

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Entire BJP engaged in spreading lies against Rahul: Priyanka Gandhi

Sanjay Kumar Raebareilly (UP), May 8: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday charged that the entire BJP machinery is engaged in spreading lies against Rahul Gandhi. Slamming the BJP,



she also said that it talks about religion, caste and temple-mosque but not about real issues concerning the people. Campaigning for her brother Rahul Gandhi from the family bastion, she said the people of Raebareilly understand leaders well. "When they did not like some policy of Indiraji

(Indira Gandhi) they defeated her also. Indira did not get angry but did introspection. You elected her again. It is a speciality of the people of Raebareilly that they understand leaders," she said while addressing a street meeting at Thulwasa in the constituency. She said the BJP wanted to change the Constitution but when it realised they would have to suffer losses in the election, the prime minister said they had no such plans. Earlier in a post on X, she said her party's 100-year-old relationship with the people of Raebareilly has entered a new era and the people of the constituency are once again ready for its leadership. As part of the poll campaign, Priyanka Gandhi is scheduled to attend street meetings at Maharajganj, Halor, Bhawanigarh, Goodha, Tilanda, Inchauli and Sudauli—all in Bachhrawan assembly constituency of Raebareilly.

Sam Pitroda's latest remarks lend fodder to BJP, 'disgusting': PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, May 8: Days after his "inheritance tax" advocacy put the Congress on the defensive in the hotly contested ongoing 2024 General Election, Sam Pitroda on Wednesday made fresh controversial remarks saying people in the east of India look like Chinese, people in the west look like Arabs, those in the north look like Whites and those in the South look like Africans. Top BJP leaders

Congress' Crown Prince. The Prime Minister has been flagging Pitroda's defence of US inheritance tax on wealth



left behind by the deceased across poll rallies in India, fanning the narrative that the Congress, if elected, would "grab half the assets deceased people have earned." The Congress, however, distanced itself from Pitroda's remarks. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X: "The analogies drawn by Mr Sam Pitroda in a

podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable. The Indian National Congress completely dissociates itself from these analogies." The video, going viral, features the Congress leader as saying the following: "Our founding fathers fought against the British Raj not to create a Hindu nation but to create a secular nation. Pakistan decided to create a nation based on religion and look at what happened to them. We are a shining example of democracy in the world. We have survived 70 years, 75 years, we can live together leaving aside fights here and there. We could hold together a country as diverse as India where people on the east look like Chinese, people on the west look like Arabs, people on the north look like Whites and people in the south look

like Africans. But that does not matter. We are all brothers and sisters. We all respect different languages, different religions, different looks, different customs, food. As a Gujarati I love idli dosa. That is my food. That is no longer south Indian food. That is the India I believe in where everyone has a place, everyone compromises a little bit. I am still at home in Tamil Nadu even if I cannot speak the local language. That idea of India rooted in democracy, freedom, liberty, fraternity is being challenged by the narrative of Ram temple, Ram Navami. The PM is going to temples all the time, not talking as a national leader but as a leader of the BJP," Pitroda said. Senior BJP leaders and pro-BJP X handles attacked Pitroda for his "racist take on Indians". Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma took on Pitroda saying: "Sam Bhai, I am from the north east and I look like an Indian. We are a very diverse country—we may look different but we are all one. Hamare desh ke barley mein thoda toh samajh lo," Sarma posted on X, tagging Pitroda's video.

Haryana Government not in any trouble: CM Saini

Chandigarh, May 8: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said his government is not in any trouble and working strongly, a day after three Independent MLAs withdrew support to the BJP dispensation. He blamed the Congress for creating the confusion that his government is in trouble. "The government is not in any trouble, it is working strongly," Saini told reporters at Sirsa when asked to comment on the withdrawal of support. The chief minister was in Sirsa to campaign for Ashok Tanwar, the Lok Sabha poll candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) withdrew support to the BJP government in Haryana on Tuesday and announced that they would back the Congress, reducing the government to a minority in the state Assembly. The government, which has the support of



two other Independent legislators, is now two short of the majority mark in the 90-member House that has a current strength of 88. Hitting out at the Congress, Saini said it has been the opposition party's thinking that it should fulfil the personal aspirations of some people. "When they ruled at the Centre, you must have seen that when they felt their government was in trouble, they used to fulfil the aspirations of some people," he said. But the people of Haryana are not going to fulfil the aspirations of the Congress, the chief minister added. Saini said the "double-engine" government has ensured development in various spheres in the country as well as in the state. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP believe in development," he said. Saini said the entire country is witnessing the misdeeds of the Congress. "The Congress knows that it cannot fulfil the aspirations of people and misleads them. It tries to create a state of confusion that the (state) government is in minority. The government is in no trouble and it is functioning strongly," he asserted. The Haryana unit of the Congress has said it will write to the governor stating that the Saini government is in minority after the three Independent MLAs withdrew support to it and that it should be dismissed, President's Rule be imposed in the state and fresh polls announced.

ED raids Jharkhand's rural development dept premises

Ranchi, May 8: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided the premises of the Jharkhand rural development department in Ranchi as part of a money laundering investigation in which it recently seized huge cash, the official sources said. The raids are being undertaken on the inputs gathered from the questioning of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjeev Lal and the latter's domestic help Jehangir Alam. Both were arrested by the central agency on Monday. It has claimed to have seized more than Rs 30 crore cash from the premises of Jahangir Alam apart from some other cash during searches conducted on May 6. Lal, 52, collected "commission" on behalf of some influential people, the ED had claimed before a court here on Tuesday, adding that the government officials from "top to bottom" of the rural development department are involved in the alleged illegal cash payments nexus. The ED claimed the names of "senior bureaucrats and politicians" have emerged in the case and this is being investigated. The money laundering case of September, 2020 is based on an anti-corruption branch (Jamshepur) case of Jharkhand Police and a March 2023 FIR filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police against former chief engineer of the state rural works department Veerendra Kumar Ram and some others.

Sam Pitroda resigns as Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, May 8: Congress leader Sam Pitroda on Wednesday resigned as the Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress after his controversial remarks spurred the BJP to label the party "racist". Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge had accepted Pitroda's decision. "Mr Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress President has accepted his decision," Ramesh said in his post. The development came after Pitroda's choice of ethnic and racial identities like Chinese, Arabs, Whites and Africans at a podcast to describe how Indians from different parts of the country look triggered a political firestorm. The Congress swiftly distanced itself from his words, calling the remarks "most unfortunate and unacceptable". With campaigning in full

swing ahead of the fourth phase of polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP's all-out attack on the Congress on Pitroda's analogy and asserted that people would not tolerate the attempt to insult them on the basis of their skin colour. At his rallies in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Modi said he is livid with the racial profiling of Indians by the US-based "philosopher and uncle of 'Shehzada'". As the row erupted,



Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X: "The analogies drawn by Mr Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable. The Indian National Congress completely dissociates itself from these analogies." Ramesh later announced Pitroda's decision to resign and that the Congress president had accepted it. The BJP dismissed the Congress's disassociation from the controversial comments as it noted at a press conference that Pitroda has a history of making "insulting and demeaning" comments, including on terrorism and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. His "hua to hua" (so what) reaction to a question on the 1984 communal violence and "it happens all the time" reference to the Pulwama terror attack, both in 2019 as the country was gearing up for the general election, had also triggered massive rows.

Air India Express cabin crew go on 'mass sick' leave, 80 flights cancelled

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, May 8: Air India Express has cancelled more than 80 flights and scores of flights have been delayed as a section of cabin crew members have reported sick to protest against the alleged mismanagement at the Tata Group-owned airline, sources said on Wednesday. The airline, which is in the process of merging AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with itself, is to operate 360 daily flights during the summer schedule that started in the last week of March. An Air India Express spokesperson said the airline is engaging with the cabin crew members to understand the reasons for reporting sick and also apologised for the flight disruptions. Discontent has been brewing among a section of the cabin crew at the low-cost carrier for some time now, especially after

the start of the merger process. The sources on Wednesday told PTI that more than 200 cabin crew are believed to have reported sick to protest against the alleged mismanagement at the airline. The cabin crew shortage has resulted in the cancella-



tion of at least more than 80 flights since Tuesday night and scores of flights were delayed. Flight disruptions are happening at various airports, including Kochi,

Calicut and Bangalore, they added. The sources also said there was chaos at some airports due to the sudden cancellation of flights, including to overseas destinations. "A section of our cabin crew has reported sick at the last minute, starting last night, resulting in flight delays and cancellations. "While we are engaging with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimise any inconvenience caused to our guests as a result," the Air India Express spokesperson said in a statement. Apologising to the customers for the "unexpected disruption", the spokesperson said those impacted by the cancellations will be offered a full refund or complimentary rescheduling to another date. Late last month, a union representing a section of the Air India Express cabin crew alleged that the airline is being mismanaged and there is a lack of equality in the treatment of the staff.

Maya removes nephew as her successor

New Delhi, May 8: BSP supremo Mayawati announced that she had removed her nephew Akash Anand as party's national coordinator. In a series of posts on X, she also announced that Anand is also no longer her successor, even as his father and Mayawati's brother Anand Kumar will continue to hold responsibilities in the party. "BSP, apart from being a party, is also a national movement for preserving Dr Ambedkar's self-respect. To take this movement forward, the new generation is also being readied and, therefore, Akash Anand was made the party's national coordinator and my successor. However, for the overall good of the party and the movement, till the time he gains complete maturity, Akash Anand is being removed from both these responsibilities," said Mayawati. "The party's leadership will not hesitate in making sacrifices in order to take forward the movement of Dr Ambedkar," she concluded.

If Congress takes steps to bring down Nayab Saini Government, we will support: Dushyant Chautala

Naresh Malhotra

Chandigarh, May 8: Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala on Wednesday said that if Leader of Opposition B S Hooda takes steps to bring down the Nayab Saini-led BJP Government, his party would support the move. The former deputy chief minister's statement came a day after three Independent MLAs withdrew support to the Saini Government. If a no-confidence motion is brought against the Saini Government, Chautala said they will vote against the government. "I want to say on record that if a floor test is held, our MLAs will vote to bring down the government...JJP will issue a whip and vote against it," he said. The BJP Government, which has the support of two other Independents and lone MLA of Haryana Lokhit Party, is now two short of the majority mark in the 90-member House which has a current strength of 88. "I want to tell

Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda that going by the present numbers in the Assembly, if a step is taken that this government is brought down during (Lok Sabha) elections, then we will fully consider to support them in this from outside," Chautala told reporters in Hisar. Now, Congress has to think whether they will take a step to bring down the BJP government," he said. Asked whether his party will support the Congress, he replied, "We are clear that step should be taken to bring down the government". He said the government has lost majority and either the Chief Minister should prove majority or resign on moral grounds. Ruling out any possibility of supporting the BJP after its alliance ended, Chautala said, "I have made it quite clear that the JJP will not go with the BJP now". On the possibili-

ty of the BJP not summoning the House to prove majority, Chautala indicated



there are many options available, including moving courts. Three Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) on Tuesday withdrew support to the BJP

government in Haryana and announced they would back the Congress, reducing the Nayab Singh Saini government to a minority in the state assembly. The present House has an effective strength of 88 with Karnal and Rania assembly seats being vacant. In the present House, the BJP has 40 MLAs, the Congress 30 and the JJP 10 in the House. INLD and Haryana Lokhit Party has one member. Independents are six. Referring to the three Independent MLAs withdrawing their support, Chautala said hectic political developments have taken place in the last day. "We demand that on moral grounds, the CM should either prove majority or submit his resignation," he said. "We will request and even write to the Governor that he should give direction to the government to prove majority," he said.

Man live-streams from poll booth in Gujarat

Dahod, May 8: A man has been detained for alleged bogus voting after he live-streamed from inside a poll booth in the Dahod Lok Sabha constituency, officials said on Wednesday. The Congress has claimed that the man, Vijay Bhabhor, is the son of a local BJP leader and accused him of "insulting democracy" by going live on Instagram from the booth. The police in the state's Mahisagar district detained Bhabhor and another man after the opposition complained to the Election Commission with a copy of the video. Though Bhabhor deleted the video after it drew criticism, the clip had gone viral on social media by then. The incident of a man relaying a video live on Instagram after going to a poll booth to cast his vote is being probed, Dahod Returning Officer Nirgude Babanrao said. "We have received the video with a complaint and an investigation is

underway," he said. Of the 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat, polling was held in 25 constituencies on Tuesday in the third phase of the general elections. The BJP candidate in Surat has won unopposed. The incident happened at a polling booth at Parthampur in Mahisagar district under Dahod parliamentary constituency, Mahisagar Superintendent of Police Jaydeepsinh Jadeja said. "We have detained two persons and action is being taken based on the FIR registered by the presiding officer under the Representative of the People Act for bogus voting," Jadeja said. He said Bhabhor went to the poll booth to cast his vote at 5.49 pm and left by 5.54 pm. In those five minutes, he went live on Instagram and also allegedly cast votes on behalf of two other electors, resorting to bogus voting, he said. Prabha Taviad is the Congress candidate in the constituency.

Over 55% of final yr BCom students fail examinations

Mumbai: Over 55% BCom students have failed in their final-year exams conducted by the Mumbai University. The university managed to announce the BCom results in a record 24 days. While before the pandemic, the success rate of BCom was over 60%, it dropped to 38% last year and this year it has gone up to 43.5%. However, results of a large number of students are also kept on reserve for not clearing lower exams and for unconfirmed admissions. Principal Marie Fernandes of St Andrews College said that they have been witnessing poor performance of students for the last two years. "Many students are simply not interested in studies. They are not regular in their attendance; many are unable to write answers. It is not just the final-year students, but we are seeing this trend across first and second year students too. In fact, teachers are holding multiple meetings with parents, who are taking cognisance of the problem," said the principal. Engineering cutoffs to fall, BCom admissions to get tougher. The cutoff for engineering courses may decrease this year due to fewer centum scorers in chemistry and physics. Additionally, an increase in seats for computer-related branches may impact the cutoff. Conversely, BCom course cutoffs may rise with more centum scorers in commerce and economics. 22-year-old Indian student stabbed to death in Melbourne over rent dispute. Navjeet Sandhu, 22, fatally stabbed in Melbourne during a rent dispute. Yashvir, an Army retiree, disclosed Navjeet intervened and got stabbed. Navjeet moved on a study visa. Less than 5% of students failed Std V, VIII term-end exams in Pune. 5% urban and 3-4% rural students failed Std V and VIII exams. School Principals Federation discussed findings. Teachers to prepare students for re-exam following local needs.

At 95.15 per cent, TN tribal schools' Class 12 pass score improves

Among 35 schools across the state, 14 record 100% pass rate; 7 students score centum

CHENNAI: From the bottom of the performance table two years ago, the schools run by the tribal welfare department have come a long way, recording a pass percentage of 94.82 in 2023 and 95.15 this year. As per the data collated by the department, out of the total 35 schools, 14 have achieved 100% pass rate, compared to just 10 schools last year. Additionally, seven students have scored centum in various subjects against just one student who managed to get it last year.

In 2022, the pass percentage of class 12 students from tribal welfare schools was 86, lower than the 89 recorded by all the government schools. This year, out of the 1,402 students who wrote the examination, 1,334 passed. Among the 35 schools under the department, including seven Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), 10 government tribal residential schools and four EMRS schools achieved a 100% pass rate. A top tribal welfare department official said one of the main complaints against the department was there was no regular monitoring of the schools. "We changed that now and gave more

importance to the schools. Results were reviewed after every examination and measures were taken to improve them," he said.

While the overall pass percentage are encouraging, only 8% of students

education should also be strengthened to improve the results," said D Vijayan, Karumandhurai Government Tribal Residential School.

Teachers also said there is still scope for improvement by filling vacancies and redeployment of teachers. "There are many vacancies at all levels. At present, they have been filled with temporary teachers. The department also doesn't ensure redeployment of teachers as per the student count, affecting the education of the students," said a teacher of a tribal school.

June 1 deadline for applying for supplementary exam

Chennai: Students who have failed to clear or were absent for class 11 and 12 examinations could apply for the supplementary examinations by making a visit to their respective schools from May 16 to June 1 (except Sundays) from 11 am to 5 pm. Private candidates can apply from the service centres that are formed in each district for the purpose, said a press release from the directorate of government examinations. Private candidates can find the details of the service centres on www.dge.tn.gov.in or at the district and chief education offices.



managed to score above 80%. About 47% of students scored between 60 and 79%, while 44% fell within the range of 35 to 59%. Headmasters and teachers working in the tribal schools said this is due to absenteeism and lack of proper primary education. "About 10 to 20% of the students start working after class 10. We have to convince them to continue schooling. This apart, primary level

Fish processing units affecting quality of life: Pottalloorani villagers in TN tell SHRC to intervene

After the commotion and the minister's exit from the village, people said the police refused to arrest the goons who entered the village with weapons.

THOOTHUKUDI: Stating that three fish processing units are allegedly polluting the environment, thereby depriving them of good hygiene, fresh air and clean water, the residents of Pottalloorani village sought the intervention of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). Pottalloorani village, located in Ellainayakkanpatti panchayat, was in the news recently when the villagers decided to boycott elections on April 19. The boycott took a violent turn after the villagers denied entry to Fisheries Minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan, who came to appease them. In a petition to the SHRC chairman, the petitioner A Shanmugam, on behalf of the villagers, demanded the permanent withdrawal of the licences of the three fish processing companies, claiming that they are adversely impacting their fundamental right to health and hygiene. Cases were also registered against the villagers after their confrontation with the police and goons on April 19. The villagers had demanded action against the



village administrative officer (VAO), alleging that the VAO had intentionally let a DMK man, Perumal from Deivaseyalpuram, into the polling station at Pottalloorani for reasons best known to him, and that was the inception of disturbing public tranquillity on April 19, when the state went for Lok Sabha polls. The collector, who is also the district election officer (DEO), failed to address their

'reasonable demands' despite repeated requests. The government must act against the collector for failing to hold talks, which snowballed into a violent issue, the petitioners stated. After the commotion and the minister's exit from the village, people said the police refused to arrest the goons who entered the village with weapons. The villagers faulted the Pudukottai inspector and Thoothukudi rural DSP for failing to arrest Perumal, who was causing nuisance at the polling station, and sought departmental and legal action against both of them.

Besides, the protesters urged the SHRC to ensure protection from DMK functionaries Suresh Gandhi, Perumal and Mariappan, as well as the owners of the three fish processing units. Fearing attacks by the three DMK men, the villagers urged the SHRC to shift the functions of the VAO office, the revenue inspector's office and the panchayat office to Pottalloorani from Deivaseyalpuram, to protect their rights.

Got I-T notice? File your ITR or face scrutiny

Mumbai: If a taxpayer does not file an income-tax return in response to an inquiry notice, the case will be picked up for scrutiny. This notice — under section 142(1) — seeking information, is issued when a taxpayer has not filed the tax return or is issued to seek additional preliminary information regarding a particular detail — say bank interest or long-term capital gains/loss on sale of a property. This guidance is part of a comprehensive set of guidelines issued recently by the Central Board of Direct Taxes for compulsory selection of I-T returns for the purpose of complete scrutiny. These guidelines, which are issued annually, pertain to the selection and complete scrutiny that is to be undertaken during the current financial year and cover survey cases, search and seizure cases, tax evasion cases, cases where no I-T return was filed in response to an inquiry notice. It also covers cases relating to non-registration or cancellation of registration under various sections — such as 12A/12AB relating to registration of charitable organisations to be eligible for tax benefit. In addition, if in an earlier year, an addition was made to the taxpayers' income on a recurring issue, then subject to monetary limits that have been laid down, the I-T return will be picked up under compulsory scrutiny guidelines. The guidelines also prescribe the role and responsibilities of the I-T officers and the National Feeless Assessment Centre. Ketan Vajani, a chartered accountant, said



there is no significant change in the criteria for compulsory scrutiny as compared to the present position. "The guideline points out that all I-T returns filed during FY24, will have the outer time limit for issue of a notice by June 30, 2024." Complete scrutiny is a regular feature carried out in selective cases to ascertain whether the taxpayer has declared income correctly in the I-T returns and has paid the taxes due.

If you get a notice, make sure to file your I-T return or face scrutiny. CBDT scrutinizes non-filing I-T returns with stringent guidelines for 2024-25, including time limits by June 30, 2024. Chartered accountant, Ketan Vajani, emphasizes tax tribunals, due diligence, and investigative reports in the process.

Government issues guidelines to tackle possible heatwave. CM Pinarayi Vijayan's meeting addresses heatwave risks, leading to closure of institutions until May 6. IMD forecasts high temperatures in multiple districts. District collectors ensure worker safety during hot and humid conditions.

Septic tank deaths: Maharashtra govt issues detailed guidelines. State govt releases guidelines emphasizing safety measures, trained workers, and air quality for cleaning septic tanks and sewer lines.

Kerala varsities ready to roll out 4-year UG courses

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: As the state's higher education sector is poised to fully implement the four-year undergraduate programmes starting this year, major universities have cleared the decks for the rollout of a variety of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses. University of Kerala (KU) pioneered the four-year UG programme in the state last year by offering such a course in Politics and International Relations. This year, the varsity is set to roll out 15 more 'Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) - Honours with Research' courses in science, arts, commerce and business administration. Students can choose their 'major' subject from any of the 16 programmes at the end of the first year of the four-year course. Along with it, they can

choose their 'minor' subject from as many as 51 innovative minor courses offered by the 44 teaching and research departments of the university.

The choice of minor subjects includes data science, data analytics, applied linguistics, cyber security, supply chain, bio-diversity, nanoscience, biotechnology, biochemistry, climate change, functional materials, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Unlike the conventional three-year degree course, the four-year programme provides students the option to pursue more than one discipline. If a student secures the required credit in a 'minor' subject, he or she can continue pursuing the subject at the post-graduate and research levels. According to KU Vice-Chancellor Mohanan Kunnummal,

a variety of online courses, skill development programmes, internships and research projects also form an integral part of the four-year UG programme offered by the varsity. "The Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) - Honours with Research has been conceived to instil in students a multidisciplinary approach, social commitment and research aptitude. The idea is to connect them to the job sector and also encourage research in their respective domains," he said.

Programme highlights

According to prof Sam Solomon, director of the Centre for Undergraduate Studies, KU, students who obtain the required credits at the end of the third year can exercise the exit option with the normal BA/ BSc / BBA/

Bcom degree. "Students who secure a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 7.5 or above can advance to the fourth year of the programme. These students will be awarded the 'Honours with Research' degree on completion of the four-year course," he said. This year, the varsity plans to admit students on the basis of marks scored in the Plus Two examination. The admission notification will be issued soon after the publication of the Plus Two results. From next year onwards, an entrance exam is being planned taking into account the limited seats available for the newly launched courses. 4-YEAR UG PROGRAMMES: 16BSc Hons With Research; 7Biology, Physics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geology, Psychology BA Honours With Research.

Students can choose their 'major' subject from any of the 16 programmes at end of first year

According to election officials, the overall voting percentage in Karnataka was 69.96, better than the national average of 67.40.

Despite heat, Karnataka Phase-3 polls records 70.41 per cent voting

BENGALURU: Despite the maximum day temperature touching 45 degrees Celsius in some segments, 14 constituencies in the state recorded a voter turnout of 70.41%, as tabulated till 11.17 pm on Tuesday in the Phase - 3 Lok Sabha elections. According to election officials, the overall voting percentage in Karnataka was 69.96, better than the national average of 67.40.

IMD officials had issued a heatwave alert for most parts of Karnataka, including the 14 constituencies that went to polls on Tuesday. The maximum temperature in Gulbarga and Raichur constituencies was around 45 degrees Celsius. In Koppal, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Gadag, Bellary, Bidar and Yadgir constituencies, it was around 43 degrees Celsius. Election and IMD officials said despite the harsh weather, the voter turnout in Phase-3 elections was excellent. The voter turnout in Phase-2 elections was 69.56%.

Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena said the overall voter turnout for Phase-3 was better compared to Phase-2 elections, given the weather conditions. Chikkodi sees highest voter turnout. Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer Majok Kumar Meena because of the poor turnout in Bengaluru's three urban constituencies, the overall percentage dropped in Phase-2 elections. The constituencies that went to polls in Phase-3 in the state have no metropolitan cities. Hence, the overall turnout was good, he added. In Bellary, election officials Lakshmi Devi and Ravichandra were rushed to hospital after they suffered low blood pressure. According to doctors, it was due to heatwave. Meena said despite the ban on using mobile phones inside polling booths, incidents of people voting, videographing and posting it



on social media were reported. Details were being collected from polling officials and action will be taken accordingly, he added. Many politicians, including All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief ministers BS Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai, and Union Minister

Prhalad Joshi exercised their franchise.

THE SIKH TIMES
 Edited, Printed, Published
 Owned by Simmi Babbar
 N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
 Delhi-110009
 Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
 Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
 (Lond), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
 Corporate Office:
 5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
 Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
 Editor-in-Chief
 Gurcharan Singh Babbar
 Mob : 965407232, 9971359517
 Website : www.sikh-times.in
 Email : sikh-timesindia@gmail.com
 RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465
Legal Advisors:
 Advocate Mohd. Sajid
 Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
 Advocate Manish Sharma
 Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

NEWS BOX

4 nominations rejected, 26 candidates in poll fray

Gurgaon. Scrutiny of nominations for the Gurgaon parliamentary seat took place at the mini secretariat on Tuesday. Of the 30 candidates who filed their nomination papers, 26 were found valid, while four were rejected. The candidates had altogether filed 49 nominations. The rejected nominations belonged to candidates of major political parties, including Manita Singh (BJP), Rahul Yadav (JJP), Jitendra Bhardwaj (INC) and Mohammad Naseem (INLD). All four were covering the main candidates of their parties. According to deputy commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav, who is also the returning officer, all nomination papers were scrutinised in the presence of candidates and their representatives. Reasons for rejections included deficiencies in the affidavit or incomplete columns in forms. During the nomination process from April 29 to May 6, candidates submitted varying sets of nomination papers, ranging from two to four. Yadav announced the list of 26 candidates whose nominations were found valid, which included prominent names such as Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP), Raj Babbar (Congress) and Rahul Yadav Fazilpuria (JJP). Vandana Gulia (Right to Recall), Shrawan Kumar (SUCI-Communist), Lal Chand Yadav (Bharatiya Janan Kisan Party), Vijay Kumar (Jan Sewak Kranti Party), Dharmendra Thakran (Swayan Shashan Party), Ishwar Singh (People's Party of India-Democratic), Akash Vyas (Bharatiya Shakti Chetna Party), Vijay Kumar (BSP), Samay Singh (Bahujan Mukti Party), Samporn Anand (Rashtriya Lok Swaraj Party), Saurabh Khan (INLD) and Anwar (Social Democratic Party of India) are also in the fray. The independent candidates include Fauji Jai Kawar Tyagi (Dixit), Ashok Jangra and Azad Singh, Rahul Thakran, Balwan Singh, Akshat Gait, Sony Hemlata, Ajay Kumar, Vishnu Yadav, and Kushever Bhagat.

The deadline for withdrawing nominations is 3pm on May 9. Election symbols will be allotted the same day. JJP candidate Fazilpuria held nearly 20 meetings at several places, including Raipur, Khijuri, Alwalpur and Bidwas on Tuesday and appealed to the people to vote for JJP in "favour of change".

Khattar hails bravery & patriotism of Mewatis as BJP steps up Nuh outreach

Gurgaon. BJP stepped up its outreach in Nuh on Tuesday, with Manohar Lal Khattar picking up from where he had left off at a public event in March — just before stepping down as CM — in which he said he worked the same for Nuh as he did for his home constituency Karnal. Speaking at the Vijay Sankalp rally in Ferozepur Jhirka, Khattar hailed the bravery and patriotism of Mewatis and described 16th-century freedom fighter Hasan Khan Mewati as an inspiration. Khattar had unveiled a statue of Hasan Khan Mewati in March. He also underlined the "unprecedented" work done by the central and state govts in Nuh, but expressed disappointment that despite this, it "does not let BJP win".

BJP, he said, works on the concept of "sabka saath, sabka vikas". "BJP is committed to the development of Nuh and welfare of its people. It deserves their support in the election," said the former CM while campaigning for five-time MP Rao Inderjit Singh, who is contesting for a sixth term from Gurgaon.

Nuh, where a majority of voters are Muslims, is part of the Gurgaon parliamentary constituency.

Khattar, in his speech, dismissed "fear-mongering tactics" of the Congress and claimed that BJP does not discriminate against any one on the basis of their religion. Saying that BJP considers "humanity, and not religion", Khattar cited the example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govt outlawing triple talaq.

"PM had consulted every one before making this decision... BJP govt works for the poor, youth, women, and farmers, irrespective of religion or caste. Welfare schemes have been implemented by the Modi govt without any discrimination," he said, claiming that Muslims have been safer under the BJP govt, which cracked down on communal riots since 2014.

Last year, six people lost their lives in violence that erupted during a religious procession in Nuh on July 31 and fanned out to other parts of south Haryana, including Gurgaon. Nuh police had registered 61 cases and arrested 350 suspects in the weeks after the riots. Dozens of properties linked to alleged rioters were bulldozed in the days after communal clashes, though the district administration said action was taken as the structures were illegal.

Double whammy for city: Outages amid soaring heat

Gurgaon: At a time when the maximum temperature is soaring to nearly 42 degrees Celsius, residents across several colonies are grappling with erratic power supply. In Ardee City, power was disrupted around 10pm on Monday and restored after 16 hours, around 2pm the next day. Residents said the outages were caused by bursting of power cables and short circuits in meter panels at several areas in the colony on Monday night. An electricity pole also caught fire due to high power demand, they said.

While the colony's population has grown over the years, the power infrastructure has not been upgraded to meet the demand, according to residents. Besides the discomfort caused by the heat, the outages also disrupt water supply, further irking residents.

"We had a sleepless night on Monday due to DHBVN staff's apathy. Last summer, there were adequate transformers in the colony. But many transformers have been removed in the last eight months. This has overloaded the existing infrastructure, resulting in frequent blasts and fires. We are dreading the peak of summer. Both DHBVN and HVPNL pass the buck," said Chaitali Mandhotra, a member of Ardee City RWA. Panini Gupta, a resident of B block, said: "A cable was burnt last night, and DHBVN could only restore power after 16 hours. Even the battery of our inverter was drained and it was difficult to manage in the sweltering heat." Sushant Lok 1 has a similar story to tell. The colony has been witnessing erratic supply over the past week.

MCG sets up teams to conduct checks & prevent fire outbreaks at landfill site

Gurgaon. MCG has constituted teams for round-the-clock surveillance at Bandhwari landfill site to avert fire outbreaks. The action came after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu cognizance of the fires broke out at the landfill site last month. The corporation's assistant engineers have been assigned to monitor the site 24x7 in three shifts, from 6am to 2pm, 2pm to 10pm and from 10pm to 6am. Assistant engineers will be conducting regular inspections to identify potential fire risks, monitoring temperature levels and other indicators of fire onset. They will also be keeping records of their observations, any reported incidents and actions taken to address them. It is mandatory for all the assistant engineers to attend to the eight-hour duty besides their regular work. "The assistant engineers have been assigned the duties to prevent any possible fire incident and will have to be physically present at the

time of their duties," said an MCG official privy to the matter. "Responsibilities of the assigned assistant engineers include but are not limited to conducting regular inspections of the landfill site to identify potential fire hazards, monitoring temperature levels and other indicators that may suggest the onset of a fire, coordinating with relevant authorities and emergency services in the event of a fire incident and implementing preventive measures as per established protocols to mitigate the risk of fires," read the order issued by Nijesh Kumar MCG executive engineer — Swachh Bharat Mission. Taking suo motu cognizance of the Bandhwari landfill fire, NGT took action against six govt agencies in April. The site had earlier witnessed blazes on April 6, 7, and 17. There are around 16.4 lakh



metric tonnes of garbage at the landfill site. We also published the following articles recently: Plans To Tackle Threat Of Landfill Blazes In Pipeline; MCD uses perforated pipes to release trapped methane at Ghazipur and Bhalswa landfills, following NGT recommendations. Efforts include using inert material, CCTV, and heat thermometers for fire prevention and

management. 109847741

Make arrangements to deal with incidents of fire, water shortage: Official in HP's Hamirpur Amarjit Singh chaired a meeting for summer preparation, stressing advanced arrangements despite normal weather. Coordination between forest and fire departments was directed, and local residents were involved in forest fire prevention efforts. Rahul Gandhi has no fire but Congress playing with fire by attempting Hindu-Muslim divide: Rajnath Singh criticizes Congress for religious divide, praises BJP's plans for UCC and 'One Nation One Election', predicts NDA victory with over 400 seats. He accuses Congress of playing caste, creed, and religion cards

SGGSCC celebrates 40th Annual Day

New Delhi 8th May: Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi, organized its 40th Annual Day on Tuesday, 7th May 2024

forty years, the college has made a significant mark in the educational landscape of India. SGGSCC has been awarded A++ by NAAC and has been

thoughtful in order to enjoy life and work. He motivated the young learners to stay unfettered in their vision as the world holds limitless possibilities for them. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Gurmeet Singh, former Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University appreciated the efforts of college managing committee and the parent body Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) in facilitating remarkable growth of the college. Sdr. Harmeet Singh Kalka, President, DSGMC graced the occasion with other senior members of the body, Sdr. Atma Singh Lubana and Sdr. Parwinder Singh Lucky. Sdr. MPS Chadha, Chairman, Governing Body of the college appreciated the efforts of the faculty in inspiring the students to work hard and bring laurels to the institution. The students were felicitated for their achievements in academics, sports and events organized by 45 professional, cultural and social outreach societies.



Principal of the college, Prof. Jatinder Bir Singh, in his address, congratulated the students for their achievements in academics and co-curricular events. He recounted how in its brief history of

ranked among top 50 colleges of the country by NIRE. The Chief Guest of the event, Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, former Chief Justice of India urged the students to be creative and

Admin nod for 2 hsg colonies to install 11 gates on internal roads

Gurgaon. Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav has allowed installation of 11 gates in Vatika India Next and South City 1 after residents flagged security concerns. Residents of four colonies sought permission from the DC's office to install internal gates. After examining the applications, approval was given to install 10 gates in Vatika India Next Colony and one gate in South City 1 on the recommendation of the department of town and country planning (DTCP) and police, officials said on Wednesday. Police are yet to approve the other applications, due to which no decision has been taken yet on installation of gates in BPTP Astaire Garden and Experion colony off Dwarka Expressway. On March 29, DC Nishant Yadav held a meeting over installation of gates, in which permission was sought for 10 gates in Vatika India Next, one in South City 1, 10 in BPTP Astaire Garden and one in Experion. District town planner (enforcement) Manish Yadav, who is a member of the committee checking applications, informed Yadav that no comments had been received yet from police for BPTP and Experion Colony. "Due to this, no decision has been taken yet on the applications of these two colonies," Yadav said. According to norms, before installing gates or boom barriers in a colony, residents have to apply to the deputy commissioner and the office of district town planner (enforcement), following which the latter tables these applications in the meeting and a final decision is taken on the basis of committee members' opinions. A senior official from the district administration said, "Approval to install gates on internal roads was given after examining security concerns and impact on traffic movement in the area. RWAs and residents, in their applications, explained security concerns. Local police examined these and submitted a report to the DC," he said. Under the rulers, only internal roads

<p>NAME CHANGE I, Chetan S/o Laxmi Narayan R/o K-415, Ragbir Nagar, 25, Square Yards, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Chetan Singhal for all future purposes.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, Naveen Nischal R/o U-12, Naveen Shandara, Delhi-110032, have changed my minor son name from Namish Nischal to Namish Nieschal for all future purposes.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, No. 14831203H Rank-NK Name- RAMESH NAGUNAVAR S/o SHAT TUPPA Presently residing at VPO- MAJAGAON, TEH-DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-590008 have changed my mother's name from MAHADEVI S NAGUNAVAR to MAHADEVI SHETTAPPA NAGUNAVAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE My Client, Mrs. Meenakshi W/o Mr. Satendra Tyagi, R/o 120 Gali No. 1, Sewa Nagar, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. Is sole and absolute owner of Residential House bearing No. 120, admeasuring 100 sq. yards out of Khata No. 526-min, situated at Sewa Nagar, Village Ghookna, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. acquired the said property vide Gift Deed dt. 03.04.2024 executed by Mr. Satendra Tyagi in favour of his wife Mrs. Meenakshi in respect of the said property, duly registered as Doc. No. 3854 in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 10951 on Pages 225-254 on Dt. 03.04.2024 in the office of SRO-V-Ghaziabad, and Above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fusion Micro Finance Ltd. Whereas for creation of mortgage, Fusion Micro Finance Ltd. requires previous chain of the said property i.e. Original Mutation Letter in favour of Mr. Satendra Tyagi but the same not available / lost by Mrs. Meenakshi. Hence if Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, notified to the undersigned/Adv. Aditya Verma, C-2/12 Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, RUBY KUMARI Daughter of No. JC-391723Y Rank-NB SUB Name- SAROJ KUMAR Presently residing at VILL-LITWADEEH, PO-ATWILI, TEHSIL-SUKAR, DISTT-BUXAR, BIHAR-802129 have changed my name from RUBY KUMARI to RUBY KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 08/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, DEBARSHI son of DEBARA STHANAPATI, resident of Flat No. C-02/53, Himalayan Apts, Plot No. 10, Dwarka, Sector-22, New Delhi-110077 have changed my name from DEBARSHI to DEBARSHI STHANAPATI for all future purpose.</p>
<p>NAME CHANGE I, Laxmi Naryan S/o Moli Lal R/o K-415, Ragbir Nagar, 25, Square Yards, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Laxmi Narayan for all future purposes.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as BHUVANESHWAR SRIVASTAVA alias BHUVANESHWAR alias B. K SRIVASTAVA S/o KESHAV LAL, R/o 108, Pawadan, Janta Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHUVANESHWAR KRISHNA SRIVASTAVA.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as DHEERAJ BRAVE alias DHEERAJ KHAN D/O HENRY SOLOMON BRAVE, and W/o ABID ALI KHAN, R/o B/18, Tibbia College, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi-110005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHEERAJ KHAN. I have changed only my name, not my religion.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE I, Mohd. Jamil S/o Mr. Jumma R/o H.No. C-12/535, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 have purchased a vacant plot pertaining to Khata No. 11 etc., 7/12, area 750 sq. yds., Village Ziauddinpur, Tehsil Seelampur, Chand Bagh, 25th Road, Near & before Drain Road, North East, Delhi-110094 from Bijender Singh S/o Late Sh. Pratap Singh & Rishi Pal S/o Late Sh. Fakkad Singh and others. That if any person(s) having any objection/claim(s), interest for purchasing the above said plot may contact me within 15 days from the Publication of this notice, failing which the claim of any such person will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. mob.7678415722.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, PREETI D/o RAKESH KUMAR R/o H. No. - 5/11071, Mansarovar Park, Shadwara, East Delhi-110032 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PREETI SHARMA in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is PREETI which may be amended accordingly.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, ABHILASH KUMAR S/O SH BISHNUDEO PRASAD R/O FLAT NO.203, GODREJ APARTMENTS, PLOT NO-14, SECTOR-110, DWAR-KA, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110075, have changed my minor daughter name from AVISHI to AVISHI KUMAR for all future purposes.</p>
<p>NAME CHANGE I, Tashin Bano w/o Shafiq Ahmed R/o N-22/39, Saurabh Vihar, Jajpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Hasseen Bano for all future purposes.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARITA RAJENDRA PAL JONEJA W/O RAJENDRA PAL JONEJA R/O ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR OF PROPERTY NO. W-126 A, GREATER KAILASH PART-1, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110048 have changed my name to SARITA JONEJA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>LOST AND FOUND It is to inform you that Original Conveyance Deed duly registered with Sub Registrar vide Document No. 2023-24/16/13141 dt. 18.09.2023 with respect to Plot No.HPP-R2-E407, Area admeasuring Plot 350 Sq Yards situated at HYDE PARKESTATE New Chandigarh falling under Mullapur Master Plan Area Distt SAS Nagar Punjab executed between DLF Home Developers Ltd. and me (HDFE Vikram Bhatia) has been lost somewhere in the New Friends Colony market on 05.03.2024 at 7:30 PM when I was going to purchase Sweets from Nathu Sweets.</p>	<p>INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) No.2024/RS(WTA)-149/Tender/551 New Delhi, dated 06.05.2024 Sub: Global e-Tender No: WTA-551 opening on 10/06/2024 for procurement of 50000 nos. BOX 'N' Axle [22.9 Tonne Load]. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for procurement of 50,000 nos. BOX 'N' Axles [22.9 Tonne Load] to Drg. No. WD-89025-S-02 Alt-8 and Specification No. IRS-R-16-95 with corrigendum No.1 to 4. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.in for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids. Any further corrigendum to this tender will be uploaded in the website http://ireps.gov.in only and not in print media.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general public at large that our clients Mrs. Kavita w/o Mr. Rajesh Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 150 Sq. Yds., Khewat No. 183 Min, Khata No.199, Mu. No. 126, Kila No. 2(6-18), situated at Sivana, village Faraknagar, Tehsil Faruknagar, Distt. Gurgaon Haryana. By Virtue of Sale Deed dated 29.07.2013 Duly registered in the office of SR-Farukh Nagar, vide Doc. No. 2219, Vol. No. 59/920, Book No. 1, on pages 37-39/155, dated 29.07.2013, till date and has lost/misplace his Original Sale Deed dated 06.09.2007 Duly registered in the office of SR-Farukh Nagar, vide Doc. No. 2219, Vol. No. 59/920, Book No. 1, on pages 37-39/155, dated 29.07.2013 & Original Sale Deed dated 06.09.2007 & Original Sale Deed dated 25.11.2011 it was executed in favour of Mrs. Laxmi Devi W/o Mr. Rajkumar, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Unit No.302, 3rd floor World Trade Tower Plot No-C-1, Sector-16, Noida UP. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211 sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09568714322</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, DHARMVEER S/O VIJAY SINGH MEENA EMPLOYED AS JR. ASSISTANT IN GURUNANAK EYE CENTRE GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, MAHARAJA NANJIT SINGH MARG, NEW DELHI-110002 PERMANENT RESIDING AT TALCHHERA, PO: AKHAIGARH, DIST: BHARATPUR, RAJASTHAN-321614 PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 762, 1ST FLOOR, GULABI BAGH, DELHI-110011 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as DHARMVEER MEENA in my Service Record. The actual name of mine is DHARMVEER, which may be amended accordingly.</p>
<p>NAME CHANGE I, SHADHNA CHATURVEDI Wife of No. JC-877731 Rank-NB SUB Name- ASHOK KUMAR CHATURVEDI R/O 45, WARD NO-7, VILL-PARSWAR, PO-CHURHAT, DIST-SIDHI, MADHYA PRADESH-486771, have changed my name from SHADHNA CHATURVEDI to SADHANA CHATURVEDI for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 12/10/1983 instead of my correct date of birth as 25/03/1985 vide affidavit dated 08/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Sh. Ramesh Chander S/O Sh. Kehri Singh (Adhaar No. 5141 4556 4652) and Mrs. Shashi Bala w/o Sh. Ramesh Chander (Adhaar No. 5879 3427 5103) both R/o A-84D, Gali No.-10, Chander Vihar, Mandawali, Delhi-110092, have disowned/debarred their son and daughter-in-law namely Mr. Neeraj Kumar S/o Sh. Ramesh Chander and Mrs. Priyanka W/O Sh. Neeraj Kumar D/O Sh. Kanchhi @ Satish Kumar from their all movable/immovable properties and assets and severed all relations with them due to their misconduct bad behavior. If anybody dealing with them in any manner will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. My clients shall not be responsible for any kind of acts done by them in future. MAHAVIR SINGH FARSWAN Advocate CH.NO. 405, LAWYERS BLOCK SAKET COURT, NEW DELHI-17</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, SATYA VEER SINGH S/O HANS RAM R/o RZF - 761/44, Gali No. - 4, Raj Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, Dwarka, South West Delhi-110077 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SATBIR SINGH in my Driving License No. DL09 19960325687. The actual name of mine is SATYA VEER SINGH which may be amended accordingly.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, No. 4378046M NK RANGI KUMAR SARKI S/O HOM BAHADUR, Presently residing at KARKE CHUK, PHULANI NO-1, JENGRAMUKH, DISTT-JORHAT, ASSAM-786105 have changed my name from RANGI KUMAR SARKI to RANGI KUMAR NEWAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 08/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, DEBARSHI son of DEBARA STHANAPATI, resident of Flat No. C-02/53, Himalayan Apts, Plot No. 10, Dwarka, Sector-22, New Delhi-110077 have changed my name from DEBARSHI to DEBARSHI STHANAPATI for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, Naveen Nischal R/o U-12, Naveen Shandara, Delhi-110032, have changed my minor son name from Namish Nischal to Namish Nieschal for all future purposes.</p>

NEWS BOX

Elon Musk on Canada's move to curb online hate content: 'This sounds insane'

World Tesla CEO Elon Musk has commented on a Canadian legislation that aims to curb online hate content and create stronger online protection for people in the country, especially children. The Independent newspaper reported that Musk on Tuesday retweeted a news article, which "appeared to be an untrue claim", that the legislation would give power to the police to arrest anyone who has ever posted hate speech, even before the bill was introduced in February this year. Community Notes is the X microblogging platform's crowdsourced fact checking service.

The bill, dubbed as the Online Harms Act, was introduced by the Justin Trudeau-led Canadian government on February 26. "The bill would create stronger online protections for children and better safeguard everyone in Canada from online hate and other types of harmful content," the government had said in an official statement at the time. "It would hold online platforms, including livestreaming and user-uploaded adult content services, accountable for reducing users' exposure to harmful content on their platforms and help prevent its spread." The legislation would also enforce the removal of content that "sexually victimises a child or revictimises a survivor and intimate content communicated without consent".

It will further increase the maximum sentences for illegal hate speech, while allowing citizens to report discriminatory speech to a human rights tribunal, which could entail a compensation up to 20,000 Canadian dollars or a fine of 50,000 Canadian dollars, the Independent reported.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer to visit India on Thursday

World Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer will visit India on May 9, in the first high-level trip from Male after the Maldives' pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu assumed office six months ago.

Announcing Zameer's visit, the Ministry of External Affairs said it is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation. The ties between the two countries came under severe strain in view of Muizzu insisting on withdrawal of Indian military personnel operating three military platforms in the island nation. India has already withdrawn most of its military personnel. President Muizzu had set May 10 as the deadline for withdrawal of the Indian military troops from his country.

"Moosa Zameer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, will be in India on an official visit on May 9," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. It said Zameer will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. "The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and Foreign Minister Zameer's visit is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement.

The Maldivian foreign ministry said Zameer will hold talks with Jaishankar focusing on "deepening and expanding the longstanding" Maldives-India partnership. "This is Foreign Minister Zameer's first official visit to India since assuming office," it said.

Stormy Daniels describes meeting Trump during occasionally graphic testimony in hush money trial

NEW YORK. With Donald Trump sitting just feet away, Stormy Daniels testified Tuesday at the former president's hush money trial about a sexual encounter the porn actor says they had in 2006 that resulted in her being paid to keep silent during the presidential race 10 years later.

Jurors appeared riveted as Daniels offered a detailed and at times graphic account of the encounter Trump has denied. Trump stared straight ahead when Daniels entered the courtroom, later whispering to his lawyers and shaking his head as she testified.

The testimony was by far the most-awaited spectacle in a trial that has toggled between tabloidesque elements and dry record-keeping details. A courtroom appearance by a porn actor who says she had an intimate encounter with a former American president added to the long list of historic firsts in a landmark case laden with claims of sex, payoffs and cover-ups and unfolding as the presumptive Republican nominee makes another bid for the White House.

Daniels veered into salacious details despite the repeated objections of defense lawyers, who demanded a mistrial over what they said were prejudicial and irrelevant comments.

"This is the kind of testimony that makes it impossible to come back from," attorney Todd Blanche said. "How can we come back from this in a way that's fair to President Trump?"

The judge rejected the request and said defense lawyers should have raised more objections during the testimony. The Trump team later in the day used its opportunity to question Daniels to paint her as motivated by personal animus and profiting off her claims against Trump.

"Am I correct that you hate President Trump?" defense lawyer Susan Necheles asked Daniels.

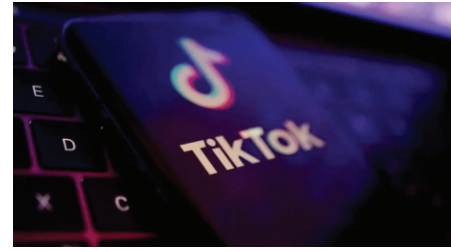
"Yes," she acknowledged. Daniels' statements are central to the case because in the final weeks of Trump's 2016 Republican presidential campaign, his then-lawyer and personal fixer, Michael Cohen, paid her \$130,000 to keep quiet about what she says was an awkward and unexpected sexual encounter with Trump in July 2006 at a celebrity golf outing in Lake Tahoe. Trump has pleaded not guilty

TikTok's Chinese owner sues US government over potential ban

Washington TikTok and its Chinese parent company ByteDance sued in US federal court on Tuesday seeking to block a law signed by President Joe Biden that would force the divestiture of the short video app used by 170 million Americans or ban it. The companies filed their lawsuit in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, arguing that the law violates the US Constitution on a number of grounds including running afoul of First Amendment free speech protections. "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban," the companies said in the lawsuit. The lawsuit said the divestiture "is simply not possible: not commercially, not technologically, not legally.... There is no question: the Act (law) will force a shutdown of TikTok by January 19, 2025, silencing the 170 million Americans who use the platform to communicate in ways that cannot be replicated elsewhere."

The White House has said it wants to see Chinese-based ownership ended on

national security grounds but not a ban on TikTok. The White House and Justice Department declined to comment on the lawsuit. The lawsuit is the latest move by TikTok to keep ahead of efforts to shut it down in the United States as companies such as Snap and Meta look to capitalise on TikTok's political uncertainty to take away advertising dollars from their rival. Driven by worries among US lawmakers that China could access data on Americans or spy on them with the app, the measure was passed overwhelmingly in Congress just weeks after being introduced. TikTok has denied that it has or ever would share US user data, accusing American lawmakers in the lawsuit of advancing "speculative" concerns. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi, top Democrat on a House committee on China, said the legislation is "the only way to address the national security threat posed by ByteDance's ownership of apps like TikTok." "Instead of continuing its deceptive tactics, it's time for ByteDance to start the divestment process," he said.



he law prohibits app stores like Apple and Alphabet's Google from offering TikTok and bars internet hosting services from supporting TikTok unless ByteDance divests TikTok by January 19.

The suit said the Chinese government "has made clear that it would not permit a divestment of the recommendation engine that is a key to the success of TikTok in the United States." The companies asked the DC Circuit to block US Attorney General Merrick Garland from enforcing the law and says "prospective injunctive relief" is warranted. According to the suit, 58% of ByteDance is owned by global institutional investors including

BlackRock, General Atlantic and Susquehanna International Group, 21% owned by the company's Chinese founder and 21% owned by employees - including about 7,000 Americans.

TENSIONS OVER INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY The four-year battle over TikTok is a significant front in the ongoing conflict over the internet and technology between the United States and China. In April, Apple said China had ordered it to remove Meta Platforms' WhatsApp and Threads from its App Store in China over Chinese national security concerns. TikTok has spent \$2 billion to implement measures to protect the data of US users and made additional commitments in a 90-page draft National Security Agreement developed through negotiations with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), according to the lawsuit.

That pact included TikTok agreeing to a "shut-down option" that would give the US government the authority to suspend TikTok in the United States if it violates some obligations, according to the suit.

Donald Trump's classified documents trial start indefinitely delayed, says court

Washington Donald Trump's trial in Florida on charges of illegally keeping classified documents after leaving office has been indefinitely postponed, a judge decided on Tuesday, greatly reducing the odds he will face a jury in either of the two federal criminal cases against him before the November 5 US election. Trump, seeking to regain the presidency, previously had been scheduled to go to trial on May 20 in the documents case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith, but the prosecution and defence had both acknowledged that date would need to be delayed. US District Judge Aileen Cannon, who was appointed to the bench by Trump in 2020, said on Tuesday the trial would no longer begin May 20 but did not set a new date. Cannon scheduled pre-trial hearings to run through July 22. Trump has pleaded not guilty to 40 federal counts accusing him of retaining sensitive national security documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida after leaving office in 2021 and obstructing US government efforts to retrieve them.



Trump is the Republican candidate challenging Democratic President Joe Biden, who defeated him four years ago. Smith faces significant obstacles to getting either federal case against Trump to trial before the election. Cannon is yet to rule on several legal issues crucial to the documents case and has signalled support for Trump's defence on some matters. In a separate case brought by Smith involving Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss, the US Supreme Court seems poised to recognise that former presidents have at least some immunity from prosecution over official actions. That outcome, mostly likely, would further delay Trump's election-related case as lower courts determine which

allegations against him are covered by that legal shield.

Trump's lawyers had said a trial in the documents case should not start until after the election, but also suggested an August 12 date in response to an order from Cannon to propose a timeline for the case. Smith proposed a July start date. Trump's lawyers have worked to delay all four criminal cases he faces.

"We're in this absolutely unprecedented situation where a defendant is potentially going to have the power to shut down his own prosecution," George Washington University law professor Randall Eliason, an expert in white-collar criminal cases, said.

"That's an argument for getting the case to trial before the election", he added. Trump has been on trial in New York state court since April 15 on charges he unlawfully sought to conceal hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election. He has also been charged in state court in Georgia over his attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

Rape, terror and death at sea: How a boat carrying Rohingya children, women and men capsized

MEULABOH, INDONESIA. The boat glided across waters that were dark and still, under a night sky that was cloudless and calm. But on board, the 12-year-old girl quaked with fear. The captain and crew who she says had tortured her and three other women and girls were not finished. And the punishment for disobedience, the men warned, would be death. It was the third night that the girl and around 140 other ethnic Rohingya refugees had been trapped on the wooden fishing boat, floating off the coast of Indonesia. These children, women and men had fled Bangladesh and their homeland of Myanmar in a bid to escape violence and terror, only to face the same horrors with a crew that seemed to delight in their dread. Huddled among the other women and girls, the 12-

year-old — identified in this story only by the initial N, because she is a sexual assault survivor — tried to hide her face. She had already survived a night in the captain's bedroom, where she says he and several crew members had beaten and sexually abused her. Like most of the passengers, she had survived attacks by Myanmar's military that forced her and her family to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. There, she had survived nearly seven years in violence-plagued refugee camps. And she had thus far survived this journey without her family, who hoped she'd make it to Malaysia, where she was promised as a child bride to a man she had never met. Her young life had been one long battle to survive. And so, it seemed, this night would be no different. The

captain was in a rage. He ordered more girls to join him and his crew in the bedroom. No one budged. "If you don't come to us," the captain shouted, "then we will capsize this boat!" What happened next would force N and the other Rohingya on board into yet another battle for survival. For many, this would be the battle they finally lost. In March, Indonesian officials and local fishermen rescued 75 people from atop the overturned hull of a boat off the coast of Indonesia's northern province of Aceh. Another 67 passengers, including at least 28 children, had been killed when the boat capsized, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

US paused weapons shipment to Israel to head off Rafah offensive: Report

World The United States last week temporarily halted a planned weapons shipment to Israel due to concerns that the Israeli military was preparing for a major ground operation in Rafah, the southern Gaza enclave housing over a million Palestinians. The White House administration official told news agency Reuters that as Israeli leaders appeared to be moving toward a decision on a Rafah incursion, the US began a thorough review of proposed weapons transfers to Israel. The situation in Rafah has escalated, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians seeking refuge from combat in other parts of Gaza. US President Joe Biden's administration has been actively working to prevent a full-scale assault by Israeli forces in Rafah, the official said. "The US position has been that Israel should not launch a major ground operation in Rafah, where more than a million people are sheltering with nowhere else to go," the official said. According to CBS News, the shipment in question included 1,800 2,000-pound (907-kg) bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs.



Reuters, citing sources, reported that the delayed shipments involved Boeing-made Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), which can transform conventional "dumb" bombs into precision-guided munitions. Additionally, Small Diameter Bombs were part of the

shipment. "We are especially focused on the end-use of the 2,000-lb bombs and the impact they could have in dense urban settings as we have seen in other parts of Gaza. We have not made a final determination on how to proceed with this shipment," the official added. The

delay coincides with public pressure from Washington on Israel to hold off in its offensive in Rafah until measures are taken to minimize civilian casualties. The US has expressed concerns about the humanitarian needs of civilians in the city. However, the Pentagon stated on Monday that there has been no official policy decision to withhold arms from Israel. Notably, in April, Washington approved a \$15 billion military aid package for Israel, which Biden termed as "vital support".

Meanwhile, Israel launched a major military offensive against Hamas forces in Rafah, seizing control of a key border crossing and cutting off most aid into the territory. It came after Israel on Monday declared that a three-phase ceasefire proposal approved by Hamas was unacceptable because terms had been softened. The US said it believes the remaining differences between Israel and Hamas can be bridged in negotiations over the Palestinian militant group's latest ceasefire proposal, as talks were scheduled to resume in Cairo.

AstraZeneca withdrawing Covid vaccine globally, calls timing a coincidence: Report

World The pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine is being withdrawn globally after the company acknowledged in court documents that it can cause a rare and dangerous side effect. However, the pharma giant said that the vaccine is being removed from the markets for commercial reasons. The company said that the vaccine is no longer being manufactured or supplied, the Telegraph said on Tuesday. Calling the decision "purely coincidental", the pharma giant has insisted that the withdrawal of vaccine is not linked to its admission that it can cause TTS - Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia Syndrome. As the company voluntarily withdrew its "marketing



authorisation", the vaccine is no longer authorised for use in the European Union. The withdrawal application was submitted on March 5 and took effect on Tuesday. Similar withdrawal applications will be submitted in the UK and other countries that had previously approved the vaccine, known as Vaxzevria. Vaxzevria is under global scrutiny due to a rare side effect causing blood clots and low blood platelet counts. In court documents filed with the High Court in February, AstraZeneca admitted that the vaccine "can, in very rare cases, cause TTS". TTS has been associated with at least 81 deaths in the UK, along with numerous serious injuries. AstraZeneca faces lawsuits from over 50 alleged victims and bereaved relatives in a High Court case. "We are incredibly proud of the role Vaxzevria played in ending the global pandemic. According to independent estimates, over 6.5 million lives were saved in the first year of use alone and over three billion doses were supplied globally. Our efforts have been recognised by governments around the world and are widely regarded as being a critical component of ending the global pandemic," AstraZeneca said as quoted by the Telegraph.

'Unlisted NCD redemption not capital gain, but interest income'

Mumbai: The Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal recently held that the differential sum between the proceeds received on redemption of unlisted non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and its purchase cost, will be treated as 'interest income' and taxed under the head 'income from other sources', in the hands of the investor. Thus, ITAT (Mumbai bench) also denied tax sops available for investment of long-term capital gains related proceeds in specified assets. Under a corporate insolvency resolution process, two private companies issued NCDs to banks against their outstanding loans. The issue was under the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Later, the bankers pressed for recovery of the NCDs from the directors of the companies. K.C. Thackersey, one of the directors, purchased the NCDs from nationalised banks. During financial year 2009-10, he declared long-term capital gains on redemption of these NCDs. The I-T Act provides for tax benefits if on earning long-term capital gains, the proceeds are invested in a house property or capital gains bonds. As Thackersey had made such investments, he claimed a deduction under sections 54F and 54EC, respectively. Redemption of unlisted NCDs will not result in cap gains, but interest income. The ITAT ruled on NCDs, treating profit gap as interest income, not capital gains. The decision affects tax benefits for long-term gains. Doshi and Amarpal Singh-Chadha provide insights on bond implications and debenture redemption scenarios. Astrology and Commitment: Which zodiac signs struggle most with long-term relationships? Astrology connects zodiac signs like Aries, Gemini, Sagittarius, Aquarius, and Pisces to commitment challenges stemming from traits like independence, indecisiveness, and the fear of losing freedom in relationships.

HC confirms punishment for man who fled custody

Bengaluru: Escaping from police custody by pushing a policeman has proved costly for a man from Bagepalli taluk, Chikkaballapur district. The high court upheld the conviction and sentence imposed on petitioner Somashekar by a trial court. On the night of April 7, 2012, assistant sub-inspector Sadappa and other cops went to Hosahudya village, where a clash had broken out between two groups. They arrested Somashekar and one Venkatesh and registered a couple of cases, including for attempt to murder in connection with the alleged assault on one Ashwath Reddy. When he was getting down from a jeep at Pathapalya police station, Somashekar allegedly pushed Sadappa aside and escaped. As he couldn't be traced, Sadappa lodged a complaint. On June 9, 2014, the JMFC court at Bagepalli held Somashekar guilty of escaping from the lawful custody of police and sentenced him to six months of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 1,000. On Dec 31, 2016, the sessions court at Chikkaballapur confirmed the order. Somashekar then moved the high court, challenging both those orders. He argued

that when he escaped, he was not charged with any offence. He claimed he was made to face trial in two other cases over the same incident. However, the govt advocate defended the invoking of section 224 of IPC. The court was told that the

such is the case, I do not find any ground to reduce the sentence only to fine as contended by counsel appearing for the petitioner," he said.

We also published the following articles recently:

Man sentenced rigorous life imprisonment for killing wife Prashant Kaushik found guilty of his wife's murder in Kurukshetra, receiving life imprisonment and a fine. Co-accused Sandeep Kumar sentenced to 4 years. CIA-I investigates, adding IPC sections.

Sisodia delaying trial in excise case: Court dismisses Sisodia's bail plea, attributing deliberate delays in trial proceedings to him. Denies bail based on wife's health, citing son's caregiving ability and lack of urgent medical condition. Lists 135 applications by accused since April 2023.

High Court orders removal of mobile ad vehicles from public spaces. High court at Goa directs removal of digital screen advertisement vehicles from various locations. Compliance report due by May 10.

Transportation department to address parking concerns and registration regulations.



other cases were in respect of different crimes. Justice HP Sandesh noted that the petitioner intentionally escaped from the lawful custody of police by pushing the ASI and the same is also spoken of by prosecution witnesses. The judge also pointed out that a police officer is empowered to arrest any person without an order from the magistrate or warrant even on the basis of suspicion of commission of cognizable offence. "When

Health, environment & infra are key demands in youth manifesto

Mumbai: From enforcement of anti-littering laws to open space development, from increased importance to be given to water quality index to accessible healthcare and affordable student hostels in the city, a manifesto developed by a youth-led organization working on improving electoral literacy, highlights some of the key issues plaguing the city. The organization, based on research, rigorous discussion and expert inputs, have divided their demands in three broad areas, including city & infrastructure, healthcare and environment. Health, environment & infra are key demands in youth manifesto. Mark Your Presence, an NGO, founded by Chaitanya Prabhu in 2018, is primarily managed by young students from across the city. The organization has been working with young voters in creating awareness and making college campuses voter friendly. Ahead of the elections, based on surveys with close to 1,000 students, it has drawn up an action plan for the political representatives. The idea was to bridge the gap between the youth and their elected representatives and to increase their participation in the democratic process. Prabhu, who conceived the idea of the manifesto document about a year and a half ago, said that many youths are politically aware and are interested in participating in the political discourse. "Documents like these are a reflection of youth's interest in the democratic process," he said. Among their long list of demands, divided in three sections, the students have asked for more open spaces, more employment opportunities from educational institutions, comprehensive waste management infrastructure, regulation of medical institutions, addressing the problem of ageing population, government grants for medical innovations, awareness workshops on health insurance, timely alerts and information on AQIs, better monitoring network, and incentives for cleaner energy sources. The NGO, which worked on the manifesto for over a year, not only took opinions from a diverse student population through questionnaires, held focused group discussions, but also took expert consultations. Housing expert and urban planner Chandrasekhar Prabhu, former dean of KEM Hospital Dr Avinash Supe and founder of Vanshakti and environmental activist Stalin Dayanand were part of the expert committee, which contributed to the manifesto. The organization also held workshops to ensure that their manifesto resonates with the grassroots. Feedback was also taken from the stakeholders and incorporated in the final document.

Govt, varsities seek NMC nod for 4 medical colleges

Bengaluru: Approval has been sought from National Medical Commission (NMC) for starting two private and two government medical colleges in the state during the upcoming academic year. This is in addition to eight existing colleges seeking an increase in the intake of UG seats. As per data from the directorate of medical education, permission has been sought for starting two government colleges in the upcoming year. These are proposed to be based in Ramanagara and Kanakpura. PES University, a deemed-to-be university, has sought approval from NMC for starting its new medical college at its Electronics City campus. "Our hospital has been functional for the past one year. We have applied for an intake of 100 students," said a PES University spokesperson. Adichunchunagiri University, a private institution, too has sought for NMC approval for starting a college in Nagamangala, said the directorate. Meanwhile, Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, Kolar; MVJ Medical College and Research Hospital, Bengaluru; Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru; the Oxford Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Bengaluru; Srinivas Institute of Medical Research Centre, Srinivasnagar, Mangaluru; Kanachur Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangaluru; AJ Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, Mangaluru and Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (Govt Medical College), Mysuru, have sought a hike in intake. Majority of them have sought an increase of 50 seats each. 11,595 MBBS seats in 68 colleges. Currently, there are 11,595 MBBS seats in 68 colleges across the state. Karnataka has had the highest number of medical seats in the country for many years till 2023-24 and the second highest number of medical colleges. NMC had proposed that new medical colleges can be approved based on the requirement of 100 MBBS seats for every 10 lakh population. However, following opposition, it was put on hold, allowing the state to have more colleges and increase in intake. About 24 lakh students had applied for NEET-2024, of which 1.5 lakh are from Karnataka.



2 women die of heart attack

A 45-year-old woman polling officer deployed at a booth in the coastal Jafraabad town of Amreli district died at a private hospital where she was admitted after she complained of uneasiness. Kaushika Babariya, the deceased, was a teacher at a govt school, said Ajay Dahiya, Amreli collector and district election



officer. Preliminary investigation shows heart attack as the probable cause of her death. In Anand district, a 60-year-old woman voter died of heart attack soon after she stepped out of the booth after voting. Sanjan Solanki, the deceased, was a resident of Hariपुरa village. tnn

'Temp fluctuations can trigger asthma attacks'

Kolkata: Temperature fluctuation caused by thundershowers after a heat spell can trigger asthma attacks among patients, pulmonologists warned on Tuesday. Speaking at a panel discussion organised by Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI) to mark World Asthma Day, pulmonologists said asthma patients needed to take preventive measures including avoid catching a cold. They also advised use of masks during change of weather and season. "Temp fluctuations can trigger asthma attacks," CMRI director and pulmonology department head Raja Dhar said, "Many people are having asthma attacks in Kolkata. As the temperature fluctuates, relative humidity increases and this also raises the count of water particles in the air. That is why asthma patients should stay careful when the temperature fluctuations happen. When mercury slides due to rain, patients should stay away from outdoor activities, put on masks and have allergy medicines so that asthma-induced problems

don't aggravate." "In industrial segments, there's a lot of dust pollution. We are planning to reach out to industry bodies and make them aware of asthma triggers," Dhar said. Arup Halder, consultant, pulmonology at CMRI, added, "Sudden change in weather is detrimental to asthma patients who suffer from acute cold and cough or breathing distress during monsoon and winter." Halder also pointed out that anxiety and anger increase the risk of asthma patients as well. Other pulmonologists at the panel discussion were Hindol Dasgupta from Fortis, Shelly Shamim from Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, Angshuman Mukhopadhyay from HP Ghosh Hospital. Apart from weather change, the panellists also expressed worries over rising air pollution that makes many children and youths catch asthma and aggravates the suffering of those undergoing treatment for a long time. Symptoms of asthma-like cough, chest tightness may vary day to day, said Shelly Shamim.

We also published the following articles recently: World Asthma Day: Understanding allergy triggers and asthma attacks. Allergic asthma, triggered by allergens, exhibits symptoms like airway inflammation. Relief involves medications, immunotherapy, and asthma action plan for a healthier indoor environment and improved quality of life.

World Asthma Day: The role of sleep in Asthma management. Bronchial Asthma, a prevalent condition affecting children globally, is associated with COPD and ACOS. Optimal sleep and health-tech monitoring play crucial roles in managing asthma, emphasizing the importance of lifestyle interventions for prevention and treatment.

World Asthma Day: 7 diseases linked to Asthma. World Asthma Day emphasizes the global impact of asthma and its association with various diseases like Allergic Rhinitis, COPD, GERD, Obesity, Sinusitis, Sleep apnea, Anxiety, and depression.

Kolkata: Ghost shopping centres or malls that are in distress due to high vacancies in retail space, poor customer footfalls and low revenue are on the rise in Kolkata. While there were four shopping centres in the city that could be categorised as ghost malls in 2022, two more shopping facilities have been added to the list last year. There are 23 shopping malls in Kolkata. 1 in 4 shopping centres in Kolkata a ghost mall. According to a study on retail scenario in 29 cities by real estate consultancy firm Knight Frank India, the gross leasable area in ghost shopping centres in Kolkata has shot up from 3 lakh sq ft in 2022 to 11 lakh sq ft in 2023. "Some malls are extremely well managed and have the size and variety to attract footfalls and clock high sales. But there are others that are not doing well. The situation has become more stressed in these malls with vacancy going up and footfall as well



as revenue declining further," said a retailer at one of the region's largest malls. Of the gross leasable area of 5.5 million sq ft in Kolkata, 16.5% is vacant. There are seven grade A malls in the city with vacancy of 3.8%, 11 grade B malls with vacancy of 20.7% and 5 grade C malls with 51.3% vacancy.

While all 5 grade C shopping centres have turned into ghost malls, one grade B

mall has slipped into the category. The poor show comes despite the city's low shopping centre density or gross leasable area per 1,000 population. In Kolkata, the ratio is 357 sq ft per 1,000 population against Bengaluru's 1,140 sq ft. Incidentally, Mangaluru has the highest shopping centre density in the country with 1,884 sq ft per 1,000 population. Analysts said the

rise in ghost malls in Kolkata was owing to multiple factors, including poor management, occasional disadvantage and small size that hindered a good mix of brands. Ghost shopping centres also provide an opportunity to repurpose the facilities and convert them into co-workspaces, offices, boutique hotels or pull them down to construct residential buildings. "All sectors in real estate are doing very well now. Some of these buildings can be repurposed to unlock value," said Knight Frank India national director (research) Vivek Rathi. 59% surge in ghost malls in India: Knight Frank report. Knight Frank's report details a 59% increase in ghost shopping centers, resulting in an \$800 million loss. The NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and 125 million square feet were notably impacted. Grade A malls and institutional investors are key players.

Turnout in Valsad highest, but lower than in 2019

Ahmedabad. Matdaan samanya daan nahi. Hamare desh main daan ka mahatva hai (Voting is not a common gift. In our country, a lot of importance is attached to donations). People of the country should vote in large numbers keeping this feeling in their hearts." PM Modi said after casting his vote. P Bharathi, chief electoral officer, said, "The turnout till 6pm is 57.13%. Of the total 182 assembly seats, we are awaiting polling reports from 100 seats. Thus, the total voting could cross 60%."

People in constituencies with significant tribal population including Valsad, Bharuch,

Bardoli, Chhota Udepur and Banaskantha once again displayed an extraordinary zeal for voting. Valsad, which includes the forest district of Dang, clocked the maximum polling turnout which is expected to touch 70%, though 5% lower than 2019. In arid talukas like Tharad and Vav in Banaskantha, people were seen standing in queues by protecting themselves with wet pieces of cloth.

The lowest turnout was recorded in Porbandar (46.6%) and Amreli (55.5%). While the turnout in Amreli was expected to be almost the same as in 2019, that in Porbandar, where

Union minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya is contesting, the turnout in the previous poll was around 57%. In fact, voting in eight LS seats of Saurashtra-Kutch as on 5pm was around 50%, which was also expected to be 3-5% less than the previous two polls. In Rajkot, the epicentre of Kshatriya agitation, the turnout was around 54.3% till 5pm compared to 58.05% in 2019 at the same time.

Union home minister Amit Shah's constituency, which recorded 55.65% polling till 5pm, saw more action compared to Ahmedabad (east) and Ahmedabad (west)

seats as long queues were seen at many booths in hours before 43.3°C heat scared citizens into their homes. The enthusiasm was, however, muted in Muslim-dominated areas of Ahmedabad. In Diamond City Surat, a maximum number of people couldn't vote as the seat was declared won by BJP uncontested following disqualification of Congress candidate Niles Kumbhani's nomination. The differently abled and old-aged people also set a glittering example for those cooling their heels at home by reaching the polling booths, not just braving personal odds but also the blistering heat. Bharathi said

people in Kesar village of Bharuch district, Sanghara village of Surat district and Bhakhri village of Banaskantha district completely boycotted the election, while partial boycott was reported from Bhat village of Mangrol, and Bodoli and Punjra villages of Balasinar. The CEO said that eight "alerts" were received by the ECI during polling hours, of which three were related to EVMs, one regarding MCC violation and four were categorized as "others." In addition, 186 complaints were received on the e-VIGIL application, and 759 complaints through the NGSP (national grievance service portal).

Multipronged strategy a must to curb data poisoning

DATA is a powerful weapon. It is a treasure trove of information. While data has been a driving force for civilisation in the 21st century, there has been an ever-growing trend of data reliance. In fact, data is the lifeblood of a marvel of the contemporary world — artificial intelligence (AI).

However, the training data of the AI models has become the Achilles' heel of this wonderful transformative technology. Tay, Microsoft's Twitter chatbot, is an early example of this. Tay's introduction on Twitter in 2016 was intended to aid in the development of her conversational abilities through human interactions. Tay was created to mimic a teenage girl but was removed from the platform within 24 hours for expressing racist, misogynistic and Nazi-loving ideas that she had picked up from other Twitter users. Tay is an early illustration of the potential dangers associated with training data issues. It is possible that a model's training data gets contaminated. A covert saboteur with significant ramifications has surfaced in the recent past: data poisoning. Adversaries can introduce biases, errors or unique vulnerabilities into the training dataset of an AI tool by adding, removing or altering certain data points. These vulnerabilities get manifested when the compromised model makes predictions or choices. An AI tool's output may thus become erroneous, discriminating or unsuitable if its dataset has been changed or distorted in any manner.

In the realm of AI innovation, data can play the role of a Trojan horse. Consider, for instance, that an AI model has been taught to identify suspicious emails or unusual behaviour on a corporate network. Successful data poisoning may make it possible for ransomware or phishing attempts to evade detection and get past spam and email filters. Similarly, accidents may arise from AI system errors in self-driving cars. Financial models distorted by biased data, medical algorithms misinterpreting distorted test results and facial recognition systems powered by biased datasets that greatly enhance the likelihood of falsely accusing members of a certain racial group of crimes are all at risk. These examples show how data poisoning can penetrate and skew the fundamentals of AI systems, leading to severe financial losses, reputational harm and moral ambiguities that undermine faith in technology. Scholars are debating the nature of various types of data poisoning and potential countermeasures. According to Google research from July last year on various types of threats to AI systems, an attacker only needs to control 0.01 per cent of a dataset to poison a model. And because the datasets being used usually contain millions of samples, it is difficult to identify this kind of attack.

Data poisoning as a defensive strategy is also garnering a lot of attention. Users are downloading Nightshade and Glaze, two freeware software programmes from the University of Chicago. While Glaze is a defensive tool that individual artists can use to defend themselves against style-mimicking attacks, Nightshade is an offensive tool that can be used to disrupt AI models that scrape their images as part of training data without permission. The University of Chicago's press department refers to Nightshade as the 'poison pill' because it modifies an image's pixels in a way that causes mayhem for computer vision while leaving the image intact for human eyes. By contaminating the practice data and by making some of the outputs of image-generating AI models useless — dogs turning into cats, cars turning into houses, and so on — Nightshade could harm subsequent generations of these models.

Trouble-torn Manipur needs an out-of-the-box solution

THE security situation in Manipur has become even worse a year after violence broke out. The only way out is for the principal stakeholders to come together and thrash out a way for immediate course correction. One must put into perspective three recent incidents in the state. Miscreants triggered an IED blast on a bridge on National Highway-2 in Kangpokpi district on April 24. The bridge connects Imphal with Nagaland's Dimapur. The highway is a major lifeline of the state and its severance has led to the stranding of over 100 trucks carrying essential supplies for the people of Manipur.

Two CRPF personnel were killed in an attack at Naranseina in Bishnupur district on April 27. A camp of the India Reserve Battalion (IRB) was located about 200 metres from the area where the CRPF men were billeted. The IRB personnel were primarily from the Meitei community. The CRPF personnel were reportedly in the process of vacating the camp and only a platoon had been left behind.

It is possible that the attackers wanted to target the Meitei members of the IRB; as the attack was carried out in the dead of night, they mistook the CRPF camp for the IRB one.

However, the target could actually have been the CRPF — a throwback to the United Liberation Front of Asom's (ULFA) modus operandi during the mid-1990s, when the insurgent group went on a spree of killing Hindi-speaking people of Assam. The ULFA was keen to attract the attention of New Delhi, which it was successful in doing. A slew of MPs from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had descended on Assam to provide succour to their Hindi-speaking brethren. There was (and continues to be) a section of people among the Assamese population who are against outsiders setting up shop in that state. With regard to the Naranseina incident, lawlessness in Manipur has gone so deep that there are elements which are beginning to feel that New Delhi needs to be taught a lesson. It is important to note that Central paramilitary forces such as the CRPF and the BSF had not been targeted in the past.

The finger of suspicion for the IED explosion on the bridge and the attack on the CRPF camp was mainly pointed at Kuki militants. However, it could well have been anybody. In a state that has been careening out of control since May 3, 2023, almost every group has become militarised.

The third incident pertains to anarchy continuing under political patronage. Meira Paibis waylaid an Army Casspir vehicle after the column had



apprehended cadres of the Arambai Tenggol with illegal weapons. Hundreds of Meira Paibis surrounded the Casspir and were berating the soldiers. If the Army men had lost their composure, there could have been a bloodbath.

Assam has ushered in an era of peace as a result of well-honed teamwork. It is recommended that a Unified Command Structure (UCS) — as was the case in Assam — must be immediately formed for Manipur, Nagaland and south Arunachal Pradesh. It should be under the overall command of the General Officer Commanding of the Rangapahar-based 3 Corps. There must be one clear voice (naturally after due consultations) that should focus on strategy and ways and means for peace and normalcy to return.

Manipur is a house divided. The state police force is almost dysfunctional. It has abdicated its responsibility to a radical militia organisation which brooks no opposition. A DSP was picked up by the Arambai Tenggol, forcing some cops to lay down their arms. At this juncture, the police need leadership. Unfortunately, it is not going to emerge from within the force. The power over it has to be vested in a firm leader with strong organisational backing, such as the General Officer Commanding of 3 Corps. The Assam Rifles is doing a tremendous job, but it is being accused unjustly of being partisan. Residents of the Manipur valley had asked for its removal. The Armed Forces Special Powers

Act has been removed from many areas in Manipur, and one has witnessed the acts that non-state actors are perpetrating in the state. The Assam Rifles is already under the operational command of 3 Corps. But making it a part of the UCS would not only permit it to calibrate its operational moves with the Army, the Manipur Police and the Central paramilitary forces, but allow it greater manoeuvrability by way of robust intelligence gathering in consonance with other end users in the UCS. It is due to the overlapping issues that Manipur, Nagaland and south Arunachal are being clubbed. For instance, one cannot divorce the problem of valley-based insurgent groups' entry into Manipur with the help of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) from the manner in which the game will play out after the carving out of separate administrative zones. Similarly, the subterfuges in Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts of south Arunachal have to be seen in light of the support that the NSCN(IM) is receiving from the Eastern Naga National Government. The Indian state and its Army are powerful entities. They can face any challenge. The only step that New Delhi needs to take at this critical juncture is to empower its forces. The Army is capable of achieving the impossible. Manipur would be irrevocably lost if the present imbroglio is allowed to continue.

LAC standoff

Extinguish the suffocating fumes in Nuh

A resolution of the India-China border row remains elusive, even as the two countries have been locked in a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for the past four years. During this period, there have been 21 rounds of military commander-level talks and 29 meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. The two sides have done well to complete the disengagement process at several friction points, but the deadlock over the Depsang plateau persists.

In an interview last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the talks were progressing well. He expressed optimism that there would be a positive outcome. However, recent meetings have not witnessed any breakthrough; both countries have only reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and tranquillity on the ground and keeping the lines of communication open.



Beijing's troop buildup and infrastructure development along the LAC have not helped matters. This has left India with no option but to augment its military presence in the

border areas and develop infrastructure at a rapid pace in order to catch up with the Chinese. Even as the situation has remained stable but sensitive, as described by Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, the shadow of the Galwan clash of June 2020 continues to loom large, keeping Indian and Chinese troops on their toes. Progress on the diplomatic front has been stymied by the inadequacy of the interaction between PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in recent years. Modi last visited China in 2018, while Xi has not travelled to India since the Mamallapuram summit of October 2019. The Chinese President also chose to skip the G20 summit hosted by New Delhi last year. The political leadership of the two nations needs to proactively engage with each other to reduce the trust deficit. This holds the key to resolving the border dispute and ending the prolonged standoff.

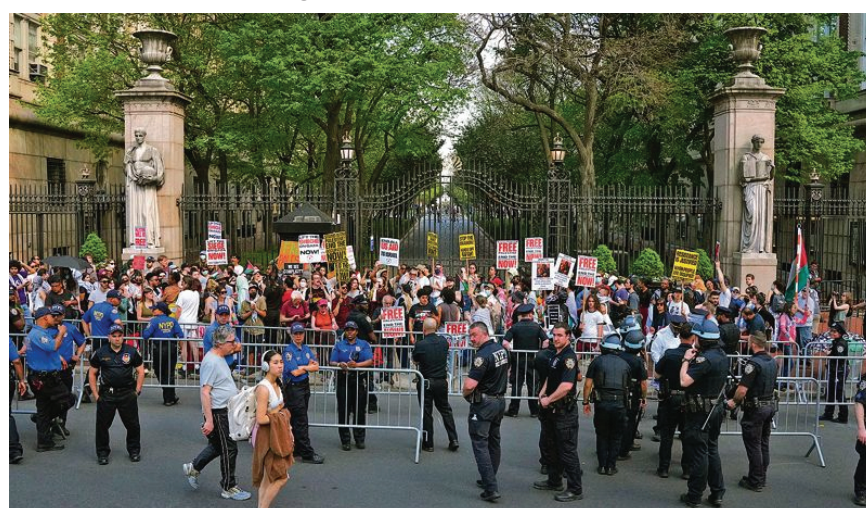
An overreaction to student protests

Prestigious American universities have floundered in dealing with the situation

THE growing intensity of pro-Palestine protests by students in the US has led to an aggressive crackdown by administrators and the police in the form of arrests, suspensions and class cancellations. The demonstrators, who set up encampments in over 120 universities and colleges across the US, have been galvanised by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and have called on their institutions to divest from Israeli firms. However, some Jewish students have called the protesters anti-Semitic and expressed concern about their safety. In the election year, politicians have stepped in to term the protests 'anti-Semitic' and demanded a crackdown. The protests are against the policies of the Israeli government, but somehow it is made out that they are against the Jewish community. In India, it is easy to understand the difference, but in the West, with its terrible history of murderous anti-Semitism, public opinion is often manipulated on the issue by the powerful Jewish lobby in the US.

The protests reflect that young Americans are more likely to oppose Israel's actions than the older ones. A Gallup survey in March found that 55 per cent of the Americans disapproved of the Israeli military action in Gaza, with 63 per cent of them in the age group of 18-34. Student protests can be sometimes immature, are always impassioned and often over the top. Indeed, students and protests often go hand in hand and are a hallmark of a flourishing democracy. But American adults, from the President downwards, seem to be failing their country. President Biden, under pressure from the left wing of the Democrats, has backed the students' right to protest, "but not the right to cause chaos". American students have a six-decade-old tradition of protest. They were at the forefront of the anti-segregation movement in the 1950s and 1960s; they protested Free Speech limitations in Berkeley in 1964, thereafter the

Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa and so on. The scale of destruction unleashed on Gaza as retribution for the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7 has been wildly disproportionate. There has been little evidence that Israel has sought to apply discriminate force in its battle with the Hamas. Even its mentor, the US, has raised the issue of its humanitarian conduct with Israel. The International Criminal Court has been conducting hearings on the Israeli actions in Gaza. Separately, the International Court of Justice is hearing a case filed by South Africa, alleging Israel's violation of the international law by committing and failing to prevent genocidal acts. The US has a certain vanity about its traditions of free speech and expression, but when push comes to shove, there is a tendency to overreact. And this is what seems to have happened on many campuses. College and university administrators have not handled the issues very competently. The University of Southern California, for example, cancelled a valedictory speech by a top student who happened to be a Muslim girl, leading to an uprising that prompted the university president to call the police. The University of California, Los Angeles, had adopted a liberal approach and allowed an encampment, but summons by a Republican-led congressional committee probably panicked it into calling the police, who came in along with a group of non-student counter-protesters, triggering violence. Prestigious universities like Harvard, Columbia and Indiana have floundered in dealing with the protests and have hastily called in the police to tackle the situation. Some non-student provocateurs from the right and the left have promoted violence, but even the New York Police Department acknowledged that the protests had been non-violent. In many instances, the



students have been joined by faculty members, who have criticised their administrators for mishandling the protests. While US colleges and universities like Brown University, Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota have brokered deals with the students, others like University of California (Berkeley) and Wesleyan College have allowed protest encampments.

The allegation of anti-Semitism in colleges has been taken up by the right wing in Congress. Acrimonious hearings by a House Committee have put college administrators on the back foot and forced some of them to resign. Two weeks ago, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, himself descended on Columbia University and met Jewish students. At a press conference there, he called on the president of the university, Minouche Shafik, to resign and suggested that the National Guard be

summoned to deal with the demonstrations.

More than two dozen Republican senators signed a letter calling on Biden to restore order to the campuses by using federal laws against "the outbreak of anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist mobs". Such labelling of protesters, most of whom have been motivated by the humanitarian concerns arising out of the deaths of around 35,000 Palestinians, more than half of them children, indicates the moral vacuum in the hearts of many contemporary American politicians. Johnson has probably forgotten history in suggesting a militarised response to deal with peaceful protests. In 1970, the Ohio National Guard fired at and killed four unarmed students and wounded nine who were protesting against the Vietnam War at Kent State University. There is, of course, the irony of someone like Johnson calling for a 'law and order' crackdown, considering his support to the January 6, 2021, insurrection which attempted to violently overturn the results of the 2020 American elections.

In a recent column, Edward Luce, US commentator for Financial Times, noted that while student protests could be "foolishness — or worse", it was American adults "who are making the biggest dunces of themselves". They are, he lamented, displaying "traits of hysteria and dogmatism they deplore in the young".



Mowgli land

After three hours of a rather bumpy drive from Kanha to Pench, we were about to make it to the enchanting land of Mowgli. As we drove closer to Sarahiri, a hamlet near Karmajhiri gate of Pench National Park, thick grassy lands surrounded us on both sides. The bright green landscape, peppered with tile-roofed mud huts, made for a beautiful pastoral terrain. We checked into our tree lodge, perched on top of a mahua tree and the next few minutes were spent gazing at the deciduous forest from our balcony.

Feeling alive



Having grown up reading *The Jungle Book*, I was excited to traverse the national park, the land of the famed characters - Bagheera, Balloo and Shere Khan.

The guide suggested we also take in the other little pleasures of the jungle while looking for wild cats on our safaris, which are not difficult to spot in the peak summer season. So, we decided to make the most of the open-jeep jaunt by breathing in fresh air, soaking up the sun, the musty smells of the earth, cacophony of the birds and much more.

Into the wild

Unlike other forests like Kanha and Bandhavgarh, Pench is a lot drier and sparse, allowing you to take a sneak peek into the intimate moments of the resident birds and animals. At the same time, it is refreshingly

diverse in its topography - undulating scrublands, bamboo patches, stunningly large water bodies, hills and jungle valleys form a beautiful landscape. With more than 200 species of birds, including wagtails, horn bills, kingfisher, barbets and minivets, and rich fauna, the jungle is a treat for anyone keen on photography. Watch out for the Indian Ghost Tree, a beautiful tree with a white trunk and peeling paper-thin skin. It eerily stands out, and yes, it does glow in the dark!

Man is an outsider

While you are likely to spot a tiger with her cubs by following the alert calls from deer and langurs, leopards and sloth bears are the elusive creatures here. The closest we got to Collarwali (the celebrity tigress of the forest), were fresh pugmarks, but what exhilarated us more was the 15-minute intense jeep chase where our naturalist and the forest guide managed to create a tale full of mystery and suspense.

How to get there

Fly to Nagpur and drive for about two hours or more to your hotel or take a train to

Nagpur railway station (94 km) followed by a two-and-a-half hour drive. Since the roads here aren't in great condition, avoid a road trip.

When to go

The best months to visit are between Nov and June. Visit during the winter season to enjoy pleasant days and cold mornings and evenings. Summer is sweltering hot, but chances of spotting a tiger are higher. Plus, this is also the time when chitals shed their antlers.

Did you know?

The character Mowgli originated in Pench National Park, but his creator Rudyard Kipling never actually visited the park. It is believed that a 19th century British official wrote about a wolf-boy he found in the jungle. Kipling read his journal and got inspired to pen *The Jungle Book*.



Miami Beyond the beaches

Pore over cutting-edge street art, learn to roll a Cuban cigar or simply monkey around...

For someone who tips the weighing scale a little (okay, a lot) over 100 kg, visiting the beach town of Miami can be quite scary. Most of the people here are not only fit, but they also like to flaunt it. So, on a recent trip to the beach city, to avoid further guilt of bingeing on massive American burgers, I decided to skip the surfboard and zone off to the 'other' side. You might wonder what's more to Miami than beaches. Well, lots more.

The Cuban Corner

The one place that adds oodles of character to Miami and gives a happy twist to its facade is a neighbourhood called Little Havana. Home to Miami's ever-expanding Latin community, this is the place that many migrating Cubans have called home since Mr Castro took charge of Cuba in the late 1950s. Extremely different from the rest of Miami, Little Havana has a sub-culture all its own. It is always time to party here - you will generally find people tapping away to folksy tunes or engrossed in their little board games at the Domino Park. Little Havana is also home to many cigar makers; you can always walk in to one of them and watch as they roll a fresh batch of leaves for you. From the finest cigar cutters to other accessories, this place is like a candy store for all cigar lovers.

The Wall Of Rebellion

Now who would have thought that Miami would be home to some of the finest graffiti in the world. Wynwood Art District is for those who wish to step out of comfortable galleries and experience the maniacal thoughts that reside in the head of artists, who literally use the world as their canvas. Here you will find art in every imaginable form. From abstract art to geometric patterns that can only be created once your mind is pushed into an overdrive... Wynwood has it all. The entire district is a massive canvas - you won't find a single wall or street that's not covered.

Tipping on art

Museums is something I am happy to give a miss. But when my charming tour guide



suggested a quick stop at the Perez Art Museum, we obliged, albeit grudgingly. What we expected: an hour-long snooze fest. The reality: a mind-blowing experience. This haven for modern and contemporary international art of the 20th and 21st centuries is unlike any other museum. From the first exhibit to the final one, there was not a single piece that didn't transfix us. From using light to mirrors and sound to miniatures, the works at Perez are such that they take you on a trip that's parallel to this universe, and yet not from our realm. Sounds absolutely bonkers, but Perez is a sensory overload that's a must-do in Miami.

The Wild Zone

Like most cities, Miami too has its own little paradise for animal lovers. The Jungle Island is a place that both kids and adults would love to visit. Built about 80 years ago, most of the

animals are kept in massive enclosures that mimic their natural habitats. You also get to spend quality one-on-one time with certain four-legged friends. Your head can be a dance floor for the a bunch of lemurs or you can get some much-needed TLC from a baby Capuchin monkey (the same breed that Ross had in *Friends*) - all-in-all a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Fun detour

If you have a couple of days to spare, do visit Orlando. It might not have the glitz and glamour of Miami, but what it scores high on is a strong dose of testosterone in the form of some crazy simulation rides at Universal Studios. Also, if you have grown up binge watching cartoons, a trip to the Walt Disney World will rake up some memories.

Nordic adventure

My summer adventure in Iceland had a big plus point, the travel part apart. For company, I had a local writer, poet, social activist and a political adviser - all rolled into one! My friend Halla Gunnarsdottir is a brilliant multi-tasker, like most Icelanders, and she made sure I saw her country not like a tourist but as an insider. So, armed with hiking boots and our driving licences, we designed a road trip that was to begin in Reykjavik in the west and take us to Borgarfjörður Eystri on the eastern side.

In a loop

Iceland has one main road called Route 1, or the ring road which goes around the island - with inroads leading to fjords, towns, peninsulas and highlands. Over the next two weeks, Iceland revealed itself to me in a series of arresting visions, untouched by man, as it has existed for scores of centuries. I also got the chance to mingle with the natives, experience their culture (two weddings and a ceremony accepting me as an honorary Viking) and try some of Iceland's unique culinary treats like fermented shark, minke whale, puffin and, of course, Iceland's famous hot dogs.

Gushing start

Two hours from Reykjavik, is one of Iceland's most magnificent waterfalls - Seljalandsfoss - that drops down from a height of 60 metres. Keep your rubber boots and raincoat handy if you want to walk to the big cave behind the falls. (If you are warm enough, you'll never want to leave this picturesque icy cold wonder.) Another 30 minutes of driving got us to another impressive waterfall, Skogafoss. Most tourists attempt a one-day hike from here to reach the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

Blacked-out

When Halla mentioned a visit to a black beach called Reynisfjara, I didn't take her seriously. Not even after I was standing in the middle of this vast blackness! The black escapade continued with a hike to Svartifoss aka Black Waterfall. Why black? Because of the dark basalt columns here.

Eastern Fjords

Iceland's eastern coastline is full of numerous mountains, beaches and countless majestic fjords (long, narrow inlets created by glacial erosion), which are home to the country's diverse wildlife - wild reindeer, seal colonies, birds. The jagged, snow-capped profile of the



Eastern Fjords provides the first glimpse of Iceland. Each fjord looks more amazing than the last one, so take a deep breath and enjoy the ride. We were lucky enough to get to see a couple of swans strut around the Swan Fjord, as it is known.

The last stop was Borgarfjörður Eystri, a quaint little town that ended the trip on a high note - literally. The Daler Mehendi-crazy crowd here (yes!) threw a party for their "friend from India" and we danced all night to paaji's bhangra beats. In the end, words like beautiful, amazing, must-visit fail to describe my Iceland experience. Life altering comes close... perhaps.

How Haryana Numbers Stack Up, And How Chautala Family Math May Hold The Key

Chandigarh: In the middle of the Lok Sabha election, dramatic developments have reduced the BJP-led state government to a minority in Haryana Assembly. The Congress is now racing against time to make the most of the situation and cobble together the numbers required to topple the Nayab Singh Saini government months before state polls.

Behind the crisis is the decision of three Independent MLAs to switch from the BJP camp to the Congress side last evening. MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) announced their decision to withdraw support to the BJP government at a press meet in Rohtak yesterday. They were accompanied by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Congress's Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and state Congress chief Uday Bhan. Addressing the media, Mr Hooda said, "The government should resign. President's rule should be imposed in the state and elections held. This is an anti-people government."

Chief Minister Saini, who took over the top post just about two months back, had a guarded response. "When I heard about it, I knew that moment the

Congress is trying to fulfil their wishes. Everyone has a wish. But the people know. They know the Congress has got nothing to do with the wishes of people, but is only focused on fulfilling their wishes," he said. The Chief Minister did not elaborate on how the BJP plans to counter the threat to its government. In a significant remark, Haryana Speaker Gian Chand Gupta has said a majority test had earlier been conducted on the demand of Mr Hooda and there is no need to conduct another for six months. The Nayab Singh Saini government cleared a trust vote soon after he took over in March.

The JJP Factor

Adding a twist to the Haryana political upheaval, the BJP's former ally Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) has offered support to the Congress. JJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala has said the government has lost the trust of the people. "We will support a move to bring down the government. The Congress has to decide if it will make a move or not," he said. This comes less than two months after the BJP parted ways with JJP, which has 10 MLAs, and cobbled together enough numbers

to cross the majority mark.

How The Numbers Stack Up

The 90-seat Haryana Assembly currently has 88 members. This means the majority mark is 45. The BJP has 40 MLAs of its own and is supported by three out of 6 Independent MLAs. This makes it 43, two short of the magic figure. The Congress has 30 legislators and three Independents now support it. If the JJP backs it, the Congress will have the support of 43 MLAs. This leaves two MLAs -- one from Haryana Lokhit Party and the other from INLD.

The Chautala Family Factor

An interesting subplot playing out amid the Haryana government crisis is linked to the Chautala clan that once dominated the state's political landscape before a string of poll setbacks, convictions and a split reduced INLD to a one-man party in the Assembly. Currently, INLD general secretary Abhay Chautala is the party's lone MLA in the Assembly. Now that the JJP, led by Mr Chautala's estranged nephew Dushyant Chautala has offered support to the Congress, the question is will Abhay Chautala remain on the same side or join ranks with BJP.



Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer to visit India on Thursday

New Delhi: Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer will visit India on May 9, in the first high-level trip from Male after the Maldives' pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu assumed office six months ago. Announcing Zameer's visit, the Ministry of External Affairs said it is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation. The ties between the two countries came under severe strain in view of Muizzu insisting on withdrawal of Indian military personnel operating three military platforms in the island nation.

India has already withdrawn most of its military personnel. President Muizzu had set May 10 as the deadline for withdrawal of the Indian military troops from his country. "Moosa Zameer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, will be in India on an official visit on May 9," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. It said Zameer will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. "The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and Foreign Minister Zameer's visit is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement.

The Maldivian foreign ministry said Zameer will hold talks with Jaishankar focusing on "deepening and expanding the longstanding" Maldives-India partnership.

"This is Foreign Minister Zameer's first official visit to India since assuming office," it said.

Live-In Relation Still A "Stigma" In Indian Culture: Chhattisgarh High Court

New Delhi: The Chhattisgarh High Court has said that the live-in relationship is an "imported" philosophy contrary to the general expectations of Indian tenets and that it is still considered a "stigma" in the Indian culture.

While dismissing a man's appeal for custody of a child born from a live-in relationship, a bench of Justice Goutam Bhaduri and Justice Sanjay S Agrawal recently observed that such a relationship is preferred over marriage because it provides a "convenient escape when things fail to work between partners." "The security, social acceptance, progress, and stability which the institution of marriage provides to a person is never provided by live-in relationship," the bench noted.

"The close inspection of society shows that the institution of marriage no longer controls the people as it did in the past due to the cultural influence of the western countries and this significant shift and apathy towards matrimonial duties has probably given rise to the concept of live-in relationship," the High Court said.

The petitioner, Abdul Hameed Siddiqui, a resident of Chhattisgarh's Dantewada, had sought custody of a child born from his live-in relationship with Kavita Gupta.

Both were in a relationship for three years and got married in 2021 without conversion. A Dantewada family court had turned down his plea in 2023, following which he moved to the High Court. He claimed that in August 2023, Ms Gupta had moved with the child to her parent's home, after which he moved to the court seeking the child's custody. Mr Siddiqui's lawyer said that both parties performed marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, and since he is governed by the Mahomedan law, he is allowed to perform a second marriage and that his marriage with Ms Gupta was legal.

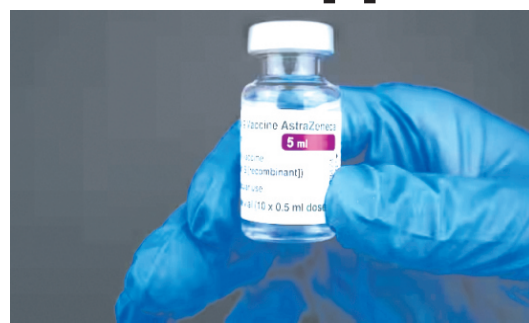
It was also contended that he would be the natural guardian of the child born out of such marriage, and was entitled to custody of the ward. Mr Gupta, however, claimed that a second marriage was not permissible in the facts of the case as his first wife was alive. Her counsel argued that Mr Siddiqui could not claim to be a legal guardian for a child born out of such a relationship. The bench observed that the provisions relating to more than one marriage of a Muslim man under their personal law "cannot be invoked before any Court of law unless and until the same is pleaded and proved".

AstraZeneca withdraws Covid vaccine globally: What happens in India?

New Delhi: Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has announced the global withdrawal of its Covid-19 vaccine, Vaxzevria, citing a surplus of newer vaccine options as the primary reason.

The company has voluntarily withdrawn the "marketing authorization" for the vaccine within the European Union, and similar applications are expected to be made in other countries where the vaccine was approved. The decision comes amidst ongoing legal battles faced by AstraZeneca over allegations that its vaccine, developed in collaboration with the University of Oxford, led to fatalities and severe injuries, including Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).

However, the company has maintained that the withdrawal is not linked to the court case or its admission of TTS side effects, but rather due to commercial



reasons and a decline in demand. As multiple, variant Covid-19 vaccines have since been developed, there is a surplus of available updated vaccines," AstraZeneca said in a statement, adding that this had led to a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied.

WHAT HAPPENS IN INDIA?

The vaccine, known as Covishield in India and other low- and middle-income countries, was developed by

AstraZeneca and Oxford University in response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. It played a crucial role in the global vaccination effort, with independent estimates suggesting that over 6.5 million lives were saved in the first year of its use alone.

While AstraZeneca has voluntarily withdrawn the marketing authorization for Vaxzevria in the European Union, similar applications are expected to be made in other countries, including India, where the vaccine was manufactured and distributed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) under a license. Sources within the Health Ministry told India Today that the Indian government has not purchased any Covid-19 vaccines in the last two years, and there is no indication of purchasing any more vaccines in the near future.

6 dead after car ploughs into truck taking wrong U-turn on Rajasthan highway

New Delhi: Six people of the same family were killed after their car ploughed into a truck taking a wrong U-turn on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan. Two children were also injured in the accident and the truck's driver is absconding. The accident, which took place on Sunday near the Banas river bridge in Sawai Madhopur district, was captured by CCTV, which showed negligence on the truck driver's part.

In the footage, the car is seen travelling behind the truck. Suddenly, the truck took a U-turn, and as a result, the car travelling at high speed ploughed into it. The driver fled from the spot before the police reached the spot and seized the truck.

The victims were identified as Manish



Sharma, Anita Sharma, Satish Sharma, Poonam, Santosh and Kailash. They were heading from Sikar district to the Trinetra Ganesh temple in Ranthambore.

Meanwhile, Additional SP Dinesh Kumar said the two injured children were referred to Jaipur and are reportedly stable, the PTI news agency

reported. He also said the accused driver was identified via the CCTV footage and efforts are on to arrest him.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and his Deputy Diya Kumari offered condolences. "The news of the death of 6 civilians in a horrific road accident that took place on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Baunli police station area of Sawai Madhopur district is extremely sad," he tweeted in Hindi.

"The concerned officials have been instructed to provide all possible help to the affected people.

"Also taking to the microblogging site, Diya Kumari said, "Sad news was received about the death of six people in a horrific road accident in the Baunli police station area of Sawai Madhopur." "I wish the injured a speedy recovery," she added.

Chief Justice Shares He Was Caned In Class 5 And Why He Can't Forget It

Speaking at a seminar on Saturday, he recalled when he was caned at school for a small mistake.

New Delhi: While corporal punishment is now looked down upon as a cruel method to discipline children, it was very much a reality for generations that did their schooling decades ago. For Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, it wasn't different either.

Speaking at a seminar on Saturday, he recalled when he was caned at school for a small mistake "How you treat children has

a deep impact on their minds throughout their life...I will never forget that day in school. I was not a juvenile delinquent when my hands were caned. I was learning craft and didn't bring the right sized needles to class for the assignment," he said. The Chief Justice, who was then in Class 5, said the way people treat children leaves a lasting impact on their minds. "I still remember that I requested my teacher to cane my bum and not my hand," he added. Out of shame, he could not tell his parents and had to hide his injured right palm for 10 days. "The physical wound healed, but left an everlasting imprint on the mind and soul. It is still with me when I do my work. The impact of such travesty on children is so deep," said the CJJ.

The Chief Justice of India shared the incident while speaking at the National Symposium on Juvenile Justice organised by the Supreme Court of Nepal in

Kathmandu. While discussing juvenile justice, we need to recognise the vulnerabilities and unique needs of children embroiled in legal disputes and ensure that our justice systems respond

of the society. At the seminar, the CJJ also mentioned a petition filed in the Supreme Court demanding the termination of pregnancy of a minor rape survivor. He also talked about the challenges faced by

India's juvenile justice system. A major challenge is inadequate infrastructure and resources, especially in rural areas, which has led to overcrowded and substandard juvenile detention centres, due to which providing proper support to juvenile delinquents and efforts to provide rehabilitation may be hindered, he said.

Social realities must also be considered as many children are pushed into criminal activities by gangs, the CJJ said, adding that adolescents with disabilities are also vulnerable - as is seen how visually impaired children are exploited for begging by criminal syndicates in India.



with compassion, rehabilitation and opportunities for reintegration into society, said CJJ Chandrachud.

He said it is important to understand the multifaceted nature of adolescence and its interrelationship with various dimensions

86 Air India Express Flights Cancelled As Crew Goes On "Mass Sick Leave"

New Delhi: At least 86 Air India Express flights were cancelled after the cabin crew members went on a "mass sick leave", official sources said on Wednesday. The international and domestic flights were cancelled after about 300 senior cabin crew members reported sick at the last minute and switched off their mobile phones.

The Air India Express management is currently trying to reach out to the crew, who are protesting against the new employment term at the Tata Group-owned airline, sources said. "A section of our cabin crew has reported sick at the last minute, starting last night, resulting in flight delays and cancellations. While we are engaging with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimise any inconvenience caused to our guests as a result," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

We sincerely apologise to our guests for this unexpected disruption and emphasise that this situation does not reflect the standard of service we strive to provide," the spokesperson added. Guests impacted by cancellations will be offered a full refund or complimentary rescheduling to another date, the airline said. Several passengers took to their social media accounts and complained about the sudden cancellations of their flights. They said that they had "no information" about the cancellations. A "very disappointed" passenger on X said he had reached the airport when he was informed that his flight was cancelled.

"We apologise for any inconvenience. Please be informed that your flight has been cancelled due to operational reasons," Air India Express said in response to his post.

Why Air India Express Crew Is Protesting

According to sources, the crew at the Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, has alleged that there was a lack of equality in the treatment of the staff after the merger with Tata Group. They claim that some staff members were offered lower job positions despite clearing interviews. The crew has also alleged that the key parts of the compensation package have been modified or removed and that the airline management is shutting down the dissenting voices, sources said.

The airline is currently also in the process of merging AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with itself. The crisis at Air India Express comes a month after Tata Group full-service carrier Vistara witnessed cancellations due to pilot woes. Discontentment had simmered among pilots at Vistara, which is in the process of getting merged with Air India, following the new contracts wherein there were concerns on rosters for pilots operating flights and a component of their salary packages.

Hill stations Near Delhi

that are perfect for long Weekends



7 reasons to visit Kullu-Manali

From the snowy delights of Rohtang Pass to the soothing warmth of the surrounding thermal springs, there are several places to visit in Kullu Manali for nature lovers and thrill seekers. With its picturesque views of snow-clad mountains, river valleys, charming cafes and laidback vibe, this hill station in Himachal Pradesh is an immensely popular vacation spot with both domestic and foreign tourists. Its widespread appeal draws everyone from adventure sport enthusiasts and vacationing families and honeymoon couples to hippie backpackers. Here are seven places you must visit during your holiday.

Hadimba Temple

This wood and stone temple is dedicated to Hadimba, the wife of Bhima, one of the Pandava brothers from the Mahabharata. It was constructed in 1553, and is located in the middle of the Dhungi Park. The structure has a four-tiered pagoda-shaped roof, and a carved doorway that is embellished with figures of Hindu gods and symbols. Ghatotkach, the son of Bhima and Hidimba, is also worshipped as a sacred tree.

Gadhan Thekchokling Gompa

Manali houses a small Tibetan community, and has a couple of peaceful Buddhist monasteries. Built in 1969,

this prayer hall is decorated with wall paintings and contains a statue of Shakyamuni. Nearby, the Gelukpa Cultural Society Gompa has statues of 'boddhisatvas' and Buddhist lamas, and a workshop for Tibetan carpets.

Rohtang Pass

This snow-covered pass is located on the highway to Leh, and is only open from June to October every year. It lies at a height of 3979 metres, and offers spectacular views of glaciers, mountain peaks and the Chandra River. The pass is a gateway to Lahaul, Spiti, Pangri and Leh. Due to its increasingly popularity, the route to Rohtang is often clogged with traffic during the peak tourist season. However, once you reach, there are facilities for skiing and sledging near the pass, and plenty of photo opportunities for snap-happy tourists.

Naggar

The former capital of Kullu, this town lies on the left bank of River Beas, 21 kilometres from Manali. It was founded by Raja Visudhpal and remained the political centre until the capital was shifted to Sultanpur in 1460 AD. Its major attraction is a beautiful castle, which has now been converted into a heritage hotel operated by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. The building was once the residence of the rulers of Kullu, and is an excellent example of western Himalayan architecture. It is made of wood and stone, and has carved doors and windows. There is a small museum, a temple and a nice restaurant within the premises. Naggar was also the home of Russian painter Nicholas Roerich, who lived here from 1929 till his death in 1947. His house has been converted into an art gallery, which exhibits his colourful paintings of the surrounding Himalayan ranges.

Solang Valley

Around 13 kilometres away from Manali, this pretty valley is a popular spot for adventure sports, especially skiing. Situated between Solang village and Beas Kund, it offers panoramic views of the surrounding snow-capped mountains and glaciers. In summer, it has facilities for paragliding, zorbing, mountain biking and horse riding. In winter, especially between January and March, it is used for skiing, snowboarding and sledging. It also hosts a winter skiing festival. The Directorate of Mountaineering & Allied Sports in Manali also organises basic, advance and intermediate level courses in skiing. For the less-adventurous, there are also plenty of walking trails all around.

Dharamshala

Top attractions in Dharamshala Best known as the base of the Dalai Lama in India, and its strong Tibetan influence, Dharamshala is a small hill station that lies on the spur of the Dhauladhar range high up in the Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

Bhagsunag

The Bhagsunag shrine is about as old as the Dal Lake, and originated around a myth about a great fight between the demon king (Bhagsu) and the snake god (Nag). It has been rebuilt more than once, and although it is presently covered in white tiles, there is something about the place that draws you in.

There are plenty of options when it comes to choosing amongst weekend getaways from Delhi. The Indian capital's proximity to the Himalayas means that there are many hill stations near Delhi offering a much-needed escape from the bustling streets and soaring temperatures. The picturesque snow-laden peaks and the charming hill towns nestled amidst them provide a perfect respite from the scorching heat. Whether you're looking for a relaxed stay in a luxury resort overlooking the hills or a high-on-adrenaline paragliding experience—these long weekend getaways from Delhi will enthrall you in every way.

Dal Lake

Legend has it that a king who went to bathe in the sacred Manimahesh Lake below the Kailash Mountain lost his gold ring. The ring later re-surfaced in the Dal Lake. This water body was considered the poor man's Manimahesh for those who couldn't afford to go to Kailash for salvation by bathing in it. What remains today, is no more than a pond, but nonetheless, the lake is sacred to locals. A beautiful walk from the town, the lake is inundated with goldfish, and is worth a visit.

Norbulingka Institute

The most recent Tibetan institution near Dharamshala, Norbulingka embodies all the old-world charm of Tibetan architecture and has been modelled and named after the Dalai Lama's summer palace near Lhasa. Sprawled across seven acres, this traditional Tibetan building has been constructed by master craftsmen who fled from Tibet along with the Dalai Lama, and has been made so as to blend with the surrounding landscape. Comprising a complex of buildings that include a temple, library, college, design studio, guest house and even a cafe, it is set amidst a beautiful garden of meandering paths, flowing streams, waterfalls, bridges, and koi ponds, with the stunning backdrop of the Dhauladhar mountains. Stay at the guesthouse and immerse yourself in the Tibetan culture, all the proceeds go directly towards the Norbulingka Institute to further the preservation of the culture.



Darjeeling's most charming Tea estates

Glenburn Tea Estate

Step into the idyllic world of Glenburn, a tea estate established by Scottish tea planters in 1860. It sprawls over 1600 acres of verdant forests, rolling hills, tea picker villages and a pair of river valleys. Set in the heart of the tea estate, two colonial-style planter bungalows overlook the rolling hills on one side and the mighty Kanchenjunga mountain range on the other. The aroma of fresh flowers hangs in the air and the four-poster beds, hand embroidered linen and open verandas lend a very English country air to the bungalow. Signature Glenburn experiences include exploring the plantations and villages within the tea estate, nature and bird walks, overnights in the log cabin by the river Rangeet, picnics in the tea gardens, tea tours and excursions around Darjeeling.

Makaibari Tea Estate

Makaibari Tea Estate, the producer of Darjeeling's costliest

tea, was established in 1859—making it one of the oldest family-owned tea gardens in Darjeeling. Located at Kurseong, the land of the white orchid, the tea estate offers a peek into the daily life of plantation workers with numerous home stays. Local families at the estate have opened up their homes to visitors providing them with simple accommodation and hearty meals. With 70 percent of its entire area still under forest cover, the eco-diversity at Makaibari is astonishing. The dense forests of the estate house numerous species of flora and fauna and visitors can explore the estate through activities like tea plucking, tea tasting or scaling the slopes where the tea grows.

Happy Valley Tea Estate

Wandering through tea gardens settled on the gentle hill slopes of Darjeeling is the perfect way to start your day at the Happy Valley Tea Estate. With plantations as old as 150 years

Besides its quaint eateries, vibrant markets hidden in busy lanes and hilltops that are home to stunning vistas, there is a range of charming tea estates that stand apart in the list of places to visit in Darjeeling. Tea was first introduced to this Himalayan city in West Bengal in the mid-19th century by the British, and these sprawling tea estates are still reminiscent of that culture. A trip to these vast stretches of tea plantations is all about misty mornings, tea leaves blooming under the sun, endless walks discovering various types of tea and of course, sipping your favourite brew. Here's your guide to exploring the best tea gardens of Darjeeling.

and picture-perfect stretches of lush green tea bushes beckoning you, this tea estate will floor you with its scenic charm. Stop by the gardens during the process of plucking, processing and packaging and you'll be privy to one of the most fascinating tea garden experiences. Tea lovers can pick up a handful of fresh tea from here or sip a cup of their favourite aromatic tea at the nearby Happy Gold Cafe. A few routes around the estate offer great trekking paths, along with spectacular views of the sprawling landscape.

The employees at the estate help guide you around the aromatic factory and explain the withering, rolling, fermenting and drying processes.

Chamong Tea Estate

Nestled in the misty hills of Darjeeling, Chamong Tea Estate stretches over 900 acres of lush green land that houses a tea plantation, a tea factory and a village for the tea pickers. Most of the land is forested, with an abundance of flora and fauna. The incredible splendour of the rolling hills, the verdant tea bushes and the quiet daily life makes this area popular amongst visitors. The tall, deciduous forest makes way for multiple scenic walking trails and you'll soon discover monkeys frolicking amidst the ferns and shrubs. The Chamong Tea Estate is a part of the Chamong Tea Group and is one of the prime producers of Organic and Fair Trade teas in North India.

Gomtee Tea Resort

Lesser known than its famous neighbours Makaibari and Glenburn, visitors at Goomtee get to stay in a 100-year-old heritage bungalow at a height of about 4000 feet, with sweeping views of the valleys and mountains. Located in south Kurseong, the estate has a total area of about 500 acres, out of which 50 percent is currently used for tea plantation. Producing mainly black tea and employing over 300 workers, the garden originally belonged to the pioneering British tea planter Henry Lennox in 1899. Visitors at Gomtee can spend the day in the tea gardens, visit the tea factory, don the role of a tea taster, converse with tea pickers and taste freshly-brewed tea from the factory.



Sensex falls over 250 points, Nifty tumbles as market opens in red

New Delhi, Benchmark stock indices opened in red on Wednesday with volatility remaining high amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The S&P BSE Sensex dropped 0.4% to 73,251.88 points, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 0.5% to 22,190 points. The volatility index surged by 7.7% to 18.32, marking a 15-month high for the third consecutive session. This spike reflects the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the national elections, persistent foreign investments, and market analysts' responses to corporate earnings, all contributing to investor unease. Tuesday's trading saw notable volatility, with indices starting higher but ultimately closing lower by the end of the day.

V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted that market pressure stems from election result uncertainties amidst widespread media speculation.

Pharmaceutical stocks declined by 1.2%, largely due to a 4% fall in Dr Reddy's shares despite reporting better-than-expected fourth-quarter profits. Analysts observed that its core operations fell short of market expectations. Among the Nifty50 stocks, Coal India, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Maruti Suzuki, Tata Steel, and SBI Life Insurance emerged as top gainers. Dr Reddy's, Larsen and Toubro, Hindustan Unilever Limited, HDFC Bank, and Asian Paints were the top losers during the market's opening.

Asian markets mixed as traders weigh rates outlook

HONG KONG, Asian markets fluctuated Wednesday as the latest rally ran out of steam due to a lack of major catalysts, while investors contemplated the outlook for monetary policy. While Europe enjoyed a firm session, Wall Street was a little more tepid after surging in reaction to Friday's below-forecast US jobs data, which ramped up bets on a Federal Reserve interest rate cut. With the next major economic release on inflation not until next week and many big-ticket earnings releases out of the way, investors are keeping tabs on comments from central bankers, hoping for an idea about their plans. There was limited data on corporate earnings to worry the markets, with no unexpected surprises and a lack of major US economic data in the days ahead," said Kyle Rodda at Capital.com.

Many have spent the year pushing back against market expectations for how many cuts will be enacted this year as inflation comes down, and with recent data suggesting that the battle still has a long way to go, they are sticking to their guns. The latest, Minneapolis Fed boss Neel Kashkari said that he thought borrowing costs would likely stay higher for some time so that officials could be sure prices were being brought under control and get inflation back to the two percent target.

"The most likely scenario is we sit here for an extended period of time. If inflation starts to tick back down or we see some marked weakening in the labor market then that might cause us to cut back on interest rates," he said, according to Bloomberg News. Asian markets swung through the morning.

Hong Kong resumed its upward journey, having ended slightly lower Tuesday to snap a 10-day winning streak, while there were also gains in Sydney, Seoul and Jakarta. But Tokyo, Shanghai, Singapore, Wellington, Manila and Taipei were all down.

Indian domestic automobile retail sales surge 27 per cent year-on-year growth in April: FADA

NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle retail sales in India rose 27 per cent year-on-year to 22,06,070 units in April as all segments, including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, witnessed growth, industry body FADA said on Wednesday. The overall vehicle registrations stood at 17,40,649 units in April 2023. Passenger vehicle retail sales rose 16 per cent to 3,35,123 units last month as compared to 2,89,056 units in the same month last year. Similarly, two-wheeler registrations increased 33 per cent to



16,43,510 units in April against 12,33,763 units in the same month last year. Commercial vehicle retail witnessed a 2 per cent year-on-year jump to 90,707 units in April. Three-wheeler sales rose 9 per cent year-on-year to 80,105 units while tractors witnessed growth of 1 per cent at 56,625 units in April.

"While some attribute this growth to the shift in Navratri to April instead of March last year, the overall increase was significant," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said. "Despite strong bookings and customer flow, high competition, excess supply and discounting presented challenges for sustained growth. Additionally, the lack of new models in some portfolios impacted market traction," Singhania said. FADA said it collated vehicle retail data from 1,360 out of 1,503 RTOs across the country.

Vedanta's Anil Agarwal compares value of these metals to gold. Check herea

Vedanta chairperson Anil Agarwal said that these metals are crucial for upcoming technologies such as solar PV cells, batteries, EVs, etc.

New Delhi, Vedanta chairperson Anil Agarwal, drew attention to the value of certain metals that are seeing high demand amid the recent rise in gold prices. He highlighted this perspective in a recent post, mentioning copper, aluminium, zinc, and silver as pivotal to modern technologies and comparing their value to 'almost like gold'. "The really amazing, less noticed story is actually emerging in metals like copper,

aluminium, zinc and silver, all of which are critical minerals. While gold is known for its intrinsic value, these critical minerals are almost like gold for their functional value," said Agarwal in a post on social media platform X. He said that these metals are crucial for upcoming technologies such as solar PV cells, batteries, EVs, etc. "They are fundamental to new age technologies whether those related to energy transition (solar PV cells, batteries, EVs) or in technologies related to artificial intelligence (advanced semiconductors)," said Agarwal.

He further characterised the recent surge in gold prices as a trend, mentioning his extensive experience in investment markets. "Investors historically turn to gold during times of global economic or geopolitical uncertainty," he said. The industrialist termed these metals as 'green metals', highlighting their role in



promoting a more eco-friendly world. "What also stands out is that these are green metals. They support a climate-friendly world. They are recyclable. And using the latest technology, they can be mined without damaging the environment," said the Vedanta chairperson. Considering India's position as the world's fastest-growing economy, Agarwal highlighted the importance of self-sufficiency in

critical minerals to support the nation's expanding manufacturing sector. He called for increased exploration efforts and simplified regulatory clearances to meet this growing demand.

Meanwhile, gold prices saw a 1% increase, driven by a weakening US dollar following subdued job data in the United States. Spot gold rose by 0.8%, reaching \$2,320.95 per ounce on Tuesday. Similarly, US gold futures for June delivery climbed 0.9% to \$2,329.70 per ounce. Although traditionally considered a hedge against inflation, gold's appeal diminishes with reduced interest rates, which lower the opportunity cost of holding bullion and weakens the dollar, in which gold prices are quoted.

Aadhar Housing Finance IPO: Should you subscribe or not

New Delhi, The initial public offering (IPO) of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited opened for subscription on Wednesday aiming to raise Rs 3,000 crore. The housing finance company backed by Blackrock is offering its shares at a price range of Rs 300 to Rs 315 per share. Investors keen on subscribing to this IPO can do so until May 10, with the minimum lot size being 47 shares, requiring a minimum investment of Rs 14,805. The company plans to finalise the basis of share allotment by May 13 and expects to initiate refunds on May 14. Aadhar Housing Finance is scheduled to make its debut on the stock exchanges on May 15. Should you subscribe to Aadhar Housing Finance IPO? Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst at Mehta Equities Ltd said that the company has shown a good growth in revenue from operations and net profit in FY 2023 by 18.2% & 22.5% and gave a 'Subscribe' rating. "Its increasing penetration into

tier 4 and tier 5 towns suggests promising growth prospects. Hence, considering all the parameters, we are recommending investors to "Subscribe" the issue for the long term



perspective," said Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst at Mehta Equities Ltd. Aadhar Housing Finance IPO latest GMP The grey market premium (GMP) for Aadhar Housing Finance IPO stands at Rs 70 as of May 8, 2024, morning. Given the price band of Rs 315 per share, the estimated listing

price for the IPO would be Rs 385 (price band + GMP). This suggests an expected gain of 22.22% per share. Aadhar Housing Finance Limited overview The Company intends to utilise the net proceeds from the IPO to meet future capital requirements for lending activities and for general corporate purposes. Established in 2010, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited focusses on providing housing finance solutions to the lower-income segments. The company operates through deep impact branches and sales offices to cater to customers in India's tier 4 and tier 5 towns. Financially, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited has shown promising growth, with revenue increasing by 18.22% and profit after tax (PAT) rising by 22.22% between the financial years ending March 31, 2023, and March 31, 2022.

Kerala: Ageing weavers, low earnings leave Chendamangalam handloom in dire straits

KOCHI. Known as the best fabric in Kerala, the Chendamangalam handloom is struggling to hold on to its legacy. Even as its master craftsmen are ageing, Chendamangalam is finding it hard to attract the young generation of weavers into its fold. Among the 13 handloom societies in Ernakulam district, the Chendamangalam handloom sector in Paravoor taluk comprising five societies has an uphill task ahead: around 70% of their members are above 60. While a daily wage worker in the construction field earns Rs 900 to 1,200 a day, a handloom weaver receives merely Rs 250 to 300. Further, the lack of job security keeps the youth away from the sector, officials say.

The weavers in Chendamangalam, the ancient handloom village with Geographical Identification tagging, are known for their expertise in producing authentic Kerala attire like

the 'set-mundu' and the 'kasavu' saree for weddings, besides the common bath towel 'thorthu'. "Handloom needs high subtlety, from boiling the yarn to turning it into a piece of cloth. Most of the societies are surviving with tiny orders. It's difficult to meet these orders by depending solely on an elderly workforce," says C S Saritha, secretary of the Kuriyapilly Handloom Society. The sector continues to survive because of various grants and allowances from the state government, which has been pending from 2019, she points out. As a representative of the 24-member handloom society, Saritha asserts the introduction of new products and designs can change the situation for the better. P A Sojan, a former secretary of the Chendamangalam Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society, is concerned over the declining numbers of workers in the sector. "Each

handloom society had more than 650 workers 15 years ago. Now the five societies in Paravoor are working with 600 to 650 workers and about 200 allied workers. Moreover, they are knitting less than 10% of the actual need," he says. If a worker weaves four metres (the normal size of a 'double mundu') a day, and if it is priced at Rs 1,000, the weaver gets only Rs 200 to 250 a day, Sojan points out. "Through a power loom (mechanised loom), the production will increase and reach the market for Rs 250-400/dhoti. But it won't have the quality of handmade fabric," stresses Sojan, who has 42 years of experience in the handloom sector. He admits that government grants and allowances like the subsidies for hank yarn and chemicals, rebates for school uniforms, and grants for exhibitions and handloom machines upgrading help workers overcome some of their problems.

Toy exports fall 14% after hitting peak in 2021-22

NEW DELHI: India's toy exports have hit the slow lane after showing spectacular rise since FY21.

After touching a peak of \$177 million in FY22, exports of toys have been declining ever since. As per the data collated by the Global Trade Research Institute (GTRI), toy exports have come down to \$152 million in FY24. Simultaneously, there has been a rise in imports. Toy imports have risen 81% since FY22 to \$65 million. As per the industry, the tapering off of exports could be attributed to slowdown in major markets like the US and Europe. The stagnation could be attributed to 'cost disability' that Indian manufacturers face due to high subsidies given to manufacturers in China and Vietnam. Talking to TNIE, chairman of Toy Association of India Manu Gupta said that India has achieved a certain critical level of toy exports, but in order to exponentially grow from here, the industry needs to overcome the cost disability it faces due to massive subsidies offered by countries like China and Vietnam. He says in order to grow toy exports in the country, the government should consider the request for a Production-Linked Incentive scheme for the sector. He also bats for a National Toys Policy for a comprehensive boost to the sector.

Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI, however, attributes the stagnation in exports to the inability of quality control measures to boost exports. "While quality control measures were primarily aimed at boosting local industry and ensuring safety, they did not significantly enhance India's toy exports," says Srivastava of GTRI. Introduction of higher import duties and the quality control measures has impacted the toy trade in India with imports falling drastically from \$304.1 million in FY19 to \$64.9 million in FY24. During the same time, exports increased modestly from \$109 million to \$177 million. However, by FY24, exports have decreased to \$152.3 million. While the share of imports from China dropped from 87% of India's total toy imports in FY19 to 64% in FY24, imports from other regions such as ASEAN countries, Sri Lanka, and the Czech Republic have increased during the period. Share of ASEAN countries in Indian toy imports at the end of FY24 was 16.7%, Sri Lanka 12.4%, and Czech Republic 4.7%. According to Manu Gupta of Toy Association of India, the increase in imports can be partly attributed to illegal imports in the guise of imports of toy components.

78 Air India Express flights cancelled after staff suddenly call in sick

At least 78 international and domestic Air India Express flights were cancelled after senior crew members reported sick overnight without notice.

NEW DELHI: At least 78 international and domestic Air India Express flights were cancelled after senior crew members reported sick overnight without notice. Airline sources told India Today TV that they suspected the crew members to be unhappy with the performance-linked incentive component of salaries after the revamp and restructuring. The sources also said that the crew members wanted to avoid chaos at airports. Meanwhile, efforts to reach out to the protesting cabin crew members have been fruitless so far. In a statement earlier, an Air India Express spokesperson said, "A section of



our cabin crew reported sick at the last minute, starting last night, resulting in flight delays and cancellations. While we are engaging with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimise any inconvenience caused to our guests as a result." "We sincerely apologise to our guests for this unexpected disruption and emphasise that this situation does not reflect the standard of service we strive to provide.

Guests impacted by cancellations will be offered a full refund or complimentary rescheduling to another date," it added. The spokesperson also urged passengers flying with Air India Express today "to check if their flight is affected, before heading to the airport". Meanwhile, sources on Wednesday told PTI news agency that more than 200 cabin crew are believed to have reported sick. Flight disruptions were reported at various airports, including Kochi, Calicut and

Bangalore, they added. The airline, which is in the process of merging AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with itself, is to operate 360 daily flights during the summer schedule that started in the last week of March.

Discontent has been brewing among cabin crew members at the low-cost carrier for a while, especially after the start of the merger process. Air India Express, now owned by the Tata Group, was issued a show cause notice by the Union Labour Ministry in December 2023 for alleged violations of regulations related to disputes between the airline's management and cabin crew members.

The notice was linked to concerns raised by cabin crew members, including issues with room sharing during layovers. The show cause notice was issued a month after the Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU) had written to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia regarding various grievances raised by the cabin crew members, which also included the curtailment of service contracts for some members.

NEWS BOX

Missing for decades, Maradona's rediscovered Golden Ball trophy set to be auctioned in Paris

Paris. Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy from the 1986 World Cup has resurfaced. The award, which had been missing for decades, will be auctioned in Paris next month, the Aguttes house said Tuesday. Maradona, who died in 2020 at age 60, was awarded the trophy for his scintillating play at the tournament, where he captained Argentina in its 3-2 win over West Germany in the final in Mexico City. Before that, he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century" in a 2-1 win over England in the quarterfinals.

The auction house said it expects the trophy "to fetch millions due to its uniqueness." Maradona received the award - given to the tournament's best player - at a ceremony at the Lido cabaret on the Champs-Élysées in 1986. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumors. Some say it was lost during a wild poker game, or sold to pay off debts, Aguttes said.

Others said Maradona had stored it in a safe in a Naples bank that was robbed by local gangsters in 1989, when he played in the Italian league. According to the story told by a reformed member of the mafia, the trophy was then melted down into gold pieces. "A



far-fetched theory, given that it was made of a gold-copper alloy," Aguttes said in its auction catalogue.

Aguttes said the trophy reappeared in 2016 among other lots that were acquired from a private collection at auction in Paris. "It was thoroughly investigated and authenticated as Diego Maradona's Adidas Golden Ball trophy," Aguttes said. The "Hand of God" goal came when Maradona punched the ball into England's net for his team's opener. Maradona was also a magician with the ball at his feet and four minutes later, he weaved through England's midfield and defense and then past goalkeeper Peter Shilton for what FIFA later declared the greatest goal in World Cup history.

"To say that this World Cup had it all would be an understatement... it was also, and above all, the tournament where Diego Maradona really showed the world what he could do with his feet, and even with his hands," said François Thierry, a sports expert at Aguttes. Bidders will be asked to deposit 150,000 euros (\$161,000) to participate in the June 6 auction.

LSG not worried about SRH's batting, focused on winning: Lucknow coach S Sriram

New Delhi. LSG assistant coach Sridharan Sriram said that his team was not worried about SRH's in-form batting but focused on winning games as the race for the IPL 2024 playoff intensifies. Both SRH and LSG teams are currently locked in at 12 points from 11 games, with Hyderabad making the top four cut based on a slightly superior net run rate of -0.065 compared to Lucknow's -0.371. The Sunrisers find themselves in fierce competition for the top four spots with KKR (16), RR (16) and CSK (12) and DC (12) stationed above them on the points table. The winner of the match will leap into the playoff race. "I think in general, spinners have had a tough time in this tournament. Wickets have been so good and the scores have been high," he said on Tuesday after heavy rains forced cancellation of his team's training schedule. But, I think given our spinners, Ravi Bishnoi has bowled really well in the last couple of games. Krunal



Pandya has been very good throughout, so I think we don't really have reasons to worry about it," Sriram said.

Sriram highlighted the importance of moving on from the crushing 98-run defeat against the Knight Riders. "Some games you are going to win big, some games you are going to lose. And, there are going to be tight games. So, in a 14-game competition, I think you take every win and loss in the same way," he said. "Just learn and move on. Pressure is the same for everyone. It is how we deal with it on the given day." "I think we have got experienced enough players to deal with it. One game at a time, one venue at a time. Three away games are definitely challenging, but we are up for the challenge," Sriram said. After 12 points in 11 games, the Super Giants remain in contention for a playoff spot, but the requirement to maintain a high net run rate adds no additional pressure, according to Sriram. "I think we have got to focus on winning. The net run rate will take care of itself if we win. So, I don't think there has been any chat around net run rate. It is about how we beat the opposition and that is what matters on a given day," Sriram said.

DC vs RR: Sanju Samson fined by BCCI over argument with umpires after controversial dismissal

Sanju Samson has been fined 30% of his match fees for his dissent against the third umpire's judgement after being ruled out (caught) in the 56th match of the ongoing 17th edition of the Indian Premier League.

New Delhi RR captain Sanju Samson was fined 30% of his match fees after a heated on-field argument with the umpires following his controversial dismissal during the IPL 2024 match against DC on Tuesday. Sanju Samson's seemingly disputed dismissal sparked widespread outrage on social media. Samson was caught by Shai Hope at the long-off boundary while batting magnificently on 84; the side angle revealed Hope's foot perilously close to the boundary line, with many assuming he also touched the rope. However, there was no conclusive evidence to support the claim, prompting the TV umpire to rule the RR skipper out.



Mr Sanju Samson, Captain, Rajasthan Royals has been fined 30 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during Match 56 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi on May 07, 2024. "Samson committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.8 of the IPL's Code of

Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the BCCI's statement read. DC earned a hard-fought 20-run win over Royals to technically stay alive in the IPL play-offs race as home spinners Axar Patel and

Kuldeep Yadav played a key role in the team's victory in the must-win contest Tuesday. Yet again, it was Jake Fraser-McGurk (50) and Abhishek Porel's (65) coruscating display of power-hitting that took DC to a challenging 221 for eight.

Chasing a stiff target to secure their place in the play-offs, the Royals were going strong but once skipper Sanju Samson (86 off 46 balls) was dismissed in the 16th over, their innings lost momentum. They ended up at 201 for 8. Wrist spinner Kuldeep (2/25 in 4 overs) and left-arm spinner Axar (1/25 in 3 overs) exhibited impressive control over line and length that did put brakes on Royals' scoring rate in the middle overs. The two bowlers gave away just 50 runs in their combined seven overs. After Tuesday's win, Delhi Capitals moved to fifth place with 12 points -- the same as three other teams -- but even if they win their remaining two contests, it will be difficult for them to make the knockout stage as the teams placed above them have better chances of logging 18 points. DC can have a maximum of 16 points.

Brian Lara warns India: Sometimes when you have superstars, you forget to plan

New Delhi. Legendary West Indies batter Brian Lara has warned India and head coach Rahul Dravid ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024. Lara has said that India should not rely too much on their superstars and instead have a plan for the ICC tournament. India have not won the T20 World Cup since the inaugural edition (2007). This time around Rohit Sharma's team India would hope to turn their fortunes around in the tournament which is being jointly hosted by USA and West Indies.

Speaking to PTI after the selection of the India squad for the global tournament, Lara felt that the Indian team was missing a few youngsters, but said that there was nothing wrong with trusting experience in a big tournament. "Sometimes when you have a team with a lot of superstars, you forget the plan and you believe that the superstars can do it. They just have to turn up. Sometimes you may feel, as a coach, intimidated, telling Sir Vivian Richards or Virat Kohli, you know exactly what you expect of



them," Lara said in an interaction with PTI editors at its headquarters which was facilitated by Star Sports. Obviously when you have such great players, you want to stick to that experience because you feel that they can do it and there's nothing wrong with it," he said referring to Kohli and Rohit. Lara said given the big names that make the Indian squad, Dravid will have his hands full on the planning front. The legendary cricketer said that the team under

Rohit Sharma could go the distance in this edition. "You've got a lot of exciting young players coming out and you also have that sort of conundrum. India have gone with a team that has experience. My advice, and it's not my criticism, it's my advice, to Rahul Dravid is to make sure and have a plan," Lara stated. "The team is capable of winning the World Cup. Yes, it's a team that have maybe a couple of youngsters missing because of the situation. But I still believe that if they plan properly, India could win the World Cup," Lara concluded.

INDIA'S T20 World Cup Squad

Batters: Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Suryakumar Yadav. Wicketkeepers: Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson. All-rounders: Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja. Bowlers: Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj.

Champions League: Marco Reus relishes return to Wembley at end of his Dortmund career

New Delhi. Borussia Dortmund veteran Marco Reus said "nobody expected us to make it" after his team defeated Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday to advance to the Champions League final at Wembley. Dortmund will return to the site of the 2013 Champions League final, where Jurgen Klopp's team lost to German rivals Bayern Munich. Dortmund won this year's semi-final second leg 1-0 at the Parc des Princes courtesy of a header by Mats Hummels, who also played for Dortmund in the 2013 final. BVB advanced 2-0 on aggregate, having won the first leg with the same result. The 34-year-old, who joined Dortmund in 2012 after spending a decade as a youth player, will leave after the season with two German Cups but neither Bundesliga nor Champions League titles. "Indescribable. After more than 10 years, I am in the final with Borussia again," said Reus, who came on as a substitute on Tuesday. "Ousmane (Dembele) and Achraf



(Hakimi) brought a tremendous amount of pace and we suffered a lot." "How we won the game, no one will ask tomorrow. Shots against the post won't matter tomorrow. What counts is that Borussia Dortmund is in the final again. Nobody expected this. It's just incredible." Despite relying on some help from the goal frame, Dortmund's defensive duo of Hummels and Nico Schlotterbeck effectively contained PSG's star forward Kylian Mbappe. The

showdown at Wembley on June 1 will mark Dortmund's third appearance in a Champions League final, having clinched the title in 1997. Dortmund, currently positioned fifth in the Bundesliga with two matches remaining in what's been a turbulent season, secured a victory courtesy of a Mats Hummels header, despite PSG's unfortunate four encounters hit the woodwork. Their next challenge awaits against either 14-time champions Real Madrid or Bayern Munich, who will face off at the Bernabeu after a 2-2 draw in the first leg, in the June 1 finale at Wembley. A potential rematch looms with Bayern as Thomas Tuchel's squad prepares to face Real Madrid in the other semi-final clash this Wednesday. In the initial leg, Bayern and Real played to a 2-2 draw. Dortmund found themselves fortunate in both semi-final encounters, particularly with PSG striking the woodwork six times, four of which occurred on Tuesday.

from 12 matches at a strike-rate of 158.

"The first game against Punjab he did not even know till the 18th over that he will be playing a game, and he delivered a 9-ball 30 which was awesome. You know it is always good to see an Indian batsman perform. We were impressed with him in the nets and he has shown that against the new ball he bats very well. So we thought to give him the opportunity to bat up the order. He played a special innings today," DC assistant coach Praveen Amre said after the match.

"Warner is still not a hundred per cent fit and that's why we sent Porel up the order," Amre further added.

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

On the day, DC managed to keep away an incredible blitz from Sanju Samson and managed to win by 20 runs. The win kept DC alive in the Indian Premier League playoffs race. DC currently have 12 points from 12 matches and are in the 5th spot in the league table.



CSK part of my life, really hard to leave early: Matheesha Pathirana

IPL 2024: Sri Lanka and CSK's young pace sensation Matheesha Pathirana spoke about his journey with the team in IPL 2024 as he had to leave the tournament midway due to a hamstring injury.

New Delhi Sri Lanka and CSK's young pace sensation Matheesha Pathirana's journey came to an abrupt end in the Indian Premier League 2024 as he got ruled out of the tournament due to a hamstring injury. In a video shared by CSK's social media handles, Pathirana bid an emotional good bye to the team as he reflected on the learnings from the season.

Notably, the 21-year-old was the second-highest wicket-taker of the season for CSK with 13 wickets to his name from six innings at an average of 13 and an economy of 7.68. Reflecting on the season, the right-arm

speedster spoke about his learnings from the season, especially from the former captain MS Dhoni.

"It was really good season for me. I played six matches and got 13 wickets. I think I bowled really well and got one Man of the Match award also. I have to learn a lot of things from everywhere. So, in this season also, I learnt a lot of things from the coaching staff and not only coaching staff, the seniors like Mahi Bhai and all of them. So, I learnt a lot of things," said Pathirana in the special video shared by CSK. Pathirana picked up 3 for 31 in his second game against DC and followed it up with a match-winning spell of 4/28 in four overs against MI, which also fetched him the Player of the Match award. Further speaking about the franchise, the young seamer revealed that it was hard for him to leave this early as he considers the team to be a part of his life.

CSK was the part of my life now: Pathirana "Yeah, really, it's hard to leave early from this kind of franchise because CSK was the part of my life now. I love this franchise but



anyway I have to leave this early. So, it's very hard but I hope to see you next year also but we'll see. I got a lot of love from my fans, CSK fans, so really I want to give that love back to them. Really, I love those kind of fans and keep supporting us and for me also. Thank you very much," he

added. Meanwhile, CSK finds itself in the third spot on the points table with six wins from 11 matches having 12 points to their name. They will next take on GT on 10th May and will be eager to win all of their remaining three fixtures for smooth qualification to the playoffs.

Ananya Panday

Is Back For Call Me Bae Shoot, Says 'Can't Wait To Show You Guys'; See Here



Ananya Panday is all set to make her OTT debut with the web series Call Me Bae. She has already started shooting and often shares glimpses from the set. Today also it was no different day as Ananya shared another photo from the set. In the comedy series, Varun Dhawan will also be seen. This is for the first time they will be working together. Talking to her Instagram stories, Ananya shared a photo of her vanity with 'Bae' written on it. "Look who's back, Can't wait to show you guys," read the caption. For her OTT debut, Ananya Panday will be seen essaying the role of a fashionista. The storyline revolves around a billionaire fashionista who, following a scandalous controversy, is disowned by her ultra-rich family and navigates life independently. Last year, in March the first poster of the same was shared. Prime Video revealed that the actress has kick-started the shoot of the series. The caption read, "Hey, hey baes, there's a new fashionista in town who is here to stay and definitely slay all the way. Call Me Bae New Series, Now Filming."

Before the poster of the upcoming series was unveiled, Prime Video shared the first glimpse of the show in a hilarious video featuring Ananya and Varun Dhawan. The caption read, "Pakki khabar hai guys, Ananya Panday is the new fashionista in the primeverse! Watch this first glimpse and stay tuned. Call Me Bae New Series, Now Filming!" The video opens with Varun greeting the viewers by introducing himself as "Prime Bae". He continues by saying, "Today I'm going to reveal Amazon Prime's new show, Call Me Bae!" Next, we see Ananya in the background talking to the stylist and claiming that Call Me Bae is her show, "where I play a total fashion expert just like moi." Apart from this, Ananya is currently in the news for her rumoured breakup with Aditya Roy Kapur. A close friend of the two actors told the Bombay Times that, "That they broke up almost a month ago. They were going quite well, and the breakup came as a shock to all of us. They are cordial with each other. Ananya is trying to move on; of course, there's hurt. She is spending time with her new furry friend. Aditya is also trying to deal with the situation maturely."



Kareena Kapoor

Turns Poo From K3G For Ibrahim Ali Khan, Says 'Tumhara Koi Haq Nahi Ki Tum Itne Handsome Laga'

Ibrahim Ali Khan has been setting the internet on fire ever since he made his debut on Instagram. Recently, Ibrahim shared photos with F1 racer Charles Leclerc at the Miami Grand Prix which went viral on social media. The Instagram post also caught the attention of Kareena Kapoor Khan and her comment on the post has also gone viral. Kareena took to the comments section and wrote, "Tumhara koi haq nahin banta ke tum itne handsome laga." Kareena's fans were happy to see her recreate the iconic dialogue of her character Poo from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. Her comment went viral on Reddit. Fans flocked to the microblogging site to express their appreciation. One person wrote, "This is really cute." Another added, "Love their family dynamics!" One fan commented, "Aww... I find it cute." Another added, "Step-mom love. It's actually nice she has such a good relationship." Ibrahim Ali Khan made his Instagram debut on April 30 and dropped stunning photos for a new campaign. Ibrahim's debut featured the to-be actor surrounded by his grandfather and father's legacy, dressed in royal tones.

Even then, Kareena's comment went viral. Kareena dropped a comment under his photo and wrote, "Welcome to @punaindia Iggy ?? let's shoot together soon? @akpataudi Ibrahim's Instagram debut came ahead of his much-awaited Bollywood debut and generated quite a buzz among his fans. He will soon enter Bollywood with Sarazmeen, a film from Dharma Productions that also features Kajol and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Kayoze Irani, the son of Boman Irani, is the director of the movie.

In addition, he is working on a romantic comedy called Naadaniyaan, in which Khushi Kapoor, the daughter of Boney Kapoor and Sridevi, will also be starring. The film promises to be a delightful treat for audiences. With the backing of Dharma Productions, known for its impeccable storytelling and entertaining narratives, anticipation is soaring high for this project. A source had told Pinkvilla earlier, "It's one of those romantic comedies that Hindi Cinema is known for. However, Karan and co. feel that the palette of narrative fits better for the OTT than the big screen. It's planned and will be executed as an OTT original. Ibrahim Ali Khan has also been in the news for the past few months due to his relationship with Palak Tiwari, the daughter of television actress Shweta Tiwari. They are frequently seen visiting their friends' parties and going on movie outings. The alleged couple has not yet disclosed their relationship.



Ranveer Singh DELETES Wedding Pics With Deepika Padukone Ahead of Baby's Birth? Here's What We Know



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone's wedding pics have disappeared from the Simmba actor's Instagram account. On Tuesday, fans noticed that Ranveer, who is expecting his first baby with Deepika, had taken down the couple's wedding pictures from his account. Fans of the couple, often called DeepVeer, would remember that they shared a series of heartwarming photos from their two weddings in November 2018. The couple held two ceremonies to honour Deepika's Konkani and Ranveer's Sindhi roots. Over five years on, the photos are no longer a part of his Instagram grid. It isn't clear if he's removed or archived the photos. Ranveer has 133 posts on his Instagram account, with the first post dating back to January 2023, when he was promoting a sportswear brand. Meanwhile, Deepika has retained the photos on her grid. Ranveer still has other recent photos with Deepika on his timeline.

The sudden social media move comes amid Ranveer and Deepika's baby moon trip. In a photo believed to be from a recent vacation, Deepika is seen on the stairs of an airplane. She's dressed in a comfortable brown overall, best suited for maternity wear, and sporting sunglasses. Ranveer, clad in casual all-white attire, follows closely behind her. A baby bump is also noticeable. On Reddit, fans took to the comments section and blessed the couple.

On the work front, Deepika is currently shooting for Singham Again. While on set, Deepika recently posed with the junior artists working with her. Her pregnancy glow caught everyone's attention in the photo. Deepika, who is expecting her first baby with Ranveer Singh in September 2024, is working through her pregnancy. In Singham Again, she will be playing the role of a ruthless police officer. Recently, a junior artist who worked with Deepika dropped a selfie on Instagram with the actress. She also shared a sketch she made for Deepika and a bouquet of flowers with a note that read, "To our hero, Lady Singham." Ranveer will also be seen in Singham Again, reprising his role as Simmba. The actor is also expected to start filming for Don 3 this year.

When Amitabh Bachchan Pushed Shatrughan Sinha's Car



Shatrughan Sinha was considered a bankable action hero from the early 80s to mid 90s. He was miles ahead of Amitabh Bachchan in terms of stardom and fame during his peak years. However, this never created a rift between these superstars as they still share an unbroken friendship bond. The duo worked together in numerous films like Kaala Patthar, Dostana, Naseeb, Shaan, Raaste Ka Patthar and others. Amitabh Bachchan continued his journey in the entertainment industry while Shatrughan Sinha decided to stay away from films to join politics. Once, Amitabh Bachchan and Shatrughan Sinha appeared on a popular TV chat show. They shared a few stories of their friendship on the show. Among many, the one which attracted the attention of the viewers was one in which Amitabh Bachchan pushed the car of Shatrughan Sinha. The duo participated in Sajid Khan's chat show where they recalled funny incidents of their friendship and life. Big B said that Shatrughan Sinha used to have a car in which he along with others used to go watch movies. The Deewar actor also made fun of Shatrughan Sinha's car. Shahenshah of Bollywood, Amitabh Bachchan further said that once all of them were going to watch a movie by sitting in Shatrughan Sinha's car, but his 'Khatara' car broke down before reaching halfway. Even at that time, the actor who made everyone 'Silence' enjoyed the same status as his friends. Big B had said that the actor would sit in the car while everyone else had to push the car. Everyone present there burst out laughing after hearing these secrets of their best friend. Whereas Shatrughan Sinha himself turned red with embarrassment while laughing.