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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.

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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.

"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 5



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

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 JD(U). We have grievances against Nitish Kumar and have decided to boycott voting. Those keeping with moral of democracy may vote NOTA but we shall never vote for Teer (arrow which is the JD(U) 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".

"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 JD(U) 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'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 5

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

voting for Vikasit Bharat," he said.

Modi, who also addressed another election rally at Parbhani in Marathwada, said that INDIA alliance leaders had come together to save and protect their corruption. "The

voters are asking them for their leader but they cannot answer. The people had thoroughly rejected them in the first phase of polling. Even before the completion of the election, the Congress leaders have accepted the defeat".

The Prime Minister charged that the Opposition INDIA bloc believed in vote bank politics. "By boycotting the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, the Opposition leaders have insulted our astha (faith).

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 Talaq 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 INDIA 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 5

Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months back: Tihar

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Tihar 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 Tihar 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 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 Tihar 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

custody (outside the jail). He was prescribed appropriate antidiabetic treatment and was advised self-monitoring blood glucose levels, which was done by CGM (Continuous Glucose Monitor) as well as by Glucometer occasionally, further he was also prescribed appropriate treatment for chronic constipation and cough," the report stated. The doctors after examining Kejriwal, also noted, "Considering all parameters and vitals of the UTP (Kejriwal) since his lodgment in judicial custody, his blood sugar levels are not alarming, and administration of insulin is not required as of now". Further the report mentions the diet plan provided by AIIMS for Kejriwal has "strictly prohibited" fried food including Poori, Paratha, Samosa, Pakora, Namkeen, Bhujia, Pickles and Papad. He has also been asked to not consume sweets, cake, jam, chocolate, sugar, jaggery, honey and ice-cream. Fruits like mango, banana, chikoo, litchi and grapes are not given to him.

Continued on Page 5

Shubham tops Inter, Prachi HS exams

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Shubham Verma of Sitapur has topped the Intermediate examination conducted by Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad popularly known as UP Board, while Prachi Nigam, also of Sitapur, has topped the High School examination of UP Board, the results of which were declared here on Saturday.

Both Shubham Verma and Prachi Nigam are students of Sita Bal Vidya Mandir Inter College in Mahmudabad, Sitapur.

Shubham has secured 489 (97.80 per cent) marks in the Intermediate exam. His father is a farmer. While a total of six students have come at the second position, five students are at the third position. As many as 408 students have made it to the top 10 in the Intermediate exam. There is a difference of only 9 marks between the first and the tenth ranks. Prachi has secured 98.50 per cent (591) marks.

Deepika Sonkar of Fatehpur is at the second place with 590 marks.

There are four students at third rank with 588 marks. They are Navya Singh of Sitapur, Swati Singh, Dipanshi Singh Sengar of Jalaun and Arpit Tiwari of Pratapgarh.

Among the six students who have found a place in the top 3, five are girls.

A total of 159 students have made it to the top 10 in the Class 10 exam. Of these, 24 students are from Sitapur.

This time there is a difference of 10 marks between first and tenth ranks. While the first rank student has secured 598 marks, the tenth rank student has 581 marks. While announcing the High School and Intermediate results, Education (Secondary) Director Mahendra Dev said the pass percentage for Class 10 stood at 89.55. The pass percentage of boys is 86.64 per cent and that of girl students w93.34 per cent. The pass percentage for Class 12 is 82.60.

Continued on Page 5

Jail no bar, 180 prisoners pass UP Board exams

Prayagraj (PTI): About 180 prisoners lodged in various jails in 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Ghaziabad, Agra and Lucknow, passed the Class 10 and Class 12 board exams, results of which were announced on Saturday. The Uttar Pradesh State Board of High School and Intermediate Education today announced the board exam results, with the pass percentage for Class 10 at 89.55 and that for Class 12 at 82.60.

According to the results, 89 of the 91 prisoners, who appeared for the Class 10 board exams, passed while 87 of the 105 inmates, who gave the Class 12 papers, cleared the exams. Twenty-one prisoners from Ghaziabad appeared in the Class 12 board exams, out of which 17 passed, according to an official release. Similarly, 11 inmates from Bulandshahr jail appeared for the examination and 10 passed. All four prisoners who appeared from Hardoi jail cleared the board exams, it said.



सूचना

मेरा नाम अनिलेश में गलती से VIPUL KHATTAR (विपुल खट्टर) दर्ज हो गया है,जबकि मेरा सही नाम VIPUL KUMAR KHATTAR (विपुल कुमार खट्टर) है । मुझे भविष्य में VIPUL KUMAR KHATTAR (विपुल कुमार खट्टर) के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए ।

Information

It is informed that in the record of my husband late Vinod Kumar, SHEETLA DEVI has been entered erroneously, which is wrong. The correct name is Shitla (SHITLA). Hence, I should be known and recognized by this name.Shitla wife of late Vinod Kumar Resident - Village and Post Behatakala Lalganj District - Raebareilly.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was MUHAMMAD MUSA Siddiqui which I have Changed to MUHAMMAD MUSA. Now I should be Known and regarded as MUHAMMAD MUSA for all future purposes. MUHAMMAD MUSA. S/o Late Ahsanul Jabbar R/o K.W.45/46 J.K.Asiyana Kareli Prayagraj.

NOTICE

General public is informed that I have changed the name of my son from Darsh Jain to Dev Jain. In future he should be known as Dev Jain. Saurabh Jain, son of Late Surendra Kumar Jain, R/o 9 Munney Lal Dharamshala Road, Charbagh, Lucknow.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 25-04-2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे उ० प्र० राज्य खारा एवं आवश्यक वस्तु निगम लि. एच.आई.जी., एल-17, कुर्सी रोड, अलीगंज, लखनऊ में संग्रहित निम्नोपरोक्त वस्तुओं की नीलामी, सिक्किमिटी रु. 5,000/- नगद, जी. एस. टी. पंजीकरण के साथ जमा होगी । आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my Name was NOORUDDIN SIDDIQUI which I have Changed to NOORUDDIN. Now I Should be Known as NOORUDDIN for all future purposes. NOORUDDIN S/o Habibuddin R/o C. 809/1 Kareli. G.T.B. Nagar, Prayagraj.

NOTICE

NOTIFY THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SAURABH SINGH TO ABHIMANYU SINGH FOR ALL PURPOSES & RECORDS. ABHIMANYU SINGH S/o AMAR SINGH 405/24 SARAI MALI KHAN, CHOWK, LUCKNOW

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Anshul Pal To Ayush Pal for all future purpose, Ayush Pal S/o Santosh Pal R/o 128/14 A, Namak Factory Chauraha, Yashoda Nagar, Kanpur

Rakshit Tewari emerges Lko topper in Class XII

Aastha Maurya, Adarsh Verma secure pole position in UP Board High School exams

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Rakshit Tewari from Wisdom Way Progressive Inter College (Chinhhat) emerged the UP Board Intermediate topper in Lucknow with 96.80 per cent marks, while Aastha Maurya from SS Bhupati Singh Memorial Inter College (Alambagh), and Adarsh Verma from Shri Durga Maa Bal Govind Inter College (Mohanlalganj) topped the High School examinations in city, securing 96.67 per cent marks each.

The results of the UP Board High School and Intermediate examinations were declared on Saturday afternoon, bringing a wave of happiness amongst the students and their families.

Rakshit Tewari, who was visibly over the moon, said he could not believe that he was the Lucknow topper in the Intermediate examinations. With a big smile on his face, the lanky lad gushed that his parents were very proud of him.

"I have always stood first in my class, but still I never believed that I would secure 96.8 per cent marks. I was expecting not more than 93-94 per cent. I scored a whopping 99 out of 100 in Biology,"



Rakshit Tewari

he said.

Son of a Panchayati Raj department employee from Barabanki, Rakshit said he focused on previous years' question papers. "In all the subjects, I tried to understand the concepts and did not cram the notes which the teachers had given us. I tried to answer the questions in my own words. However, I went for coaching classes for Physics because I had some doubts in this subject," he said. "I did not take too much

stress and studied for only 6-7 hours a day. Teachers were a huge support for me," Rakshit said, adding he used his smart phone during the exam period but smartly. Aiming to become a doctor, he said his goal is to make it to AIIMS, Delhi. "As a doctor, I would like to serve the poor," said Rakshit who was ranked sixth in the UP state merit list. High School topper Adarsh Verma, who was elated after the results were announced, is the son of a farmer of Saduri village in Mohanlalganj. He



Adarsh Verma

said he worked hard and focused on completing the course first and then doing the revision. "I would study for not less than five to six hours" he said. Aiming at becoming an engineer, he said though he has been a topper, he was not expecting such a high percentage. "The entire village is rejoicing with me. I am probably the first boy from here to have scored such high marks," he added.

Shweta Prajapati from Lucknow Public College

(Rajajipuram), who secured the second rank in Lucknow the Intermediate with 96.60 per cent marks, is the daughter of a lab technician in KGMU (father). Her mother is a hospital attendant. About her success mantra, she said the analysis of last years' question papers did the trick for her. "Instead of having a time-based schedule, I went for a goal-based schedule," said Shweta who was ranked in seventh in the UP state merit list. Stressing on the role of teach-



Shweta Prajapati

ers, she said they made a lot of difference. "They helped me a lot in my preparations, especially Sandhya Ma'am, who is the best teacher I have ever had," she pointed out. She said that her parents were also very supportive. "Sometimes I would score low marks and then my parents would encourage me and tell me that I could make it to the top," she added. She said she kept away from her mobile phone and sometimes used Telegram for the informatics. "I would study for

4-6 hours in the early months but when the examinations drew near, I would study for 10-12 hours a day. I did not join any coaching classes," she added. Aiming to become a doctor, she said: "I want to serve my country".

Her father Nandlal Prajapati said he was proud of his daughter. "I have four daughters; one is a lab technician, the second daughter is in the nursing field, while the third is an Ayurvedic doctor. Now, we are hoping Shweta becomes a medical doctor."

Varied career aspirations for meritorious students

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Students of various UP Board Affiliated schools in the city were on cloud nine after having secured high percentages in the High School and Intermediate examinations. Anjul Kumar from Lucknow Public College Rajajipuram campus, who secured 95.8 per cent in Class XII, said that he was feeling a little bit nervous before the announcement of the results. "However, now I am satisfied. I was expecting a higher percentage. I went in for self study and took no coaching. Some students study for 8-10 hours and take a lot of stress but that was not what I did. I studied for a sufficient time and also enjoyed some sporting activities and was always mentally fresh," he said.

Son of a farmer, he said that he was keen on becoming a doctor and wanted to start his preparations for the NEET. Talking about his strategy to get

good marks, Anjul said that he followed his teachers and their advice. "They were very supportive and removed all my doubts," he added. He said he wanted to serve the country by giving his hundred per cent to his work regardless of any material gains. "We should contribute to the country in whichever field we are working in," he said. Bhairavi Maurya from Class X who secured 92.3 per cent said that she was very happy with the result and that she never expected such a high percentage. Daughter of a bank manager, Bhairavi, while giving her success mantra, said: "Following teachers and studying consistently helped me get good marks. I also believed in myself" She said that was working towards cracking the IIT-JEE. "I am aiming at becoming an astronaut. My role model is Dr APJ Abdul Kalam," she said. Archie Singh from Class X who secured 90.6 per cent said that



she was not very happy with her marks. "I expected a better percentage," she said. Daughter of a real estate worker, she said that the success mantra was to study hard and properly. "I created a time table for everything. My aim is to join the Indian Institute of Technology," she said. Aradhy Tewari from Class X who secured 90.3 per cent marks said that he was feeling

good about the result.

Son of a teacher, Aradhy said, "I worked hard and solved the questions which the teachers gave me. The extra classes by my school also helped me in the preparations. For mathematics, I used a reference book." Aiming to become an engineer, Aradhy said that he wanted to become a good citizen of the country. Kokab from Class XII, who

secured 95.4 per cent marks, said that she was having a mix of emotions and that she was not expecting such a high percentage. Daughter of a single mother whose father died recently, Kokab said that to score such a high percentage one had to sacrifice sleep and come out of the comfort zone. Kokab said that she wanted to become a software engineer. "I am interested in criminology and want to solve various cyber issues that are cropping up in the country," she added. Aryan Asthana from Class XII, who has secured 95 per cent, is not happy with his marks as he expected a higher percent. He said that the success mantra was to follow the teachers, understand the concept and solve as many problems of the previous years' papers as one can. Son of a retired postmaster, he wants to become an engineer and be a part of the progress of the country. Sameeksha Rajput from Class X,

who secured 90.33 per cent marks, said that she was happy with her result. "I have been consistent and have worked hard," she said. Daughter of a government servant, the young achiever has set her goal at becoming an IAS officer. She said that she wanted to reduce poverty and work for the welfare of the people. Rhea Singh from Class X, who secured 90.1 per cent marks, said that the mantra of success was being positive. Daughter of a tax inspector, she said, "I studied for five to six hours a day. I managed my stress by talking to my family members. My family members were extremely supportive, especially my grandfather." Mudrika Kesarwani of Class X, who secured 86 per cent marks, said that her family was very proud of her although she was expecting a higher percentage. "I want to become a space scientist. My role model is Dr APJ Abdul Kalam," she said.

CM Yogi congratulates successful candidates

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has congratulated the boys and girls who have passed the Class 10 and Class 12 examinations of the UP Board. He wished them a bright future and encouraged them to continue their hard work with dedication and patience. Chief Minister Yogi wrote on his X account, "Hearty congratulations to all the students, who have passed the 10th and 12th class examinations of the Board of Secondary Education, Uttar Pradesh, as well as their parents and teachers. You all are the golden future of 'New Uttar Pradesh'. With your hard work, dedication, and patience, we hope you achieve success in every challenge life presents. May the blessings of Mother Sharda always be upon you all!" While 89.55 per cent students have passed the high school examination, 82.60 per cent students have cleared the intermediate examination.

Domestic help falls to death from third floor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 20-year-old maid, employed by a banker couple, died under mysterious circumstances after she allegedly fell off the third floor of their flat at Russell Court Apartment in Gomti Nagar Extension on Saturday morning. The incident took place around 8:55 am, and the victim. The deceased, Mohini, who hailed from Rahimabad, was employed by the couple just 20 days ago. Her duties included household chores and caring for the couple's 4-year-old child. She was hired through a local service provider company and her monthly salary was fixed at Rs 7,000. According to reports, Mohini was washing the balcony when she slipped and lost her balance, resulting in the fatal fall. Sarabjeet Singh and Preeti Singh, both employees of the Central Bank of India in

Lucknow, provided this account to the police upon their arrival at the scene. Mohini was rushed to RML hospital, where she was pronounced dead by doctors. Police constable Monu Rathii from Vibhuti Khand arrived at the location and informed authorities about the incident. The police kept the body in the mortuary and informed the deceased's family. It was revealed that Sarabjeet was out for a morning walk, while Preeti was in the bathroom at the time of the incident. Reports also stated that Mohini was watering the plants when she lost her balance and fell off. Sarabjeet, alerted by his wife, rushed Mohini to the hospital upon his return, but she could not be saved. Sarabjeet's driver Jitendra informed the police that he had requested the car keys around 8:11 am, which Mohini had

handed over shortly before the fatal fall. Mohini's mother Santoshi expressed skepticism regarding the police's explanation of her daughter's death, citing the four-foot-high balcony railing as an obstacle to such an accident. Allegations of harassment by the couple also surfaced, with claims that Mohini was only allowed to speak with her family twice during her employment. However, the police clarified that the balcony railing's height was two feet. Family members disclosed that Mohini had expressed a desire to return home from her workplace. They also mentioned a previous employee named Khushboo, who had resigned due to illness. Despite no formal complaint from the deceased's family, the police are investigating the case based on circumstantial evidence gathered by them.

Class II girl dies in freak mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A pall of gloom descended on the family of a young girl, whose life was cut short in a freak incident on Saturday. The family was making preparations for the eighth birthday celebration of Shruti Rawat from Chinhata area. Shruti was crushed under a pillar of the staircase in her home and succumbed to the heavy impact. The incident occurred around 10:30 am on Saturday. She was rushed to RML Hospital where she was pronounced dead upon arrival. The Chinhata police have initiated investigations, although no formal complaint has been

lodged by the family. She was a Class II student. Her father Anil Rawat works as a driver, while her mother Geeta is a homemaker. The family had been preparing for Shruti's birthday, with her elder brother Alok tearfully recalling how he had bought her a gift just a day ago. In another tragic incident, Sunder Lal Verma, a retired railway employee from Munnu Khara in Para, allegedly ended his life due to distress caused by his younger son's behaviour. Sunder Lal (71) was found hanging at his elder son's house in the Para police station area on Friday night. According to his grandson

Abhay Verma, Sunder Lal used a plastic rope to hang himself. Sunder Lal was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival. Investigations revealed that Sunder Lal had sold his ancestral house in Ranipur village without consulting his family members, leading to tension within the family. His younger son had been residing in the house, which the buyer now sought to reclaim, causing further strain on Sunder Lal. The issue had become a source of contention among family members, ultimately contributing to Sunder Lal's distress and tragic decision to end his life.

CITYBRIEFS

NCC CADET SELECTED FOR AGNIVEER

NCC cadet Sergeant Varsha Yadav (19 UP Girls Battalion NCC), a student of Navyug Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Rajendra Nagar, has been selected for Agniveer, Indian Navy. Versha successfully completed the last phase of selection at INS Chilka on April 19. Principal Manjula Upadhyay, NCC officer Major Manmeet Kaur Sodhi, Colonel Deepak Kumar, Commanding Officer Major Divya Sharma congratulated Varsha.



Officer of 19 Battalion, Major Divya Sharma

WELCOME PARTY

The Lucknow Public Collegiate, Sharda Nagar, celebrated a welcome party along with

some unique shows on Saturday. The programme started with an English song to welcome the children and their parents. An entertaining game was also organised for all the fathers. Children also presented a vegetable song to demonstrate the benefits of vegetables in an idiosyncratic way. The main attraction was a 'baby show'. Another programme was a game for mothers. The stage was then open for all the children to come up with a fashion show. Joint director/principal Dr Jawaid Alam Khan gave away prizes to the winners.



Woman defrauded by 'would-be' husband

Lucknow (PNS): A fraudster duped a woman, with whom he was to be hitched, of Rs 47,000 in Madaon. A case was registered in this regard on Saturday. The woman, a resident of Naubasta locality, had posted her profile on a matrimonial site some time ago. She was contacted by a person named Nazim from Moradabad on March 24, claiming that his family was ready for the marriage. Nazim, who claimed to be a railway employee in Lucknow, even displayed a profile picture in the DRM office on his social media account. Shortly after their initial conversations, Nazim informed the woman that his father had fallen ill and they were headed to Bengaluru for his treatment. He appealed to her for assistance, stating, "My father's sudden increase in sugar levels requires urgent medical attention, so I am taking him to Bengaluru." Two days later, Nazim contacted the woman again, claiming that his father's health had worsened due to a robbery in which he lost all his money. On April 8, he informed the woman of his aunt's demise and asked for Rs 47,000 to set-

tle the hospital bill in Delhi. Trusting him, the woman transferred the money to a bank account provided by Nazim. However, after sending the money, the woman's attempts to contact Nazim were unsuccessful. Subsequent inquiries revealed that the identity Nazim provided was false, and there was no employee matching his description at the DRM office in Lucknow. In another incident, an Air Force official fell victim to a cyber fraud in Hussainganj police station area and lost over Rs 1 lakh. Wing Commander Gopal Krishna Jauhari, a resident of Diamond Dairy Colony, received a call from someone posing as a bank official, claiming unauthorised transactions on his credit card. Despite denying any such transactions, the caller claimed to temporarily close the transactions through his credit card. Upon verifying with the bank, Wing Commander Jauhari discovered unauthorised shopping on his credit card. He promptly reported the incident to both the bank and the cyber cell of Lucknow police.

Notice

This is to bring in the notice of public at large that the property being House No. 8/59-C admeasuring 249.18 Square Meters situated at Arya Nagar, Kanpur was under the ownership of Smt. Neerja Kapoor, Shri Shobhit Kapoor, Shri Abhishek Kapoor and Shri Anuj Tandon out of which Smt. Neerja Kapoor and her husband-Shri Kuwar Ji Kapoor expired leaving behind her legal heirs namely - Shri Shobhit Kapoor, Shri Abhishek Kapoor, Smt. Seema Tandon. Now Shri Shobhit Kapoor, Smt. Seema Tandon, Shri Abhishek Kapoor & Shri Anuj Tandon have agreed to sell the said Premises No. 8/59-C admeasuring 249.18 Square Meters situated at, Arya Nagar, Kanpur to M/s MVRV Products and M/s MVRV Products is obtaining financial assistance from IDFC First Bank Limited to purchase the said property. If any person has any sort of objection, whatsoever, they may record their objections, in writing, to the undersigned within 7 days. Any objections / claim received after 7 days shall be invalid and not be entertained.

Mrinal Lalechandani Advocate
Chamber No. 14 (1st Floor) Moti Lal Adhivakta Bhawan Court, Kanpur Mobile-9919606060 Counsel for IDFC First Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecommunication)/Northern Railway/ Lucknow division/Lucknow, for and on behalf of President of India invites **E-tenders in Single packet system** for the under noted work:

Tender No. 106-Sig-Tender-01-2024-25

Name of Work	Provision of RTU at mid section interlocked LC gates for monitoring of power supply and event logging along with communication arrangement over Lucknow Division of Northern Railway
Approximate Cost	Rs. 22768653.44
Cost of tender form	NIL
Earnest Money	Rs. 263900.00
Completion period	270 days.
Last date and time of submission of tender document	13.05.2024 15:30 Hrs.
Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen	"http://www.ireps.gov.in" Office of the Sr. DSTE, DRM office Complex/ Northern Railway, Lucknow

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. "http://www.ireps.gov.in" for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.

Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable online through net banking or payment gateway only.

T. Notice No. 106-Sig-Tender-01-2024-25 Dated : 20.04.2024 1189/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Relegate Congress to history: CM

Yogi holds roadshows in Rajasthan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's star campaigner Yogi Adityanath entered the electoral battlefield in Rajasthan for the second time on Saturday as he canvassed for the party candidates contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from the state.

Yogi Adityanath held grand roadshows in Chittorgarh and Jodhpur in favour of BJP state president and party candidate CP Joshi and Union Jal Shakti Minister and party candidate Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, respectively. He also addressed a huge public meeting in Rajsamand, seeking votes for BJP candidate Mahima Vishweshwar Singh Mewar. During the roadshows, rose petals were showered on Yogi Adityanath. A significant number of Muslim youths also participated in the roadshow while women were present on the rooftops of the houses to have a glimpse of Yogi braving the scorching heat. The roadshow in Chittorgarh started from Mall Road warehouse and culminated at Bhairon Singh Chowk, passing through the main market of the city. Despite the scorching heat, people gathered in large numbers to greet the Uttar Pradesh chief minister throughout the roadshow while the continuous chant of 'Yogi-Yogi' rent the air. Addressing the voters at the concluding point of the roadshow, Yogi Adityanath said: "I have come to pay respects to the land of valour, Mewar, from the birthplace of Lord Ram, Ayodhya. The history of



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath waves to supporters during a roadshow in Rajasthan on Saturday

this land reveals that it has never deviated from nationalism and has always been eager to make sacrifices for the motherland. As a modern pilgrimage site of India, this land receives homage from the whole of India." Later, addressing a public meeting in Rajsamand, Yogi Adityanath urged voters of Rajasthan to relegate Congress party to history. "Bring the party to a state where people reminisce, 'Once upon a time, there was Congress'" he remarked. He added, "Don't tarnish your history by voting for the Congress party. Congress worked to glorify Akbar instead

of Maharana Pratap, who remained steadfast in adverse situations, fighting to defend the country and dharma. This land has never compromised with homeland, religion and self-respect" Chief Minister Yogi said that his ancestors came from Rajasthan, pointing out that his grandfather guru arrived in Gorakhpur from Mewar and ignited the flame of nationalism there. He added: "I am a follower of truth, and on the land of Rajasthan, the voice of truth gets strengthened. That is why I receive the most love here." Hitting out at the Congress, he said that the party never hes-

itates to attack the Sanatan faith of India. "They used to say that Lord Ram never existed. No self-respecting community can do this," he asserted. Jodhpur witnessed chock-a-block traffic on the streets during Chief Minister Yogi's roadshow. Crowds thronged the streets to catch a glimpse of BJP's prominent campaigner and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He was greeted with the blowing of conch shells. The roadshow, which was held in favour of Jodhpur MP and BJP candidate Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, lasted an hour and a half amid chants of 'Yogi-Yogi'.

Yogi Adityanath extended his greetings to the public through gestures like throwing rose petals, handshakes and folded hands. Holding BJP's lotus symbol in his hands, he fervently appealed to people to vote for the party. Highlighting the sacredness of Jodhpur, Yogi Adityanath emphasised the necessity of the Narendra Modi government for the development of the city, elevating Rajasthan's status, and propelling India towards becoming a developed nation. Women in saffron-coloured sarees or with Ram name bands around their necks, actively participated in the roadshow at various locations.

BJP's film flopped on opening day: Akhilesh

Meerut/Amroha: Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said the first phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls has changed the atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh and the BJP's "film has flopped" on the opening day itself.

Eight western Uttar Pradesh constituencies went to polls in the first phase on Friday. Addressing a rally in Meerut to garner support for the SP and INDIA opposition bloc candidate Sunita Verma, Yadav said, "The direction of the wind has changed. It is not only that their (BJP's) film has flopped but also, no one wants to listen to their often-repeated stories. No one wants to give their vote to them."

Describing Meerut as the "land of revolutionaries", the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister urged people to help the country achieve "freedom from the BJP". Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees, Yadav termed those a new fraud against the public. "The new guarantees are fraudulent and everyone should be wary of those. Those are not guarantees but 'ghanti'. We believe in the big guarantee of the Constitution given by B R Ambedkar. We want that guarantee which gives us honour, jobs, reservation," he said. Yadav said the "guarantees" given by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its Lok Sabha poll manifesto, including doubling the farmers' income and two crore jobs, are nothing but empty rhetoric. He asserted that the ongoing election is for protecting the Constitution and democracy. Later, addressing a rally in Amroha where he shared the dais with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the SP chief said, "People have overturned the BJP in the very first phase



(of the polls). I want to tell those who used to say that the film of others is not working that the BJP's show was a flop on the very first day itself. No one wants to listen to their false stories. Their cliched dialogues are not popular with the public anymore. "When the public bids farewell, it bids farewell with drums. This time, the BJP's farewell will take place with drums of Amroha being played. Those who came up with slogans, who said the farmers' income will be doubled, who did not fulfil even a single promise, their departure is certain." Yadav said the BJP is the epicentre of corruption and added that the saffron party does not want to talk about electoral bonds, through which, he alleged, it extorted money using the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and income-tax department. On the issue of question paper leaks in government exams, he said 60 lakh youngsters in Uttar Pradesh have been cheated and "even if you add three votes from the house of one youngster, the BJP will lose 1.8 crore votes in Uttar Pradesh this time." "Today, the biggest warehouse

of corrupt people and mafia dons is the BJP. All the corrupt people are in that party and all the mafia dons of Uttar Pradesh are also with them. "We think of the future but the BJP indulges in negative politics. I appeal to everyone to keep an eye on the polling booths and finish the BJP's game," the SP chief said. "Those associated with the BJP have come here after 10 years. Must we not hold them accountable for all these years? Farmers are dejected. They were forced to go through a lot of problems. They agitated in Delhi and subsequently, the three black (central farm) laws had to be withdrawn," he added. Yadav said if the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties comes to power, it will ensure that farmers get a minimum support price (MSP) for their crops. Voting in the second phase of the election will take place on April 26, covering eight parliamentary constituencies in Uttar Pradesh — Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr (reserved for Scheduled Castes), Aligarh and Mathura. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. **PTI**

Budaun LS seat crucial for SP, Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Budaun Lok Sabha constituency is one of the key seats for the first family of the Samajwadi Party. The SP has fielded Aditya Yadav, son of Shivpal Singh Yadav, the uncle of party chief Akhilesh Yadav, from Budaun. The SP had earlier fielded former Member of Parliament Dharmendra Yadav, cousin of Akhilesh Yadav, from Budaun but later shifted him to Azamgarh, and announced to field Shivpal Yadav from there. However, the SP finally announced that it would field Shivpal Yadav's son Aditya to contest the Budaun seat. Shivpal Yadav was reluctant to contest the election from Budaun and had demanded the ticket for the seat for his son. According to sources in the SP, Akhilesh Yadav appears to have acceded to the demand of uncle to end the turf war in the family. Moreover, the sources said, "It is a quid pro quo deal. Akhilesh Yadav, by acceding to the demand of his son for Budaun Lok Sabha seat, has ensured the support of

Shivpal Yadav in Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency." Dimple Yadav, wife of Akhilesh Yadav, is the SP candidate from Mainpuri. Shivpal Yadav had a key role in her victory in the bypoll to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in November 2022. Budaun is a crucial Lok Sabha seat in western UP, with sizable votes of Yadavs and Muslims — the SP's core vote bank. Its population comprises around 40 per cent Yadavs, 20 per cent Muslims, 20 per cent non-Yadav Other Backward Classes and around 20 per cent upper castes and Dalits combined. Budaun will go to polls in the third phase on May 7. The nomination process began on April 12 and ended on April 19. The Bharatiya Janata Party has fielded first-time Durvraj Singh Shakya, the party's Braj unit chief, from Budaun. The SP leadership says the decision to field Aditya, 35, for his election debut was taken by Shivpal Yadav to mark his son's entry into active politics. "Which father doesn't want to help his son establish himself in his profession? A doctor

would want his son to be a doctor, an engineer would want his son to be an engineer. The same is for politicians. If Shivpal ji has convinced the party leadership to replace him with his son, then what is wrong with it?" asked a senior SP leader. Several members of the Yadav clan are in the fray in the Lok Sabha polls in UP. Dharmendra Yadav is contesting from Azamgarh. Akhilesh's wife and sitting MP Dimple Yadav is contesting from Mainpuri, while senior SP leader and uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav's son Akshay is the party candidate from Firozabad. So far, there is no clarity whether Akhilesh will himself contest the Lok Sabha polls, although there is speculation that he will contest from Kannauj. While all other younger members of the Yadav clan have already made their electoral debuts in the past, Aditya was not given a chance till now. Akshay was elected an MP from Firozabad in 2009. Mulayam Singh Yadav's grandnephew Tej Pratap Yadav had won the Lok Sabha bypoll in

2014 from Mainpuri. In 2019, the Budaun Lok Sabha seat was won by the BJP when Sanghmitra Maurya, daughter of Swami Prasad Maurya (then in BJP) won the seat, defeating Dharmendra Yadav by 18,454 votes. Dharmendra had managed to win the seat in 2014 amid the Narendra Modi wave by 1.66 lakh votes, defeating the BJP's Vagish Pathak, indicating the SP's strong presence in the constituency. Shivpal Yadav's grip over the SP cadre is something that several party leaders laud. "He has a touch of Netaji (Mulayam). While Akhilesh ji has everyone's support, Shivpal ji has the magic touch that many associate with the late Mulayam Singh Yadav," said a SP leader. SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said, "Shivpal's role will be 'bigger' because of his stature and he is likely to campaign across the state." With Shivpal Yadav stepping aside for his son in Budaun, it will be interesting to see whether the SP wrests its erstwhile bastion, or whether the move backfires for both of them.

PM wants Chinese goods to be sold in country: Rahul Gandhi

Amroha: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that although Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about 'Make in India', he has "destroyed" MSMEs through demonetisation and GST as he wants Chinese goods to be sold in the country and billionaires profit from it. He also the BJP government has created "two types of martyrs" and asserted that if voted to power, the Congress will scrap the Agniveer scheme. At an election meeting here also attended by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, the former Congress chief alleged that PM Modi worked with full vigour for 15-20 billionaires in the past 10 years. By diverting people's attention, the "entire wealth of India was handed over to these people. Narendra Modi ji has waived loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore of the billionaires", he claimed. "They have waived the loans of 10-15 people. Narendra Modi ji has given lakhs of crores to the billionaires. Today, the situation is such that 22 people possess

wealth equal to that of 70 crore Indians... Two Indias have been created," Gandhi said. "Where does the money come from? It comes from the GST... These billionaires sell Chinese items in India. On one hand, Narendra Modi talks about 'Make in India' and on the other, he implements demonetisation and GST on people who can make in India — the small traders and artisans — and destroys them." Gandhi claimed, "He does not want any 'Make in India'. He only wants 'make in China'. He wants Chinese items to be sold in India and the billionaires profit from it." The Congress leader said that if the INDIA bloc wins the Lok Sabha polls, it will give the money to the poor. "The media says that if the loans of farmers are waived, it will spoil them. But, it does not say so when loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore of billionaires are waived by Modi. What I am saying is if their (billionaires') loans are waived, then the loans of farmers should also be waived," he

said. Speaking about the youths, Gandhi said, "There are 30 lakh vacant posts in the Government of India. We will hand over the 30 lakh vacant posts to you." About the Agniveer scheme, he said that earlier youngsters employed by the Army were assured of pension, canteen facilities and the status of martyr in case of death. "PM Modi has stopped all these and two types of martyrs have been created. If an Agniveer attains martyrdom, he will not be given the status of a martyr, neither will he get a pension," Gandhi said. He said an Agniveer receives six months of training while a Chinese jawan is trained for five years and "the results are known to you all." "When we form a government, we will scrap this Agniveer scheme. The Army did not want the Agniveer scheme. This was the decision of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's Office made the scheme," Gandhi told the gathering. **PTI**

BJP candidate from Moradabad dies

Lucknow: BJP candidate from Moradabad Lok Sabha seat Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar, who was unwell for some time, died at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday, a senior party leader said. He was 72. "Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar has passed away," UP BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary told PTI. "He had some problem in his throat and had an operation. Yesterday, he had gone to AIIMS for a check-up," Chaudhary said. Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar was among the 12 candidates in the poll fray from Moradabad parliamentary constituency, which went to polls in the first phase on Friday (April 19). He was the Lok Sabha MP from Moradabad from 2014 to 2019. However, he lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to SP's ST Hasan (jointly fielded by the BSP, SP and RLD). He has also been a five-time BJP MLA from Thakurdwara assembly constituency in Moradabad from 1991 to 2007 and from 2012 to 2014. He is survived by his wife Sadhna Singh, a son and a daughter. **PTI**

Congress-SP combine wiped out in first phase: Amit Shah

Mathura: 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." Polling in Saharanpur, Bijnor, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Nagina (reserved), Moradabad, Rampur and Pilibhit seats was held on Friday. Addressing an election rally in support of BJP candidate Hema Malini here in Vrindavan, Shah said, "Let me tell you the result of the first phase, don't tell it to anyone, I will tell you - Congress, SP have been wiped out in the first phase." 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. The SP chief and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi shared the dias addressing the first joint election meeting Amroha on Saturday.

Shah in his turn said, "On the one hand, there is the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, which are involved in scams and corruption worth Rs 12 lakh crores and on the other hand, there is Narendra Modi, who despite being a chief minister for 23 years, is not guilty of corruption of even a penny." He added, "There are two camps. On one side is our leader Narendra Modi who was born in a poor family and on the other side is Rahul Baba who was born with a silver spoon. You have to decide between the two." Taking a jibe at the Rahul and Akhilesh, Shah said, "In 2017, two princes had come together... They have come together in 2024 as well, (but) BJP will win maximum seats in Uttar Pradesh." In 2017, Congress and SP contested the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in an alliance, which faced the rout, as the BJP and allies won 325 seats in the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly. "On one hand, there is Rahul Baba, who takes a holiday abroad on a private island in

Thailand as soon as summer arrives, and on the other is Narendra Modi, who does not take leave even on the day of Diwali. You have to decide between these two," Shah said in the rally. Shah also claimed that in 2014, before BJP came to power, people were migrating from western Uttar Pradesh. "SP goons were harassing people. Then you formed Yogi ji's government in 2017 and now the same goons are fleeing." Giving credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya and removal of Article 370 in Kashmir, he alleged, "When the consecration ceremony was taking place, Congress and SP were invited. But to appease their vote bank, they did not go for the 'pran pratishtha' in 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. **PTI**

Maya's campaign in Ghaziabad, Amroha today

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati will campaign for her party candidates in Amroha and Ghaziabad on Sunday. The meeting in Amroha will be held near the police lines while Kavinagar will be the venue of the meeting in Ghaziabad. Both these Lok Sabha constituencies will go to polls in the second phase of polling on April 26. The BSP, in a statement here on Saturday, said the party, in the interest of 'bahu-jan hitay bahujan sukhay', has decided to go solo in 2024 Lok Sabha elections. To give a message to the party cadre, Mayawati had chosen the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, April 14, to launch the party's election campaign. On April 11 she addressed a public meeting in Nagpur, considered the 'karmabhoomi' of Dr Ambedkar. To give momentum to the party campaign, the BSP chief has addressed a series of meetings in west UP where BSP is considered to have a committed vote bank. On April 22, Mayawati will address public meetings in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bulandshahr.

42 crorepati candidates in second phase of Lok Sabha polls in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The second phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh unveils a notable presence of affluent candidates and criminals vying for parliamentary seats, raising concerns regarding the intertwining of wealth, crime and politics. In the eight Lok Sabha constituencies at stake - Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Mathura - a striking 42 crorepati candidates have joined the electoral fray. Besides, a majority of Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress candidates have criminal records. Data compiled by the Uttar Pradesh Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms provide a comprehensive overview of the electoral landscape. Out of the 91 candidates contesting, a significant 46 per cent are crorepaties. Equally worrisome is the revelation that 18 candidates, constituting nearly 20 per cent of the total, have serious criminal cases registered against them.

Uttar Pradesh Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms has also revealed that 18 candidates, constituting nearly 20 per cent of the total, have serious criminal cases registered against them

The influence of wealth extends beyond financial prowess, permeating into the realm of political power play. With only three exceptions among Congress candidates, nominees from major parties - Bahujan Samaj Party, Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, Jai Hind National Party and Samaj Vikas Kranti Party - boast considerable fortunes. Leading the roster is Hema Malini, the BJP candidate contesting the polls from Mathura parliamentary constituency for the third consecutive term. Her declared assets stand at approximately Rs 297 crore, marking a 15 per cent increase over the past five years. Out of this substantial wealth, Rs 129 crore is registered under her name, while assets worth

Rs 168 crore are attributed to her husband Dharmendra. A comparison with her declared assets during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections underscores a notable surge, with an increase of Rs 48 crore over the past half-decade. Closely following are Satish Kumar Gautam of the BJP from Aligarh, flaunting assets worth Rs 16 crore, and Devvrat Tyagi of the BSP from Meerut, with assets valued at around Rs 5 crore. The breakdown of candidates with criminal records across political parties further accentuates the pressing issue. Remarkably, three out of eight BSP candidates, two out of seven from the BJP, and all four candidates from the SP face criminal charges. Similarly, 25

per cent of BSP candidates, 29 per cent of BJP candidates, and a staggering 50 per cent of both SP and Congress candidates carry the weight of serious criminal charges. Noteworthy is Amarpal Sharma, contesting from Baghpat on a SP ticket, who grapples with a total of nine criminal cases. Moreover, the educational qualifications of the candidates prompt concerns about representation and competence. A significant 36 per cent of candidates have not completed their 12th grade, with educational backgrounds ranging from 5th to 12th grade. Meanwhile, 52 candidates boast graduate-level education or higher, with a handful holding diplomas, while two candidates are illiterate. The dominance of crorepati candidates and those entangled in criminality underscores the intricate dynamics shaping electoral politics in Uttar Pradesh, necessitating heightened scrutiny and deliberation on the integrity and inclusivity of the democratic process.

BJP intensifies campaign to woo young voters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its campaign to woo young voters. In this direction, the party organised 'Namo Yuva Chaupal' in Chetganj area here on Saturday. In this Yuva Chaupal, the importance of voting was explained to the young voters by senior party leaders. The chief guest of the programme was party's Varanasi Lok Sabha in charge and former UP Minister Dr Satish Dwivedi. Speaking on the occasion, he said both the central and state governments led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath respectively are working keeping in mind the interests of youth, women, farmers and businessmen. He said while on one hand the youth are being given jobs, on the other hand, self-employment is being provided by giving Mudra loans



BJP holding a 'Namo Yuva Chaupal' in Chetganj area in Varanasi on Saturday.

through the Startup Scheme as the government is working to develop skills among the youth and make them self-reliant.

Dwivedi said the role of youth will be important in fulfilling prime minister's resolve to make India a developed one.

Special guest Gopal Gupta

(Deendayal Mandal president) discussed the schemes and achievements of the central and state governments. The programme was presided over by Sandeep Keshari, regional secretary of BJYM and in charge of City South assembly of Yuva Chaupal. It was conducted by city Yuva Morcha

general secretary Om Tiwari. The programme was jointly concluded by corporator Shrawan Gupta, and Milan Keshari (Mandal president Yuva Morcha). City vice-president of Yuva Morcha Sanjay Vishwakarma and the entire team of Deendayal Mandal were present in the chaupal.

‘Nari Shakti Chaupal’ organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

‘Nari Shakti Chaupal’ was organised at Shakti Kendra Bhikharipur in Ravidas Mandal of Varanasi Cantt assembly segment under Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency and a dialogue was held with the women of the self-help groups (SHGs) here on Friday. The chief guest of the programme was Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahila Morcha's regional president and Varanasi Lok Sabha women's contact chief Namrata Chaurasia.

Addressing the chaupal, Namrata Chaurasia said that



'Nari Shakti Chaupal' being held at Bhikharipur in Varanasi on Friday.

the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are committed to women empowerment.

She said that both respect and security of women have increased under the Bharatiya Janata Party government and by passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, the government gave 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

She further said that the Central government made one crore women 'Lakshpati Didis' and a target has been set to cre-

ate three crore Lakshpati Didis in the next five years.

“To make women self-reliant, a loan of up to ₹10 lakh was given, which has been mentioned in the Sankalp Patra (resolution letter) to be increased to ₹20 lakh,” she said, adding that self-help groups will be linked to the service sector.

State Working Committee member Sandhya Tiwari was the coordinator of the programme. A good number of self-help group sisters, including Geeta Devi, Sushila Devi, Bulbul, were present in the chaupal.

12 students excel in High School exam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A total of 12 students of Prayagraj are included in the top 10 list of UP Board in class X (High School). Raj Singh of Jwala Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, became the topper of class X by scoring the highest marks in the district. He is fourth in the state merit list. He has got 587 (97.83%) marks out of 600. Raj is a resident of Fatehpur district. Raj Singh says, “I want to give the message to all the students that they should attend class every day and listen to the

Mishra of KNN Inter College, Bhagwatnagar Bahria, and Anshika Dwivedi of Cambridge High School, Shankargarh, are at ninth position in the merit list of UP. They scored 582 (97%) marks out of 600 in High School.

Students from rural schools have also performed well in the UP Board exams. Four students of the district are in the top-10 rank in class 10th, Akanksha Tiwari of SP Inter College, Koraon, Vidushi of BLSS Convent Sikandra, Manvi Patel and Khushi Saroj of Jaglal Jagat



Students in Prayagraj celebrate their success after declaration of the Uttar Pradesh Board class 10th and 12th class results on Saturday.

PTI

teachers and complete their work the same day.” At the second place, four students from Prayagraj got the same marks in High School exam. Nitin Mishra of Jwala Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College, Garvita Srivastava of LBST Inter College, Manda, Saurabh Mishra of Gopal Vidyalaya Inter College, Koraon and Anamika Singh of Jaglal Jagat Bahadur Patel Intermediate College, Virbhanpur, Soraon, got 583 marks (97.17 per cent) out of 600. Similarly, Aakriti Singh of Gopal Vidyalaya Inter College, Sudhanshu

Bahadur Patel Intermediate College, Virbhanpur Soraon are included. All four have secured 581 (96.83%) marks out of 600. There are eight girls of class 10th of Prayagraj who managed to bag the top-10 merit list in the state, whereas the number of male students is only four. On the other hand, Shreya Mishra of SP Inter College 'Sikaro, Koraon, Prayagraj and Ashika Singh of Vikas Inter College, Palnagar, Sahson, bagged the first spot in the Intermediate Examination of UP Board in the district with 484 (96.80 per cent).

Presiding, polling officers to be given training from April 29



DM/ DEO S Rajalingam holding a meeting with officers on poll training in Varanasi on Saturday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate/ District Election Officer (DM/DEO) S Rajalingam on Saturday expressed his commitment to the conduct of the Lok Sabha General Elections-2024 in a safe, fair and well-organised manner and said the personnel engaged in the election work should take training with full dedication and gain proficiency in their work so that they can discharge their responsibilities with priority during voting. He especially stressed that after the training, the personnel will also be tested, passing which will be mandatory for them.

A total of 19,426 personnel were allotted personnel codes. These include 3,852 presiding officers, 3,852 polling officers first, 7,924 polling officers second and 4,228 polling officers third. On April 29 and 30 and May 1, the training of presiding officer and polling officer-I will be held in Building 'A' and New Building 'B' of Uday Pratap Inter College, RSMT and Uday Pratap Public School. The training in the first shift will be held from 10 am to 1 pm and in the second shift from 2 pm to 5 pm.

During the training programme, it is mandatory for the presiding and polling officers-

I to attend the training in each case on their respective scheduled dates and shifts. The DM/DEO especially stressed that strict action will be taken against the personnel found absent from the training programme by registering an FIR under Section 134 of the Representation of the People Act-1951.

During the meeting, Chief Development Officer (CDO) in charge officer (Personnel) Himanshu Nagpal, sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Pinak Pani Dwivedi, District Informatics Officer Prasanna Pandey, ADIO (NIC) Avinash Sharma and others were prominently present.

Bagless day held at Girls' High School

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The New Education Policy 2020, emphasises the importance of programmes like “Bagless Day” to promote holistic and skill-based approach to education.

The first bagless day for the session 2024-2025 was held at the Girls' High School & College here on Saturday with a range of activities planned for the students of classes IV - VIII. Cooking without fire activity was planned for the students of classes IV and V. The class IV students prepared sandwiches of four different types.

A presentation of videos showing different types of salads and sandwiches and how to prepare them was shown to students for motivating them and making the preparation interesting. For the students of classes VI to VIII various activities were conducted on discovering science.

They were shown an inspirational video highlighting the wonders of science and the efforts of scientists in making the earth a much better place for humans to inhabit. The students were highly motivated by the videos and understood the numerous ways in which science has transformed society. Each section after watching the videos participated in a science quiz. There was tremendous enthusiasm among the students to answer each question and the winners were given thunderous applause after the final round. The next part of the activity was developing the practical side of science education. The students spent the rest of the day making working models and charts. The best charts and models were appreciated and the hard work put in by the students was duly acknowledged.

35-year-old man commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A 35-year-old man committed suicide by hanging himself inside the room in Aswa Dawoodpur village under Handia police station late on Friday night. On getting information, the police arrived and took the body into possession and sent it for the post-mortem examination. Suraj Bharti committed suicide by hanging himself due to unknown reasons.

Railway Board DG (HR) visits BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Director General (Human Resources), Railway Board, Naveen Gulati visited the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Saturday. First of all on arrival at the BLW Administration Building, Naveen Gulati was welcomed by General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda. Thereafter, in the GM's Conference Hall, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) SK Srivastav welcomed the DG (HR) and presented him a sapling in the meeting.

In the review meeting with the general manager and the department heads and officers of Banaras Locomotive Works, all aspects related to human resources and employee welfare were discussed in detail. Through power point presentation, information was given about the promotion, vacant posts of the employees and officers working in BLW, the work being done for their welfare and all the work being done through the HRMS module system.

In the meeting, first of all, Gulati congratulated the officers and employees on the highest production of locos by BLW in the last financial year and said that he was very impressed by the high quality production of BLW after seeing



Director General (Human Resources), Railway Board, Naveen Gulati holding a meeting with officers at BLW in Varanasi on Saturday.

its railway engine manufacturing capacity.

“The Banaras Locomotive Works is doing better work. BLW has always been doing important work towards giving better results and also BLW has an important contribution in the good operation of passenger and goods trains,” the DG (HR) said, appreciating the employee welfare efforts being made by BLW. In the end, the GM Basudev Panda presented

a locomotive model as a memento to Naveen Gulati.

In the meeting, Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCMM) Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Subrata Nath, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Janardan Singh, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Vinod Shukla, Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC) Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Finance Advisor and

Chief Accounts Officer (Transfer of Technology) Ajay Srivastava, Deputy General Manager (DGM) Anuj Katiyar, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (DCPO/Headquarters) Shyam Babu and Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (DCPO/Workshop) Rajesh Kumar and others were also present. The programme was conducted by Senior Personnel Officer (SPO) Rajkumar Gupta.

Knowledge given about safety



Children of a school being informed about safety at level crossings by Varanasi Division of NER on Friday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) is alert about the safety of road users and is continuously making efforts for their safety. In the same sequence, on

the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Senior Divisional Safety Officer (SDSO) Balendra Pal, the children were given knowledge about safety by running safety awareness campaigns in mar-

kets and schools falling near the level crossing gate number 16C and level crossings on the Varanasi-Madhosingh Jn railway section of Varanasi Division. The school children were taught not to go to the railway track from unautho-

Wave of happiness in UP Board schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

When the results of High School and Intermediate examinations were declared on Saturday there was an atmosphere of jubilation and happiness among the teachers and students of most of the UP Board affiliated schools here. The Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad is popularly known as UP Board. About 55 lakh students appeared in the examinations this year. As soon as the results were announced in the afternoon, the students reached their colleges and cyber cafes to know their results.

Four students from Varanasi are included in the top 10 list of Intermediate. In this, Anuj Mishra of Sant Narayan Baba Public Inter College Khalispur got UP rank 6, Rajnandini of Project Mala Higher Secondary School Gudiya Thathra got UP rank 7 and Sumit Maurya of Dharam Chakra Vihar Inter College, Navapura, Sarnath and Shreya Maurya of Surajpati Kanya Vidyalaya Korauti Koraut got UP rank 9.

Anuj Mishra got 96.80 per cent, Rajnandini 96.60 per cent and Sumit Maurya and Shreya Maurya 96.20 per cent.

However, the results of high school were not the same as no student of the district was in the top 10 list at the state level. Although the adjoining districts of this region did well. This year, the result of the High School in the board was 89.55 per cent while that of the intermediate 82.60 per cent. This year High School and Intermediate examinations started from February 22 and continued till March 9. The evaluation of written answer sheets started from March 16 and completed in the district by March 31.

The results have brought jubilation in Shri Kamlakar Chaubey Adarsh Seva Vidyalaya Inter College as its students performed brilliantly both in the class X and XII. Similar mood was also seen in many other colleges, including Shrimati Pyari Devi Inter College, Gopi Radha Balika Inter College, UP Inter College and many others.

Workshop on corporate communication on Apr 22

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will organise a one-day national workshop on ‘Corporate Communication, Management, Filmmaking and Production’ on April 22 from 9:30 am to 6 pm. The workshop will be addressed by renowned personalities from Mumbai's industrial hub apart from a

PRO from an industry in Renukoot, senior personalities from the print media, Yogendra Pratap Singh, Meera Vohra, Vishwanath Gokaran, Director of SIFDT Dr Krishankant Bajpai and others.

Head of Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, BHU Dr Shobhna Renlikar said that the objective of the workshop is to discuss the topics of corporate communication, management, filmmaking and production.

Workshop on out of the box career held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A workshop on ‘Out of the Box Career: Rethinking the Stereotype’ was organised by the Students' Welfare Cell at the Students' Welfare Centre Auditorium in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Friday. The keynote speaker of the workshop, Rajveer Yadav, gave a detailed discussion to the students of BHU about the various employment opportunities available today. About 140 students participated in the workshop.

Dean of Students Prof Anupam Kumar Nema, while explaining the conservative perception, said that in today's environment, new opportunities for various employment are available and the Government of India is also making tireless efforts to promote such opportunities. “These opportunities are taking today's young generation towards a new direction and are helping the youth in making their name and iden-



A workshop on out of the box career being held at BHU in Varanasi on Friday.

tity,” he added. Coordinator of Student Welfare Promotion Cell Prof Lalit Mohan Agarwal informed about various workshops/ events being organised for the students of the university and also asked them to participate. He also told about the benefits of this workshop. Student counsellor Nityanand Tiwari also spoke on the occasion. Coordinator of Rural Development Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences Dr Alok Kumar Pandey informed about

the employment available at present and encouraged the students present. In the workshop, the students also presented a short play titled ‘Freedom Flexibility and Choice’. The purpose of the drama was to convey the goals of National Education Policy (NEP) among the children. The programme was written by Alina Singh and staged by Shivangi. Sakshi Rachna, Shivam, Rohit and Ram Niwas contributed in the form of characters.

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 an accused in the liquor scam case 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 donated



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-

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, saying it is one of the "foremost duties" in a constitutional democracy. In a video message for the Election Commission's 'My Vote My Voice' mission for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Justice Chandrachud said, "We are citizens of the world's largest democracy, which is our country." "The Constitution gives us a multitude of rights as citizens but it also expects that each of us performs the duty, which is cast upon us. And one of the foremost duties of citizenship is to cast a vote in a constitutional democracy," he said. "I will request every one of you please do not miss this opportunity to vote responsibly as citizens of our great motherland. Five minutes, every five years for our nation. It's doable, isn't it? Let's vote with pride. My vote, my voice," the CJI said. 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". He recalled his excitement as the first time voter and queuing up at the polling booth to exercise the franchise. "The ink on the finger when I vote allows tremendous feelings of patriotism and association with the nation...," he said. "So our Constitution and our law provides for one citizen, one vote and one value. I think that's the great tenacity and the power of our nation as a constitutional democracy," he said. The CJI said he never missed that duty to cast his vote when he was a lawyer and had to run around for work. The Lok Sabha elections will be held from April 19 to June 1, 2024 to elect the 543 members of the 18th Lok Sabha. The elections will be held in seven phases and the results will be announced on June 4, 2024.

Bihar schoolteachers upset over vigilance to boycott...

From Page 1

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".

Rahul to look for safe...

From Page 1

Hitting at the previous Congress Governments in Maharashtra for not doing much for the development of Marthawada and Vidarbha, Modi said: "For decades, Congress stalled the development of Vidarbha and Marathwada. It is because of the policies of the Congress that both the regions are deficient in terms of water. The farmers here are poor and there are no prospects for industrial growth. We have ensured 'Nal se Jal' to 80 per cent of households in Nanded. Our constant endeavour has been to facilitate the empowerment of our

farmers through record rise in MSPs, income support through PM-KISAN, and the promotion of 'Sree Anna'. Dwelling up the relationship between the Sikh Gurus and Nanded, Modi said: "Nanded reflects the purity of India's Sikh Gurus... We are guided by the principles of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Over the years we have celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, and the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji". Modi said that the Congress has always

opposed the Sikh community and is taking revenge for 1984. "It is due to this that the Congress has been opposing the CAA which aims to bring the Sikh brothers and sisters to India, granting them citizenship. It was government that brought back the Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan and facilitated the Kartarpur corridor". Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, BJP State chief Chandrasekhar Bawankule, former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Chavan were among those leaders present at the rally.

Shubham tops Inter, Prachi HS exams

From Page 1

Among the successful students, The pass percentage for girls is 88.42 and that for boys 77.78. The UP Board conducted the examination in a "record-breaking" number of days, Dev said. "For the first time, the exam was conducted in a record 12 working days. The evaluation of answer sheets was completed in the same number of

working days," he added. He said 27,49,364 candidates — 14,39,243 boys and 13,10,121 girls — appeared for the Class 10 exam. Of the total, 86.05 per cent boys and 93.40 per cent girls cleared the exam. For Class 12, the number of candidates was 24,52,830 — 13,41,356 boys and 11,11,474 girls. The pass percentage was 77.78 for boys and 88.42 for girls.

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.

Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months...

From Page 1

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 convenor 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 Aurangabad Lok Sabha constituency, 49.51 per cent in Gaya, 51.02 per cent in Jamui and 43.79 per cent in Nawada. Amid poll boycotts and issues of name deletion from the electoral roll, Tamil Nadu registered 69.46 per cent polling in the Lok Sabha elections. Coimbatore, one of the key battlegrounds in the state, saw a voter turnout of only 64.81 per cent. According to the Election Commission data, this is the lowest voter turnout in the state since 2009. The district with the highest voter turnout was Dharmapuri with 81.48 per cent, followed by Kallakurichi (79.25 per

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...

From Page 1

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.

6 kids among 9 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrike in Rafah

AP ■ RAFAH

An Israeli airstrike on a house in Gaza's southern-most city killed at least nine people, six of them children, hospital authorities said on Saturday, as Israel pursued its nearly seven-month offensive in the besieged Palestinian territory. Israel's war against the Islamic militant group Hamas has led to a dramatic escalation of tensions in an already volatile Middle East. The strike late Friday hit a residential building in the western Tel Sultan neighbourhood of the city of Rafah, according to Gaza's civil defence. The bodies of the six children, two women and a man were taken to Rafah's Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital, the hospital's records showed. At the hospital, relatives cried and hugged the bodies of the children, wrapped in white shrouds, as others comforted them. The fatalities included Abdel-Fattah Sobhi Radwan, his wife Najlaa Ahmed Awaidah and their three children, and his brother-in-law Ahmed Barhoum said.

Barhoum also lost his wife, Rawan Radwan, and their 5-year-old daughter Alaa. "This is a world devoid of all human values and morals," Barhoum told The Associated Press Saturday morning, crying as he cradled and gently rocked the body of Alaa in his arms. "They bombed a house full of displaced people, women and children. The only martyrs were women and children." No victims were registered from a second overnight strike in the city. Rafah, which lies on the border with Egypt, currently hosts more than half of Gaza's total population of about 2.3 million people, the vast majority of whom have been displaced by fighting elsewhere. Despite calls for restraint from the international community, including Israel's staunchest ally, the United States, the Israeli government has insisted for months that it intends to push a ground offensive into the city, where it says many of the remaining Hamas militants are holed up. Such a ground operation has not materialized so far, but the Israeli military has repeatedly



Smoke rises from an explosion during an Israeli military raid in the Nur Shams refugee camp, near the West Bank town of Tulkarem, on Saturday, April 20, 2024

AP/PTI

carried out airstrikes in and around the city. The war was sparked by an unprecedented raid into southern Israel by Hamas and other militant groups on October 7 that left about 1,200 people dead, the vast majority of them civilians, and saw about 250 people kidnapped and taken into Gaza.

Israel says about 130 hostages remain in Gaza, although more than 30 have been confirmed to now be dead, either killed on October 7 or having died in captivity. The Gaza Health Ministry said Saturday the bodies of 37 people killed by Israeli strikes were brought to hospitals in Gaza over the past

24 hours. Hospitals also received 68 wounded, it said. The latest figures bring the overall Palestinian death toll from the Israel-Hamas war to at least 34,049, and the number of wounded to 76,901, the ministry said. Although the Hamas-run health authorities do not differ-

entiate between combatants and civilians in their count, they say at least two thirds have been children and women. The war has sent regional tensions spiralling, leading to a dramatic eruption of violence between Israel and its arch-enemy Iran that threatened to escalate into a full-blown war. On Friday, both Iran and Israel played down an apparent Israeli airstrike near a major air base and nuclear site in central Iran, indicating the two sides were pulling back from what could have become an all-out conflict. Over the past several weeks, an alleged Israeli strike killed two Iranian generals at an Iranian consulate in Syria and was followed by an unprecedented Iranian missile barrage on Israel. Israel has also faced off with the Hezbollah militant group, an Iranian proxy operating from Lebanon, with the two sides there frequently trading rocket and drone attacks across the Lebanese-Israeli border. Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis rebels have also joined the fray, launching strikes against merchant ships in the Red Sea and

the Gulf of Aden in what they say is a campaign of solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. Tension has also been high in the occupied West Bank. An Israeli army raid in the Nur Shams urban refugee camp that killed at least four people on Friday — three militants and a 15-year-old boy — continued into Saturday. The Israeli army said its forces had killed 10 militants in the refugee camp and the surrounding areas while the military and the Border Police had arrested eight Palestinian suspects. Nine of its officers and soldiers were wounded, it said. An Associated Press journalist at the camp said sounds of intermittent gunfire and explosions were still ringing out Saturday afternoon. The Palestinian Red Crescent said they were trying to reach a number of casualties in the camp but were being prevented by the Israeli army, which instructed their emergency teams to leave the area. The raid appears to be one of the largest that has taken place at the refugee camp since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on

October 7. At least 469 Palestinians from east Jerusalem and the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since October, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Palestinian health authorities said one of those killed Friday was a 15-year-old boy shot dead by Israeli fire. The Islamic Jihad militant group confirmed the deaths of three members, including one who it said was a local military commander. The Israeli military said four Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded in the operation. Saraya al-Quds, the military arm of Islamic Jihad, said its fighters had engaged in heavy gunbattles Saturday morning with Israeli forces in the town of Tulkarem, adjacent to Nur Shams. Residents in Tulkarem went on a general strike Saturday to protest the attack. The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank, has a limited foothold in many of the territory's northern towns and cities, including Tulkarem and Jenin. Militant groups, including Islamic Jihad, are active in both cities, often clashing with Israeli soldiers during army raids.

Man who set himself on fire outside Trump trial succumbs

AP ■ NEW YORK

A man who doused himself in an accelerant and set himself on fire outside the courthouse where former President Donald Trump is on trial has died, police said. The New York City Police Department said the man was declared dead by staff at an area hospital. The man was in Collect Pond Park around 1:30 pm Friday when he took out pamphlets espousing conspiracy theories, tossed them around, then doused himself in an accelerant and set himself on fire, officials and witnesses said. A large number of police officers were nearby when it happened. Some officers and bystanders rushed to the aid of the man, who was hospitalised in critical condition. The man, who police said had travelled from Florida to New York in the last few days, hadn't breached any security checkpoints to get into the park. The park outside the courthouse has been a gathering spot for protesters, journalists and gawkers throughout Trump's trial, which began with jury selection Monday. Through Friday, the streets and sidewalks in the area around the courthouse were generally wide open and crowds have been small and largely orderly. Authorities said



Former President Donald Trump speaks with the media following proceedings in his trial, at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on Friday

AP/PTI

they were also reviewing the security protocols, including whether to restrict access to the park. The side street where Trump enters and leaves the building is off limits. "We may have to shut this area down," New York City Police Department Deputy Commissioner Kaz Daughtry said at a news conference outside the courthouse, adding that officials would discuss the security plan soon.

Moscow shoots down 50 Ukrainian drones

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine launched a barrage of drones across Russia overnight, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said Saturday, in attacks that appeared to target the country's energy infrastructure. Fifty drones were shot down by air defences over eight Russian regions, including 26 over the country's western Belgorod region close to the Ukrainian border. Two people — a woman with a broken leg and the man caring for her — died during the overnight barrage, after explosions sparked a blaze that set their home alight, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on social media. A pregnant woman and her unborn child were also killed in shelling later Saturday, he said. Drones were also reportedly destroyed over the Bryansk, Kursk, Tula, Smolensk, Ryazan, Kaluga regions across Russia's west and south, as well as in the Moscow region. Russia's Defence Ministry said that it had shot down a Ukrainian Sukhoi Su-25 fighter jet. It provided no details and the claims could not be independently verified. Ukrainian officials normally decline to comment about attacks on Russian soil. However, many of the drone strikes appeared to be directed



This photo released by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service Saturday, April 20, 2024, shows an unmanned aerial vehicle drop a dummy bomb during its flight as Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visits the training ground of the Moscow Military District to check the implementation of instructions for the development of unmanned aerial vehicles and small arms, taking into account the experience of a special military operation, in Russia

AP/PTI

toward Russia's energy infrastructure. The head of the Kaluga region, Vladislav Shapsha, said Saturday that a drone strike had sparked a blaze at an electrical substation, while Bryansk Gov. Alexander Bogomaz and Smolensk Gov. Vasily Anokhin also reported fires at fuel and energy complexes. In recent months, Russian refineries and oil terminals have become priority targets of Ukrainian drone attacks, part of stepped-up assaults on Russian territory. Ukrainian

drone developers have been extending the weapons' range for months, as Kyiv attempts to compensate for its battlefield disadvantage in weapons and troops. The unmanned aerial vehicles are also an affordable option while Ukraine waits for more US military aid. Moscow also said Friday evening that an American citizen known to have fought with Kremlin-backed separatists in Ukraine between 2014 and 2017 had died in the Russian-occupied Donetsk region.

The House on brink of giving nod to aid for Ukraine, Israel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House is preparing in a rare Saturday session to approve USD 95 billion in foreign aid for Ukraine, Israel and other US allies, Democrats and Republicans joining together behind the legislation after a gruelling monthslong fight over renewed American support for repelling Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, putting his job on the line, relied on Democratic support this week to set up a series of votes on three aid bills, as well as a fourth that contains several other foreign policy proposals. If the votes are successful, the package will go to the Senate, where passage in the coming days is nearly assured. President Joe Biden has promised to sign it immediately. Passage through the House would clear away the biggest hurdle to Biden's funding request, first made in October as Ukraine's military supplies began to run low. The GOP-controlled House, sceptical of US support for Ukraine, struggled for months over what to do, first demanding that any assistance be tied to policy changes at the US-Mexico order, only to immediately reject a bipartisan Senate offer along those very lines. Reaching an endgame has

been an excruciating lift for Johnson that has tested both his resolve and his support among Republicans, with a small but growing number now openly urging his removal from the speaker's office. Yet congressional leaders cast the votes as a turning point in history — an urgent sacrifice as US allies are beleaguered by wars and threats from continental Europe to the Middle East to Asia. "The only thing that has kept terrorists and tyrants at bay is the perception of a strong America, that we would stand strong," Johnson said this week. "And we will. I think that Congress is going to show that. This is a very important message that we are going to send the world." Still, Congress has seen a stream of world leaders visit in recent months, from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, all but pleading with lawmakers to approve the aid. Globally, the delay left many questioning America's commitment to its allies. At stake has also been one of Biden's top foreign policy priorities — halting Russian President Vladimir Putin's advance in Europe. After engaging in quiet talks with Johnson, the president quickly endorsed Johnson's plan

this week, paving the way for Democrats to give their rare support to clear the procedural hurdles needed for a final vote. "It's long past time that we support our democratic allies in Israel, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific and provide humanitarian assistance to civilians who are in harm's way in theatres of conflict like Gaza, Haiti and the Sudan," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said at a news conference Friday. Voting on the package is likely to create unusual alliances in the House. While aid for Ukraine will likely win a majority in both parties, a significant number of progressive Democrats are expected to vote against the bill aiding Israel as they demand an end to the bombardment of Gaza that has killed thousands of civilians. At the same time, Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has loomed large over the fight, weighing in from afar via social media statements and direct phone calls with lawmakers as he tilts the GOP to a more isolationist stance with his "America First" brand of politics. Ukraine's defence once enjoyed robust, bipartisan support in Congress, but as the war enters its third year, a bulk of Republicans oppose further aid.

US sanctions 4 firms for providing ballistic missile components to Pak

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has slapped sanctions on three Chinese companies and one from Belarus for supplying missile-applicable items for Pakistan's ballistic missile programmes, including its long-range missile programme, the State Department has announced. The names of the companies are Xi'an Longde Technology Development, Tianjin Creative Source International Trade and Granpect Co. Ltd from China and Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant from Belarus. These entities "have engaged in activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery, including any efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use such items, by Pakistan," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Friday. Miller said the US is committed to strengthen-

ing the global nonproliferation regime by taking action to disrupt procurement networks supporting proliferation activities of concern. China, an all-weather ally of Pakistan, has been the main supplier of arms and defence equipment to Islamabad's ambitious military modernisation programme. The Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant in Belarus supplied special vehicle chassis to Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme. Such chassis are used as launch support equipment for ballistic missiles by Pakistan's National Development Complex (NDC), which is responsible for the development of Missile Technology Control Regime Category (MTCR) I ballistic missiles, according to a State Department Factsheet. China's Xi'an Longde Technology Development Company Limited, supplied missile-related equipment, including a filament winding machine, to Pakistan's long-

range ballistic missile programme that the US said was destined for Pakistan's NDC. Filament winding machines can be used to produce rocket motor cases. Tianjin Creative Source International Trade Co Ltd supplied missile-related equipment to Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme, including stir welding equipment (which the United States assesses can be used to manufacture propellant tanks used in space launch vehicles), and a linear accelerator system (which the United States assesses can be used in the inspection of solid rocket motors). Tianjin Creative's procurements were likely destined for Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), which develops and produces Pakistan's MTCR Category I ballistic missiles, the US state department said. Granpect Company worked with Pakistan's SUPARCO to supply equipment for testing large-diameter rocket motors.

Army to maintain peace during Pak bypolls today

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan on Saturday decided to deploy army troops to maintain peace during key by-elections that are to be held in the country on Sunday to fill the seats vacated by various candidates or where elections were postponed due to the death of candidates. The general elections were held across the country on February 8 to elect representatives for the National Assembly and four provincial assemblies. But polls were cancelled for one National Assembly, two Punjab Assembly and one seat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly respectively. Apart from those, candidates who had won more than one seat opted for a chosen seat after elections, leaving the Election Commission of Pakistan to organise by-election on 21 seats, including five National Assembly and 16 provincial assembly seats. Elections will be held on two seats of the National Assembly in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and one seat in Sindh, whereas elections will be

held on twelve seats of Punjab Assembly and two each of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan assemblies. In Punjab, NA-132 (Kasur) and NA-119 (Lahore) were vacated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, while Shehbaz also gave up two of his provincial assembly seats in Lahore. He, however, retained his NA-123 seat in the National Assembly. Due to the prevailing law and order situation, the ECP had asked the federal government to approve the deployment of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces (CAF) troops to keep peace, which endorsed the move and announced that to use the armed forces' units as a quick response force. The Ministry of Interior in its notification issued on Friday stated that the CAF and Pakistan Army units would be used as second and third tiers of security and they would be available with immediate effect till April 22 in all 21 constituencies.

Shehbaz Sharif set to visit Saudi to advance investment talks

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to visit Saudi Arabia soon, his second trip this month to the friendly Gulf kingdom, to advance investment talks as his cash-strapped government has presented lucrative returns on Saudi investment. According to The Express Tribune, in addition to the enticing prospects of harvesting rich dividends on investment, Pakistan has assured priority in profits to Saudi investors without any hindrances. Sharif's government has presented returns ranging from an appealing 14 per cent to an astounding 50 per cent on Saudi investment, the report said. According to government sources involved in these discussions, the indicated returns on Saudi investment are expected to allow the Kingdom to recoup its invested capital within three to nine years, depending on the nature of the

project. Pakistan aims to advance the Saudi Arabia investment initiative during the April 27-28 visit of Sharif, who will be accompanied by a team from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). Prime Minister Sharif was in Jeddah earlier this month to perform Umrah and met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and discussed a planned USD 5 billion Saudi investment package for Pakistan, according to the joint statement issued by both countries. The visit to Saudi Arabia was the first foreign visit by Sharif since he assumed office in March. During their recent visit to Pakistan, a high-level Saudi delegation asked maximum questions about projects in agriculture, mining and the Dhamir Basha dam, the report said. These are the areas where the government has indicated maximum returns on the investment.

North Korea tests 'super-large' cruise missile warhead, anti-aircraft missile

Seoul (AP): North Korea said on Saturday it tested a "super-large" cruise missile warhead and a new anti-aircraft missile in a western coastal area as it expands military capabilities in the face of deepening tensions with the United States and South Korea. North Korean state media said the country's missile administration on Friday conducted a "power test" for the warhead designed for the Hwasal-1 Ra-3 strategic cruise missile and a test-launch of the Ppyolji-1-2 anti-aircraft missile. It said the tests attained an unspecified "certain goal." Photos released by the North's official Korean Central News Agency showed at least two missiles being fired off launcher trucks at a runway. North Korea conducted a similar set of tests Feb. 2, but at the time did not specify the names of the cruise missile or the anti-aircraft missile, indicating it was possibly seeing technological progress after testing the same system over weeks.

UK's India Gate to commemorate role of Indian soldiers from World Wars

PTI ■ LONDON

A local council in the seaside resort of Brighton in south-east England has approved plans for an annual multi-faith event to commemorate the role of Indian soldiers in the two World Wars at the town's India Gate memorial from this October. The India Gate was presented to the people of Brighton by the "princes and people of India" as a gesture of thanks for the care

provided by the town's hospitals and is "dedicated to the use of the inhabitants of Brighton." It was unveiled by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh, on October 26, 1921, and stands at the southern entrance of the Royal Pavilion — one of three buildings in Brighton serving as a base hospital which treated these soldiers from undivided India wounded on the Western front. These included soldiers from the modern-day countries of India, Pakistan,

Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan. "By holding a day of remembrance, the city can preserve the memories of the undivided India soldiers who fought for Britain in the war and ensure that this vital history is more widely understood and recognised by and for contemporary generations," notes the Brighton and Hove Council's report which was approved at a council meeting on Friday. "Given the important histori-

cal context of the India Gate and increased interest in the recent history of the Pavilion estate, it is important that, as a testament to the international reputation of the city, this multi-faith event celebrates the undivided India story as well as embracing the India Gate and its story," it concludes. The India Gate, designed by Thomas Tyrwhitt, replaced a much lower gate that was erected by Brighton Corporation following its purchase of the

Pavilion in 1850 and is described as a dome resting on four pillars in a style derived from Gujarat. According to historical records, in World War I (1914-1918) more than 1.5 million soldiers from pre-Partition India served in the British Indian Army of the colonial era, participating in major battles such as the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, Battle of Gallipoli, and the Battle of the Somme. In World War II (1939-1945), over 2.5 million

soldiers from undivided India volunteered to serve in the British Indian Army, the largest volunteer army in history. The Royal Pavilion Indian hospital in Brighton that cared for the wounded from these battles is also marked by the Chattri memorial, which stands on the spot where Hindus and Sikhs were cremated. It is accompanied by a memorial maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and an annual

remembrance ceremony is organised by the Chattri Memorial Group there every June. The local council's Culture, Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Economic Development Committee feels an annual memorial event at the India Gate in October would be a suitable addition to the current remembrance services and would additionally recognise the commitment of Muslim and Buddhist soldiers of undivided India.

The details of the event will be determined and delivered by a committee of community leaders, in partnership with the Brighton & Hove Museums, and supported by Brighton & Hove City Council. The committee will also engage with local Armed Forces personnel and veterans, the Undivided Indian Ex-Services Association, and leaders from the wider South Asian community before further plans for the memorial are finalised.

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 at 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.

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 4,4,5,5,5,5,4,5,5 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. Bhavesh 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.

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 Firoouza 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 Vidit

Gujrathi had a promising start and his two victories against Nakamura in the tournament stand out as his best efforts. Nerves, however, played some part along with time pressure on certain occasions and the Indian will have to wait for another chance. It has been a tough call for

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 Firoouza 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); Nurgyual Salimova (BUL, 4.5) vs Kateryna Lagno (FID, 6).



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.



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.

SRH ‘HEAD’ AND SHOULDERS ABOVE DC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant's emotional homecoming didn't pan out into a dream script as Sunrisers Hyderabad adhered to their season's template by out-batting Delhi Capitals in a 67-run win in an IPL match to consolidate their position in the league table here on Saturday.

It was Travis Head's 32-ball-89 and his carnage in unison with Abhishek Sharma (46 off 12 balls) that ensured another match-winning total of 266 for 7 for SRH in their 20 overs.

A record Powerplay score of 125/0 gave SRH the base and at one point, the first-ever 300-plus total in IPL looked a distinct possibility.

In reply, Jake-Fraser McGurk's equally aggressive and attractive 18-ball-65 raised visions of an improbable win as he added

84 runs for the third wicket along with Abhishek Porel (42 off 22 balls) in just five overs.

Once Fraser-McGurk was gone, DC went off the boil and they were all-out for 199 in 19.1 overs.

T Natarajan's superb use of slower bouncers and figures of 4 for 19 went a long way to ensure that SRH are now second behind Rajasthan Royals (12 points) in the points table with 10 points.

Pant, himself, wasn't in his element as he could hardly get his timing right en route a painstaking 44 off 35 balls which did more harm than good to DC's cause.

When DC started the chase, Prithvi Shaw (16 off 5 balls) hit an out of rhythm Washington Sundar for four boundaries before a soft dismissal to set the tone for McGurk to tee off in an unbelievable fashion.

With minimal footwork,



stable base and no pre-determined positioning while executing his shots, the rookie Aussie, who has been a last minute replacement, hit a 15-ball-50 but that wasn't enough in the end as the home team slowly but surely slipped out of qualification zone.

Earlier, on a shirtfront of a track, Pant's decision to bowl first could be debated for the longest time to come as an IPL record Powerplay score of 125 set the tone for a big total.

The Capitals were hit by a tornado named Head and cyclone called Abhishek, who added 131 in little over six overs, raising visions of IPL's first-ever 300-run total as Head, followed up his hundred in the last match against RCB, with a scintillating 89.

He had Abhishek matching his tempo with a 46 with both the openers helping

themselves to half a dozen sixes.

Khaleel Ahmed, the left-arm seamer, whose career has been dogged by inconsistency, helped Sunrisers in getting a 'Head start' as the short balls were summarily dispatched over deep mid-wicket for sixes with 19 coming off the first over.

On a track, where it required them to pitch it on a fuller length, Delhi pacers bowled short as Head and Abhishek would just stand deep in their crease and make merry. More so his decision to give the second over to Lalit Yadav, whose off-breaks in Delhi cricket circuit is jokingly referred as "right-arm nothing" was even more contentious.

Head and Abhishek both sent all the bowlers on a leather-hunt. The normally brave Kuldeep Yadav (4/55 in 4 overs), started by giving the

ball air but Abhishek carted him into the Kotla stands repeatedly, forcing him to adopt a flatter trajectory.

It paid dividends as he dismissed Abhishek, Aiden Markram and Head in successive overs while Axar Patel (1/29 in 4 overs) stood tall amid ruins with the best economy rate.

His dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen (15) also ensured that 30,000 viewers at the Kotla didn't get to witness a 300-plus total.

Kuldeep had the highest number of dot balls (8) among Delhi bowlers but he also conceded the maximum numbers of 'maximums' —7, a rare contrasting double by a bowler in the same match.

Towards the later half, Shahbaz Ahmed (59 not out off 29 balls) also got a fifty but his innings was paled in comparison to the heavy artillery fired by Head and Abhishek upfront.



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

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul and his Chennai Super Kings counterpart Ruturaj Gaikwad have been fined Rs 12 lakh each as their teams maintained a slow over rate in their Indian Premier League match here.

Playing at home, LSG beat defending champions CSK by eight wickets in the match at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday.

As it was the team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, both Rahul and Ruturaj were fined 12 lakh, an IPL statement read. "Mr KL Rahul, Captain, Lucknow Super Giants has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during Match 34 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Chennai Super Kings at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow," the IPL said.

Regarding the other penalised player, the IPL said, "Mr Ruturaj Gaikwad, Captain,

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.

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.

Kohli is once again leading the run chart with 361 runs at 72.20, though his middle over strike rate of 135 has been a 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.

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



playing. The sheer impact of him, it's unbelievable to see him go out there and put this kind of pressure on the bowlers. It was just

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

Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik, who has been in phenomenal form in this IPL, has not given up on his dream to play for India again and would do "everything he can to be in that flight" to the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies next month.

Karthik, who will turn 39 by the time the World Cup kickstarts on June 1, was also part of the last edition of the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022, which was also his last appearance for Team India.

Since then he has become an off-the-field cricket expert, involved in commentary stints.

Returning to IPL this season, he has taken his batting to a new level and displayed some astonishing power-hitting to strike at a rate of 205-plus.

He is also the third leading run-getter for RCB with 226 runs, behind Virat Kohli (361) and skipper Faf du Plessis (232).

"At this stage in my life, it would be the greatest feeling for me to represent India. I'm very, very keen to do so. There is nothing bigger in my life other than representing

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."

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

PBKS, GT look to resurrect campaigns

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.



The likes of Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone and Rilee Rossouw have failed to live up to the expectations, something that has affected the

team badly.

The only silver lining for PBKS this season has been resolute displays from their unsung Indian players Shashank and

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

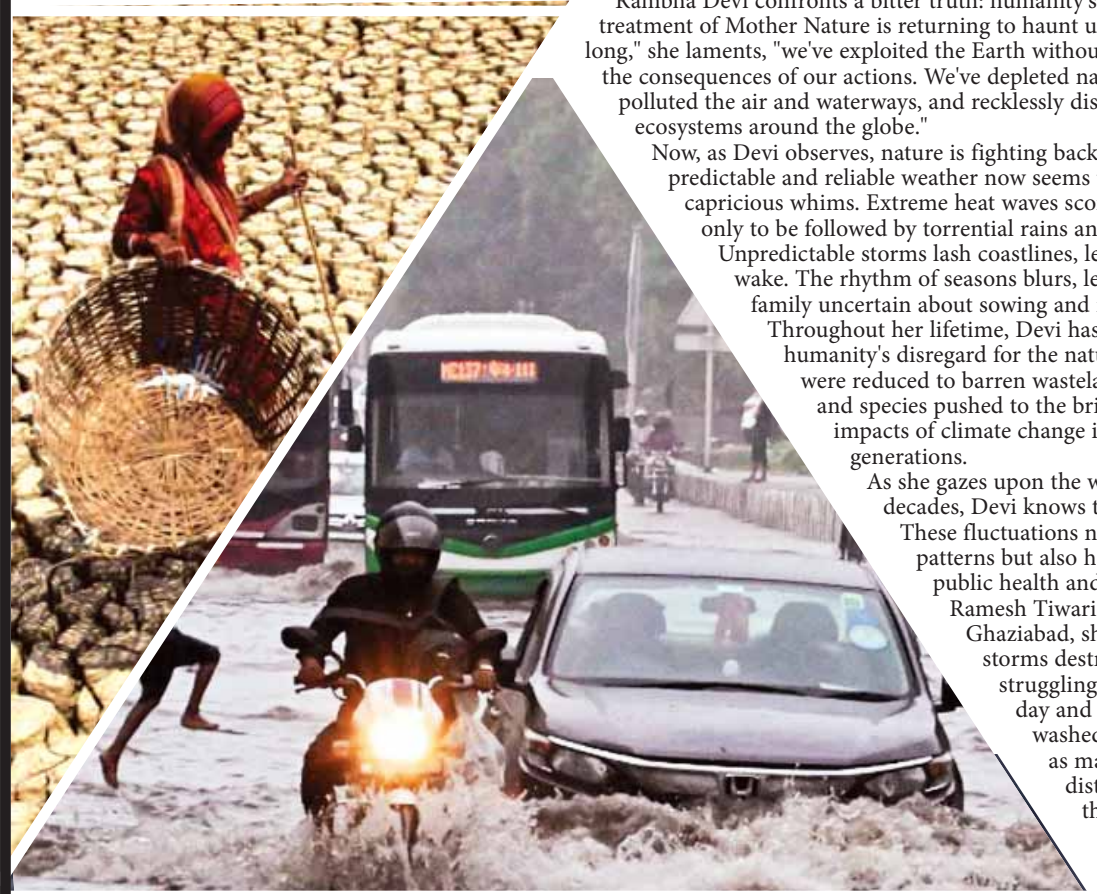
primary role and is also chipping in with more than handy contributions with the bat.

TEAMS (FROM):

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Wriddhiman Saha, Sai Sudharsan, Shahrulk 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, Ravirivinasan 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 a 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 IdV, 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 silence. Here, a peaceful pool awaits, providing a relaxing atmosphere for a leisurely dip until 10 pm. Whether craving lively vibes

or seeking calm repose, IdV offers a tailored experience to suit your holiday preferences. In my Deluxe room, overlooking the tranquility 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



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)



Assorted Fries Platter, a nod to local snacking habits with its crunchy mock-mince *samosa*, sweet potato tempura, and rice crackers. The Peppery & Tofu Onion Stir Fry offered a medley of caramelized onions and tofu in a soy-pepper blend. Savouring the Shallow-Fried *Palata*, its flaky layers showcased spoke volumes of Bamar culinary finesse. This culinary journey celebrated Burma's diverse flavours in a clever, flavourful manner. I savoured the Coconut Rice, a special dish known as *Ohn Hatmin*, made with fragrant short rice, raisins, and onions cooked in fresh coconut milk. It was a delightful choice for a memorable occasion. The Pumpkin & Broad Bean Curry, a Shan state favourite, blended yellow pumpkin and broad beans with shallots, coconut, and chili,

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.

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 ambience 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. Teetotallers 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. "At Capo Pizza, we are passionate about sharing the authentic flavors of Italy with our customers," said [Spokesperson's Name], [Position] at Capo Pizza. "With the launch of our cloud kitchens in Delhi and Gurgaon, we are excited to bring our handcrafted pizzas, made with the freshest ingredients and traditional techniques, to even more pizza lovers in the area." Capo Pizza's menu features a diverse selection of pizzas, ranging 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

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, all carefully crafted by skilled chefs. With a commitment to quality, authenticity, and sustainability, Capo Pizza aims to redefine the pizza delivery experience in Delhi and Gurgaon. Location- Delhi, Gurgaon



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.



Here are some places we tried: **Omi 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 Kulche: 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 ₹10 per glass, or with butter at ₹20, which adds the required flavour.

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 ₹130, 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 ₹15 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.

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



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



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

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



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 "boundary-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

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com