Nos. 174-179, SRO-VIII, New Delhi & Sale Deed Dated 15.10.2013, as Doc No. 2212, Vol. No. 91, Page Nos. 160-169, SRO-VIII A, Preet Vihar, New Delhi. In the Chain Document below mentioned Documents not available i.e. Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Nern Chand expired on 25.02.1984 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been financed by DCB Bank Ltd. branch: Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and of the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211,sector-3 Vashisth Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our clients Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited was financed the said property Leasehold Residential Flat no. 342-F Super area 60 sq. mts. Built-up area 36 sq. mts. Common area 24 sq. mts. Situated in block-E, Sector-Gamma-01, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh, Vide loan no. 199FBD30810, along with under custody (1) Original Allotment Letter (2) Original Possession Certificate (3) Original Lease Deed dated 18.11.2005 executed by GNIDA in favour of Mrs. Vanita Srivastava as Doc no. 9736, Vol no. 1053 Page no. 729-746 SR-Greater Noida (4) Original Transfer Cum Sale Deed dated 22.07.2009 executed by Mrs. Vanita Srivastava in favour of Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sharma as Doc no. 9200, Vol no. 4885 Page no. 263-302 SR-Greater Noida, and same were submitted with Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited by Mr. Sanjay Sharma. The documents were misplaced from the possession of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited and Reference No. LR No. 1748321/2024 already lodged by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited on dt. 05.05.2024 P.S. Crim Branch Delhi and any persons found / received the above-mentioned property, docs than to be informed to Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, Branch: Faridabad Haryana, or underwriting Advocate.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211,sector-3 Vashisth Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

NEWS BOX

Argentina's president calls Spanish PM's wife corrupt, Madrid recalls envoy

Madrid. Spain recalled its ambassador to Buenos Aires for consultations on Sunday after Argentina's President Javier Milei made derogatory comments about Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's wife during a far-right rally in Madrid. Milei had called Sanchez's wife Begona Gomez "corrupt" during a rally in Madrid organised by the far-right Vox party and attended by many of its international allies. Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said he expected an apology from Milei. Other ministers also condemned Milei's speech, in which he described socialism as "cursed and carcinogenic". Sanchez leads Spain's Socialist Party. "With his behaviour, Milei has brought the relationship between Spain and Argentina to its most serious state in recent history," Albares said in a video statement. Milei would not apologise, his spokesperson said in an interview with an Argentine TV channel later Sunday. Spanish officials should retract insults they have made against him, he added. Milei's visit broke with diplomatic protocol as he refused to meet Spain's King Felipe and Sanchez, instead preferring to promote his book alongside Vox leader Santiago Abascal at the party rally. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said in a post on social messaging app X that "attacks against family members of political leaders have no place in our culture". Spain's main opposition party, the conservative People's Party (PP), refused to support Madrid's stance, with party sources saying that Sanchez should have provided explanations about the alleged corruption case weeks ago. "His silence generates internal doubts, but also distrust abroad," a PP source said, adding that the party's job was to oppose the Spanish government and not Milei. A city court said in April it was looking into accusations of influence peddling and business corruption against Sanchez's wife, brought in a private complaint by Manos Limpias, or Clean Hands, an anti-corruption activist group.

Lai Ching-te sworn in as Taiwan president as tensions with China on knife edge

Taipei. Taiwan's Lai Ching-te was sworn in on Monday as president of the democratic island in the face of growing Chinese military pressure and a hostile parliament. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has branded 64-year-old Lai a "dangerous separatist" who will bring "war and decline" to the island. Lai succeeds President Tsai Ing-wen, whose eight years in power saw a sharp deterioration in relations with Beijing over her rejection of China's claim.

Like Tsai, Lai is a staunch defender of the island's democracy and in the past has described himself as a "pragmatic worker for Taiwan independence". He has toned down his rhetoric and has repeatedly vowed to maintain the "status quo" on the Taiwan Strait, which means preserving Taiwan's sovereignty while not declaring formal independence. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Japanese colonial-era Presidential Office Building in Taipei, where Lai and his vice president-elect Hsiao Bi-khim were sworn into office shortly after. Lai and Hsiao -- arguably better known on the global stage due to her former role as Taiwan's top envoy to Washington -- are both part of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which has championed Taiwan's sovereignty. Lai will on Monday deliver his inaugural speech -- which will be scrutinised for clues on how he will handle Taipei's delicate relationship with Beijing -- in front of thousands of people outside the Presidential Office. Eight heads of state and representatives of 51 international delegations were invited -- including from the United States, Japan and Canada -- in a show of support for the island's democracy. More than a thousand performers showcasing traditional operas and dances will take part in a celebration that also includes an Air Force aerial formation to salute the new president. Core defence spending with only 12 allies, Taipei lacks diplomatic recognition on the world stage.

'Several million euros' of jewels robbed in armed heist at luxury Paris boutique

WORLD. Armed robbers who used a motorbike as a battering ram made off with "several million euros" (dollars) worth of valuables in a heist of the luxury Paris boutique of self-declared "Jeweler to the Stars" Harry Winston, the French prosecutor's office overseeing the police probe said. The heist occurred on Saturday to confirm that Harry Winston was the target, the Paris prosecutor's office did so on Sunday, saying the



dazzling, by-appointment store on the tony Avenue Montaigne was robbed by a gang of at least three people. They used a two-wheeler. They stole jewellery from several windows, while one of them kept watch, carrying a long-barreled firearm, the prosecutor's office said.

As they sped away, they pointed the firearm "in the direction of police officers, who had to put an end to their pursuit," it said. "The damage, currently being assessed, is several million euros," it said. Harry Winston didn't reply to emailed questions from The Associated Press. This is not the first time the luxury store has been robbed. Eight people were convicted in 2015 in connection with a spectacular 2008 holdup in which three cross-dressing gunmen stole about \$92 million in loot.

Israeli airstrike kills 27 in central Gaza, leaders divided over post-war plan

WORLD. An Israeli airstrike killed 27 people in central Gaza, mostly women and children, and fighting with Hamas raged across the north on Sunday as Israel's leaders aired divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war, now in its eighth month. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces criticism from the other members of his War Cabinet, with main political rival Benny Gantz threatening to leave the government if a plan is not created by June 8 that includes an international administration for postwar Gaza. His departure would leave Netanyahu more reliant on far-right allies who support full military occupation of Gaza and rebuilding of Jewish settlements there. Netanyahu discussed an ambitious US plan for Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel and help the Palestinian Authority govern Gaza in exchange for a path to eventual statehood. Netanyahu's office in a statement said they focused on Israel's military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, humanitarian aid and hostages held in Gaza. The US said Sullivan said Israel should "connect its military operations to a political strategy"

and proposed measures to ensure more aid "surges" into Gaza. In recent weeks, Hamas militants have regrouped in parts of northern Gaza that were heavily bombed in the war's early days. The airstrike in Nuseirat, a built-up Palestinian refugee camp in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, killed 27 people, including 10 women and seven children, according to records at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah, which received the bodies.

A separate strike on a Nuseirat street killed five people, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service. In Deir al-Balah, a strike killed Zahed al-Houli, a senior officer in the Hamas-run police, and another man, according to the hospital. Palestinians reported more airstrikes and heavy fighting in northern Gaza, which has been largely isolated by Israeli troops for months and where the World Food Program says a famine is underway. The Civil Defense said strikes hit several homes near Kamal Adwan

Hospital in Beit Lahiya, killing at least 10 people. And in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp nearby, residents reported a heavy wave of artillery and airstrikes. Abdel-

statehood, saying Israel will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza and partner with local Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas or the Western-backed Palestinian Authority.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting about 250. Mourners gathered Sunday for the funeral of one of four hostages killed in the attack whose bodies were recently found by Israeli troops in Gaza. The war has killed at least 35,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians. Around 80% of the population of 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced within the territory, often multiple times. "We need a decent life to live," said Reem Al-Bayed, who left Gaza City and shelters with thousands in the gritty coastal Muwasi camp in the south without basic facilities like wells. "All countries live a decent life except us."



Kareem Radwan, 48, said the whole eastern side has become a battle zone where the Israeli fighter jets "strike anything that moves." Ahmad Bassal, a spokesman for the Civil Defense, said rescuers had recovered at least 150 bodies, more than half of them women and children, since Israel launched the operation in Jabaliya last week. Netanyahu opposes Palestinian

Who is Mohammad Mokhber, man set to become Iran President after Raisi's death?

Tehran. Mohammad Mokhber, Iran's First Vice President, who, based on the country's constitution, is expected to become interim president following the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash. As interim president, Mokhber is part of a three-person council, along with the speaker of parliament and the head of the judiciary, that will organise a new presidential election within 50 days of the President's term on September 1, 1955, Mokhber, like Raisi, is seen as close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who has the last say in all matters of state. Mokhber became First Vice President in 2021 when Raisi was elected President.



Mokhber was part of a team of Iranian officials who visited Moscow in

October 2023 and agreed to supply surface-to-surface missiles and more drones to Russia's military, sources told Reuters at the time. The team also included two senior officials from Iran's Revolutionary Guards and an official from the Supreme National Security Council. Mokhber had

previously been head of Setad, an investment fund linked to the supreme leader. In 2010, the European Union included Mokhber on a list of individuals and entities it was sanctioning for alleged involvement in "nuclear or ballistic missile activities". Two years later, it removed him from the list. In 2013, the US Treasury Department added Setad and 37 companies it oversaw to a list of sanctioned entities. Setad, whose full name is Setad Ejraie Farmane Hazrate Emam, or the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was set up under an order issued by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Khamenei's predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It ordered aides to sell and manage properties supposedly abandoned in the chaotic years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Who was Ebrahim Raisi, Iran's hardline President who died in helicopter crash?

WORLD. From being prosecutor general of Tehran in 1994 to Chief Justice of the country, Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric close to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has worn many hats before becoming the President in 2021. However, the tenure of Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash on Sunday, has been rocked by anti-government protests over the custodial death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, in 2022, as well as the war in Gaza between Israel and Iran-backed Palestinian group Hamas. It was also under Raisi that Iran entered into a direct conflict with Israel for the first time after Tehran launched an unprecedented missile and drone strike in April. The response came after Israel allegedly conducted an airstrike on the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus, killing two Iranian generals.



Born in 1960 in Mashhad, Iran's second-biggest city, Ebrahim Raisi attended a seminary in Qom at the age of 15 and

did his PhD in law from Shahid Mottahari University. His father, who was a cleric, died when he was just five years old. As a student, Raisi took part in protests against the Western-backed Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, better

who took over as Iran's president in 1981.

MEMBER OF DEATH COMMITTEE AND 'BUTCHER OF TEHRAN'

As deputy prosecutor, Raisi was one of the four judges of the controversial "Death Committee", a secret tribunal set up in 1988 to retry thousands of prisoners who were jailed for their political activities against the government. Most of the prisoners were members of the leftist opposition group Mujahedin-e Khalq.

Human rights groups have claimed that about 5,000 men and women were executed by the "death committee". However, Raisi, who earned the moniker of 'Butcher of Tehran', has repeatedly denied his role in the death sentences.

The hardline cleric then went on to serve as Tehran's chief prosecutor. He was elected to the Assembly of Experts, which is charged with appointing and overseeing the Supreme Leader.

known as the Shah of Iran. The Shah was eventually toppled in 1979 in an Islamic Revolution led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. This is when Raisi started to become closer to Ayatollah Khamenei. He joined the judiciary when he was just 25 years old and soon became the deputy prosecutor of Tehran. All this while, he was trained by Ayatollah Khamenei,

Biden tries to reconnect with Black voters, faces silent protest at Martin Luther King Jr.'s alma mater in Atlanta

During a commencement address at Morehouse College, a historically Black university in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. President Joe Biden encountered a silent protest from a small group of graduates opposing his stance on the Gaza conflict. Morehouse College is the alma mater of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

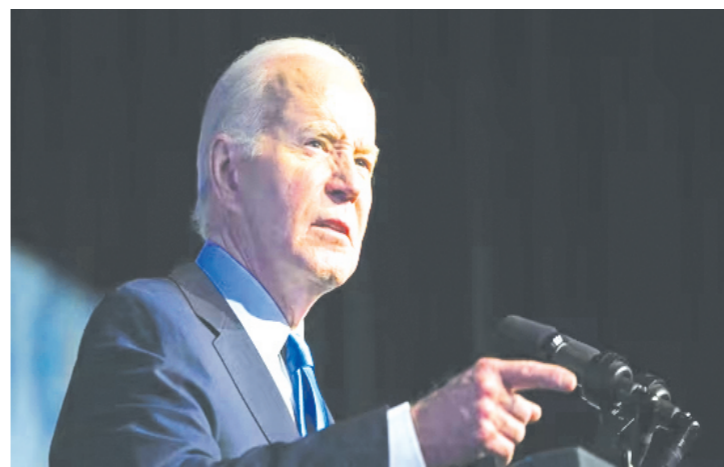
Joe Biden says, "I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well" as he referred to Gaza war as a complicated humanitarian crisis. (AFP) Joe Biden says, "I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well" as he referred to Gaza war as a complicated humanitarian crisis. (AFP) Several graduates turned their backs on Biden, some waving Palestinian flags, while one held up a fist. Others donned keffiyeh scarves over their gowns, signifying solidarity with nationwide campus protests against Israel's military actions in Gaza following the Hamas attacks on October 7.

Biden addressed the protest directly, emphasizing his support for peaceful demonstrations. "I support peaceful, non-violent protest. Your voices should be heard, and I promise you I hear them," he said, dressed in the school's maroon and black colors. This speech marked Biden's most direct engagement with students

amid the ongoing Gaza protests, which have posed significant political challenges ahead of his anticipated election rematch with Donald Trump. Discussing the Gaza conflict, Biden acknowledged the complexity and emotional impact of the situation. "This is one of the hardest, most complicated problems in the world. There's nothing easy about it," he remarked, noting the deep frustration and heartbreak it causes.

Though he didn't provide specifics, reports suggest First Lady Jill Biden had previously urged the president to address the mounting civilian casualties in Gaza. Despite calls from some Morehouse students to cancel his speech due to the conflict, the event proceeded without interruption. Biden described the crisis in Gaza as a "humanitarian crisis" and reiterated his commitment to seeking an "immediate ceasefire to stop the fighting, bring the

hostages home." He stressed the need for a "lasting, durable peace" in the Middle East, advocating for an independent Palestinian state as the "only solution." "I know it angers and frustrates many of you,



including my family, but most of all, I know it breaks your heart. It breaks mine as well."

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan was in Saudi Arabia and Israel over the weekend, working on securing a ceasefire

and fostering normalization between the two nations. Biden's speech coincided with Morehouse College's valedictorian, DeAngelo Jeremiah Fletcher, also calling for a ceasefire, emphasizing the heavy casualties suffered by both sides since October 7. "This is what we're up against -- extremist forces aligned against the meaning and message of Morehouse," said Biden. Morehouse President David Thomas commended Biden's willingness to confront tough issues, noting, "You spoke to the hard issues confronting our nation and the world at this moment."

The speech was part of Biden's broader effort to reconnect with Black voters amid slipping support, highlighted by recent polls. Biden highlighted his administration's historic appointments, including Vice President Kamala Harris and the first Black female Supreme Court justice. He warned of the heightened threat posed by a potential second term for Trump, framing his outreach efforts as crucial to preventing Trump's return to power.

Youth rides bike with girl sitting on fuel tank, arrested

BENGALURU: A 21-year-old youth, who rode a bike with his female friend sitting on the fuel tank, has been arrested by the Hebbal traffic police after the video of the incident went viral on social media. The incident took place on Kodigehalli flyover on BB Road on Friday night. The accused has been identified as Silambarasan, a resident of MV Layout in Shampur near Kaval Byrasandra. The video shows the accused riding the bike with his friend sitting side-saddle on the fuel tank. They were travelling from Yelahanka towards Hebbal. The act was filmed by occupants of a car that was behind the bike. Taking note of the video, the Hebbal traffic police registered a case against the biker and traced him based on the registration number and arrested him. The police have seized the bike and have recommended the transport department for suspension of the rider's driving licence.

Two booked for performing wheelie

Kolar: Witin an hour of two youth posting a video on social media of them performing a wheelie stunt, the Kolar police nabbed them and booked them under the Indian Motor Vehicle (IMV) Act.

A source said the family of the youth was in a car and shot the video of the motorcycle stunt on the Bengaluru-Chennai highway near Kolar Deputy Commissioner's office on Sunday. The moment the video was uploaded on the social media, the police got the wind of it and swung into action. After verifying the registration number, the police nabbed Ganesh and Akshay, both residents of Basavanatha, and seized the two-wheeler. The duo was booked under the relevant provisions of the IMV Act.

Family alleges implant mix-up at Kozhikode med college hospital

Ajith's mother has filed a complaint with the Medical College police, accusing the doctor and the hospital of negligence.



KOZHIKODE: The Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital seems to be in a muddled mess these days. Days after a doctor was suspended for mixing up a surgery, an orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital has been accused of implanting a rod in the wrong patient. Relatives said Ajith, 24, from Kothipalam was admitted to the hospital a week ago with a fractured hand and was operated upon. Soon after the surgery, he started experiencing severe pain, prompting a follow-up X-ray, which revealed that the wrong rod had been implanted into his hand. Adding insult to injury, the doctor who performed the surgery behaved rudely after his mistake

came to light, the youth's mother alleged. "When we told the doctor that we are not ready for another surgery (on the same day), he shouted at us, 'Do what you want'," she said. "False and misleading propaganda", condemns teachers' association

"As advised by the hospital authorities, we had purchased items worth Rs 3,000, apart from the rod, for the surgery. But not a single item was used," she added.

Ajith's mother has filed a complaint with the Medical College police, accusing the doctor and the hospital of negligence. Meanwhile, the Kerala Government

Medical College Teachers' Association (KGMCTA) has said the procedure on Ajith's hand involved fixing bones with plates and screws, and temporarily using a K-wire to prevent the bones in the wrist from slipping. Post-surgery, a junior doctor noticed an issue with the K-wire placement and informed the patient that repositioning might be needed. However, after consulting with a senior doctor, it was decided that no repositioning was necessary. In a statement, the Kozhikode unit of KGMCTA condemned the "false and misleading propaganda" targeting the MCH.

Residents demand underpass at Nettoor ahead of rail doubling

KOCHI: Amid the rising demand for an underpass at the Nettoor railway gate, barely a kilometre from the NH 66, the mobility of people living in the nearly 600 houses in the Ambalakkadavu and North Colony wards of Maradu municipality continues to be severely restricted. Coupled with the frequent closure of the railway gate, the absence of the underpass has been making lives difficult for the numerous people for whom the path through the railway gate serves as the main link to the city.

"Other than the ferry service, the Ambalakkadavu Road that reaches NH 66 provides the main access to the city for residents sandwiched between the railway track and the backwaters. However, frequent closure of the gate makes travelling a tough task for us," said V V George, who resides near the railway gate. The residents said the proposed doubling of the Ernakulam-Alappuzha coastal railway line will compound their problems owing to the spike in the number of train services. George said the situation turns especially bad during a medical emergency, as they have to go for an alternative route, which is 2km longer, to another junction. "The other exits available are narrow, meaning there will be a traffic block if two cars approach each other at the same time," he said. Nettoor West Residents Association secretary Abdul Salam said the Ambalakkadavu area comprises temples and churches, one of which has over 1,500 parishioners. Ferry passengers from Thevara and nearby areas mainly depend on the railway gate route, he said. Stressing the need for an underpass, Ambalakkadavu councillor Jaya Joseph said the area will soon be covered under the Kochi Water Metro service. "The work is in progress. However, unless there is an underpass, the movement of those arriving or departing from the water metro jetty will be affected," she said.

Jaya said a 25-member action council comprising the MP, MLA and the Maradu municipality chairman was formed following an all-party meeting to resolve the issue. "In the first meeting of the council, it was decided to raise the issue before the railway minister, divisional railway manager and other authorities concerned," she said. Former Maradu municipality vice-chairman Boban Nedumparambil said once the coastal railway line becomes a reality, the closure of Nettoor-Ambalakkadavu railway gate will become more frequent, increasing people's challenges. "An underpass is immediately needed to resolve the travel issues of residents as well as passers-by," Boban said. He said the civic body, while he was its vice-chairman, had initiated efforts to relocate the railway gate. A sum of Rs 1

Haryana man linked to cyber-fraud cases held

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Cyber police have arrested a man from Haryana in connection with the cheating case in which a native of Vengara, Malappuram, lost Rs 1.08 crore earlier this year. Aravind Monge was picked up from his native place by a police team from Malappuram. He will be brought back to the state on Monday. Earlier this month, Malappuram cyber police had arrested Abdul Roshan, who helped Aravind set up the WhatsApp account used to defraud the person from Vengara. Sources with cyber police said Abdul,

who was apprehended with around 40,000 illegally procured SIM cards, after activating the SIM card had sent the verification OTP code to set up the WhatsApp account on Aravind's phone. Another police team will soon leave for Bihar to nab another person, who had similarly activated another WhatsApp account to commit fraud. Sources said Roshan charged Rs 250-300 for each OTP. "Using documents submitted by customers for procuring SIM cards, Roshan used to take new connections in their name, without their knowledge. Those SIM cards were set aside for use by fraudsters," sources said. The cyber wing had earlier uncovered a major racket involving hundreds of men and women from the state who work for firms in the UAE and Cambodia engaged in cyber crime. Police had managed to arrest a few persons who were part of the Cambodian ring. Officers also unmasked the identity of more than 50 people from the state who work for those groups. Those associated with these firms are mostly in the 20-30 age bracket and are responsible for collecting details of potential victims.



12 years on, Ramakrishna Nagar in Bengaluru continues to flood

BENGALURU: Following the moderate rainfall last week, dozens of homes were flooded with stormwater and sewage water. Despite several complaints to the BBMP and BWSSB in the past, the plight of many houses in Ramakrishna Nagar is the same for the past twelve years, and the issue has not been resolved. Residents said that the rain has made their lives difficult, as the dirty water from the drain overflows and gets into their homes. They also claimed that they only had to clear the clogged drain, and clear the silt and garbage for the water to flow, as no official of worker was their to do the job. An activist Gulab Pasha said, "The residents of the locality were seen clearing the drain in the middle of the heavy rainfall, to prevent the water from entering their homes. Even 10 minutes of rain is enough to flood the whole area."

This has been happening for the last 12 years. People have found themselves knee-deep in gutter water. The BWSSB's sewage line work that runs along a 1.5-meter length SWD, is under progress for a very long time, which is why the roads here flood in no time. Both BBMP and BWSSB are ignoring the residents adding to their woes during the monsoon. "Echoing the same, Deepa a resident of the locality said, "Everyone is tired of complaining about the same thing for over 12 years. The rain has started, and everyone knows it will get worse unless something is done." When BBMP chief health officer was asked about the possibility of water contamination, he said he never received any complaints and would send his team to survey the area.

'Influencer' held for posts against Karnataka government

BENGALURU: The cybercrime police in Bengaluru on Saturday night arrested a man from Goa for his hateful posts against the Karnataka Congress manifesto and for sharing an edited video clip of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on reservations. The arrested person, Vinit Naik -- a right-wing social media influencer, had posted the content on his X account 'Bhiku Mhatre' under the handle @MumbaichaDon. He was arrested based on a complaint filed on April 29 by J Saravanan, a resident of Srirampuram in Bengaluru and a Congress worker, with the cybercrime police. A case was registered against Naik under IPC Section 153(a) and Section 66(c) of the IT Act. The complaint stated that between

April 2 and April 29, Naik posted hate-filled posts, one of which targeted Siddaramaiah. It claimed that Congress "intends to take wealth from Hindus and



redistribute it only to Muslims because it hates Hindus including SC/STs". The social media influencer's son, Nagesh Naik, posted on X, "My father @MumbaichaDon has been arrested by @DgpKarnataka

@CPBlr @BlrCityPolice A mail was sent by TWITTER and suddenly in the evening the Police showed up at the doorstep and took away my father! FIR is totally NOT pertinent! #ReleaseBhikuMhatre." BJP criticised the state government for the arrest. BJP national IT cell head Amit Malviya posted, "Karnataka Police has arrested @MumbaichaDon from Goa. We are in touch with his family and will ensure he gets all legal support. Congress has unleashed anarchy and is intolerant of dissent. But there won't be another #Emergency in this country, ever." BJP MP Tejasvi Surya posted, "This is blatant abuse of power by Karnataka Congress Govt. We will fight this, both inside courts and outside."

Students going abroad spend a lot on housing

BENGALURU: Education partners and companies associated with facilitating students' journey after their admissions to universities abroad recommended that with growing demand, geopolitical issues and demand-supply imbalance, interested students must "start early". They stressed that students should plan approximately 12 to 18 months before they depart for their educational. Students must look beyond university halls as many shell out more from their pockets to pay for accommodation in foreign countries. Early planning can potentially reduce costs by 20-30 per cent, according to a report -- Beyond Beds and Boundaries: Indian Student Mobility Report-2023-2024 -- released recently by University Living (UL). The report noted that an estimated 1.3 million students enrolled in courses abroad for 2023 out



of which 6 per cent were from Karnataka, and this percentage will only see a spike in the coming years. Around 8.5 lakh students are pursuing higher education in just four focused countries -- the US, UK, Canada and Australia. They are spending close to 34 billion US dollars for 2023-2024 on their education. The sector is set

to grow by 14 per cent and the projected spending by Indian students on overseas education is expected to be around 70 billion US dollars by 2025.

The trends also show that there is a shift in countries that students opt for with an increasing demand for Spain, Europe, Dubai, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Singapore and

Russia as the next hotspots. Speaking to TNIE, Saurabh Arora, founder and CEO, UL, an international student housing managed marketplace, said, "Accommodation in university halls and Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSAs) is limited. Universities are not expanding their halls which has a direct impact on how much an Indian student has to shell out for accommodation in co-living, private apartments and homestays. Affording accommodation beyond these two options is an expensive affair." He added that according to the data accessed by the UL, only one out of six students get university halls. An Indian student studying abroad pays 12,000 US dollars in the US, 10,000 US dollars in Canada, 13,000 US dollars in Australia and 9,700 US dollars in the UK for accommodation.

Kochi: Major canals and drains yet to be desilted, say Opposition councillors

KOCHI: With heavy rain predicted over the next few days, the Kochi corporation is yet to intensify measures to prevent flooding in the city, Opposition councillors have alleged. "Canal and drain cleaning measures have just begun. The mayor's statement that the corporation began flood prevention works in March and has completed 80% of the work is contrary to the facts. The flood prevention work commenced only by early May. Major canals, including the Thevara-Perandoor Canal, have not been desilted," said Antony Kureethara, the Opposition leader. According to municipal law,

the responsibility of maintaining and cleaning the drains on roads less than 14 metres wide lies with the corporation, he said. "The mayor's response, claiming that MG Road is under the public works department (PWD), is an attempt to shirk responsibility. Blocked canal mouths, leading from beside major roads to larger canals, will exacerbate flooding," said M G Aristotle, UDF councillor. On the other hand, the pre-monsoon cleaning programme with the participation of people was held on Sunday. "Local residents and members of the Kerala Merchants Chamber of Commerce participated

in the cleaning drive at the Ernakulam market. The monsoon cleanup led by the EDRAC Elamkulam Regional Committee was carried out on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, Kumarananagar, Chemmath Road and Maveli Road areas were cleaned," Mayor M Anilkumar said.

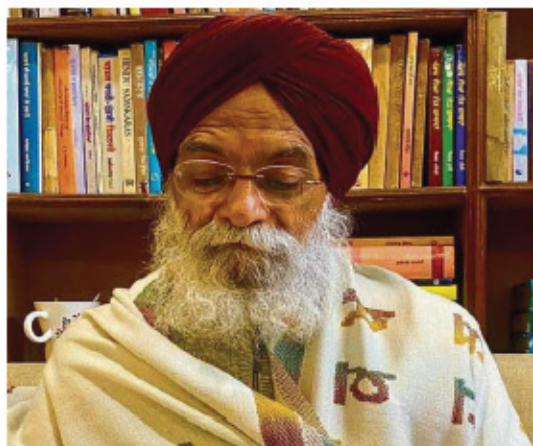
The Opposition councillors urged the mayor to inspect the condition of the main canals and allocate funds for flood prevention measures. Meanwhile, Kochi corporation officials said pre-monsoon work on major canals is expected to be completed by the end of May.



What Surjit Patar means to me

The conversation that has been going on since Surjit Patar's death has focused on just a small part of him. It will take some time and much work to map his achievement and fathom its depths. No doubt he was the tallest Punjabi poet for decades, a position he used meaningfully to intervene in public discourse. His stature derived from an inimitable voice that many tried to imitate, but none could. One's voice is the soul of one's style, for it is the articulation of one's presence in the work. Patar was wholly present in his best work.

From which it follows that he must have worked as much on himself as on his work. Signs of insistent self scrutiny appear often in his poetry when he addresses himself, as when he says: He carried an immense reservoir of patience, refusing to react on impulse. He took some time to respond to the farmers' movement. He was diving into agitated waters and had to reach the hard rock of clear understanding. This was not possible without bringing an epic poet's many sided, far seeing vision to bear on the situation. The writings that followed showed the movement as a moment of civilisational crisis. Indeed, Patar would not stoop to paint on a canvas less than epic. His poetry is elemental and cosmic even when it is meant to light a lamp to show a neglected little corner of someone's small, circumscribed world. After all, as he often said, his inspiration came from the greatest. And he not only lived tradition, but also reanimated it with his own breath. The poet in him



cannot be isolated from the vast minded reader, the transcending translator, the introspective man, the literary critic, the thinker and the heart warming conversationalist that he also was.

Folk songs, in a changed form, supplied the fuel that propelled some of his political poems. His early engagements with Sartre and Camus and with myth made him wonder, at the end of his rendering of Racine's 'Phaedra', if our very choices are fated. He pondered all his life on the mysteries of the creative process. A poem arrived in a kind of inner quivering, he would say. This reminds you of the initiatory spandan, as Shaivism terms it, of creation. The name and the form appear and dissolve on the seeming surface of an endless flux, he wrote in a poem. The deepest insights of Buddhism blossomed effortlessly in his consciousness.

Yes, he was a gifted poet: among his finest poems are those he wrote as a university student. But he ceaselessly worked on his gift. In this, his talent had the luck to be cradled by several fervent, luminous minds in Patiala and Jalandhar. Sohan Singh Misha once told him to read a lot of books and not waste time in coffee houses in the company of mediocre versifiers.

So, he read widely and deep. He was reading Leonard Cohen's poetry and songs when we met in March. He told the audience that Cohen sometimes revised a text a hundred times. He often invoked Greek drama, Shakespeare, French literature, Persian poetry, Sanskrit poetics, Octavio Paz, Brecht, and others. He drew no self protective boundaries, for he was certified in himself, thanks to the light that fed his spirit: the light from the Gurus, the Bhaktas, and Waris. It gave him the courage to say that Racine's 'Phaedra' was far richer than Shiv's 'Loona'. Among the finest essays on music in Punjabi is an essay he wrote.

Difficult to digest how things fall apart

Once the best of friends, the two Iranians in a Chandigarh college fell out over political developments back home

My parents were of the generation that survived Partition. Much of my mother's family had been killed and my father came away with a gunshot wound to his leg. This was the moment that was to substantially define the rest of their lives. Years of work, hopes and plans were gone; as were their homes and many of their friends and family. For the moment, there was nothing or next to nothing to fall back upon. Slowly, like thousands of others, they made new lives in places and situations that could not have been imagined even a few weeks earlier. Expectedly, some of that trauma was to spill over in various ways through the rest of their lives and to the generations that followed.

After Partition, my parents chose to become teachers. There were motives for this, but let's leave that for another time. My father taught physics and my mother, Hindi. I was no good at either — though, funnily enough, for the brief period that I studied Sanskrit, I was rather good at it and there was a time that I hoped to read originals in that language. While physics lay abandoned at the first available opportunity, Hindi, expectedly, continued. Perhaps, as some sort of atonement for my abject failure as the school's only student of 'Higher Hindi', one used and mostly spoke in the language.

Then, one went to college and stayed in the hostel. There, most of us lived as little islands. The Punjabis from Punjab stuck together. The Punjabis from elsewhere, also stuck together. The Himachalis and the Haryanvis made friends with both and then retreated into themselves. There were no 'whites' in our college and the foreigners were Iranians, Nepalese, Afghans, Mauritians and Fijians. Some liked each other and some did not. So, here, we had our stereotypes that were ready and raring to go.

It was an unusual ice-breaker that got one into a conversation with the Nepalese and then, with the Iranians. Sitting in the mess, eating the standard fare of rajmah-chawal, one of the Nepalese boys remarked that of the 'city-Indians', I was the only one who spoke in Hindi and all others, even while conversing among themselves, talked in English. "So," he asked, "have you come to this college to learn English?" For that moment, I was stumped. Maybe mine was a mere 'street version' of Hindi, but that was the language I knew before I learnt English.

Across the steel bowls of rajmah-chawal, the Iranians, sitting opposite, became animated and said that they



only knew Farsi before they came to India and were now quite fluent in English — and had even learnt some phrases in Punjabi. For reasons, after that last bit, they went into peals of laughter. Two of the Iranians, Hassan and Ismael, had adjoining rooms opposite mine and over the next few months, we became fairly friendly. Both of them were somewhat older than the rest of us. From what one vaguely remembers after all these years, one of them may have been married. Apart from the teenage banter with someone even slightly older, in our conversations, one gathered that both were ambitious and quite idealistic. They wanted not only a good life for themselves, but also a good country back home.

This was the time when the revolution in Iran was on the cusp. Here, in Chandigarh of the late 1970s, the best of friends Hassan and Ismael fell out. One supported the revolution and the other was a communist. Now, one watched them ignore each other as they passed in the corridor.

Apart from the rare times that they ate in the mess with the rest of us, the Iranians had their own place going. They had taken a house on rent and ran a kitchen too. The political situation in their country led to a spillover and their one-time joint mess also split into two. Now, as the numbers were also not enough to

sustain both kitchens, they started looking for support elsewhere.

I and a couple of others were invited for a meal. And what a meal it was. Perfectly done mutton with naan and if that was not enough, there was a slab of butter to slather the naan. This was followed by a rich rice pudding full of pistachios and almonds. In a couple of days, we received an invitation to the other mess.

Living in a hostel, the stomach got the better of conscience and off we trooped to another fine meal. The menu and the quality of food in both was similar and, in a word, 'excellent'. Food apart, the atmosphere in both was tense and what conversation there was, remained guarded. One mess had huge portraits of their leaders and the other, had theirs.

Then came the crux. An invitation came to join one mess. Hot on the heels of that, came another invite to join the other, and now the rival, mess. The matter was settled quite easily — given our limited allowance, we could not afford either. Back to good old rajmah-chawal we went.

It seems to be one of those quirks of human nature that often enough, when the closest of friends become estranged, they become the bitterest of enemies. We later heard that both Hassan and Ismael, one-time friends, were dead — one fighting for the revolution the other against.

Anti-BJP protests

Candidates facing farmers' ire in Punjab

THE crackdown on protesting farmers at the Shambhu border in February is casting a shadow on the BJP's poll campaign in Punjab. Party leaders and candidates are being shown black flags and stopped from entering villages, particularly in Malwa and Majha. These disruptions prompted state BJP chief Sunil Jakhar to lodge a complaint with the state's Chief Electoral Officer last week, alleging that the AAP government had failed to ensure a level playing field for all candidates. The Punjab Police have claimed that they are taking steps to ensure the safety of the contestants, including those belonging to the BJP, but the latter is not convinced.

Farmers from the state had launched the Dilli Chalo agitation earlier this year, seeking a legal guarantee for the minimum support price (MSP). However, they were prevented from reaching the Capital by the authorities



in BJP ruled Haryana, which resorted to a heavy handed

approach. The MSP issue has remained unresolved despite a series of talks between the Centre and some farm unions.

The BJP has its task cut out in the state, where it is going solo after its efforts to mend fences with its old ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), proved futile. The SAD had parted ways with the NDA in 2021 amid the farmers' agitation over the contentious farm laws enacted by the Centre. Even the repeal of the laws did not help the BJP win over the state's farming community, as seen in January 2022, when protesters forced PM Modi to go back without addressing a poll rally in Ferozepur. With its nominees also facing the heat in parts of rural Haryana, the saffron party can't afford to ignore the anger and anguish of the region's farmers. At the same time, the alleged infringement of the candidates' right to campaign needs to be probed and accountability fixed for the lapses.

Saying goodbye to the extraordinary Alice Munro

Munro was a 'Sultana of the Short Story', one who drew on her personal experiences and surroundings

I have been writing in this column about birth anniversaries of writers, but sometimes you have to stop and talk about death and loss. The Nobel Prize winning Canadian writer Alice Munro passed away on May 13. She was 92 years old. Alice Munro was a 'Sultana of the Short Story' (we have had a few in our literatures as well), one who drew on her personal experiences and surroundings, and interviewers would often identify and ask her about the settings of her stories. Her stories, though often called "domestic stories", cover a whole range of emotions and relationships. It is almost as if she had decided when she began writing that she would find all her material around her, in her family, in her environment. She made time to write amidst her household chores as she has said in many interviews.

Munro once said, "When the kids were little, my time was as soon as they left for school. So I worked very hard in those years. My husband and I owned a bookstore, and even when I was working there, I stayed at home until noon. I was supposed to be doing housework, and I would also do my writing then. Later on, when I wasn't working everyday in the store, I would write until everybody came home for lunch and then after they went back, probably till about two-thirty, and then I would have a quick cup of coffee and

start doing the housework, trying to get it all done before late afternoon." (The Paris Review, 1994). Thus, the patronising headline in the Vancouver Sun (in 1961) that began an article about her after she had published her early stories — 'Housewife finds time to write short stories' — doesn't seem too off the mark!

She wrote during her pregnancies, she wrote whenever she could, but she wrote. Her first collection was published when she was in her mid-thirties, and contained stories written over 15 years. Her stories talk to us because they talk to her. After all, all the stories come from her life. One can say that Alice Munro wrote only one book, the book of her life. She writes about her Scottish ancestors, her parents, her relationship with them and their home, her own life. Set mostly in Ontario, Canada, in Huron county, Munro's work is like a historical and anthropological study of the place and the people, a dissection of her own life, and that of her contemporaries.

Supported by her husband, who gifted her a typewriter to encourage her writing, Alice Munro began her married life like other middle-class girls of the time, staying home while her then husband went out to work. As she writes in 'The Moons of Jupiter' (1978), the small-town life of the time was one of "wives yawning, napping, visiting, drinking

coffee, and folding diapers; husbands coming home at night from the city across the water". In a damning line, she writes: "We had become a cartoon couple, more middle-aged in our twenties than we would be in middle age." Books and writing became her life. The couple went on to open a bookshop. Her first book was published in fortuitous circumstances — she had been asked to submit some stories for an anthology that never got published, but she impressed the editor, who began to read all her published stories. The publishing house then asked her to write three more to make a book, and she made a mark immediately. 'Dance of the Happy Shades' (1968) won the Governor-General's Award, resulting in another collectible headline — 'Literary fame catches city mother unprepared'.

Alice Munro's stories are about ordinary people but her range is vast, mainly because even ordinary people live complicated lives, lives which she brings to us with such skill that you get to know each one of her characters intimately. Alice Munro gives us lives of desires and deceit. She does not hesitate to write about sexual peccadilloes. She was a complete short story writer. Always modest and insecure about her writing ability, Alice Munro felt surprised by attention even after she won the Nobel Prize in 2013.



Skin and hair care guide for Monsoon



Aesthetic physician and author Dr Jamuna Pai shares essential skin care tips in her recently launched skin and hair care guide, No One Has To Know.

Dr Pai provides a few beauty guidelines for a youthful and radiant skin this monsoon season:

Shield your skin: Since it's cloudy does not mean the skin is protected from the sun. It is extremely important to guard your skin from the sun's harmful UV rays, so always use a good sunscreen lotion. During the rainy season, do not use oil-based products on your face as they tend to block the pores and can lead to acne; especially if your skin type is prone to oiliness. Keep away from water-based makeup as it can get smudged if you get caught in rains unawares.

SKINCARE

Follow the right diet: Incorporate Vitamin A and Vitamin C rich foods in your diet. This will bring a natural glow to your skin.

Cleanse the skin: The skin should be cleaned minimum three times a day, with a non-soapy face wash. This helps to clean excessive oil and dirt from the skin pores and helps it breathe. Rain water left on the skin for long periods of time can act as an irritant making the skin

itchy and easily prone to bacterial and fungal infections. Wash your face with a gentle face wash at least twice a day and anytime when you may have gotten caught in the rains. Intake fluids: Drink at least 2.5 to 3 litres water to maintain hydration. Since the mercury isn't at an all-time high during this season, we tend to forget the importance of adequate and regular water intake. Facials: Facials, peels and other advanced beauty treatments like microdermabrasion are fantastic ways to freshen up a dull skin. Avoid toners with alcohol, as it can further dry your skin.

- With the advent of rains, the added moisture in the atmosphere gives rise to oily scalp, frizzy hair and dry locks.

- Make it a routine to wash your hair at least thrice in a week.

- Do not skip the conditioner as using a good conditioner will help in moisturising your hair and minimising the frizz.

Let your hair flourish with these tips



Are you always concerned about why your hair is growing at such a slow pace? Don't overlook this factor if you feel that your hair is not reaching its full length potential. Keep these things in mind when you want your hair to look the best.

Healthy diet and Nutrition

A healthy diet helps hair grows best since eating natural, whole foods makes a huge difference not only to your body but also in the appearance and the health of your hair. Include nutritious foods like iron-rich dark green leafy veggies, omega-3-rich salmon,

colourful fruits, lean meat, nuts or beans, foods rich in B vitamins, whole grains and eggs in your diet.

Take vitamins and supplements

Vitamins and supplements feed the follicle, which helps to encourage healthy growth. Take supplements like Biotin, a B vitamin, which promotes growth in thinning hair. Consult a dermatologist for supplements which contain amino acids and marine extracts which have shown to help with hair thickness and re-growth.

Use a chemical free shampoo

Shampoos which contain chemicals strip the hair of natural oils. Opt for suds-free cleansers which are free of sulphates. Shampoos which have natural ingredients are not harsh on dry, textured hair.

Ban alcohol

These days there are hair products that contain too much alcohol and not enough conditioning agents. Avoid such products altogether since alcohol dries out the hair and, in turn, leads to breakage.



Don't let rain ruin your Beauty

Saying goodbye to summer time doesn't just involve a change in your wardrobe, it's also time to renew your beauty regime.

Spas and salons are stress-busters, and act as our go-to destination to rejuvenate giving a refreshed look. Although home remedies are convenient, a visit to a salon has a lasting effect. From basic clean-ups to advanced skin therapeutic facials, salons offer a wider

range of solutions for every type of skin. Particularly for the monsoon season, one can indulge in facials to refresh their mind, body and soul. As the rain pours in, here's what you can do:

1. Get funky with your hair color this monsoon season, get the ombre look or highlight outstanding features of your hair with full head highlights or colour stripping treatments.
2. Gone are the days of manicure and pedicure, brighten up your gloomy day with vibrant nail art.
3. During monsoons the hair becomes limp and loses its sheen, a trip to the salon for a protein restore treatment will never leave you disappointed! Tame your tresses with nature's gift of essential oils, and oil massages.
4. Keep your make-up to a minimum; we all know the monsoon season welcomes a very damp and humid atmosphere and frequent downpours accelerate oil-secretion, using non-greasy and light, make-up provides a clean matte finish, always opt for waterproof brands.

- You can also, catch up on some home remedies to get the last minute salon look!

Match the matte: Papaya works as a great de-tanner; curd clears blemishes; aloe vera soothes the skin; and lavender boosts rejuvenation.

Eliminate the roughness: Take some almond paste, mix this with some milk to make a smooth and thick paste. You can also mix almond oil with milk cream (malai) to make a winter face pack. Apply the pack to get a smooth and flawless skin.

Tricks to get rid of dark circles

Dark circles are eye sores and are a result of anaemia, allergies, hyper-pigmentation, dehydration, smoking or sleep deprivation. Whatever might be the cause, treating under eye darkness is not just skin deep. Makeup can save you but is a temporary fix. Try these home remedies for a more long-term



Almond Oil

Rich in vitamin E, Almond Oil moisturizes the thin skin under the eyes, and reduces the appearance of fine lines and crow's feet. Before going to bed, apply almond oil under your eyes, and wash it off in the morning. Make it daily ritual.

Mint Leaves

Mint leaves have a cooling effect on the skin, reducing inflammation and puffiness. They also refresh the blood vessels and ease circulation. Make a paste of the Mint Leaves and apply to the under eye area, and then gently wipe it off after 10-15 minutes.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes contain lycopene, vitamin C, retinol which help open up blood vessels and improve cell growth. This in turn helps lighten the skin and de-tans too. Make a paste of 1 tsp tomato juice, ½ tsp of lemon juice, a pinch of turmeric and gram flour. Apply it under the eyes for 10 to 15 minutes, and then rinse it off.

Severe heatwave in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana for next 5 days

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a severe heatwave in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana for the next five days, with no respite from the unrelenting intense heat that has continued to scorch many parts of the country. On Monday, the temperature in Delhi is expected to soar to 44 degrees Celsius, a day after the city recorded the season's highest at 44.4 degrees. According to the latest IMD bulletin issued today, severe heatwave conditions will also prevail in parts of Rajasthan from Tuesday to Friday, and in some regions of Uttar Pradesh on Monday and Tuesday. Meanwhile, heatwave conditions have also been predicted for parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and the hill states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh this week. This week, the mercury is expected to soar to 45 degrees Celsius in Delhi on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. elhi weather for next

five days. (Pic credit: IMD) Residents of Delhi woke up to a warm morning on Monday, with the minimum temperature settling at 29.2 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average, according to the IMD. Meanwhile, on Sunday, the mercury reached or crossed 47 degrees Celsius in at least eight places across India, with Delhi's Najafgarh area recording 47.8 degrees, making it the warmest place in the country for the second time in the last three days. In Rajasthan, the highest temperature of 46.7 degrees Celsius was recorded in Sriganganagar and Anta, while Nuh was the hottest in Haryana at blistering high of 47.2 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a high of 44.2 degrees Celsius. Faridkot was the hottest in Punjab at 44 degrees Celsius, followed by Amritsar in second place with 43.9 degrees. Madhya Pradesh's Datia saw 47.5 degrees, while in Uttar Pradesh, Agra

recorded 47.7 degrees and Jhansi recorded 47.2 degrees. The IMD has expressed concerns in the wake of the blistering heat and urged people in heatwave-affected areas to avoid exposure, wear light-coloured cotton clothes, use hats and umbrellas to cover one's head. "There is a very high likelihood of developing heat illness and heat stroke in people of all ages, and a health concern for vulnerable individuals such as infants, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases," the weather office said.

IMD PREDICTS HEAVY RAIN FOR SOUTH INDIA

Meanwhile, the weather office has predicted heavy rain in parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry this week. It said that parts of Lakshadweep will also receive heavy rain on Monday and Tuesday, while light to moderate rain has been predicted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the next seven days.



Man Arrested After Video Of Him Voting Eight Times In UP's Etah Goes Viral, Polling Officials Suspended

New Delhi: A man has been arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Etah after his video of voting eight times for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) went viral. The state's chief election officer has issued orders to suspend all the members of the polling party from the station. The arrested youngster has been identified as Rajan Singh, a resident of the village of Khiriya Pamaran in Etah district. According to officials, the incident was reported in Farrukhabad parliamentary constituency, and action was taken after the video went viral on social media on Sunday. Several opposition leaders, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, posted about it on social media platform X.

Responding to Yadav's post, Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa said an FIR of the incident was registered under several sections of the Indian Penal Code and Representation of the People Act, 1951, in Nayagaon police station in Etah district.

"The person appearing to be voting multiple times in the video has been identified as Rajan Singh, son of Anil Singh and resident of village Khiriya Pamaran. He has been arrested," the CEO said. The official also said instructions to "suspend and institute disciplinary proceedings" against all members of the polling party have been issued.

Stomach Infection, Dehydration & Fever: Heat-Related Illnesses Surge in Delhi-NCR. Here's How You Can Stay Safe

New Delhi: Hospitals are seeing an increase in cases of stomach infection, loose motions, dehydration, dizziness and fever — all linked to the ongoing heat wave. Doctors are anticipating a huge surge in admissions related to heat in the coming days as the weather department issued a "Red Alert" warning for Delhi-NCR. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a Red Alert for heatwaves in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and most parts of Western Rajasthan for Sunday (May 19).

According to doctors in Delhi-NCR, excessive heat conditions are mostly impacting the elderly, infants, young kids and working individuals involved in travelling or working in the sun. "Heat-related admissions have increased this week, with people showing symptoms of dehydration, gastroenteritis and heat-related fever. Such admissions are expected to grow even further in the coming days as temperature spikes," Dr Sumit Ray, medical director at Holy Family Hospital in Delhi, told News18. "The elderly and infants are affected due to inadequate heat control mechanisms of the body. Even if they don't venture out in the heat, they may still be affected. Other categories are young children and the working class who are exposed to the outside harsh weather conditions." Dr Manisha Arora, unit head, internal medicine, at New Delhi-based Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute has been observing a significant increase in cases of acute gastroenteritis, dysentery with dehydration, and typhoid fever. "We are seeing seven to eight patients daily in our OPD." Similarly, Dr Yatin Mehta, chairman, Institute of Critical Care and Anesthesiology at Gurugram-based Medanta, told News18 that the consequences of the ongoing heat wave are becoming evident as emergency and hospital admissions rise. "While dehydration is a major issue, people must also remember to maintain the consumption of salt which they lose while sweating," he advised. "Salt loss leads to drop in blood pressure, dizziness, fainting, heart attack and stroke." Mehta added that dehydration or salt loss leads to lethal injuries due to fainting or a drop in BP such as a head injury due to a fall or heart attack or strokes due to low BP. "Dehydration also leads to thickness in the blood causing attacks or strokes." Dr Satish Koul, Senior Director and Unit Head, Internal Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon, said: "In OPD, we are also seeing many heat-related illnesses like dehydration. The number of cases is increasing every day. At present, we are looking at almost 10 patients per day." Experts added that the current weather conditions also lead to stomach infections as people end up drinking unhygienic water if they feel thirsty and do not have access to clean water around.

Phase 5 Voting In 49 Lok Sabha Seats Records 23.7% Turnout Till 11 am

New Delhi: Voters from 49 constituencies across 6 states and 2 Union Territories will decide the fates of many key leaders today -- Union Ministers and party chiefs. Among those in fray are Smriti Irani, Rahul Gandhi, Chirag Paswan and Omar Abdullah.

Here are the Top 10 points in this big story: Voting is on in five seats in Bihar, Jharkhand (3), Maharashtra (13), Odisha (5), UP (14), West Bengal (7) and two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir (1) and Ladakh (1). With this phase, election will be over in Maharashtra and Ladakh. An average turnout of 23.7 per cent has been recorded till 11 am. Voting is being held on 35 seats of the Odisha Assembly and 21 Lok Sabha seats as part of the simultaneous polling in the state.

While this phase has the least number of seats, most are high-profile constituencies from where Union

Ministers and leaders of national and regional parties are contesting. In 2019, the BJP won 32 of these 49 seats. The big fight is expected in the seven seats of Bengal and the 13 seats



of Maharashtra. Ten of the 13 seats are in the Shiv Sena stronghold and the clash will be between two factions of the party, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray. In Bengal, a tough fight is on the cards on several seats, with Congress and CPM muscling into what was expected to be a

straight fight between the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress.

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had won 13 of the 14 seats going to polls today -- the exception being Raebareilly, won by Sonia Gandhi. The key candidates include Union Ministers Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North), Bharati Pawar (Dindori), Smriti Irani (Amethi), Rajnath Singh (Lucknow). Among key allies are Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas chief Chirag Paswan (Hajipur), Shrikant Shinde, son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde (Kalyan). From the Opposition, Congress's Rahul Gandhi is defending his mother Sonia Gandhi's bastion Raebareilly after she moved onto Rajya Sabha; RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter Rohini Acharya is contesting against BJP's former Union Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy from Saran; Shiv Sena-UBT leader and forme

Sex Scandal: Where is Prajwal Revanna? What's Causing The Delay in Bringing Him Back?

Bengaluru. An arrest warrant against absconding JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of alleged rape and sexual harassment, is expected to be followed by a red corner notice. Permission was granted by the special court for elected representatives to cancel Prajwal Revanna's passport, but the question still remains: Where is Prajwal Revanna? It is learnt that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is now preparing a detailed dossier to convert the blue corner notice issued in Prajwal's name to a red corner notice by the CBI, which would lead to the cancellation of Prajwal's passport. It is learnt that there have been efforts and multiple communications with the Centre by the SIT to track and trace the whereabouts of the absconding MP, who is known to be travelling on a European visa and was last seen in Germany. A senior Karnataka police officer with experience in handling red corner

notices across international borders said that there are a few technical formalities that the SIT has to get clearances for.



"With their jurisdiction largely restricted within Karnataka, in this case, since he (Prajwal) is a fugitive, the SIT would have to take the help of the CBI and MHA to bring him back. The process is lengthy but can be expedited based on the urgency of the case," said the officer who did not want to be named.

INTERPOL NOTICES EXPLAINED BY COLOUR

As per Interpol's notices, which are colour-coded based on severity and importance, there are seven types: Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice. A Red Notice is issued when a criminal's location is traced, and they are wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence. A Blue Notice, which is presently against the Hassan MP's name, allows authorities to collect information on the person's identity, location, and criminal activities if they have fled the country. Senior Supreme Court Lawyer and former Karnataka State Public Prosecutor (SPP) BT Venkatesh weighs in. In his opinion, for more than a decade, Indian investigating agencies have used algorithms and top notch technology to trace suspects, absconders, or wanted criminals, and the same could be done to trace Prajwal's whereabouts.

Police seize CCTV footage from Arvind Kejriwal's residence in Swati Maliwal case

The Delhi Police has seized the DVR of CCTV cameras installed inside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in connection with its probe into the "assault" on the party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal.

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday said the Delhi Police seized the DVR of CCTV cameras installed inside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in connection with its probe into the alleged assault on Swati Maliwal. The party also accused the cops of planting stories to tarnish the party's image ahead of the elections, according

to news agency PTI. There was no immediate reaction from the Delhi Police.

Notably, the AAP Rajya Sabha MP, in her complaint, has said that Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar slapped her seven-eight times and repeatedly kicked her in her chest and stomach when she went to the Chief Minister's residence on May 13. Maliwal further claimed that the brutal assault by Kumar did not stop even after she mentioned that she was on her periods. After the assault, she claimed her arms were sore and she had difficulty walking. AAP has rubbished her allegations and claimed that Maliwal is acting at the behest of the BJP to frame Kejriwal. On Saturday, Kumar was arrested by the Delhi Police and a local court sent him to five-day custody. Addressing a press conference on Sunday, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said the police have

already seized the DVR (digital video recorder) of CCTV cameras.

"Yesterday (Saturday), they seized the DVR of cameras installed at the entry gates, boundary walls and today



(Sunday), they seized the DVR of cameras installed in other parts of the house. The police are planting stories that the CCTV (camera) footage has been deleted but they have already

seized it," he claimed, as per news agency PTI. Bharadwaj said the CCTV cameras and the footage captured are maintained by the Public Works department and are in its custody. He also raised questions over the sequence of events in the case. "The call was made by Swati Maliwal on May 13 and, within no time, the image of the daily diary entry in the matter was all over the media. The FIR in the case has been registered under Section 354 (B), which is a sensitive matter that pertains to a woman, but the FIR was circulated everywhere. However, Bibhav Kumar, the accused, and AAP did not have a copy of the FIR," he added.

The Delhi Police has booked Kumar for molestation and attempted culpable homicide after Maliwal's complaint. Kumar has also filed a counter-complaint with the Civil Lines police station, alleging that Maliwal had "forcefully and unauthorisedly" entered the Chief Minister's residence.

Green credits: Govt nod to 12 projects, 24 under consideration

New Delhi: The Centre has approved 12 greening projects under the Green Credit Program (GCP), which was notified last year as a market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, officials aware of the development said. Estimates of 24 plans submitted by different state forest departments are under consideration, the officials said. The government has been pushing the public-sector undertakings (PSUs) to take a lead in registering for the programme, especially in mining heavy states, and is developing guidelines for third-party verification of projects under the scheme, sources added. The GCP, notified on October 13, 2023, seeks voluntary participation in "environmental positive actions" such as afforestation, water conservation, waste management among others from PSUs, private industries, non-profits and individuals. The GCP's governance framework is supported by an inter-ministerial Steering Committee, and The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, which serves as GCP administrator, responsible for programme implementation, management, monitoring, and operation. Those investing in these initiatives will earn green credits in return which they can trade on a platform. The greening activities will happen on degraded land parcels and state forest departments have identified over 10,000 hectares of degraded land so far.

Over the past few months, the Environment Ministry has held meetings with the PSUs to push for registration under the initiative, with a special focus initially on states such as Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, where large forested areas have been diverted for mining.

Those interested in undertaking plantations have to first register on a government portal and the state departments then identify plots. A plantation plan and cost estimate are submitted to ICFRE, which clears final proposal. ICFRE is working on evolving a mechanism for third-party verification of greening projects, sources from the government body said.

"We are looking at a timeline of another month to finalise a draft on third-party verification. We are also deliberating on whether stakeholders who register under the scheme should be included in the monitoring committee," the source said. Under the green credit rules, the ICFRE can deem an entity a "designated agency" to carry out verification of activities executed under the programme.

Discussions are also underway on evolving a definite mechanism on linking the green credits to the compensatory afforestation compliance of industries, a senior government official said.



How to get that Perfect Smile

A smile can really change your face value in an instant and that is the reason why when you change your smile, your entire personality undergoes a tremendous overhaul. Cosmetic dentist Dr Rajesh Shetty says, "As far as the smile goes, even a small change can make a favourable impact. The way you look can be altered by making subtle to drastic changes just to your teeth."

Smile improvement procedures

Out of the variety of procedures available today, there are different treatment options that can treat discolouration, chipped teeth, misshapen or even missing teeth, such as bleaching, reshaping, contouring, bonding, crowns and veneers.

Contouring for tooth makeover

Sometimes small defects on your tooth can



be prominent when you smile and attract unwanted attention. This is where cosmetic contouring comes in. Contouring is one of the instant cosmetic dental treatments that is

about re-shaping and styling a tooth. Cosmetic dentist Dr Sagar Shah says, "Cosmetic contouring is a technique that removes small amounts of tooth enamel in order to change the shape, length or surface of one or more teeth. A few millimetres of

reduction in the right places can really improve the appearance of teeth. The process is often combined with bonding, a cosmetic dentistry treatment that uses tooth-coloured composite material to sculpt and shape the teeth and dental whitening."

Who can get this done

When your tooth has a tiny chip, if your canine is too pointy or when your tooth sizes do not match — these are the problems that can be addressed with the help of this minimally invasive procedure. Dr Shetty says, "In order to evaluate if cosmetic contouring is ideal for the person, we conduct X-rays. This helps evaluate the size of the tooth and location of the nerve



present. Sufficient amount of enamel, which is the outer layer of the tooth should be present, so that the tooth does not become weak after the procedure, thereby providing a long-term solution for the client.

In order to get the best out of all this, it is advisable to combine some procedures like teeth whitening along with contouring to get a younger looking smile.

Rainbow Eyelashes are the latest beauty trend



With the popularity of the rainbow hairstyle that caught on in a big way last year, it has now extended to other areas as well. The latest offshoot of this trend is the eyelash make-up trend. The trend went viral after a neon-eyelash look, created by make-up artist Karin Westerlund for model Ginta Lapina, was shared on social media. You can use coloured mascara, eyelash extensions or even create your own using coloured eyeshadow pigment and clear mascara.

How to have a detox bath

While most of us can't go through week-long detox rituals, it's quite possible to have a quick relaxing detox bath at the end of a tiring day. Here's how you can rejuvenate your body and your mind by taking a simple but healthy bath.

Ginger bath

Sprinkle some fresh ginger shavings in your bath water. Ginger tends to make the body sweat more, thereby helping it release toxins. Baking soda bath Baking soda has the property of neutralizing chlorine in tap water, which aids the body in

Apple cider vinegar bath

Not only will water mixed with apple cider vinegar help you sweat out toxins, it also helps with any inflammation of the skin. essential oil bath There are a number of great essential oils out there like lavender, peppermint and sandalwood, which are great for a detox bath. For best results, you can first add baking soda to your bath and then a few drops of an essential oil to get the full effects of the latter.

A lot depends on the kind of make-up that you purchase. Before you begin to shop, make sure you follow these rules...

Consider your skin type and complexion: When you go out shopping for a particular product, always remember to buy according to your skin type and tone. Otherwise, you may end up with skin rashes and allergies. You can try out the product at the back of your palm to see if it blends well with your skin. Stick to one particular brand: Often, a brand which you have been using for a period of time will suit you more than the ones that you haven't tried out before. This is because your skin is already accustomed to that brand and the ingredients that have been used.

Mineral make-up for warmer times: During the hotter months, it is best recommended to use mineral make-up. This doesn't clog your pores like some of the liquid varieties.

Invest in a compact: While you would like to be a few shades lighter, make



sure not to use foundations that clog your pores. Beautician Nidhi Mirchandani says, "Some foundations are heavy on your skin and can make your face age much faster. So, consider using a compact powder instead of a foundation to make your face look youthful and blemish-free."

Toner is a must: Applying toner before putting on make-up will make your face look brighter. This can help prevent allergies as well. Buy water-based toners that contain ingredients like aloe vera or cucumber. You can also spritz the toner after taking off the make-up.

Choose the right make-up to avoid skin Allergies

Check for expiry date: Make-up professional Nanda Ghai says, "Every product comes with an expiry date. Check them before buying. As a rule, don't use products that are more than six months old. For example, compact powder and foundation should be changed every three months to avoid skin damages. If you have been applying a product for over a year, chances of developing acne or rashes are high."

Do a patch test before application: Always run a trial test before you start using a product. It is always best to check for any kind of rashes by first applying the product to the crook of your elbow.



Holidaying abroad? Here's destination nail art to soak in the spirit?

When in Rome, do as the Romans do may be a popular idiom, but Bengalureans are taking it literally. Fashionistas in the city are opting for destination nail art, keeping in sync with their vacation destinations. "I've been getting many requests for destination-themed nail art since April, the start of summer vacations. So we have done London-, Maldives and Paris-themed art. This trend is good for people who are bold and love to experiment. They like it because it takes their fashion statement to the next level and shows off their love for travel," says nail art

expert Shikha Sridhar. Makeup artist Manjusha Bajaj thought it would be cool to sport nail art that matched her travel plans to the UK. "I was going to London for a makeup course, and got London icons I done on my nails. It was quirky and fun, and got a lot of attention there. This particular form of nail art has a novelty factor, because it is not something you can do regularly," she says.

While many opt for flags and monuments of the countries they are visiting, others settle for generic landscapes like a tropical sunrise, palm trees, oceans and starfish nail art, among others.

"Nails should signify personal style and life events. These days, folks going on summer vacations are getting colours and nail art to depict their travel destination and complete their holiday look. Holiday nail art is best achieved with gel polish, as the colour and designs remain through the holiday period and long after, giving your hands a dressed-up look, and making holiday memories last longer. Girls who are unable to travel this summer are also getting landscape nail art done to join in on the fun," says nail expert Neela Bopaiah.

GET YOUR OWN DESTINATION NAILART As this kind of art is complicated, you may want to visit a nail studio. But if

you are a staunch believer in DIY, Neela shares a simple technique to get a palm tree on your nails. Give your hands and nails a basic scrub File your nails Apply two coats of your favourite nail colour on all fingers and a contrasting colour on the ring finger. Once the polish is dry, create curved lines for the trunk of the palm tree using a nail art brush and a dark polish. Broaden the bottom of the trunk. Once done, draw a few curved lines on the top part of the trunk for the branches and leaves. Define the leaves. After the art is completely dry, apply a top coat to seal the design.

Top-5 Equity Funds Beating the Market: Check Growth MFs with Highest Yearly Returns

NEW DELHI: SIP mutual funds have been witnessing continuous growth, with more and more retail investors entering the market to raise their income. According to the latest Geojit report, mutual fund SIPs registered Rs 20,371 crore inflows in April, which is the 10th month of inflows above Rs 15,000 crore and 32nd month of inflows above Rs 10,000 crore in a row. Here're the top-5 equity mutual funds that have given the highest return in the past year.

Top-5 Mutual Funds

SBI PSU Direct Plan Growth (99.5% Return): This thematic equity mutual fund comes with 'Very High Risk' rating. In the past one year between May 2023 and May 2024, the fund has given 99.50 per cent return. Its current net asset value (NAV) stands at Rs 34.50 a unit. The fund size is Rs 2,352.22 crore. Investors can start their SIP with Rs 500 a month in the mutual fund. Aditya Birla Sun Life PSU Equity Fund Direct Growth (96.2% Return): This thematic equity mutual fund also comes with 'Very High Risk' rating. In the past one year between May 2023 and May 2024, the fund has given 96.2 per cent return. Its current net asset value (NAV) stands at Rs 36.94 a unit. The fund size is Rs 4,115.15 crore. Investors can start their SIP with just Rs 100 a month in the mutual fund.

Invesco India PSU Equity Fund Direct Growth (94.3% Return): This thematic equity mutual fund too comes with 'Very High Risk' rating. In the past one year between May 2023 and May 2024, the fund has given 94.3 per cent return. Its current net asset value (NAV) stands at Rs 72.56 a unit. The fund size is Rs 956.83 crore. Investors can start their SIP with Rs 500 a month in this mutual fund. Nippon India Power & Infra Fund Direct Growth (82% Return): This thematic equity mutual fund also comes with 'Very High Risk' rating. In the past one year between May 2023 and May 2024, the fund has given 82 per cent return. Its current net asset value (NAV) stands at Rs 366.73 a unit. The fund size is Rs 5,043.02 crore. Investors can start their SIP with just Rs 100 a month in this mutual fund. Quant Infrastructure Fund Direct Growth (80.6% Return): This thematic equity mutual fund also comes with 'Very High Risk' rating. In the past one year between May 2023 and May 2024, the fund has given 80.6 per cent return. Its current net asset value (NAV) stands at Rs 44.07 a unit.

How Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana Helped This Bihar Man Expand His Dairy Business

NEW DELHI: Several schemes in the country aim to provide the best benefits to the citizens. This elderly man from Bihar shared his story exclusively with Local18, detailing how he took his small business going into loss, to new heights with one of the Prime Minister's schemes. This is the story of Devendra Shah, who is a resident of the Katermala village, which is located in the Vaishali district of Bihar. As per the reports by Local18, for fifteen years he worked as a driver for the Patna telephone department. However, he was removed from his position suddenly, which forced him to move back to his village. Devendra then started cultivation work and did it for two years. After that, he ventured into the milk-selling business, where he bought milk from the village and sold it in the city. However, Devendra suffered big losses because of it. A friend then advised him to start a dairy product business. So, he started the business in a small room, as the finances were weak. One of his regular customers, who happened to be a bank manager, suggested that he should try Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) to expand his business. Devendra Shah then decided to take a loan of Rs 10 lakh through the scheme. By 2021, his business expanded considerably and he started to supply to places like Muzaffarpur, Motipur as well as Vaishali. As per reports, he gave employment to six people.

GDP Growth Likely To Be 6.2% In Q4, 7% In FY24: Ind-RA

NEW DELHI: India Ratings and Research expects the country's GDP growth rate for the March quarter at 6.2 per cent and around 6.9-7 per cent for the 2023-24 fiscal, its principal economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said. The GDP numbers for the fourth quarter (January-March 2024) and the provisional estimates for the 2023-24 fiscal are scheduled to be released by the government on May 31. The Indian economy grew 8.2 per cent in the June quarter, 8.1 per cent in the September quarter and 8.4 per cent in the December quarter of 2023-24. "We are expecting the fourth quarter growth to be 6.2 per cent and the overall GDP growth for FY24 to be around 6.9-7 per cent," Sinha told PTI in an interview.

He said the growth rate in the first two quarters benefited from a low base, though the 8.4 per cent growth rate in the third (October-December 2023) quarter was surprising. "When we analyse the data then what is visible is the wedge between the GVA and GDP. A large impetus to Q3 GDP has come from higher tax collection, but this phenomenon is unlikely to be repeated in the fourth quarter. The wedge between the GDP and GVA is unlikely to be repeated in the fourth quarter," he noted. While the gross value added (GVA) was 6.5 per cent in the third quarter, the GDP growth rate stood at 8.4 per cent. This wedge is on account of higher taxes collected during the quarter. In the first quarter, the GVA and GDP growth was 8.2 per cent, while in the second quarter, the GVA was 7.7 per cent and GDP 8.1 per cent. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced in a given period. GVA is GDP minus net taxes (gross tax collection minus subsidy).

As regards the economic growth in the current fiscal, Sinha said the GDP is expected to expand at 7.1 per cent. "Even if we set aside the tax component, the momentum witnessed in the first and second quarters has continued in the subsequent quarters, and the likelihood is that momentum will continue in FY25," he added. The services sector, he said, will continue the momentum, led by construction and electricity, while mining and industrial output will be laggard.

Why gold will continue to shine despite hitting record highs

MUMBAI: Gold has been and still is the ever-shining and the most trusted metal that women love to own and adorn from time immemorial. And the lure for the yellow metal continues its northward-ho despite prices creating new peaks every other day—having scaled past to a record \$2,434 an ounce late April and closing at \$2,419.80 this Saturday, up over \$34 an ounce on a single day. That means the metal has rallied over 40% from the October 2022 trough forced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the February of that year.

In fact, gold has long been the most preferred choice for parking wealth in our country, long before stocks, mutual funds and other financial instruments became more popular investment options as this is the most liquid safe haven asset, apart from providing a hedge against inflation or any kind of financial uncertainties. Over the years, the country has also moved away from physically owning gold in the form of jewellery and coins or

bars into dematerialised forms such as sovereign gold bonds, digital gold, and gold exchange traded funds now, all at a time when the prices have been heading north.

What's driving this demand

It can be noted that gold prices have risen sharply—in the past 2 months alone, gold gained from R60,373/10 grams or R6037/g on April 19, 2023 to R 75,550/10 grams or R7,555/g on May 19, 2024. And the gains of this most popular household asset, is three times in the past nine years alone. Can this do an encore sometime this year or next? The industry is not saying this is impossible as they say the metal can triple again and cross the R2-lakh mark over the next few years.

According to the data from the India Bullion & Jewellers Association, it took a little more than nine years for gold to nearly triple and reach the current level—the price was R 24,740/10 grams in 2015.

Prior to this, the price tripled in more than nine years, from R8,250 in 2006. But before 2006, it took almost 19 years for gold to triple from R2,570/10 g in 1987. Before this cycle, the tripling was nearly



eight years and six years. And a tripling from the current level can take the glitter gold beyond the R2 lakh/10 gram or R20,000/g! Historical data show that major global events such as geopolitical tensions and economic crises, can significantly influence gold prices. And

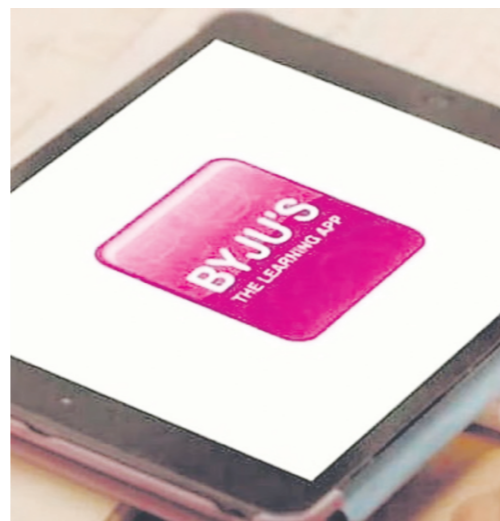
given the repeat cycle of global financial crises in the past two decades—five-seven years between two meltdowns—or the recurring border tension between given the number of megalomaniac

leaders the world has plenty of or the West Asians' proclivity to flare up every now and then, there is no gainsaying this possibility at all. In the past four years alone, according to the India Bullion & Jewellers Association data, gold has shown how the falling rupee along with geopolitical tension and the Covid pandemic boosted the prices—a spurt from R40,000 to R75,550, which is full 80% gain! Citing the past dead trend, Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities sees the metal hitting the R20,000/g or R2 lakh/10 grams mark within the next seven to 12 years. Other analysts peg their price rally hopes on the rising changes of geopolitical tension escalating between Iran and Israel and between China and Taiwan.

Rajnish, Mohandas Pai to leave Byju's advisory panel

BENGALURU:

Byju's parent company Think & Learn Private Limited (TLPL) and the two advisory board members — Rajnish Kumar and Mohandas Pai — have mutually decided not to renew the contractual agreement scheduled to end on June 30, 2024. This comes at a time when the edtech firm is fighting many legal battles. "Our engagement with the Company as advisors was always on a fixed term basis for a year. Based on our discussions with the founders, it was mutually decided that the tenure of the advisory council should not be extended. Though the formal engagement concludes, the founders and the company can always approach us for any advice. We wish the founders and the company the very best for the future,"



Kumar and Pai said in a joint statement. "Rajnish Kumar and Mohandas Pai have provided

invaluable support in the past year. The ongoing litigations by a few foreign investors have delayed our plans but their advice will be relied upon in the ongoing rebuild which I am personally leading," Byju Raveendran, Founder & CEO, Think & Learn, said.

In July last year, the edtech company appointed both Pai and Kumar in its Advisory Council, which was said to be advising and mentoring Byju's Board and its CEO on crucial matters. Recently, Raveendran took over daily operational responsibilities of Byju's after nearly four years. It announced a major reorganisation to streamline its operations and as part of it, the firm is consolidating its businesses into three focused divisions - The Learning App, Online Classes & Tuition Centres, and Test-prep.

7th Pay Commission: 25% Increase In Gratuity Due To Da Hike Kept On Hold; Know Why?

NEW DELHI: Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has announced to keep in hold its previous circular on the hike on retirement gratuity and death gratuity by 25 per cent consequent to the hike in Dearness Allowance (DA), benefit and death benefit were increased by 25 per cent, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, according to an order released on April 30, 2024 by the EPFO last month. A week later, on May 7, the retirement fund organisation released another circular saying that, effective immediately, the gratuity augmentation due to the rise in DA has been placed on hold. The decision's rationale has not been stated in the order. According to the Ministry of Labour & Employment circular dated May 7, 2024. "The circular number HRD-1/8/2024/Misc-Circulars-Part(1)/1004 dated 30.4.2024 is kept in

abeyance with immediate effect." According to the Office Order dated Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt of India dated April 30, 2024, "As per para 6.2 of the OM no. 38/3712016-P&PW(A)(1) dated 04.08.2016 issued by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, the maximum limit of Retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25% whenever the dearness allowance rises by 50% of the basic pay. Accordingly, the maximum limit of Retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25% to Rs. 25 Lakh from existing Rs 20 Lakh on account of revision of Dearness Allowance payable to Central Government Employees to 50% of the basic pay w.e.f 1.01.2024, subject to other conditions mentioned in the DoP & PWOM dated

04.08.2016." Earlier, an office order from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt of India, issued on April 30, 2024 had said, "As per para 6.2 of the OM no. 38/3712016-P&PW(A)(1) dated 04.08.2016 issued by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, the maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25% whenever the dearness allowance rises by 50% of the basic pay." Accordingly, the maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25 per cent to Rs 25 lakh from the existing Rs 20 lakh on account of the revision of dearness allowance payable to central government employees to 50 per cent of the basic pay, it said. Rules say, when the DA hits a 50 percent ceiling, gratuity limit.

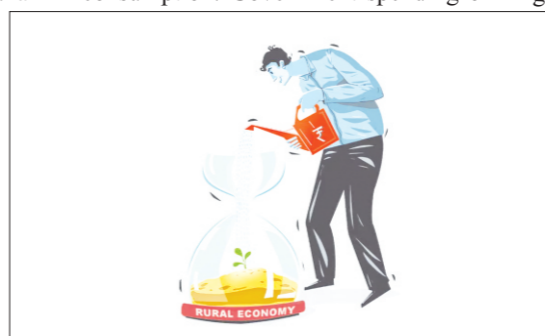
How recovery in rural India could help you

NEW DELHI: The underperformance of the consumer sector in India tells a story. Over the past five years, the BSE fast-moving consumer goods index has underperformed the BSE Sensex by a margin. Over the years, India's consumer sector has been the pillar of growth. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and little or no wage growth stalled the march. Much campaigning focused on the rural distress during the run-up to the election. The opposition parties in India have been highlighting it in every political rally. If you are a regular reader of quarterly financial data, you would have noticed that companies in the consumer sector have flagged the rural consumption weakness every quarter.

any companies have announced quarterly results and continue to brief the market on the situation. In the latest quarterly filings, there are signs of a turnaround. Companies are commenting positively on prospects for future sales in rural India. For example, Asian Paints, the largest paints company, relies on rural recovery and has said that rural markets are responding better than before in the latest quarter. While the urban market is growing strong, the company hopes the recovery in rural India will push up sales in the coming quarters.

TVS Motor, a two-wheeler sales company, hopes to recover better from rural markets in 2024-25. Hero Motocorp, a larger rival of TVS Motor, told analysts there was a jump in first-time buyers across urban and rural Indian markets. Two-wheeler sales are considered necessary and discretionary spending in rural India. It is believed that when people buy their first two-wheelers, they foresee better prospects ahead. Since the pandemic, the industry has struggled to sell in the rural markets. The cost of making two-wheelers rose due to high input prices. At the same time, rural consumers can't pay the higher price passed on to them. As a result, there was a lull in the segment. In the consumer sector, companies like Bajaj Consumer said that the optimism in 2024-25 is due to factors like above-normal monsoon expectations, favourable macroeconomic conditions and an explicit green shoot in rural demand. Companies like Marico, which sells Parachute hair oil and other products, focused on building their rural distribution network during the lull period. They are also noticing an uptick in rural growth.

A foreign brokerage, UBS, recently noted in a consumer sector note that normal monsoons, removal of export banks on agricultural commodities, and capital expenditure are likely to boost rural consumption. Government spending on



rural infrastructure will likely continue, and jobs outside the agriculture sector will be supported.

What does it mean to you

Global institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD have revised India's growth upwards. The commentary from companies that sell goods and services to rural India indicates signs of a turnaround in the rural economy. In 2024, India's

benchmark indices, like the Nifty and the Sensex, have barely moved. Amidst the election season, large institutional investors take the money off the table until we know the nature of the next government. The stock market loathes uncertainty. That leads to rising volatility in the market. As India votes and trends emerge, the year's second half will give a clear picture. However, as individuals who are not actively trading or investing, you must take a long-term perspective. The long-term growth prospects for India are good even if there are changes in the government. That helps businesses consistently generate growth and profits. If

companies see better prospects for rural India, you should ensure that you are in it to benefit from the growth in rural consumption. There are multiple ways you can participate. You must engage a professional financial advisor to discuss the way forward. Stock market investing is about giving your money the time to grow. As businesses in the consumer sector recover from the depths of the pandemic, there could be a tailwind of growth in rural consumption. You may not want to miss that.

NEW DELHI: In Social Media, we are told regularly — that there are some things that could significantly improve our lives. Whether it is a particular kind of investment, a diet, a novel mind-set, or the latest money-saving technique, there's no shortage of ideas on how to get ahead.

Many of these theories sound good, but do not appear in real life. Some things are terribly overrated. Early Retirement is sold really hard! What do they have to gain by YOU retiring early? No boss, no clients, no deadlines, no more business travel — wow! At least for Indian men the whole 'early retirement' sounds almost sinister! In the last 8-10 years of their lives, they did not develop any hobbies, did not know any household work, and suddenly they seem to have lost their sense of purpose! While some people can enter early retirement without skipping a beat, many individuals who decide to retire early from the workforce soon realise that working is about far more than money. The real successful people don't retire — they realise that working is not just about money. It is a social place too — the people with whom you want to eat, party, go on vacations, etc. Ernie Zelinski talks about the importance of work in How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free:

"Regardless of how talented you are and how successful you are in the workplace, there is some danger that you will not be as happy and satisfied as you hope to be in retirement... What may be missing is a sense of purpose and some meaning to your life." First question to ask is "why retire" — finding the purpose of life especially during retirement and knowing what will be the time-table for the rest of your life, you should re-think. Playing golf, listening to music, going to the gym — which look like luxuries when you are working are just not enough to be fully engaged. All of us need good returns for our portfolio — but the retired persons are likely to be paranoid about the sequence of return risk. If you get bad returns in the first few years, your capital could get wiped out — and force you to enter the job market AGAIN! Some of you may be in a position to tap a second career. I would call it a PULL retirement. A push to retirement (saying I don't like my job) is tough to handle, be careful.

One more problem is our unwillingness to accept that we can't predict what will happen in the future. One illness, death, divorce, -any one event can upset the whole thing and we should be careful about it. Sure being in a job is not an insurance against things going wrong. A simple medical cover by an employer may become a huge relief if a liver needs surgical attention! F.I.R.E — Financial Independence and Early Retirement — I love the fact that F.I. comes first.

NEWS BOX

No personal coaches, media blackout in NRAI's guidelines to Olympic-bound shooters

New Delhi. The National Rifle Association of India has laid down strict rules for Paris Olympic-bound shooters, which includes not taking the help of personal coaches at the national camp and a "media blackout" in order to ensure the readiness of its athletes for the quadrennial showpiece. The federation has issued a "national team protocol", where, among other things, it has also told the shooters that parents will not be allowed to "stay" or "visit" their wards at camps, and that the decision to make an exception solely lies with the High Performance Director (HPD), Pierre Beauchamp.

In a letter sent to Olympic-bound shooters, titled, "NRAI Olympic Team Undertaking and SOP for Paris 2024 Olympic Games - Pistol/Rifle Teams", a copy of which is with PTI, the NRAI has said the objective is to "ensure the clarity of the training and readiness plan for Olympic Games Paris 2024 by the shooters and the National Team Coaches and Sport Science support." "It is essential to have effective organization, discipline, planned and dedicated training programme for the best performance of shooters participating as National Team India at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games," the letter says. As per the letter, only NRAI-approved personal coaches and sport science consultants with signed SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) shall be allowed to assist the "National Training team for the concerned shooter(s) in assisting and/or discussing with the National Training Team under the leadership of the HPD and the chief coach (rifle and pistol)." However, personal coaches, who are not approved by the NRAI, will not be allowed.

"Personal coaches and including physios, nutritionist, psychologist will not be entitled as part of the NRAI National Team program of the Olympic Games." Under the subhead "Media Blackout", the NRAI has said the shooters will have to stay away from the media.

Money in the drain: Yash Dayal's father recalls facing trolls after son's RCB selection

New Delhi. Yash Dayal's father, Chandarpal, recalled the times when his son was severely trolled after RCB picked him for Rs 5 crore in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 auction. Last year, while playing for GT, Dayal was taken to the cleaners by KKR's Rinku Singh, who hit the speedster for 5 sixes on the trot at the Narendra Modi Stadium. In the auction, the Titans tried to buy him back, but RCB secured the services of the pacer after an intense bidding war with the 2022 champions. Dayal's father said that RCB were ridiculed after they shelled out a whopping amount for the 26-year-old seamer.

'We quit all WhatsApp groups'

"In one of the WhatsApp groups, a person I know shared a meme, mocking Yash for conceding five sixes and I still remember what he wrote with the picture 'Prayagraj Express ki kahaani shuru hone se pehle hi khatam ho gayi (The story of Prayagraj Express got over before it even began),' Dayal told The Indian Express.

"It never stopped, we as a family literally quit all WhatsApp groups, barring our family one. Even when RCB picked him in the auction for Rs 5 crore, I remember someone saying 'Paise naale mei baha aaye Bangalore waale (The franchise threw the money in the drain)'. We live in a world where even if you switch off from social media, you will end up seeing all kinds of stuff," he added.

WI vs SA: Brandon King named skipper for T20I series amid Rovman Powell's IPL duties

New Delhi. West Indies have named Brandon King as the skipper for the upcoming 3-match T20I series against South Africa at home. King is set to lead the Caribbean team for the first time in the absence of Rovman Powell, who is currently with RR for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 playoffs. The Royals will lock horns with RCB in the Eliminator on Wednesday at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Shai Hope and Nicholas Pooran have been rested from the series after their hectic campaigns with DC and LSG respectively. They will join the squad on May 27 before the T20 World Cup 2024. Alzarri Joseph and Sherfane Rutherford, currently playing for RCB and KKR respectively, will link up with the team only if their franchises do not qualify for the final.

Desmond Haynes, the lead selector, said that the series is a chance for the Caribbean players to get themselves up and running before the World Cup.

"These are among the last competitive T20 international matches before the start of the World Cup. Players have the opportunity to fine-tune their skills and ensure they are as prepared as they can be for the World Cup, whether they are in the final squad or reserve pool," Haynes said. Head coach Daren Sammy said, "We have not played together as a team since the Australia series, but we just completed a very high-intensity training camp in Antigua. Now we have the chance to integrate some of our players returning from the IPL and build some momentum as a group going into the World Cup."

The 3 T20Is between South Africa and West Indies are scheduled to take place on May 23, 25 and 26 at the Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica.

West Indies squad for South Africa T20Is

Brandon King (C), Roston Chase, Alick Athanaze, Johnson Charles, Andre Fletcher, Mathew Forde, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Obed McCoy, Gudakesh Motie, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh

CSK, RCB fans accuse each other of unruly behaviour after thriller in Bengaluru

Things turned ugly between the fans after the RCB vs CSK match in Bengaluru. The fans of both teams accused each other of unruly behaviour after RCB beat Chennai in a final over thriller on Saturday, 18 May.

BAENGLURU. RCB beat CSK to reach the playoffs of the Indian Premier League 2024. The hosts booked the final spot in the playoffs after beating CSK by more than 17 runs in a final-over thriller at the M



Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday, May 18. As the RCB team basked in the glory of an incredible turnaround, the ugly head of fan wars rose its head on Saturday night. While the RCB team hailed its fans on Twitter for their incredible support, CSK on the other hand hoped that its fans reached their homes safely on the night.

Chaos ensued outside the stadium with fans from both teams accusing each other of unruly behaviour on the streets. Many women fans of CSK took to Twitter to reveal their grievances and stated that they had been harassed by the RCB fans on the road and that they felt under threat. On the other hand, CSK fan pages accused RCB

of hounding the away fans in the stadium by coming to their face and crossing lines while celebrating their victories.

Bengaluru police said on Sunday that they had noted the activity on social media but said that official complaints had not been filed yet. RCB vs CSK Controversy The RCB vs CSK turned out to be a memorable encounter in the IPL 2024 season. CSK needed just 17 to qualify for the playoffs in the final over, even if that came at the cost of losing the game, with the target being 35 from the final 6 balls. However, the trio of MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja and Shardul Thakur, who batted the 6 balls failed to hit Yash Dayal for boundaries. Dayal gave away just 7 runs in the final over and clinched an incredible win for the RCB side. After the match, MS Dhoni waited for the RCB players to come and shake hands with the team, but left after seeing that the side was busy celebrating. The fans were divided over the incident and some even criticised RCB players for not showing enough respect to the former India captain. RCB will now face RR in the Eliminator of the tournament.

Designed for you: Virat Kohli asks Chris Gayle to return to IPL as Impact Player

New Delhi. Virat Kohli hilariously asked Chris Gayle to return to the Indian Premier League (IPL) next year as an Impact Player. Gayle was present in the stands along with other big names like Smriti Mandhana and Anushka Sharma when RCB faced CSK in the IPL 2024 match on Saturday, May 18 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. After RCB made it to the playoffs, Gayle visited their dressing room to congratulate their cricketers. The players were delighted to see the Universe Boss. Adding a bit of humour to the happy environment, Kohli requested Gayle to play in the IPL as an Impact Player. Kaka, come back next year, impact player is on now. You don't have to field anymore. It's designed for you," Kohli said in the video



uploaded on the social media handles of RCB. After the match against CSK, Kohli went to the top of the list of leading 6-hitters in the ongoing tournament. In 14 games, the 35-year-old has hit 37 sixes and is also the Orange Cap holder with 708 runs at an average of 64.36 and a strike-rate of 155.60. Kohli slipped to second in the table after Abhishek Sharma

of SRH topped him. Abhishek hit 6 sixes in the match against PBKS on Sunday and currently has 41 sixes to his name from 13 matches.

Gayle's incredible career for RCB

As far as Gayle is concerned, he started his IPL career by playing for KKR before making a move to RCB. Thereafter, he ended his career by playing a couple of seasons for PBKS. Gayle is currently the third-highest run-scorer for RCB in T20 cricket, having scored 3420 runs from 91 matches at an average of 43.29 and a strike-rate of 154.40 with 5 centuries and 21 half-centuries. RCB are next set to cross swords with Sanju Samson's RR on Wednesday, May 22 in the Eliminator at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Former tennis star Camila Giorgi accused of stealing, not paying rent by landlord

New Delhi. Former Italian tennis star Camila Giorgi has been accused of stealing antiques and defaulting on rent of 6 months before fleeing to the United States of America (USA). Her date of retirement is officially listed as May 7, 2024 after the International Tennis Integrity Agency registered her name in the list of retired players. Last week, she dropped a post on her Instagram story, making a public comment on her retirement.

Before leaving her home country, Camila stayed in a rented property in Calenzano, Tuscany. It has been reported that Giorgi fled to the USA after Italy's financial police wanted her for questioning. As per the investigations conducted by Florence Prosecutor's Office, Giorgi and her family also have "gaps" in unsubmitted tax returns. "A hateful behaviour" "They made half of our furniture disappear. Persian rugs, fine furniture, even an antique

half-ton table. We are talking about damage between 50 and 100 thousand euros," the landlord told La Repubblica, an Italian news outlet.



Along with Camila, her mother Claudia, father Sergio and her brothers Amadeus and Leandro also reportedly departed for the USA. The landlord also claimed to have been in touch with Camila's father. "I wrote to him that they must at least give us back our things, he responded in a contemptuous

way, saying that they were objects of little value. A hateful behaviour, for those like me who have suffered economic but also emotional damage," he said. "I can't know

how much is true or how much Camila owes the State, but I know what he owes us. Those objects are part of my mother's life and mine: I want them back, at least this much, given that we have lost hope due to the thousands and thousands of euros in back rent," the landlord added. Camila last played professional tennis back in March 2024 when she lost to World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who recently won the Italian Open and Madrid Open, in the quarterfinal of the Miami Open. Back in October 2018, she achieved her career-best ranking of No. 26 after running the legendary Serena Williams close in a thrilling quarterfinal of Wimbledon that year. She won four titles in her career, in Merida (2023), Montreal (2021), Linz (2018) and s-Hertogenbosch (2015).

SRH coach Daniel Vettori wants team to replicate aggressive approach in IPL playoffs

New Delhi. SRH qualified for the playoffs in the top 2 position after their win against PBKS in the Indian Premier League on Sunday, 19 May. Playing their final match of the group stage, SRH comfortably reach the target of 215 runs with 5 balls remaining, at their home in the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. SRH head coach Daniel Vettori gave an inspirational speech after the win and asked his team to stay true to their aggressive approach in the tournament. SRH have hit several high totals in the tournament, breaking the records held in the earlier seasons. One of the key features of the side has been their dominance in the powerplay with the bat where Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head have taken apart the bowlers.

Speaking in the dressing room, Vettori congratulated the team for doing well in the final game and asked the side to stay true to



their approach. "Great blowout after sort of 10 days off to come together against a team that was still ready to perform. We were obviously a little rusty with the ball at the start but to fight back in the last 4 overs was incredible," Daniel Vettori said in a video uploaded by SRH on Monday, 20 May.

"Abhishek and Rahul took the game on to win the powerplay and that is how we have won most of our games, and again that was exceptional. You have to play exceptionally well to chase those big scores," Vettori lauded the SRH batters. "Nothing changes when we go into the playoffs. Take the game on, play exactly the same and stay consistent and true to our methods, so, well done boys," concluded the coach, who joined SRH in the 2024 season and had immediate impact. SRH will play KKR in the playoff 1 in Ahmedabad. In case they lose to the top of the table team, they will get a second chance against the winners of RR vs RCB in Chennai. SRH have won only one IPL title, that too back in 2016 under the leadership of David Warner.

Out with injury, Rahul Tripathi brings back positivity at SRH in final league game

SRH beat PBKS in their final group-stage game in the Indian Premier League. Back from injury, Rahul Tripathi played an aggressive cameo to set up the team's win in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad. SRH beat PBKS in their final group-stage game of the season on Sunday, May 19. The win helped SRH finish at the second position in the Indian Premier League points table, giving them an advantage in the playoffs stage. The match saw an impressive cameo from Rahul

Tripathi, who featured in the line-up after almost 10 days after his previous match. Tripathi spoke to the IPL website and revealed that he was injured. The right-handed batter said that he looked to be positive in his innings of 33 off just 18 balls, which helped SRH set up the 215-run chase despite losing Travis Head early. Tripathi and Abhishek added 72 runs together in just 4 overs, which made life easier for SRH batters lower down the order. He was injured for a bit, but the team was doing well, and I was thinking how positive I can be. I wanted to get a chance and I wanted to be at my best when I make a comeback and with God's grace, it happened today," Rahul



Tripathi told the IPL website after the match. "I think the message has been clear throughout the season, go aggressive, especially, go hard in the powerplay," he spoke about the intent of the team.

Tripathi has not had a good time in the IPL this season and the PBKS was the first match where he looked in his old form. Tripathi lauded the team and the fans for their resilience and belief in the group-stage of the tournament. "Now the IPL is of 10 teams so it is tough to get into the top 4. Really happy with the support at our home ground. The atmosphere was terrific, even in the game that it was raining. The crowd did not leave till the final call was made to abandon the game," Tripathi concluded. SRH will take on KKR in the first match of the IPL playoffs. If SRH win the game they will qualify for the directly for the finals. In case they lose, they will get a second chance to qualify and play the winner of RR vs RCB.



Medha Shankr

Flaunts Ample Cleavage In Black Outfit, Hot Photos Go Viral; See Here

Medha Shankr rose to fame with her performance in the film 12th Fail. The actress won everyone's hearts. Well, today Medha shared a series of sexy photos on social media which have gone viral on social media. The actress is seen flaunting her cleavage in a black colour outfit. Taking to her Instagram handle, Medha Shankr shared photos in which she is seen wearing a black colour off-shoulder top and pants. Her makeup game is also on point. Fans are calling her sexy and hottie in the comment section.

Medha Shankr made her cinema debut with the acclaimed "12th Fail". Starring Vikrant Massey and Shankr, the Hindi film is based on Anurag Pathak's best-selling novel about the incredible journey of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and IRS officer Shraddha Joshi. Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, "12th Fail" was a surprise hit at the box office. Shankr, who played Shraddha Joshi in the movie, said she received a lot of love from all quarters once "12th Fail" started streaming. "I tasted success after the OTT release because of the kind of love I got from the industry and otherwise on the internet. My Instagram literally blew up. This is just my first film and people have been incredibly kind to me," the actress told PTI in an interview.



Shankr said she is full of gratitude. "Twenty-five weeks in the cinemas. It's big. We're just cherishing that moment for now. It's definitely opened up more avenues, more opportunities. But right now, I'm just enjoying the moment. People have so much respect and regard for every single actor in the film and the filmmaker. They (audience) look at us as if we have given them some motivation and inspiration. That regard in somebody's eyes is very special," she added. "Every single day we have to restart in our lives because self-doubt is going to creep in from time to time. All the negative talk is going to creep in. But you have to believe in yourself and keep going. "You have to be your biggest critic and your biggest cheerleader and just give yourself the self-belief because nobody else is going to give it to you. So, you have to give it to yourself and keep going," she added.

Alia Bhatt

And Akansha Ranjan Kapoor Vibe To 'Dekhha Tenu' From Mr And Mrs Mahi

Alia Bhatt has often shared photos and videos with her bestie Akansha Ranjan Kapoor. Today, also the actress took to her social handle and shared a video in which both are seen vibing to the song Dekhha Tenu from the film Mr & Mrs Mahi. The video has been trending. To note, Mr & Mrs Mahi star Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao. Taking to her Instagram handle, Alia shared a video in which she is seen sitting with Akansha in a restaurant when suddenly her bestie started singing Dekhha Tenu song. Alia thought that the song was for her but then Akansha was singing it for French fries. "This song, These fries #MrAndMrsMahi in cinemas May 31st!"

In an interview with ETimes, Akansha had earlier confirmed her relationship with rumored boyfriend and director Sharan Sharma. She said, "Yes, I am in a relationship with Sharan." The actress added,

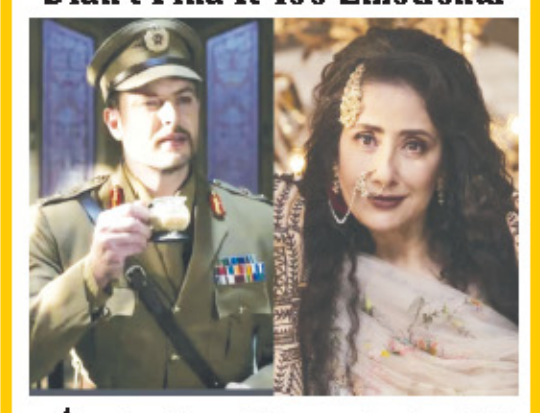
"While I have not hidden the fact that I am dating him, I don't like to discuss my personal life too much." The trailer for Mr and Mrs Mahi has dropped and it blends cricket and romance into an exciting narrative. Directed by Sharan Sharma, known for Gunjan Saxena, the film features Rajkumar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor in the lead roles. The promo reveals the actors as a married couple who share a passion for cricket. Janhvi Kapoor's character is a doctor who enjoys watching and playing cricket, while Rajkumar Rao's character is an aspiring cricketer who hasn't yet made a name for himself in the sport. Earlier, Rajkumar Rao shared a glimpse of the second song titled Agar Ho Tum. Fans were quick enough to react to the video. The full song will be out tomorrow. The teaser opens with Rajkumar and Janhvi sitting in a cafe and staring at each other with a smile. "The power of love in its entirety is heading your way! #AgarHoTum song out tomorrow! #MrAndMrsMahi in cinemas on 31st May," read the caption.



Salman Khan also took to his social media to give a big shoutout to Karan Johar-produced Mr and Mrs Mahi. The film stars Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao in lead roles. The trailer is already out and there's been much buzz around it. Sharing the trailer on his Instagram Stories, Salman Khan wrote, "Looks good, wishing the cast n crew the very best (sic)." Janhvi was quick to re-share it on her Stories. "Rajkumar, too, shared it and wrote, "Thank you so much dear @beingsalmankhan sir. Uour wishes mean a lot to us."



Heeramandi: Jason Shah BREAKS Silence On Rape Scene With Manisha Koirala, 'Didn't Find It Too Emotional'



Actor Jason Shah recently shared his experience working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut streaming series, 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar.' Jason discussed the intense rape scene involving him, Manisha Koirala, and several other actors. He also mentioned that he did not perceive his character, Alastair Cartwright, as queer. During an interview with ETimes, Jason Shah talked about the rape scene, stating that he didn't find it particularly draining or emotional. He explained that he viewed his role as overseeing rather than directly participating in the assault on Koirala's character, Mallikajaan. He stated, "I didn't find it too emotional for me because, at that moment, I felt like I wasn't raping her, I felt I was letting my eye it easier for him to perform the scene. Jason Shah was also seen getting intimate with Ustadji, played by Indresh Malik in one of the episodes. Jason admitted that he was hesitant before shooting the scene but added that he had full confidence in Bhansali and was sure that the director would not portray it cheaply. "Obviously there was, because this isn't something I've done before. To be so close to another man, you will face... hesitation is the perfect word. I wasn't hesitating to say yes to the show, and I felt comfortable because I was working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, so I knew aesthetically, it wouldn't be portrayed in a way that would seem cheap. I knew that his standard would be met. I was definitely nervous coming up to that day. They told me in the night that tomorrow would be that scene," he told Filmibeat OTT.

Released on May 1, Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar is Sanjay Leela Bhansali's OTT debut. The show premiered on Netflix also stars Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal Mehta, Farida Jalal, Fardeen Khan, Shekhar Suman and Adhyayan Suman in key roles. It explores the various aspects of a woman's trials and tribulations.

Kiara Advani Reveals If She And Sidharth Malhotra Will Reunite Soon On-Screen After Shershaah



Kiara Advani, who recently represented India at an event in Cannes, is preparing for an exciting array of upcoming projects. Nevertheless, her fans and those of her husband, Sidharth Malhotra, continue to express their wishes for the duo to collaborate again following their 2021 war drama, Shershaah. In a recent interview, Kiara shared her appreciation for the love they have received for Shershaah and unveiled her intentions to reunite with Sidharth on screen. In a recent discussion with Film Companion during her visit to Cannes, France, Kiara Advani talked about her experience working with her husband, Sidharth Malhotra. She remarked, "I feel like Shershaah gave us a lot of love as a couple. So there's a certain excitement, and people want to see us together."

However, she emphasized their mutual respect for each other's space as actors. While they are both excited about the prospect of working together again, she clarified that any script they consider must appeal to them individually. "I've never really thought of it like, 'As a couple, how does this work?' I think we're individual people first and actors first so that's how we would go about looking for something. But yeah, we would love to work together, but it has to excite us equally," she added.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kiara Advani is all set to step into the action genre with Don 3. Directed by Farhan Akhtar, the film will also star Ranveer Singh in the lead. Previously, Kiara was speaking to ABP News when she admitted that Don 3 would be her first action film. She shared that she consciously decided to sign this movie to break away from the way the audience has seen her as of now.