

TOP STORY

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Have every bat that I scored an international ton with Ricky Ponting

SPORTS



Ex-Pak PM Nawaz Sharif set to become party president yet again

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Priyanka Chopra enjoys work day with daughter Malti on sets of 'Heads of State'



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11 members of organised crime gang arrested: Punjab DGP



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Upbeat DC take on struggling MI as playoff race intensifies

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Deloitte pegs India's FY25 GDP growth at 6.6%



WEATHER

Sunrise	5:45 AM
Sunset	6:54 PM
Moonrise	9:22 PM
Moonset	7:39 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	38°C
Minimum	26°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	39°C
Minimum	26°C

SC rejects pleas on 100% VVPAT counting, paper ballot

Modi claims that INDIA bloc "committed the sin of creating distrust against EVMs"; Law Minister says Opposition took every opportunity to "defame" ECI by questioning EVM credibility

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Friday rejected pleas for reviving paper ballots and also 100 per cent cross-verification of votes cast on EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), holding that suspicious tampering of the voting machines were "unfounded".

As the country voted in round two of the seven-phase 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the top court said the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) were "secure" and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting.

Weighing in on the intensely debated EVM issue that has long divided political parties, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said the plea for return to the ballot paper system was "foible and un-sound", noting that the weakness of this system was well known and doc-



After Supreme Court's 'tight slap' to Opposition in EVM case, they should apologise for creating distrust -PM Modi

umented. The two judges gave two separate but concurring verdicts. "While maintaining a balanced perspective is crucial in evaluating systems or institutions, blindly distrusting any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism," the court said, adding that democracy is all about striving to build harmony and trust between all insti-

tutions. The top court's long anticipated verdict quickly found echo in the pollscape with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying at a rally in Araria in Bihar that it was a "tight slap" on the Congress-led opposition which now must "apologise" for committing "the sin of creating distrust" against EVMs. Hailing the verdict, he

claimed "their[opposition] dreams have been shattered into pieces". The Congress on its part said in a post on X that it will continue with its political campaign on greater use of VVPATs to increase public trust in the electoral process. The apex court also issued two directives in the EVM case. The court opened a window for aggrieved

unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek verification of microcontroller chips embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of fee to the poll panel.

It also directed that from May 1, the symbol bearing units (SLU) should be sealed and stored in a container and along with the EVMs for a minimum period of 45 days post declaration of results. Request for the verification of the micro-controller can be made

Plan twice-a-year board exams from 2025: CBSE told

New Delhi
The ministry of education has asked the Central Board of Secondary Education to work out logistics for conducting board exams twice a year from the 2025-26 academic session, according to sources.

The plan for introducing a semester system has been ruled out, they said. The ministry and the Central Board of Secondary Education will hold consultations with school principals next month for conducting board exams twice a year, the sources said.

The CBSE is currently in the process of working out the modalities of how will the academic calendar be structured to accommodate another set of board exams without impacting the undergraduate admission schedule, they said. The ministry has asked the CBSE to work on the logistics of how will board exams be conducted twice a year. The board is working out the modalities and a consultation will be organised next month with school principals, a source said.



"The idea being explored is to conduct two editions of the board exams at the end of the year from the 2025-26 academic session but the modalities still need to be worked out. However, there is no plan to implement the semester system," the source added.

The ministry's initial plan was to introduce biannual board exams from the 2024-25 academic session, however, it has been pushed back by a year. The new national curriculum framework, prepared by the Union government-appointed national steering committee which was led by former ISRO chairman K. Sivasubramanian in line with the National Education Policy 2020, proposed a semester system for students of classes 11 and 12. Agency

Arms, ammunition found in CBI raid in Sandeshkhali



New Delhi/Kolkata
The CBI on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including a police service revolver and foreign-made firearms, during searches at two premises of an associate of now-suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, officials said. The searches were conducted in connection with the January attack on an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team by a mob that was allegedly instigated by Sheikh,

Nearly 61 per cent turnout in phase 2 of Lok Sabha polls

New Delhi
Nearly 61 per cent polling was reported in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections covering 88 seats across 13 states amid few complaints of EVM glitches and bogus voting in some states. Voters in some villages of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maharashtra's Parbhani were boycotting the polls over various issues but were later persuaded by authorities to cast their franchise.

Polling for the second stage of the seven-phase elections started at 7 am and ended at 6 pm. Several states experienced intense heat conditions. The first phase of polling was held on April 19 in 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories. The Election Commission (EC) said polling remained largely peace-



ful. The tentative figure at 7 pm of voter turnout of 60.96 per cent is likely to go upwards when reports from all polling stations are obtained, the EC said, adding voters reaching polling stations till the end of polling hour are allowed to cast their vote. The National Democratic alliance (NDA) under Prime Minister Modi is seeking a stronger majority for a third

consecutive term, while the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc are hoping for a rebound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections. Election Commission data showed the highest voting percentage was recorded in Tripura which registered 78.53 per cent polling, followed by Manipur at 77.18 while the turnout was in Uttar Pradesh at

HIGHLIGHT

According to the EC data, the highest voting percentage was recorded in Tripura, which registered 78.53% polling, while the lowest turnout was in Uttar Pradesh at 53.80%. The turnout in ethnic violence-hit Manipur was 77.18%.

53.71 per cent and Maharashtra 53.84 per cent. Polling was held in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 6 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir. Agency

You want administration to be paralysed: HC to Kejriwal



New Delhi
The Delhi High court on Friday pulled up the government over the issue of non-supply of books to the children studying in MCD schools, saying the continuation of Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister even after his arrest puts political interest over national interest. The court said the Delhi government was "interested in appropriation of power" over the issue of non-supply of books to the children studying in MCD schools, saying the continuation of Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister even after his arrest puts political interest over national interest. The court said the Delhi government was "interested in appropriation of power" over the issue of non-supply of books to the children studying in MCD schools, saying the continuation of Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister even after his arrest puts political interest over national interest. The court said the Delhi government was "interested in appropriation of power" over the issue of non-supply of books to the children studying in MCD schools, saying the continuation of Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister even after his arrest puts political interest over national interest.

EC books Tejasvi Surya for seeking votes on religion

Bengaluru
The Election Commission (EC) on Friday booked Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and incumbent Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya for posting a video on a social media platform and allegedly "soliciting votes on the ground of religion."



"Case is booked against Tejasvi Surya MP and Candidate of Bengaluru South PC on 25.04.24 at Jayanagar PS U/s 123(3) for posting a video in X handle and soliciting votes on the ground of religion," Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka posted on X.

The case has been filed with Jayanagar police station in Bengaluru. On Thursday, the BJP MP shared a video on X, showcasing the 'Surya Tilak' ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, accompanied by the statement: "Our generation was blessed

to witness the majestic Surya Tilak on Bhagwan Shri Ram at Ayodhya on Ram Navami. A wait of almost 500 years & a wish of crores of Bharatiyas was fulfilled by PM Shri @narendramodi ji. For Bharatiyata to survive, vote for BJP!" It is to be noted that the EC's Model Code of Conduct (MCC) clearly states: "No party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic." Agency

WhatsApp move Delhi HC against India's IT rules

New Delhi
Messaging service platform WhatsApp on Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that if it is made or compelled to break encryption of messages, then the platform will stop functioning. The submissions came while the division bench led by the Acting Chief Justice was hearing the petitions moved by WhatsApp and Facebook challenging newly amended IT Rules. "As a platform, we are saying, if we are told to break encryption, then WhatsApp goes," the lawyer who appeared for



WhatsApp submitted. The requirement was against the privacy of users and the rule was introduced without any consultation, said WhatsApp while opposing the amendment in IT Rules. Earlier, the Centre had told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp and Facebook which monetizes users' infor-

mation for business or commercial purposes are not legally entitled to claim that it protects privacy. In fact, the regulators of various countries clearly hold that Facebook should be fixed with accountability for its services and data management practices. Agency

SC rejects pleas on 100% VVPAT counting, paper ballot

CONTD FROM PG-1
within seven days of declaration of the results after payment of fees, the court said.

"If EVM is found tampered during verification, fees paid by the candidates will be refunded. An EVM comprises three units — ballot unit, control unit and the VVPAT. All three are embedded with micro-controllers which have a burnt memory from the manufacturer.

Currently, the Election Commission conducts random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs at five polling booths per assembly constituency. VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which enables electors to see whether their votes have been recorded correctly.

The bench suggested the poll panel can examine whether electronic machines can be used for counting VVPAT slips and also whether bar codes can be used for parties along with their symbols.

Besides seeking a return to the ballot paper system, the three petitions before it had prayed that VVPAT slips should be given to the voter to verify and put in the ballot box for counting and there should be 100 per cent counting of VVPAT slips, it said.

"We have rejected all of them," Justice Khanna said.

A few hours later, Prime Minister Modi referred to the verdict in his Araria rally.

Agency

Arms, ammunition found in CBI raid in Sandeshkhali

CONTD FROM PG-1
team and other incriminating articles may be hidden at the residence of an associate of Sheikh at Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas.

Accordingly, the team of the CBI along with CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) personnel searched two premises at Sandeshkhali today," the spokesperson of the CBI.

The swift operation resulted in the seizure of a huge cache of small arms and ammunition, and these included foreign-made firearms, the officials said.

During the searches, the CBI seized three foreign-made revolvers and one foreign-made pistol, one Indian revolver, one Colt official issue police revolver, one country-made pistol, 120 nine mm bullet, 50 cartridges of .45 calibre, 120 nine mm cartridge, 50 cartridges of .380 and eight cartridges of .32, the spokesperson said.

"Besides, many incriminating documents related to Shahjahan have also been recovered. Some items suspected to be country-made bombs have also been recovered, which are being handled and disposed of by the teams of the NSG," the spokesperson said in a statement.

As officials spread across Sandeshkhali to search targeted locations, NSG units had the responsibility for detecting and handling explosives found during the operation, the officials said.

Agency

Congress has Muslim League's agenda says it will make separate law for minorities: Shah

Bemetara (Chhattisgarh).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that Congress has said it would make a separate law for minorities, and asked whether the country should "function on the basis of Sharia".

Speaking at an election rally in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh, he also said that those who refused invitation for the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya for their vote bank politics did not have the right to rule the country.

Bemetara falls in Durg Lok Sabha constituency which will go to polls on May 7.

"...They (Congress) have said they will make a separate law for minorities. Tell me, should the country function on the basis of Sharia? Should triple talaq be reintroduced? Congress has been heading forward with the agenda of Muslim League," the senior BJP leader asked.

Rahul baba, neither the people will elect you, nor will triple talaq be reintroduced. I am saying today that we will not allow anyone to



touch CAA (Citizenship Amendment) Act, triple talaq (prohibition act) and scrapping of Article 370," he said.

In the greed of its vote bank, the Congress maintained Article 370 in Kashmir for many years, Shah alleged.

"You (people) all elected Modi ji the prime minister for the second time and he abolished Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and Kashmir became a part of India forever," he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the

Narendra Modi government, Shah said the prime minister has ended terrorism and safeguarded the country.

"The Congress nourished and nurtured Naxalism due to its political interest. When Modi ji became the PM, he ended Naxalism from the country in 10 years. The menace survived only in Chhattisgarh because of the Bhupesh Kikka-led Congress government was in power in the state (2018-2023)," he said.

But as soon as you elected Vishnu Deo Sai as the Chief Minister (in the last assembly elections), he and Home Minister (Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma) worked to eliminate around 90 Naxalites in just four months. 123 Naxalites were arrested and 225 surrendered (during this period), he said.

"Give a third term to PM Modi and Naxalism will be eliminated from Chhattisgarh in two years," he averred.

Nobody can accomplish in 1,000 years

what Modi has done in 10 years, Shah said.

During the Sonia (Sonia Gandhi)-Manmohan (former PM Manmohan Singh) led UPA government, every day terrorists used to enter from Pakistan and carry out bomb blasts. You made Modi ji the Prime Minister. Pakistan had got into the habit of attacking and carried out attacks in Uri and Pulwama. But this time Manmohan Singh was not the prime minister, it was Narendra Modi. Our jawans entered Pakistan and eliminated terrorism by carrying out surgical strikes and air strikes within just 10 days (of the attacks), he said.

The Union minister also accused the Congress of being anti-Other Backward Class, and said it was Modi's guarantee that no one can touch the reservations for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and OBCs.

"Rahul baba, among all the parties in the country, Congress is anti-OBC. Congress for years did not act on the Kaka Kalekar report and the Mandal Commission report and made them disappear.

"I pay tribute to Bhuneshwar Sahu, who lost his life due to vote bank politics of Congress," he said.

Angul sizzles at 44.6 degC

Bhubaneswar:

There seemed to be no respite from the hot and humid weather conditions in Odisha, with 12 places recording temperatures above 43 degrees Celsius on Friday and the IMD forecasting similar weather conditions for the next five days.

In its evening bulletin, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the maximum temperature is likely to rise by two degrees Celsius at many places in Odisha in the next 48 hours, following which the maximum temperature is likely to be above normal by four to six degrees Celsius in the subsequent four to five days.

The industrial town of Angul recorded the highest temperature in the state at 44.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Boudh (44.5), and Nuapada and Bolangir at 44 degrees Celsius. Baripada recorded

43.8 degrees Celsius, while Tilagarh, Jajpur, Sambalpur and Hirakud registered 43.6 degrees Celsius each. Bhusuguda and Talcher simmered at 43.5 degrees Celsius while Dhenkanal recorded 43.1 degrees Celsius.

State capital Bhubaneswar recorded a temperature of 40.5 degrees Celsius, while neighbouring Cuttack was at 40.8 degrees Celsius.

The IMD has issued a red warning (be alert) for the next 24 hours, stating that severe heatwave conditions may prevail in Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Nuapada and Angul districts.

It also issued an orange (be prepared) warning for Sambalpur, Jajpur, Balasore, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Bolangir, Sonepur, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khurda, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur and Deogarh districts.

6000 girl students trained for self defence in summer camp organised by Delhi police

New Delhi

In an attempt to empower women and create a sense of confidence, legal awareness amongst women, the Special Police Unit for Women and Children organised self defence training programmes for School & College students, housewives, RWAs.

The girls are being trained how to make use of things like Dupatta, Pen & Handbags to protect themselves from attacks by anti social elements, chain or bag snatching, criminal assault etc.

The training helps in building up the self esteem of women so that they do not feel vulnerable & humiliated. So far more than 5,57,188 girls/women have been trained through this initiative.

After receiving lots of appreciation from society and looking at the success of these self defence



training programmes besides routine camps held from time to time, the annual summer and winter camps are also organized by this Unit during summer & winter vacations all over Delhi at different venues. In this series, Summer Camp-2024 was organized at 10 different venues across Delhi for school going girls.

A total of 6000 girl students participated and benefitted from this Self Defence camp. During the closing ceremony of the camp was held today on 26.04.2024 at Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, Chhattisgarh, Delhi. On this occasion Chief Guest R.N. Sharma, Director of Education, GNCT, Delhi said that education department will extend all cooperation to Delhi Po-

lice for the safety of women. We have put CCTV Cameras in front of all the school gates and local police is always present at the time of school opening and closing to ensure that there is no untoward incident.

Special Guest of Honour M.S. Laxmi Agarwal, an acid attack survivor and Founder/President of the Laxmi foundation gave a highly Motivational speech which was very well received by girl students.

Vedantu Students Shine Again in JEE Main 2024 Pranavanand Saji with AIR 31 emerges as overseas topper

New Delhi:

Vedantu — a leader in the JEE tutoring space has revealed that 1,698 of its students have qualified for JEE Advanced. The education giant also revealed that 210 of their students scored above 99 percentile, with 641 of their students scoring above 97 percentile.

Pranavanand Saji, one of Vedantu's top students, was recognized as the Overseas Topper of JEE Main 2024 with an All India Rank (AIR) of 31. Moreover, 3 Vedantu students were in the top 500 and 6 Vedantu students had an AIR in the top 1,000. There were 27 other Vedantu students who scored 100 percentile in one or more subjects.

Adding to the joy of the results is the remarkable achievement of their pioneering Vedantu Learning Centre in Bangalore, which was established just last year. This center has seen 80% of its students qualify for the JEE Ad-

Vedantu
LEARNING CENTRE

vanced year. The reason for this success can be ascribed to the personalized learning methods that Vedantu implements at scale.

Leveraging a decade of technological innovation, Vedantu ensures tailored learning experiences both in physical classrooms and through its advanced online platforms. Master teachers, doubt experts, and academic mentors provide personalized attention to each student, employing customized teaching methods. Vedantu's technological infrastructure, on the other hand, helps students amplify

personalized feedback to students by seamlessly tracking class participation, test performance, and assignments. Vedantu's proactive approach to student development ensures parents are well-informed about their child's progress in real time on a daily basis.

"With intrinsically tailored exam courses like JEE, our active learning methodology focuses on providing students the learning experience which mirrors the nuances of the exam and prepares them to achieve their true potential. We congratulate all aspirants who appeared in JEE Main and to the All India Rankers who have aged the examination. This success is a testimony of the determination and hard work of our students, Master Teachers, mentors, doubt experts, student support staff and others."

— Anand Prakash, Co-founder & Head of Academics, Vedantu.

'PM is scared may even shed tears on stage': Rahul Gandhi's fresh salvo at Modi

Vijayapura/Ballari: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the grand old party, saying he is scared and may even shed tears on the stage.

He called the BJP 'Bharatiya Chompu Party', Chompu in Kannada means round water pot, which is sometimes used to convey emptiness and deception.

"You have heard the prime minister's speeches. He is scared. It's possible that he may shed tears on stage," Gandhi said, addressing public meetings in the district headquarters towns of Vijayapura and Ballari in the party-governed state.

Modi has targeted the Congress on a variety of issues in recent campaign rallies, including "mangalsutra", "redistribution of wealth" and "inheritance tax" charges.

The former Congress chief accused Modi of "diverting public attention" through various means. "Sometimes he talks about China and Pakistan, and sometimes he will make you beat plates and ask you to switch on the torch light of your mobile phones."

He pointed out that there are three to four core issues in India including poverty, unemployment and price rise, and claimed that only Congress can eradicate unemployment, contain price rise and give people their due share.

"Modi has only snatched money from poor people. He has made some billionaires. There are 22 people who have wealth equivalent to the 70 crore people of the country. Just one per cent people are controlling 40 per cent of the wealth of the nation," Gandhi alleged.

Modi, Nadda polarising election they are afraid BJP losing polls: Congress

New Delhi:

The Congress on Friday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief J P Nadda are resorting to polarisation as they are afraid they are going to lose this Lok Sabha election.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that Nadda had presented former prime minister Manmohan Singh's comments in a wrong context only to polarise the election.

The party's reaction came after Nadda alleged that the Congress intends to snatch the rights of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to benefit Muslims.

The BJP chief also cited then-prime minister Manmohan Singh's 2006 statement in which he had reportedly said that minorities, especially Muslims, have the first right on the country's resources.

"J P Nadda's allegations are based on lies. It seems that Nadda is following Prime Minister Modi and has turned to 'falsehood'," Ramesh said.

"The real thing is that the BJP is in panic. The prime minister and the BJP president know that their party is wiped out in the South and is halved in the North. They fear that they are losing this election and scared of it, their only strategy is polarisation, polarisation and polarisation," he said in a statement posted on X.

Ramesh also said that the BJP chief has misrepresented the speech given by Manmohan Singh at a National Development Council meeting on December 9, 2006.

He also cited former PM Manmohan Singh's statement and his own response to it, and said Modi and Nadda are now using out of context.

The Congress general secretary said it could be seen from the statement that the then-prime minister's reference to "first right on resources" referred to all the "priority" areas listed, including SCs, STs, OBCs, women, children and the programmes for the upliftment of minorities are included.

Congress media department head Pawan Khera cited the recent statements of Modi and said that the prime minister of the country should not use such language.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC AT LARGE IS HEREBY INFORMED BY WAY OF THIS NOTICE THAT MY CLIENTS SHI KANGAI CHAUHAN 500 LAKHS OF CREDITABLE ASSETS CHANDI ROAD 23/601, MANDIR WALI GATE, SHADI KHANPUR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110048 HAS RENOUNCED ALL HIS ASSETS AND ALL HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIS SON SHRI ROHIT CHAUHAN AND HIS WIFE DIPKA CHAUHAN, FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMovable PROPERTIES THEREFORE MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ANY ACT DONE IN PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE.
BURGHESH CHAND SETHI (ADVOCATE)
Chamber No. 737
Dwarka Court
New Delhi-110075
Mob-921182556

NEWS IN BRIEF

BSP will perform better in LS polls this time : Akash Anand

Noida
In the second phase of Lok Sabha elections, the voters could be seen in queues to cast their votes at 1826 booths in Gauta Buddha Nagar from Friday morning.

In this sequence, the BSP coordinator in Greater Noida cast his vote. While talking to the media, he said that this time BSP will perform better in the Lok Sabha elections. Apart from this, BJP candidate Dr. Mahesh Sharma and MIA Tejpal Singh Nagar cast their votes.

The highest number of voters is 7,82,872 in Noida assembly constituency. For security reasons, the entire Lok Sabha seat was divided into seven super zones and 120 sectors. Every booth was being monitored through CCTV and from the control room. Crowds of voters were visible at all the booths here. People were standing in lines and voting.

Asnake came out in booth number 36-37 of the Junior High School , Chingrawali village of Jahangirpur. So, the voting had to be stopped for some time. The villagers somehow rescued the snake and left it in the forest.

For the first time, a queue formed for voting in the polling center set up inside the society in Lotus Gulbad, sector 100, Noida. Dadri MLA Tejpal Nagar voted in the primary school, Dadri. District magistrate Gautam Budh Nagar Manish Kumar Verma voted with his wife at Cambridge School Sector 27.

Delhi Cong urges Lt. Governor to hold mayoral poll

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee in charge of MCD Jitender Kumar Kochhar has written to Lt. Governor V.K.Saxena, appealing him to conduct the mayoral election without any further delay.

The works of the MCD has been suffering for over the past one year in the absence of standing committee, ward committees and various other committees, he added.

Kochhar, in his letter to the LG, appealed HIM to keep aside the partition politics of the BJP to stall the elections and allow the ruling party, to hold the elections to the posts of mayor and the deputy mayor as at this time, it was the turn of a Dalit candidate to become the mayor.

He said that if the elections are delayed, whoever becomes the mayor and deputy mayor will get less than ten months in the posts, which will severely hamper the functioning of the MCD.

Delhi Congress spokesperson Anuj Atrey said that the mayor election should not be delayed, because 90 percent of the work in city comes under the purview of the MCD and any hindrance in its functioning will directly affect the civic services in the capital, and the cleanliness of Delhi will be affected.

'Anti-Dalit': AAP, BJP trade allegations over postponement of mayoral polls in Delhi

■ The AAP has called the BJP 'anti-Dalit', saying it was trying to ensure that a candidate from the reserved category does not become the mayor of Delhi.

New Delhi
The AAP and BJP on Friday traded allegations over the postponement of mayoral polls, accusing each other of being anti-Dalit, following an uproar in the MCD House meeting that was adjourned amid heavy sloganeering.

Polis to elect the mayor and deputy mayor were postponed late Thursday night due to the non-appointment of the presiding officer for the elections. The third term of the mayoral poll is reserved for a Dalit candidate.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House session witnessed an uproar over the postponement of the mayoral elections that were slated to be held on Friday, with both AAP and BJP councillors raising slogans against each other before the proceedings of the House began.

BJP councillors surrounded the mayor's seat and raised slogans demanding the presence of Mayor Shelly Oberoi who was running late for the meeting.



AAP councillors initially raised slogans against the BJP near the Ambekar station at the corporation headquarters. Later, they reached the House and continued raising slogans against the opposition party calling them "Dalit Virodhi BJP".

The AAP has called the BJP "anti-Dalit", saying it was trying to ensure that a candidate from the reserved category does not become the mayor of Delhi.

The councillors of the two parties raised slogans against each other for about an hour. After Mayor Oberoi reached the House, she ac-

used Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena of "muttering the Constitution" and using the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as an "excuse" to stall the mayoral polls.

The mayor then adjourned the meeting of the MCD House.

Addressing a press conference after the House was adjourned, Oberoi accused the BJP of hatching a "conspiracy" to stop the elections from taking place.

"Today the mayoral elections were supposed to take place. The Election Commission had also given its

permission on April 24. But yesterday, the file for appointing the presiding officer was sent to the Lt Governor bypassing the elected government. LG sahib's response to the file that he does not have the power to appoint the presiding officer in the absence of inputs from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is shallow politics," Oberoi said.

She said the BJP has hatched a conspiracy to postpone the elections. "If this is not the murder of democracy, then what is it? Lok Sabha elections (in Delhi) will be held soon. They don't want AAP's candidate to become the mayor before it."

"AAP had the mandate as well as the numbers. Our candidates would have won the (mayoral) elections," the mayor said.

Meanwhile, BJP councillors, after the adjournment of the session, were seen dancing to the BJP's campaign song inside the House.

The video was shared by several AAP leaders, including the mayor and Delhi ministers Atishi and Saubh

Bharadvaj. They alleged that the BJP was celebrating since AAP's Dalit candidate could not be elected as mayor.

"Look at the happiness of BJP councillors that a Dalit did not become the mayor," Atishi captioned her video post on X.

Responding to the allegation, Leader of Opposition Raja Iqbal said it was the AAP which was "anti-Dalit", saying it was their "procedural fault" to not take required approvals well in time to hold the elections.

"The Aam Aadmi Party is 'Dalit virodhi'. They didn't want the elections to take place. If that was not the case, they would have taken all the permissions required for holding the elections well in advance."

"This is their procedural fault, they had no intention of holding the elections and now they are staging a drama and shedding crocodile tears," Iqbal said.

He also slammed the mayor or for being late for the House meeting. "All councillors of the MCD, both from the BJP and AAP, come from

far away (to attend the House meeting). Their time is precious for running the operations of the corporation," he said.

Iqbal said the mayor is indisciplined and does not know the value of time. "She came to the House over an hour late and had no intention of holding the meeting."

Elections to the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi that were slated for April 26 were postponed, with the LG Saxena citing "unprecedented" circumstances where the chief minister is under judicial custody and cannot discharge his constitutionally obligated functions.

The civic body postponed the mayoral polls after the Raj Nivas issued a letter on behalf of Saxena, stating that the appointment of a presiding officer could not be made in the absence of inputs from the chief minister, who is lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with a money laundering-linked excise policy case.

Aap gov't 'least concerned with governance' as over 3000 files pending with CM, ministers: Delhi BJP

New Delhi
Delhi BJP on Friday slammed Kejriwal government alleging it is "least concerned with governance" as more than 3,000 files related to important work were pending with different ministers as well as the chief minister for many years.

No immediate reaction was available from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government over the charge.

"The Kejriwal government is not meant for administration and governance but publicity and corruption, which is evident by 3,060 files lying pending, gathering dust at its different departments. Also, there are 420 files



related to important work that are pending at the level of the chief minister," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged in a press conference.

Showing copies of purported official documents, Sachdeva claimed the files stuck up at the chief minister's level were related to

'Garib Sanjivini Ayushman Yojna', enhancing powers of Delhi Lokayukta, Delhi Water Policy file pending for seven years, development of unauthorised colonies, construction of STPs for Yamuna cleaning, among others.

"The pending files show that this government is

least concerned about work and more interested in publicity and corruption. Still, they claim to be serving Delhi," charged the Delhi BJP president.

Secretary of Delhi BJP Harish Khurana alleged that the AAP government as well leaders of the ruling party were used to alleging that they were not being allowed to work by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor. But they sat over important files for many years, he alleged.

He claimed that the file related to land acquisition for setting up a sports university in Delhi was lying pending since February 2016.

Two men stabbed to death after an argument over cigarettes in Delhi 3 held



New Delhi
Two men were stabbed to death allegedly after an argument over cigarettes in Northwest Delhi, police said on Friday.

Three people have been arrested in connection with the case, police said.

The victims were identified as Sameer, and Fardeen, residents of Bhalaswa Dairy, they said.

The police received a PCR call at 1.22 am on Thursday regarding the stabbing incident, they said.

According to an eyewitness, Mubin, his relative Fardeen was invited to a reception hosted by his cousin, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Ravi Kumar Singh said.

Around midnight, his relatives Sameer and Fardeen went outside together. Sometime later, Sameer returned seriously injured with three men chasing him with a knife, Mubin told police.

Sameer was then admitted to BJRM hospital with an incised wound after he was attacked by a sharp object on his abdomen and shoulder. He was referred to the LNJP hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, the DCP said.

Meanwhile, Fardeen, a battery rickshaw driver, died on the spot, he said.

Mubin further informed the police that he had later learnt that an argument broke out when the three accused — Abdul Sammi (19), Vikas (20), and Arshlan (20) — were demanding cigarettes from the victims and they denied having any, the DCP said.

Based on Mubin's state-

Markets hotels in Delhi announce discounts for voters

New Delhi
In a bid to boost the voter turnout, Delhi's business organisations and markets have devised special discounts and offers on May 25 and 26 to those who vote, he said.

Khandelwal said that voters would receive a 10 per cent discount on computers and laptops at Nehru Place Market.

Similarly, Nitin Gupta, president of Kamla Nagar Market, announced a 15 per cent discount for voters on May 26.

Tarun Gupta, president of the Dariba Jewellers Association at Chandni Chowk, announced discounts of up to 5-10 per cent and Deepak Mehta, president of the Old Delhi Hotel Association said hotels around Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk and Delhi Gate would have discounts of up to 25 per cent.

The Delhi Hotel Association has offered an extra 20

per cent discount on bookings in hotels and guest-houses in Paharganj and Karol Bagh for all voters.

Earlier, hotels in the Karol Bagh and Najafgarh zones had also announced a 20 per cent discount offer for eligible voters.

Deputy Commissioner of Karol Bagh Zone Abhishek Mishra said, "The initiative aims to encourage citizens to actively participate in the democratic process and fulfil their civic duty."

"By offering tangible benefits to voters, the market and hotel associations hope to increase voter turnout and promote civic engagement in the Karol Bagh and Najafgarh areas," he had said.

Mishra said the public health department of the MCD is also approaching traders in the Karol Bagh area to explore the possibility of extending similar offers to voters.

leged liquor scam.

The ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy, undue favours were extended to licence holders, licence fee was waived or reduced and the L-1 licence was extended without the competent authority.

The proceedings and that they were not willing to expedite the hearing.

Earlier, the court sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K Kavitha to judicial custody till May 7 in the case.

The ED alleged that Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the al-

Markets hotels in Delhi announce discounts for voters

New Delhi
In a bid to boost the voter turnout in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, Delhi's market association and hotels have announced discounts for voters, officials said on Friday.

This comes amid fears of low turnout in the elections in the national capital given that the polling day — which falls on a Saturday — and the following Sunday makes it a longer weekend.

More than 5,000 members of CII have committed to offering discounts at their respective stores, according to Subhash Khandelwal, president of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI).

With polling in Delhi scheduled to be held on May 25 in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, which falls on a Saturday, concerns arise that voter turnout might dip as the next day is a Sunday, Khandelwal said.

To ensure a high voter turnout, Delhi's business organisations and markets have devised special discounts and offers on May 25 and 26 to those who vote, he said.

Khandelwal said that voters would receive a 10 per cent discount on computers and laptops at Nehru Place Market.

NAME CHANGE

I Mohammand yusuf 5/0 Mohammand Yahya R/o 2107 Aha Kaley Sahib Gali Qasim Jan Ballimaran Delhi is declares and affirm that my late father Mohammand Yahya is also known as Mohd. yahya@Md. yahya@Mohd Yahya. All were the name of one and same person my late father.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is hereby notified for General Public that my clients Smt Vinita Gupta w/o Sh Sanjay Gupta and Sanjay Gupta s/o Lt Sh Prem Chand both r/o 3A/30, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi 110018, have severed all their relations with their son namely Ravi Gupta and his wife and have debarred them from inheriting any movable and immovable properties of my clients, due to their misbehavior, unbecoming acts and neglecting their duties owing towards my clients. If anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for any acts of above named son and his wife, in any manner whatsoever".

YASHPAL JOLLY
ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO 267, WESTERN WING,
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required Financial capability and time of tender: 10.00.2024 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.reps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

Tender Notices are also available at Website: www.indianrailways.gov.in and www.reps.gov.in

Follow us at: www.easternrailway.com
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Manish Sisodia judicial custody extended till May 8

New Delhi
A court here on Friday extended the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, co-accused Vijay Nair and others till May 8 in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

The accused persons were produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja through video conferencing on the expiry of their judi-

cial custody granted earlier.

The judge also directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to submit a report on how much time it was likely to take to digitize the documents related to the charge sheet.

During the proceedings, ED's special public prosecutors Naveen Kumar Matsu and Simon Benjamin alleged that the accused per-

sons were delaying the proceedings and that they were not willing to expedite the hearing.

Earlier, the court sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K Kavitha to judicial custody till May 7 in the case.

The ED alleged that Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the al-

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system

Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Tender No.	8249999
Bid description	12024-25 AMI Code-21301 Hydrophobic Foldable IOL(As per attached specification)
Qty.	970 no's
Closing date	20.05.2024

Note :- 1- Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. www.reps.gov.in for details. 2-No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Number: 82249999 Date : 26.04.2024 126324

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NSC- A necessity for survival of sports federations & associations



Advocate Sachin Chopra

HMJ (Retd.) Nazim Waziri rightly observed that National Sports Code "is the adoption of 'good governance' practices by the NSFs and the IO.

It all started in 2005, when the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Zee Telefilms versus Union of India held that sports bodies in India do not fall within the definition of 'State'. This decision led to a chaotic situation where sports associations within India started operating without any constraint or control or rules. The National Sports Bodies became personal clubs of the rich and famous and the government was helpless in controlling the situation. The manner in which various sports were being administered and regulated in India became an embarrassment for the Central Government at an international level, which was reflected by mediocre performance of Indian sports persons at International events.

Numerous irregularities and aberrations were observed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in the management and governance of the sports bodies and Federations within our country, at the National level.

Initially, a committee chaired by Justice Mukul Mudgal (Retired) was appointed for drafting of National Sports Development Bill, 2013. The committee sought views from stakeholders in sports from throughout India including journalists, writers, athletes and activists. The Olympic charter was heavily relied upon by the committee to assign responsibility to the national Olympic committee, to bid for international sports events and to conduct national games within India and do all such acts for the conduct and development of sports within India, in consonance with international standards of conducting sports. However, this bill received severe criticism from all the parties and even from the government and was not supported by the government, resulting in its imminent failure.

In these circumstances, in order to ensure a unified improvement of the level of Sports administration in our country like India, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, started issuing various circulars, notifications, orders, etc. laying down different conditions to provide recognition and financial assistance to the Indian Olympic Association (hereinafter referred to as "IOA") and National Sports Federations (hereinafter referred to as "NSFs") operating at the National level in the country.

All such circulars, notifications, orders, instructions, amalgamated with necessary modifications, providing a framework for the effective governance of the IOA and NSFs were

into a compendium and comprehensively termed as "National Sports Development Code of India, 2011" (hereinafter referred to as "NSC") in terms of the recommendation of the sub-committee constituted by department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Human Resource Development. This NSC was notified in supersession of all earlier instructions on the subject matter. It was noted in the NSC that at the national level sports is considered at par with public education and public health and that the development of sports was a public function. Internationally laws and guidelines have been enacted for regulation of sports in national and public interest. Issues of Doping, age related fraud, child abuse, sexual harassment, gambling, gender inequality, professional management, financial accountability, competition and/or racism in the field of sports have been attempted to be regulated under this code. NSC promotes good governance practices in the management and administration of sports at all levels to bring the practices of all entities involved in the governance of any sport in consonance with international standards, especially in accordance with principles enshrined in the International Olympic Committee charter.

The NSC took note of an order dated 2 May 2010 passed by High Court of Delhi in Civil Writ Petition No. 7868 of 2005 in the matter of Indian Hockey Federation versus Government of India. The Bench observed that the government guidelines governing the NSFs were valid and binding and enforceable and that the tenure clause was not in violation of the Olympic charter.

The Court in its order also observed that the Government of India is fully competent to make regulations on the NSF and the IOA in view of entry 10 and 13 in List 1, (Union list). The order also observed that the NSFs, though having autonomy, needed government recognition to represent the country. It was also observed that international sporting events were essentially part of diplomatic relations of the nations and multiple considerations like security, concerns of players, apartheid, perceived, human, right violations etcetera were to be taken care of by the central Government. Orders passed in another public interest litigation number 195 of 2010 in the matter of Rahul Mehra versus Union of India were also considered while formulating the NSC, where the High Court took serious view on the mismanagement of the sports sector in the country and expressed concern at the action on the part of the government in implementing and enforcing its own guidelines, particularly those relating to age and tenure. The NSC also clarifies that the annual recognition, along with grants, facilities and concessions, granted by the government of India to NSFs

From time to time, the government issues updated guidelines in the form of subsequent circulars, notifications, orders, etc. which also amalgamate into the National Sports Code (NSC) and become binding upon the IOA and NSFs in order to ensure more transparency in the decision-making process by the IOA and NSFs. Through its provisions, the NSC has played a crucial role in shaping the administra-

tion and regulation of IOA and NSFs, ensuring proper management, fostering athlete welfare, and encouraging the spirit of inclusivity and meritocracy within the Indian Sporting Ecosystem. With its emphasis on creating a robust framework for sports administration, the code has been instrumental in revolutionizing the

Indian sports landscape and paving the way for the nation's athletes to strive for excellence on both national and international stages.

Despite the issuance of strict guidelines in the form of NSC, various complaints were being received against the irregularities in the management of various NSFs which were managing its affairs in blatant violation of NSC. Accordingly, the Courts of our country stepped up in to ensure strict adherence of NSC by all the NSFs and their constituent members.

One such batch of issues was comprehensively dealt by the Division Bench of High Court of Delhi in the matter titled as "Rahul Mehra Vs Union of India". The said Petition was preferred in public interest, by Rahul Mehra, an advocate and a sports enthusiast, because the Court to direct all NSFs and Indian Olympic Association (hereinafter referred to as "IOA") to strictly comply with NSC; b) identify and thereafter suspend the defaulting NSF and direct the Government not to extend financial assistance, tax concessions and other perks to such NSF; and c) direct the Government to reinstate any perks to defaulting NSF until the management of the said identified NSF/OA is not brought into conformity with NSC.

The Division Bench of Delhi High Court, vide its order dated 16 August 2022, while adjudicating the aforementioned Petition, observed that several portions of constitution of IOA were in contravention to NSC which require rectification and accordingly held:

a) there can no position as "Life President" or any such permanent post for an individual in IOA;

b) voting and election results only in terms of the Sports Code will be recognized and differential voting rights can be permitted;

c) Model Election guidelines provided under NSC must be strictly adhered to;

d) Only NSFs for Olympic disciplines should be member of IOA with voting rights;

e) age and tenure limit should be applicable to all members of the Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as "EC") of IOA as well as to all the members of General Assembly;

f) there cannot be any restrictive, undemocratic clause, including as to who can contest for any position;

g) IOA must have Independent Ethics, Athletes, Election and Arbitration Commissions, and Ombudsman, devoid of any control, direct or indirect, by the

IOA or NSF. These commissions must be funded by the Government from the budgetary allocation for NSFs including IOA;

h) 25% prominent spokespersons of outstanding merit with voting rights in General Assembly and EC is mandatory in terms of clause 2.30 of 2001 Guidelines and para 9.3 (xii) of the Sports Code.

i) a person against whom criminal charges have been framed should not be permitted to be a member either of the EC or the General Assembly;

j) EC size should be reasonable and not unwieldy; and

k) Persons seeking re-election for the same post must secure two-thirds majority;

While holding the above, the Court accordingly, struck down various provisions of the Constitution of IOA to bring the same in conformity with the NSC. It was also held by the High Court that the Sports Code must be made applicable to the IOA and to every constituent NSFs and to every State and District Level Association. The Delhi High Court observed that the NSFs must comply with each mandatory aspect of Sports Code which can neither be diluted nor whittled-down. The Court observed that despite repeated opportunities and warnings to IOA to amend its constitution in terms of NSC, the IOA had failed to amend its constitution.

Accordingly, the Court held that the compliance of Sports Code is non-negotiable. If an NSF does not comply with the law of the land, it will receive no recognition from the Government. All benefits and facilities to it will stop promptly. The Court further observed that the Governmental monitoring of compliance is essential to ensure strict adherence of NSC by IOA, which is expected to be prompt, robust and meticulous at all times. Accordingly, the court appointed a six member Committee of Administrators and the affairs of the IOA were put in the hands of the said Committee in order to: a) assist in preparation and adoption of amended constitution of IOA in conformity with NSC and court rulings; b) prepare electoral college to conduct election of EC of IOA; c) carry out day to day governance of IOA; and d) facilitate holding of elections and to finally hand over the affairs to a democratically elected body in terms of its constitution which will be adopted, preferably within a period of 16 weeks from the date the CoA members give their assent. Similar directions were also passed by the Supreme Court vide order dated 18 May 2022 passed in the matter of "All India Football Federation vs. Rahul Mehra & Ors" (SLP (Civil) Nos. 30748-30749/2017) involving affairs of another NSF.

The issue qua non-adherence to the NSC/National Sports Code once again came up for adjudication by the High Court of Delhi, in the matter titled as "K.P. Rao vs Union of India & Ors". The issues raised in the said petition and other batch petitions

connecting to it were: a) if the age and tenure restriction upon the members of the Governing Body, as provided by NSC, is applicable only to NSFs or also to their constituents i.e., State and District Associations; b) effect of non-compliance of such restrictions imposed by NSC; c) if the aforementioned restrictions were applicable upon the representatives of state associations to the NSFs; and d) if the representatives of state associations do not comply with the aforementioned restrictions, can they still constitute the electoral college for elections of governing body and can be permitted to vote in the constituent NSF.

The Court, while relying on the judgment passed in the matter of Rahul Mehra (supra) and judgment passed in "Mahipal Singh vs. Union of India & Ors"; W.P. (C) No. 4601/2013, held that the age and tenure restriction upon the members of the Governing Body, as provided by NSC, is applicable not only to NSFs but also upon all their constituents i.e., state and district associations. The Court further observed that the members/representatives of State and District Associations must always be in compliance with the restrictions imposed by NSC and if they fail or refuse to comply with the same, they would be liable for action which may entail de-affiliation and/or removal from being a recognized district and state constituent of the concerned NSF. It was further held that if the representatives of the state associations to the NSF and the representatives of the District Associations/bodies to the State Association are not compliant of the age and tenure restriction imposed by the Sports Code, then they shall not constitute the electoral college and shall be disqualified from contesting for any post of the executive committee and also from casting their vote for such an election. It was further directed that all the state associations and district associations must hold fresh elections strictly in accordance to age and tenure restriction imposed by NSC.

In view of the above discussion it is apparent that it is more than an integral that all the NSFs and their constituents are strictly bound by the NSC and all the restrictions and guidelines imposed therein. The achievements on account of strict implementation of NSC and the guidelines provided therein ensuring fair play and good governance in the field of sports and management of NSFs and Associations is laudable. However, in the considered opinion of the Author and in view of the increasing cases before the Court, it is also apparent there is still a long road ahead to achieve an absolutely transparent and fair field to sports persons with limited government and stakeholders interference. A much more detailed and properly framed legislation, instead of scattered notifications/circulars, is essential to ensure the adherence of principles of good governance enshrined in the NSC, *stricto sensu*.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

	5	8						3
9	3	4	6		7			
	4							
		3	1	9			6	
6		5	7	4				
7					4			
	8		4	7	9	5		
4				5	1			

Solution, Sudoku

9	8	4	6	5	1	7	2	3
7	3	1	8	2	4	6	9	5
2	5	6	9	7	3	4	1	8
1	7	2	3	8	6	5	4	9
8	4	3	7	9	5	2	6	1
5	6	9	1	4	2	8	3	7
4	2	8	5	3	9	1	7	6
6	9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2
3	1	7	2	6	8	9	5	4

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

LIFE IS A SERVICE

What you wanted to become tells what you think you would serve the best, and what you have become tells how you have served the best. Life is a service. This starts from you and ends to people. Life is doing in favour that you do to yourself and to others. Either you become a king or subject, service is the only option you have. No matter how you serve, what you serve, who you serve, but the service is the ultimate act you do. It is every important to develop a sense of service in us if we want to remain in our senses, it is every important to develop a sense of service in us if we want to be served. Life is a service, and a service is life. Be careful what you serve because every service deserves some wages that you can't deny. If you serve sin you will get your wages as sin, if you serve virtue you will get your wages as virtue. Sin is too poor to buy virtue and virtue is too pure to touch sin. Sense of service brings humility to accept responsibility to take duty to perform. Serve everyday by every way possible, serve everyone with exception of none, serve everything with exception of nothing. The purpose of a service is to accelerate or de-accelerate someone's act. The true pleasure in life is serving, sometimes serving yourself and sometimes serving others. Some people like to serve themselves where as some people like to serve themselves more than others and there is absolutely no harm unless you are serving yourself at the cost of others.

TOP STORY

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284 for Delhi & Ghaziabad (9582310372), for Noida (988999989), A d v e r t i s e m e n t (9818799941), Circulation (08586925450)

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TOP STORY

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LS polls: UP records over 53 pc voting in 8 constituencies

Lucknow
A voter turnout of 53.34 per cent was recorded in the eight parliamentary constituencies of Uttar Pradesh where voting was held in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections on Friday, according to the latest Election Commission figures.

The constituencies that went to polls in this phase are Amroha, Meerut, Bagpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Mathura.

Chief Electoral Officer of Uttar Pradesh Navdeep Rina told reporters, "Polling was held peacefully... no reports of any untoward incident."

According to the Voter Turnout app of the Election Commission of India (ECI), 62.36 per cent polling was recorded in Amroha, followed by 55.49 per cent in Meerut, 53.69 per cent in Bagpat, 48.21 per cent in Ghaziabad, 52.46 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 54.34 in Bulandshahr, 56.62 per cent in Aligarh and 47.45 in Mathura.

The final polling figures will be released later.

There are more than 1.67 crore voters, 7,797 polling stations and 17,704 polling booths in these eight parliamentary constituencies.

Among the 91 candidates



in the fray are actor-turned-politician Hema Malini, seeking a third term from Mathura on a BJP ticket, and actor Amin Goyal, who portrayed the role of Lord Ram in the television serial "Ramayan".

The ruling BJP has fielded Govil from his native place Meerut, Atul Garg from Ghaziabad and Mahesh Sharma from Gautam Buddha Nagar. Danish Ali of the Congress is contesting the polls from Amroha.

In the Mathura Lok Sabha constituency, polling was initially boycotted by people of eight villages who complained about poor infrastructure and other issues, but the process was resumed later.

"Of the eight villages boycotting polls in the Mant Assembly constituency, polling has resumed in seven villages," BJP MLA from Mant Assembly constituency Ra-

jesh Chaudhary said.

He said polling was boycotted for two to five hours but resumed in Moharapur, Sindhanui, Basau, Shidagari, Nand Nagaria, Peeri and Bedna villages after assurances to villagers of addressing their problems on priority.

Polling was resumed after a brief hiatus in Devpura village falling under the Chhata assembly constituency, state Cabinet Minister Laxmi Narain Chaudhary said.

Villagers in Konai and Bandpura villages boycotted polling for nearly four to five hours but it was resumed after the administration intervened. SDM Goverdhan Nilam Srivastava claimed.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among the first-time voters of Mathura, even in the rural areas such as Barsana, District Magistrate Shailendra Singh said.

In Bulandshahr, voting could not start at the primary school in Chhotabas village in the Pahasu area with villagers staying away over the non-construction of a road.

However, after assurances by administrative officials, voting began there around 11 am.

BJP candidate Hema Malini told reporters that she was hopeful of people voting in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I would not have been the MP from Mathura had opposition party candidates worked even a little for the constituency," Malini said while responding to a question.

Claiming herself to be the 'gopi' (female devotee) of 'Kanha', she said, "The promises I have made would be fulfilled to receive the blessings of Kanha." RLD president Jayant Chaudhary, along with his wife Charu Chaudhary, turned up at a booth in Mathura to cast their votes.

"People are impressed by the performance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the past two years and that is why BJP is getting support from them in a big way," Jayant Chaudhary told reporters.

In Bagpat, people from all walks of life preferred to vote early in the day to avoid the scorching heat and also

clicked pictures at 'selfie' points.

In Amroha, a woman died at the Shivdwara East Secondary School booth during the second phase of voting.

Officials said that Aamna Khatoun (70), a resident of Mohalla Shiv, died soon after coming out of the polling station. District Magistrate Rajesh Tyagi expressed regret over the incident.

Cricketer Mohammad Shami cast his vote in Amroha.

In Ghaziabad, Union minister V K Singh cast his vote in the morning. Singh, the sitting BJP MP from Ghaziabad, had announced not to contest the elections this time and the party fielded former state government minister Atul Garg as its candidate.

After casting his vote in Aligarh, SP candidate Bijendra Singh told reporters, "The country is run by the Constitution, not by emotions and the voting taking place in the country today is to save the Constitution and the truth. Therefore, I am confident that this time, the BJP will lose and the INDIA alliance will win."

In Amroha, Congress candidate MP Danish Ali claimed that there is a one-sided atmosphere in the elections and his BJP rival will be far behind him.

11 members of organised crime gang arrested, says Punjab DGP

Chandigarh
The Punjab Police Anti-Gangster Task Force has in a joint operation with the central agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested 11 members of an organised criminal gang.

"In a major breakthrough, #AGTF Punjab in a joint operation with Central agencies & J&K Police, has arrested 11 members of an organised criminal gang operated by Charanjit Singh @ Raju Shooter," Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X on Friday.

Raju Shooter is also among those arrested.

Yadav said that the gang was involved in September 2023 in a failed attempt to loot a bank in Dhotian village in Tarn Taran during which a police officer was critically wounded in firing by the accused.

"On April 16, 2024 associates of Raju shooter had orchestrated his escape from Civil Hospital, Tarn Taran where he was admitted for treatment," the DGP said in his post.

He said that the arrested accused were involved in organised criminal activities such as attempt to murder, robbery and drug smuggling.

The DGP later in a statement said that the arrests were made during a 48-hour-long operation



Yadav said that the gang was involved in September 2023 in a failed attempt to loot a bank in Dhotian village in Tarn Taran during which a police officer was critically wounded in firing by the accused.

carried out in different parts of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The police teams have also recovered four weapons, including one double barrel rifle, which got stolen from Tarn Taran-based gun house on February 28, and three pistols along with 26 live cartridges from their possession, he said.

Raju Shooter is the kingpin of an organised criminal gang active in the Majha region mainly in districts, including Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Amritsar Kural, he said.

Yadav said that following reliable inputs, AGTF

Punjab headed by Additional DGP Promod Ban mobilised 12 police teams under the supervision of Additional IG Sandeep Goel to track gangster Raju Shooter and his gang members.

"Over 48 hours long operation, which involved meticulous intelligence gathering, technical analysis and swift action led to the apprehension of Raju Shooter and his 10 aides from different parts of Punjab and J&K," said the DGP expressing gratitude to the J&K Police and the central agencies for their enormous support to accomplish this operation.

Meanwhile, Goel said a preliminary investigation has revealed that six associates of Raju Shooter had facilitated his escape from the hospital earlier.

Out of six, the police have arrested three facilitators, including Gulab Singh, Husanpreet Singh and Amritpal Singh Chidhi, he said, adding that a manhunt is on to arrest another three facilitators.

PM Modi holds roadshow in Bareilly

Bareilly (UP)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening led a roadshow here as he waved at the large crowd gathered along the route.

Standing on a saffron-coloured vehicle decorated with flowers, Modi held an illuminated 'lotus' symbol and waved it at the people, many of whom carried 'Abki Baar 400 Paar' placards.

People standing on both sides of the route took selfies and threw flower petals at the cavalcade as the prime

minister's vehicle passed them on the road.

The prime minister was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP candidate from Bareilly Chhatrapal Gangwar.

The roadshow started from the Rajendra Nagar area and ended at the cross-section in DD Puram area, covering a distance of around 1.2 kilometers in around 40 minutes, local party officials said.

Bareilly, located at the

heart of Rohilkhand region of western UP, is considered a bastion of the BJP. This time the party has picked Chhatrapal Gangwar, a former junior minister in the state, over sitting eight-time MP Santosh Gangwar as its candidate from Bareilly.

Modi held a mega poll rally in support of BJP candidates in Aonla area of Bareilly on Thursday. Bareilly will go to polls on May 7 in the third phase of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls.

Voters exercise franchise with enthusiasm

Avnish Tyagi
Bulandshahr/Hapur
Eligible voters exercised their franchise enthusiastically in Bulandshahr and Hapur on Friday. However, the voting percentage remained less as expected in both the districts.

While 56.41% voter turnout was recorded in Bulandshahr, Hapur witnessed 59.72% voter turnout. On the other hand, 60% voting took place in Khurja and Secunderabad assembly



constituencies of which fall in Gautam Buddha Nagar

Lok Sabha constituency. In many villages of Bulandshahr, people celebrated the election like a great festival. While there were reports of boycott of voting in many villages, voting took place everywhere after some time. Minor altercations were also reported at some booths. But voting took place peacefully in both the districts.

Voting started at the scheduled time of 7 am in almost all the polling stations.

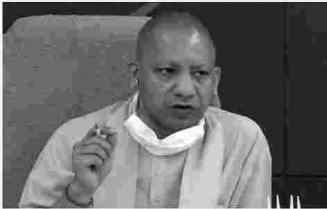
Congress wants to give minorities right to eat beef: CM Adityanath

Moradabad/Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said the Congress wants to give minorities the right to eat beef, adding that this amounted to allowing cow slaughter.

"These shameless people promise to provide the right to eat 'gaumans' (cow's meat), whereas our scriptures call the cow mother. They wish to give cows into the hands of butchers. Will India ever accept this?" An Uttar Pradesh BJP statement quoted Adityanath as saying.

The chief minister said they wanted to give minorities the liberty to eat the food of their choice, "meaning they are talking about allowing cow slaughter."

Adityanath was addressing an election rally in Bilari in Moradabad district to garner support for BJP candi-



date Parmeshwar Lal Saini for the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat.

Echoing the recent speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CM alleged the Congress intends to seize the 'stridhan' (women's wealth), and distribute it among Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators.

He claimed the Congress in its manifesto has talked about the X-ray of people's property.

"This means that if somebody has four rooms in his home, two of them will be taken away by them. Not only this, the Congress says that it will take possession of women's jewellery, the country will never accept this," he said.

They had made such efforts from 2004 to 2014 under the UPA government, Adityanath said.

"They had tried to give a quota to Muslims out of the

reservation provided to the SCs, STs and OBCs in Karnataka," he said.

He referred to the Sachar Committee recommendations, and said the Congress wanted to implement it by giving six per cent reservation to them out of the quota for the SCs, STs and OBCs.

Accusing the Congress of double standards, he claimed that former prime minister Manmohan Singh had said that Muslims have the first right to the country's resources.

The UP chief minister also alleged the Congress is hatching a conspiracy for further division of the country.

Adityanath said it is being said that "bhai-bahan" (referring to Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra) are planning to go to Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram.

Over 60 pc voter turnout recorded on 13 LS seats in Rajasthan

Jaipur
Over 60 per cent turnout was recorded in polling for 13 Lok Sabha seats on Thursday in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan, according to the latest figures from the Election Commission.

Polling had taken place in the first phase on April 19 for the other 12 parliamentary constituencies in the state, which sends 25 representatives to Parliament.

The by-election for the Bagidora assembly constituency in Banswara district was also held simultaneously on Friday. By 5 pm, 73.25 per cent voting took place.

Barring a few confrontations and complaints of fake voting in Barmer-Jaisalmer, polling was peaceful, officials said.

According to official data, 60.61 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the 13 constituencies of Barmer-



Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jalore, Chittorgarh, Banswara, Kota-Bundi, Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Pali, Udaipur, Rajasmand, Kota and Jhalawar-Baran.

Banswara-Dungarpur recorded 69.97 per cent votes, Barmer-Jaisalmer 70.12 and Ajmer 53.47 per cent.

Among other constituencies, polling was 55.41 per cent in Bihlwara, 63.48 in Chittorgarh, 58.19 in Jalore, 65.75 in Jhalawar-Baran, 60.82 in Jodhpur, 66.22 in Kota, 53.81 in Rajasmand,

52.97 in Tonk Sawai-Madhopur, 61.21 in Udaipur and 54.97 in Pali.

The final figures will be released later.

Around 2.8 crore voters were eligible to vote in the second phase of the polls.

Voting began at 7 am and ended at 6 pm.

Those who reached the polling booths and were standing in queue by 6 pm were allowed to vote.

Enthusiasm was seen among the people who lined up at the polling booths to cast votes.

Three devotees killed 14 injured after their vehicle crashes into truck in Nuh

Nuh
Three people, including an 8-year-old girl, were killed and 14 others were injured when their vehicle rammied into a parked truck on the KMP expressway here, police said on Friday.

The accident took place on Thursday night when around 22 devotees including eight children were returning from Vrindavan to Punjab in a Tata tempo, police said.

The tempo crashed into a stationary truck that was parked without any parking light, killing three people on the spot and leaving 14 others injured, they said.

The injured were rushed to the hospital, they said. The police have identified the deceased as Beena (45) and Riti (8). While the third deceased, a man, is yet to be identified, they said.

"Four seriously injured were referred to medical colleges. Nalhad and three other injured were referred to Rewari and Rohtak hospitals. An FIR was registered against the truck driver at Sadar Tauri police station," said Krishan Kumar, a spokesperson of Nuh police.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem and further investigation is underway, they added.

Separatist ideology 'dead' in J-K people realised it is futile, says Sajad Lone

Srinagar
The ideology of separatism is "dead" in Jammu and Kashmir as people realised it is futile, separatist-turned-mainstream politician Sajad Lone said.

The Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) chief called for an end to violence, saying, "India is our land and there is no ambiguity about that."

Asked if the separatist ideology is dead and buried in

Jammu and Kashmir, Lone said, "I think yes, it is. I think it is dead. People see that it was futile and I would also add that the ball is in Delhi's court (now)," said Lone.

"Kashmiris are ready to be a part of India but they are looking at a dignified coexistence, they are not looking at the status of indignity or (being) unequal Indians.

"They are looking at being Indians with pride and at par



with an Indian from Gujarat or Maharashtra or Tamil

Nadu," he added. Lone, who is contesting

the Lok Sabha polls from Baramulla constituency, said one of the reasons he wants to go to Parliament is to strive and advocate for the same set of laws for the children of Kashmir and the rest of the country.

He cited the example of police verifications in Jammu and Kashmir.

While police verification in other parts of the country entails checking if an individual has any criminal antecedents

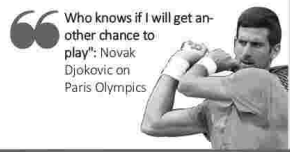
or if an FIR is registered against them, in Kashmir, the entire family tree is investigated, he said.

"So, if in a family of 500 people, cousins and second cousins, one person is involved in violence, 499 will not get police clearance. This means they will not get a job, they will not get a passport, they can't participate in government contracts and probably they (government) might even pass a law that

they can't get a bank loan," he said.

Lone also underlined the importance of reintegration in conflict resolution.

"Those who rebelled against the system, how much time will you give them to reintegrate into the system? So, if they are clean for 10 years, it is time to take the stigma off and let them live like normal civilians. This is done in all civilised countries," he said.



Upbeat DC take on struggling MI as playoff race intensifies

New Delhi

Bolstered by Rishabh Pant's brilliant batting form and inspiring leadership, the resurrected Delhi Capitals will aim to continue their upward march in the IPL points table when they take on an inconsistent Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

The Capitals have endured a roller-coaster season so far, showing flashes of brilliance while also succumbing to embarrassing defeats.

But three wins in the last four matches have helped them climb to the sixth spot and a win against MI will strengthen their claim to a play-off spot.

On the other hand, after a familiar poor start, MI bounced back with three wins in their next four matches but a comprehensive nine-wicket thrashing by Rajasthan Royals put an end to their resurgence. They are tottering on the eighth place on the points table and can ill-afford to lose.

DC's biggest positive has undoubtedly been skipper Rishabh Pant's form, which appears to be improving with each game.

He has looked sharp behind the stumps and seems to be batting with freedom. He was at his belligerent best during a match-winning unbeaten knock



against Gujarat Titans on Wednesday. In Jack Fraser-McGurk, DC have found an able top-order batter who can exploit the powerplay but more is expected of opener Prithvi Shaw, given that his only responsibility is to bat as he is used as an Impact Substitute. David Warner missed out the previ-

ous game, making way for Shai Hope, who couldn't capitalise on the opportunity, and the veteran Australian might be brought back in the playing XI. Tristan Stubbs has time and again proved he can be brutal with the bat while Axar Patel also showcased his bat-

ting prowess when he was elevated up the order in the four-run win against GT. While the spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar have bowled economically, DC's fast bowling unit needs to step up. Pace spearhead Anrich Nortje is having a forgettable season and has leaked runs at 13.36 which has been a major problem for Delhi.

The likes of Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar and Ishant Sharma have been plagued by injuries leading to inconsistent runs.

They were taken to the cleaners by MI batters, who piled on 234/5 earlier in the season. And DC would be wary of a similar performance. MI's resurgence this season began with a win against DC and the five-time champions would hope for an encore in the crucial clash.

For Mumbai, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma have got runs but all of them have found form in patches. It's time for the likes of Tim David, Ishan Kishan and skipper Hardik Pandya to contribute a big way and take some pressure off the top trio.

While the batting department has occasionally looked good, the bowling remains a massive cause of concern. Jasprit Bumrah has expectedly been MI's standout bowler. He has led the at-

tack with 13 wickets at an economy rate of 6.37.

However, new addition Gerald Coetzee has been inconsistent in his maiden IPL. Though he has an economy of 10.10, the South African pacer has accounted for 12 wickets in eight games. But barring the two seamers, Mumbai's bowling has disappointed.

SQUADS:
Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c), David Warner, Abhishek Porel, Ricky Bhui, Yash Dhilli, Shai Hope, Prithvi Shaw, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra, Swastik Chikara, Ishant Sharma, Jhye Richardson, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Gulshan Naib, Lalit Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk.
Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Dawid Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Anshul Kambaj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalki Sharma, Romario Shephard, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Harvik Desai, Nehal Wadhwa, Luke Wood.

Ganguly calls for balance between bat and ball in IPL

New Delhi

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday urged the BCCI to find a way to strike a balance between bat and ball, highlighting the plight of the bowlers in the ongoing Indian Premier League on flat decks and extra batter in the form of an Impact Player.

The pitches so far in the latest edition of IPL have been batters' paradise. With power-hitters on every side, teams have crossed the 200-run mark with ease.

"Not easy for the bowlers. They are being carted all over and that's one area that needs to be looked at in the future, the balance between bat and ball," Ganguly said ahead of Delhi Capitals match against Mumbai Indians.

Starting from the ongoing season, the IPL governing body also allowed bowlers to deliver a maximum of two bouncers in an attempt to restore parity between batting and bowling.

Some have flagged the 'Impact Substitute rule as one of the reasons behind the high-scoring matches imbalance as teams are now essentially playing with an extra batter which gives them the freedom to go hard at the bowlers leading to scores of 230 reaching 260-270.

The Capitals have scored over 400 runs in the two games that they have played at their home venue here.

Last week at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, SRH amassed 125 runs during the powerplay. Opener Travis Head scored a blistering 16-ball fifty on his way to a sensational 89 off just 32 deliveries.

"Our batting is also strong, we have given away 400 runs but scored them too. The wicket here is so good, batting friendly wicket," Ganguly added.

The former BCCI chief is not the only one who has expressed concern for the bowlers, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar had earlier called for bigger boundaries.

Ganguly bats for Axar and Pant's inclusion in T20 World Cup squad



New Delhi

Former captain Sourav Ganguly feels Axar Patel will book his place in the Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup as he can be moved around in the batting order depending on match situation.

Axar has bowled splendidly all season at an economy rate of 7.06 and when promoted, he showed his batting prowess against Gujarat Titans.

"Axar, is a certainty. Both Rishabh and Axar are certainties for me at the T20 World Cup. The way things are going in T20, Rohit will want someone to come at No. 8 and bat, give those 15-20 runs which Axar can easily do, and if he needs someone to go and smack spinners, Axar can do that as well.

"That's the advantage with Jadeja and Axar, they are so talented and gifted," Ganguly, Delhi Capitals' Director of Cricket, said on the eve of their IPL clash against Mumbai Indians here.

Ganguly, who has helped the left-handed Axar with his batting, said the all-rounder has the ability to bat in Tests as well as T20s.

"You should have the ability to strike the ball. You don't have to have time for

technique in T20 cricket. But your basics should be there and he's always had that.

"When you see his batting in Tests for India, he gets runs under pressure on turning pitches. He has the ability to bat in T20 you need the ability to strike and he does that when he's pushed up and he gets a little more time to settle and keep hitting.

"He's a tremendous cricketer — bats, bowls, fields. He has the ability to bat and can bat in T20 cricket. He is a very gifted cricketer," Ganguly added.

Pant has shown that he has fully recovered from the injuries sustained during his horrific car accident, scoring three half-centuries in the ongoing IPL. He was at his belligerent best against the Gujarat Titans.

He is locked in a battle with the likes of Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Dinesh Karthik for the wicketkeeper's spot but Ganguly is confident the 26-year-old from Uttarakhnad is a surety in the Indian team.

"I love Rishabh and Sanju. Rishabh will go to the T20 World Cup, Sanju might also go, not saying he shouldn't. He is as good a player as anyone, and keeps, bats, captains Rajasthan.

High-flying RR look to maintain winning run against resurgent LSG

Lucknow

High-flying Rajasthan Royals will look to continue their winning momentum and consolidate their position at the top when they take on a resurgent Lucknow Super Giants, who would be gunning for revenge at home in an IPL match here on Saturday.

Former champions RR have looked in ominous form this season with seven wins from eight games, and they could be a tough nut to crack for LSG.

LSG, meanwhile, too have played some good cricket and are placed fourth with five wins from eight games.

But going into Saturday's match, RR would certainly be the favourites as they have registered a hat-trick of victories after a rare blip against Gujarat Titans.

Assam batter Riyan Parag has been the flavour of the season for RR in the batting department. The youngster reinvented himself and has been the team's highest scorer with 318 runs from eight games.

The return to form of Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was struggling a bit this season, has further strengthened RR's batting. While chasing a 180-run target in the last game against Mumbai Indians, Jaiswal smashed an unbeaten 104 off 60 balls to power his side to a comfortable nine-wicket win.

Jaiswal's return to form is something RR's opponents should really be worried about given the devastation the youngster and Jos Buttler can wreak at the top of the order.

RR's batting typically revolves around skipper Sanju Samson, who has scored



314 runs so far, and with West Indian Shimron Hetmyer capable of hitting top gear, the 2008 IPL champions have a potent lineup.

The likes of Rovman Powell and Dhruv Jurel, though, need to contribute more.

RR also boast of a potent bowling attack comprising the experienced Trent Boult, Avesh Khan and Sandeep Sharma, whose 5 for 18 against Mumbai Indians has really fired up the side.

The team's spin department is also in the safe hands of the experienced duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and R. Ashwin, although the latter has struggled this season.

Chahal, however, is RR's best bowler with 13 wickets from eight games.

LSG, on the other hand, would be seeking revenge after having lost the first tie to RR by 20 runs this season.

Besides revenge, LSG would look to register a hat-trick of victories and scale up in the leaderboard. K.L. Rahul's side is also on a high after two succes-

sive win, but the India player knows the shortcomings in the top order.

When Rahul and his opening partner Quinton de Kock are on fire, LSG's batting looks ominous. The problem arises when the opening duo has an off day.

That area was, however, covered by Marcus Stoinis in their last game against Chennai Super Kings, where the Australian scored an unbeaten century.

Despite losing Rahul and de Kock early in the chase of 210/4, Stoinis played one of the best knocks in this IPL, remaining unbeaten on 124 off 63 balls to hand LSG a six-wicket win.

Stoinis' return to form augurs well for LSG middle-order, where the likes of Devdutt Padikkal, Nicholas Poore and Deepak Hooda need to take up more responsibility.

On the bowling front, LSG would be hoping their pace sensation Mayank Yadav is fit for the RR game after sitting out for a few games due to a lower abdominal strain.

There is a lot left in the tank Du Plessis on RCB snaping six-game losing streak

Hyderabad

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis expressed his delight at his side ending its six-fixture losing streak in the IPL, reminding one and all that there is still a lot left in team's tank.

Bottom-placed RCB emerged victorious against third-ranked SunRisers Hyderabad, winning by 35 runs. With this win, RCB has won 2 successes in nine clashes, having lost the remaining seven.

"We have worked really hard for the last two games to get to this point," de Plessis was quoted as saying in an RCB release to the players in the dressing room after the conquest on Thursday.

"We have scratched, we have fought, and everyone can say that they feel like they have given everything, so we deserve this feeling.

"We are all sitting here feeling we are proud of our work, but there is a lot left in the tank."

Although RCB is not out of the playoffs race yet, they have a lot of catching up to do still needing to win all their remaining matches in order to stay in contention for a play-off berth.

As for the SRH meet, du Plessis



took a calculated call in opting to bat first. Ideally, during evening matches, teams prefer to chase due to the dew factor.

But, given SRH's brutal outing with the bat this season, especially batting first, the decision was commendable and was backed by assistant coach Malolan Rangarajan.

"Faf, well done on taking the call of batting first. It might have been a little bit too obvious, but saying that you want to bat first and make the opponent do something different; bril-

liant! And, to follow that up with the start both of you (Du Plessis and Virat Kohli) gave was brilliant," he said.

Additionally, Rangarajan was also all-praise for Rajat Patidar (50 runs off 20 balls) and Karn Sharma (2-29) for their match-winning role.

"Rajat, high-quality innings. It felt like the pitch was spinning a bit, keeping a bit low, but you made it look like we were playing on a concrete pitch," he continued.

"You got us to a stage where even if we lost a couple of wickets, we were ahead of the game. To me, that was one of the most important phases of the game, and you stood up like the champion you are."

"Karn, I remember speaking to you maybe a week back, had a very honest chat about how you felt about not playing and the work you have put in behind the scenes.

"You worked very well specifically for every batter before the game, and every happy to see how you ended up bowling today; well done," concluded Rangarajan.

RCB next takes on Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Sunday before returning home against the same side on May 4.

Nethra Kumanan secures India's second Paris Olympics quota in sailing

New Delhi

Nethra Kumanan on Friday secured India's second Paris Olympics quota in sailing, claiming it under the Emerging Nations Program banner at the Last Chance Regatta, an Olympic qualifier, in Hyeres, France.

Nethra, who has competed in the Tokyo Games three years ago, was competing in the women's dinghy (iLCA 6).

Nethra managed 67 net points to finish fifth on the overall leaderboard. However, she secured the Olympic quota as the top performer among sailors from the Emerging Nations Program (ENP) who had not yet obtained a quota.

World Sailing, the world governing body for the sport, aims to help athletes from less well-known sailing nations make an impact at the top level through its ENP programme.

The top three sailors first secured the Olympic quotas in the women's dinghy - Romania's Ebru Bolat (36 net points), Marilena



Makri of Cyprus (37 net points) and Slovenia's Lin Pletkicos (54 net points).

Six-time Olympian Tatiana Drozdovskaya (59 net points), competing as an individual neutral athlete, came fourth and missed out.

The Last Chance Regatta is the final qualifying event in sailing for the Paris 2024 Olympics.



Ex-Pak PM Nawaz Sharif set to become party president yet again

Lahore: Three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is all set to become the president of his party, PML-N, seven years after he was disqualified by the apex court from holding any public post, the party announced here on Friday.

A senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader told PTI that Nawaz, 74, will be elected president of the ruling party on May 11 in a meeting of the party leadership.

In 2017, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disqualified Nawaz as premier and party president for his alleged corruption in cases related to the Panama Papers revelations about his alleged wealth stashed abroad.

PML-N Punjab president Rana Sanaullah told a press conference that a decision to make Nawaz Sharif president of the party again has been taken at a party meeting.

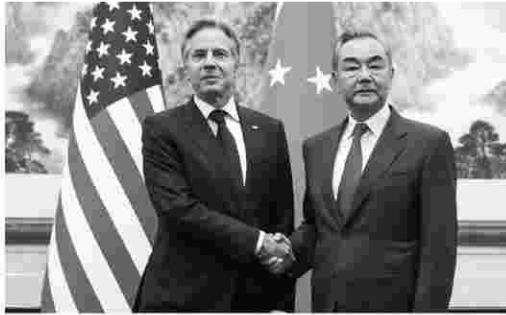
"A resolution was passed at the party meeting today to make the elder Sharif PML-N president to undo the injustice meted out to him (Nawaz) in 2017 by the Supreme Court," Sanaullah said.

The party will request Nawaz on his return from China to accept the president's office of the party.

Nawaz is currently on a five-day private visit to China.

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China is not afraid of competition, Xi Jinping tells Antony Blinken



two-way street.

Beijing: Sparring over a host of differences, including China's support to Russia over the Ukraine war and mounting US pressure on Beijing to stop flooding global markets with cheap goods, China and the US on Friday managed to reach a five-point consensus to stabilise strained ties after a testy meeting between President Xi Jinping and Secretary of State Antony Blinken here.

A defiant Xi told Blinken that China is not afraid of competition as the US top diplomat raised concerns about Beijing's support for Russia in the Ukraine war and the country's "dangerous actions" in the South China Sea in its escalating conflict with the Philippines as well as tensions in the Taiwan Strait in recent months.

Xi told Blinken that China is willing to cooperate with the US but cooperation should be a

as the Quad (US, India, Australia, Japan) which Beijing alleges is aimed at containing its rise.

Xi said both sides can have their friends and partners and should refrain from targeting, opposing or damaging each other.

He also called on the US to be a partner of China and not to "say one thing and do another".

"The two countries

the US, US and NATO countries want China to stop Russia's defence industrial base failing which Beijing has to face additional measures.

The US has already imposed sanctions on more than 100 Chinese entities export controls etc, Blinken said.

"We are fully prepared to take additional measures and I made it very clear in my meetings today," he said.

"There are profound concerns about the actions the Chinese enterprises are taking to support Russia's defence industrial base because this goes not only to the immediate threat posed by Russia in its aggression against Ukraine, it goes to a medium long threat, many Europeans feel Russia poses to them," he said.

"All of us are looking at China to take steps to curb this action. We are also looking at the actions we are fully prepared to take if we don't see a change," he said.

In his media interaction after meeting Xi, Blinken did not mince words asserting that

24 more Indian fishermen detained in Sri Lanka repatriated to India

Colombo:

Twenty-four Indian fishermen who were detained by the Sri Lanka Navy for allegedly fishing in the island nation's waters were on Friday repatriated to India, two days after another group of five Indian fishermen were sent to their homeland.

"Twenty-four Indian fishermen repatriated from Sri Lanka. They have boarded from Colombo and are currently on their way home," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a post on X.

On Wednesday, five Indian fishermen detained by the Sri Lanka Navy were repatriated to India after being released by authorities here.

The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.

In 2023, the island nation's Navy arrested 240 Indian fishermen along with 35 trawlers for allegedly poaching in Sri Lanka's waters.

Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The Sri Lanka Navy has so far held 23 Indian trawlers and 178 Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the island nation's waters thus far in 2024, and handed them over to authorities for legal action, the Sri Lanka Navy has since last month confirmed in a statement.

On April 3, as many as 19 Indian fishermen detained by the Sri Lanka Navy were repatriated to India after being released by authorities here.

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'United team Pakistan' could defeat 'negative forces': Army chief Gen Munir

Islamabad:

Pakistan's Army chief General Syed Asim Munir said on Friday that a "united team Pakistan" could defeat "negative forces", as he asserted that negative propaganda and social media trolls could not distract the nation from marching towards its development and prosperity.

Addressing the Green Pakistan Initiative conference, Gen. Munir said



that the country's armed forces, with the nation's support, would defeat

all the inimical forces bent on impeding Pakistan's development and

prosperity, Geo News reported.

He asserted that negative propaganda and social media trolls could not distract the nation from marching towards its development and prosperity.

"Let us all reject negative forces together and focus on Pakistan's journey of development and stability," he was quoted as saying.

"We are all a united

team Pakistan - InshaAllah (God willing), with the cooperation and support of the people, all efforts of those who distract and obstruct Pakistan's development journey will fail," he said.

Stressing the need for overpowering economic challenges, Gen. Munir said that complete independence without economic stability is not possible.

"In today's era, complete independence is not possible without economic stability," he said, warning that "no instability will be tolerated" in the country's journey towards prosperity and development.

Last month, the Army chief assured the unwavering resolve of the Army to support the new Pakistan government's initiatives aimed at the cash-

strapped country's economic recovery.

He made the remarks during a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan's powerful Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 75-plus year existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.

BUSINESS

SBI Life launches IdeationX; to encourage young minds from B-Schools

New Delhi: SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurance companies in the country, launched the maiden initiative of "IdeationX", a pioneering initiative that promises to revolutionize the future of the insurance industry.

The innovative platform aims at engaging and encouraging future leaders from B-Schools across the country to think, innovate and present unconventional life insurance solutions that address consumer's evolving insurance needs and contribute towards reshaping India's life insurance sector landscape.

The key objective behind this initiative is to involve the young minds who are the future leaders of the country, to identify various insurance needs and conceptualize product solutions addressing those needs.

India's impending ascent to become the 3rd largest economy by 2030 presents a vast opportunity for the life insurance industry. With an insurance penetration of 0.7% in India, there is an immense growth potential, offering financial security, digital transformation,

job creation, and income generation to millions. In alignment with IRDAI's vision of "Insurance for All by 2047", SBI Life's 'IdeationX' aims to involve, inspire & empower the young minds by nurturing a culture of innovation and thought leadership that would prove beneficial for consumers and for the sector, in the long run.

The inaugural edition of SBI Life IdeationX witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 1000 young minds representing B-Schools such as NIA in Pune, NIRMA in Ahmedabad, SIES in Mumbai, KJ Somaiya in Mumbai, TMI in Kolkata, BML Munjal in Gurgaon, MIT in Hyderabad, and XIME in Bangalore. Around 320 budding students were selected post the screening test and the final round consisted of eight teams of five members in each team.

From these eight finalist teams, XIME-Bangalore emerged as the winner, claiming the coveted title of SBI Life IdeationX winner for its unconventional idea that aims to address unique insurance needs of today's consumers and the industry at large.

Deloitte pegs India's FY25 GDP growth at 6.6%

New Delhi:

On the back of rising consumption expenditure, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow at 6.6 per cent in the current year 2024-25 (FY25), Deloitte India said on Friday.

In its quarterly India's Economic Outlook report, Deloitte India also raised the FY24 GDP growth prediction to 7.6-7.8 per cent from 6.9-7.2 per cent in its January report.

The consultancy said that the rapid growth of the middle-income class in India has led to rising purchasing power and created demand for premium luxury products and services.

Even as growth in consumer spending post-pandemic has been fluctuating, there is a visible shift in consumption patterns, with demand for luxury and high-end products and services growing faster than demand for basic goods.

"With the expectation that the number of mid-



dle- to high-income segment will be one in two households by 2030/31, up from one in four currently, we believe this trend will likely become further amplified, driving overall private consumer expenditure growth," it said.

According to Runkmi Majumdar, economist at Deloitte India, the dif-

ference between actual GDP and the pre-COVID GDP has been "progressively narrowing" as growth picks up pace.

"Strong growth numbers over the past two years have helped the economy to catch up with the pre-COVID trends. Investment, backed by strong government spending on in-

frastructure, has helped India maintain a steady recovery momentum," Majumdar said.

The consultancy, however, added that inflation is expected to remain above the Reserve Bank of India's target level of 4 per cent over the forecast period due to strong economic activity.

For FY26, Deloitte has predicted India's GDP to grow at 6.75 per cent on the back of rate cuts.

"The global economy is expected to witness a synchronous rebound in 2025 as major election uncertainties get sorted out and the central banks of the West may announce a couple of rate cuts later in 2024. India will likely see improved capital flows and a rebound in exports," Majumdar added.

The development comes just days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 6.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent on the back of strong domestic demand and a rising working-age population.

In April, the World Bank had upgraded India's FY25 GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent from 6.4 per cent earlier.

Deloitte's predictions are, however, lower than the projections by the Reserve Bank of India, which expects the Indian economy to grow 7 per cent in FY25.

Saketh Seven Star Industries to introduce Rawplug tools in India

Chandigarh: Two global manufacturing powerhouses, Saketh Seven Star Industries Ltd. (SSSIL) and Rawplug Products and Services India Ltd., have joined forces to usher in a new era of innovation and excellence in India's engineering sector. This monumental partnership marks the official launch of Rawplug in India under a co-construction and engineering across the nation.

Rooted in a rich history of engineering ingenuity, Rawplug traces its origins back to 1987 when Rawlings Brothers, a small plumbing-gand electrical engineering company, was founded in London. The company's breakthrough came in 2010 when it introduced the world's first wall plug, revolutionizing construction and DIY industries. Renamed Rawplug in 2019, the company has since been at the forefront of introducing technological tools for the construction industry, offering a comprehensive range of products and services that set industry standards.

Additionally, Saketh Seven Star Industries Ltd. (SSSIL) stands as one of the top 10 companies in Maharashtra, providing Zinc and Aluminium flake coating and Mechanical Zinc coating for in-house products, serving as a reliable backup for premium fastener companies within the region. With a commitment to quality and innovation, SSSIL has established itself as a trusted partner in the engineering landscape, driving forward the vision of a robust and sustainable India.

Markets snap five-day rally Sensex tumbles over 600 pts

Mumbai:

Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty wilted under selling pressure on Friday after a five-day rally as investors pared exposure to banking, financial and consumer durable stocks amid mixed trends in global markets.

Rising global crude prices, a depreciating rupee and persistent foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.



Profit-taking also came into play as the

30-share BSE Sensex tanked 609.28 points

or 0.82 per cent to settle at 73,730.16. During the day, it lost 722.79 points or 0.97 per cent to 73,616.65.

The NSE Nifty declined 150.40 points or 0.67 per cent to 22,419.95.

Bajaj Finance was the biggest drag on the Sensex chart, skidding nearly 8 per cent after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. Ba-

jaj Finserv also declined over 3 per cent.

IndusInd Bank, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the other laggards.

Meanwhile, Tech Mahindra jumped over 7 per cent after the IT services company's CEO outlined an ambitious three-year roadmap to accelerate revenue growth and lift margins.

Wipro, ITC, UltraTech

Cement, Titan and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

"The fall was an expected lines as both the benchmark indices had rallied for five straight sessions, and profit-taking has been due for some time.

"Correction is also attributed to global factors after the Japanese Yen fell to a new 34-year low and a disappointing US data pushed its bench-

mark yields to over 4.7 per cent, thus worsening hopes of an interest rate cut in the medium term," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Menta Equities Ltd.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory. European markets were trading in the green. Wall Street ended lower on Thursday.

I wanted the story to be rooted in our culture 'Inspector Rishi' director J S Nandhini

New Delhi

Writer-film-maker J S Nandhini, who has earned praise for her new series "Inspector Rishi", says the idea was to tell a supernatural horror thriller that is relatable to people and is rooted in the culture of the place it is set in.

The 10-episode Prime Video series, starring Naveen Chandra, Sunaina, Kanna Ravi and SriKrishna Dayal, revolves around inspector Rishi Nandhan (Chandra) who is investigating a series of bizarre murders taking place in a small mountain village near Coimbatore.

"When I started researching about who the spirit could be, I wanted the story to be



rooted in our culture. I wanted it to be something that people from the villages and from our local towns are familiar with, to go into those deeper spiritual beliefs and those superstitions of the vil-

lages," Nandhini said in an interview.

Chandra, who essayed the role of inspector Rishi, said he grew up listening to such stories from his grandmother.

"I belong to a place called Ballari (Karnataka), which is close to Hampi. So I heard all these stories that if you go out by evening, 7pm, there's a demon waiting for you. That will hurt you or kill you

or do something. I don't believe in supernatural powers but I grew up on these stories," he said.

Actor Ravi, who plays a sub-inspector in the series and helps Rishi in his investigation, said he found the script very appealing and could even visualise the scenes as he read it.

"The writing was so gripping and I could visualise what all she wrote. I thought it would be a nice series if I become a part of this and I would love to perform in this and to see these visuals.

"I felt like I haven't done anything like this before, so I will do horror. Apart from the horror, I liked the way she covered all the things together."

Sunaina, another cast

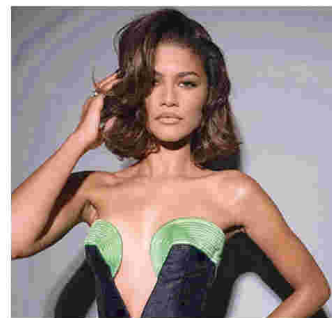
member, said she generally doesn't like going through the scripts but the narration of "Inspector Rishi" made her curious to read everything, including for her part of a female guard.

"It was a collection of suspense, horror and thrill," she added.

Dayal, who plays forest officer Sathya in the series, said Nandhini's script was very visual in nature.

"When we read the text, the images start reflecting, those images are the captivating portion. When you actually see the series, it's so beautiful because all those takes have come out. The characters have just jumped out of that screen and they just coloured the entire space. It's so beautiful to see that."

Zendaya on what made her "Nervous" about 'Challengers'



Washington

American actor and singer Zendaya shared her work-experience in Luca Guadagnino's directorial "Challengers". She shared a series of pictures and videos from the sets with her co-stars, Mike Faist and Josh O'Connor, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

She shared how "nervous" she was, saying, "A little bit of dump in honor of @challengermovie coming out in a couple days. This is my first time leading a film in this way so ya girls been nervous but everyone's excitement and encouragement has meant the world to me." She captioned the Instagram post.

"I'm so honored that I get to do this beside these incredibly talented, brilliant (and hilarious) people and on behalf of all of us, we hope you enjoy the film and again...try not to judge the characters too much lol but also #teamtashii."

Zendaya, known for her role as Rue Bennett in "Euphoria", has been getting major projects in the last several years. This includes "Dune" and "Dune: Part Two".

She said that before starting the shoot for "Challengers", she asked Dune co-star Timothee Chalamet for advice about working with Guadagnino.

"He said wonderful things," Zendaya told THR. "Luca is brilliant, and I've wanted to work with Luca for a very long time, and this just seemed like the absolute perfect thing. When we first met about the script he had such a keen, deep understanding of the characters from the beginning and a clearer idea of the kind of movie he wanted to create. And the script was brilliant, [writer] Justin Kuritzkes is so talented and I'm so happy for him. So it all made sense."

The film, which Zendaya also produces, follows her character, Tashi, a tennis-pro-turned-coach, who transforms her husband, Art (Faist), from a mediocre player to a world-famous grand slam champion. When he enters a losing streak, she arranges a challenger event — one of the lowest-level tournaments in tennis — between Art and Patrick (O'Connor), her husband's former best friend and Tashi's ex-boyfriend.

Hamare Modiji Song Launched at Grand Press Conference by Haripriyaa Bhargav

New Delhi

The Constitution Club of India witnessed a momentous event as the Hamare Modiji Song was launched in the presence of esteemed guests, Tarun Chugh (General Secretary BJP), Virender Sachdeva (President Delhi BJP), and Sumeet Bhasin (Director PPRC), Manoj Joshi (Actor), Sanjoy Bhargav. The press conference, which garnered significant attention, showcased the release of the video and audio versions of the song in nine different languages.



and his contributions to the nation's development. It also highlights the essence of Sanatan Dharma, encapsulating the values and principles that guide our society. The song encapsulates the remarkable achievements and transformative work undertaken by the BJP and Prime Minister Modi for the betterment of India.

With a duration of six minutes, the Hamare Modiji Song features renowned singers who have lent their voices to this melodious composition in various languages. The entire conceptualization of the song has been masterfully executed by Haripriyaa Bhargav, a member of the Sanatan Sanskritik Sangh.

The launch event was a resounding success, attracting widespread media attention and appreciation from the audience. The Hamare Modiji Song is expected to resonate with people across the country, serving as a reminder of the remarkable progress achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP.

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Aditi Rao Hydari applauds Bhansali's dedication to authentic storytelling

Mumbai

Amidst the buzz surrounding the much-anticipated release of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut web series "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar", actor Aditi Rao Hydari offered a glimpse into her journey portraying the character of Bibbojan in the project.

As she steps into the enchanting world of "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar", Aditi unveils the layers of her character, describing Bibbojan as a figure adorned with innocence, loyalty, and a heart as soft as the morning dew.

Expressing her heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable mentorship and love she received during the filmmaking process, Aditi fondly recalls her experiences working alongside the visionary director.

"Sanjay sir is not just a filmmaker, he's a beacon of inspiration. His guidance transcends mere instruction; it's akin to a gentle hand leading you through the labyrinth of creativity," she shared in an interview.

In the ethereal realm of "Heeramandi", where every glance tells a story and every whisper holds a secret, Aditi finds herself immersed in a tapestry of emotions and narratives woven by Bhansali's masterful hands. "His characters breathe life into the screen, each one a testament to his unparalleled craftsmanship," Aditi said.

Ayushmann Khurrana poses with Dua Lipa, Dev Patel at TIME100 Gala

Mumbai

Representing India at the TIME100 Gala in New York, Ayushmann Khurrana looked dapper as he posed with global icons Dua Lipa, actor Dev Patel, actor Uma Thurman, and pop star Kylie Minogue.

Taking to Instagram, Ayushmann treated fans with series of pictures from Time's 100 Gala.

Ayushmann dressed in an all-black ensemble happily posed with Dua Lipa, Dev Patel, Uma Thurman and Kylie Minogue.

He also posted a video of him interacting and having conversation with Dua Lipa. Sharing the pictures, he wrote, "It is the @time of the disruptors! Honoured to be a part of the #TIME100 Gala this year and having met the most brilliant minds and artists of our generation."

As soon as the post was shared, fans and industry members chimed in the comment section. Tahira Kashyap commented, "Amazing." Ali Fazal wrote, "Wow congrats bhai. Super super achievement!!" Ektaa R Kapoor dropped a



comment, which read, "Gorgeous man inside out."

One of the users wrote, "So so proud of you. This is Ayushmann Khurrana world domination."

Ayushmann has been honoured twice by TIME Magazine. In 2023, he was honoured with the TIME100 Impact Award. He was the only Indian to be chosen for the award. In 2020, he was chosen as one of the magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Talking about Ayushmann Khurrana's work front, he has established himself as a successful actor with his debut film, "Vicky Donor".

Priyanka Chopra enjoys work day with daughter Malti on sets of 'Heads of State'

Los Angeles

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared a glimpse of "bring your baby to work" day as she took her daughter Malti Marie to the sets of "Heads of State". The actor shared cute photos.

Taking to Instagram stories, Priyanka treated fans with new pictures from "Heads of State" sets but this time it is extra special as it features Malti, the image captured Malti sitting on her lap and can be seen interacting with the people on the sets. Sharing the photo, she wrote, "Bring your baby to work

day."

In the next picture, Priyanka can be seen playing with Malti. Priyanka on Wednesday took to her Instagram account to share behind-the-scenes pictures of her recent vacation in Switzerland, taking a break from her busy schedule.

"Heads Of State", is an upcoming action comedy featuring Idris Elba, John Cena, and Jack Quaid in key roles, under the direction of Ilya Naishuller.

Alongside, she recently announced her involvement in "The Bluff", directed by Frank E Flowers.

Priyanka also announced her new film in collaboration with the production team of Barry Avrich's new feature documentary "Born Hungry" as a producer.

On the Bollywood front, she will be seen in Farhan Akhtar's next directorial "Jee Le Zaraa" alongside Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. However, no update has been provided on the film since the announcement was made a couple of years ago.



In the next picture, Priyanka can be seen playing with Malti. Priyanka on Wednesday took to her Instagram account to share behind-the-scenes pictures of her from shoot diaries.