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MONEY 6

INDIA ATTRACTIVE FOR MANUFACTURING

SPORT 8

LITTLE ROOM FOR ERROR AS RCB FACE DOMINANT KKR

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Low voter turnout in phase 1 alarms parties

Heat to polls done deal could be reasons as parties find answers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Low voting percentage in the Hindi belt Western Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand during the first phase of polls which concluded on Friday, has become a cause of concern for the political groups with all the warring parties in a fix for the upcoming six phases Parliamentary polls. Experts and political leaders explained reasons could be scorching heat wave or high temperature, overconfidence amongst BJP voters / cadre that "Aayega to Modi hi" or lack of enthusiasm amongst Opposition voters that election done deal, Aayega to Modi hi. The low voting percentage may go either ways. The Opposition may claim that BJP core voters did come to cast their vote while some section of BJP say people did not come to vote as it was clear that Modi is coming to power for the third time. Some political experts remarked the low turnout is an indication of tough time for the ruling BJP and a wake up call to make changes in the strategy or activate its cadre. The total percentage of voting is estimated around 65.5 per cent for the first phase of polling in 102 constituencies. In the first phase of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout was recorded at 69.43 per cent. Some of the constituencies were different then and the total



number of seats which went to polls were 91. According to EC's voter turnout app, Hindi belt Western Uttar Pradesh witnessed 60.25 per cent voting, Bihar 48.88 per cent, Rajasthan 57.65 per cent and Uttarakhand 55.89 per cent voting. The final data of the first phase polling is yet to come. In UP, 65.95 per cent voting was reported in Saharanpur, 60.60 per cent in Moradabad, 61.17 per cent

in Kairana, 59.54 per cent in Nagina, 61.91 per cent in Pilibhit, 58.21 per cent in Bijnor, 54.77 per cent in Rampur and 59.29 per cent in Muzaffarnagar. These seats fall in the Jat and sugarcane belt of the State. A voter turnout of over 55.89 per cent was recorded in the five Parliamentary constituencies of Uttarakhand. The voter turnout in Uttarakhand in the 2019 general elections was

over 61.48 per cent. The Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar seat recorded the highest voter turnout of 61.35 per cent, followed by Haridwar 62.36 per cent, Tehri Garhwal 51.74 per cent, Pauri Garhwal 50.84 per cent and Almora 46.94 per cent. According to officials, low voting could be attributed to heat or high temperature in Hindi belt areas. Interestingly, some BJP leaders say voters have realised that Modi Government is coming for the third terms that was the reason why some people did not come to

cast their vote. Given this scenario, leaders of contesting political parties on Saturday traded charges with each other. On low voting percentage in Uttarakhand, Congress leader Harish Rawat said, "The lower percentage of voting has been observed in the areas where BJP was dominant. This is due to the frustration in medium-income and lower-income groups because of the BJP's economic policies... I believe the INDIA Bloc alliance is dominant over BJP in the first phase of the elections..." While RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav took a dig at the BJP and said that the BJP's "400 paar" film has become a super flop on the first day itself, Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan attributed a relatively low voter turnout in Bihar to "no challenge faced by the NDA" in the State. Paswan, whose party is fighting five out of the state's 40 seats, as part of the coalition led by the BJP, claimed that the INDIA bloc's performance will be "worse" than in 2019, when it could win only one seat in Bihar. "The voter turnout in Bihar is low because the Opposition here is in a state of atrophy. Although the NDA is going to do well everywhere, at least it has some competition in, say, West Bengal, which is a reason why voters there turned up in large numbers yesterday," he told reporters. **Continued on Page 2**



Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Union Minister of Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal during the inauguration of a conference on 'India's New Criminal Justice System - A Progressive Step' organised by the Ministry of Law and Justice, at the Ambedkar International Centre, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI Photo

New criminal laws signify watershed moment: CJI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing the enactment of the new criminal justice laws as a watershed moment for society, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system. Speaking at a conference here on "India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System", he said the new laws would be successful if those, who are in charge of implementing them, adapt to them. These new laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into a new age, the CJI said. He also said much-needed improvements have been introduced to protect the interests of victims and carry out investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently. **Continued on Page 2**

"India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system with the upcoming implementation of three new criminal laws... These laws signify a watershed moment for our society because no law affects the day-to-day conduct of our society like the criminal law. "India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system with the upcoming implementation of three new criminal laws... These laws signify a watershed moment for our society because no law affects the day-to-day conduct of our society like the criminal law," he said. "The enactment of these laws by Parliament is a clear indication that India is changing and on the move, and needs new legal instruments to deal with the current challenges," the CJI said. **Continued on Page 2**



Bhagalpur: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav during an election campaign rally ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Bhagalpur. PTI Photo

Rahul to look for safe seat after Wayanad polls: Modi

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Launching a blistering attack against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that "Shehzada and his team were waiting for the polling to get over in Wayanad, from where he is contesting, to find another safe seat for him, and predicted that he (Rahul) will "run away" from Kerala like he did from Amethi. Addressing an election rally at Nanded in Marathwada region, Modi said: "Shehzada is in trouble in Wayanad. Shehzada and his toli (gang) are waiting for the poll to get over on April 26. After that, they will find a safe seat for him. They will put him up there as a candidate". Alluding to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's

criticism of Rahul on Friday, Modi said: "INDI alliance leaders are speaking against one another... The Kerala Chief Minister slammed Shehzada in such a manner yesterday that even I do not speak like that. Shehzada had to run away from Amethi. I am sure he will run away from Wayanad similarly. For the first time in the history of the country, members of the Congress will not vote for the party... Even in the place where he lives, there's no Congress candidate". Modi said that the infighting was on within the Opposition INDIA bloc over the 25 per cent seats. "Come June 4, the INDIA alliance leaders will tear the clothes and hair of one another. Do you want to waste your votes on these leaders? That's why you should vote for the NDA. Voting for NDA is



Nanded: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during a rally for Lok Sabha polls, in Nanded, on Saturday. PTI Photo

They cannot be pardoned for insulting our astha and disrespecting 'Sanatana' dharma. ... Curing every wound inflicted by the Congress is Modi Ki guarantee," Modi said, as he listed the achievements of his government like Article 370, Triple Taluq and growing economy. Modi said that since they were used to contest and win elections to Rajya Sabha, the Opposition parties were not getting candidates. Hence the Opposition leaders are not campaigning. Even on 25 per cent of the seats the Opposition was contesting, the INDI alliance constituents are fighting against each other and making allegations against each other. They are even threatening to put each other in jail. Can you trust such people?" the Prime Minister asked the audience. **Continued on Page 2**

Bihar schoolteachers upset over vigilance to boycott polls

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ DARBHANGA/MADHUBANI/SUPAUL

Keeping a 'hawk-eye' on the school teachers in Bihar has led to acute resentments against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar from five lakh Government schoolteachers and their families, and a majority of them backed by several associations of teachers, have decided to 'boycott' the voting in Lok Sabha polls. The latest to add fuel is while Bihar Government has announced holidays for children due to prevailing heat conditions, it is mandatory for the teachers to be present for two hours in the morning in the school premises and they have to share their GPS location to the administration. "Our choice is BJP due to Modi (PM Narendra Modi) but the candidate here is from the JDU. We have grievances against Nitish Kumar and have decided to boycott voting. Those keeping with moral of democracy may vote NDA but we shall never vote for Teer (arrow which is the JDU symbol)," said Prakash Thakur, a primary schoolteacher in Bamangaon of Supaul district. His another companion in the Sakri village Madhubani, Ashish Jha, rued the fact the way "Nitish Kumar has completely attacked on the democratic norms of teachers". **Continued on Page 2**

"Strictness is acceptable but when you attempt to be vigilant then it's a problem. There has been protest for months on the unnecessary measures by the State Education Department on more than five lakh strength of primary and secondary school teachers but Nitish kept ignoring and thus even any political party who has tied with JDU will have to bear the brunt," Jha said. In fact, several teachers' associations in Bihar have been up in arms against State education department against the education department's several gag order against teachers. CPI MLC Sanjay Kumar Singh, who is also general secretary of the Federation of University Teachers of Bihar (FUTAB), is leading one of the protest fronts against the education department's additional chief secretary KK Pathak. The most problematic area which the teachers claimed they have been affected is the separate holiday calendars for Urdu and Hindu schools for the first time and also removing several Hindu festivals from the holiday list. Pathak led department has also issued showcause notice against over 150 teachers for airing their views and expressing their concerns on social media against the Government orders. **Continued on Page 2**

Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months back: Bihar

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Bihar jail administration in its factual report to the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has made startling revelation on Saturday in regards to the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's health, stating that "Kejriwal himself said that he was taking insulin for a few years and stopped the dosage a few months back on the advice of a Telangana doctor". The report, which was sought by the LG from the Bihar authorities, claimed, "The inmate/UTP gave history that he was taking insulin till last few years and stopped insulin a few months back allegedly by the Telangana doctor but no document was placed for the alleged history". Further, it states that the AAP chief was neither advised to take any insulin nor any requirement of any insulin was indicated. "As per MLC report available from RML Hospital, he was neither advised of any insulin nor any requirement of any insulin was indicated. It is reiterated that on April 10 and April 15 he was reviewed by medicine



specialist and advised oral anti diabetic drugs/medicines," the jail authorities said. The report submitted by the Director General of Prisons to the LG brought out several claims that contradict the statements given by Kejriwal in the court on Friday where he accused the prison authorities of denying him insulin dosage, with AAP leaders terming it as "slow death". Meanwhile, reacting to the report, Delhi Minister Atishi calls it a "conspiracy of BJP", while claiming that Kejriwal has been taking insulin regularly. "Before going to jail, CM Kejriwal used to take 50 units of insulin daily for

the last 12 years. Why does the jail administration have a problem in giving insulin to CM Kejriwal?" she questioned, claiming that at the behest of BJP, a conspiracy is going on to kill Kejriwal in Bihar jail. The report suggests that Kejriwal, who has been lodged in the jail since April 1 in alleged excise policy linked money laundering case, was just taking a basic anti-diabetes oral medicine tablet Metformin. "He was taking oral anti diabetic medicine as well as treatment for chronic constipation as prescribed by RML doctors. He allegedly gave a history of one episode of hypoglycemia while in

Vinesh secures Paris Olympics quota for India

PTI ■ BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN)

Looking as dominant as ever, Vinesh Phogat locked Paris Olympics quota in women's 50kg category, reaching the final at the Asian Olympic Qualifier without conceding a single point, here Saturday. It is India's second quota place for the Paris Games as Antim Panghal had earned a quota in the 53kg category with her bronze medal winning show at the World Championships last year. The 29-year-old Vinesh has now secured her third straight Olympic quota, having featured in Rio Games (2016) and in Tokyo (2020) earlier. Vinesh, who was a prominent face of protest against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, dished out a strong performance, demolishing her opponents one by one. As is her wont, Vinesh looked for that one opportunity to subdue Miran Cheon in her opening bout and grabbed it after measuring her Korean rival for about 30 seconds. Once she grabbed Cheon and pushed her down for a take



down, the bout ended in a jiffy, in one minute and 39 seconds. It was difficult to wriggle out of Vinesh's strong hold. The Indian employed gut wrench move thrice and mixed that with one 'expose' to finish the bout. The next bout lasted a mere 67 seconds. Cambodia's Smanang Dit was an easy prey. Vinesh pinned her in no time to move to the women's 50kg semifinal. The celebrated Indian faced some resistance from 19-year-old Kazakh wrestler Laura Ganikyzy in the semifinals but she used all her experience to foil the attacks employed by her younger rival. **Continued on page 2**



Omar takes dig at BJP over not fielding candidates in valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Mocking at Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) exit from the poll arena in Kashmir Valley, former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Saturday alleged the BJP claimed many things in Kashmir but fled from contesting the polls in the valley. Omar said it is evident the BJP has not been able to win people's hearts after the abrogation of Article 370. Omar said, "The importance of this election is that it is the first time after August 2019 that the Lok Sabha elections are being held here. Also, in 2019, the BJP fielded its can-

didates on all the seats (in the valley). But this time the (Union) Home Minister (Amit Shah) said that we would first win the hearts of the people and then field the candidates. Interacting with the media in the Rajpora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district Omar said the ruling party may not be directly contesting the parliamentary polls in the valley it was still supporting parties like the Apni party and People's Conference from behind on ground zero. Posing some tough questions Omar asked, "Why did they (BJP) leave the field? What was their helplessness? J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina was preparing to contest the polls from the south Kashmir seat,



but why did he not contest? What compulsion did they have that they had to push other parties be it 'cricket bat' or 'apple', Abdullah said, adding "These parties were working for the BJP". Omar maintained, "The BJP is in the field contesting elections, but the only difference is they do not have their party symbol, they are contesting on 'cricket bat' (Apni Party's symbol) and 'apple' (PC's symbol)... We are well aware who the BJP supports here, but they stand no chance of winning," he added. Omar hoped the NC would win all the three seats." In Jammu, J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina told reporters that the BJP enjoys a massive support base in Kashmir val-

ley as it has built a network of party workers in recent years. In response to a question about the BJP's claims of the NDA crossing the 400-mark, Abdullah said everything would be clear after the results. The Ladakh seat is slipping away from their hands, he claimed. "After the polling yesterday, it seems they will not be able to save the Udhampur seat. Let us see what will happen on the Jammu seat as well," he said. Asked about BJP's J-K president Ravindra Raina claiming that the party will win both the seats in Jammu, Abdullah said, "Let me remind Raina that the elections have not taken place on the Jammu seat yet and we do not even know how many

votes will be polled there. Let the voting take place first, then the BJP should claim its victory. As of now, we feel their Udhampur seat is in danger," he said. Talking about the straight contest between the NC and PDP on the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat Omar said it was "unfortunate" that his party was contesting elections in the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency against a friend who turned "greedy" for a Lok Sabha seat. Apparently Omar was referring to the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti contesting the polls from the seat in south Kashmir. The NC has fielded its senior Gujjar leader Mian Altaf from the seat.

AAP: ED took no action against BJP for taking electoral bonds from scam accused

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
AP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Saturday said the Enforcement Directorate took no action against the BJP for taking electoral bonds from a scam accused and asked if there would be two types of law in the country. At a press conference here, he said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and himself, were arrested in the liquor scam case "without any evidence". "Sarath Reddy, whom the ED in its charge sheet termed the kingpin of the liquor scam case, gave Rs 60 crore through electoral bonds. But the agency took no action against anyone in this matter," Singh alleged. There was no immediate reaction from Reddy or the BJP on this. After his arrest in the liquor scam case, Reddy gave Rs 5 crore to the BJP on November 15, 2022, as a donation. After six months in jail, Reddy got bail on May 8, 2023, and within the next few days, he gave Rs 50 crore to the BJP through electoral bonds, Singh said. Before his arrest, Reddy donat-



ed Rs 5 crore to the BJP in parts in 2022, the AAP MP said. He claimed that soon after the details of the electoral bonds became public on March 21 and it was revealed that the BJP took money from Reddy, the ED raided Chief Minister Kejriwal's residence. This so-called scam is "Kamal Chhap liquor scam" and has been done by the biggest party of the country which is completely immersed in it, Singh charged. He alleged that Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah, in an interview, "misled" the country over the issue. "Shah acknowledged that Sarath Reddy donated to the BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit and that if he was accused then he should not have donated

money," Singh said. Despite verified evidence, the ED did not take any action against BJP leaders but arrested Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia without any evidence. The agency should answer, how Reddy was giving crores of rupees to BJP from his bank account while he was in its custody, the AAP MP said. The ED conducted more than 500 raids but not even a single penny was recovered from any AAP leaders. Despite this they were arrested, he said. "I want to know if there will be two types of law in this country. Action was taken against the AAP leaders without any evidence and no action was taken for the BJP even after verified proof. This is clearly unjust," Singh said.

Rahul takes swipe at BJP over electoral bonds on X

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over electoral bonds alleging that he is running a "school of corruption" in the country and teaching all chapters in the subject of "entire corruption science". On the social media platform 'X', Rahul Gandhi shared a video of a new Congress advertisement that takes a swipe at the BJP over the electoral bonds issue. "Narendra Modi is running a 'school of corruption' in the country, where under the subject 'entire corruption science', he is teaching every chapter in detail including 'donation business', Congress leader said in a post in Hindi. The former Congress chief claimed that the prime minister was teaching chapters on how the collection of donations is done through raids and how contracts are distributed after taking donations. "How does the washing machine that washes the corrupt work? How is the game



of 'bail and jail' played by turning agencies into recovery agents," he said. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also shared the same advertisement on 'X' and said, "Don't choose 'hafta vasuli' government, choose change. Vote for the Congress." Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP, which has become a "den of corrupt people", has made this "crash course" mandatory for its leaders, and the country is paying the price for it. An INDIA bloc government will shut this school of corruption' and

close this course forever, he asserted. In February, the Supreme Court delivered a judgment striking down the electoral bonds scheme. Following a directive from the apex court, the State Bank of India, which was the authorised seller of electoral bonds, shared data on electoral bonds which was then made public. The Congress has alleged that the electoral bonds data has exposed "corrupt tactics" of the BJP such as quid pro quo and grant of "protection" to companies against dona-

BJP candidate from Moradabad dies, Yogi condoles death



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MORADABAD
In a shocking incident, BJP candidate from Moradabad Lok Sabha seat Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar, who was unwell for some time, died at Delhi's AIIMS hospital on Saturday, a senior party leader said. He was 72. "Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar has passed away," UP BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary said. Senior BJP leaders including Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and leaders across the party lines condoled the death of Sarvesh Kumar. "I pray to Shri Ram Chandra Ji to give a place to the departed soul in his feet and give strength to his supporters and bereaved family to bear this unbearable loss. My condo-

lences are with the bereaved family," Yogi said. He had some problem in his throat and had an operation after he had gone to AIIMS for a check-up. Voting in Moradabad constituency in Uttar Pradesh took place in the first phase on Friday. Kunwar Sarvesh was a businessman and strong leader of the party in Uttar Pradesh. Sarvesh belonged to Thakur caste. Before becoming an MP, he was elected MLA four times from Thakurdwara Assembly seat. Sarvesh Kumar's son Kunwar Sushant Singh is an MLA from Badhapur assembly seat which comes in Moradabad Lok Sabha. Sarvesh Kumar was also in the news during the loudspeaker controversy in Kanth assembly constituency in 2014

Bihar schoolteachers upset over vigilance to boycott...

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The education department, through district education officers, has asked teachers to stay away from any association and not to post their non academic views or concerns. And not very long ago until the JDU alliance partners BJP too launched its attack targeting K.K. Pathak for his autocratic behaviour soon after the new NDA regime took over. The senior IAS officer KK Pathak is known for several controversies. He has become a flashpoint now between the two allies, as well as the opposition RJD, over a video that went viral last month which he purportedly uses foul language against teachers and state service officers. Nitish defended Pathak by saying that "he is an honest officer and there is no question of removing him from his post".

Vinesh secures Paris...

From Page 1
Twice Laura went for left-leg attacks but Vinesh scored on counter and led 4-0 by the end of the first period. This was the first time Vinesh was pushed to the second period in this tournament. Once Vinesh got hold of Laura, she had no problem in employing consecutive gut wrench moves to finish the bout. Vinesh was competing in the 50kg category after winning the selection trials. The finalists at this competition are being awarded quota places for the 2024 Summer Olympics. India can secure three more quotas through Anshu Malik (57kg), Mansi Ahlawat (62kg) and Reetika (76kg) as they have also reached the semifinals in their respective categories. The 2021 World Championship silver medalist Anshu had no problem while putting it across Kyrgyzstan's Kalmira Bilimbekova in the quarterfinal, winning by technical superiority. The U23 world champion Reetika did not have to break much sweat in outclassing Eunju Hwang. She won the first round by technical superiority as the Korean had no answer to

Reetika's class and got a similar win under her belt against Mongolia's Davaanasan Enkh Amar. In the final group bout against China's Juang Wang, Reetika raced to a 8-0 lead but the Chinese fought back and logged six straight points. She effected another move at the dying moments but much to the relief of the Indian camp, that point was not awarded because it came at the end of the stipulated time. Mansi also made it to last-four as she needed to win just one bout. Up against Kazakhstan's Irina Kuznetsova, she emerged a 6-4 winner. The only Indian wrestler who could not reach semifinals was Nisha Dahiya (68kg). Nisha had to work hard for her opening win against Sol Gum Pak from North Korea. The Indian had raced to a 5-0 lead and maintained that till the first period, but the Korean put the pressure back on her rival with a strong resistance. Immediately at the start of the second period, Pak successfully got a take-down move to get on to the scoreboard. However, Nisha kept pushing Pak out to extend her lead and eventually won 8-3.

Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months...

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Further, vegetables like potato and arbi, fatty food like ghee, egg-yolk, butter and full cream milk and salt on table are strictly prohibited. Kejriwal is only allowed to consume 20 ml of oil per day in his food. Notably, Tihar jail administration had written to AIIMS that Kejriwal has been consuming high sugar food like sweets, laddoos, bananas, mangoes, fruit chaat, fried food, namkeen, bhujia, sweetened tea, poori-aloo, pickles and other high cholesterol food on a regular basis, and accordingly sought a diet plan for Kejriwal. Tihar jail has also said that as per a Government circular, no referral can be made to any private hospital, as demanded by the national general convener of AAP. In its detailed report to Saxena, the prison administration states that there is adequate availability of insulin in the dispensary of Tihar jail and the same could be administered / provided to Kejriwal as and when required during his treatment.

Low voter turnout in phase 1 alarms...

From Page 1
Rajasthan recorded 57.65 per cent voting in 12 Parliamentary constituencies here. The highest voter turnout of 66.59 per cent was recorded in the Ganganagar Lok Sabha seat while Jhunjhunu saw the lowest turnout of 52.93 per cent, it said. Jaipur recorded a poll percentage of 63.38 per cent. The voting percentage in Bikaner was 54.11 per cent, Churu 63.615, Sikar 57.53, Jaipur Rural 56.70, Alwar 60.07 per cent Dausa 55.72, Bharatpur 52.80 per cent and Nagaur 57.23 per cent. Similarly, Bihar witnessed 48.88 per cent voting. The data showed that 51.56 per cent voters have exercised

their franchise in cent) and Salem (78.13 per cent). The constituencies in Chennai saw the lowest voter turnout with Chennai Central at 53.91 per cent, followed by Chennai South with 54.27 per cent. Thoothukudi saw a voter turnout of 59.96 per cent. The overall voter turnout has been the lowest in the state for Lok Sabha polls since 2009. In 2009, the overall voter turnout was 73.02 per cent, 73.74 per cent in 2014, and 72.47 per cent in 2019. Several voters across the constituencies in Chennai discovered that their names had been deleted from the electoral roll and could not cast their votes.

New criminal laws signify watershed moment...

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Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta were also present at the conference. The new laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act — to completely overhaul the country's criminal justice system will come into effect from July 1. However, the provision related to cases of hit-and-run by vehicle drivers would not be implemented immediately. The three laws got

Parliament's approval on December 21 last year and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25. Referring to 248th Report of the Standing Committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Bharatiya Sakshya Samhita, the CJI said Indian criminal justice system has struggled to keep pace with the profound technological changes our socio-economic milieu that have radically reimagined the way in which crimes manifest in the society. "The growing scope of technology and new age crime which use the digital

landscape to create networks of collaborative units to commit crimes cannot be pinned to an investigative situs. This has presented challenges in investigation of crimes, admission of evidence and prosecution as well as justice delivery," he said. CJI Chandrachud said the new laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into the new age and have introduced much needed improvements to protect victim interests and carry out the investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently.

"The BNSS encompasses a holistic approach to deal with crimes in the digital age. It prescribes audio visual recording of search and seizures and the presence of a forensic expert at the crime scene for offences punishable with more than seven years imprisonment. "The audio-visual recording of search and seizures is an important tool for the prosecution as well as for protecting the civil liberties of citizens. The judicial scrutiny would safeguard the rights of citizens against procedural impropriety during search and seizures," he said.

CJI Chandrachud said we must continuously introspect and protect the privacy of the accused as well as the victim when dealing with digitisation of proceedings and creating digital evidence. "In the digital age, the data and sensitive information of person's has gained paramount importance. This data can allow us to gain unparalleled efficiency and ease. However, the power which comes with personal data puts a corresponding duty to make systems which are immune to penetration and leakage of the data," he said. On the challenges of data

leak in courts, the CJI said the safety of a person, the stigma attached to an accused, the threat perception of a witness will be compromised if the privacy of the stakeholders is not protected. "We must inspire public confidence in securing the privacy of our citizens to gain an overall efficiency and trust in the criminal justice system. Technology holds the key to a futuristic court system," he said. While the new criminal laws create provisions which are synchronised to our times, the CJI said we must also ensure that the infrastructure

accompanying these procedures are developed adequately for the country to reap the benefits of the new laws. "This naturally means that we must heavily invest in capacity building of our forensic experts, conduct training of investigating officers, and invest in our court system. Key provisions of the new criminal law would only produce a positive impact if these investments are made as soon as possible," he said. CJI Chandrachud said our attention must be focused on improving investigations by allowing for multi-

disciplinary investigating teams with law enforcement officers, and domain experts in the field of cyber-crime, and pattern recognition. "I expect that with the implementation of the new criminal laws, we will discover loopholes and areas which need to be addressed. Such debates would be helpful in enhancing the efficiency of our criminal justice systems. However, the ideological framework at the heart of our analysis must be justice oriented with a civil liberty centric approach which balances the interests of the victim and the accused," he said.

AAP slams withholding of insulin from Kejriwal in jail

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj criticised the BJP and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for withholding insulin from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, claiming that a slow demise is being orchestrated against the AAP chief. This comes amid the report submitted by the Tihar authorities to the LG claiming that Kejriwal himself has said that he has not been taking insulin dosages since a few months on the advice of a Telangana doctor.

being denied by the jail administration. The remark comes a day after a Delhi court reserved its order on AAP's plea demanding insulin and Kejriwal's doctor's consultation inside the prison. Stating that the refusal to provide insulin raises serious questions, Bhardwaj questioned whether the authorities are prepared to handle any potential health crisis that may arise to Kejriwal. "As Arvind Kejriwal's health hangs in the balance, the refusal to grant basic medical care stands in stark contrast to the Kejriwal administration's efforts in providing healthcare access to the people of Delhi," he said.

"I want to say with full responsibility that a conspiracy is underway for the slow death of Kejriwal," Bhardwaj claimed

citing blood sugar readings of the Chief Minister in jail. He also slammed the Tihar administration, BJP, Centre and Delhi LG for allegedly denying insulin to Kejriwal and said the Delhi Chief Minister had been suffering from diabetes for the last 20-22 years. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said that the detailed report issued by the doctors and administration of Tihar Jail on the health of Kejriwal, his sugar levels, the number of sugar patients in Tihar, and the availability of sugar medications including insulin in jail has dispelled the false campaign by the AAP that its chief is not getting sugar medicines in jail.

"The medical report of the jail doctors has clarified that



that it would be better for the party to stop false and misleading politics regarding Kejriwal's health. Bhardwaj said, "As a health minister, I'm saying that in Mohalla Clinics, dispensaries, and hospitals, elders come to get the most sugar medication, they take medicines for the

entire month. Once a person is on insulin, the effect of oral medication doesn't work, only insulin can control it." Claiming that there is conspiracy to kill Kejriwal in jail, Bhardwaj, who holds the portfolio of health in Delhi government, said, "Overall, it was a conspiracy to finish Kejriwal so his multiple organ damage and when he comes out of jail after two to four months he goes for treatment of kidney, heart and other organs," said He claimed that despite rising sugar levels, the jail administration is saying it's a lie and are referring to doctors who claim everything is fine. "He has been repeatedly telling the doctors and the jail authorities that his sugar level is increasing and hence needs insulin. They're saying they

won't give him insulin. Now, when it has come to the point that the doctor, and jail authorities are not willing to provide insulin, an elected Chief Minister is having to file a petition in court, stating that his insulin level has been continuously increasing for the past 15 days," Bhardwaj alleged. Questioning the jail authorities, he said, "Why is he not being given insulin? Irrational arguments are being given on this. News is being planted by the jail administration, central government, and LG, regarding the same," he shared. Senior AAP leaders said, "CM Arvind Kejriwal was administered 28 units of Novorapid (before three meals) and 22 units of Lanctus (in the night). A total of 50 units of insulin was being administered to

him every day. From February 1 onwards, under careful medical supervision, CM started on 'Insulin Reversal Programme' and the administration of insulin was discontinued and replaced by oral medication. However, the same required careful and close medical supervision," Further, the AAP party said, "CM Arvind Kejriwal was following the said program till the date of his arrest March 21 after which he was incapacitated and was unable to follow the said Insulin Reversal Programme. Hence, CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is a severe Type-II Insulin dependent diabetic, has to be restored to administration of insulin to manage his sugar levels," amid the report by jail authorities that state otherwise.

AAP leaders playing sympathy card on Kejriwal diet, claims BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi BJP candidate Sand the Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders accusing them of playing sympathy card regarding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's diet, who is lodged in Tihar jail since April 1 in the alleged excise policy linked money laundering case, and questioning their faith on the courts on Saturday. The BJP leader alleged that AAP leaders are holding press conferences on the Kejriwal's diet controversy and trying to influence the court order. Bidhuri questioned whether the AAP has faith in the courts or not. He said, "AAP leaders whether they do not have faith in the courts or do they have an unconstitutional intention to influence the courts by making wild allegations?" Bidhuri said that the way the party leaders have unsuccessfully tried to play the sympathy card regarding Kejriwal's diet, shows to what extent they can lie. Adding to the ongoing debate about Kejriwal's con-



dition in jail, Bidhuri said "Kejriwal has requested the court regarding insulin and after hearing all the arguments, the court has reserved the decision on Friday. The court will give its verdict on Monday but the leaders of AAP do not even trust the courts and instead of giving arguments in the courts, they are trying to create a sensation by holding a press conference and are thinking that the courts can also be influenced by this. This will not happen." Bidhuri said that while the matter was heard in the court on Friday, on the same day AAP MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi Minister Atishi alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to murder Kejriwal in Tihar Jail. "The surprising thing is that Tihar Jail comes under the Delhi government and these leaders are putting

their own government in the dock," he said. Further he lashed out on senior AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj for saying that CM was not getting insulin and made a serious allegation of a conspiracy for Kejriwal's slow death. He said that Bhardwaj doesn't even have the patience to wait for the Rouse Avenue Court's order. "These leaders do not even have the patience to wait for the court's decision till Monday. In this way, on one hand they are expressing their distrust in the courts and on the other hand they are trying to create a wrong impression among the public," he said. He accused them of playing the sympathy card. "These leaders think that in this way they will create sympathy among the public towards Kejriwal but their tactics will not have any impact on the public. Kejriwal is lodged in Tihar like other prisoners arrested on corruption charges. He wants to get VIP status in jail and by breaking the rules, he should get facilities like a house, then this is not possible," Bidhuri claimed, adding that the public has no sympathy towards Kejriwal.

Congress announces support for AAP candidates in Mayoral polls

ABHI SINGHAL ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday announced that party councillors will support AAP candidates in the Mayoral elections of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on April 26. The Congress said that this support is also due to the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who is in jail in the alleged excise policy linked money laundering case. Former MLA and the chairman of the Delhi Congress Committee's communications department Anil Bhardwaj said senior leaders held a meeting during which it was decided that the party would support AAP candidates in the polls. "Even though AAP and Congress have a pre-poll alliance through the INDIA bloc, which is together fighting and campaigning to protect the democracy of this country, this support to AAP for Mayoral elections is a separate thing," he said. The announcement to this effect was jointly made by the communication department chairman of the Delhi Congress and former MLA Anil Bhardwaj, the party's



MCD in-charge Jitendra Kumar Kochhar and its leader in the MCD House, Nazia Danish, at the press conference held at Rajiv Bhawan. AAP has fielded Mahesh Khichi for the post of mayor and Ravinder Bhardwaj for deputy mayor for the MCD mayoral elections. Khichi (45), who represents Dev Nagar ward number 84 in the MCD House, has been associated with the AAP since its inception in 2012. He was also a part of the 2011 India Against Corruption (IAC) movement that led to the birth of the Arvind Kejriwal-led party. Opposition BJP has fielded Kishan Lal for the post of mayor and Neeta Bisht for the deputy mayor's post.

The AAP on Saturday welcomed the decision of the Congress to support its candidates in the upcoming Delhi mayoral polls. Addressing a press conference after Congress decision, senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and the party's Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in-charge Durgesh Pathak expressed confidence that the AAP-Congress alliance will win the April 26 polls by a huge margin. "We welcome this move (of the Congress). Together, we will fight against dictatorship and a corrupt government. The AAP and the Congress will together contest the MCD election and win the polls by a huge margin," Pathak said.

Sukesh makes fresh claims on excise policy scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar has yet again made startling claims in the alleged excise policy linked money laundering in his missive to the Home Minister Amit Shah by attaching screenshots of Whatsapp Chats implicating BRS leader K. Kavitha, AAP leader Satyender Jain and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in regards to cash transactions. The letter dated April 15 by Sukesh, who is accused in a Rs 200 crore cheating case involving the wife of a former Fortis Healthcare promoter, stated, "This is an urgent application seeking your (Home Minister Amit Shah) intervention in regards to ongoing investigation in the Delhi Excise Policy Case, against Arvind Kejriwal and K. Kavitha." He alleges that the screenshot attached by him proves full involvement of AAP supremo, who is lodged in Tihar jail since April 1, and other leaders in the now scrapped excise policy scam. "Sir I am hereby attaching a few screenshots of Whatsapp Chats between me,



K. Kavitha and Satyender Jain and Arvind Kejriwal. The said chats are in regards to a few cash transactions which were collected by my staff in Hyderabad from K. Kavitha on the instructions of Satyender Jain and Arvind Kejriwal and the same cash was transferred by me to Delhi and Goa," he said. In the chats, the amount is coded as "Ghee Tin" each tin is equal to 1 crore rupees, he claimed. "The whatsapp chats attached also confirm the full involvement of K. Kavitha, Satyender Jain and Arvind Kejriwal prima facie. The cash was collected from the BRS office in Hyderabad by my persons on the instructions of K. Kavitha, the chats confirm the same," he said. The chats, attached in the letter, mentions 15kgs of ghee tin ready for delivery.

Police issue traffic advisory for Lord Mahavir Nirvana Mahotsav

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has issued an advisory on traffic restrictions and diversions for Sunday's Lord Mahavir Nirvana Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam. According to the traffic advisory, a programme to commemorate the 2,550th anniversary of Lord Mahavir's nirvana will be held at Bharat Mandapam from 10 am on Sunday. The event is being organised by the Jain community in association with the Union Ministry of Culture. A large gathering is expected that may affect traffic on the roads surrounding Bharat Mandapam, it stated. To ensure smooth traffic management in the vicinity of Pragati Maidan, the traffic police stated that no vehicle will be allowed to halt or park on Mathura Road and Bhairon Marg, general entry for the public will not be allowed, and vehicles found parked on these roads will be towed away and will be prosecuted as per law. The towed vehicles will be parked at the Traffic

Pit in front of Bhairon Mandir, Bhairon Marg. The advisory also mentioned the diversion points as and when needed. It stated that the traffic will be diverted from the Purana Quila Road-Mathura Road crossing, Shershah Road-Mathura Road crossing, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg-Subramanian Bharti Marg crossing, Pandara Road-Subramanian Bharti Marg crossing and the Q-Point. The police have also requested commuters to avoid Bhairon Marg, Purana Quila Road and Mathura Road from the W-Point to the Bhairon Road crossing. "Commuters are requested to cooperate by avoiding/bypassing the above-mentioned roads, if possible, and make maximum use of public transport to ensure safety. We appreciate your understanding and your cooperation towards alleviation of traffic congestion during the above mentioned period," the advisory said, adding that people going towards ISBTs or railway stations or the airport are advised to carefully plan their travel with sufficient time in hand.

BJP to hold mega influencers meet to woo voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP will hold a mega influencers' meet next week in the national capital in a bid to woo voters and increase the ambit of their voter outreach through social media ahead of the Lok Sabha elections on Saturday. Realising the power that social media holds, the BJP's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said, "Social media is a very potent tool to send across any message and there are a large number of users on platforms such as X, Facebook and WhatsApp, among others, that need to be reached." "The influencers' meet will help us bring those supporting us together for coordinated, organised publicity and campaigning on different social media platforms," he said. The meeting is expected to be



attended by 1,000 influencers, he said. Social media influencers are people from various fields who actively use the various platforms to express their views and opinions and have a large number of followers.

The party aims to bring together social media influencers who are in alignment with the BJP's ideologies and propagate their policies and programmes. These social media celebrity, who are not associated to the saffron party

per se, will help reach the party a wider voter base helping the party in turn to take forward the beneficial schemes and achievements of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP government ahead of the general election 2024 to be held in Delhi on May 25. Several senior BJP leaders are likely to attend the meeting, said another leader. Such events are crucial before the elections and a similar meet was held before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, he added. Delhi's seven Lok Sabha seats will go to the polls in the sixth phase on May 25. The BJP won all the seven seats in the 2014 and the 2019 elections. Barring two time MP Manoj Tiwari, all the faces are new. The saffron party has fielded Bansuri Swaraj from New Delhi, Manoj Tiwari from East Delhi, Praveen

Khandelwal from Chandni Chowk, Kamaljeet Sehrawat from West Delhi, Ramvir Bidhuri from South Delhi, Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi and harsh Malhotra from North East Delhi seat. AAP and the Congress -- both constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc -- are contesting the general elections in an alliance in the national capital this time. The Congress has fielded candidates in the North East Delhi, North West Delhi and the Chandni Chowk seats while AAP is contesting from East Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi. Congress has announced its candidate from three seats- JP Agarwal from Chandni Chowk, Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi and Udit Raj from North West Delhi.

Minor siblings found dead, mother injured in East Delhi home

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A nine-year-old girl and her teenage brother were found dead on Saturday while their mother was found injured in their house in East Delhi. According to the Delhi police on Saturday, the father of the children is "missing". According to police, they received a call at 2 pm about Shyam, aged 42 years old, a resident of Pandav Nagar's Shashi Garden in East Delhi, who is missing and whose house had been locked since Friday. Acting upon the PCR call, a police team immediately reached the spot and found the house locked from the outside. The police upon entering the locked house found the siblings, a 15-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl, dead. The mother of the two children was



lying unconscious in a room, a police officer said. The victims were rushed to a hospital. The doctors declared the two children dead on arrival and their mother is undergoing treatment, the police officials said. It is suspected that Shyam is the accused in the case. Police officials suspect that he killed his children, attacked his wife and fled from the spot. Police teams have been made to nab Shyam, another police officer said.

Special court in Delhi reserves judgement on Sisodia bail plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A special court here on Saturday reserved its order on the bail pleas of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases, lodged by the CBI and the ED in the alleged Delhi excise policy case. Sisodia has sought bail in both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases filed against him. Special judge for CBI and ED, Kaveri Baweja, reserved the order for April 30 after hearing arguments from the central probe agencies as well as the counsel appearing for Sisodia. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader had also moved interim bail pleas in both cases to campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. However, Sisodia's counsel told the court that the plea has become



infructuous as the regular bail plea is being reserved. Public Prosecutor Pankaj Gupta appeared for CBI today and argued that Sisodia does not satisfy the triple test for bail. Gupta said that Sisodia is an influential politician and it was on his instance that the other co-accused committed the offence. The CBI as well as the ED have alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the Delhi Excise Policy, undue favours were extended to

licence holders, licence fee was waived or reduced and licences were extended without the competent authority's approval. The beneficiaries allegedly diverted "illegal" gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of account to evade detection, the probe agencies have alleged. Sisodia was earlier denied bail by the Supreme Court on October 30, 2023. At the time, however, the apex court had said he could file a fresh bail plea if the trial proceeded at a snail's pace. Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26, 2023, for his alleged role in the "scam". The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested the former deputy chief minister in a money-laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9, 2023.

MCD takes action against illegal rooftop trades on city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has taken action against illegal rooftop trades endangering public safety and sealed three cafes and restaurants. Giving details on Saturday, officials said the three premises which were sealed include M/s Moon Mist Cafe, M/s Toma Tina Cafe and M/s Tambula by BUHU operating illegally on the rooftop/terrace of buildings in Naraina Industrial Area, Phase 1 in Karol Bagh Zone. The restaurants were operating without necessary health trade license and fire clearance, posing a significant risk to the safety and well-being of guests and patrons, they said. The unauthorized trades were swiftly identified and addressed



by authorities, underscoring the importance of adherence to regulatory requirements. The absence of proper licenses and safety clearances not only violates established norms but also compromises the safety of individuals who frequent these establishments. By sealing these illegal cafes/

restaurants, MCD has prioritized public safety and reaffirmed their commitment to upholding standards of compliance. It serves as a stern reminder to all businesses and establishments that adherence to licensing regulations and safety protocols is non-negotiable.

Voting foremost duty of citizens in democracy: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has urged citizens not to miss the opportunity to vote in the general elections...



Justice Chandrachud said the citizens have a participatory role in electing the government and that is why it is said that 'this government is a government of the people, by the people and for the people'.

Musk defers India visit over Tesla obligations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Tesla chief Elon Musk has postponed his two-day visit to India later this month wherein he was reportedly scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



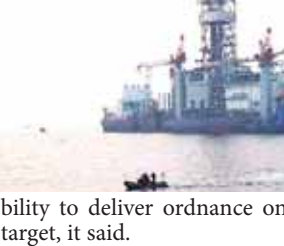
investment of \$2-3 billion to build a factory for entry-level cars amid the long-awaited Tesla Inc's entry into the Indian market.

Prime Minister Modi has met Elon Musk twice before -- during a Tesla plant visit in 2015 and during his state visit to the US in 2023.

Indian Navy holds extensive exercise to check preparedness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy carried out an extensive exercise along the East Coast as part of efforts to check its preparedness to meet any maritime security challenges...



ability to deliver ordnance on target, it said. 'With operation of aircraft from diverse locations, a near continuous maritime domain awareness was maintained throughout the Area of operations,' the Navy said in a statement.

Priyanka close aide Bittu joins BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Hours after quitting from the Congress party, Tajinder Singh Bittu a close aide of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday joined the BJP at party headquarters in the national capital.



to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge. He wrote in the letter, 'I hereby tender my resignation from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress and from my post AICC, secretary Co-In-Charge of Himachal Pradesh, effective immediately.'

letter and said, 'With heavy heart, after 35 years, I resign from the Congress party.'

MP. Karamjeet Kaur whose husband Santokh Singh Chaudhary died during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra last year, accused the Congress of disrespecting his legacy.

from the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency. At a press conference, Tawde said their induction into the BJP will boost the party, especially in Punjab where the polls are scheduled for June 1.

Congress prioritising vote bank over protection of women: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of misleading people over the murder of a girl on a college campus, alleging that it has prioritised the protection of its 'vote bank' over the protection of women.



ing it as a love affair and attempting to mislead the public. The Congress government should punish criminals severely, regardless of the religion, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Reema Sharma & Harbans Kaur claims to be owner and in possession of Flat No. 1264 on GF, Block C, in Mulberry Homes, Esencia, Sec 67, Gurgaon, Haryana (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Certificate executed by Onix Leasing & Financial Services India Ltd Doc. No. 1569, dated 28.04.2023 & said Reema Sharma & Harbans Kaur has agreed to sell the said property to Shashank Swarnkar & Meena Saraf & Said Shashank Swarnkar & Meena Saraf has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients. IDFC First Bank Ltd, ITO Branch, New Delhi/All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concerned that my client Sh. Manjey Ram Teotia S/o Late Sh. Budh Singh aged 76 yrs. R/o B-4/1204, Olive County, Sector-5, Vansundhra, Ghaziabad, UP, and also at A-20, Gali No. 4, Hardev Puri, Delhi -110094 have debarred and disowned his wife Smt. Sheela Devi, son Gaurav Teotia, H.No. 905, Sector -5, Vasundhara, UP and His wife Smt. Neha Rana living separately with her son and three married daughters of my client namely Bindu R/o Dabhadra, Indu H.No. 123, Sector 10 B, Vasundhara UP and Preet Tower B-6, Flat No. 15, Gardenia Glory, Sector-46, Noida from his all movable and immovable properties and severed all kind of relations with them due to their complete disobedience, disrespect, Mal-treatment, humiliation and Cruel behavior and undesirable activities even out of control towards my client, they reside Separately, they used to subjecting mentally and physically tortured and falsely accusing to my client (Sick) person.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday claimed that Congress-SP combine was wiped out in the first phase of polling as he took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, calling them 'princes'.

Congress, SP combine wiped out in first phase of LS polls: Shah in UP rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

hand, there is Narendra Modi, who despite being a chief minister for 23 years, is not guilty of corruption of even a penny.'

Ayodhya." 'Modi ji abolished Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and linked Kashmir with India forever,' he added. The BJP leader also attacked the UPA-I and II, saying the alliance's tenure was marred with frequent terror attacks.

Current plastic production threatens 1.5 degrees global warming limit: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

If the current rate of plastic production continues, it could use up the global carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by as early as 2060 or no later than 2083, according to a study.



Forestry). In contrast, the global aviation sector produced 0.6 GtCO2e in 2019, while the entire global transport sector, including aviation, produced 8.3 GtCO2e.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME I, Jyoti Mitra S/o Raghuvansh, R/o Alankanda, Delhi have changed my name from Jyoti Mitra to Jyotimitra Raghuvansh for all future purposes.

PD(373)A I, Kamlesh, W/o Ravindar Kumar, R/o Village Dhani Dabarvas, PO Dabarvas, Tehsil Behror, District Kotputli Behror, Rajasthan, changed my name from Kamlesh to Kamlesh Devi, for future. Both names Kamlesh and Kamlesh Devi pertain to one and the same person.

PD(376)A LOST & FOUND My original Builder Buyer Agreement of House No - ES-077, Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurgaon, has been lost at my shifting to Delhi Avarjit Singh Birghi S/o Sh. Surjit Singh Birghi M:+91 9999616000.

Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, 3 months ended 31.03.2024, Year ended 31.03.2024, 3 months ended 31.03.2023. Includes financial data for Sybyl Industries Limited.

SYBYL INDUSTRIES LIMITED REGD. OFF. : PAWAN PURI, MURADNAGAR, DISTT. GHAZIABAD (U.P.) CIN: L17111UP1988PLC009584 Phone: 01232-261521, Web: sybyl.com, Email: sybyl@rediffmail.com

Earlier in the day in an election meeting in Meerut, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav claimed that the atmosphere had changed in the state and that people had rejected the BJP after the first day of polling.

Centre aims to make India attractive destination for manufacturing, services: Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the Centre has tailored policies to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing and services, and the aim was to produce not just for the domestic market but for exports as well. She was responding to a query on American tech billionaire Elon Musk postponing his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Policies have been made to attract investments. We want manufacturers and investors to come and produce not just for India but also for exports. We will try to attract manufacturers and investors through policies," she told reporters. Tesla CEO Musk on Saturday said his visit to India has been delayed due to the company's heavy obligations.

"When big companies show interest to come to India, we will do everything to make it attractive for them to come and invest. In that process, if there is anything to discuss, we will certainly discuss. But whatever we have done, we have done it through policy," Sitharaman added. Asserting the Union government's approach has helped especially after China plus one started being a concern for many industry experts, she said policies have been tailored in such a way so as to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing and services. Speaking about inflation, she said it never crossed the tolerance band, except for one month, under the Narendra Modi government, whereas before that (pre-2014) the economy was in a bad shape and inflation was in double digits. "At that time (pre 2014) nobody had any expectations from the country. After much hard work, we have emerged as the world's fifth largest economy and are confidently saying we will be third in the next two to two-and-half years," the Union minister said. On employment, Sitharaman said there was lack of complete data from both the formal and informal



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interaction with Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCC) members, in Ahmedabad

sectors, but asserted initiatives of the Centre have ensured jobs to lakhs.

"The data is inadequate. I am not saying this pride but while accepting its weakness.

All I can say regarding employment is that the money given to people and

startups through different schemes...People in crores have availed support. Between October 2022 and November 2023, through the Rozgar Mela, Modi has given government jobs to 10 lakh people," she said. When asked about the rule that requires larger companies to pay Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within 45 days of receiving goods or services, Sitharaman said the law has been in existence since 2007-08 and is not new. "Later MSMEs themselves came and said the 45-day payment is not happening within that financial year. But within that financial year, this amount is shown as expenditure and to that extent tax is not being paid. All that we have done through the Finance Act that was passed in Parliament on February 1, 2023," she said. "We just said tax treatment remains the same. Make a

claim in the year you pay to the MSMEs. How can you claim when you have not made payment?" she asked. Queried about the Indian rupee weakening against the US dollar, she said the fluctuation was due to global uncertainty, wars as well as uncertainty in supply of crude oil from the Middle East. Earlier, addressing industry leaders from Gujarat on 'Viksit Bharat -2047', she said 28 per cent of total capital under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has come to the state, which has shown remarkable alertness in the last 10-12 years. So semiconductor manufacturing for India comes first in Gujarat, which has a policy as well as government and ecosystem ready for manufacturing for Viksit Bharat 2047, she said. "The IFSC at GIFT City in Gandhinagar is a big gateway for services to grow in Gujarat. A world-class financial services centre very close to Ahmedabad is just the key for India to reach that kind of global market for attracting more investment and more financial operations," Sitharaman said. She also said Gujarat was in third position in attracting FDI in manufacturing.



HDFC Bank Q4 net profit grows to ₹17,622 crore

PTI ■ MUMBAI

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 2.11 per cent growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 17,622.38 crore for the March 2024 quarter against Rs 17,257.87 crore in the preceding December quarter. On a standalone basis, the country's largest private sector lender reported a net profit of Rs 16,511.85 crore compared to Rs 16,372.54 crore in the December quarter. In July 2023, the bank merged its home loan-focused parent HDFC into itself. Its core net interest income grew to Rs 29,080 crore for the reporting quarter, while the other income grew to Rs 18,170 crore. The lender has reported its core net interest margin of 3.44 per cent on total assets. The gross non-performing assets ratio came at 1.24 per cent.

India growing when world is in stress: CII president designate

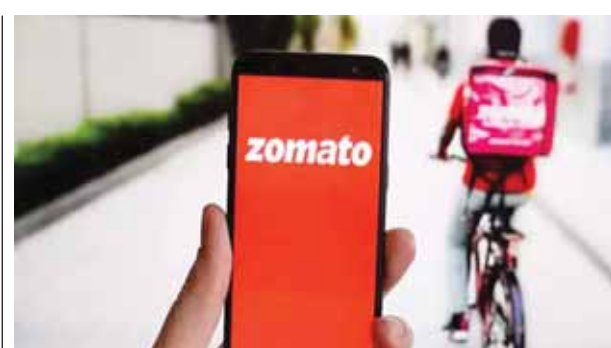
PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sanjiv Puri, president-designate of leading industry body CII, said that India is growing when the world is going through a phase of stress. Speaking at an event here on Friday night, Puri, also the chairman and managing director of ITC Limited, said that the present juncture is an interesting moment. "CII has a rich legacy built over

decades. We will certainly be looking forward to contributing to the growth of the economy and industry", Puri said. He said "This is also an interesting moment because this is India's moment. There has been numerous policy interventions made internally, and the global factors which give us the tailwinds. The country is growing at a time when the world is at stress."

Puri said that there are lots of opportunities in India which has a huge talent pool. "The world is looking at us so far as supply chain and digital transformation are concerned. India also has the advantage of the demographic dividend," he added. He said big opportunities lay both in services and manufacturing. "The country needs to harness these opportunities. Reforms agenda

to accelerate and enterprises need to play competitiveness", Puri said. Puri stressed the need for an inclusive and sustainable growth which is important to create livelihoods. "Industry can survive when society thrives. Decarbonisation will address the issue the climate change but will take time. Enterprises and government need to work together", he said.



Zomato gets ₹11.82 crore tax demand notice

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online food delivery platform Zomato has received a tax demand and penalty order of Rs 11.82 crore related to GST on export services provided to its subsidiaries located outside India from July 2017 to March 2021. The order was passed by the Additional Commissioner, Central Goods and Services Tax, Gurugram, raising the GST demand of Rs 5,90,94,889, with applicable interest (not quantified) and penalty of Rs 5,90,94,889. "We believe that we have a strong case on merits, and the company will be filing an appeal against the order before the appropriate authority,"

Zomato stated in a regulatory filing late evening on Friday. It informed that the demand order has been received, "confirming demand of GST on export services provided by the company to its subsidiaries located outside India during the period July 2017 to March 2021 by upholding that such services do not fulfil the conditions for the supply to qualify as export of service under GST". "The company, in its response to the show cause notice, had clarified on the allegations, along with supporting documents and judicial precedents, which appears not to have been appreciated by the authorities while passing the order," it added.

NSE IX gets SEC class relief; permits US clients to trade on equity index option contract

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) has received US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) class relief, allowing US clients to participate in trading Equity Index Option Contracts on the bourse, according to a statement. The class relief allows NSE IX members to get acquainted with equity indices at NSE IX through activities with approved broker-dealers and financial institutions in the US. Also, this class relief permits eligible broker-dealers and large financial institutions based in the US to trade on these index derivatives options contracts through NSE IX members, subject to compliance with the applicable laws, the bourse said in the statement on Friday.

Gems, jeweller exports in FY24 dip by 12.17 per cent to ₹2.65 lakh crore: GJEPC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Gems and jewellery exports declined by 12.17 per cent to Rs 2,65,187.95 crore (USD 32,022.08 million) during 2023-24, compared to the previous financial year due to high interest rates in the US and slow recovery in China, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) data showed. Gems and jewellery exports in FY23 stood at Rs 3,01,925.97 crore (USD 37,646.17 million), according to GJEPC data. "The last financial year was very challenging for all product categories. This was mainly due to slowdown in the US, India's biggest export market in the segment, due to high interest rates. Also,



slow recovery in China post Covid-19," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah told PTI. Meanwhile, the overall exports of Cut and Polished diamonds declined by 25.23 per cent during FY24 to Rs 1,32,128.29 crores (USD 15,966.47 million) compared to Rs

1,76,716.06 crores (USD 22,046.9 million) for the same period of previous year. Provisional gross export of Polished Lab Grown Diamonds dipped by 13.79 per cent Rs 11,611.25 crores (USD 1,402.3 million) in FY24 compared to Rs 13,468.32 crore (USD 1,680.22 million) of FY23. However, according to the provisional export of total gold jewellery witnessed a growth of 20.57 per cent at Rs 92,346.19 crore (USD 11,140.780 million) in FY24 against Rs 76,589.94 crore (USD 9,538.84 million) in the previous year. Provisional gross export of silver jewellery dipped by 43 per cent in FY24 at Rs 13,406.1 crores (USD 1,616.42 million) from Rs 23,556.71 crores (USD 2,939.9 million) in FY23.

India becoming a convenient hub for travel between SE Asia & Middle East

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India is slowly becoming a convenient hub for travel between Southeast Asia and the Middle East as airlines prefer to transfer people by connecting through Indian cities, a top industry official said. There is huge growth in India and many domestic routes are used by airlines for connectivity, V Sumantran, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of IndiGo Aviation Ltd (IndiGo Airlines) said here on Saturday. Delivering his address at the 65th Institute Day of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, he said that IndiGo Airlines started off as a low-cost airline in 2006 and has made the largest single order in the aviation industry by ordering 500 aircrafts in France. "India needed an airline that will provide affordable travel for many of us and the net result we can see. Even now we see India really moving forward with a lot more speed on infrastructure development. We have about 140 operating airports now and that would become 220 by 2030. We are seeing a huge increase in regional travel," Sumantran, an IIT-Madras alumni, said. IndiGo is a very young airline by global airline standards. But the entire platform of IndiGo has been affordable fares, courteous service, on-time performance, and a "very well networked" route system which India needed, he said.

FarEye launches initiative to help logistics startups in fundraising, mentoring

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Last-mile Technology platform FarEye on Saturday said it has launched an initiative, Innovation Nexus, to help startups raise funds and receive mentoring from global experts in the logistics sector. The initiative will provide a direct platform for promising logistics startups to engage with industry leaders and foster connections, the company said. FarEye co-founder and CEO Kushal Nahata said the national logistics policy launched by the government offers huge opportunities for startups. Startups are going to play a

significant role in reducing logistics costs, and in this journey, Innovation Nexus is going to be the game changer for early-stage startups from mentoring to easy fundraising, Nahata added. The initiative was unveiled at Greater Noida during "The Last Mile Leaders Event", organised on April 19 by FarEye in collaboration with Microsoft. FarEye COO and co-founder Gautam Kumar said, "The initiative is a launchpad for startups to secure transformative partnerships. It is exciting to see the surge in the adoption of AI, robotics, and embedded data analytics, all geared toward enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of logistics operations". During a day-long event, over 40 supply chain experts from more than 20 countries, representing diverse industries, including retail, logistics, postal, consumer packaged goods (CPG), and pharmaceuticals, came together to explore the transformative potential of technology in driving cost reduction in the logistics sector. During the event, the Last-

Mile Trends Report 2024 was also unveiled. The report highlights crucial factors influencing the logistics sector's strategic decisions and market dynamics, it said. Nahata also said that within the next five years, autonomous drones will handle 30 per cent of urban deliveries, reducing delivery times and costs dramatically. "With urban delivery traffic projected to increase carbon emissions by 32 per cent by 2030, prioritising sustainability is non-negotiable. The surge in electric vehicle adoption and government initiatives like the FAME scheme reflects a visible shift towards greener logistics in India," he added.

Premier Energies files IPO papers with Sebi; looks to raise ₹1,500 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Solar cell company Premier Energies Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The Hyderabad-based company's IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 2.82 crore shares by a promoter and investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) made public on Saturday. Under the OFS component, South Asia Growth Fund II Holdings LLC will divest 2.38 crore equity shares, South Asia

EBT Trust will divest 1.53 lakh equity shares, and promoter Chiranjeev Singh Saluja will sell 42 lakh equity shares. The company may consider a pre-IPO placement aggregating up to Rs 300 crore. If such placement is undertaken, the fresh issue size will be reduced. Proceeds from the fresh issue of Rs 1,168 crore will be used for investing in subsidiary Premier Energies Global Environment Private Ltd, to partially finance the establishment of a 4GW solar PV TOPCon (tunnel oxide passivated contact) cell and 4GW solar PV TOPCon module manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, and the remainder will be allocated towards general corporate purposes.

Founded in 1995, Premier Energies is an integrated solar cell and module manufacturer with a 2GW capacity for cells and 3.36GW for modules. Additionally, the company offers EPC solutions, O&M (operations & maintenance) services, and operates as an independent power producer (IPO). It has five manufacturing facilities, including in Hyderabad and Telangana. As of FY23, its revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,428 crore, and Rs 2,017 crore for the nine months ended December 31, 2023. The company had an order book of over Rs 5,300 crore as of March this year.

India role during G-20 presidency appreciated at IMF and WB meeting: Seth

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

During the annual Spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank there was a widespread appreciation of the role played by India during its G-20 presidency in building consensus on a range of key global issues, a top Indian official has said. India hosted the G20 Summit in New Delhi from September 9-10. The summit adopted a 37-page consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war and took several steps to ensure the stability of the global economy. "There is a widespread appreciation of Indian presidency of the G-20 in building consensus on several issues,

relevant for global deployment, conducted of various meetings during the presidency as well as the leaders' summit," Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary told PTI on Friday on the sidelines of the annual sprint meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Due to the ongoing Lok Sabha election, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is not attending the annual IMF and World Bank meetings. Instead, the Indian delegation this time is being represented by senior government officials, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, and the Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth. There is the recognition that India

provides practical examples of following successful development paths. "There was also an appreciation that the very effective conduct of monetary policies and responsive and responsible fiscal policies is leading to maintaining its financial stability in emerging economies, including India amid global conditions," Seth said. "There are a few ideas given on sustainable finance about how the financing for climate action should be happening," he said in response to a question. On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings, the second meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the Brazilian



Presidency was held on April 17-18. The two sessions discussed the topics of reimagining finance for a just transition and climate goals and international financial architecture for the 21st century. During the first session, the RBI Governor shared India's experience such as the issuance of sovereign green bonds for about USD4 billion and the introduction of a framework for regulated entities to accept green deposits. On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings, the Economic Affairs Secretary also had bilateral meetings with counterparts from the US, the UK, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Brazil, and South Africa as well as the Chair of Financial Stability. Speaking in the session on reforming

the international financial architecture, the RBI Governor underscored the need for sound macroeconomic fundamentals for managing volatility in capital flows. He emphasised the need for central banks to remain focused on ensuring price and financial stability. Seth appreciated the Brazilian Presidency for developing the 2024 MDB agenda based on the 2-volume report of the G20 Independent Expert Group on Strengthening MDBs that was prepared under the Indian Presidency of the G20. He also emphasised the need for MDBs to work together as a system as well as explore options to enhance the use of risk mitigation instruments.

Verstappen wins again, takes first Formula 1 sprint race of the season

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Max Verstappen, continuing his dominance in Formula 1, took Saturday's first sprint race of the season - the prelude to the full-blown Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday.

Verstappen passed Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes on the ninth of 19 laps and stretched out his lead to win by 13 seconds ahead of Hamilton. Sergio Perez of Red Bull was third and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was fourth.

"The first few laps were quite hectic," Verstappen said. "Once I got in the lead the car was handling pretty well."

It was his eighth victory in an F1 sprint. Red Bull's Verstappen is the three-time defending F1 champion and is almost unbeatable in any format.

He now has 85 points to lead the overall season standings. Perez is second with 70 followed by Leclerc with 64 and Carlos Sainz of Ferrari with 59.

Second place was like a consolation victory for Hamilton. The seven-time champion has not been a factor the last several seasons. His last GP win was in 2021 in Saudi Arabia in the second-last race of the season.

"I forgot what he felt like to be out ahead," Hamilton said. "It felt good for the short while that I had it. I was grateful for the moment."

Verstappen will be the favourite to win Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix, the fifth race of the season. Verstappen has won three of the first four GP races and 22 of the last 26. Lando Norris of McLaren and Hamilton of Mercedes started on the front row with Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin and Verstappen on the second row.

The sprint - F1 will run six this season - is about one-third the distance of a full race. The winner gets eight points with seven for second, six for third and so forth.

Saturday's race was run on a dry track, unlike the wet and slippery qualifying session on Friday.

Verstappen likened the sprint



qualifying on Friday to "driving on ice." Verstappen was among several drivers who ran off the track in a chaotic, wet session exacerbated by the track, itself. The track is the great unknown going into Sunday's race. This is the first Formula 1 race in China in five years. The circuit has had a thin "seal coating" applied, described as liquid asphalt. F1 tyre supplier Pirelli said it was not fully aware of the changes heading into the race.

Two small grass fires broke out on the edge of the track in Friday practice.

Olympic torch makes Acropolis overnight stop a week before handover to Paris organisers

Athens, Apr 20 (AP) The flame that will burn at the Olympics is spending the night at the ancient Acropolis in Athens, a week before its handover to Paris 2024 organisers.

During a lull in heavy rain on late Friday, a torchbearer lit a cauldron in front of the 2,500-year-old Parthenon temple, on the citadel that dominates the Athens skyline and is Greece's top tourist draw.

The flame will stay there until Saturday morning, when the champagne-colored torch travels to Delphi, an important ancient Greek religious center, before reaching the town of Volos in central Greece.

Ceremoniously lit on Tuesday at the ruined birthplace of the ancient Games, Olympia in southern Greece, the flame is being carried around Greece by a string of torchbearers. Parts of the relay are being made by ferry or plane.

The flame will be delivered to French officials next Friday at the renovated ancient marble stadium where the first modern games were held in 1896. At Athens' port of Piraeus it will board the Belem, a French three-masted sailing ship - built in 1896 - to be transported to France.

The flame is due to reach the southern French port city of Marseille on May 8, and will travel through France in the buildup to the July 26 opening ceremony in Paris.



Juventus rescues late point in draw with Cagliari in Serie A

AP ■ GENOA (ITALY)

Cagliari scored two first-half penalties but gave up a late own goal for Juventus to draw 2-2 in a thrilling Serie A game.

Gianluca Gaetano opened the scoring for the home side after half an hour and Yerry Mina got a second with an almost identical spot kick six minutes later.

Juventus had a first-half goal from Dušan Vlahovic disallowed after a video review but the Serbian forward got one back in the 61st minute with a swerving free kick.

Just when it looked like Cagliari would get the win and distance itself from the relegation zone, Alberto Dossena put the ball into his own net with three minutes left.

Juventus was five points behind second-placed AC Milan and 19 behind champion-elect Inter Milan. Juve has won only one of its last seven league games.

Cagliari was five points above the relegation zone but still in a dogfight.

Only six points separated Sassuolo in 19th place and Lecce in 13th.

With Salernitana almost certainly going down, two others will join it.

A second-half goal from Luis Alberto gave Lazio a 1-0 win at Genoa and moved the capital club into sixth and within touching distance of a Champions League spot.

The result snapped Genoa's four-game unbeaten run and was another good result for a visitor which has won four of its last five league games.

Lazio was one place and one point ahead of Atalanta, which has two games in hand.

The top five teams in Serie A are guaranteed a place in next year's expanded 36-team Champions League. Sixth spot could be enough if Roma or Atalanta win the Europa League.

Seeking to curb player agent fees, FIFA's Infantino calls on lawmakers for help and targets England

AP ■ ZURICH

FIFA has called on lawmakers to help control payments to player agents in the multi-billion dollar soccer transfer market, and targeted the world's richest league in England.

English clubs paid 500 million euros (USD 530 million) in fees to agents in the year to February, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Friday, while paying just 6 per cent of that amount - 30 million euros (USD 32 million) - to foreign clubs "that trained and developed the players signed."

"Most of this money is leaving football," Infantino said of the agent fees in a statement on his Instagram account.

FIFA has faced multiple legal cases in Europe brought by agents trying to block the soccer body's plan for tighter regulations in the transfer market.

FIFA wants to cap agent commissions at 10 per cent of transfer fees when they acted for the selling club, and from 3 per cent to 10 per cent of salaries of players they represent.

Rules intended to take effect last October stalled after agents won a key legal ruling in England - by far the most lucrative market where agencies have earned tens of millions of dollars from transfers of elite players to Premier League clubs.

The tribunal in London ruled that if the English Football Association implemented the FIFA rules it would be an abuse of dominant position in breach of competition law.

FIFA knows the value of transfer and agent fees from deals between clubs in different countries which must be processed through its financial clearing house in Paris. The FIFA



system also directs money from those deals toward clubs which train and nurture players earlier in their career and are entitled to a share.

"The compensation and solidarity payments are imposed by FIFA regulations and are vital for thousands of less privileged clubs who struggle to generate sufficient revenue," Infantino said, citing the need for "transparency, accountability and better redistribution" in the transfer market.

"Because of that we were sued by some agents but FIFA will continue to defend its position in court."

"I call on governments and lawmakers to join us and play an active role in ensuring the funds generated in transfers are kept within football and are shared with clubs from all around the world."

The FIFA leader added the less wealthy clubs "are absolutely key for current and future generations of footballers."

Agents who brought legal challenges outside England have argued most in their profession operate at the lower end of the market and cannot afford to have their fees capped.

Gukesh to clash with Alireza on what promises to be a photo finish

PTI ■ TORONTO

Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will have his task cut out against Firouza Alireza of France in the penultimate round of the Candidates' chess tournament, on what promises to be a photo-finish here.

Gukesh, with his last white game, will improve his chances greatly in the tournament if he can get past Alireza, who has clearly been struggling. With 7.5 points in his bag, Gukesh shares the lead with Hikaru Nakamura of the United States and Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia.

Just two rounds are remaining in the biggest event of the year.

The most important clash of the penultimate round will be between Nepomniachtchi and Nakamura. The latter has been displaying top form having won three in a row while Nepomniachtchi is the only player in the tournament who has remained undefeated after 12 gruelling games.

Apart from these three, Fabiano Caruana is the only player who has a chance to win the event.

With seven points, thus far, the American will have to tackle a tough opposition in R

Praggnanandhaa of India and finally Nepomniachtchi in the last round.

Even Gukesh has a tough opponent to deal with in Nakamura in the final round and much will depend on how he does against the world number three.

Praggnanandhaa had shown signs of a podium finish mid-way through the tournament but could not quite end up where he wanted to.

However, the Indian has displayed great promise and it is only a matter of time before he can be in the top five of the world ranking or even more. Currently Praggnanandhaa has six points.

Another Indian V

Alireza, who has just 4.5 points while Abasov, on three points, is at the bottom of the table.

In the women's section, Zhongyi Tan is in the front on eight points and her nearest contender is compatriot Tingjie Lei, who is a half point behind.

The two leaders are followed by Russian duo of Aleksandra Goryachkina and Kateryna Lagno along with India's Koneru Humpy on six points apiece.

R Vaishali on 5.5 points comes in next, a full point ahead of Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine and Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria.

Pairings of round 13 (Indians unless specified): Vidit Gujrathi (5) vs Nijat Abasov (AZE, 3); D Gukesh (7.5) vs Firouza Alireza (FRA, 4.5); R Praggnanandhaa (6) vs Fabiano Caruana (USA, 7); Ian Nepomniachtchi (FID, 7.5) vs Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 7.5).

Women: Zhongyi Tan (CHN, 8) vs Aleksandra Goryachkina (FID, 6); Koneru Humpy (6) vs Anna Muzychuk (UKR, 4.5); R Vaishali (5.5) vs Tingjie Lei (CHN, 7.5); Nurgyul Salimova (BUL, 4.5) vs Kateryna Lagno (FID, 6).



Diksha Dagar fires 4-under, tied fifth at Joburg Open

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Diksha Dagar continued her fine run, firing a superb 4-under 69 in round three to rise to tied fifth at the Joburg Ladies Open here on Saturday.

Diksha, a two-time winner on the Ladies European Tour and third on the Order of Merit in 2023, had rounds of 73-71-69, improving by two shots on each day at the Par-73 Modderfontein Golf Club for a total of 6-under.

The clubhouse leader was Spain's Luna Sobron Galmes (71-73-68) at 7-under. But, she will be overtaken by Tamburlini of Switzerland, who was already 13-under with three holes yet to play, and Aunchisa Utama of Thailand was 8-under, also with three more holes in the third round.

Diksha is now 6-under but will need to have a big finish in the final round to make a bid for her third career title.

She is looking at a third Top-10 finish of 2024 after Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco and Aramco Series Florida.

Tvesa Malik, a multiple-time winner at home on Hero WPGT and a one-time winner in South Africa, also showed a welcome return to form, adding 72 to her first two rounds of 71 and 75, and she is now 1-under to be placed inside top 25.

Tvesa missed a large chunk of 2023 as she lost her playing rights, but she has made great progress in South Africa's Sunshine Tour, where she won at the start of the year.

All four Indians made the cut. Vani Kapoor (76-75 and 3-over through 16) was yet to finish her third round. She was lying tied 50, and Ridhima Dilawari (73-78 and 1-under through 14) was tied 54.

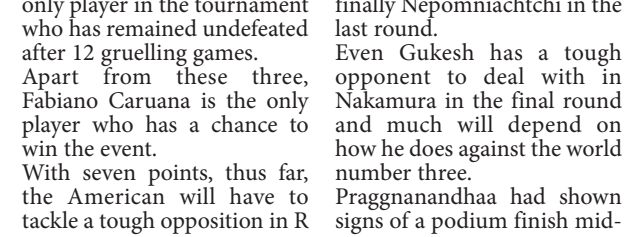
Ladies European Tour (LET) rookie Chiara Tamburlini of Switzerland (70-68 and 5-under through 15) was on top of the leaderboard as she ran away to 13-under and a five-shot lead over Aunchisa Utama of Thailand (69-71 and 2-under through 15) who was 8-under.

Diksha opened her third round with a birdie on the second but gave that shot back on the Par-5 fifth hole.

She struck a purple patch in the middle of the round with three birdies in a row from seventh to ninth and added a fourth on Par-3 11th. She closed with a run of seven pars, a couple of which had makeable birdie putts.

Home favourite Nadia van der Westhuizen, who held the halfway lead at the Joburg Ladies Open after firing a round of 68, was none-under but slipped in the third round as she was 2-over through 14 and was now tied 3 with four holes to play.

After two rounds of action, the cut fell at five-over par, with 71 players making it through to the weekend.



Manu soars high, Anish wins on expected lines

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Manu Bhaker dished out an excellent performance to dominate the women's 25m pistol qualification, eclipsing the world record score by a good six points while Anish Bhanwala won the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol Olympics Selection (OST) Trials 1 here on Saturday.

Olympian Manu topped the women's 25m pistol qualification at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Manu was all class in the women's final, her scores in the 10 series of five rapid-fire shots read 4,4,5,5,5,4,5,5 and 5.

When Esha Singh was first eliminated on 23 after the seventh series, Manu was already on 32, six ahead of Rhythm Sangwan and Abhidnya, who were tied at that stage.

Esha, however, will still lead the women's 25m pistol OST at the end of it, thanks to her 585 in qualifying, which helped her top the five-woman field on Friday. Manu will be just behind her in second with Simranpreet, Abhidnya and Rhythm completing the order.

Anish also stamped his class in the men's RFP by finishing with 33 hits, a clear six ahead of Vijayveer Sidhu, who was second. Adarsh Singh took the third spot with 23 hits.

Bhaveshe Shekhawat, after topping the qualifications, finished fourth with 18 while Ankur Goel was first to exit with 10 hits to his name at the stage.



Honda's Kavin Quintal finishes 11th at ARRC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kavin Quintal of Honda Racing India finished the first race of the second round on a creditable 11th during the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) in China on Saturday.

Quintal earned five points for the Honda team while his teammate Mohsin ended up in 20th place.

Starting on 15th on the grid, Quintal maintained his composure and a steady pace throughout.

In the final lap, he accelerated fast at the opportune moment, crossing the chequered line in 11th position with a timing of 19:03.094.

Mohsin finished the race with a timing of 19:25.863.

However, at the 20th position, he scored no points for the team.



LITTLE ROOM FOR ERROR AS STRUGGLING RCB FACE DOMINANT KKR

PTI KOLKATA

Aware that they cannot afford any more slip-ups, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will have their task cut out when they face dominant hosts Kolkata Knight Riders in a tricky Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

RCB's pursuit of a maiden IPL title has once again hit a roadblock following six losses in seven matches.

With five consecutive defeats, the bottom-ranked RCB now confront the daunting task of winning their remaining seven games to keep their playoff prospects alive.

For a side that has been severely let down by their bowlers and relies heavily on the batting prowess of Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and veteran Dinesh Karthik, facing KKR presents a significant challenge.

"From a bowling perspective, we don't have as many weapons. So, unfortunately, it comes down to the batters to

make sure that we use our form and our confidence. The scores that we put on the board are probably going to be the only way we are going to get into the competition," their skipper Du Plessis has admitted earlier.

The fact that they are coming after conceding the IPL's record total of 287/3 by Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match will undoubtedly linger in the minds of their bowlers.

It would not be a bad idea to bring back their most expensive (Rs 11.5-crore) buy this season, Alzarri Joseph, to go alongside Mohammed Siraj, who was not picked against SRH.

Joseph has bagged a solitary wicket in three appearances for RCB while also getting hammered at 11.89 runs per over.

Glenn Maxwell's spin also could have been a nice option, but the struggling Australian all-rounder, who pulled out of the game against SRH citing "mental fatigue", is also battling



a hip strain that may keep him out of action for some more time. Their batting has centred around the two openers — Kohli and Du Plessis — and Karthik, while the rest of the players have failed miserably.

cause of concern.

The star Indian batter more often than not was seen to have slowed down against the spinners in the crucial 7-15th over phase after getting a start in the power play.

Du Plessis has been their next best batter with 232 runs, but it's seasoned wicketkeeper-batter Karthik, who has been phenomenal in his final IPL season.

The veteran has amassed 226 runs at a strike-rate of 205-plus and in the monstrous chase against SRH, it was his 35-ball 83 that gave them hope of scripting an improbable win before they fell short by 25 runs.

The trio will again have to play a key role against the likes of Sunil Narine, Mitchell Starc and Harshit Rana.

The home side will also be coming on the back of a defeat to Rajasthan Royals in a last-ball finish.

So KKR, who have played one match less than RCB, will also eye a return to winning ways

and inch closer to playoffs by taking their tally to 10 points at the midway stage.

The biggest threat for RCB will be Narine, not just with the ball but also with the bat at the top of the order.

Narine, who scored his maiden T20 century in their last match against RR, is KKR's leading run-getter this season with 276 runs at an incredible strike rate of over 187.

The next best KKR batter is his opening partner Phil Salt, who has struck at a rate of 151-plus.

The pair's splendid form means that the likes of Rinku Singh, Andre Russell have got limited opportunities.

With a maiden fifty to his name, youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi has impressed with his batting.

RCB will have to target the KKR top-three to expose their batting and give themselves some chance. With the city in the grip of an extreme heat wave, the temperature is expected to soar to 41-degree Centigrade come Sunday.

TEAMS (FROM):

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha, Sakib Hussain and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Faf du Plessis (c), Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh and Saurav Chauhan.



Rahul, Ruturaj fined ₹12 lakh each for slow over rate

PTI LUCKNOW

Chennai Super Kings has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 34 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow.

Openers Rahul and Quinton de Kock, who made classy fifties on a slow pitch, produced a chasing masterclass to power LSG to a comfortable win over CSK.

Asked to bat first, Ravindra Jadeja came up with a solid unbeaten 57 before Moeen Ali (30 off 20) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (28 off 9) went on a six-hitting spree to take CSK to a fighting 176 for six.

In reply, Rahul (82) and De Kock (54) batted with authority during their match-winning alliance of 134, the highest partnership for any wicket at the Ekana Stadium, as LSG scored 180 for 2 in 19 overs to recover from back-to-back defeats and consolidate their position in the table.

CSK, who came into the match with twin wins, on the other hand, slumped to their third loss in this IPL.

It was world class batsmanship from Rahul and de Kock: Henry

PTI LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants pacer Matt Henry was in awe of the "world-class batsmanship" of skipper KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock, saying the century-plus opening stand between the duo helped them outclass a "very good" Chennai Super Kings bowling attack in the IPL here.

In pursuit of 176 for 6 on Friday, Rahul (82) and de Kock (54) made classy fifties on a slow pitch to produce a chasing masterclass and power LSG to a comfortable eight-wicket.

"In terms of our batting, the opening partnership was incredible. The partnership between KL and Quinton really changed the game for us. The batsmanship overall was world-class and that what was the



difference at the end of the day," Henry said at the post-match press conference.

The duo stitched 134 runs in 15 overs to chase down the target.

"It was always going to be a competitive total. We knew that it will come down to partnerships. In a tournament like this if you are chasing, you need guys in your top-order to make big runs and today we had two of them, the way they (Rahul and de Kock) went about their work.

"The batsmanship they showed laid the platform for us to finish the job against a very good Chennai attack," the New Zealand pacer, who didn't have a very good outing said.

Henry also lauded the effort of LSG's bowling unit, especially left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya (2/16).

His mind is staying up to date, but body might give way: Uthappa on Dhoni

PTI LUCKNOW

Amazed at Mahendra Singh Dhoni's longevity, former India batter Robin Uthappa says the Chennai Super Kings talisman's "mind is staying up to date" and the only thing that could end his prolonged run in competitive cricket is his body.

Dhoni has showed tremendous form this IPL season, powering CSK with his blistering cameos, the latest coming in the match against Lucknow Super Giants in which he slammed a nine-ball 28 here on Friday.

Speaking on JioCinema, Uthappa said, "The only thing stopping him is his health. His fitness will be the only thing that stops him from playing



any further. He loves the game, is deeply passionate about it, and wants to continue playing it.

"If there's anything that will stop him, it will be his own body that will give way. The mind is staying up to date."

Dhoni slammed a four and a six off Mohsin Khan before smashing Yash Thakur for another maximum. He finished the innings with two more fours as 19 came off the last over.

Speaking of Dhoni's exploits, former India pace spearhead Zaheer Khan said, "The roar is getting bigger, better, and louder, and so is MS Dhoni's presence on the field.

"He's getting better and better with every innings he is

phenomenal."

Asked to bat first, Ravindra Jadeja came up with a solid unbeaten 57 before Moeen Ali (30 off 20) and Dhoni (28 off 9) went on a six-hitting spree to take CSK to a fighting 176 for six.

In reply, KL Rahul (82) and Quinton de Kock (54) batted with authority during their match-winning alliance of 134, the highest partnership for any wicket at the Ekana Stadium, as LSG scored 180 for 2 in 19 overs to recover from back-to-back defeats and consolidate their position in the table.

Uthappa also praised Rahul's innings, saying the knock has boosted his prospects of getting picked in the T20 World Cup squad.



I am 100 per cent ready to play T20 World Cup: Karthik

PTI KOLKATA

India in this T20 World Cup," the RCB wicketkeeper-batters said ahead of clash against KKR.

With Karthik's also emerging as a contender, the wicketkeeper slot will be a hotly-contested one for which the Team India think tank may pick two at the most.

Making a comeback from a near-fatal accident, Rishabh Pant has also showed positive intent while captaining Delhi Capitals, and Sanju Samson (Rajasthan Royals), Ishan Kishan (Mumbai Indians), KL Rahul (Lucknow Super Giants) are also in the fray.

Karthik said he would respect whatever the Big Three — coach Rahul Dravid, captain Rohit Sharma and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar — decide.

"I also feel there are three very, very stable, honest people who are at the helm to decide what should be the best Indian team for the World Cup — Rahul Dravid, Rohit Sharma and Ajit Agarkar.

"And I'm completely with them. I respect any decision that they take. But all I can say is I'm 100 per cent ready, and I'll do everything I can to be on that flight to the World Cup."

PBKS, GT look to resurrect campaigns

PTI MULLANPUR (PUNJAB)

Their campaigns wobbling after a string of defeats, bottom-rung teams Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans will be desperate to arrest the slide and get back to winning ways in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Former champions GT have slipped to eighth position in the pecking order after an embarrassing loss to Delhi Capitals at home, where they were bowled out for 89 to suffer their third defeat in four matches.

PBKS are struggling in the ninth place following a nine-run loss to Mumbai Indians away on Thursday night, the margin of defeat made respectable by an incredible rearguard act by the in-form young duo of Ashutosh Sharma and Shashank Singh after the team was tottering at 14/4 in a chase of 193.

Five losses and two wins in seven outings hardly inspire confidence and irrespective of the fact that their upcoming opponents are also struggling to get their act right, PBKS will have their task cut out in front of their fans, who had little to



cheer about so far this season at the newly-inaugurated home venue.

The absence of their influential skipper Shikhar Dhawan in the last few matches has hit PBKS hard and doubts remain over the southpaw's availability for Sunday's fixture.

Dhawan has been undergoing rehabilitation since picking up a shoulder injury during the home fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 9, resulting in England all-rounder Sam Curran to fill in as the skipper.

While Dhawan hasn't had a great time with the bat in IPL 2024, scoring 152 runs from five innings at a strike rate of 125.61, his presence at the top of the order as well as in the field matters for a side that seems to have forgotten how to win matches.

Having finished eighth in the last edition following eight losses and six victories, the story hasn't changed for PBKS, whose biggest concern has been the failure of their specialist batters.

Ashutosh, who both bat lower in the order and have had to make up for the shortcomings at the top on more than one occasion, including their heroics that gave MI a massive scare the other night.

PBKS' opponents GT, who have so far registered three wins while suffering four defeats, will need to pull up their socks after the horror show with the bat against Delhi Capitals.

With quality players such as skipper Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan, David Miller and Rashid Khan in their ranks, complemented by a handy support cast comprising people like Rahul Tewatia, Mohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha and Noor Ahmad, GT would hope the show against DC was a mere blip.

As far as bowling is concerned, the absence of Mohammad Shami has hurt them badly while Umesh Yadav has leaked plenty of runs though he has also taken seven wickets.

Star spinner Rashid has been doing as well as he could in his

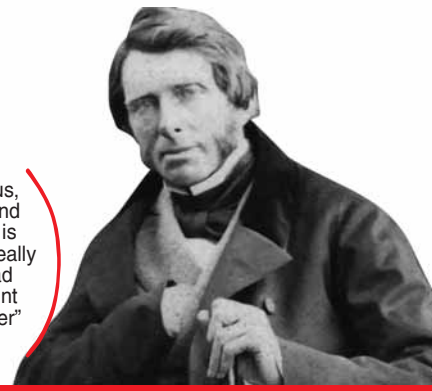
primary role and is also chipping in with more than handy contributions with the bat.

TEAMS (FROM):

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Wriddhiman Saha, Sai Sudharsan, Shahrux Khan, Matthew Wade, Kane Williamson, Azmatullah Omarzai, Abhinav Manohar, Rashid Khan, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tewatia, Spencer Johnson, Kartik Tyagi, Joshua Little, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Mohit Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Sushant Mishra, Sandeep Warrier, Sharath BR, Manav Suthar.

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Matthew Short, Prabhsimran Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Sikandar Raza, Rishi Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Arshdeep Singh, Nathan Ellis, Sam Curran, Kagiso Rabada, Harpreet Brar, Rahul Chahar, Harpreet Bhatia, Vidwath Kaverappa, Shivam Singh, Harshal Patel, Chris Woakes, Ashutosh Sharma, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Shashank Singh, Tanay Thyagarajan, Prince Choudhary, Rilee Rossouw.

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather"
— John Ruskin



Abrupt shifts in weather, as exemplified last week in Delhi swaying from moderate cold conditions one day followed by record-breaking warmth the next, underscore the unpredictability and volatility of regional climates, says ARCHANA JYOTI

INDIA BATTLES VOLATILE AND UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER

The recent forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department predicting above-normal monsoon rainfall brings a glimmer of hope, particularly for agriculture and water resources. However, beneath this layer of optimism lies a stark reality: erratic weather patterns are wreaking havoc across the nation, presenting formidable challenges.

India's climate has become akin to a rollercoaster ride, with unpredictable twists and turns affecting lives from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat and Kerala to West Bengal. The abrupt shifts in weather, as exemplified by last week's Delhi's experience of moderate cold conditions one day followed by record-breaking warmth the next, underscore the unpredictability and volatility of regional climates.

Reflecting on her eight decades of life, 80-year-old Rambha Devi confronts a bitter truth: humanity's reckless treatment of Mother Nature is returning to haunt us. "For too long," she laments, "we've exploited the Earth without considering the consequences of our actions. We've depleted natural resources, polluted the air and waterways, and recklessly disrupted delicate ecosystems around the globe."

Now, as Devi observes, nature is fighting back. The once predictable and reliable weather now seems to operate on capricious whims. Extreme heat waves scorch the land one day, only to be followed by torrential rains and floods the next.

Unpredictable storms lash coastlines, leaving devastation in their wake. The rhythm of seasons blurs, leaving farmers like Devi's family uncertain about sowing and reaping times.

Throughout her lifetime, Devi has witnessed the consequences of humanity's disregard for the natural world. Once-vibrant forests were reduced to barren wastelands, rivers choked with pollution, and species pushed to the brink of extinction. Now, as the impacts of climate change intensify, she fears for future generations.

As she gazes upon the world she's known for eight decades, Devi knows the road ahead will be arduous.

These fluctuations not only threaten agricultural patterns but also have profound implications for public health and well-being.

Ramesh Tiwari, a farmer from Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, shares how sudden rain and hail storms destroyed his crops, leaving him struggling to support his family. "I've toiled day and night," he says, "only to see it all washed away in minutes." The state saw as many as 7,020 farmers from 50 districts seeking compensation for the damage till March 2. Similar tales emerge from across the nation.

In Maharashtra, Priya, a resident of a drought-prone Vidarbha village, recounts how scorching heatwaves and heavy rainfall disrupt water access and damage local crops, exacerbating food insecurity.

Similarly, Raju Vashaya, a farmer in Rajasthan, describes the challenges of coping with unpredictable weather, making it difficult to predict crop yields and threatening his family's livelihood.

Further, whether it is Assam in the Northeast or down South Kerala, locals face displacement from floods triggered by heavy rainfall and landslides.

Their stories reflect the widespread devastation and loss in these regions. Meanwhile, along Gujarat's coastline, Sanjay Joshi, a fisherman, expresses concern about the increasing frequency of cyclones and floods, threatening his livelihood and community safety.

Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of the IMD, explains about the visible trends in extreme weather events. "Globally, temperatures have risen by about 1.2 degrees Celsius compared to 100 years ago. Over India, the rise has been about 0.6 degrees Celsius. The rise has been more in the northern, central, and eastern parts, and less over peninsular India.

"This temperature rise has an impact on extreme weather events. It's getting hotter not just on the surface, but also in the troposphere, increasing its water-holding capacity. Studies show that with a rise of 1 degree Celsius, moisture-holding capacity increases by about 7 per cent. If the atmosphere can hold more moisture, it will have the capacity to cause more rainfall."

This temperature rise has an impact on extreme weather events. It's getting hotter not just on the surface, but also in the troposphere, increasing its water-holding capacity. Studies show that with a rise of 1 degree Celsius, moisture-holding capacity increases by about 7 per cent. If the atmosphere can hold more moisture, it will have the capacity to cause more rainfall

So, the probability of the occurrence of heavy rainfall has increased. Studies also show an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall events. These are events when 24-hour cumulative rainfall on a particular day is more than 15 cm. Such events are increasing over the tropical belt as a whole, including in India. This trend is more evident in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, and West Bengal, he says. The rise in the average global temperature has hit various countries of the world too. Like the United States of America, all European countries, including China, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, and others are reporting now and then extreme heat waves, droughts, wildfires, record rains, and floods. A recent example has been Dubai in UAE which was caught off guard, as heavy rainfall deluged it. The sixth IPCC report released in August 2021, revealed in detail that in the coming decades, winters will get shorter and summers will get longer. Some places will

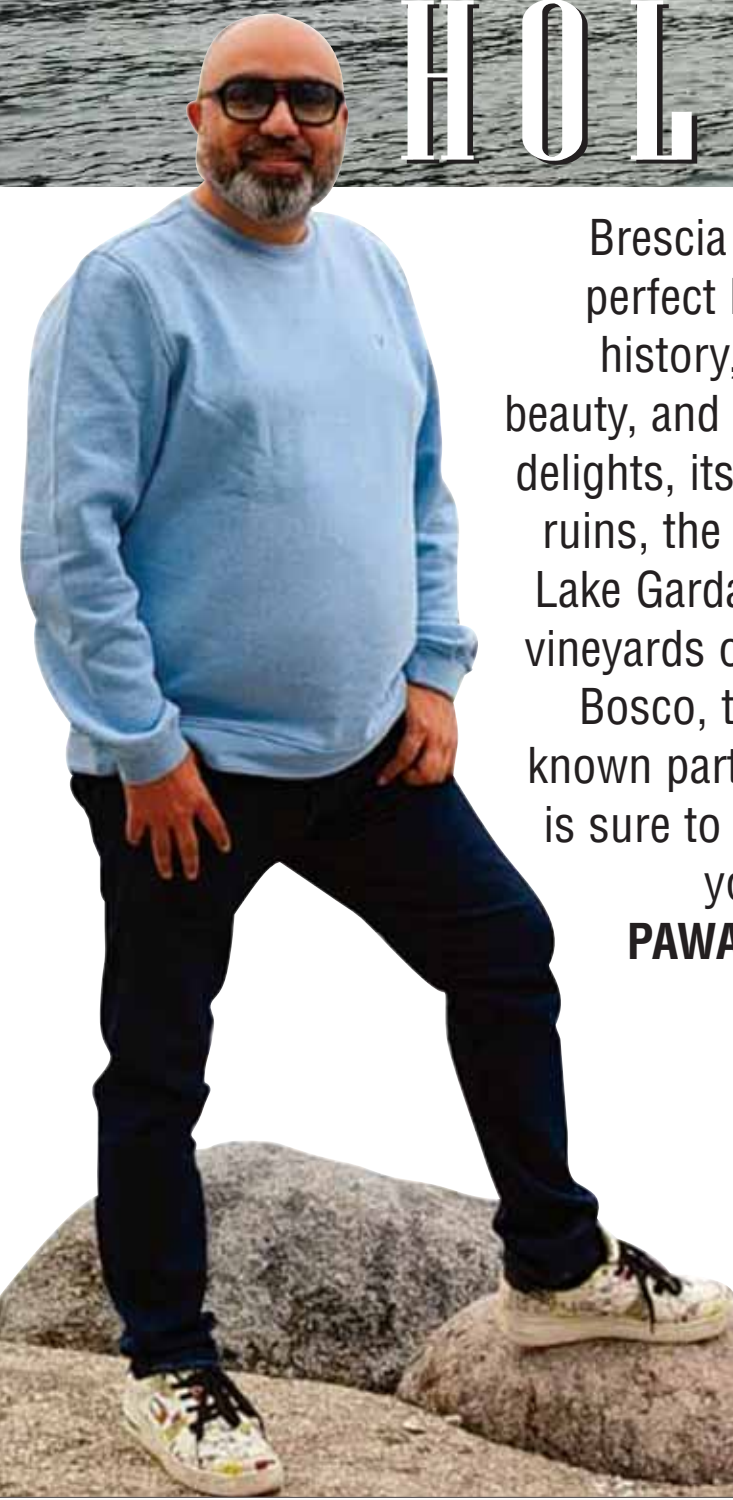
experience an increase in the incidents of drought as a result of heat waves and some places will face floods due to heavy rains. India has already felt the impact, with rising temperatures affecting 75% of its districts, with heat wave records breaking every year. "We were expecting these changes possibly after 2025, leading on to 2030. But they are happening now, and are likely to get intense and possibly more frequent in coming years," warns Dr K J Ramesh, former Director General of Meteorology at IMD.

In agricultural regions, these see-sawing weather patterns have started impacting crop cycles, leading to reduced yields, crop failures, and economic losses for farmers. Erratic weather, including unseasonal frosts or heat waves, can disrupt planting and harvesting schedules, affecting food production and livelihoods, says who was at the IMD helm when the country reported several extreme weather events, including Cyclone Fani, the most intense storm over the Bay of Bengal to make landfall on India's east coast since 1999.

To address erratic and extreme weather challenges, proactive measures are needed at both the local and national levels. This includes investing in climate-resilient agriculture practices, improving weather forecasting and early warning systems, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and implementing measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events on public health, he suggests. Marginalized communities too are all set to face health and income strains amid climate challenges. Vaibhav Chaturvedi, a fellow at Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), summarises the looming challenges ahead, stating, "Globally, India is the fifth-most vulnerable country. While the frequency and intensity of extreme events are increasing, we are left with less than a decade to adhere to the Sendai Framework; course correction needs to have a razor-sharp focus on curtailing the compounded impacts of climate extremes. There is no denying that the climate is changing and it is changing fast."



AN ITALIAN HOLIDAY



Brescia offers a perfect blend of history, natural beauty, and culinary delights, its ancient ruins, the relaxing Lake Garda, or the vineyards of Ca'del Bosco, this little known part of Italy is sure to enchant you, says

PAWAN SONI

We have long known Milan as the fashion capital of the world. The city's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, a luxury shopping complex, is home to many big designer brands. However, Northern Italy offers much more than just Milan's Duomo.

Boasting a history dating back to 753 BC and inhabited for over 850,000 years, Italy is a destination known for its museums, cathedrals, churches, and more. On this trip, I ventured to the Brescia province near Milan, an ancestral town less touristy than Milan. In fact, most Italians I spoke with had yet to explore Brescia, which is also part of the Lombardy region.

To reach Brescia, I boarded a local train from Milan Centrale railway station. This station is a sight to behold, with its beautiful and elegant architecture rivaling many tourist attractions worldwide. The 70-minute train ride cost just ₹7.5 and offered a glimpse into local life. Amidst reading, chatting, and enjoying the ride, I hardly noticed any tourists. The view outside was breathtaking, overlooking farms, factories, canals, and the elegant Alps mountains. Nestled in Lombardy, Brescia is the region's second-largest city, often overshadowed by its more famous neighbours. However, this hidden gem has much to offer, including a rich history and picturesque surroundings. It has been a major industrial hub since pre-Roman times.

History enthusiasts will be thrilled by Brescia's well-preserved Roman ruins, such as the Capitolium and the Teatro Romano. The Capitolium, a temple dedicated to the Capitoline Triad of Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, stands as a testament to the city's ancient past. The Teatro Romano, an ancient Roman theatre, provides a glimpse into Brescia's theatrical traditions.

Capriano del Colle, a small commune known for its wineries, houses the municipal department in Palazzo Bocca, a



building with rich heritage dating back to the late 17th century. I had the pleasure of enjoying a meal, courtesy of the Italian Trade Agency, in this beautiful landmark building.

A highlight of visiting Brescia is a trip to Lake Garda, a short drive away. Italy's largest lake, Lake Garda, is renowned for its crystal-clear waters and picturesque towns. Sirmione, with its medieval castle and natural hot springs, is a popular destination for those seeking relaxation.

For wine lovers, a visit to Ca'del Bosco is a must. This renowned winery produces Franciacorta sparkling wines using the traditional Champagne method. Visitors can tour the vineyards and cellars and enjoy a tasting of the winery's exquisite wines. The vineyard's beauty rivals that of any tourist destination, with the bottling plant and cellar areas artistically designed. This destination deserves at least half a day of your time and is one of the most beautiful vineyards I have visited.

No visit to Brescia is complete without exploring



the iconic Vittoria Alata, or Winged Victory, a stunning marble statue dating back to the Roman era. This masterpiece, depicting the goddess Nike, is a symbol of Brescia's rich history and is housed in the city's Santa Giulia Museum, located in a former monastery with roots tracing back to the 8th century. Just a short distance from Brescia lies the serene beauty of the Iseo Lake area, surrounded by picturesque towns like Iseo and Sarnico. This area offers a peaceful retreat from city life, with leisurely walks along the lake, exploration of charming villages, and savouring of delicious local cuisine. Monte Isola, Italy's largest lake island, is a must-visit, offering stunning views and a tranquil atmosphere. Brescia offers a perfect blend of history, natural beauty, and culinary delights. Whether exploring ancient ruins, relaxing by Lake Garda, or sipping fine wine at Ca'del Bosco, Brescia is sure to enchant you.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)

JOYFUL GOAN NOSTALGIA IN A BOUTIQUE SETTING

Once a humble 125-room budget haven, now transformed into a sophisticated 135-room Joie de Vivre by Hyatt, Ronil Goa marks a significant milestone as the first of its kind in India and Southwest Asia, says **RUPALI DEAN**

During a weekend journey to Goa, there is lots to revel in, like vibrant takeovers at popular bars while navigating traffic warnings amidst local insights. Grateful for tranquillity amid burgeoning tourism, the allure of undiscovered venues fuels a persistent fear of missing out.

Today's Goa contrasts starkly with the nostalgic reminiscences of the 1990s and early 2000s, as stories of a quieter, untouched era blend with the vibrant, bustling present. Ronil Goa, a Joie de Vivre by Hyatt in Calangute, intriguingly connects these divergent facets of Goa's evolving narrative. At Ronil's cherished gem with a legacy spanning over 35 years, I discovered a captivating fusion of past and present.

Tucked away along the Calangute-Baga Road, the resort's unassuming facade belies the vibrant haven that unfolds beyond its doors — two distinct blocks flanking serene pools and an inviting on-site restaurant. My journey began with a warm welcome in true Goan style — a delightful coffee-rum shot that set the stage for the energetic vibe of the resort. Straying from convention, the check-in process eschewed the traditional reception in favour of the lively ambience at Patrão's, the round-the-



clock lobby bar where tantalizing cocktails and local bites awaited. The unique touch came as DJ Maria greeted me with an iPad in hand, ready to customize the property's musical offerings based on my preferences, ensuring a personalized soundtrack for my entire stay.

JOIE DE VIVRE

JdV, short for *joie de vivre*, epitomizes the essence of simple joy in living. At this property, 'the hub' reigns as the focal point, boasting a vibrant pool, complete with a swim-up bar, cosy cabanas, sunken beds perfect for unwinding with cocktails, and a wood-fired oven for delectable pizzas and poolside barbecues. Ideal for those seeking a dynamic holiday experience, the rooms in this block exude a high-energy ambience. With the pool remaining open until 2 am, spontaneous midnight swims are just a PJ change away, accompanied by a soundtrack that shifts gears



post-10 pm. For a more serene retreat, opt for accommodations in the second block to escape into tranquillity and escape. Here, a peaceful pool awaits, providing a relaxing atmosphere for a leisurely dip until 10 pm. Whether craving lively vibes

or seeking calm repose, JdV offers a tailored experience to suit your holiday preferences. In my Deluxe room, overlooking the tranquillity pool, thoughtful design elevates the stay experience to a new level of sophistication. Unveiling smart design touches that exude practical

luxury, a sliding mirror serves as an elegant door to the wardrobe, while textures adorn the walls in lieu of conventional artwork typically found in hotel rooms. A generously sized bathroom mirror accented with a border LED light offer both functionality and style.

FACT BOX

WHERE?

Calangute - Baga Rd, Saunta Vaddo, Goa, Baga, Goa: 403516
TEL: 08326941234

(The author, an acclaimed lifestyle and travel writer, has been awarded the Best Food Writer in the country by the Indian Culinary Forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism)

For tea enthusiasts, a selection of Tea Trunk blends awaits, sourced from the locally renowned Goa-based brand that boasts a tea room in Fontainhas. Additionally, a French Press stands ready, showcasing the exclusive Ronil special sunrise and sunset coffee blends. Opening the balcony doors during the day allowed the melodies from outside to mingle with my sanctuary — though as night fell, the desire for tranquillity surfaced, and the music lingering until 1 am required a gradual adjustment.

CHILL ZONE

Indulging in a culinary adventure at the Ronil Bistro led by head chef Karan Kohli quickly became a delightful ritual during my stay. For lunch, the fish curry, rice, *kismoor*, and *tindli* pickle effortlessly stole the show, showcasing Chef Kohli's culinary prowess. Come dinnertime, the poolside ambience paired perfectly

with the fresh, pillowy sourdough pizzas and the BBQ a true highlight of the evening.

While the house made churros come highly recommended by the team for dessert, I found the ice cream equally captivating. Sourced from Goa's renowned Cream Choc, the pistachio gelato stood out as a refreshing conclusion to lunch and a comforting midnight snack in the quiet of my room.

Night owls are in for a treat with the complimentary lager tucked away in the minibar, a perfect companion for those late-night moments of relaxation. The property's bespoke experiences, from bonfires to barbecues, floating breakfasts, and poolside picnics, are meticulously curated to foster unforgettable moments to relish. While the property gleams with modernity, it intertwines a subtle thread of yesteryears, evoking tales of Goa's bygone charm that now linger in whispers. Amidst the staff's offerings for lively bar crawls and exploratory visits to Chapora Fort lies a unique opportunity to embrace the cocoon of nostalgia within Ronil Goa's embrace — a place where cherished memories are reincarnated, fostering an ambience that transcends mere tourist trappings.

RUPALI DEAN absorbs an enticing feast at Burma Burma on the occasion of a festival that cultivates the spirit of togetherness and connection

CELEBRATE BURMA'S THINGYAN FESTIVAL OF HARVEST

At the core of the Thingyan Festival celebrations at Burma Burma resides the "Village Set", a harmonious dining experience for two that unites individuals through a delightful assortment of authentic Burmese delicacies presented artfully on a flat, woven tray, cultivating a spirit of togetherness and connection amongst guests. For aficionados of Burmese cuisine, an enticing dining celebration awaits from April 11 to May 19, with a curated menu celebrating Thingyan — the harvest festival; a cultural jubilation steeped in tradition, epitomizing renewal and transformation through symbolic water splashing. Extending well beyond Burma's realms, this festivity harmonizes with New Year and harvest revelries across Asia. The native Burmese *Padauk* flower, blossoming during this auspicious occasion, adorns the landscape, mirroring the festival's infectious spirit. Experience a culinary voyage in Yangon this season, where diners are enveloped in a celebration of flavours through a specially-crafted menu that highlights the diverse and rich tapestry of Burmese cuisine. Groups of loved ones come together to enjoy an array of small plates bursting with authentic tastes, complemented by sweet indulgences that leave a lingering desire for another visit. Immerse yourself in an array of traditional Burmese home-style dishes and invigorating beverages exclusive to this limited-time offering at Burma Burma, available not only in Delhi NCR but also in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad. My dining experience was truly remarkable. Each sip of Twilight, a vibrant blend of mango puree, coconut, Yakult, and fizz, was a delightful prelude to the Plum Sour, a refreshing mix of plum puree, lime, ginger ale, and black grass jelly that tingled my taste buds. El Dragon, with its exotic mix of dragon fruit, coconut water, litchi water, and elderflower syrup, was a light and refreshing choice. Exploring Yangon's culinary scene, the Sweet Lime & Shallot Salad intrigued with its tangy mix. Each bite evoked market flavours, setting the tone for the



showcasing the rich flavours of Burmese produce. The Roselle & Mushroom Stir Fry, a Chin tribe specialty, featured sour roselle leaves and mushrooms stir-fried with garlic, bird's eye chili, and turmeric, offering a tangy twist typical of Burmese cuisine. Wrapping up my meal was the Banana Sanwin Makin, a traditional semolina cake with banana, strawberry, coconut cream, and poppy seeds — a sweet conclusion. To top it off, the Lemon Poppy Seed Ice Cream, with zesty lemon and black poppy seeds, and the complimentary *Mont Lone Yay Paw*, a festive treat of glutinous rice flour dumplings filled with palm jaggery and coconut, added a perfect finishing touch to my culinary journey. And Musk, a fragrant blend of muskmelon, honey, lavender white tea cold brew, and poppy seeds, was a perfect finale to my meal. The culinary journey beautifully intertwined Burmese traditions with the diversity of Asian flavours, making the Thingyan celebration a memorable experience filled with joy, camaraderie, and delectable dishes.

FAST FACTS
Enjoy festive menus across multiple locations in Delhi NCR (DLF Cyber Hub-Gurgaon, DLF Mall of India Noida and Select City Walk, from April 11 to May 19 2024).
(The author, an acclaimed lifestyle and travel writer, has been awarded the Best Food Writer in the country by the Indian Culinary Forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism)



PF CHANG'S NOW IN GURUGRAM

You may have indulged in chicken lettuce wraps at various Asian eateries, yet the pioneering credit belongs to P.F. Chang's. Established by Paul Flemming and Philip Chiang, the inaugural establishment debuted in 1993 in Scottsdale, Arizona, and has since grown exponentially - boasting over 300 locations worldwide. Now, the Asian dining spot taps the Delhi NCR market with Chang's first outlet opening at DLF Cyberhub in Gurugram

BY RUPALI DEAN

What can guests look forward to? 'A joyful experience centered on life, family, and delicious food,' as described by Ramit Mittal, Executive Chairman & Director of Gourmet Investments Pvt Ltd, who brought this renowned Asian dining destination to the country first in Mumbai this year, complete with all its distinctive features, be it in the ambiance or the cuisine. As you enter P.F. Chang's, you're greeted by the iconic statue of a horse, symbolizing strength and loyalty. Once inside, you'll be surrounded by the classic red and gold décor, featuring a dragon, katana, and a cherry blossom tree. The open kitchen allows you to witness the chefs skillfully working at the woks, while the lively bar area offers an array of colourful and inviting beverages to explore. Indulge in the culinary delights with their iconic 'OG' Chang's Lettuce Wraps and a tantalizing array of signature dishes like Dynamite Prawns, Chang's Spicy Chicken and Kung Pao Chicken, all paying homage to Cecelia Chiang's culinary legacy. Setting a new standard for Indian diners, P.F. Chang's in India stands out by offering a range of vegetarian and Jain options besides an entire new range of sushi delights, steamed dumplings and entrees. I was particularly impressed by the exquisite flavours of the Asparagus and Peas Dumplings, the boldness of the Singaporean street-style noodles, and the unique twist of the Samba Roll. Noteworthy is the brand's dedication to healthy dining by abstaining from MSG in their dishes. Complete your gastronomic journey with



demonstrated through signature dishes such as the Spicy Kimchi Fried Rice, and Mongolian Tenderloin. Describing the process akin to a graceful dance rather than mere cooking, the precision and skill involved make it a culinary poetry in motion. Teetotalers should go for the interesting carafes like the Zen Garden Passion Fruit Mojito. However, for those seeking a lift in spirits, the restaurant will be offering an enticing cocktail menu. Featuring a range of classics like Margaritas, and innovative mixes of gin and whiskey, there's a libation to delight every taste bud and complement the Asian cuisine perfectly. Standout options include the likes of Midnight in Shanghai and Japanese Old Fashioned. Mittal highlights that the experience transcends typical Asian dining; it's a hub for memorable celebrations. Whether it's a milestone like a 50th birthday or a simple gathering to honour a friend's career move, the restaurant elevates every occasion with a touch of elegance. Expect golden table mats, specialized chopsticks, and unique candle holders that add a luxurious flair to your dining experience.

FACT BOX
P.F. Chang's, Gurgaon Where? P.F. Chang's, Unit No. 6, Ground Floor, DLF Cyber City, DLF Phase 2, Sector 24, Gurugram
Timings: 12 pm to 1 am
Reservations: +918655894667 or +918655894668



Capo Pizza Opens Cloud Kitchens in Delhi and Gurugram



Capo Pizza, renowned for its commitment to crafting authentic gourmet pizzas with a modern twist, is proud to announce the launch of its cloud kitchens in Delhi and Gurgaon. As the demand for high-quality and convenient dining experiences continues to grow, Capo Pizza is poised to deliver the true taste of Italy directly to the doorsteps of pizza enthusiasts across the region. The new cloud kitchens in Delhi and Gurgaon mark an exciting milestone for Capo Pizza, further expanding its reach and accessibility to urban professionals, families, and food enthusiasts who appreciate the finest in Italian cuisine. With a focus on premium ingredients, expert craftsmanship, and exceptional customer service, Capo Pizza aims to redefine the pizza delivery experience in the region.

eco-friendly packaging and practices to minimize its environmental footprint and contribute to a healthier planet. To celebrate the launch of its cloud kitchens in Delhi and Gurgaon, Capo Pizza is offering special promotions and discounts for a limited time. Customers can place their orders conveniently through the Capo Pizza website or popular food delivery platforms. **ABOUT CAPO PIZZA** Capo Pizza is all about crafting authentic gourmet pizzas with a modern twist. Their cloud kitchens are situated in Delhi and Gurgaon, bringing the true taste of Italy directly to pizza enthusiasts' doorsteps. Their menu features a diverse selection of pizzas, from classic Margherita to gourmet options like Pesto margherita pizza. Each pizza is carefully crafted by skilled chefs who are dedicated to delivering a gastronomic experience that delights the senses and leaves a lasting impression. In addition to its commitment to quality and authenticity, Capo Pizza is also focused on sustainability, employing



Deep, Delicious Dive into Old Delhi Delights



By PAWAN SONI

Old Delhi is a foodie paradise, especially in areas like Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid, where hidden gems await. I have been exploring food walks in the area long before it became popular. During Navratras, my friend Rajesh Tara led us to some vegetarian places, and I blindly followed. When you frequent a place, you tend to stick to your favourites. Each bylane in Old Delhi offers something new; you just need to be open-minded.



Standard Sweets: A proper restaurant serving small *bhatura-sized* *pooris* with *aloo-choley sabji* mix. Unique for adding a *kofta* in the *sabji*, priced at Rs130, it's a delicious treat, albeit a bit expensive compared to the others.
Ram Swaroop Halwai: Known for *bedmi poori* and *nagori-halwa*, this shop may be popular for pricing but less for taste. Priced at ₹20 for 2 *pooris* or Rs15 for 2 pieces of *nagori-halwa*, the *pooris* might taste a bit off with the burnt oil and the quality is not as good as Shyam Sweets.
Jain Sandwich: Closed on Sundays, this shop serves fruit sandwiches, perfect for the summer with sliced bread loaded with butter, mango chunks, and dry fruits. There are many more shops like *Kuremal ki Kulfi*, *Ashok ki Chaat*, and *Bade Miyan ki Kheer*, among others. These are just the vegetarian options. Email me your favorite places, and I'll include them in the next article, along with some non-vegetarian outlets in the area.



Here are some places we tried:
Omni Kachodi Waala: An old shop claiming almost 70 years of history. Open only on Sundays, the crispy *kachodi* with delicious *aloo sabji* is a must-try. Priced at ₹15 per *kachodi*, they offer *Aloo* and *Dal* varieties as well.
Lotan ke Choley Kulcha: Long queues for its spicy *choley* served with soft *kulcha*. Adjust spice levels wisely, as it can be intense. They offer *choley ka paani* at an additional cost of Rs10 per glass, or with butter at ₹20, which adds the required flavour.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week might not meet your expectations, especially regarding finances. You'll find yourself unsure and indecisive at work, leading to accumulated and unorganized tasks. It might be wise to delay any work-related travel as you navigate this confusion. However, as the week progresses, you'll discover a more effective way to handle your responsibilities, which may involve distant connections that could prove beneficial. Expectations for your engagement in team activities will rise, and you'll rise to the occasion, enhancing your rapport with peers. This period will also boost your morale and encourage interactions with a broader circle. The week, however, might conclude on a challenging note due to family tensions or health issues within the household, demanding both your time and resources, and potentially causing setbacks at work.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you may find yourself feeling assertive and uncompromising, with a relentless focus on your tasks. Emotional considerations might take a back seat as you navigate a heavy workload, which could leave you feeling overwhelmed. Achieving your goals may seem challenging, with success appearing distant. Midweek might bring an unexpected change in your personal or professional life through someone's arrival or departure. Be wary of impulsive actions or reactions; they could lead to conflict or rash decisions. If uncertainty arises, consider calming practices to bolster your confidence and clear your mind. Despite your objective approach to difficult decisions, caution is advised to avoid premature actions that might nullify your efforts. Trust your intuitive insights for simpler problems and apply careful analysis when faced with more intricate issues.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for meticulous planning and self-control. The atmosphere is clouded with uncertainty, and misunderstandings could arise between close associates. There may be a clear path to resolution and understanding, yet there seems to be an intentional avoidance of confronting reality. This avoidance is often driven by the fear that acknowledging the truth might worsen the situation. Midweek brings the risk of unfavorable outcomes in legal matters that may lead to feelings of disappointment. It's crucial to remain attentive to your health; it would be wise to temper your urge to speak out and avoid conflict with those who challenge you. Take this time alone to reassess and heal. By restoring your energy, you'll be better prepared to handle upcoming challenges. Maintain patience—this challenging period is just a temporary phase.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week brings a period of significant accomplishment and joy. Long-standing projects reach completion, heralding a sense of achievement and relief. There's a strong chance for a move to a new residence, possibly through a winning draw or a recent construction, adding to the excitement. Social gatherings with family and friends will enrich your days, creating memorable moments of unity and joy. Your presence radiates positivity, boosting your confidence to inspirational levels. Your communication skills are notably effective, drawing others to you with your charismatic appeal. As the week closes, you find a profound connection with your spiritual side. Engaging in practices that focus and calm the mind, you'll find your creativity and inner peace significantly enhanced, rounding off a truly fulfilling week.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises substantial growth in your finances and overall joy. Your expertise shines in your career, as you apply your knowledge in tangible ways. You approach your interactions with integrity and fairness, maintaining strict adherence to schedules and protocols. This disciplined approach lays a strong foundation for financial stability and comfort. The possibility of receiving a significant monetary gain through unexpected sources is likely. Advancements and recognition at work could boost your self-esteem. It's a perfect time to reflect on your achievements and savor the success. Opportunities for new roles, projects, or tasks may arise, allowing you to leverage your assets effectively. Your enthusiasm for acquiring and implementing new concepts will enhance your professional capabilities. Additionally, the vibrant, youthful energy at your workplace will take charge, leading to commendable outcomes.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, your commitment to excellence and meticulous attention to detail will come to fruition. It begins with a robust dedication to improving both your professional landscape and personal growth. Expect to invest considerable effort in your current projects, which may be challenging yet will ultimately enrich your professional acumen and deepen your understanding. As you navigate through these tasks with intelligence and careful skill application, you will achieve notable success, allowing you to take pride and joy in your accomplishments. Moreover, this period is ripe for profound personal transformation and spiritual renewal. Towards the week's end, powerful dynamics converge, fostering opportunities for deep emotional and relational healing. This could be a pivotal time for personal relationships, possibly leading to significant commitments or newfound depth in connections.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Mint Green
Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week unfolds as a vibrant tapestry woven with emotions and achievements. It begins with noticeable progress in your financial endeavors, setting a tone of prosperity. As days pass, you'll see an increase in your returns, enhancing your ability to enjoy life's luxuries. Your balanced and open-hearted approach at work fosters a harmonious and supportive environment. Travel is also on the horizon, possibly involving distant or aquatic destinations, whether for business or a delightful getaway with loved ones. Midweek brings a focus on home life, where you skillfully manage the demands of your career and personal life. As the week concludes, you'll reap the rewards of your diligence. Enjoying robust health and a surge of creativity, you're surrounded by positivity. The weekend is reserved for unwinding and creating cherished moments with family.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week begins with a quest for strategies to ensure the successful completion of a pivotal challenge. You find yourself on the verge of a significant breakthrough. Expect some hurdles, yet rest assured that solutions will emerge. By midweek, affection blossoms, enriching moments with your significant other. As the week closes, favorable conditions arise for investments in real estate or similar assets. Many will discover themselves in a fortuitous phase, surrounded by promising prospects. A surge of health and energy invigorates you, fostering a cheerful disposition. The encouragement and support from family members will enhance your confidence. The weekend invites joyful gatherings with those dear to you, making for memorable experiences.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Ivory
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week heralds a period of great fulfillment and joy. Blessings are plentiful, enriching aspects of love, prosperity, and overall happiness. Additionally, it's an excellent time for getting things in order, as well as for creative and intuitive thinking. Embrace the positive vibes of this week to boost your cognitive strengths. Whether in financial, spiritual, or emotional spheres, you can expect rewarding experiences. Relationships also take center stage, showing significant developments. Your plans are aligning well, indicating progress in professional endeavors, including new roles or business ventures. Your overall vitality is strong, and you display remarkable leadership and communication skills, along with a sense of control and influence. This is a time when fortune favors your endeavors.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Monday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Surprisingly, you might find yourself navigating through sudden shifts that bring about a profound sense of achievement and self-assurance. In an unexpected twist, you'll discover success in areas where you had previously lost hope. Your accomplishments will not go unnoticed, drawing admiration and, at times, envy from others. However, those who truly support you will celebrate your victories with you. You've managed to surpass previous challenges and your efforts are now widely recognized and applauded. This acknowledgment brings you great joy. As the week concludes, you'll find yourself indulging in pleasant memories from your youth, reconnecting with old friends, and enjoying moments with younger acquaintances, all of which enrich your current experiences.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, your focus is squarely on professional development. Embrace the challenges as they come; they are disguised as opportunities for financial growth through diligent efforts. Your innovative spirit is peaking, enabling you to push past conventional limits with a bold approach. A significant challenge has been weighing on your thoughts, but you possess the flair to master this complex situation. Midweek, prepare for some rigorous guidance from a respected elder woman in your family. Heeding her seasoned advice will prove advantageous. Enhance your cognitive abilities by engaging with intellectually stimulating activities like reading enriching literature and tackling brain teasers. These efforts might lead you to a profound revelation or an important epiphany.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Collaborative efforts are set to pave the way for achievement, fostering improved rapport and cohesion in your professional environment. You'll find yourself valuing your integrity more, which in turn injects vibrancy and innovation into your career and personal life. The outlook for upcoming opportunities is positive, signaling that a new venture you've recently embarked on is likely to prosper. In your professional sphere, an exciting new role may soon be presented to you. Emphasizing cooperation at this time will prove beneficial, especially in negotiations. A sense of spiritual enrichment also permeates your experiences. Those anticipating joyous family additions will receive heartening news. Your visionary outlook and strategic foresight equip you to explore new horizons with confidence. As the week concludes, you'll discover you possess the inner strength to surmount any challenges, leaving you free from concerns.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Saturday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Mother symbolises convergence all nature driven energies



primal source. Out of the seeds of life that these forces carry back, a fresh creation chain may get excited. Thus, goes on a continued chain of evolution

and devolution with no beginning or end in final sense, what in modern scientific parlance is termed as a "bound-ary-less singularity".

Now, why the form of a Mother, and not a male or just a feminine presence? Ancient India's learned masters, seeing truths from human perspective, had well understood double propensity inherent in all empowerment tools, be they physical, material, or intellectual. Accordingly, they felt the need to educate all and sundry on how to judiciously use Shakti, in the larger interest of the individual self, humanity as a whole, and overall existential needs. As we are aware, a mother uses her Shakti and all resources available, to bear, produce, and nurse her child, till they qualify to manage on their own. She pools in all resources available, bears with all the pains in the process, yet she rejoices for what she has brought up. And, in her true motherly spirit, it remains a selfless exercise on her part, as she does not expect anything in return thereof at least in immediate terms. There can be, therefore, no better simile than that of a mother, which may be suggestive of judicious and selfless application of Shakti.

Let us now look at wholesome form in which the Mother Goddess is popularly visualised. Mounted on a Lion, She

is usually perceived having 10 hands. In 8 She is shown holding different weapons, each offered by one or the other Devata. In remaining two, She is shown with a conch shell (Blowing instrument) in one and Lotus flower in the other. Now why is Mother visualised with 10 arms holding different weapons and accessories as described above? We are aware that there are ten directions – North, East, South, West, the four corners, one above and another below, implying 10 dimensions of energy flow in nature. She attends to the energies flowing through different directions with Her ten hands holding specific arm. And, we are all aware that both creation and destruction are the prerogative of Shakti alone. It will naturally be desirable to access and make the most out of creative energies and simultaneously checkmate the implications of negative forces.

The issue continues

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