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'Incorrect distribution' of papers at Rajasthan centre, exam reconducted for 120 candidates

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, May 5: Distribution of wrong question papers at a NEET exam centre in Rajasthan on Sunday led to some candidates walking out with the papers, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said, claiming the integrity of the examination process was not compromised. The exam was later reconducted for the 120 affected candidates at the centre, said Sadhna Parashar, Senior Director, NTA. According to NTA sources, some candidates were distributed question papers in languages other than their choice of medium which prompted them to walk out of the centre. "During NEET-UG examination, it came to attention that at one exam centre, Girls Higher Secondary Model School, Mantown, Sawai Madhopur, there was an incident of incorrect distribution of question papers by the centre superintendent. Despite efforts by invigilators to prevent it, some candidates left the exam centre with the question papers," Parashar said. "In order to uphold the principles of fairness and equal opportunity for all candidates, the NTA has taken proactive measures. The examination of approximately 120 affected candidates at the centre is being conducted today, ensuring that their academic aspirations are not hindered by this incident," she added. Several social media posts alleged the question paper was leaked. The NTA, however, denied any possibility of a leak. This year, a record 23 lakh candidates registered for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET-UG), of which over 10 lakh were male students, over 13 lakh were girls and 24 students registered under the third gender category.

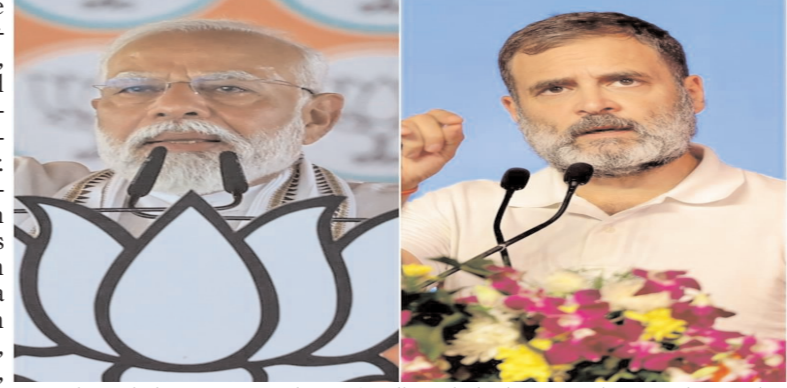
Campaigning ends for third phase of Lok Sabha election, high stakes for BJP

Simmi Kaur Babbar Ahmedabad/Bengaluru, May 5: The high-octane campaign for the third phase of Lok Sabha election that saw the BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc fiercely attacking each other on issues like reservations and sexual harassment charges against JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna concluded on Sunday evening in 92 seats spread over 11 states and Union Territories. The stakes are significant for the BJP in this round as the party had in 2019 won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, that will go to polls on May 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP charge, asking the Congress to give in writing that it will not hand over the quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Muslims. The Congress and its allies accused the BJP of trying to tamper with the Constitution and do away with reservations. The principal opposition party, which has promised to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations, also asked the BJP to clear its stance on the issue. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge along with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

focused on issues of social justice, unemployment, "injustice" to farmers and alleged favourable treatment to select businessmen. The BJP leaders targeted the Congress over wealth redistribution and inheritance tax issues and accused it of pursuing appeasement politics, while Rahul Gandhi reiterated Congress' commitment to conduct a caste census and economic survey if voted to power. Over 1300 candidates, including around 120 women, are in the fray. Among the bigwigs are Union ministers Amit Shah (Gandhinagar), Jyotiraditya Scindia (Guna), Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar), Parshottam Rupala (Rajkot), Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad) and SP Singh Baghel (Agra). Former Madhya Pradesh chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Raigarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time. The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and Badruddin Ajmal (Dhurbri) will also be decided on May 7. Several

members of Mulayam Singh Yadav's family are also contesting in this phase in Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister Modi, who addressed two rallies in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday and later visited

are working for your children." With the BJP bagging Surat unopposed, 25 seats in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat will go to polls on May 7, besides 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, the remaining 14 of the 28 in Karnataka, seven in Chhattisgarh, eight in Madhya Pradesh, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa. The Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (2 seats) will also go to polls in the third phase while the election in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat has been put off to the sixth phase due to logistic reasons. Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have targeted the BJP over allegations of sexual harassment against Prajwal Revanna, Hassan MP and leader of the JD(S) - an ally of the BJP. Hitting back, BJP leader Amit Shah and others questioned why the Congress government in Karnataka delayed the action against Revanna. The JD(S) joined the BJP-led NDA in September last year.



Ram temple in Ayodhya, lashed out at the "dynastic politics" of the Samajwadi Party and the Congress saying while the opposition alliance partners work only to benefit their own families, he is building a better future for the nation's next generations. Referring to himself and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said, "We don't have children. We

Seeking votes on basis of AAP govt's work in 2 years: CM Bhagwant Mann

Chandigarh, May 5: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said he is seeking votes on the basis of the work done by the AAP government during its two years at the helm. Addressing a gathering in support of AAP's Anandpur Sahib candidate Malvinder Singh Kang in Mohali, Mann said around



43,000 government jobs had been provided in two years. People are getting free electricity (up to 300 units per month) and canal water is being supplied to farmers for irrigation, he said. "We are seeking votes on the basis of the work done in the last two years," the chief minister said. "Aam Aadmi clinics have been set up where people are getting free medical treatment and medicine," he added. Mann claimed that big companies such as Tata Steel are investing in the state and added that setting up of new industrial units will generate employment opportunities.

Kangana Ranaut confuses Tejashwi Yadav with Tejasvi Surya

Shimla, May 5: In a gaffe, actor and BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut mistakenly named her party colleague Tejasvi Surya while intending to target RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav during an election rally. The faux pas also elicited a response from the former Bihar deputy chief minister. Addressing a gathering at Sundernagar on Friday, Ranaut - the BJP candidate from Mandi - while referring to the INDIA bloc, said the opposition alliance is full of "spoiled princes". "Bigde hue shehzadon ki ek party hai, chahе woh Rahul Gandhi ho jayen, jinhe chand mein aaloo ugame ho; Tejasvi Surya ho jayen, jo apni gunda-gardi karte hain, machli uchal uchal ke khate hain (There is a party of spoiled princes like Rahul Gandhi who wants to grow potatoes on the moon or Tejasvi Surya who does hooliganism and shows off while eating fish)," she had said, after which several netizens poked fun at her on social media.

35 Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district

Dantewada, May 5: A total of 35 Naxalites, three of them carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 3 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Sunday, a senior police official said. A 16-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy are among those who turned themselves in before the police, he said. These cadres were tasked with digging roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and banners during shutdowns called by Naxalites, the official said. Of the surrendered Naxalites, Baman Kartam (39) was the Jiyakotta Panchayat Militia Platoon Commander of the outlawed Maoists organisation, while Bhima Kunjam (28) was the Aranpur Panchayat CNM president, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said. Chetna Natya Mandli (CNM) is a cultural wing of Maoists. Woman Naxalite Kummee Lekam (35), who carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh, was the Hurrepal Panchayat Krantikari Mahila Adivasi Sangthan (KAMS) president, he said. "They were part of Bhairamgarh, Malanger and Katekalyan area committees of the Maoists in south Bastar. They said they were impressed by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' (return to your home) and disappointed with the hollow Maoist ideology," Rai said.

Chhattisgarh Congress leader Radhika Khera resigns from party

Nandeep Singh Sahni

Raipur, May 5: AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera on Sunday resigned from the party claiming that criticism over her visit to Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya led to the denial of justice to her in the incident that happened at the Chhattisgarh Congress office. Khera also claimed she didn't get justice even after repeatedly informing all the top leaders of the party. Stating that those who support religion have always faced opposition, Khera cited examples of mythological demons Hiranyakashyap, Ravana and Kansa to claim that some people oppose those who take the name of Lord Shri Ram in the same way. The AICC's communication and media coordinator for Chhattisgarh posted her resignation letter, addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, on her 'X' handle. Notably, an argument took place between Khera and Chhattisgarh Congress' communication wing chairperson Sushil Anand Shukla on April 30 in the party office in Raipur over the visit of sen-

ior leader Pawan Khera the next day, party sources had said. A video purportedly of Khera had gone viral in which she claimed that she was insulted. In her resignation letter, Khera stated it is an established truth since ancient times that those who support



religion face opposition. "Examples of this range from Hiranyakashyap to Ravana and Kansa. At present, some people are opposing those who take the name of Lord Shri Ram in the same way," she added. "For

every Hindu, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram holds great significance. While every Hindu considers his life successful just by seeing Ram Lalla, some people have been opposing it. The party to which I have given more than 22 years of my life, while working with full honesty right from NSUI to AICC's media department," she stated. According to Khera, she faced intense criticism because she could not stop herself from visiting Ram Lalla in Ayodhya. "The criticism of this noble work reached such a level that justice was denied to me in the incident that happened with me in the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress office", she added. Khera stated she was resigning from the primary membership of the party and her post. "I have always fought for the justice of others, but when it came to my own justice, I found myself defeated in the party. Being a devotee of Lord Shri Ram and a woman, I am deeply hurt.

My arrest over abduction allegations a political conspiracy

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Bengaluru, May 5: Holenarasipura MLA H D Revanna on Sunday called his arrest over the allegations of abducting a woman, whom Revanna's son is alleged to have sexually abused, an outcome of a political conspiracy. The former minister, who is the son of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, is facing the charge of kidnapping and illegally confining a woman who is the mother of three children. The complaint was lodged by the woman's son on Thursday. Revanna claimed there is no evidence of his involvement in the case based on the complaint against him registered on May 2. "There are no evidences pertaining to the May 2 complaint. It's a big political conspiracy... A conspiracy was hatched against me," Revanna told reporters at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, where he was taken for a medical checkup before being produced in court. Revanna was brought to the court by the

members of a Special Investigation Team. The SIT is investigating sexual abuse allegations involving his son and Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, after a huge cache of explicit videos allegedly involving Prajwal sexually abusing several women surfaced in



the public domain and were widely shared. In the complaint of abduction against H D Revanna to the K R Nagar police, the 20-year-old son of the victim alleged that Revanna's

close aide Sathish Babanna had taken his mother away on a motorcycle on April 29, stating that the MLA wanted to see her. The complainant stated that Babanna told him that if his mother "opened her mouth before the police", she and her family members would be arrested. Later, the 20-year-old complainant got to know from a friend and relative that his mother was among the women in the cache of videos that has gone public, and that it showed her being tied up and raped allegedly by Prajwal. As he expressed fear that his mother was in danger, police arrested Sathish Babanna and secured the victim from a farmhouse. Prajwal Revanna (33), who is the BJP-JD(S) Hassan Lok Sabha candidate, faces rape and molestation charges. The Karnataka government formed a Special Investigation Team on the recommendation of the Karnataka State Commission for Women Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, and is investigating the matter.

IAF soldier killed in J-K's Poonch was to return home in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, May 5: Corporal Vikky Pahade, who was killed in a terror attack in Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, was supposed to return home to celebrate his son's birthday on May 7. The slain soldier hailed from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district and was a resident of Nonia-Karbal village. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Kamal Nath, in a social media post said: "I salute the martyrdom of Vicky Pahade, a resident of Nonia-Karbal, Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh, and pay my tribute to the immortal martyr." Cpl Pahade had visited his family last month to attend his sister's wedding and had joined the unit on April 18, local residents told IANS. Cpl Pahade (33) had joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2011. He is survived by his five-year-old son, wife, mother and three sisters. Pahade was killed while four other IAF soldiers were injured when militants ambushed a convoy of IAF in Poonch on May 4. The IAF said that the Air Warriors fought back by returning fire. The Indian Air Force's official X handle stated.

Public at large thinks criminal trials are 'neither free nor fair', laments Supreme Court

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, May 5: Lamenting that there is "practically no effective and meaningful cross-examination" by public prosecutors of hostile witnesses during criminal trials, the Supreme Court has said the public at large thinks criminal trials are "neither free nor fair". "Free and fair trial is the very foundation of criminal jurisprudence. There is a reasonable apprehension in the mind of the public at large that the criminal trial is neither free nor fair with the prosecutor appointed by the state government conducting the trial in a manner where frequently the prosecution witnesses turn hostile," a Bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said. Describing public prosecutors as "one of judges' natural counterparts in the trial proceedings", Justice Pardiwala said, "Time and again, this court has, through its judgments, said

that there should not be any element of political consideration in the matters like appointment to the post of public prosecutor, etc." Writing the judgment for the Bench, Justice Pardiwala said, "The only consideration for the government should be the merit of the person. The person should be not only competent, but he should also be a man of impeccable character and integrity. He should be a person who should be able to work independently without any reservations, dictates or other constraints. The relations between the Public Prosecution Service and the judiciary are the very cornerstone of the criminal justice system." The Bench said, "It is the duty of the court to arrive at the truth and subserve the ends of justice. The courts have to take a participatory role in the trial and not act as mere tape recorders

to record whatever is being stated by the witnesses." The Bench said, "The



judge has to monitor the proceedings in aid of justice. Even if the prosecutor is remiss or lethargic in some ways, the court should control the proceedings effectively so that the ultimate objective that is the truth is arrived at.

The court must be conscious of serious pitfalls and dereliction of duty on the part of the prosecuting agency," Justice Pardiwala wrote. At times, such procedural lapses may lead to a very serious crime going unpunished. Any crime committed against an individual is a crime against the entire society. In such circumstances, neither the public prosecutor nor the presiding officer of the trial court can afford to remain remiss or lackadaisical in any manner. The top court upheld the May 2014 verdict of the Delhi High Court affirming the conviction and life sentence awarded to one Annes by a sessions court for the 1995 murder of his wife in Mustafabad area in Delhi.

Discrepancies in probe into Rohith Vemula's death, will ensure justice

New Delhi, May 5: The Congress on Sunday said there were many discrepancies in the investigation conducted previously into Rohith Vemula's death in 2016 and asserted that its government in Telangana will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice for his family. Police in Telangana have filed a closure report before a court in its probe into the death of Rohith Vemula, a student of the University of Hyderabad, claiming he was not a Dalit and died by suicide in 2016 as he feared that his "real caste" would be discovered. Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal, said Rohith Vemula's death was a grave atrocity that completely exposed the "anti-Dalit mindset" of the BJP. "The Congress, including Rahul Gandhi ji, has stood with Rohith Vemula's family through this difficult period," he said in a post on X. As has been clarified by the Telangana Police, the closure report concerned was prepared in June 2023, Venugopal said. "There were many

discrepancies in the investigation conducted previously. The Congress government in Telangana will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice for Rohith's family," he asserted. The Congress came to power in the state last year by defeating the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS). "Not only that, when we form a government at the Centre, we will pass a Rohith Vemula Act, specifically addressing the issue of caste and communal atrocities on campuses to ensure no student coming from socio-economic backwardness has to face the same plight as Rohith ever again," he said. Venugopal's remarks came a day after Rohith Vemula's mother Radhika Vemula met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad and urged him to see to it that "justice" is done to the family. Reddy assured her that an investigation would be conducted again into the University of Hyderabad student's suicide in 2016 and that justice would be done.

ENIL revenue rises 13.6% to 500cr for FY24

Mumbai: Entertainment Network (India) Ltd, operator of Radio Mirchi, reported a net revenue of Rs 149.3 crore for the fourth quarter of FY24, marking a 42.4% rise compared to the same quarter of FY23. Radio revenue witnessed growth of 26.4% in the fourth quarter of FY24, while non-FCT (Free Commercial Time) revenue surged by 48.1%, according to a company statement. It added that throughout FY24, radio experienced growth of 10.8%, whereas non-FCT grew by 8%. Consolidated revenues for FY24 reached Rs 500 crore, a 13.6% year-on-year growth. EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation)—excluding digital—for FY24 reached Rs 125.4 crore, a 34.5% year-on-year increase, largely fueled by robust top-line growth and operational efficiencies. In the fourth quarter, EBITDA (excluding digital) stood at Rs 36 crore, up from Rs 23 crore in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The statement said operational efficiency improvements have resulted in a significant boost in PAT (Profit After Tax), rising from Rs 2.3 crore in FY23 to Rs 50.6 crore in FY24 for its existing business. ENIL revenue rises 13.6% to 500 crore for FY24. Entertainment Network (India) Ltd reported strong financial performance with 149.3 crore net revenue in FY24 Q4, a 42.4% increase from FY23 Q4. Radio revenue and non-FCT revenue witnessed significant growth.

Dabur India reports strong fourth-quarter earnings, exceeds expectations. Dabur India's Q4 net profit surged 16.2% driven by strong demand & reduced costs, with revenue up 5.1%. Positive outlook for 2024 rural demand. Shares rose 5.6%. Annual net profit increased 6.46%.

Apple logs double-digit revenue growth in India. Apple CEO Tim Cook is very pleased with Apple's growth in India, emphasizing the importance of the Indian market and highlighting the company's various initiatives in retail, manufacturing, and sustainability efforts.

Karnataka elections: Fathers and children star in vote-for-vengeance drama

Bangluru. The families of former chief ministers S Bangarappa and BS Yediyurappa have locked horns in yet another political battle in Shimoga constituency, which goes to the polls on Tuesday. Spicing up an otherwise regular electoral bout between the two families is the entry of former deputy chief minister KS Eshwarappa, who has openly defied the BJP brass and has been dismissed from the party. Eshwarappa, who had taken ticket denial in the 2023 elections in his stride, didn't take kindly to the party with which he had been since its birth—denying ticket to his son KE Kanthesh this election. Believing that Yediyurappa and his sons were behind it, he has vowed out to teach them a 'lesson' by denting the prospects of sitting MP BY Raghavendra, the elder son of the BJP strongman. Speaking to STOI, he asserted he was contesting only to rid the BJP of its illusion that Yediyurappa and his family are indispensable for the party in Karnataka.

Knowing well that Hindutva sells better in Shivamogga, Eshwarappa has been constantly highlighting how Yediyurappa and his sons have sidelined hardcore Hindutva ideologues like CT Ravi, Nalin Kumar Kateel, and DV Sadananda Gowda. He is also banking on women self-help groups which have benefited from his family-run microfinancing company and Tamilians who constitute around 25,000 of the electorate. While it remains to be seen how many votes Eshwarappa will snatch



from Raghavendra's camp, his rebellion has certainly buoyed the Congress camp. "The more votes he takes, the brighter our chances of victory," said Basavarajappa, a Congress worker who runs a shop in Eesuru village in the segment. Congress' confidence is reflected in the campaigning of its candidate, Geetha Shivarajkumar, Bangarappa's daughter and wife of Sandalwood star Shivarajkumar. With her husband and her brother Madhu Bangarappa, a minister in the Siddaramaiah govt, throwing their all into the campaigning for the past month, Geetha is seeking to end her family's losing streak against the Yediyurappa family. This is the fifth time the families are facing off in a Lok Sabha election, and the Bangarapps haven't won even once previously. Geetha is also banking on Congress govt's five guarantees and the party's promise to give Rs 1 lakh a year to women heads of families if it wins the Lok Sabha polls. "Since the constituency is predominantly dominated by backward classes, SCs and STs, and most of them have benefited

from the Congress' guarantees, Geetha's victory seems certain," said Naveen, a Congress sympathiser. She and her brother have also been working to consolidate about four lakh votes from their own community - the Idigas. A few film actors, including Duniya Vijay, have also been drawing good crowds to her meetings and rallies. On his part, Raghavendra is banking on his father's popularity among voters cutting across caste barriers, PM Narendra Modi's appeal, and the unprecedented development works the constituency, especially in urban pockets, has witnessed over the past decade. Be it building national highways, improving district and village roads, introducing more rails or constructing an airport, people believe Yediyurappa and Raghavendra have been instrumental. "Raghanna is a worker," is what even his opponents say. The Yediyurappa family is also campaigning aggressively, leaving nothing to chance as it is aware that losing Shivamogga will end the family's grip on the state BJP unit, considering the growing opposition to them within the party after BY Vijayendra, the younger son of Yediyurappa, took over as the state party president. We do realise the importance of winning this election and the necessity of overcoming Eshwarappa's rebellion. But my performance as an MP and Modi's popularity will help me win. People are also aware it is Modi's election and they should vote for BJP," Raghavendra said.

Rattled by fake videos in poll season, city cops seek X's help

Kolkata: City cops, faced with multiple fake and hate videos in the recent past, has requested social media platform X to ensure that the nodal officers, with whom senior cops are coordinating and are appointed on behalf of the company, act on their reports quickly. Ever since the election season has set in, cops registered as many as 10 FIRs in this regard. According to police sources, they have found at least two instances when videos from Sambalpur and Rajasthan were passed as that taking place in Kolkata. Rattled by fake videos in poll season, city cops seek X's help. "As the probe progressed, we found that there were verified accounts belonging to those from the right wing that were spreading the maximum hate with fake videos. When we sent them legal notices under CrPC 149 on the X platform, we found that those who re-tweeted had removed them. But the content creators did not pay any heed to the notices. It is then that we requested X to remove them. So far, over two dozen such requests for removal of posts and videos have been made," said an officer.

Cops also took to the X platform, using its own DCP Cyber Kolkata Police handle, to state that it was necessary to recheck what is being reposted



on social media. "The misleading video is being circulated on social media claiming it to be from West Bengal. However, the incident happened in Sambalpur in 2023. Strict legal action is being taken against such profiles," stated one such message from cops. Cops said they were keeping the language of the notice simple for everyone to comprehend. "You are directed to immediately disclose your identity including name and residence. If the information sought is not revealed, you shall be liable for legal action under 42 CrPC. Cyber PS, Lalbazar," the tweets said. The official legal notice added: "It has been observed that you are using social media post for posting malicious and inciting content. Cyber police station hereby is issuing notice against you under CrPc 149 for posting such malicious content on social media that can adversely affect the law and order situation." The cops also shared the respective URL. The notice ended asking the user to delete the offensive post immediately.

The city's cyber cell and STF have also begun demarcating each fake or inciting video—from those circulating only on WhatsApp to those being shared across social media platforms. "One video is making its way to various types of social media. We are trying to identify at the base and then delete these videos before they can cause further damage," claimed a senior officer at Lalbazar.

Neha, Prajwal cases may have sparked debates, but won't affect voter decisions

Bangluru. Former CM Jagadish Shettar faces a crucial political showdown in Belgaum Lok Sabha seat following his return to BJP after a brief stint with Congress. Despite initial resistance from the local BJP unit to shift him from Dharwad to Belagavi, he appears to have quelled dissent and established rapport with voters. In an interview with TOI, Shettar exuded confidence in overcoming obstacles and securing victory. Excerpts: What makes you confident of winning and what aspects of your party attract voters? I am confident of my victory, given the prevailing sentiment to grant PM Modi a third term owing to his extensive achievements. Furthermore, my longstanding 30-year association with Belagavi, coupled with my collaboration with the late Belgaum MP Suresh Angadi, has bolstered BJP's presence in the region and significantly contributed to its holistic development during my tenure as CM and minister. There are concerns within BJP about a potential division among Lingayat voters,



particularly amidst debates surrounding Laxmi Hebbalkar's affiliation with the Panchamasali subsect...

We're focusing our election campaign on national issues such as integrity, safety, and security. Caste doesn't play a role in our approach, and I refrain from commenting or engaging in discussions regarding caste or subject matters. Our priority is to highlight Modi's achievements and address national concerns.

There were reports of opposition from some local BJP leaders to your candidature since they regarded you as an outsider. There was no such discontent or disagreement within the party or among local leaders about my candidature. It was Congress that attempted to fabricate this discontent or differences. Will the Neha Hiremath and Prajwal cases influence voter sentiment? While the Neha and Prajwal cases may be topics of debate, they will not impact voter decisions.

Mumbai constable's mysterious death investigation unveils surprising details

MUMBAI: The Government Railway Police (GRP) investigating the mysterious death of Mumbai police constable Vishal Pawar (30) are trying to determine his location between 7.30pm and 11.20 pm on April 27 in Thane, even though his scheduled work time to report was at 7 pm in Byculla. Additionally, Pawar's assertion that the 'Fatka Gang' had supposedly stolen his mobile phone and Rs200 in cash was proven to be false. "The technical assistance used in the probe showed that the mobile which Pawar claimed to have stolen was with himself and he had used it to make calls the next day," said a GRP police officer.

The officer stated that the investigation team gathered multiple CCTV footage from Thane to Dadar. The footage revealed Pawar boarding the 11.20 pm fast CST local train from Thane on April 27, getting off at Dadar at 11.54pm, and then going to a bar outside the station where he spent 30 minutes drinking alcohol before going to different places instead of reporting for duty.

A senior GRP officer told TOI on Saturday: "The CCTV grabs availed and his family's statements mentioned that Pawar left his Kopri home at around 7.30 pm while he boarded the train at 11.20 pm from Thane on Apr 27 which has a direct halt at Dadar. The CCTV footage at Dadar station captured him exiting the station at approximately 11.54 pm. He spent at least 30 minutes drinking at a bar in Dadar before visiting different locations and walking along the tracks to Parel, where he slept. He then boarded the train on Apr 28 in the morning back to Thane. The investigation by GRP also found from the post-mortem report that the deceased policeman was not injected with any poisonous substance as he had claimed, suggesting that his account was false. The investigation team will conclude the case within a day or two, giving details on the circumstances of the constable's death.

Court proceedings recorded, Bulgarian woman seeks action

Ahmedabad: The Bulgarian woman who has accused her former boss—the CMD of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd Rajiv Modi—of rape, complained before the court on Saturday that two unknown men were recording court proceedings and her lawyer's arguments against the clean chit that police have given to Modi citing lack of evidence. After proceedings before a judicial magistrate of Ahmedabad district court on the police's summary report on rape complaint, the former flight attendant tendered a pursis to the court and an application to the chief judicial magistrate complaining about two persons recording court proceedings while her advocate Rajeshkumar Mishra was arguing the matter. She complained that the duo was recording on multiple devices, sending messages and taking

pictures of witnesses the complainant presented on Saturday. Court proceedings recorded, Bulgarian woman seeks action. The complainant sought action against the two unidentified men and prayed for directions to the court authorities to secure CCTV footage of the courtroom during the arguments on Saturday.

Besides praying for directions to supply CCTV footage for identification and to know the activity of the suspected persons, she urged the court to secure the devices used to record court proceedings and copies of video, audio, messages, pictures taken during the proceedings. Her advocate said when they tried to confront the men, they pushed them aside and fled, Mishra said. Meanwhile, the Bulgarian's advocate made his submissions against the summary report the

investigator filed on the criminal complaint and highlighted lacunae in the probe. The court is likely to decide on the complainant's protest petition later this month.

The 27-year-old Bulgarian had come to India as a flight attendant for Modi. She raised a service dispute and then levelled allegations of sexual abuse by Modi.

The Gujarat high court ordered police to register an FIR on her complaint and undertake an inquiry into why her complaint was not registered as an FIR. After an investigation, police filed an 'A' summary and exonerated Modi. The complainant is opposing the summary report, asserting that the probe be handed over to the CBI and ED because huge sums have allegedly changed hands to shield Modi.

Delivered chicken instead of paneer, woman demands 50L

Ahmedabad: A woman living in the Chamundanagar neighbourhood in the Sola area of the city was allegedly delivered a chicken tikka sandwich after she ordered a paneer tikka sandwich from a restaurant through a food delivery app on Friday. The woman took a few bites and discovered that she had been sent a chicken sandwich. On Saturday, she complained to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's health department and demanded that she be paid Rs 50 lakh as compensation. Sources said that the complainant, Nirali Parmar, had ordered the paneer tikka sandwich from an eatery called "Pick Up Meals By

Yerra" on Friday to be delivered to her office. Parmar's complaint reads that after biting into the sandwich she found texture was not like that of paneer and learned that she had been delivered a chicken sandwich. She said that she is a vegetarian and her religion and personal choice don't allow her to eat meat. She was hurt because of this mistake and demanded compensation of Rs 50 lakh. After the complaint, the civic body's health department on Saturday issued a notice to VRYLY Ventures Pvt Ltd that runs the restaurant and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. The department also warned the company that its outlet would be sealed if a similar mistake is repeated. The health department said

that from April 28 to May 4, 760 restaurants were inspected in the city and 270 were issued notices for unhygienic conditions or for selling food unfit for consumption. The civic body said 928kg of solid food items and 704 litres of liquid food items were found unfit for consumption and destroyed and a total of Rs 1.44 lakh was collected in fines.

Car sandwiched between truck and bus in Thrissur, occupants escape with injuries. Thrissur family narrowly escaped a severe car accident near Kodakara, with injuries treated at the hospital. Formal case pending as authorities await statements from the individuals involved.

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Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob: 965407232, 9971359517
Website: www.thesikhtimes.in

Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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Legal Advisors:
Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

Edu dept cracks down on schools holding classes during summer break

Chennai: Amidst soaring summer temperatures, the state school education department is clamping down on govt and private schools conducting special classes during the summer holidays. This action follows a surge in complaints from parents regarding their children's well-being in the intense heat. School education secretary J Kumaragurubaran confirmed receiving reports of schools conducting classes. These initial complaints surfaced in Virudhunagar district, prompting the department to instruct all chief and district

education officers statewide to investigate schools within their jurisdictions, he said. Summer holidays for govt, govt-aided, and private schools commenced on April 13. However, some schools across the state scheduled preparatory classes for the upcoming year and career counselling sessions. "We instructed chief education officers and district education officers across the state to verify these reports and ensure schools are adhering to summer break guidelines," said Kumaragurubaran. While recognising the

value of these classes, he said, "Given the rising temperatures, it's not the right time to conduct them in person." He further added that schools found violating the guidelines would be issued warnings. Govt school teachers said they conducted summer camps and NEET coaching sessions as soon as schools closed for the holidays. But those concluded on Saturday. "It is extremely hot. Students are not interested in stepping out. Parents, too, want the children to be at home," said Janaki M, a govt high school teacher from Navalur. While some parents

found these classes beneficial, many students were unhappy, particularly due to the heat. "My son's school conducted classes three times a week," said Ambika Venugopal, a parent from Semmenchery. "While I didn't mind, the heat was too much for him," she added. The school education department plans to transition to online resources for career counselling and other specialised classes, Kumaragurubaran said. "This would allow students to access this information from home and still enjoy their holidays," he said. Although government

schools are still in the early stages of digitalisation, Kumaragurubaran said he is optimistic about implementing this transition within the next three to four months with proper teacher training. NCERT books for classes 1 & 2 in UP govt schools UP Basic Education Council implements NCERT textbooks for classes 1 and 2. New books like Sarangi-1, Anandamay Math-1, Mridangam-1 introduced. Stress-free learning approach emphasized in line with the new education policy.

NEWS BOX

Nursing student found hanging in hostel

Gurgaon. An auxiliary nurse and midwife (ANM) student was found hanging at the health department's ANM hostel in Sector 31. Alleging foul play, the family members of Ritu (19) lodged a complaint on Friday against the hostel warden and other students for murder.

After the girl's family created a commotion outside the postmortem house, Manoj Kumar—officer-in-charge of the Sector 40 police station—assured them that action would be taken after the postmortem report. He further said that the case would be resolved within three days. The family has refused to accept the body until a case is registered and the accused are arrested.

Ritu was in the final year of her ANM course. Her father, Subhash, said that he had spoken to her the previous night and she sounded fine. However, the next morning, he received a call from the warden's husband informing him that his daughter was ill. When he reached the hostel on Friday morning, he found his daughter lying dead on a table with rope marks on her neck. Police took her family that she had died by hanging herself. Ritu's uncle, Jagdish, said, "She had previously complained against students and staff using casteist slurs. Despite complaints, no action was taken. Her death is a result of a conspiracy."

We also published the following articles recently NEET aspirant found hanging from ceiling fan of hostel room in KotaSumit Panchal, a 20-year-old NEET aspirant, was found hanging in his Kota hostel room. His parents suspect foul play, demanding a murder investigation. This incident is the seventh suspected suicide of NEET or JEE aspirants in Kota. 109688304

AIIMS-Delhi nursing student kills self in hostel room; suicide note recovered A 21-year-old woman died by suicide at AIIMS in New Delhi. Her suicide note cited depression from nursing studies and Bihar Public Service Commission exam prep. Family in Bihar informed, ongoing investigation. 109743694

In Maharashtra, stalker attacks student & her family with cutter, held A 28-year-old private company employee was arrested under the Indian Penal Code for attacking a college student and her family with a cutter. The suspect claimed to be an engineer during the investigation

Pickup and drop for 85-plus and disabled voters in city

Gurgaon. People aged 85 and above and those with at least 40% disability will be picked up from home and dropped back on the voting day on May 25 if they don't opt for postal ballot, a facility that allows them to exercise their franchise from home.

A recent survey has revealed that the Gurgaon parliamentary seat has 50,790 such voters. Electoral teams are now reaching out to them with Form D, which is required to be filled if the voters opt for postal ballot facility. If they don't, their names will be included on the list of voters who would be offered pickup and drop facility. "We will first ask them if they want to cast their votes from homes through postal ballots. An entire booth will be set up in a room in that case. But those who want to visit the local booths will be picked up and driven back. They need not stand in queue," said deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav.

Elderly voters heading out will be accompanied by a govt official and a volunteer. The volunteers will be responsible for ensuring such voters on the list are picked up in time and dropped back safely too. "For the pickup and drop facility, voters can call on our toll-free number 1950 and book their dates according to their convenience," said Yadav. Vidhya Devi of Pataudi, who is in her late eighties, is among those planning to head to a booth on May 25. "I haven't filled Form D. I want to vote to pay my tributes to those who have laid down their lives to free this country from the British," she told TOI, adding that never missed an opportunity to exercise her franchise.

The move to bring polling booths to homes and offer pickup services is aimed at ensuring a better turnout for the Gurgaon seat, where voter participation has been a cause for concern. In 2019, the voting percentage in Gurgaon was 65%, compared to the state average of 72% and the national figure of 75%. Officials said the district administration was leaving no stone turned to improve numbers this time.

We also published the following articles recently District Administration to provide pick and drop facilities to voters above 85 yrs Nishant Kumar Yadav, the District Election Officer, announced pick and drop services for elderly and disabled voters in Gurgaon. The initiative includes assigning a government official and volunteer for transportation, voter awareness campaigns, and monitoring of paid news

Buyers of Mahira Homes now join boycott chorus

Gurgaon. Scores of buyers from Mahira Homes, a residential project in Sector 68, have called for boycott of Lok Sabha elections, citing lack of progress in resolving their housing woes, which is compounded by revocation of the project's registration by the authorities, leaving over 1,400 buyers in limbo.

The protest outside the H-Rera office saw slogans being raised against the state govt and the administration. "The authorities have failed us, and we refuse to vote in the Lok Sabha polls until our housing issues are addressed," a buyer said. Nitin Khurana, president of the Mahira 68 buyer association, said, "Under the provisions of Section 8 of Rera Act the authority may consult govt to take such action as it may deem fit, including the carrying out of the remaining development works by a competent authority. We want govt to provide a clear timeline for the project. We have been running from pillar to post for the past 2 years. We have already made full payment." We also published the following articles recently Haryana MLAs son arrested for cheating home buyers of Rs 300 crore Sikandar Singh, son of Samalkha Congress MLA Dharam Singh Chhokers, arrested for defrauding home buyers of Rs 300 crore through Sai Aina Firm Pvt Ltd. Allegations include failing to deliver houses in Gurugram's Sector 68.HC: Authorities seldom act, govt land easy prey for encroachers Bombay High Court at Goa chastises authorities for failing to address encroachments on government land, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding public properties from unauthorized occupation. Supreme Court order a relief, but Unitech buyers worried about funds Supreme Court's order may allow Unitech to start construction on projects with 6,000 homebuyers.

State polls after LS & Jat votes in mind, Cong sheds ambiguity, backs Hooda

Gurgaon. Ridden by faction feuds, the Haryana unit of Congress is heading into the Lok Sabha election with less ambiguity about its leadership than in the recent past.

A simple reading of the Congress list of candidates shows who is calling the shots. Despite strong opposition by what is described as the 'SRK' grouping — of Kumari Selja, Randeep Surjewala and Kiran Choudhry — eight of the party's nine candidates are loyalists of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda or those who he specifically wanted in the electoral fray, like Raj Babbar. Congress hasn't fielded a candidate in Kurukshetra, which is being contested by its INDIA bloc partner AAP.

In Gurgaon, Raj Babbar was fielded over the grouping's choice, which was former minister Capt Ajay Yadav. Similarly, Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry's daughter, and granddaughter of former CM Bansi Lal, Shruti Choudhry, was replaced with Rao Dan Singh from the Bhiwani-Mahendergarh seat. The constituency is considered a stronghold

of the Bansi Lal family. Brijendra Singh, son of former Union minister Chaudhary Birender Singh, was widely expected to get the ticket from Hisar, but he was bypassed for Jai Prakash, who is also close to Hooda. Brijendra, who was the sitting MP in Hisar, had left BJP earlier this year and joined Congress. In Faridabad, too, Kiran Singh Dalal was considered a strong contender, but Congress fielded former state minister Mahendra Pratap. Asked about talk of resentment in a section of the party's state unit, a senior Congress functionary told TOI that among considerations in choosing Haryana candidates was also the assembly elections. Haryana will go to polls to elect its next govt later this year, and Congress wants to capitalise on anti-incumbency and anger against BJP after the farmers' agitation. "To do so, the central leadership has to rely on the state leadership, and that is Hooda," the senior functionary said. Another party insider said the focus is also on getting Jat votes, and Hooda is a prominent Jat leader in



Congress. "This is the main reason for importance that has been given to Hooda by the party high command. The former CM's proximity to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is clear from the fact that he and state party president Uday Bhan were in constant touch with senior members of AICC (All India Congress Committee), even as the SRK grouping held meetings with Sonia Gandhi," the party insider said. Asked about Hooda's influence in ticket distribution, AICC Haryana in-charge Deepak Babaria said

on Friday that tickets were "strictly given on the basis of merit, which is winnability, social composition and 36 biradari (caste equations)". Babaria added, "As far as Hooda is concerned, he is a strong party functionary who has good hold in the region." The only Congress candidate where Hooda didn't have his way is Selja. The former Union minister and party general secretary will contest from Sirsa, a reserved seat, against former Haryana Congress president Ashok Tanwar, who has joined BJP.

On May 1, when Selja filed her nomination from Sirsa, no one from the Hooda camp was present. She was accompanied by Birender Singh, Kiran Chaudhry and Randeep Surjewala, among others. Asked about differences within the party, Selja had said that all leaders try to make an impact, but everyone eventually comes together to ensure the party's victory in the elections.

1st FOB on Golf Course Road may open in June

Gurgaon. A foot overbridge (FOB) on Golf Course Road, connecting Chakkarpur village with Ashoka Crescent Marg, has again missed its March 2024 deadline and is likely to be commissioned by June.

At present, the structure of the FOB has been installed and work on the elevator and other minor works are being carried out. The FOB is among four bridges planned to ease pedestrians' movement on the 6km-long stretch, among the busiest roads in the city.

Around 85% work has been completed and the structure of FOB has been installed at the site. The work on elevator and last touches are under progress. Shortage of manpower has slowed down the pace of work since March as many labourers have gone to their hometowns for festivals, harvesting or to cast their vote in the Lok Sabha elections. This has delayed

the project by at least 2 months. However, we are hoping to complete the work by June," an official from DLF said. Once completed, the FOB will feature a lift, proper illumination for safety, and a 3m wide covered walkway for pedestrians. The proposal to construct pedestrian-friendly structures on the 16-lane road was conceptualised in 2020 to provide safer pedestrian crossing, after a number of accidents were reported on the stretch. Initially, it was proposed to construct five FOBs, which was later reduced to four, after residents of Vipul Belmonte raised objections over building an FOB near their condominium. Subsequently, GMDA had to change the location of one FOB from the original plan to construct it near MPD tower to Chakkarpur village due to encroachment complaints. The other three proposed locations for

FOBs are Bristol Chowk, Times Centre and Paras Downtown. The construction, initiated in Jan 2023, was originally scheduled to be completed by June 2023 but faced multiple challenges. These included delays in obtaining permission for tree cutting, remove utilities that fall within the alignment, changes in the design of the structure and construction ban under GRAP. This had pushed the executing company to revise the deadline to March 2024. While the FOB at Chakkarpur village is likely to be completed soon, work on the other three FOBs are still on papers. "We have sent multiple reminders to DLF to submit designs for other three FOBs on Golf Course Road for approvals. But till date there has been no concrete submission made from their end. We have already raised the matter with the higher authority.

16 held after stock trader loses ?7.6cr, a/cs traced to China

Gurgaon: A chartered accountant's daughter from Faridabad was cheated of Rs 7.6 crore on the pretext of investing in stocks through Facebook links. So far, 16 persons have been arrested from Bengaluru, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Delhi, Faridabad, Lucknow and Gurgaon in connection with the case, police said. Gurgaon: A chartered accountant's daughter from Faridabad was cheated of Rs 7.6 crore on the pretext of investing in stocks through Facebook links.

So far, 16 persons have been arrested from Bengaluru, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Delhi, Faridabad, Lucknow and Gurgaon in connection with the case, police said. The woman, who works with her father in a management company in Delhi and has been trading in the stock market for about two years, received a link on Facebook on Jan 4, promising lucrative returns. After she clicked on the link, she was directed to a WhatsApp group called "ICICI IR TEAM (57)",

Fallen trees & branches spark concerns in many sectors

Noida/Greater Noida: Branches of an old and overgrown tree fell on three cars parked under it in Sector 27 on Saturday, damaging them completely. In some parts of the city, including Arun Vihar, the lack of regular tree maintenance has led to overgrown branches that extend into homes and even cause damage to walls. This highlights the necessity for proper pruning and upkeep of trees in these neighborhoods. Likewise, sectors such as Xu 1, Delta 2, Gamma in Greater Noida also require tree pruning. "Yesterday evening, several large branches of an old Gulmohar tree fell in front of E 260 in Sector 27. There were no injuries or loss of life. However, many more trees in E and F blocks of the sector have similar overgrown branches could pose a potential risk," said Kanhaiya Lal Awana, RWA chairman of Sector 27. Subsequently, Awana complained about the issue to the district forest department and the Authority to cut the trees to avoid future mishaps and possible loss of life. The damaged cars had broken windshields, bonnets, and bumpers. Kavita Jamil, who is the vice-chairperson of the Arun Vihar Residents Welfare Association (AVRWA), has shared her concerns about the safety of residents due to over 100 trees in Arun Vihar that are posing a threat to lives and property. "The height of trees has now reached about 80 feet, and in some places, branches have entered toilets and caused damage to the wall. We request the Noida Authority's horticulture department to conduct an inspection," said Jamil. While residents of Sectors 48, 34, 71, 72, and more have also raised similar concerns, the problem is also rampant in Greater Noida. Alok Nagar, the general secretary of RWA in Sector Delta 2, said that a tree had fallen and was blocking the sector road. However, the concerned authorities have not addressed the issue yet. Jeet Singh Sheoran, the general secretary of RWA in Sector Xu 1, has pointed out the same problem in his sector. Officials from the horticulture department said that they will address the problem soon, as their staff have been busy with election duty. We also published the following articles recently BMC pruned 22,334 tree branches, appeal to citizens to move vehicles parked along roadsides BMC pruned 22,334 branches, 1,13,534 trees need trimming. 433 problematic trees found, 386 removed. Challenges include vehicles hindering operations. Appeal for citizen cooperation in vehicle movement. 109509918 Fire breaks out at building in Noida Sector 65 Noida's leather company fire, attended by 15 units, led by CFO Pradeep Kumar, extinguished a short-circuit blaze with no casualties. ANI provided details. Fire broke out Sunday morning. Horticulture waste catches fire in sectors 50 & 117 Fires due to horticulture waste in Meghdootam Park and Sector 117 highlight the fire threat from dry leaves in various city sectors. Residents face pollution and breathing issues. Guard averts mishap in Sector 117 fire.

6 more weeks for Hry to set deadline for wetland notification

Gurgaon. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has granted an extension of weeks to the Haryana govt for filing an affidavit specifying the timeline for declaring Najafgarh Jheel as a transboundary wetland during a hearing. The counsel for NCT of Delhi had earlier informed the tribunal about its decision to declare the water body as a wetland on Dec 22, 2023. However, the Haryana govt sought more time to file the affidavit in the case which dates to 2014, when a Delhi-based NGO — Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage — filed an application in the NGT demanding the lake be declared a wetland and adequate steps be taken to conserve it.

Lost and Found I. NANU SINGH S/O NARJEET SINGH R/O B2/89 ASHOK VIHAR PHASE 2 DELHI 110022 want to inform you that following original documents pertaining to property no B2/89 Ashokvihar phase 2 Delhi have lost & misplaced and not traceable at present i.e. Allotment letter, Possession letter, Site possession Slip, Perpetual Lease, Sanction Plan, Sanction letter, occupancy certificate. I have filed an E-Fir LR no 1699557/2024 dated 4 may 2024 If found please inform at 9910480363.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS DEEPANSHU I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS DEEPANSHU I. MAHESH CHANDRA R/O 12014, STREET NO-24, EAST RAM NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPANSHU KATHPALIA.

NAME CHANGE I. GANGADHARAN ACHARY Father of 16115272P Rank-SPR Name-VISHNU G presently residing at VAZHAPPALLI, THEKKATHIL, PO-VEDARAPLAVU, CHERAMPOOZA, THAMARAKULAM, ALAPPUZHA, KERALA-690505 have changed my name from GANGADHARAN ACHARY to GANGADHARAN ACHARI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 23/01/1953 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1955 vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. SHANTI BAI mother of NO-17001834X Rank-NK Name-RAM-BABU R/O 01, VILL-PADIYALA, PO-SHONTHI, TEH-SHYAMPUR, DIST-SHEHORE, MADHYA PRADESH-468651 have changed my name from SHANTI BAI to SHANTIBAI for all future purposes my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1971 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1970 vide affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. PRAHALLAD NAYAK Father of No. 15803704H Rank-LNK Name-SANJAY KUMAR NAYAK Presently residing at VILL-GODI, PO- BHUJASUNI-PATANA, DIST-KHORDHA, ODISHA-752061 have changed my name from PRAHALLAD NAYAK to PRAHALLAD NAYAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Ramesh Babu S/o Sh. Sumner Singh, R/O H.No.43, Gali No.10, Sai Nagar, Mithepur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have served all his relations with his son Mohit Singh & daughter-in-law Smt. Hemlata and discovered them from all movable and immovable assets due to my misconduct. My client will not be responsible for their any acts in future.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS MINI TOMAR alias MINI PANWAR, D/O RAMESH TOMAR, W/O ONBIR SINGH PANWAR, R/O PLOT NO-16, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-B-1, NANGAL DEWAT, VASANT KUNJ, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110070 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MINI PANWAR.

NAME CHANGE I. BAHGWAN SINGH Father of NO-17001834X Rank-NK Name-RAM-BABU R/O 01, VILL-PADIYALA, PO-SHONTHI, TEH-SHYAMPUR, DIST-SHEHORE, MADHYA PRADESH-468651 have changed my name from BAHGWAN SINGH to BHAGWAN SINGH for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1967 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1973 vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. SUSAMA NAYAK Mother of No. 15803704H Rank-LNK Name-SANJAY KUMAR NAYAK Presently residing at VILL-GODI, PO- BHUJASUNI-PATANA, DIST-KHORDHA, ODISHA-752061 have changed my name from SUSAMA NAYAK to SUSHAMA NAYAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. 14596128-Y Rank-EX-TSNK Name-HIRA LAL presently residing at VILL-LOCHABKA, PO-NANUKALAN, TEHSIL-PATAUDI, DIST-GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122414 have changed my name from HIRA LAL to HIRALAL YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. Yasmeeen w/o Mahtoboo Malik R/o M-45, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Yasmeeen Malik for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS SONU W/o MUKESH KUMAR residing at E-255, Inner Purli, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONU BAINS.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I. PARVATI D/O SHIBBU R/O HNO -18 STREET NO-17 NEAR NAGAR NIGAM SCHOOL, KARKAR, BARAMAND PO SHAKARPUR, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092 declare that name of my FATHER and my MOTHER has been wrongly written as SUDDU and ANITA in my 10TH & 12TH CLASS EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS. The actual name of my Father and my Mother are SHIBBU and SAROJ RANI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I. SEEMA WIFE OF JC-34311K, Rank-NB SUB Name-RAJENDRA SINGH Presently residing at VILL-GADHOLI, PO-PILKHA, TEHSIL-ALMORA, DISTT-ALMORA, UTTARAKHAND-263601 have changed my name from SEEMA to SEEMA BISHT for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I. RAVI S/O SHIBBU R/O HNO -18 STREET NO-17, NEAR NAGAR NIGAM SCHOOL, KARKAR, BARAMAND PO SHAKARPUR, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092 declare that name of my FATHER and my MOTHER has been wrongly written as SUDDU and ANITA in my 10TH & 12TH CLASS EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS. The actual name of my Father and my Mother are SHIBBU and SAROJ RANI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I. DEEPAK S/O SHIBBU R/O HNO -18 STREET NO-17, NEAR NAGAR NIGAM SCHOOL, KARKAR, BARAMAND PO SHAKARPUR, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092 declare that name of my FATHER and my MOTHER has been wrongly written as SUDDU and ANITA in my 10TH & 12TH CLASS EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS. The actual name of my Father and my Mother are SHIBBU and SAROJ RANI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS JITTENDER YADAV S/O RAGHUNATH residing at House No. 101, Gali No. 3, Sangam Vihar, Jharkanda Majra, PO - Burari, Dist. North Delhi, Delhi - 110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KASHI RAM YADAV.

NAME CHANGE I. 14596128-Y Rank-EX-TSNK Name-HIRA LAL presently residing at VILL-LOCHABKA, PO-NANUKALAN, TEHSIL-PATAUDI, DIST-GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122414 have changed my name from HIRA LAL to HIRALAL YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS ASHISH S/O PARAS RAM SHARMA residing at 107, Camp No. 5, Jawalapur, Sider, West Delhi, Delhi - 110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHU.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS SONU W/o RAJ BABA GUPTA, S/o RAM SWAROOP residing at C-267, Gali No. 4, Phase-2, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Sher Pur, PO Dayalpur, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJ BABA GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS ASHISH S/O PARAS RAM SHARMA residing at 107, Camp No. 5, Jawalapur, Sider, West Delhi, Delhi - 110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHU.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS MINI TOMAR alias MINI PANWAR, D/O RAMESH TOMAR, W/O ONBIR SINGH PANWAR, R/O PLOT NO-16, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-B-1, NANGAL DEWAT, VASANT KUNJ, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110070 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MINI PANWAR.

NAME CHANGE I. Yasmeeen w/o Mahtoboo Malik R/o M-45, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Yasmeeen Malik for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS SONU W/o MUKESH KUMAR residing at E-255, Inner Purli, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONU BAINS.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS MEERA SHUKLA alias KRISHNA KUMARI SHUKLA D/o KEDAR NATH TIWARI W/o RAJENDER KUMAR SHUKLA residing at J-34, Upper Ground, Near Bangali, Sector-14, West Delhi, Delhi - 110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KRISHNA KUMARI SHUKLA.

NAME CHANGE I. POOJA SAHU W/O SUSHANT SAURAV residing at FLAT NO-56, SURUCHI APARTMENT, SEC-10, PLOT NO-31 DWARKA, DELHI-110075 have change my minor daughter name from AADHIRA to AADHIRA SAHU for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS ASHISH S/O PARAS RAM SHARMA residing at 107, Camp No. 5, Jawalapur, Sider, West Delhi, Delhi - 110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHU.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS SONU W/o MUKESH KUMAR residing at E-255, Inner Purli, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONU BAINS.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS ASHISH S/O PARAS RAM SHARMA residing at 107, Camp No. 5, Jawalapur, Sider, West Delhi, Delhi - 110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHU.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS MINI TOMAR alias MINI PANWAR, D/O RAMESH TOMAR, W/O ONBIR SINGH PANWAR, R/O PLOT NO-16, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-B-1, NANGAL DEWAT, VASANT KUNJ, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110070 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MINI PANWAR.

NAME CHANGE I. Yasmeeen w/o Mahtoboo Malik R/o M-45, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Yasmeeen Malik for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS SONU W/o MUKESH KUMAR residing at E-255, Inner Purli, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SONU BAINS.

NAME CHANGE I. HITHERTO KNOWN AS MEERA SHUKLA alias KRISHNA KUMARI SHUKLA D/o KEDAR NATH TIWARI W/o RAJENDER KUMAR SHUKLA residing at J-34, Upper Ground, Near Bangali, Sector-14, West Delhi, Delhi - 110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KRISHNA KUMARI SHUKLA.

NAME CHANGE I. POOJA SAHU W/O SUSHANT SAURAV residing at FLAT NO-56, SURUCHI APARTMENT, SEC-10, PLOT NO-31 DWARKA, DELHI-110075 have change my minor daughter name from AADHIRA to AADHIRA SAHU for all future purpose.

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NAME CHANGE I. Y

NEWS BOX

Radicalised' teen carries out knife attack in Perth, shot dead by cops

Sydney, Australian police said on Sunday they shot dead a boy after he stabbed a man in Western Australia's capital Perth, in an attack authorities said indicated terrorism.

There were signs the 16-year-old, armed with a kitchen knife, had been radicalised online, state authorities said, adding they received calls from concerned members of the local Muslim community before the attack, which occurred late on Saturday night. The attack, in the suburb of Willetton, had "hallmarks" of terrorism but was yet to be declared a terrorist act, police said. At this stage it appears that he acted solely and alone," Western Australia Premier Roger Cook said in a televised news conference in Perth, regarding the attacker.

The victim, stabbed in the back, was stable in hospital, authorities said. The incident comes after New South Wales police last month charged several boys with terrorism-related offences in investigations following the stabbing of an Assyrian Christian bishop while he was giving a live-streamed sermon in Sydney, on April 15. The attack on the bishop came only days after a deadly mass stabbing in the Sydney beachside suburb of Bondi that claimed the lives of six people.

Gun and knife crime is rare in Australia, which consistently ranks among the safest countries in the world, according to the federal government.

Slithering surprise! Passenger hiding snakes in pants intercepted at Miami airport

Miami, US, There was a slithering surprise for airport security officials in Miami, United States as they encountered a passenger who was hiding a bag of snakes in his pants. The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said in a post on X that Miami International Airport officials discovered a bag carrying snakes in a passenger's pants on April 26, 2024 at a checkpoint. "Officers at @iflymia detected this bag of snakes hidden in a passenger's pants at a checkpoint on Fri, April 26. @TSA called our @CBPSoutheast and Miami-Dade Police partners in to assist, and the snakes were turned over to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission," the post said. Along with the piece of information, the TSA also posted the pictures that showed two small white snakes recovered from the bag the man was hiding.

The snakes were handed over to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, TSA informed.

India's consulate identifies Indian couple killed in accident during police chase in Canada

TORONTO. The Indian diplomatic mission here has identified the Indian couple who died in a crash with their grandchild during a multi-vehicle collision when Canadian police pursued a liquor store robbery suspect driving the wrong way earlier this week.

"Heartfelt condolences on tragic loss of Indian nationals Mr. Manivannan, Mrs. Mahalakshmi and their grandchild in the Highway 401 collision," the Consulate General of India in Toronto posted on X on Friday. The consulate general "met the bereaved family at the hospital & assured all possible assistance. We are in touch with Canadian authorities", the post said.

The couple, probably from Tamil Nadu, was on a visit to Canada. The couple's three-month-old grandson also died in the multi-vehicle collision. Highway 401 was closed for several hours after the incident on Monday, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) said on Thursday. The 21-year-old robbery suspect was also killed in the collision, which involved at least six vehicles, CBC News earlier reported.

All four people were pronounced dead at the scene on Highway 401 in Whitby, about 50 km east of Toronto.

The SIU had earlier said that two of the victims, a 60-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman, were visiting from India. It, however, had not released the names of the victims. The agency said that the parents of the infant, his 33-year-old father and 27-year-old mother, were travelling in the same vehicle and were taken to hospital. The mother's injuries are serious, the SIU said.

Officials have said the deadly car chase started with a liquor store robbery in Bowmanville and ended around 20 minutes later after the suspect in a cargo van led Durham police on a high-speed chase against opposing traffic on Highway 401. A 38-year-old male passenger from the cargo van was also taken to the hospital to be treated for serious injuries.

Pakistan: Milk price soars to PKR 210 per litre in Karachi

KARACHI. The price of milk at Karachi in fiscally-stressed Pakistan shot up to 10 per litre after the city's commissioner approved a hike, according to the demands of the Dairy Farmers Association, ARY News reported.

As per the commissioner's directives, the price of milk has surged by PKR 10 per litre, with shops in Karachi now selling milk at PKR 210 per litre.

Earlier speculations of a potential PKR 50 per litre increase in milk prices have loomed over the inflation-burdened citizens of Karachi, ARY News reported.

Mubasher Qadeer Abbasi, the president of Dairy Farmers Karachi, has indicated that an increase of PKR 50 per litre of milk is expected soon for the people of Karachi. Abbasi cited the high cost of milk production, soaring cattle prices, and government negligence as factors contributing to this imminent rise. Abbasi stressed the urgency for the Karachi Commissioner to promptly issue a notification regarding the new prices aligned with the milk production costs. He further emphasised that if the authorities do not announce the increase in milk prices by May 10, stakeholders will take matters into their own hands and raise prices after consensus.

Northern Gaza is now in 'full-blown famine': UN World Food Program chief

The panel that serves as the internationally recognised monitor for food crises said in March that northern Gaza was on the brink of famine and likely to experience it in May.

WASHINGTON. A top UN official said Friday that hard-hit northern Gaza was now in "full-blown famine" after more than six months of war between Israel and Hamas and severe Israeli restrictions on food deliveries to the Palestinian territory. Cindy McCain, the American director of the UN World Food Program, became the most prominent international official so far to declare that trapped civilians in the most cut-off part of Gaza had gone over the brink into famine.

"It's horror," McCain told NBC's "Meet the

Press" in an interview to air Sunday. "There is famine—full-blown famine—in the north, and it's moving its way south." She said a cease-fire and a greatly increased flow of aid through land and sea routes was essential to confronting the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, home to 2.3 million people. There was no immediate comment from Israel, which controls entrance into Gaza and says it is beginning to allow in more food and other humanitarian aid through land crossings.

The panel that serves as the internationally recognised monitor for food crises said in March that northern Gaza was on the brink of famine and likely to experience it in May. Since March, northern Gaza had not received anything like the aid needed to stave off famine, a US Agency for International Development humanitarian official for Gaza told The Associated Press. The panel's next update will not come before this summer. The USAID official said on-the-ground preparations



for a new US-led sea route were on track to bring in more food—including treatment for hundreds of thousands of starving children—by early or mid-May. That's when the American military expects to finish building a floating pier to receive the shipments. Ramping up the delivery of aid on the planned US-backed sea route will be gradual as aid groups test the distribution and security arrangements for relief workers, the USAID official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing security concerns accompanying the official's work on conflicts. They were some of the agency's first comments on the status of

preparations for the Biden administration's \$320 million Gaza pier project, for which USAID is helping coordinate on-the-ground security and distribution. At a factory in rural Georgia on Friday, USAID Administrator Samantha Power pointed to the food crises in Gaza and other parts of the world as she announced a \$200 million investment aimed at increasing production of emergency nutritional paste for starving children under 5.

Power spoke to factory workers, peanut farmers and local dignitaries sitting among pallets of the paste at the Mana nonprofit in Fitzgerald. It is one of two factories in the US that produces the nutritional food, which is used in clinical settings and made from ground peanuts, powdered milk, sugar and oil, ready to eat in plastic pouches resembling large ketchup packets. "This effort, this vision meets the moment," Power said. "And it could not be more timely, more necessary or more important."

Afghan diplomat, caught smuggling gold, resigns due to 'personal attacks'

World A senior Afghan diplomat in India has resigned from her position after reports of her involvement in gold smuggling from Dubai surfaced. Zakia Wardak was reportedly caught at the Mumbai airport last month for allegedly trying to smuggle 25 kg of gold worth Rs 18.6 crore from the capital of the UAE. She had been the acting Ambassador of Afghanistan to New Delhi since late last year after working as the Afghan Consul General in Mumbai for more than two years. Taking to X, Wardak mentioned "numerous personal attacks and defamation" directed towards her as well as her family that impacted her ability to operate in the position of an Afghan diplomat. However, she didn't mention the reports of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seizing gold from her on April 25. Wardak was not arrested for her diplomatic immunity, news agency PTI reported.

"These attacks, which appear to be organised, have severely impacted my ability to effectively operate in my role and have demonstrated the challenges



faced by women in Afghan society who strive to modernise and bring positive change amidst ongoing propaganda campaigns," her statement, released in both Pashto and English, read.

Wardak said the "persistent and coordinated" attacks exceeded a "tolerable threshold". She further stated that while she was prepared to tackle the attacks on her character that were "not altogether surprising", she was not "unprepared for the toll it took on those close to me". Zakia Wardak said while it's her passion to serve her country and bring about a positive change, in the wake of the attacks, she has to prioritise her "well-being and

ability to function in a normal capacity". He thanked the Government of India and the citizens for their "warm welcome" and "unwavering support" during her three-year tenure, and called the experience "a privilege".

"I sincerely hope for a future where women in leadership roles are supported and respected, where opportunities for progress are embraced rather than met with hostility and defamation. My commitment to advocating for positive change remains unwavering despite this decision," she wrote in the statement.

Zakia Wardak took charge of the Afghan embassy in New Delhi last November after the mission helmed by the then-Ambassador Farid Mamundzay announced its closure. Mamundzay had moved to the UK.

Wardak was appointed before the Taliban regained control in Afghanistan in 2021 and was reportedly the sole woman Afghan diplomat.

London mayor Sadiq Khan wins historic third term as Tories routed in local polls

LONDON. London's Labour mayor Sadiq Khan on Saturday secured a record third term, dealing the Conservatives another damaging defeat in their worst local election results in recent memory months before an expected general election. Khan, 53, easily beat Tory challenger Susan Hall to scupper largely forlorn Tory hopes that they could prise the UK capital away from Labour for the first time since 2016. The first Muslim mayor of a Western capital when first elected then, he had been widely expected to win as Labour surged nationally and the Conservatives suffer in the polls. In the end, he saw his margin of victory increase compared to the last contest in 2021.

"It's truly an honour to be re-elected for a

third term," Khan told supporters, accusing his Tory opponent of "farmongering". "We ran a campaign that was in keeping with the spirit and values of this great city, a city that regards our diversity not as a weakness, but as an almighty strength—and one that rejects right hard-wing populism," he added. It adds to a dismal set of results for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, as his Tories finished a humiliating third in local council tallies after losing nearly 500 seats in voting Thursday across England. With Labour making huge gains, the beleaguered leader's Conservatives lost crunch mayoral races in Manchester, Liverpool, and Yorkshire, as well as the capital and elsewhere. In the West Midlands, Tory incumbent Andy Street, bidding for his

own third term, reportedly requested a recount in one district, with the contest too close to call. An unexpected Tory defeat there could leave Sunak with only one notable success: the party's mayor winning a third term in Tees Valley, northeast England, albeit with a vastly reduced majority.

"Voters are frustrated"

Writing in Saturday's Daily Telegraph, Sunak conceded "voters are frustrated" but insisted "Labour is not winning in places they admit they need for a majority." "We Conservatives have everything to fight for," Sunak argued. Labour, out of power since 2010 and trounced by Boris Johnson's Conservatives at the last general election in 2019, also emphatically snatched a parliamentary.

Anti-Israel protest at US university declared 'unlawful assembly', 25 arrested

World At least 25 people were arrested during a clash between pro-Palestine protesters and the police at the University of Virginia in the US after the demonstrators refused to remove their tents from the campus. The university located in Charlottesville said the police had to "declare an unlawful assembly" at the protest site due to "violent conduct and failure to follow police directions". This latest development comes as more than 2,000 people have been arrested in the US since mid-April for staging protests at college and university campus across the nation against the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Dozens of Virginia State Police officers in riot gear surrounded the student encampment area on Saturday and used a chemical spray to disperse the protesters from the area. In a tweet on Sunday morning, the university said, "A pro-Palestinian protest ended on grounds Saturday after University, local and state police cleared the area. This followed repeated policy violations. Violent conduct and failure to follow police directions led officers to declare an

unlawful assembly." The university also said that it was awaiting confirmation on how many of the 25 arrested individuals were affiliated with the school. On May 7, the students launched their protest on a lawn outside the university chapel. On Saturday, however, they refused to remove their encampments despite repeated requests by the university authorities.

Soon thereafter, state police troopers wearing heavy riot gear and holding shields lined up on the campus, while the defiant protesters chanted slogans like "shame on you" and "free Palestine". A video on social media shows police officers moving in on the encampment on the campus' lawn, cuffing some demonstrators with zip-ties and using what appeared to be pepper spray.

Speaking to The Washington Post, Laura Goldblatt, an assistant professor of English and global studies, said the protesting students were pushed to the ground as soon as the police moved in. She said the students were "sprayed with a chemical irritant" and forcibly pulled by their arms. Our concern since this



began has been the safety of our students. Students are not safe right now," Goldblatt said. In a statement, the University of Virginia said the Virginia State Police were asked to help with enforcement as the tents and canopies erected by the protesters were "prohibited under school policy" and were asked to remove them. University of Virginia president James E. Ryan said the protesters "complied with requests to adhere to university policies, including a long-standing prohibition on erecting tents absent a permit" until Friday evening. But on Saturday morning, when the University Police Department "offered a final warning to the protesters, reminding them once again of their

University policy violations and pleading for a peaceful resolution. That request was ignored", he said in a letter to the student community. When the department's "attempts to resolve the situation were met with physical confrontation and attempted assault, it became necessary to rely on assistance from the Virginia State Police", Ryan noted. "The police declared an unlawful assembly, issued no trespass orders to those who refused to disperse, and arrested those who continued to refuse dispersal," he added. Besides the arrests at the University of Virginia, dozens of people were taken into custody for criminal trespass outside the Art Institute of Chicago at a demonstration, reports Reuters news agency. The arrests occurred after the institute called in police to remove protesters it said were illegally occupying its property, according to the Chicago Police Department. Meanwhile, at Ann Arbor, pro-Palestinian protesters briefly disrupted a commencement ceremony at the University of Michigan.

Nearly 60 killed, over 69,000 displaced as heavy rains batter southern Brazil

Sao Paulo, Brazil. Heavy rains in Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul this week killed at least 55 people, local authorities said on Saturday evening, while dozens remain unaccounted for.

Rio Grande do Sul's civil defence authority said 74 people were still missing and more than 69,000 had been displaced as storms in the last few days have affected nearly two thirds of the 497 cities in the state, which borders Uruguay and Argentina. The local authority said it is now investigating whether another seven deaths were related to the storms, after earlier in the day it had reported a total of more than 55 deaths. Floods destroyed roads and bridges in several regions of the state. The storm also triggered landslides and the partial collapse of a dam at a small hydroelectric power plant. A second dam in the city of Bento Gonçalves is also at risk of collapsing, authorities said.

In Porto Alegre, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, the Guaiba lake broke its banks, flooding streets.

Porto Alegre's international airport has suspended all flights for an indefinite period.

State Governor Eduardo Leite told reporters on Saturday evening that Rio Grande do Sul would need a "Marshall Plan" to recover from the storms and its consequences, referring to a plan for Europe's economic recovery after World War Two. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who had visited Rio Grande do Sul on Thursday, will travel back to the state on Sunday to follow the rescue efforts, his chief of communication Paulo Pimenta said on Saturday. Lula said on X that his government is in constant contact with state and cities' authorities to support the region with whatever they need. Rains are expected in the northern and northeastern regions of the state until Sunday, but the volume of precipitation has been declining, and should be well below the peak seen earlier in the week, according to the state meteorology authority.

Still, "river water levels should stay high for some days", Leite said earlier on Saturday.

Rio Grande do Sul is at a geographical meeting point between tropical and polar atmospheres, which has created a weather pattern with periods of intense rains and others of drought.

Clear 'no dues' cert to poll nominees, EC tells chief secys

Kolkata: After the disqualification of candidature of ex-IPS officer Debashis Dhar, who had filed nomination from Birbhum as a BJP candidate but failed to provide the "no dues" certificate, the Election Commission has asked all chief secretaries to issue the "no dues" certificate to intending candidates on an emergency basis. The chief secretaries have been told to clear the "no dues" certificate within 48 hours of receipt of such a plea. Dhar had moved the Supreme Court after his nomination was cancelled. The EC missive on May 3 said: "An intending candidate could not obtain the 'no dues' certificate from the authority concerned and thus could not contest. Thus, it is a significant loss not only for the aspiring candidate but also for the political party and the electorate of the constituency concerned in an electoral democracy."

Dhar posted on social media: "Thanks to ECI for taking note of my case and issue notification on 'no dues' by directing the authority concerned to issue it immediately to candidates and protect their statutory right to contest elections."

Mahayuti candidate files nomination Naresh Mhaske files Thane Lok Sabha nomination with CM Eknath Shinde, BJP MLAs Ganesh Naik, Manda Mhatre. Confident of victory, aiming to break records. Ganesh Naik's sons support. UBT candidate, Election officials involved. Concerns raised by NCP (SP) MLA. Nomination papers of 36 candidates valid in Nashik LS constituency Election Returning Officer Jalaj Sharma declared 36 candidates valid for Nashik Lok Sabha constituency parliamentary election, including candidates from BSP and Shiv Sena, among others. The last withdrawal date is May 6.

20 Shiv Sainiks acquitted in 2005 Narayan Rane protest case

MUMBAI: Nineteen years after 20 Shiv Sainiks were accused of being part of an unlawful assembly that protested against now BJP leader and union minister Narayan Rane, following his dismissal from the party, by blocking a road at Dadar and damaging public property by pelting stones, a special court this week acquitted them after cops part of the investigations could not identify the accused due to lapse of time.

Among the accused is former city mayor Vishaka Raut (61). Two accused died during the pendency of the trial. The court also pointed out that the prosecution had failed to bring to court material evidence such as broken pieces of glass of the vehicles, chappals, stones and bricks, all seized from the scene of the incident. "It is contextually relevant to note that none of the accused was arrested from the spot of the incident. This fact cannot be lost sight of. Moreover, the prosecution failed to examine any independent witness including the driver of the tanker (whose windshield was shattered during the stone pelting) in support of the prosecution," the judge said. It was the prosecution's case that on July 24, 2005, at about 2.55pm, police received information that the road was blocked at Jakhadevi Square, Dadar. Therefore, on



the orders of superiors, a police sub inspector went there along with the police team for bandobast duty. It was further alleged that at that time, a crowd of around 150 to 200 Shiv Sainiks were sitting on the road at Jakhadevi Square. It was alleged that the Sena office-bearers and activists including the accused were shouting slogans. It was alleged that the entire road was blocked with stones. It was further submitted that around that time the Shiv Sainiks stopped a tanker and damaged it. It was further alleged that the Shiv Sainiks also hurled stones at

other vehicles. Similarly, the mob also started pelting stones on the closed shops. Then police staff started to disperse the crowd on the orders of their superiors. At that time, some people in the crowd started arguing with them. An FIR was lodged at Dadar police station. The court, however, said that there is neither credible ocular account nor circumstantial evidence which establishes the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. "Resultantly, it cannot be said that the prosecution has succeeded in establishing the guilt.

Special events help BITM, Science City log record footfall in heatwave month

Kolkata: Children and their parents braved the worst April heatwave in four decades to visit the two science centres in Kolkata in large numbers last month. While Science City's footfall this April was the same as last year, Birla Industrial & Technical Museum (BITM), the first science centre in the country, recorded a 24% spike in visitor count over April 2023. However, two other popular tourist hot spots — Victoria Memorial Hall and Indian Museum — registered a sharp drop in visitor count. With visitors from south Bengal towns and villages usually comprising half the footfall that is registered at the two museums, the authorities say these visitors have stayed away, citing the cruel heatwave in south Bengal and the ongoing elections. They expect the footfall to stay low through May and June and revive only around July. Special events help BITM, Science City log record footfall in heatwave month BITM, which has been communicating science to students since 1959, recorded a sharp rise in footfall last month, drawing 11,978 visitors — an overwhelming majority of them students — against 9,698 in April 2023. While enthusiasm among students and their parents was key to the surge in footfall, rejig of special programme timings also helped the cause. "Given the weather, we did the Astro Night programmes, which included space-themed exhibition, open-house quiz and sky-watching sessions between 5 pm and 8 pm on April 19, 20 and 21. The turnout has been so encouraging that we have decided to hold at least two more such sessions in May," BITM director Subhabrata Chaudhuri said, adding that water had been sprayed to cool the temperature during the outdoor events held in the late evenings. Two other programmes — World Health Day on April 8 and World Heritage Day on April 18 — also drew significant visitors. "The hands-on workshop at the biotechnology lab was a big hit," he said. At Science City, the visitor count last month was the third highest April turnout in 27 years. A shade lower than last April when the second highest April turnout was recorded, director Anurag Kumar attributed the strong show despite the heat to the AC galleries and the hit large-format Voyager movie at the Space Theatre. "The footfall outdoors has declined. There are few takers for the cable car ride and the outdoor Science Park is mostly deserted. But the galleries — Earth Exploration Hall, Science Exploration Hall, Science on a Sphere and Time Machine — have had good crowds," said Kumar. "The footfall outdoors has declined. There are few takers for the cable car ride and the outdoor Science Park is mostly deserted. But the galleries — Earth Exploration Hall, Science Exploration Hall, Science on a Sphere and Time Machine — have had good crowds," said Kumar.

Tragic collision on highway claims life of biker in Mumbai

MUMBAI: A 21-year-old biker from Malad (East) who was riding on the wrong side of the road died in a head-on collision with a car on the Western Express Highway in Goregaon. The police from MHB Colony filed charges against the deceased biker, Priyansh Bingardive, for reckless driving, causing death due to negligence, and endangering lives. His actions not only led to his own death but also caused serious injuries to his friend Kunal Thakkar (19) when the bike hit him before colliding with the divider on the route from Kandarpada Metro Station in Borivali towards Pramila Nagar Bridge on the Western Express Highway at 2.30 am on May 1.



A police officer mentioned that Bingardive was riding at a speed of 110 kilometers per hour on the incorrect side when he had a head-on collision with a car. "The accident was recorded on the mobile phone by another friend, Thakkar, who was filming it. Thakkar also sustained injuries as he was standing close to the divider to film when the bike, after colliding with the car, struck him

before crashing into the divider and throwing him to the other side. The officer stated that Bingardive suffered severe internal injuries and leg injuries that ultimately resulted in his death. The accident happened three and a half hours after a group of seven friends from Borivali, Dahisar, Malad, and Mira Road gathered in Borivali at 11 pm following

their plan to have dinner in Bandra. The accident took place between 2:30 am and 2:45 am on Pramila Nagar Bridge in Borivali. In the complaint, Arjun Wala (18) from Borivali (East) said: "First I and one of the friends captured the bike speeding on our respective mobile. Seeing this, Bingardive who followed us told that he too wanted to capture his

biking video. He asked Thakkar to capture the video on his mobile while riding in the wrong side."

Wala informed the police that he and another friend were waiting at a short distance when they heard a loud bang after Bingardive's collision with a car. "We rushed to the spot to find Thakkar lying close to the divider. Wala explained to the police that Bingardive was on the opposite side of the road after his bike hit the divider.

People who gathered at the spot quickly took Thakkar to the hospital in an auto rickshaw. "While, an ambulance was called to take seriously injured Bingardive who succumbed before admission in the hospital. Bingardive has been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicle Act for offenses related to rash and dangerous driving, leading to negligence and endangering lives, as stated by a police officer from MHB Colony.

The biker asked his friend to record it on his cell phone after two other friends had attempted it on the same stretch just minutes before the accident.

AICTE issues approval letters to 694 colleges in Karnataka

Bengaluru: As many as 694 colleges in the state got in-principle letter of approval from All-India Council of Technical Education to run BBA/BCA/BMS courses. However, colleges said even while they have been informed through email, they are yet to receive the letter. As per data from regulatory body AICTE, 3,127 colleges in the country have been granted letter of principle and another 5,009 colleges extension of approval.

It may be recalled that from this year, all colleges who want to offer these undergraduate courses (Bachelor in Business Administration, Bachelor in Computer Applications and Bachelor in Management Studies) will have to apply to AICTE. Thus far, only postgraduate courses like MBA and MCA were under AICTE

ambit, apart from technical courses. According to latest data, 694 colleges in Karnataka, 467 in Maharashtra and 309 colleges in Kerala got letter of approval, followed by Madhya Pradesh (183), Punjab (159) and Telangana (158). A college principal said, "We received an e-mail which said the council has decided to recommend letter of approval to the institution on as-is-where-is-basis, based on self disclosure data received on the portal. In case of any discrepancy, the letter of approval will be withdrawn. It also said that the letter will be made available to download in due course of time. However, most of us are yet to receive it." "Without the letter, universities are unable to send local inspection committees for continuation of affiliation. Admissions

should ideally happen only after that. However, with PU results out already, it is impossible for colleges to not start admissions. We are, therefore, going ahead with in-principle letters for admissions," said another. "One cannot leave students in a limbo because the system has not kept up with its schedule," he added.

AICTE urged students to take admissions in colleges approved by it as only then can students and faculty opt for scholarships and internship programmes. Karnataka's large numbers are not surprising as the state hosts the largest number of colleges in the country.

As per All-India Survey of Higher Education, the state has the third highest number of colleges in India at 4,430 and highest college density. Govt seeks explanation



from colleges reporting zero admission Higher Education Department is identifying degree colleges with zero admissions in specific subjects, issuing notices to colleges in various districts, including government colleges. An inquiry is ongoing, and colleges may be closed if

zero admissions continue. Govt seeks explanation from colleges in Odisha reporting zero admission Higher Education Department identifies colleges with zero admissions in certain subjects, issuing show-cause notices to address the issue and maintain education quality. Regional Directorate of Education plays a crucial role in this process, ensuring accountability. What's gone horribly wrong with the US college admission system Amidst evolving elite college admissions in 2023, students faced uncertainties due to changing rules, financial aid challenges, and increased competition. The process highlighted complexities in admissions practices, financial aid distribution, and the impact on students' decisions.

Four rob woman's mangalya chain on wedding anniv

Bengaluru: A celebratory evening turned into a harrowing ordeal for a couple in Bagalagunte, north Bengaluru as they fell victim to a brazen robbery by a gang of four miscreants. The incident took place in the early hours of April 30 on 8th Main in Bhuvaneshwarinagar. Harshitha, a homemaker, and her husband Manjunath, an accountant, were returning after their seventh wedding anniversary celebrations at an ice cream parlour on Hesaraghata Main Road.

Manjunath noticed four people on two bikes taking a U-turn. Sensing danger, he hurriedly parked his bike in front of his house while a clueless Harshitha walked to the gate. A miscreant, carrying a long machete, got off the bike and threatened to rob Manjunath. Harshitha said, "My husband pushed one of our two-wheelers at him. The miscreant brandished the machete at him. He ran for around 20 metres, shouting for help. I panicked and stood at the gate without uttering a word. I

knew their next target would be me. A miscreant threatened me with the machete, cut my chain, and escaped with others on their bikes." The chain weighed 50 grams. The couple called police helpline 112. Hoysala police reached the spot within three minutes and flashed the message to the control room. The miscreants escaped via Pipeline Road towards Hesaraghata.

According to Harshitha, all four miscreants were carrying weapons, and they were covering their faces with helmets. The couple couldn't see the make of their two-wheelers or the registration number. A senior police officer said, "There is a CCTV camera in one of the buildings on the street. It has captured the incident, but we cannot discern the two-wheelers as the image quality is very poor." A case under IPC Section 397 (robbery or dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) has been registered. District sees a sudden influx of miscreants targeting

gold Ernakulam grapples with a surge in gold thefts, including murders for ornaments. Recent incidents involve Bihar Robin Hood and arrests of accused couples. Police investigations reveal crucial evidence, emphasizing the need for heightened security measures for homeowners.

BCY chief Ramachandra Yadav's campaign vehicles ransacked and torched by miscreants at Punganur BCY party chief's campaign vehicles were vandalized near Sadum. Yadav faces attacks due to criticism of Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy. Seeks central forces' presence in Punganur for fair elections.

Shalini gifts a luxurious bike to her husband Ajith on his 53rd birthday Ajith's 53rd birthday celebrations include a surprise bike gift from Shalini at a Chennai hotel, sparking social media attention. Fans commemorate his love story, enjoy re-released films, and turn theatres into festive arenas filled with joy.



Politics of new and old dynasts

DYNASTIC politics is hogging the headlines and dominating the exchange of abuses at election rallies. What is on display are families investing their political capital earned over generations to grab and accumulate more power. In a social milieu where public office instantly gets translated into brute power and ill-gotten wealth, politics is enterprise and politicians its biggest entrepreneurs — from district-level wannabes to state satraps to the mighty monarchs holding sway over vast swathes of the nation. Otherwise, Karan Bhushan Singh, Prajwal Revanna and Rahul Gandhi's Raebareli candidature would not have seized disproportionate news space and TV time. The three are representative examples of dynasties in Indian politics not just at the three levels — local, regional and national — but also because they belong to three different kinds of political formations. One is from a purely family-based national political enterprise, the second belongs to a caste-based family outfit limited to a state and the third is from a cadre-based ideological organisation that professedly propagates cultural nationalism and worships the idea of Bharat Mata. And they all practise the same politics of patriarchal inheritance of power. Not only these three, but across the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Indian politics is dominated by inheritors — while Omar Abdullah is a successful third-generation former J&K Chief Minister, MK Stalin is a sitting second-generation Tamil Nadu CM. In almost all states, dynasties have struck roots, whatever be the nature of the ideology that has nurtured the organisation — linguistic nationalism for the DMK or the anti-feudal, pro-nationalist stance of the National Conference or the Maharashtra-first strong-arm tactics of Shiv Sena or Yadav empowerment for the Rashtriya Janata Dal/Samajwadi Party or Dalit emancipation of the Bahujan Samaj Party.

This widespread phenomenon is best explained by the candidature of Karan Bhushan, son of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The latter is one of the most controversial contemporary political figures, who was accused and later acquitted in the sensational JJ Hospital shootout case of the 1990s, involving the Dawood Ibrahim gang. He has brought a bad name not only to the BJP, but also to the administration of Indian sports, drawing accusations of molestation from women wrestlers. Yet, he has been able to control his pocket borough by getting his son nominated from Kaiserganj on the BJP ticket. Why?

Even a cadre-based organisation cannot afford to discount the political capital that a local strongman builds over the years. In a tight contest where every seat counts, electability trumps organisational principles. Reportedly, Brij Bhushan controls 54 educational institutions across four districts of Uttar Pradesh. So, it is not even a question of one constituency, but influence over three-four seats and a dominant caste. These are individuals who, with their feudal intervention in the social and economic life, build a local connect and turn it into political capital, which later becomes an instrument of inheritance.

Prajwal is the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and the inheritor of the family's pocket borough, Hassan. When the BJP struck an alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular) for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, it had to shoulder the burden of this controversial MP. In fact, Gowda Sr had vacated this safe seat for the sake of his grandson and contested and lost Tumakuru in 2019. The need for stitching an alliance had blinded the BJP to the glaring allegations of sexual assault against Prajwal, levelled by Karnataka BJP leader Devaraje Gowda in a letter in December 2023 to state BJP president BY Vijayendra, whose himself is a dynast — former CM BS Yediyurappa's son.

Even the ruling Congress in Karnataka, it seems, dithered while filing a case against Prajwal, waiting for polling in constituencies dominated by Vokkaliga (Deve Gowda's community) to get over on April 26. This is the strength of identity politics that becomes the stable foundation for these enterprising clans to build their political careers, which in the course of time accrue enough political principal to start yielding interest for the newer, idler generations.

Blinken's China visit brings to the fore bilateral tensions

There was little evidence of Beijing trying to create a favourable atmosphere for the talks, despite senior Chinese officials calling for constructive China-US relations.



THE US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and, quite unusually, China's Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong during his three-day visit to Beijing and Shanghai from April 24 to 26. However, it was an unsuccessful attempt to arrest the slide in bilateral relations, even as he reiterated the US 'red lines'. This was Blinken's second trip to China in 10 months; he is the senior-most official of the Joe Biden administration to visit the country. Not without an obvious design, Blinken's visit took place in the backdrop of reports that Washington was identifying Chinese banks — from a list of 100 — that should be sanctioned for aiding Russia in its war with Ukraine. More disconcerting for China would be the reports that US authorities had also begun compiling lists of Chinese Communist Party cadres and their assets in the US and the West that could be covered by sanctions. The visit also coincided with the US authorising a \$95-billion war aid package to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. During the meetings in Beijing, China clearly conveyed that it was not prepared to yield ground and make concessions. It used the visit to set out its 'red lines', restate its ambitions and signal that it had serious reservations about the US claims that it wants to stabilise relations and doesn't want to challenge China's core interests or prevent its growth. The Dragon has been particularly apprehensive of America's efforts to

'friendshore' manufacturing to 'trusted' partners.

Blinken's visit came amid repeated attempts by US President Biden to reduce tensions. Chinese and US military and diplomatic officials have held numerous meetings in addition to at least 20 ongoing talks between the two countries. At the senior level, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visited (April 4-9) Guangzhou and Beijing for talks with China's senior-most finance officials to address concerns that Washington was trying to prevent Beijing's growth. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and China's new Defence Minister, Dong Jun, had their first video talks last month, in which the latter "underscored that the Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests, which brook no compromise". Early last month, Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen travelled to Washington for the first meeting of a working group on bilateral trade, where he highlighted China's concerns over the imposition of Section 301 tariffs by the US and associated inquiries against Beijing and demanded that both must manage their disputes and increase collaboration.

On the day prior to Blinken's arrival in Shanghai, Yang Tao, the head of China's department for US and Oceania, appeared to set the stage in a lengthy, strongly worded briefing to journalists. He appeared to focus on negative factors in Sino-US relations and accused America of continuing to 'contain China', interfering in its internal

affairs and harming its interests. There was particular focus on Taiwan, which he described as "the first insurmountable red line in Sino-US relations" and "the biggest threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait". He also warned that "the Asia-Pacific region is not anyone's back garden and should not become a battleground for major powers". His briefing provoked questions in the US about the need for Blinken to visit Beijing. Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had nearly five-and-a-half hours of talks, during which the latter spoke entirely from a prepared text. His remarks largely echoed Yang Tao's comments. Wang Yi also said that "negative factors in Sino-US relations are still rising and accumulating". He said that "China's legitimate right to development is being unreasonably suppressed" and its core interests are being challenged. He further emphasised that the US should not interfere in China's internal affairs, suppress its development or step on its 'red lines' regarding its sovereignty, security and development interests.

In his remarks to journalists, Blinken noted that the first US-China talks on artificial intelligence would be held within weeks. He also observed that since there are fewer than 900 Americans studying in China compared to more than 2,90,000 Chinese students in the US, their number should be increased.

He stressed that the US was "very clear-eyed about the challenges posed by the PRC (People's Republic of China) and about their competing visions for the future" and asserted that America "will always defend our core interests and values". He said he had conveyed serious concerns about China providing components that are "powering Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine". He told Beijing that it cannot achieve better relations with Europe while supporting the greatest threat to European security since the end of the Cold War and "made clear that if China does not address this problem, we will". He also expressed concern about Beijing's unfair trade practices and the potential consequences of industrial overcapacity. Blinken discussed China's "dangerous actions" in the South China Sea and reaffirmed that US "defence commitments to the Philippines remain ironclad". He emphasised the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and raised the issues of Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet and the wrongful detention of American citizens.

Both sides used Blinken's visit to bluntly spell out their respective concerns. Taiwan figured extensively in the talks, with the Chinese robustly declaring it their inviolable 'red line'. Notably, 22 Chinese fighter aircraft flew over the Taiwan Strait soon after Blinken's departure. There was little evidence of Beijing trying to create a favourable atmosphere for the talks, despite senior Chinese officials calling for constructive China-US relations and the two countries avoiding action that could damage the relationship.

Manipur's ordeal

Year after clashes erupted, it's time to heal wounds

MANIPUR has been in the throes of an ethnic crisis ever since clashes broke out on May 3 last year. A 'Tribal Solidarity March' organised that day in protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status had triggered clashes between the valley-based Meiteis and the tribal Kukis, who live in the hills. The conflict has claimed more than 200 lives and displaced thousands of people in the BJP-ruled state. Both the Central and state governments have neither been able to resolve the differences between the warring communities nor restore peace and normalcy. Despite an incessant clamour for the removal of Chief Minister N Biren Singh over alleged misgovernance and incompetence, the BJP has stubbornly persisted with him.

In his address on Independence Day last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that the entire nation was with Manipur and that the Central and state governments were making every effort to find a solution to the vexed issue. He had also claimed that the



situation in the violence-hit state was improving. However, the PM has not visited the state after trouble

broke out, drawing flak from Opposition parties, which have accused him of abandoning the people of Manipur.

Since this northeastern state is not electorally significant in the national scheme of things — it sends just two MPs to the Lok Sabha — it has been reduced to a mere footnote during campaigning. Still, it is commendable that the Manipur's nightmarish ordeal has not shaken their faith in democracy. A high turnout of 81 per cent was recorded at six polling stations in Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency during repolling on April 30. Miscreants' attempts to disrupt voting by damaging EVMs and threatening voters have proved futile. The resilience of the state's people should spur the powers that be to heal their wounds. Things have been allowed to drift for too long — it's time to make amends for the sake of peace and stability in the beleaguered border state.

Middle class facing a massive squeeze

The living standards of the middle class have worsened or remained stagnant for more than a decade.

I grew up in a middle-class South Delhi colony in the 1970s and 1980s. We lived in a single-storey rented house with a small garden, shaded by a mango tree. There was space for a car to be parked, but we had none. Inside, the décor was limited to a few framed prints and tons of books. In the living room, there was an old sofa, a divan that doubled up as a bed for guests, and a second-hand dining table, bought from a family friend who needed money to fund his trip to England. The only car in our larger family belonged to my mother's elder brother, a well-respected doctor who had made money working in the West. For entertainment, we had a record player and a big transistor radio, on which we heard the news. There was a cinema hall close by, where we went to watch old Hollywood movies a couple of times a month. Clothes were bought twice a year, during festivals. Birthday gifts were almost always books. Children, my sister and I used to play with kids who lived next door. They were relatively rich, and had air conditioners in their rooms. Their living room was modelled on what Hindi cinema homes looked like. Red sofas, plush carpets and garish paint on the walls. Yet, we never envied them nor felt any need to emulate their lives. That was how the middle class lived. That was what we aspired to. We knew that the rich lived a more comfortable life, but we were also very aware that they lacked social capital. More importantly, consumer goods were few and far between. So, the rich had very little to flaunt or parade their wealth. If anyone did, they were immediately labelled as 'smugglers'. In fact, throughout the 1970s, the gap between the rich and the middle class narrowed dramatically. For instance, in 1972, the year I was born, the richest 10 per cent of Indians earned 35 per cent of our national income, while the next 30 per cent — the middle class —

earned another 36 per cent. By 1982, the share of the top 10 per cent had dropped to 31 per cent, while that of the 'middle class' had risen to 39 per cent. In terms of average income, the richest 10 per cent actually saw their pre-tax earnings drop by 0.4 per cent per year in this 10-year period, while that of the middle class increased at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent.

The year 1982 was a turning point. That was the year when Suzuki beat rival Daihatsu to get to tie up with Maruti Udyog Limited to launch India's first 'people's car'. It was also the year when New Delhi got spruced up for Asiad-82 and Doordarshan began broadcasting in colour. During that year, more than one lakh colour TV sets were imported at a 190 per cent import duty. New fashion brands took advantage of the rise of middle-class consumerism to expand across the metros. The most prominent amongst them was Intercraft, whose brand F.U's (Fit You Superbly) became a huge success, before global brands like Benetton and Levi's entered India.

These were not arbitrary changes. Indira Gandhi's second coming involved a major policy shift towards market-based reforms and encouraging the private sector. They came right after India took an IMF loan, and were bundled together in a policy project called Operation Forward. Rajiv Gandhi opened things up even more, removing state monopolies in many sectors, diluting regulation of big business and liberalising exports and imports.

The economic reforms in the 1980s helped the middle class improve their living standards. Between 1982 and 1991 — the year of the Rao-Manmohan reforms



— middle-class incomes increased at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent. But it was the richest 10 per cent who were the biggest gainers — their income rose at 4 per cent per year. This was a complete reversal of what happened in the 1970s. In terms of share of national income too, the rich gained, moving from 31 per cent in 1982 to 35 per cent in 1991. On the other side, the middle class' share dropped to 37 per cent from 39 per cent. Since then, this gap has only widened. By 2014, the share of the richest 10 per cent increased to 57 per cent, while that of the next 30 per cent of earners dropped to less than 25 per cent. In terms of annual growth in earnings, that of the top 10 per cent has grown at 5.4 per cent per year since 1991, while that of the middle class has grown at a staid 2.4 per cent.

Anecdotal evidence tells us that the middle class is now facing a massive squeeze. Three indicators show this. The first is the sale of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCGs). The profits of companies which cater to middle-class consumers — Hindustan Unilever Limited and Tata Consumer — have contracted, while Nestle India, which sells to the more affluent, has risen sharply. The second key indicator is car sales; in 2023-24, cheaper compact cars sold 30 per cent less than in 2018-19. On the other side, more expensive multi-utility vehicle sales rose by 167 per cent. The third indicator of this sharp divergence between the consumption of the middle class and the affluent is home sales. Affordable homes have seen a drop in sales in the first three months of 2024, while the sale of premium homes has shot up.

White-collar jobs, which form the foundation of the middle class, have steadily declined over the past few years. The number of 'white-collar' vacancies in January this year was 24 per cent less than those of last year, and 35 per cent less compared to January 2022. At the same time, retail inflation has eaten into real incomes.

The living standards of the middle class have either worsened or remained stagnant for more than a decade. Educated middle-class youth entering the job market are reconciling to earning less than their parents did. It is a class that is neither benefiting from the K-shaped recovery nor from the government's welfare schemes.

Recipe: Vegetable Burger



4. Mix well until evenly combined.
5. Shape the mixture into small/medium patties.
6. Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
7. Roll the prepared patties in the breadcrumbs and shallow fry until golden brown on both sides.
8. Remove and keep aside.
9. Take one half of the burger bun.
10. Spread some butter and place the lettuce on top.
11. Place the prepared vegetable patty on top.
12. Top up with slices of onion, tomato, cucumber and cheese.
13. Cover it with the other half of the burger bun. If desired, add some ketchup on top.
14. Secure it with a toothpick if desired.
15. Serve at once with french fries.

Vegetable Burgers are one of the most popular fast food dishes in India and around the world. Learn how to make a delicious Vegetable Burger at home with this simple recipe.

Ingredients
Burger Buns - 2 to 4, halved, toasted
 Onion - 1, sliced into rings
 Tomato - 1, sliced into rounds
 Lettuce Leaves (or Fresh Cabbage Leaves) - few
 Cheese Slices - 3 to 4 (or use Crumbled Cheddar Cheese)

Butter (or Mayonnaise or any cheese spread) - as required
 Tomato Ketchup
 Cucumber - 1/2, peeled, sliced into rounds

For the patty
Potatoes - 2, large, boiled, peeled, mashed
 Onions - 2, chopped
 Carrot - 2, chopped
 Green Peas - 1/2 cup, shelled (thawed if frozen)
 Sweet Corn Kernels - 1/2 cup
 Red Chilli Powder - 2 tsp
 Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped
 Garam Masala Powder - 1 tsp
 Salt as per taste
 Oil - 2 tsp

Breadcrumbs (or crumbled bread slices) - 2 to 3 tbsp (optional)
 Ginger Garlic Paste - 1 tsp
 Lemon Juice - 1 tsp

Method
 1. To make the burger patty, pressure cook the carrot, peas and sweet corn for 1 whistle or until soft.
 2. Add the cooked vegetables, onions, red

chilli powder, lemon juice, garam masala powder, salt and ginger garlic paste to a large bowl.
 3. Add lemon juice and mashed potatoes.

5 ways you can use mint in your kitchen this summer



If you think that mint was meant only for gamishing, then you need to upgrade your kitchen knowledge. This summer you can play around it to create something more interesting, unique and delicious. City's chefs reveal their mint secrets on how to use it and add an edge to the summer platter.

-Chop a few fresh mint leaves and add to your salad with some freshly grated ginger and lemon zest. You may choose to add cubes of watermelon too. The flavour of this combo is beautiful and can impart great



summery flare to any boring salad.

-Chop mint leaves and add them to your ice cube tray. Drop these ice cubes into your guests' drinks or blend them for a minty smoothie.

-Instead of using vinegar for sweet and salty flavour in gravy, use dry mint leaves. Crush them and mix them in half cooked gravy to add flavour.

-Fresh mint leaves boiled with sugar to make mint syrup can be used to sweeten drinks. After boiling, the mint flavour blends well with sugar and can give refreshing taste to any drink.

- Stir yogurt, mint, garlic, lemon juice and cumin in a small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. This yogurt mint sauce can be refrigerated and used for a couple of days.

Consultant Head Chef of Yauatcha India, Chef Wang Yixuan has spent most of his culinary journey working at renowned restaurants and hotels across China, such as Guangzhou Yalongge, Yuexiu Tian'an Mansion, Haerbin San Diego Hotel, and Wuhan Optical Valley. He is a dimsum expert and specializes in adding exquisite dishes to the menu. He firmly believes in a strong culinary foundation and takes pride in giving a new makeover to Cantonese dishes, without compromising on the flavours.

Here are excerpts of an exclusive chit-chat with us.

India's rendezvous with international food began with Chinese cuisine. Where does it stand its chance now, after India's exposure to global food?

Chinese food has been in India for years, and was one of the first foreign cuisines to be tried by the otherwise conservative Indian palate. When it comes to awareness about Chinese cuisine, not too many people know about its diversity. For most people, Chinese food is 'Szechuan noodles' or 'Chicken fried rice', but Chinese food has a rich, vast cultural background and recipes are thousands of years old. Even now Chinese cuisine is sometimes mistaken with pan Asian cuisine. Authentic Chinese food is still an unexplored territory here as it is about hundreds of cooking styles and techniques.

Have you ever tasted Indo-Chinese? What is your take on it?

Yes I have tasted it. It's a good after drink food, to fill the stomach. Though there are no particular flavours that stand out, it's the spiciness and heat in the dish that makes it tasty. I have noticed that no attention is given to the finesse of the dish. It is made to satiate the spicy taste bud of Indians.

What distinguishes Pan Asian cuisine from others?

Yauatcha is known for its modern Cantonese cuisine, which comes under the pan-Asian umbrella. The basic ingredients, spices and the style of cooking sets the cuisines apart. Pan Asian cuisine involves dishes from Malaysia, China, Burma, Indonesian etc. Cuisines have evolved basis the availability of three elements. In these countries you will find a lot of rice fields, hot spices, citrus fruits and hence the pan Asian cuisine will have a heavy influence of these ingredients, and they will overlap with each other. Similarly other cuisines like Mexican and Japanese, use ingredients that are easily available to them.

What are the few ingredients that Chinese cuisine cannot do without?

Soy sauce, Sichuan peppercorn, mushrooms, rice or noodles, bean curd, vinegar and for some dishes Chinese wine.

Many people have started avoiding Chinese because it is believed to be high on MSG. What is your take on the fact?

At our restaurant, we do not add MSG to our food. We take our Food Safety Policy very seriously, and hence follow guidelines. I am sure all responsible restaurants do so.

Which is your favourite cuisine and why?
 Since I come from Guangdong, which is the heart of Canton region, I personally like Cantonese food, especially dim sum. I learnt cooking from my family, and have grown up eating dim sums, and I have some very fond memories of those days.

Name a Chinese/Pan Asian dish that is a weight watcher's delight?

All steamed dim sums are light to eat and are packed with meat and vegetables that are fresh. For example the Vegetable chive dumpling or the Crystal dumpling or even the Har gau at Yauatcha are super healthy.

Salad cakes are hugely becoming popular. Are they really healthy?

Salad cakes are a fad that started in Japan, and just like any other fad, it will generate some curiosity and then fizzle out. I don't see it picking up in India.

Japanese Raindrop cake is the latest fad.

Chinese food is much more than noodles and fried Rice: Chef

Does it taste really well?

I haven't tasted the Raindrop cake, but it looks beautiful, and I would love to try it someday. One food trend that you do not endorse. Molecular gastronomy and molecular cocktails, is a forte which only some chefs can

master. But due to its popularity, it has gone to small cafes who lack the finesse of doing it. Presentation has taken precedence over flavours, which saddens me as a chef.

What is the best thing about being a chef?

It gives me a chance to explore my creative side, experiment with various textures and ingredients, and more importantly, I get to feed people which makes me immensely happy!



Terror Attack On IAF Convoy In Jammu And Kashmir: One Soldier Killed, 4 Injured In Poonch Ambush

Poonch: One soldier was killed, and four Indian Air Force soldiers were injured in a terror attack in the Poonch district of the Jammu region. A convoy of the Indian Air Force was attacked by terrorists in the Surankote area of Poonch district on Saturday evening. All five injured soldiers were evacuated to the Army's base hospital, where one soldier succumbed to his injuries. Security forces, including the Indian army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, rushed to the spot where terrorists opened heavy fire on the IAF convoy. A massive cordon and search operation was launched by the forces to apprehend the attackers in the area. Initial reports suggest that two terrorists were involved in the attack.

This is the first major attack in the region this year, as Poonch and Rajouri saw multiple attacks last year. Security forces have been on high alert since then and have prevented any major attacks. The entire Poonch district has now been put on high alert. The

attack took place in the Shah Sattar forest area, which is densely covered with trees and falls between Surankote's Sanai Top and Mendhar's Gursai area of the border Poonch district. This is the first major attack on the armed forces this year in the region, which witnessed a series of terror attacks on the army last year. Visuals from the attack site showed at least a dozen bullet holes on the windscreen of the vehicle that came under fire. Sources said the injured air warriors were airlifted to Command Hospital Udampur from Poonch within half an hour of the attack, while the other vehicles of the convoy had been secured and safely reached their destination.

In a statement, the Indian Air Force said, "In the ensuing gunfight with terrorists, the Air Warriors fought back by returning fire. In the process, five IAF personnel received bullet injuries and were evacuated to the nearest military hospital for immediate medical attention. One Air Warrior succumbed to his injuries later. Further

operations are underway by the local security forces." Sources said a combing and search operation had been ongoing in the area between Mendhar and adjoining Surankote for the past few days following reports of movement of terrorists. During the searches, terrorists opened fire on a vehicle carrying Air Force personnel. The latter retaliated, and in the ensuing firefight, five personnel were injured. Reinforcements of police and security forces were rushed to the area as soon as reports of the attack came in. A cordon and search operation has been initiated by the local Rashtriya Rifles unit to apprehend the perpetrators. The area has been cordoned off, and searches are in progress, sources said. This is the second militant attack in the Pir Panjal region, spread over Rajouri and Poonch districts, in the last 12 days. A 40-year-old government employee was killed



after unknown terrorists had opened fire on him near the Shahdra Sharief area of Thanamandi on April 22. The man was identified as Mohammad Raziq of Kunda Top, and his brother was reportedly a soldier in the Territorial Army. On December 21, four soldiers had died in a terror attack on the Mughal Road between

Dehra Ki Gali and Buzliar in Poonch. In view of the upcoming parliamentary elections in the area, security forces and police have already launched cordon and search operations on a massive scale to flush out terrorists and their sympathizers. A few days before the Shahdra Sharief attack, the police and security forces, in a joint operation, had apprehended a school headmaster from the Hari Buddha area of Poonch and seized a Pakistan-made pistol along with ammunition as well as two Chinese grenades from his house. Poonch is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, which is going to polls in the sixth phase on May 25. Meanwhile, security and searches have intensified in Kathua, Doda, Udampur, and Kishtwar after unknown terrorists killed a Village Security Guard on April 28 in Basantgarh.

The Problem With Wrongly Labelling Real Or Edited Videos As 'Deepfakes'

New Delhi: An edited video of Home Minister Amit Shah went viral recently, falsely showing him promising an end to reservations for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes. While BOOM's fact-check found that the video was doctored using video editing tools, it was falsely labelled as a 'deepfake' by other Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, and various mainstream media outlets. Political parties in India are experimenting with AI in myriad ways this election season. For instance, AI voice clones of politicians are being used to craft cadre and voter outreach messages. Political parties are also skirting any social media rules by using satirical videos which use voice cloning, face swap and other AI editing techniques, to target their political rivals. These videos are posted on their official Instagram and YouTube handles. However, the damaging deepfakes that are outright deceptive, are being shared either by IT cell workers, or through proxies and diffused actors, who support the party and their ideology.

With misinformation peaking during election seasons in India, shallow fakes or cheapfakes still make up most of the misinformation seen online so far. Not Always Deepfakes Multiple mainstream media outlets such as the Indian Express, Times Now, Republic and DNA, among others dubbed the doctored Amit Shah video, a deepfake. While speaking at a rally in Maharashtra's Satara, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also referred to this video as being altered using artificial intelligence.

BJP Will Never Change Constitution, Congress Creating Fear Psychosis: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi: The BJP government will never change the Constitution or end reservation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, accusing the Congress of creating "fear psychosis" and resorting to spreading misinformation for "vote bank" politics. In an interview with PTI, Mr Singh blasted the Congress for spreading "canards" that the BJP will change the Constitution if it returns to power and especially asserted that there was no question of changing the Preamble of the Constitution. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been alleging that the BJP will "tear up and throw away" the Constitution if it retains power. Some other Congress functionaries had expressed apprehensions that the BJP may drop the word "secularism" from the Preamble of the Constitution.

"Congress brought constitutional amendments 80 times. They changed the Preamble during the Emergency," the Defence Minister said. "The BJP will never change the Constitution. Constitution makers never imagined that there would be changes in the Preamble. You (Congress) only acted to hurt the core idea of the Constitution," Mr Singh said. "There is no question of changing the Preamble of the Constitution. They changed it and now they are making baseless allegations against us," he added. The Preamble to the Constitution of India presents the principles of the Constitution. The 42nd Amendment in 1976 changed the description of India from a "sovereign democratic republic" to a "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic". "They (Congress) are trying to get peoples' support by instilling fear among the citizens," Singh said. "I would suggest that they should try to get peoples' support by creating confidence and not by instilling fears. Electoral campaigns should be based on facts," he said.

On Friday, Mr Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP and the RSS are attacking India's democracy continuously and want to "destroy" the country's Constitution. "The Congress is creating fear psychosis" and resorting to spreading misinformation for "vote bank politics", the Defence Minister said. On the issue of reservation also, he alleged that the Congress is misleading the nation. "The Congress is trying to mislead people. There will not be any end to reservation.

Siblings Found Dead Inside Family Shop In Delhi, Cops Hunt For Father

New Delhi: A 13-year-old girl and his younger brother were found dead inside their father's grocery shop in northwest Delhi's Keshav Puram area on Saturday, police said.

The children's father Manish, who is suspected to have killed the two siblings, is on the run and efforts are on to nab him, they said. A call regarding the incident was received at 7.15 pm, police said. Manish's wife told police that both the children had gone to school but they did not return home. Initially, she thought that they were with their father as he would often pick them up from their school, they said.

She tried to contact Manish but his mobile phone was not reachable. In



the evening, when other family members opened the shutter of their shop, they found the two siblings lying inside in an unconscious condition," an officer said. They were taken to hospital where doctors declared them dead, he said, adding that their school bags were also lying inside the shop,

located on the ground floor of their house.

According to a police officer, it is suspected that Manish killed his children by giving them some poisonous substance or by smothering them. "The matter is being investigated from all possible angles and the bodies have been sent for post-mortem," the officer said, adding the actual cause of death will be ascertained only after the report comes. During the

investigation, it was found that Manish was upset due to some financial issue, however, further probe is underway. The statements of the family members have been taken, police said. The CCTVs in the locality are being scanned and teams were formed to locate Manish, police said.

Cipla, Glenmark Recall Asthma Drugs Made In Indore From US Market

New Delhi: Drug makers Cipla and Glenmark are recalling products from the American market due to manufacturing issues, according to the US health regulator. As per the latest Enforcement Report issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), a New Jersey-based subsidiary of Cipla is recalling 59,244 packs of Ipratropium Bromide and Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution. The medication, produced at the company's Indore SEZ plant, is used to help control the symptoms of lung diseases, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Cipla USA is recalling the affected lot due to "short fill". There were complaints of less fill volume in respule and few drops of liquid observed in the intact pouch, USFDA said. Cipla initiated the Class II recall in the US market on March 26 this year. USFDA also said that

Glenmark Pharma is recalling 3,264 bottles of Diltiazem Hydrochloride extended-release capsules indicated for high blood pressure.

The US-based arm of the company --



Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, USA -- is recalling the medication due to "failed dissolution specifications". The company initiated the nationwide (US) recall on April 17, 2024. As per

USFDA, a class II recall is initiated in a situation in which the use of, or exposure to, a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote. India is the largest supplier of generic medicines, with around 20 per cent share in the global supply by manufacturing 60,000 different generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories. The products manufactured in the country are shipped to over 200 countries around the globe, with Japan, Australia, Western Europe and the US as the main destinations. India has the highest number of USFDA-compliant companies with plants outside the US. PTIMSSBALBAL.



Congress leader said "In the past, no one from the BJP has taken due care of the people of Chandni Chowk". Am Niwas Goyal, Speaker of Delhi Vidhan Sabha, AAP leader, who was accompanying Aggarwal said "He is my elder brother. We have full support for Congress". When asked about Arvinder Singh Lovely resigning from the Congress and joining the BJP, Goyal said, "He (Lovely) had left Congress before also and had gone to BJP, he is more aware of his doings". Notably, the BJP has emerged as the winner from Chandni Chowk in the last two Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019 and former Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has been representing the constituency for the last 10 years. But this time, the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP and Congress have joined hands in Delhi to take on the BJP, making the fight for the coveted seat interesting. In the last elections, Dr Harsh Vardhan got 5,19,055 votes, while JP Aggarwal got 2,90,910 votes and while 1,44,551 votes were polled for AAP's Pankaj Gupta. Delhi will go to polls in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha polls on May 25, with the votes to be counted on June 4.

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



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

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.

Why you must eat Carrots today!

Carrot sticks, carrot snacks and carrot cake - indulge in all things carrot-y on April 4 as it is being celebrated as International Carrot Day. Celebrated in countries like France, Sweden, Italy, Japan and Russia since 2003, the day is dedicated to spread an awareness on the goodness of the vegetable. A root vegetable, carrot belongs to the family of parsley, fennel and dill. Carrots, originally purple in colour, have almost 100 varieties-big and small. Orange coloured carrots appeared in the 17th century, while purple carrots with orange insides, were sold in British stores in 2002. Since the late '80s, baby carrots became a popular ready-to-eat snack option available in major supermarkets.

PUT CARROTS TO GOOD USE

The nutrition in carrots is tightly enclosed in protein sacs that have to be broken by heat so cooking, grinding or juicing increases the availability of carotenoids by 600 percent. Thus carrots when cooked release more nutrition instead of when eaten raw. Almost 39% of improvement can happen when carrots are pulped and cooked in oil. Other ways of eating them is by steaming or boiling them.

Mashed and pureed carrots are given to babies who like it for its sweet flavour. The tiny tots also like to nibble on carrots when they have teeth erupting. The taste stays with them when you make carrot soup which they take a liking to immediately. Cut into juliennes, carrots make a simple pulao or vegetarian noodles look all colourful while also adding to the taste.

Easily the most colourful vegetable on the salad plate, carrots can also be grated and given a tempering of mustard seeds, green chillies and spices. Add some curds for a tangy flavour. Another way to cook them is to just pressure cook, mash them and mix in fresh onions and spices. With a tempering of curry leaves and mustard seeds, this is more like a carrot bharta. The sweetness of carrots



allows the vegetable to be used to make carrot cakes and carrot puddings which has its origins as an English dish from the early 19th century. Gajar kanji made from the deep red carrots is considered to be a health drink. Carrots used to make mixed vegetables or in soups, juice, jams and preserves make for some other popular dishes. If you have pets, remember rabbits and horses love carrots.

GAJAR KA HALWA - BOLLYWOOD'S MUST-HAVE

Originally from North India, gajar ka halwa has become popular all over India due to the importance given to it by Hindi films. Many a mother in these films make gajar ka halwa to celebrate happy occasions or just to satisfy the cravings of their onscreen children.

The simplicity of gajar ka halwa is its main attraction. A totally uncomplicated preparation, the traditional method uses grated carrots cooked over slow fire, along with milk with sugar and dry fruits. An easier and quicker method is if sweetened

condensed milk is used instead of the regular milk. And if you are calorie conscious, it is easy to make it with almost no additional ghee or mawa, but just the milk which will give almost the same consistency.

For those who are lactose intolerant or have gone vegan, it is easy to make gajar ka halwa using almond, soy or coconut milk. Those in a hurry can make it in a

jiffy by using the microwave. Just add all the ingredients as per measurements in a deep microwave safe glass bowl and set it to cook.

ALL ABOUT THE CARROT CAKE

Carrot cake has been made since the Middle Ages, when sugar and other sweeteners were rarely available. People used sweet vegetables such as carrots to flavour their cakes. In fact, carrot cakes are

so popular that they have a day marked for themselves. On Feb 3, International Carrot Day is marked with an carrot cake. With its soft, dense texture, carrot cake resembles a soft bread in a consistency. It can be eaten plain or topped with icing and chopped dry fruits. These days carrot cupcakes are common too. It is a good option for diabetics and a wheat-free carrot cake can be the best bet for those who avoid gluten.



Orange Mocktail Recipe

Beat the heat this summer with this light and super refreshing mocktail recipe that is sure to keep you energized throughout the day. This Orange Mocktail is a mouth-watering blend of fresh oranges with lime juice and soda hence making it a rejuvenating beverage in this scorching heat. Made within minutes, this mocktail recipe is sure to be loved by everyone and is way healthier than the canned juices available on the market. Serve this chilled beverage to your guests on occasions like kitty parties, get-togethers or game nights and we are sure they will go for around two of this non-alcoholic goodness.

Ingredients of Orange Mocktail

- 2 cup orange juice
- 2 cup soda
- 1 lemon slices
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- sugar as required

How to make Orange Mocktail

Step 1
In a bowl add orange juice, sugar and lemon juice. Mix all the ingredients well.

Step 2
Pour this mixture in a glass and add crushed



ice cubes over it. Later, top it up with a soda. Your Orange Mocktail is now ready. Garnish it with a lemon slice and serve cold with a straw.

Citrus Strawberry Mocktail Recipe

Citrus Strawberry Mocktail is a light and super-refreshing drink recipe that is sure to keep you energized throughout the day! As refreshing as it sounds, this mocktail recipe can be a perfect tropical

beverage recipe. This cool and soothing drink is an ideal pick for a hot summer day as well as a calm drink during the evenings. All you need to make this mocktail recipe is: strawberries, orange juice, sparkling water, lemon juice and icing sugar. Mix all these ingredients together and transfer to a champagne flute, and garnish with lemon and orange slices. You can make it for occasions such as game nights, kitty parties and get-togethers, and we are sure, this mocktail will rock the evening! Make sure you try out this Citrus Strawberry Mocktail and soothe your soul this summer!



refreshment for your hot summer days. With the combination of strawberry and citrus fruits, there's nothing that could probably go wrong while trying out this

lemon slices as required
1/2 cup sparkling water
How to make Citrus Strawberry Mocktail

Step 1
To prepare this beverage recipe, take a blending jar and put strawberries, orange juice, sparkling water, lime juice in it. Blend until you observe a combined mixture.

Step 2
Crush ice in a bowl and add into the



bowl of sparkling water and gently stir.
Step 3

Take a lemon slice for garnish purpose and use the rest of the lemon and wipe around the rim of the glass to create moisture. Pour the icing sugar in a plate and roll the glasses, collecting the sugar onto the lime juice on the glass rim. Hang the lemon slice on the glass.
Step 4

Pour in the pink slush from the blender into the flute glass and serve. Your Citrus Strawberry Mocktail is ready.

NCLT hearings, HC stays: Why Noida is struggling to recover ?8k crore dues

Noida: The Noida Authority is faced with an uphill task of recovering Rs 8,400 crore from 10 developers of commercial projects who are also its primary defaulters. The companies include prominent realtors such as Supertech, ATS, Boulevard, Sunshine, Granite Hill and BPTP International, among others.

Officials said the Authority's efforts in recovering the amounts have been hit hard by various factors, such as ongoing insolvency proceedings at NCLT and stay orders secured by some of the developers from the Allahabad high court. A few cases are also pending at the state govt level. NCLT hearings, HC stays: Why Noida is struggling to recover ?8k crore dues According to data sourced from the Authority, Supertech's Supernova project in Sector 94 owes the highest amount, exceeding Rs 2,100 crore.

The developer moved the high court in 2021 after the Noida Authority issued a notice and also obtained a stay order against any "coercive action".

ATS Knightsbridge in Sector 124 is second on the list, with dues amounting to almost Rs 2,000 crore.

Recovering the amount has hit a hurdle here too as NCLT has recently admitted an application by an investment company that has financed the project and appointed an IRP. Boulevard Projects Pvt Ltd, a special purpose vehicle owned by the promoters of 3C group, has a debt of more than Rs 1,450 crore related to its Delhi One project in Sector 16B. The project was acquired by Max Estates — a realty firm under Max Group — after their bid was approved by NCLT last year. Noida Authority, however, appealed in the tribunal that it should be considered as a financial creditor.

Developed by MMR Saha, 52nd Avenue in Sector 52 owes Noida over Rs 1,100 crore. The group has urged the state govt for a zero period waiver because of NGT's ban on construction to tackle deteriorating air quality levels in winter. Other companies that are yet to clear the Authority's dues are Sunshine Trade Tower's business park in Sector 94 (Rs 470 crore); The Downtown of Granite Hill Properties in Sector 98 (Rs 387 crore); BPTP International Trade Centre in Sector 94 (Rs 309 crore), Hotshot Developer's E-Square in Sector 96 (Rs 297 crore), Invoke Realtor's Logix City Centre in Sector 32 (Rs 153 crore), and International Recreational Park's The Great India Place (Rs 137 crore).

Cipla, Glenmark recall drugs from US market: USFDA

NEW DELHI: Drug makers Cipla and Glenmark are recalling products from the American market due to manufacturing issues, according to the US health regulator. As per the latest Enforcement Report issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), a New Jersey-based subsidiary of Cipla is recalling 59,244 packs of Ipratropium Bromide and Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution. The medication, produced at the company's Indore SEZ plant, is used to help control the symptoms of lung diseases, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Cipla USA is recalling the affected lot due to "short fill". There were complaints of less fill volume in respule and few drops of liquid observed in the intact pouch, USFDA said. Cipla initiated the Class II recall in the US market on March 26 this year. USFDA also said that Glenmark Pharma is recalling 3,264 bottles of Diltiazem Hydrochloride extended-release capsules indicated for high blood pressure.

The US-based arm of the company -- Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, USA -- is recalling the medication due to "failed dissolution specifications".

The company initiated the nationwide (US) recall on April 17, 2024. As per USFDA, a class II recall is initiated in a situation in which the use of, or exposure to, a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.

India is the largest supplier of generic medicines, with around 20 per cent share in the global supply by manufacturing 60,000 different generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories.

India has unexplored and unattended to opportunities,' says Warren Buffet

NEW DELHI: Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Warren Buffett is optimistic about India and said that there are a lot of opportunities when asked if Berkshire was actively seeking opportunities in India during the company's annual meeting on Sunday.

Buffett suggested that Berkshire, which focuses on acquiring and managing businesses across various industries, could explore the untapped potential in India. "In India, I am sure that there are loads of opportunities in a place like India, and the question is do we have any advantage, in either insights into those businesses or contacts that will make possible for some transactions that participants in India would particularly want us to participate," said Buffett.

"I would say that's something that more energetic management at Berkshire could pursue because we do have a reputation now and is known around the world and our Japanese experience has been fascinating. In that respect, so there may be an unexplored or unattended to opportunities and area (in India)," Buffett added.

The veteran investor hinted at a possible entry into the Indian market, indicating that it wouldn't take long for Berkshire to pursue opportunities in the country and the new management would make decisions regarding investments in India.

Pesticide residue in Indian herbs and spices? Food regulator denounces claims as 'false and malicious'

NEW DELHI. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have dismissed reports alleging high pesticide residue in Indian herbs and spices as 'false and malicious'.

In a press release, the food safety regulator clarified that India maintains stringent standards for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), tailored to individual food products according to risk assessments.

Pesticides fall under the purview of the ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, regulated by the central insecticide board and registration committee established under the Insecticide Act of 1968. The process involves the examination of data by the scientific panel on pesticides residues of FSSAI. Recommendations for MRLs are made following risk assessments, considering dietary habits and health concerns across various age groups in India. With over 295 registered pesticides, including 139 authorized for spice use, the regulations align with Codex standards. Pesticides are registered



across multiple food categories with varying MRLs based on risk assessments. For example, Monocrotophos exhibits different MRLs on rice, citrus fruits, coffee beans, and cardamom, ranging

from 0.03 mg/kg to 0.5 mg/kg. Flubendiamide's MRL, similarly, varies among crops like brinjal, Bengal gram, cabbage, tomato, and tea, reflecting different levels of pesticide tolerance.

The FSSAI said that the MRLs undergo regular revision based on scientific evidence, conforming to global standards to ensure validity and alignment with the latest research and international norms.

Corporate Earnings, Global Trends To Guide Trading In Markets This Week: Analysts

NEW DELHI. The ongoing fourth-quarter earnings season, global factors and macroeconomic data would guide the trends in the equity markets this week, analysts said. Markets would also take cues from the trading activity of foreign investors, the rupee-dollar trend and the movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude. Domestically, the next batch of Q4 earnings reports will drive stock-specific movements, Hero MotoCorp, Larsen & Toubro, BPCL, State Bank of India, Eicher Motors and Tata Motors are some of the big names in the list and the next phase of voting," said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd. PMI data for the services sector will also influence trading in the equity markets. Industrial production data for March is scheduled to be announced on Friday. "On Monday markets will react to the US employment data and Q4



results of companies like Dmart and Kotak Bank," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. "Moving forward, the ongoing results season will be a key detrimental factor for investors to align their portfolios. The market will also remain vigilant about the BoE (Bank of England) policy and GDP data from the euro zone. "We expect a degree of consolidation in the market due to expensive valuations and any election-

led jitters," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 147.99 points or 0.20 per cent. The NSE Nifty advanced 55.9 points or 0.24 per cent. Ajit Mishra, SVP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "Looking ahead, attention will be on earnings reports and global market performance, particularly the US." The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 732.96 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 73,878.15 on Friday. The NSE Nifty also declined 172.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 22,475.85. "As valuation discomfort rises, investors are becoming choosy and taking select bets. Uncertainty over interest rate, gloomy geopolitical scenario and FII fund outflows have prompted investors to book profits at regular intervals," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

FPIs return as net buyers in May as they infuse Rs 1,156 crore

NEW DELHI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have again become net buyers in May after turning net sellers last month as they bought equities worth Rs 1,156 crore up until May 3, as per the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data.

FPIs in April offloaded equities worth Rs 8,671 crore primarily due to the ongoing geopolitical crisis in the Middle East, which may have triggered investors to cut down their portfolio exposure. Earlier, they remained net buyers for the first three months of the year until mid-April.

VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The market is at record highs. There has been a pre-election rally. It is not as strong as in the past. More than anything else, FPIs will respond to changes in the US bond yields. If the US bond yields fall and the

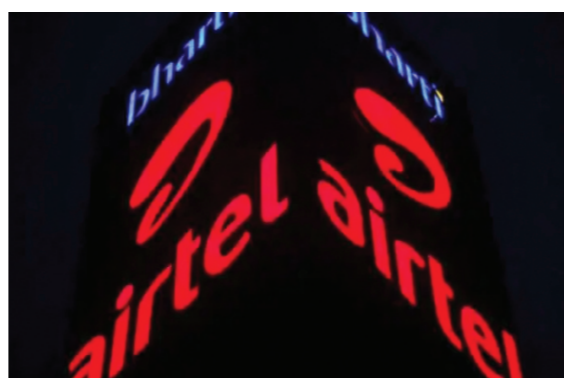


Indian economy and markets do well they will turn aggressive buyers."

Several factors have contributed to a positive outlook for the Indian economy, including robust GDP growth projections, manageable inflation levels, political stability at the central government level, and indications that the central bank has concluded its monetary policy tightening cycle. India's GDP experienced a substantial 8.4 per cent growth during the October-December quarter of the 2023-24 financial year, maintaining its position as the fastest-growing major economy and is expected to sustain its growth trajectory in the future. In December, FPIs accumulated stocks worth Rs 66,135 crore, while in November, the inflow amounted to Rs 9,001 crore, as per NSDL data. To provide context, the total inflow for the entire year was approximately Rs 171,107 crore, with over one-third of this amount occurring in December alone. The strong inflow of funds from FPIs had supported the benchmark stock indices in reaching all-time highs.

Market Valuation Of 6 Of Top 10 Firms Declines By Rs 68,417 Cr; Airtel Biggest Laggard

However, the mcap of State Bank of India climbed Rs 26,907.71 crore to Rs 7,42,126.11 crore.



New Delhi: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms declined by Rs 68,417.14 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit. While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Infosys, ITC and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India emerged as the gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 147.99 points or 0.20 per cent.

Domestic equity markets were closed on Wednesday on account of Maharashtra Day. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 27,635.65 crore to Rs 7,23,770.70 crore. The valuation of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 23,341.56 crore to Rs 19,40,738.40 crore. The mcap of LIC dropped by Rs 5,724.13 crore to Rs 6,19,217.27 crore, and that of Infosys went lower by Rs

5,686.69 crore to Rs 5,87,949.62 crore. TRENDING NOW TCS's valuation eroded by Rs 4,619.35 crore to Rs 5,44,645.97 crore, and that of Hindustan Unilever dipped by Rs 1,409.76 crore to Rs 5,20,551.94 crore. However, the mcap of State Bank of India climbed Rs 26,907.71 crore to Rs 7,42,126.11 crore. ICICI Bank added Rs 24,651.55 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 8,02,401.77 crore. The mcap of TCS rallied Rs 9,587.93 crore to Rs 13,89,110.43 crore, and that of HDFC Bank went up by Rs 6,761.25 crore to Rs 11,53,704.84 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm from the top-10 pack, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel, LIC, Infosys, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.

More Worried About Reputational Damage, RBI Action To Have Limited Financial Impact: Kotak Mahindra Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank is redoubling its efforts on the tech front, and winning back trust is the "top priority" for the lender now.

NEW DELHI. Kotak Mahindra Bank is expecting business restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank to have a "relatively small" financial impact but is more concerned about the reputational damage, a top official said on Saturday.

Hinting that it expects the restrictions to last for a "couple of months", its managing director and chief executive Ashok Vaswani told reporters that it will have a limited impact on liability growth. Late last month, the RBI barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and issuing fresh credit cards with immediate effect as the lender was found deficient in its

IT risk management. Vaswani, who took over office only in January this year, said it is redoubling its efforts on the tech front, and winning back trust is the "top priority" for the lender now. He admitted that the order will have an impact on the credit card business and its digital banking-focused 811 businesses as they are unable to do their work. "I am more worried about the reputational impact than the financial impact. The financial impact will be relatively small," Vaswani told reporters. Its deputy managing director Shanti Ekambaram said the bank will focus on doing more business with its existing customers and deepening relationships through more cross-selling. She also added that the order does not prohibit the bank from adding new customers at the branches or in digitally-assisted journeys. Its group chief financial officer Devang Gheewalla said the bank spent 10 per cent of its operating expenses on the tech front in FY24, and added that the order may lead to an



acceleration of the spending. Vaswani, who comes with a background in technology, said the spending was around Rs 1,700 crore in FY24 against about Rs 1,300 crore in the year-ago period, and added that they will increase it at a similar rate. Over the past two years, the overall spending on the tech front has gone up, Vaswani said, adding that the efforts, which include new senior-level hires in tech functions, and augmenting the overall team, have "clearly fallen short". The demand for the services has also gone up

simultaneously, he said, adding that the bank has climbed up over five places to be the fifth busiest on the surging UPI transactions front. He, however, made it clear that it is not only a capacity issue but also about risk and resilience and assured that the bank will be looking at all three elements.

The bank will also be hiring an external auditor to assess the overall technology architecture soon, as mandated by the RBI, he said. There will also be a reprioritisation of the expenses to be undertaken and also advancing of the targets on attaining certain benchmarks being pursued, he said. When asked to quantify the cost of such a strong action, he declined to quantify saying it is a complex situation. The bank will try to make from the existing customers, which will entail a market share gain, but will lose out because it is deprived of growing the business, Vaswani said, adding that he expects to "come out ok" on a net basis.

NEWS BOX

Faf du Plessis's GT blitz praised by Watson: He wanted to do this for RCB all season

Shane Watson heaped praise on Faf du Plessis after his knock against GT in Bengaluru. Du Plessis scored 64 off just 23 balls and set up the win for RCB.

Bengaluru Shane Watson praised Faf du Plessis for his whirlwind knock against GT and said that the RCB skipper wanted to play such a knock for his side this season. Du Plessis hit a 23-ball 64 to set the platform for RCB's win on May 4. The RCB skipper got to his fifty in 18 balls, the second-fastest for the franchise.

Du Plessis' knock helped RCB get the win in the end, despite a small collapse. Speaking to JioCinema, Watson said that it was excellent batting from the RCB skipper and he got the pace and bounce of the wicket very quickly. The former all-rounder said that when Du Plessis is in such a mood, the margin for the bowlers is very low. Watson said that Du Plessis was determined to put the foot down for his side against GT, as evident from his landmark fifty.

"Certainly was. Excellent batting. He played these beautiful shots. He got the pace and bounce of the wicket so quickly. And when



Faf is in this type of mood, he has access all around the ground. So, the room for error for the bowlers is so small. He has been wanting to do this all season for RCB. He has got off to a start in a couple of innings but hasn't been able to go through the innings like he did tonight." And now, 18-ball 50 he got. The second fastest for RCB, that showed how Faf put his foot down tonight. His team needed that kick along in the powerplay," said Du Plessis.

How well has Du Plessis performed this season in IPL 2024?

Compared to his fantastic 2023 campaign, Du Plessis has had a lacklustre time in IPL 2024. The RCB skipper had scored 730 runs in 14 matches last season and has only 352 in 14 matches this season. The knock against GT was Du Plessis' third fifty of the campaign. He is now the second-highest run-getter for RCB this season, behind Virat Kohli. RCB will need to win all their remaining matches to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Madrid Open: Iga Swiatek gets her revenge, beats Aryna Sabalenka in marathon final

New Delhi. Iga Swiatek won the women's singles title in the Madrid Open 2024 after beating Aryna Sabalenka in a humdinger of a final on Saturday. After over 3 years, Swiatek won the match 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7) at Manolo Santana. The Pole also avenged her defeat to Sabalenka last year when she lost in another 3-setter. The 25-year-old Sabalenka had the chance to equal Petra Kvitova's tally of 3 Madrid Open titles, but Swiatek did not let that happen. Swiatek also extended her lead to 7-3 against Sabalenka on the WTA level. It also happened to be Swiatek's 20th title in the WTA. The opening set turned out to be an absolute thriller as both players earned a break apiece to make it 5-5. But then, Swiatek broke Sabalenka's serve to take the



opening set. Sabalenka had a decent first serve, but a winning percentage of only 30.8 from her second serves let her down. The excitement did not go down even in the second set. Sabalenka went 3-1 up with a break of serve after which Swiatek stormed back into the match. This time around, the Belarusian star held her nerve to take the match into the deciding third set.

Swiatek with the last laugh

In the decider, both players were just not willing to throw in the towel. Swiatek and Sabalenka converted a break point apiece to make it 5-5. In the next game, Sabalenka fetched herself 2 championship points, but Swiatek saved both of them and took the contest into a tie-breaker.

It was also the first tie-breaker between them in 10 meetings. This time, Swiatek had a championship point at 6-5, but Sabalenka did not give up the ghost. Sabalenka failed to convert a third championship point as the match kept the audience at the edge of their seats. But at 8-7, Swiatek converted her second championship point as the curtains came down on the cliffhanger in Madrid.

Green revolution: Meet the next generation of Indian pitches

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino has slammed the "stupid rumours" swirling around his Stamford Bridge future and said it is up to the Premier League club's hierarchy to decide if he will continue beyond this season.

CHENNAI. Toss. Weather. Conditions. Pitch. Dew. Outfield. These are just some of the factors that have a significant say in the way a team approaches a match, irrespective of the format. Among the above, pitch takes prominence for how it behaves could dictate the pace at which play progresses. While cricket is still scratching the surface when it comes to data, significant technological advancements have been made in many other aspects, including the pitch.

Whether it is drop-in or conventional, there are different types of pitches based on the soil used, and so on. Over the past decade or so, hybrid pitches, too, have come into practice, especially for the white-ball format.

SISGrass, a UK-based synthetic turf manufacturer, has been a pioneer in the field — not just in cricket but also in football, rugby and hockey. With over 650 hybrid pitches installed across the globe, including Dubai, where conditions are vastly different from England. And now, joining hands with Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), they have installed four hybrid pitches on the square of the scenic venue at the foothills of the Dhauladhar Range and two pitches in the nets outside. While they are used just for practice at the moment, it is the first time a venue in the country has installed hybrid pitches. Now, what is a hybrid pitch and how is it different from a conventional surface? Paul Taylor, former England cricketer and International Sales Director, Cricket at SIS Grass, explains. "There are different kinds of hybrid pitches. There is an artificial hybrid, a concrete base with a carpet on top and then a soil profile on top of that. There's a carpeted hybrid, which is a synthetic carpet. It's then filled with soil, and then grass grows within that soil. Then there's the stitched hybrid, which is what we do. It takes your existing natural turf pitch and we inject synthetic fibres into that surface. And the stitching is at 20*20m centres. It covers the whole pitch,



and it extends beyond the stump lines by about a metre to make sure that the back foot contact for the bowlers is part of the system. The fundamental thing that is different about our pitch, is that it's still 95 percent a natural turf surface. There's only 5 percent of fibre injected into it," Taylor tells this daily.

"The stitching goes to a depth of 90mm but we can stitch deeper. In cricket, we only stitch to 90mm because that's all that's really needed. The fibre that we use is a polyethylene monofilament fibre. It's the latest technology in terms of how that's made. It's resilient and durable. It enhances performance. It doesn't fade in UV light and things like that. And it comes in different colours as well. We have a green fibre, a beige fibre, then a mixture of green and beige, so whatever the surface that

we're stitching into, we can pick the suit," he adds. The 5 percent fibre is expected to keep the wear and tear in check; it also enables the grass to recover after a match.

"The fibres help the grass plant to become stronger. There's a natural air space around the fibre when it's injected, obviously, water will go down. And all the nutrients that are put onto cricket squares will also get down to the root. So the grass is a lot stronger, a lot more durable. You get up to

three times the amount of cricket on one pitch that you would ordinarily get with a fully natural surface," says Taylor. However, when it comes to pitches, it is never one size fits all. The conditions in England, where SIS Grass began working in 2017, is very different from India, a country where different states will have different climatic conditions throughout the year. This is where the other factors like soil content and clay content come into play. "It is different in different places. However, we have installed it in Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and so on. One of the things we noticed when we installed the pitches in the UK is that the moisture content within the soil profile needed to be about 40% to allow the injecting needles to inject the fibres. In India, because the clay content is a lot higher

Real Madrid clinch record extending 36th LaLiga title after Girona thrash Barcelona

Real Madrid claimed a record-extending 36th LaLiga title on Saturday after Girona fought-back to beat Barcelona 4-2, a result that left Carlo Ancelotti's side with an unassailable lead in the standings.



New Delhi. Real Madrid claimed a record-extending 36th LaLiga title on Saturday after Girona fought-back to beat Barcelona 4-2, a result that left Carlo Ancelotti's side with an unassailable lead in the standings. Real Madrid, who have lost only once in the league this season, beat lowly Cadiz earlier on Saturday. They hold a 13-point advantage over second-placed Girona while Barcelona dropped to third with four matches remaining. Real now can turn their attention to a LaLiga-Champions League double as they get ready to host Bayern Munich in the semi-final return leg on Wednesday after snatching a 2-2 draw in Germany last week. It was an afternoon of celebration for Girona too as the win secured them a spot in Europe for the first time after

they qualified for next season's Champions League. A brace from substitute Portu helped surprise package Girona to humble their Catalan rivals for the second time this season. Girona had also beaten Barca away in December by the same score. On Saturday Andreas Christiansen gave Barca the lead in the third minute before Girona hit back a minute later with LaLiga top-scorer Artem Dovbyk heading in the equaliser. Robert Lewandowski put the visitors back in front from the penalty spot after Lamine Yamal was fouled inside the box just before the break and a wasteful Barca missed several chances to extend their lead early in the second half. However, in the 65th minute, in his first action after coming off the bench,

Portu netted the equaliser and Miguel Gutierrez scored from a rebound two minutes later to give Girona the lead. A stunning volley from Portu in the 74th minute secured the win.

"It's incredible to look at your shirt and experience this. There is nothing more beautiful than living this," an emotional Portu told DAZN with tears rolling down his face. "I had a thorn in my side with this club. A few years ago, I experienced the other side, which was relegation and I felt very responsible because I played a lot. Today I made amends with the fans and I can smile again." If Barcelona end up finishing outside the top two, it will be a further blow to the club which is facing mounting financial problems related to their massive wage bill, a 1.2 billion euro debt and a 1.6 billion euro Camp Nou stadium renovation project.

The champions and runners-up of the Copa del Rey and LaLiga contest the lucrative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, with the winner bagging a potential 6.6 million euros.

With four matches remaining, Barca now rely on Girona slipping up if they are to have any chance of contesting the Super Cup.

Never say die: Sunil Gavaskar praises Mohammed Siraj for heroic spell vs GT

Bengaluru Sunil Gavaskar heaped praise on Mohammed Siraj after the fast bowler produced a match-winning spell for RCB in their IPL 2024 match on Saturday, May 4 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Siraj got the prized wickets of Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill to finish with figures of 4-0-29-2. After the speedster removed both openers, GT could hardly recover and were bowled out for 147. Thereafter, the Challengers chased down the target with 38 balls to spare and won the match by 4 wickets. Lauding Siraj, Gavaskar recalled the times when the pacer played in the Test series against Australia back in 2020-21 despite his father passing away. "He realised that playing for India was important. Also, he was not established at the stage. An established player would 100 percent have gone back.



When you are not established and you are looking to get your place in the team, you stick around," Gavaskar told Star Sports. IPL 2024, RCB vs GT: Match Report | Full Scorecard 'Siraj's strength is self-belief' Gavaskar also praised Siraj for dismissing Steve Smith in the historic Gabba Test when

the Australian batter was batting on 55 in the second innings.

"And look how spectacularly he bowled in that Gabba Test match, getting somebody like a Steve Smith out when he was batting on 55. Dismissing Smith when he has come in to bat is one thing and to get him out when he was set is another. This is the strength of Siraj, the self-belief and never-say-die attitude," Gavaskar added.

After RCB beat GT, Siraj said that he wasn't on top of his health as he was sick.

However, he motivated himself to get up and take the field. After winning the Player of the Match award, Siraj also helped RCB stay alive in the competition. RCB jumped to seventh in the table with 8 points and a net run rate of -0.049 thanks to wins in 4 out of 11 matches.



are set to meet KKR on Sunday, May 5 in IPL 2024. LSG will be fighting KKR for a spot in the top two position in the Indian Premier League. Both LSG and KKR have played 10 matches and are separated by only 2 points. If LSG win by a big margin, there are chances that they replace KKR at the second spot in the league table.

KL Rahul would be hoping to continue his aggressive form and would want a little more contribution from the rest of the team. LSG won their last match against MI at home and will back Marcus Stoinis and KL Rahul to deliver once again.

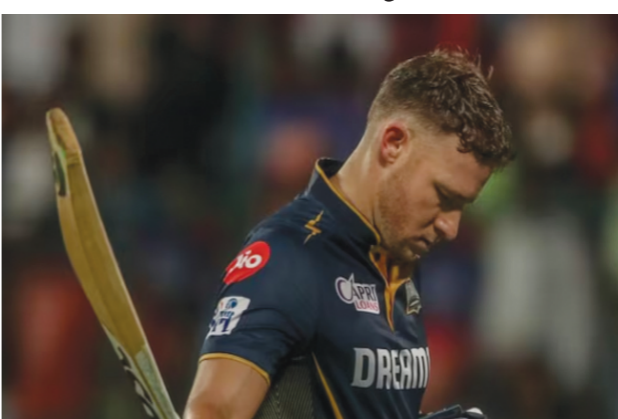
LSG, RR, KKR, SRH and CSK are currently the top contenders for the playoffs spot in the Indian Premier League 2024 season.

GT were not losing 'crucial moments' in last 2 years: David Miller

← IPL 2024: GT batter David Miller feels that the team has lost crucial moments in the ongoing season of the tournament, something that did not happen in the last two years. Under Shubman Gill's captaincy, GT have lost 7 out of 11 matches.

Bengaluru GT are sitting at the 9th position in the Indian Premier League after their loss against RCB on Saturday, 4 May. It has been a hapless season for the Shubman Gill side who have lost 7 out of their first 11 matches. GT batter David Miller feels that the team has lost crucial moments throughout the tournament, something that did not happen in the last two years of their campaign. In 2022 and 2023, GT reached the final of the tournament, winning one of them - in their debut season. Speaking at the press conference after the match, Miller said that the side had lost several close

games and if they had won those, they could have been in the top half of the table. On the day, against RCB, both GT batting and bowling departments failed in the powerplay, resulting in a 4-wicket loss vs Faf du Plessis' side. "I think it's a tough one because, um you know this game of cricket where margins are so small and there are certain games that we potentially should have won that we did lose that. We're pretty close. And if you win those, you know, if we had one, those two games, things would have been, you know, very different would have been six from 11. Um, you know, now we are 4 from 11, so it kind of behind the eight ball," Miller said at the press conference. "But I feel like the first two years we played, you know, like, we won crucial moments. And this year we've been we just haven't been able to win those crucial moments in the game and hence losing the close games," Miller further added. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full



Schedule Asked about GT's failure against RCB, Miller said that they were not going to win many games by scoring 150 runs, but the batter was proud of the fightback that the team showed in Bengaluru. GT after getting hammered for 90 runs in the first 6 overs, managed to pick up 6 wickets in the next 5 overs to put the side under pressure. But the Shubman Gill side just did not have

enough runs on the board to defend.

"To be honest, we lost the game, I feel like in the powerplay, batting and bowling. Look, I mean, we were a couple of wickets down for not too many runs while batting, and then bowling. They were on about 90 after 6 overs. So it was tough to, you know, you're not gonna really win too many games like that, by scoring 150," Miller said. "I think taking the positive out

of this game, I thought the fight was incredible. You know, being the position that we were with the bat managing to get to 140-150 is, you know, something on the board, and then for them to be what they were in the powerplay, extraordinary powerplay. We had to fight back. The way that we did was really good to see," concluded the middle-order batter.



Vaani Kapoor

Is Part Of Aparshakti Khurrana And Paresh Rawal's Badtameez Gill



Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui fame Vaani Kapoor is soon going to star in a coming-of-age drama titled *Badtameez Gill*. The actress would play the titular role in the film, which is being directed by Navjot Gulati. Vaani made her Bollywood debut with the film *Shuddh Desi Romance*, opposite the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, and since then has been cast in a number of critically acclaimed projects. The upcoming project aims to entertain the audience with light humour and a gripping storyline. As per a report by *Variety*, along with Vaani Kapoor, the film also stars Aparshakti Khurrana and Paresh Rawal. Aparshakti plays the brother of the Vaani character in the film, while Paresh Rawal will be playing her father. The film is set across Bareilly, northern India, and London, and the shoot is expected to start this week. The film is being produced by Nicky Vicky Bhagnani Films, Saga films Ltd and Vinay Aggarwal. Speaking about the casting of Vaani in the film, the producers Nicky and Vicky Bhagnani told *Variety*: "Vaani was the first and only choice, and she is perfect for the part in every way. Vaani will showcase a totally different side to her acting in our film that has its heart in the right place." They added that the team needed a beautiful, confident girl who "can be a riot" for her family and friends, and Vaani had those characteristics in real life.

Meanwhile, Vaani Kapoor most recently appeared in Ranbir Kapoor's film *Shamshera*, which was released in 2022. The actress will shortly appear alongside Ajay Devgn in *Raid 2*. Rajkumar Gupta is directing the film, which is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2024. She also had the comedy film *Khel Khel Mein* lined up for release this year. The film also stars Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal, Pragya Jaiswal, and Fardeen Khan in pivotal roles. Aparshakti Khurrana will soon be seen in Shradha Kapoor's *Stree 2*. The film produced by Dinesh Vijan and stars Rajkummar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi and Abhishek Banerjee, is now being filmed. Paresh Rawal, on the other hand, will appear in three back-to-back comic franchises. The actor will appear in *Hera Pheri 3* alongside Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty. He also has *Awara Pagal Deewana 2* and *Welcome to the Jungle* in the pipeline.

Kajal Aggarwal's

Son Neil Is An Absolute Bundle Of Joy As He Smiles For The Paps At Airport; Watch

Actress Kajal Aggarwal's baby boy, Neil, was recently spotted at the airport. The little munchkin was all smiles when the paparazzi spotted him. The mother-son duo walked hand-in-hand as they walked across the terminal. A video of them has now gone viral on Instagram. Kajal kept it cool and comfy and wore a striped green kurta. She sported short hair and completed her look with shell frames and a sling bag. Neil, on the other hand, looked in a blue T-shirt with printed pyjamas.

Back in 2022, Kajal and her husband, Gautam Kitchlu, welcomed their first child, Neil Kitchlu. The couple has been busy with parental duties ever since. Earlier this year, Kajal Aggarwal went on a vacation with her husband and son to Switzerland, and the little family seemed to have a blast in the highlands. Kajal had uploaded some lovely photos of the trio enjoying fun activities in the icy setting. Kajal Aggarwal was seen enjoying quality time with her child and spouse while dressed warmly and comfortably for the winter. One photo shows the couple's darling son, Neil, seated in the driver's seat with a cute cap on his head. In another set of photos shared by Kajal Aggarwal, she is seen enjoying the view while holding her child's finger. The duo's picture exudes genuine bliss and is a pleasure to witness. The family was seen dressed in winter coats and headgear.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kajal Aggarwal continues to impress the audience. After an enthralling performance in the Telugu action movie *Bhagavanth Kesari* with Nandamuri Balakrishna, she ventured into the Tamil horror genre with *Karungaapiyam*, co-starring Regina Cassandra, Janani Iyer, and

Aadhav Kannadasan. Next, Kajal will join the star-studded cast of *Indian 2*, one of Tamil cinema's most anticipated blockbusters. The long-awaited reunion of renowned actor Kamal Haasan and filmmaker S. Shankar heralds a compelling social thriller set to be released in 2024. Aside from that, fans are eager to see her role as a stern cop in the film *Satyabhama*. The film will be an exciting addition to Kajal's diverse film career. Akhil Degala directs this thrilling story, which is brought to life by composer Sri Charan Pakala, producers Bobby Tikka, and Srinivas Rao Takkalapelly under the Aurum Arts banner.



Bharti Singh Admitted To Hospital For Gallbladder Surgery, Gets Emotional in New Video: 'Kaise Ho Gaya'



Comedian and TV host Bharti Singh revealed she's been admitted to the hospital. She shared a new vlog, shot from her hospital bed, to inform her fans that she was taken to the hospital after she experienced pain in her abdomen. While at first she brushed it aside assuming it was a gastric problem, she decided to go to the hospital because the pain did not subside. Bharti added that the tests have shown stones in her gallbladder and the doctors are working on the needed treatment.

While Bharti kept a strong front during the day, at night, she got vulnerable and wondered how did it all happen. She also missed her son, Gola, and broke down. She shared he was looking for her throughout the house and she was worried for him. She hoped this would end soon and she would reunite with her son. The video also featured glimpses of Haars, who looked worried. Watch the video below:

Bharti's hospitalisation has happened just a few days after she opened up about toxic work culture in the TV industry. Speaking on their podcast, Haars shared actors would function on minimum hours of sleep and would stay on sets more than 15 hours of sleep. "I've seen directors and creatives suffer heart attacks and health issues due to sleep deprivation. People would drink tea, smoke, eat only set food, and suffer from acidity, but wouldn't be able to control it," he said. Bharti added, "I've even seen girls working with drips on daily soaps. They were not allowed to go home as the shot was not telecast by then." Harsh then also revealed how director one cared about their perfect shot on camera and did not care about the actors going through 'life and death situation'.

South Actor Jayaram's Daughter Malavika Jayaram Ties The Knot; See Pics



Jayaram is one of the most prominent actors in Malayalam and Tamil cinema and has cemented his position with many successful films. Amidst a successful innings in the cinema, the veteran actor has been immersed in the wedding festivities of his children. Jayaram and his wife and actress Parvathy Jayaram's daughter Malavika Jayaram got married to a United Kingdom-based chartered accountant Navaneeth Gireesh. Malavika is a researcher. As per the reports, the wedding was a close-knit affair and only some friends participated in it. The wedding took place at Guruvayur Temple, Kerala with all the traditional customs and rituals. Reportedly, Navaneeth originally hails from Palakkad, Kerala.

The engagement video of Malavika had also gone viral on social media. Photos and videos from the engagement ceremony, which is believed to have taken place on December 8, have surfaced online. In these clips, actor Kalidas Jayaram is seen escorting his sister, Malavika, to the stage, holding her hands. Another video captures the ring ceremony, where Malavika and her fiancé perform the rituals on the stage. Malavika looked the prettiest as she draped herself in an ivory-hued lehenga. The lehenga featured intricate red small embroidery work all over. The choli was three-quarter sleeved and had red prints all over. Malavika paired her lehenga with a sheer dupatta that had a red-green leafy design embroidered on it.

With a statement neckpiece, colour-coordinated earrings, and a mang teeka, makeup, including soft smokey eyeshadow, nude lipstick, a bindi, and a gajra-adorned bun, Malavika finalised her look. In a clip that made rounds online, we can see the 28-year-old researcher and Navaneeth exchanging rings. Talking about the chartered accountant's look, he opted for an ivory-hued silk kurta, which he teamed with a matching Kasavu dhoti. In the clip, we can see the duo beaming with love and laughter as they put rings on each other's fingers. Malavika had previously announced her relationship with Navaneeth through an Instagram post. The couple had also been spotted together during the engagement ceremony of Kalidas with model Tarini Kalingaray. They were also clicked during the wedding ceremony of the Indian 2 actor.