



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Papua New Guinea PM reacts to Biden's 'uncle eaten by cannibals' claim

Sydney. Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape says his nation does not deserve to be labelled cannibals, and urged the US to clear up the remnants of World War Two littered across the Pacific, after comments by President Joe Biden about his missing serviceman uncle. He had "appeared to imply his uncle was eaten by cannibals after his plane was shot down over PNG during WWII", Marape's office said in a statement late on Sunday. President Biden's remarks may have been a slip of the tongue; however, my country does not deserve to be labelled as such," Marape said in the statement.

I urge President Biden to get the White House to look into cleaning up these remains of WWII so the truth about missing servicemen like Ambrose Finnegan can be put to rest. "The US signed a defence cooperation agreement with Papua New Guinea last year, amid competition for influence in the region with China, which has a security pact with the neighbouring Solomon Islands. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Marape in the capital Port Moresby on Sunday to build closer economic ties, while Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrives this week to commemorate World War Two history. Biden has previously cited his personal connection with Papua New Guinea's wartime history on visits to Australia, telling the story of his uncle who died in a plane crash in May 1944. Biden last week raised the possibility his uncle might have fallen victim to cannibals, after visiting a missing-in-action war memorial in Pennsylvania. Historians say Papua New Guinea was crucial to the United States' drive across the Pacific to liberate the Philippines in World War Two, while Australia has said the wartime history showed the renewed strategic importance of its northern neighbour. The impact of the war remains sensitive among Pacific Islanders, however. Marape said his nation was "needlessly dragged into a conflict that was not their doing". Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands remain littered with wartime human remains, plane wrecks, ship wrecks and tunnels, as well as leftover bombs which were still killing people, he said.

Terry Anderson, US journalist held hostage for 7 years in Lebanon, dies at 76

New York. Terry Anderson, a US journalist who was held captive by Islamist militants for almost seven years in Lebanon and came to symbolise the plight of Western hostages during the country's 1975-1990 civil war, died on Sunday at age 76, his daughter said in a statement. The former chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, who was the longest held hostage of the scores of Westerners abducted in Lebanon, died at his home in Greenwood Lake, New York, said his daughter Sulome Anderson, who was born three months after he was seized. No cause of death was given in barely-lit cells by mostly Shi'ite Muslim groups in what was known as The Hostage Crisis, and chained by his hands and feet and blindfolded much of the time, the former Marine later recalled that he "almost went insane" and that only his Roman Catholic faith prevented him from taking his life before he was freed in December 1991.

"Though my father's life was marked by extreme suffering during his time as a hostage in captivity, he found a quiet, comfortable peace in recent years. I know he would choose to be remembered not by his very worst experience, but through his humanitarian work with the Vietnam Children's Fund, the Committee to Protect Journalists, homeless veterans and many other incredible causes," Sulome Anderson said. The family will take some time to organise a memorial, she said.

Anderson's ordeal began in Beirut on the morning of March 16, 1985, after he played a round of tennis. A green Mercedes sedan with curtains over the rear window pulled up, three gunmen jumped out and dragged Anderson, still dressed in shorts, into the car.

The pro-Iran Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, saying it was part of "continuing operations against Americans." The abductors demanded freedom for Shi'ite Muslims jailed in Kuwait for bomb attacks against the US and French embassies there. It was the start of a nightmare for Anderson that would last six years and nine months during which he was stuck in cells under the rubble-strewn streets of Beirut and elsewhere, often badly fed and sleeping on a thin, dirty mattress on a concrete floor. During captivity, both his father and brother would die of cancer and he would not see his daughter Sulome until she was six years old.

Race car ploughs into crowd in Sri Lanka, 7 killed, many injured

Colombo. A race car veered off the track during a competition in Sri Lanka on Sunday and rammed into a crowd of spectators and race officials, killing seven people and injuring 20 others, officials said. Thousands of spectators looked on as the mishap took place during a race in the town of Diyatalawa in the tea-growing central hills, about 180 kilometres east of the capital Colombo.

Police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa said one of the cars veered off the track and crashed into spectators and officials of the event. Seven people, including four officials, were killed and another 20 were being treated at a hospital, said Thalduwa. He said three of the injured were in critical condition. Thalduwa said police have launched an investigation into the accident, which was the 17th out of 24 events scheduled. The race was suspended after the accident. About 45,000 spectators had gathered at the race circuit at a Sri Lankan military academy. The event was organised by the Sri Lankan army and Sri Lanka Automobile Sports.



India is now second-largest source for new citizens in US: Report

Washington. A total of 65,960 Indians officially became US citizens, making India the second-largest source country for new citizens in America after Mexico, according to the latest Congressional report. An estimated 46 million foreign-born persons resided in the United States in 2022, approximately 14 per cent of the total US population of 333 million, according to American Community Survey data from the US Census Bureau. Of these, 24.5 million, about 53 per cent, reported their status as naturalised citizens. In its latest "US Naturalisation Policy" report of April 15, the independent Congressional Research Service in the fiscal year 2022, a total of 969,380 individuals became naturalised US citizens. "Individuals born in Mexico represented the largest number of naturalisations, followed by persons from India, Philippines, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic," it said. Based on the latest available data, CRS said in 2022, as many as 128,878, Mexican nationals became American citizens. They were followed by Indians (65,960), the Philippines (53,413), Cuba (46,913), the



Dominican Republic (34,525), Vietnam (33,246) and China (27,038). According to CRS as of 2023, a total of 2,831,330 foreign-born American nationals were from India, which is the second-largest number after Mexico's 10,638,429. Mexico and India are followed by China with 2,225,447 foreign-born American nationals. However, as many as 42 per cent of the India-born foreign nationals living in the US are currently ineligible to become US citizens, the CRS report said.

As of 2023, as many as 290,000 India-born foreign nationals who were on Green Card or Legal Permanent Residency (LPR) were potentially eligible for naturalisation. CRS said in recent years, some observers have expressed concern over USCIS processing backlogs for naturalisation applications. Although there continues to be a backlog of naturalisation applications since FY2020 the agency has reduced the number of applications pending completion by more

than half. As of the end of FY2023, USCIS had approximately 408,000 pending naturalisation applications, down from 550,000 at the end of FY2022; 840,000 at the end of FY2021; and 943,000 at the end of FY2020. In FY2023, 823,702 LPRs submitted naturalisation applications. The number of individuals who have recently applied for citizenship remains well below the estimated population of 9 million LPRs who were eligible to naturalise in 2023. The percentage of foreign-born individuals who are naturalized varies by several factors, including country of origin. Immigrants from Honduras, Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, and Brazil have the lowest percentages of naturalized foreign-born, while those from Vietnam, the Philippines, Russia, Jamaica, and Pakistan have the highest. To be eligible for naturalisation, an applicant must fulfil certain eligibility requirements outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

The requirements generally include being a lawful permanent resident (LPR) for at least five years.

Global military spending reaches all-time high, India in top 5 spenders

Stockholm. Global military expenditure saw its steepest increase in over a decade in 2023, reaching an all-time high of \$2.4 trillion as wars and rising tensions fuelled spending across the world, researchers said Monday. Military spending rose across the globe with particularly large increases in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, according to a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). "Total military spending is at an all-time high... and for the first time since 2009, we saw spending increase across all five geographical regions," Nan Tian, a senior researcher at SIPRI, told AFP. "It's a reflection of the deterioration of peace and security around the world. There's really not a region in the world where things have gotten better," Tian said. The United States, China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia were the top five spenders, respectively. The continuation of the war in Ukraine led to an increase in



spending by Ukraine, Russia and "a whole host" of European countries, Tian said. Russia boosted spending by 24 per cent, reaching \$109 billion in 2023, according to SIPRI's estimates. Since 2014, when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea, the country's military spending has risen by 57 per cent.

Limited room

Ukraine's military spending rose by 51 per cent, reaching \$64.8 billion, but the country also received \$35 billion in military aid, of which the majority

came from the US, meaning the combined aid and spending equalled over nine-tenths of Russia's spending.

Tian noted that while Moscow's and Kyiv's overall budgets were relatively close in 2023, Ukraine's military spending equalled 37 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and 58 per cent of all government spending. By contrast, in Russia, which has a larger economy, military spending amounted to just 5.9 per cent of its GDP. "So the room for Ukraine to increase its spending is now very limited," Tian said. In Europe, Poland saw the largest increase in military spending by far, up by 75 per cent to \$31.6 billion. Spending also rose across the Middle East, where Israel -- the region's second-largest spender -- saw a 24-per cent increase, to \$27.5 billion in 2023 -- mainly driven by the country's offensive in Gaza in response to the October 7 attack by Hamas.

Five rockets fired from Iraq towards US military base in Syria: Officials

Mosul. At least five rockets were launched from Iraq's town of Zummar towards a US military base in northeastern Syria on Sunday, two Iraqi security sources told Reuters. The attack against US forces is the first since early February when Iranian-backed groups in Iraq stopped their attacks against US troops. The attack comes one day after Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani returned from a visit to the United States and met with President Joe Biden at the White House. Two security sources and a senior army officer said a rocket launcher fixed on the back of a small truck had been parked in Zummar border town with Syria. The military official said the truck caught fire with



an explosion from unfired rockets at the same time as warplanes were in the sky. "We can't confirm that the truck was bombed by US warplanes unless we investigate it," said a military official on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the incident. Iraqi security forces were deployed in the area and launched a

hunt for the perpetrators who fled the area using another vehicle, said a security official who is based in the town of Zummar. An army officer said the truck was seized for further investigation and initial investigation shows that it was destroyed by air strike. "We are communicating with the coalition forces in Iraq to share information on this attack," the officer added. The attacks came one day after a huge blast at a military base in Iraq early on Saturday killed a member of an Iraqi security force that includes Iran-backed groups. The force commander said it was an attack while the army said it was investigating and there were no warplanes in the sky at the time.

Biden slams 'dangerous' anti-Israel protests amid Columbia University chaos

US President Joe Biden has condemned the anti-Israel protests on college campuses amid tension at Columbia University, saying that such antisemitism is "reprehensible and dangerous".

World. US President Joe Biden has slammed anti-Israel protests at universities, saying such "blatant antisemitism" is "reprehensible and dangerous". His statement came amid continued pro-Palestine stir at Columbia University, where the crisis triggered a rabbi to urge Jewish students to stay home

until the tense environment at the Ivy League school subsides. Though Biden didn't mention Columbia University in his statement released by the White House, he stressed that antisemitism has "absolutely no place on college campuses, or anywhere in our country". The demonstrations, underway for days, coincide with the Jewish Passover holiday, which is a 7-day observance commemorating the mass exodus of Jews from Egypt. The US President said that Jews around the world are still coping with the horrors of Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. "This Passover falls particularly hard on hostage families trying to honour the spirit of the holiday -- a story centered on freedom -- while their loved ones remain in captivity. Our hearts are with all the victims, survivors, families, and friends whose loved ones have been killed, taken hostage, wounded, displaced, or are in harm's way," his statement added. He said that his administration would continue to speak out and "aggressively implement the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism" to provide the Jewish community with the complete backing of the federal



government. Joe Biden's statement came hours after the White House released one independently, condemning the "violence and physical intimidation targeting Jewish students and the Jewish community". White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates called such acts "antisemitic, unconscionable, and dangerous", after videos reportedly appeared to show pro-Palestinian activists telling Jewish students that October 7th is "going to be every day for you". The Columbia University crisis escalated recently after university officials testified before the US Congress about antisemitism on campus, causing pro-Palestinian demonstrations on and

near campus to surge. On April 19, the varsity's President Nemat Minouche Shafiq authorised the New York Police Department (NYPD) to raid an encampment of pro-Palestinian protesters, which led to the arrest of 108 protesters. The university has also suspended the daughter of controversial US Congress member Ilhan Omar over the protest. Even then, the protests raged on over the weekend, with protesters putting up tents to participate in the stir. Some 200 protesters protested on Saturday, according to The New York Post. The tension caused Rabbi Elie Buechler, associated with the Ivy League school's Orthodox Union Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus, to "strongly" recommend about 300 - mostly orthodox Jewish students - to go home and stay there. He sent a WhatsApp message to these students, CNN reported. "It deeply pains me to say that I would strongly recommend you return home as soon as possible and remain home until the reality in and around campus has dramatically improved," the message read, according to the CNN report.

Baby in Gaza delivered after mother killed in Israeli strike

Rafah. A baby girl was delivered from the womb of a Palestinian killed along with her husband and daughter by an Israeli attack in the Gaza city of Rafah, where 19 people died overnight in intensified strikes, Palestinian health officials said.

The dead, killed in hits on two houses, included 13 children from one family, they said. The baby, weighing 1.4 kg and delivered in an emergency C-section, was stable and improving gradually, said Mohammed Salama, a doctor caring for her.

Her mother, Sabreen Al-Sakani, had been 30 weeks pregnant. The baby was placed in an incubator in a Rafah hospital alongside another infant, with the words "The baby of the martyr Sabreen Al-Sakani" written on tape across her chest. Sakani's young daughter Malak, who was killed in the strike, had wanted to name her new sister Rouh, meaning spirit in Arabic, said her uncle Rami Al-Sheikh. "The little girl Malak was happy that her sister was coming to the world," he said. The baby would stay in hospital for three to four weeks, said Salama, the doctor. "After that we will see about her leaving, and where this child will go, to the family, to the aunt or uncle or grandparents. Here is the biggest tragedy. Even if this child survives, she was born an orphan," he said. The 13 children were killed in a strike on the second home, belonging to the Abdel Aal family, according to Palestinian health officials. Two women were also killed in that strike. Asked about the casualties in Rafah, an Israeli military spokesperson said various militant targets were struck in Gaza including military compounds, launch posts and armed people. "Did you see one man in all of those killed?" said Saqr Abdel Aal, a Palestinian man whose family were among the dead, grieving over the body of a child in a white shroud. "All are women and children," he said. "My entire identity has been wiped out, with my wife, children and everyone." Mohammed al-Behairi said his daughter and grandchild were still under the rubble. "It's a feeling of sadness, depression, we have nothing left in this life to cry for, what feeling shall we have? When you lose your children, when you lose the closest of your loved ones, how will your feeling be?" he said.

'WE ARE TRAPPED'

Over half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have crowded into Rafah, seeking shelter from the Israeli offensive that has laid waste to much of the Gaza Strip over the last six months. Israel is threatening a ground offensive into the area, where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said fighters from the militant group Hamas must be eliminated to ensure Israel's victory in the war.

Calcutta HC cancels 24,000 jobs in SSC scam probe; Mamta Banarjee spells 'its illegal, I challenge it'

RNS: The Calcutta High Court has made a significant decision regarding the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in government-sponsored and government-aided schools. The court has cancelled the recruitment of 24,000 individuals, thereby dismissing the entire 2016 teacher recruitment panel formed by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC). During the hearing, a division bench comprising Justices Debangshu Basak and Md. Shabbir Rashidi stated that those who were unlawfully recruited must return their salaries within four weeks. Additionally, the bench has ordered a reevaluation of 23 lakh OMR sheets that were used in the recruitment process, and has directed the WBSSC to initiate a new recruitment process. Several notable individuals, including former state



education minister Partha Chatterjee, former primary education board president and Trinamool MLA Manik Bhattacharya, and youth leader Kuntal Ghosh, have been arrested in connection with the scam. Former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Ganguly, now a BJP candidate in the Lok Sabha elections, had previously ordered a Cen-

tral Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment process. In response to the court's decision, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banarjee has called the order "illegal" and has announced plans to challenge it in a higher court. At an election rally in Raiganj, Mamata expressed concern for the affected in-

dividuals, stating, "26,000 people means 1.5 families. Can anyone return the salary of all these years in just four weeks!" She further declared her readiness to face any consequences for speaking against the verdict, stating, "I am ready for any defamation case or even going to jail. I will accept punishment for the sake of people."

Mukesh Dalal elected unopposed from Surat LS constituency

RNS I Gujrat: Mukesh Dalal, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate, has been elected unopposed from Gujarat's Surat Lok Sabha constituency after all other candidates withdrew from the race. This development comes after the cancellation of nominations for two Congress candidates on Sunday, along with the withdrawal of candidature by eight other candidates on Monday. Today, Saurabh Pardhi, the Surat District Collector and Election Officer, presented Mukesh Dalal with his Member of Parliament (MP) certificate. CR Paatil, the Gujarat BJP chief, confirmed the event by congratulating Dalal on his victory. "Surat has offered the first

lotus to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Congratulations to Surat Lok Sabha candidate Mukeshbhai Dalal for being elected unopposed," CR Paatil posted on social media. Congress candidate Nilesh Kumbhani's candidacy for the Surat Lok Sabha seat was rejected on Sunday after the district returning officer discovered inconsistencies in the proposers' signatures. This led to the decision to cancel his nomination. Suresh Padsala, the alternative Congress candidate for Surat, also had his nomination form rejected on Sunday. As a result, the primary opposition party in Gujarat was unable to participate in the city's Lok Sabha election.

IRDAI eliminates health insurance age limit

Implements major changes in pre-existing disease policies



RNS I New Delhi: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has made significant changes to health insurance regulations, including the elimination of the age limit for purchasing health insurance plans. This decision, set to take effect on April 1, 2024, marks a major shift in the industry. Previously, individuals aged 65 and older were restricted from purchasing new health insurance coverage. However, the recent regulatory changes now allow individuals of any age to access new health insurance coverage.

In a notice issued by IRDAI, insurers are encouraged to expand their services to cater to various demographic groups, such as senior citizens, students, children, and maternity needs. The aim is to promote inclusivity in healthcare coverage by offering individualized plans that meet specific age-related requirements. The decision reflects IRDAI's commitment to improving the availability of affordable healthcare coverage across all age groups and enhancing accessibility to such coverage. By removing age restrictions, IRDAI hopes to stimulate innovation among insurance companies, leading to a wider range of product offerings and improved customer service.

Additionally, IRDAI mandates that health insurance carriers develop customized plans for older individuals, including dedicated channels for managing claims and complaints from senior citizens. This proactive approach aims to address the unique healthcare needs of elderly policyholders. Industry professionals have welcomed the potential of this regulatory reform to extend healthcare coverage to individuals over the age of 65. With established underwriting procedures, insurance companies can now offer coverage to senior citizens based on affordability and viability criteria. Another significant reform prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage to individuals with severe medical conditions such as cancer, heart or renal failure, or AIDS. The waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions has also been reduced from forty-eight months to thirty-six months. After this period, all pre-existing conditions must be covered, regardless of initial disclosure. Furthermore, IRDAI has mandated a transition from indemnity-based health policies, which reimburse hospital bills, to benefit-based policies, which provide predetermined payments upon the diagnosis of covered illnesses. This change aims to enhance the clarity and predictability of insurance products, ensuring that policyholders receive timely and transparent benefits.

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DPS Bokaro Celebrates Earth Day, Pledges for a Greener, Cleaner, Plastic-Free Future



RNS I Bokaro: DPS Bokaro marked Earth Day on Monday with a range of activities aimed at raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices. Students took a pledge to keep Mother Earth green, clean, and plastic-free, aligning with this year's theme of 'Planet vs Plastic'. The school community, led by a specially designed badge created by Arijit Anukul (Class XII), embraced the theme 'Planet vs Plastic'. The day began with an Earth Day pledge to protect the planet, fol-

lowed by a musical presentation titled 'Chalo lete hain kasam...'. Shanvi Srinidhi of Class I delivered a compelling speech, urging everyone to save the planet. Students from Classes IV and V presented an impactful street play on 'Save Earth, Save Life.' As part of the 'Go Green Campaign,' students celebrating birthdays planted saplings on the school campus. Various activities such as poster making, painting, and art and craft projects were organized to emphasize the importance of saving the earth. Special activities like 'getting creative with plastics' and 'seedball making project' were conducted to educate children on plastic waste management. Principal Dr. A. S. Gangwar emphasized the importance of securing Earth's future for social, economic, and environmental well-being. He highlighted DPS Bokaro's commitment to being a plastic-free and eco-friendly school. He emphasized the role of schools in the 'Save Earth Mission' and the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

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BJP Spokesperson Criticizes Handling of Nyay Ulgulan Rally, Questions INDI Alliance on Constitutional Amendments



RNS I Ranchi: In a recent development, Pratul Shahdeo, a spokesperson for the state BJP, highlighted the Nyay Ulgulan rally's objective of strengthening the family structure of the Soren community. Speaking at a news conference held at the BJP state headquarters, Pratul Shahdeo emphasized the rally's focus on projecting Kalpana Soren as a future leader, positioning her prominently at the center of the stage throughout the event. However, Chief Minister Champai Soren faced challenges in finding an appropriate place on the plat-

form, leading to a situation where Kalpana Soren remained seated at the center while the Chief Minister struggled to secure a suitable position. Pratul Shahdeo expressed disappointment over the lack of support and enthusiasm for Chief Minister Champai Soren during his speech, noting the absence of slogans in his favor and the departure of the crowd before he could address them. He described this behavior as disrespectful to the Chief Minister of a tribal government. Moreover, Pratul Shahdeo called on the

leaders of the INDI Alliance, who advocate for upholding the Constitution, to explain the circumstances surrounding the declaration of a state of emergency in 1975 and the amendments made to the Constitution through the passage of the 42nd Amendment in 1976. He highlighted that the 42nd Amendment resulted in the transfer of powers from the judiciary, including the Supreme Court and the states, to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). However, over time, the Supreme Court rejected some of its controversial provisions.

Earth Day vibes at DPS Chas: Primary wing students ignite Planetary Health!

RNS I Bokaro: Delhi Public School Chas, Bokaro, resonated with the vibrant energy of Earth Day 2024, as students of the primary wing took charge to ignite a sense of environmental stewardship and awareness among their peers. The day was filled with engaging activities, including tree plantation, badge making, bag making, poster writing, and crafting Earth Day crowns and flowers, all aimed at nurturing a deeper connection with nature. One of the standout activities was the "Sankalpataru" tree plantation initiative led by Class II students. Guided by their teachers, the young environmentalists planted saplings in the school premises, symbolizing their dedication to environmental conservation and the imper-



ative of preserving our natural surroundings. Students enthusiastically designed and crafted badges and flowers adorned with Earth Day-themed messages and symbols, showcasing their creativity and commitment to raising awareness about environmental issues. Poster making was another highlight, with students expressing their thoughts and ideas on environmental protection through colorful and informative posters.

The posters conveyed a range of messages, from the importance of recycling to the conservation of natural resources, demonstrating the students' grasp of key environmental concepts. To add a festive touch to the celebration, students crafted Earth Day crowns and flowers using eco-friendly materials. These artistic creations served as a reminder of the significance of Earth Day and the collective responsibility we share in safeguard-

ing our planet for future generations. The Earth Day celebrations in the primary wing were a resounding success, with students actively participating in activities designed to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. Through their efforts, students not only learned about the importance of protecting the environment but also demonstrated their commitment to making a positive impact on the planet. Headmistress Sudeshna Sinha emphasized the importance of nurturing nature for future generations, stating, "Nature is where we all have a common interest. Let's take a vow today to nurture nature and thank Mother Earth for giving us a place to live and thrive."

BJP's LS candidate Geeta Koda files nomination

Geeta Koda, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) candidate for the Singhbhum Lok Sabha constituency, filed her nomination papers on Monday after offering prayers at the Desauli temple in Gitilipi. Following the prayers, she proceeded to Gandhi Maidan in Chaibasa, where a large gathering of workers awaited her. Accompanied by BJP leaders and workers, she then led a procession to Khuntakti Maidan. The procession continued to the office of the District Returning Officer, where Geeta Koda, along with BJP state president Babul Marandi, filed her nomination at 1:40 pm. Present at the occasion were state BJP president Babul Marandi, spokesperson JB Tubid, Geeta Balmuchu, and nu-



merous other leaders and workers. In the upcoming election, Geeta Koda will directly contest against Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) senior leader and former minister Joba Manjhi in Singhbhum. Joba Manjhi is scheduled to file her nomination on April 23. Geeta Koda, the incumbent MP of Singhbhum, recently joined the BJP. Her husband, Madhu Koda, is a former Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

Preserving Earth Through a Safe Environment: Das

World Earth Day was celebrated at DAV Public School Sector 6, Bokaro, with a strong message from Principal Brij Mohan Lal Das on the importance of a safe environment in saving the earth. The event, which saw the participation of 400 children from Class 1 to Class 4, included various competitions and activities focused on environmental conservation. Principal Das highlighted the origins of Earth Day, which began in the United States in 1970, and emphasized its objective of raising awareness about climate change, global warming, pollution, and biodiversity conservation. He noted that human activities have led to environmental exploitation, resulting in global warming and its adverse effects on the planet. Das stressed that saving the

earth is only possible through a safe environment, urging everyone to take a pledge to plant trees and prevent harmful waste disposal. He highlighted the importance of preventing environmental pollution, as it not only affects the land's fertility but also impacts food production and access to clean water. The theme for this year's Earth Day was "Planet vs Plastic," reflecting the global concern over plastic pollution. The event featured competitions such as poetry recitation, slogan writing, speeches, and drawing, all focused on environmental conservation. Teachers and students took a pledge to save the earth, with teachers providing information on the benefits of tree plantation and urging parents to participate in the campaign.

CS Bihar Chairs Video Conference Meeting to Ensure Smooth Organization of Haj Yatra 2024

RNS I Gaya: Chief Secretary Bihar held a comprehensive review meeting via video conferencing on Monday to discuss the smooth organization of the upcoming Haj Yatra 2024. The meeting, chaired by the Chief Secretary, included the District Magistrates (DM) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSP) from Gaya, Patna, and Jehanabad districts. Discussions primarily focused on the preparations needed for the Haj Yatra 2024. During the meeting, it was revealed that this year's Haj Yatra is scheduled to commence from 09 May to 25 May 2024. Approximately 1100 Haj pilgrims from Gaya Airport will depart for Jeddah, with the Gaya International Airport serving as the point of departure. The Chief Secretary commended Gaya District Officer Dr. Tyagarajan SM for

the excellent arrangements made last year and emphasized the importance of maintaining the same level of efficiency this year. He highlighted the need for thorough planning and close monitoring to ensure the comfort and safety of the Haj pilgrims. District Magistrate Dr. Tyagarajan SM provided detailed information about the preparations for the Haj pilgrimage. He mentioned that last year, arrangements were made at the airport for accommodation, drinking water, sanitation facilities, cooling systems, and prayer areas. Similar facilities will be provided this year as well. The Chief Secretary instructed the authorities to prepare a detailed plan for the entire journey from Haj Bhawan to Gaya Airport. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of providing facilities such as water, toilets, and refreshments near

Makhdumpur in Jehanabad and ensuring smooth traffic flow. Given that many Haj pilgrims are elderly and may have health issues, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of ensuring adequate health-related arrangements and availability of life-saving medicines. He also emphasized the need for timely vaccination of all Haj pilgrims. To prepare for potential heat waves, all Haj pilgrims will receive specialized training and be provided with health advisories. A 24*7 medical camp will also be set up to cater to any medical emergencies. During the meeting, District Minority Welfare Officer Rahul Kumar and District Supply Officer Janardan Aggarwal were also present from Gaya district, contributing to the discussions and planning for the successful organization of Haj Yatra 2024.

BGH Celebrates Family Welfare Day

RNS I Bokaro: The Gynecology and Obstetrics Department of Bokaro General Hospital (BGH) organized Family Welfare Day on Monday, led by Dr. Varsha Ghanekar. Dr. Ghanekar announced that Family Welfare Day will now be observed on the 21st of every month to ensure maximum participation in the program. During the event, Dr. Jaya Aggarwal, in-charge of family planning at BGH, provided detailed information about various family planning resources. The program was coordinated by Dr. Anima Kerketta, Head of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, who emphasized the importance of family planning for a healthy and happy life. Dr. Kerketta highlighted that maintaining a limited family size makes it easier to provide for women and children, leading to overall family happiness. The event aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of family planning and encourage its practice among families.

NOTICE

WHEREAS it is stated that Smt. Shyama Kanta Sinha, W/o Late Vishnu Kumar Sinha, Ex-Staff No. 021345 has applied for regularisation of Qr. No. 440 in Sector-3/B, B. S. City, pursuant to death of Shri Vishnu Kumar Sinha, the original Lessee, upon obtaining "No Objection" Certificate from co-sharers as per Family Tree dated 13.04.2024 issued by Circle Officer. If any person or persons have any objection to such regularisation, he/ she shall file the same before GM(TA-L&E)/ Estate Affairs, Bokaro Steel Plant, Town Administration Department, Nagar Seva Bhawan, Sector-3, Bokaro Steel City, within 30 days of publication, failing which the application for regularisation shall be pursued as per rules.

PM Modi's 'those who have more children' remark sparks Opposition furore

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged the Congress, if voted to power, would give the country's wealth to "those who have children", the Opposition hit back and accused the Prime Minister of lying and creating religious divisions between people.

New Delhi: The Opposition came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he alleged that the Congress, if voted to power, would distribute the country's wealth to "those who have more children". Addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara on Sunday, PM Modi hit out at the Congress over its wealth redistribution survey promise and said that the party, if voted to power, would distribute the country's wealth to "infiltrators" and "those who have

more children". The Congress hit back and accused PM Modi of lying and creating a divide between Hindus and Muslims. The party rejected the Prime Minister's claims and said their manifesto had no such promise.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's remark, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister was attempting to divert the attention of the people from various issues.

"After the disappointment in the first phase of voting, the level of Narendra Modi's lies has fallen so much that out of fear, he now wants to divert the attention of the public from the issues," he tweeted on Sunday. "Trends have started coming in regarding the immense support that Congress's 'revolutionary manifesto' is receiving. The country will now vote on its issues, vote for its employment, its family and its future," he said. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused PM Modi of using "venomous language" and questioned why the Census, last conducted in 2011, was not done in 2021. "The Prime Minister speaks about the world in a venomous language. He should also answer a simple question - Census has been conducted every ten years since 1951. This brings out the actual data of the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It should have been conducted in 2021 but has not been done till date," he tweeted on Monday. "Why is the Prime Minister silent on this? This is a conspiracy to destroy the Constitution of

Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi accused PM Modi of "abusing" Muslims to get votes and that the community was being feared "while their wealth was being used to enrich others". "PM Modi today (Sunday) called Muslims infiltrators and people with many children. Since 2002 till this day, the only 'Modi guarantee' has been to abuse Muslims and get votes. If one is talking about the country's wealth, one should know that under Modi's rule, the first right to India's wealth has been of his wealthy friends," Owaisi tweeted on Sunday. "1 per cent of Indians own 40 per cent of the country's wealth. Common Hindus are made to fear Muslims while their wealth is being used to enrich others," he said. Former Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal reacted to PM Modi's remark and said he expected "nothing better" from him. "But I feel sad for my country," he said on Monday. Later, in a press conference, Sibal questioned why the Election Commission had not taken action against PM Modi over his remark. "I want to ask the Election Commission, why have you not taken any



action? You should've criticised and sent a notice asking not to repeat the statement, and taken action under Section 153A of the Penal Code. This is not good either for the country or the Election Commission," he said. In a scathing attack on the Prime Minister, Sibal said, "PM Modi made a speech yesterday. It was evident that the first phase of the election was not going in favour of him. People would be disappointed with it. It referred to minorities as an outsider. What kind of politics is this?" On one hand, you talk Ram Mandir and conduct of Ram, and on the other, spread hatred. Where is Sabka Saath, Sabka

Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas? You can't keep India intact this way," he added. On the other hand, BJP general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh asserted that the Opposition was "rattled" by PM Modi's speech in Banswara. "With one speech PM @narendramodi has rattled the Opposition. Publishing urban Naxal's agenda of 'redistribution of wealth' has recoiled with double the speed at which it was fired. Go now and explain to voters what @INCIndia and INDIA bloc mean by 'redistribution of wealth'", he wrote on X. During the rally in Banswara, PM Modi cited former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remarks that Muslims had the first claim on the country's resources.

"The Congress manifesto says they will calculate the gold with mothers and sisters, get information about it and then distribute that property. They will distribute it to whom? Manmohan Singh's government had said that Muslims have the first right on the country's assets," PM Modi said. "This means to whom will this property be distributed? It will be distributed among those who have more children. It will be distributed to the infiltrators. Should your hard-earned money go to the infiltrators? Do you approve of this?" he said.

Case against Shashi Tharoor for 'false campaign' against Rajeev Chandrasekhar

The case against Shashi Tharoor was registered based on a complaint lodged by BJP leader J R Padmakumar who accused the Congress leader of carrying out a false campaign against Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha candidate Shashi Tharoor has been booked for allegedly carrying out a false campaign against union minister and rival candidate Rajeev Chandrasekhar, police said here on Sunday.

The case was registered by the Cyber Police here on April 15 but its details were revealed only



today. According to police, the case against Tharoor was registered based on a complaint lodged by BJP leader J R Padmakumar who

accused the Congress leader of carrying out a false campaign against Chandrasekhar during a television programme.

The complainant alleged that Tharoor, during the programme, had made defamatory statements against Chandrasekhar with regard to influencing voters of coastal regions in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. The case was registered under Sections 171-G and 500 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 65 of IT Act, a cyber police official said adding that an investigation is going on in the matter. IPC 177-G refers to raising false statement in connection with an election, while IPC 500 relates to defamation.

Tharoor, who is contesting from Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency, is yet to react on the registration of the case.

Petition Seeking "Extraordinary Interim Bail" For Arvind Kejriwal Scrapped

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan remarked that the petition was "totally misconceived" and that the court cannot grant "extraordinary interim bail" to a person holding a high office.

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed with ₹ 75,000 costs a public interest litigation by a law student seeking "extraordinary interim bail" for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is in judicial custody in relation a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise scam.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan remarked that the petition was "totally misconceived" and that the court cannot grant "extraordinary interim bail" to a person holding a high office. "Does he (the petitioner) attend classes in college? It seems he is not following principles of law," the bench also comprising Justice Manmeet PS Arora said.

The court remarked that the AAP leader has the means to take steps to avail his legal remedies and the petitioner holds no power of attorney to make submissions on his behalf. "Person is taking steps in accordance with law. Who are you? You have some exaggerated notion of yourself. You say you have veto power. That you will give an undertaking



(to ensure Kejriwal does not influence witness)," the court stated. The court emphasised that the concept of equality and Rule of Law were enshrined in the Constitution and Kejriwal was in judicial custody pursuant to judicial orders which were not challenged. "Writ petition is dismissed with costs

of ₹ 75,000," the court ordered. Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing of Kejriwal, said the PIL was "ambush" litigation which was not maintainable and the petitioner has no locus. The petitioner's counsel sought "extraordinary interim bail" for the Delhi chief minister on the grounds that his safety was in danger as he was confined with hardcore criminals. The PIL said that to fulfil the responsibilities of the chief minister, Kejriwal's physical presence was required in his office and home to take quick decisions on all issues and to pass orders in the welfare of the public at large. The petitioner, a law student, mentioned his name as, "We, the people of India" in the plea claiming that he does not want any name, fame or money from this matter.

The petition also said the petitioner has "decided, by using his 'veto power', to release" on extraordinary interim bail Kejriwal in all the criminal cases lodged by the ED and CBI pending against him till the completion of his tenure and the trial.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister welcomes special breed cows from Andhra



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav welcomed a pair of specially brought Punganur cows from Andhra Pradesh.

Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday welcomed a pair of Punganur cows, specially brought from Andhra Pradesh. Sharing pictures of himself with the special breed cows, the Chief Minister said he was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in rearing the Punganur cows. He named them Meera and Gopal. "Today is a very auspicious day, a very auspicious time, when fortunately a special breed of Punganur cow and Nandi have arrived at our residence from Andhra Pradesh. It is extremely pious to bless one's life by serving mother cows. Mother cow 'Meera' and Nandi Maharaj 'Gopal' ji are heartily welcomed at our residence," he wrote on X.

The Punganur cow is a dwarf cattle breed native to the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, India. It is one of the world's smallest humped cattle breeds. "The Punganur breed of cow with short legs and small stature was on the verge of extinction, but with the inspiration of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, efforts are now being made to conserve this breed of cow not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in other places of the country," Yadav added. In January, on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, a video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi caressing and feeding a Punganur cow at his residence was released, and it went viral, grabbing everyone's attention to the rare breed. "I pray at the feet of Mother Cow, who provides shelter to 33 Crore deities, that she may continue to shower her blessings on the people of the state and bless everyone," he said. The Chief Minister already has a cow named Lakshmi at his residence.

"With Folded Hands...": Tejashwi Yadav's Plea After PM's Rajasthan Speech

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had hit out at PM Modi's speech, calling it "lies", and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the Prime Minister's only 'guarantee' is "to abuse Muslims and get votes".

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's controversial election speech in Rajasthan - in which he referred to the declared the Congress, should it win the 2024 general election will "distribute assets among infiltrators" - has drawn an emotional plea from Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav. "I have only this to say to the Prime Minister... and I say this with folded hands. Please talk about the real issues and set aside this politics of hate. The nation's youth and elderly, farmers and businessmen, and mothers and sisters... all people have the same issues," the former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister said.

"Everybody wants to find jobs to overcome poverty and deal with the rising cost of living... so again I ask the Prime Minister to discuss these real issues and tell us, in the past 10 years, what you have done for the country and for Bihar?" Mr Yadav told reporters in Patna. What is your real

vision for Bihar... for the nation? He is not talking about this and, instead, is shouting about temples (referring to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, construction of which the BJP has made a central election issue) and Muslims. This is not good... "Mr Modi's speech in Rajasthan's Banswara this weekend has triggered furious pushback from the opposition and a section of civil society activists. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi hit out at the "lies" and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the Prime Minister's only 'guarantee' is "to abuse Muslims...". "Samajwadi Party boss and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav - who is part of the Congress-led INDIA opposition bloc - also called out the Prime Minister's "lies".

What Did PM Modi Say In Rajasthan?

At Banswara on Sunday, Mr Modi had said, "This 'urban Naxal' mindset,

mothers and sisters, they will not even leave your 'mangalsutra'. They can go to that level... Congress manifesto says they will calculate the gold with mothers and sisters, get information about it, and then distribute that property. They will distribute it to whom - Manmohan Singh's government had said Muslims have first right on assets."

Earlier, when their (Congress) government was in power, they said Muslims have the first right on the country's assets. This means to whom will this property be distributed? It will be distributed among those who have more children. It will be distributed to the infiltrators. Should your hard-earned money go to the infiltrators? Do you approve of this?" he said.

What Did Manmohan Singh Say In 2006?

Mr Modi was referring to a statement by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh - on whom he lavished praise in



February, calling him an "inspirational example" - in December 2006 at a meeting of the National Development Council on the fiscal priorities of his government. According to the then Prime Minister's Office, Dr Singh had said, "... We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minority, are empowered to share equitably in the fruits of development. They must have first claim on resources..."

PM Modi vs Congress Before Polls
Mr Modi's sharp swipe Sunday comes as

he and the ruling BJP ramp up attacks on the Congress and the INDIA bloc. Earlier, in Rajasthan's Jalore, he claimed the country would "punish" the party for its "sins".

Mr Modi and the BJP earlier also accused the Congress' election manifest of being a "Muslim League imprint" and a "bundle of lies".

"Congress issued a bundle of lies in its manifesto... every page reeks of attempts to tear India apart. It reflects the thoughts the Muslim League had before independence," the PM had said at a poll rally in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. The comment drew a fierce retort from Congress boss Mallikarjun Kharge. In a strong swipe at the BJP and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, he said, "Everyone knows how (Syama) Prasad Mookerjee "formed his governments in Bengal, Sindh, and NWFP (North West Frontier Province).

Congress slow off the blocks

IT is indeed tempting to do crystal-gazing and predict poll results based on news reports, political briefings and conjecture. In fact, most of the time, that is what passes off as election prognosis. Then, like astrologers, political commentators too rationalise their failed predictions, blaming them, instead of the planets, on the politicians: "If only they had done this and that and the other." So, one is carefully desisting from any attempt at poll prediction. But it was hard to miss the brouhaha over allegations of a polling company deleting its X post and also about a fake survey. The allegedly deleted post from pollster Pradeep Gupta's Axis My India handle talks of a fierce battle ahead for the BJP in 13 states; and then there were survey results being attributed to the same company, claiming that the NDA was losing the polls. Soon, Axis My India clarified that this information was fake and that the company only did exit polls, not opinion polls.

But it indeed looks like the BJP is in for a tough contest in many states where it had swept the polls in 2019. Then, for the Opposition to benefit from such a close fight, it ought to be prepared to slug it out with the BJP. A fake survey or a deleted X post are not going to be enough to take on the juggernaut that is rolling relentlessly. The polling has begun, the first round is over, but the Congress is not yet ready. Being in Chandigarh, it is impossible not to be affected by the theatre of the absurd opportunism that is playing out in this beautiful city. In fact, the neighbourhood's beauty often hides its bulging underbelly of quid pro quos. It is a bipolar contest in the city and hence easier to campaign, contest and possibly win for either of the two parties — the BJP and the Congress. The first party to announce its candidate was the BJP. Despite having four strong contenders — a sitting MP, a former MP and two former city party chiefs — there was not a murmur of dissent from those who missed out over the choice of the candidate. The announcement of the nominee was followed by the launch of the campaign. But not for the Congress. After its candidate was announced, a former MP, who was defeated in the last two polls, kicked up a storm of protest instead of the campaign dust.

There was nothing but infighting being talked about in the local media for about a week. Finally, an emissary from the high command had to fly in to mollify the defeated, but defiant, leader. What the high command's assurance — a euphemism for quid pro quo for the sake of peace — is anybody's guess. In the neighbouring constituency of Patiala in Punjab, the Congress has a candidate who had defeated the incumbent in 2014 with his clean image of being an idealistic, patient-friendly doctor. But that is not enough for local Congressmen. Instead of seeking votes, all that is being done by local Congress leaders is bickering in Patiala, when there is but a little over a month left for polling. Punjab's voters have no dearth of options: it is a four-cornered fight between the ruling AAP, prime Opposition party Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the BJP. Yet, the Congress is hesitant to announce all the candidates, and none of the other three parties has displayed backbiting of this magnitude. AAP has declared all 13 candidates and has started its campaign in full throttle. If at all a party has to be the choice of the disenchanted voter, the least it has to display is an intent to put up a good fight, not exhibit a divided house.

Haryana is going to the polls only on May 25, yet the BJP announced all its candidates in late March itself. Haryana, like Punjab, ought to be one of the difficult states where the BJP could find the going tough. The BJP has named former state Congress president Ashok Tanwar and former MP Naveen Jindal among its nominees, and they have all hit the ground running in a desperate attempt to stem the anti-incumbency tide. Sushil Gupta, the lone candidate of AAP, which is part of the INDIA bloc, is also campaigning hard. But the Congress has not yet announced its nine candidates in the state.

How framing of survey questions makes a great difference

For creating a questionnaire that yields relevant, reliable results, it's essential to comprehend how people respond to questions.

IN an episode titled The Grand Design of the BBC's TV series Yes, Prime Minister, British PM Jim Hacker attempted to impose conscription; his private secretary, Bernard Woolley, had a survey done that showed support for the idea among the British. But Sir Humphrey Appleby, the Cabinet Secretary, showed Woolley how public surveys could reach contradictory conclusions by asking a series of leading questions and posing the central query in a particular manner.

This February, around four decades after the series was aired, market research organisation Ipsos carried out an intriguing survey in the UK. A representative quota sample of 2,158 British citizens, aged between 16 and 75 years, were questioned; half of the respondents were asked 'Sample A' questions, reflecting a positive view about national service. The other half saw 'Sample B', reflecting a negative view. A comparison of the results demonstrated that there were differences in the responses obtained on the degree of support for the reintroduction of national service in Britain, depending on how a question was posed, and the questions that come before it. In Sample A, 38 per cent were against reintroduction of conscription and 45 per cent favoured it. In Sample B, in contrast, 38 per cent supported it and 48 per cent opposed it. One of the most important steps in ensuring a survey's success is drafting the questionnaire. For creating a questionnaire that overcomes the biases and shortcomings of human cognition and yields relevant, reliable results, it's essential to comprehend how people think and respond to questions.

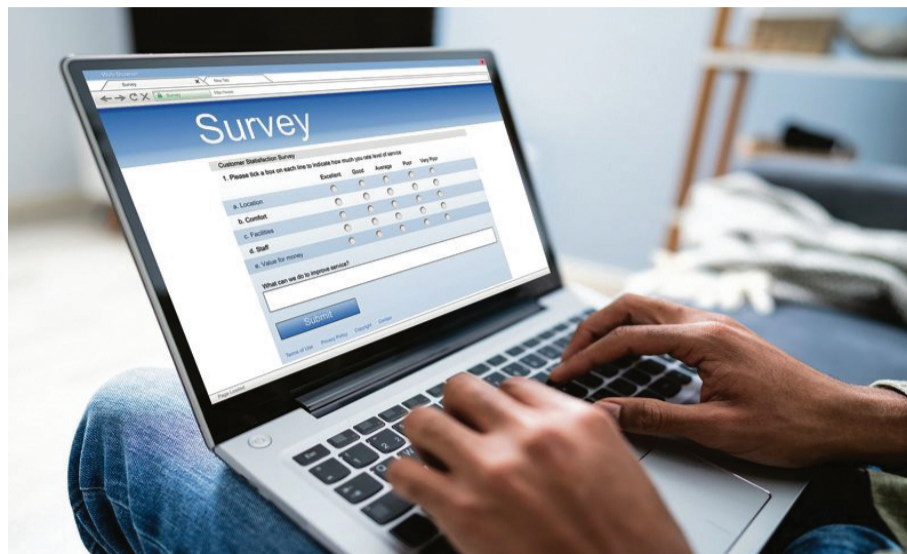
In psychology, single questions are highly significant, yet they are often contentious. Daniel Kahneman, an Israeli-American psychologist and a pioneer of behavioural economics, provided an intriguing example with a fictional woman named Linda, 41, who studied philosophy, participated in anti-nuclear protests and was involved in political activities. "How likely is she to be a bank teller? Or how likely is she to be a bank teller who's also active in the feminist movement?" asked Kahneman, recipient of the 2002 Nobel Prize in economics. It defies sense that 90 per cent of the respondents said she was more likely to be a feminist bank teller. However, to be a feminist bank teller, she also had to be a bank teller, which was the first option. But if the question is posed in this manner,

the majority of the people will be misled. Thus, it's not only the question you ask — it's also how you phrase it that matters.

Consider another example from 1980s Britain. In a 1986 Gallup poll, 40 per cent of the respondents indicated that having nuclear weapons made them feel 'safe', while 50 per cent said they didn't (the remaining had no definite opinion). However, these percentages changed

In actuality, people react differently to gains or allowances than to losses or prohibitions. Kahneman and Amos Tversky popularised the concept of 'framing'. In a 1981 publication, they modelled a fictitious outbreak of an unusual Asian disease that was predicted to claim 600 lives. Two alternative plans to combat the outbreak were put forth. If Program A was implemented, 200 lives would be saved. In Programme B, there was a one-third chance that 600 people would be saved and a two-third chance that none would be. In their survey, 72 per cent of the respondents were risk-averse and would rather save 200 lives than take a chance on saving a higher number. Subsequently, a second poll was carried out to choose between Programmes C and D, which had identical outcomes but different descriptions. The adoption of Programme C would result in 400 deaths. Programme D had a two-third chance of 600 deaths and a one-third chance that no one would die. Despite the fact that C and D were quantitatively equal to A and B, 78 per cent of the respondents now became risk-seekers and would rather gamble than accept the certain loss of 400 lives.

In his 2011 book Thinking, Fast and Slow, Kahneman tried to pinpoint the causes of such uncertainty. He clarified how people's thought processes were a result of the combination of two distinct systems. The gut reaction or 'System 1' is "fast, intuitive and emotional". 'System 2' is described as "slower, more deliberative, and more logical". System 2 necessitates effort and concentration, whereas System 1 functions naturally and without conscious thinking, which typically comes into play initially. Only when it's deemed necessary is System 2 activated. "There you are, Bernard. The perfectly balanced sample," Sir Humphrey said after demonstrating how different question formats might produce contradictory survey results. However, when they come across the findings of a public opinion survey, people seldom think about whether the questions were filtered, whether a 'middle category' was included among the alternatives, whether the questions were framed in terms of gains or losses, how the questions were posed and what were the questions that came before any particular one, and other related issues. Unfortunately, most people just assume that it's Sir Humphrey's 'perfectly balanced sample'.



when a different pollster substituted the word 'safer' for 'safe': 50 per cent of the respondents claimed that nuclear weapons made them feel safer, while 36 per cent said these made them feel less safe.

In June 1969, Gallup conducted a survey to find out how the US public felt about the 'faster' or 'slower' withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, following then President Richard Nixon's order to withdraw 25,000 troops in three months. Although 'same as now' was not listed as an option, interviewers accepted respondents' answers if they stated it out of the blue. As for the respondents, 42 per cent claimed it was 'faster', 16 per cent said it was 'slower' and 29 per cent said it was 'same as now'. "In general, do you feel the pace at which the President is withdrawing troops is too fast, too slow or about right?" was the question Harris used in a similar survey shortly after the Gallup poll. In response, 49 per cent of the participants opined that the pace was about right, 29 per cent wanted a faster withdrawal and 6 per cent thought it was too fast. But why the disparity in these two polls? Well, they were different — Gallup didn't include an explicit middle category.

Cut sugar & salt

A call for health-oriented action in food industry

THE renewed spotlight on significantly high sugar, salt and fat content in food has sparked a debate about public health and transparency. Some major business houses — Cadbury, Nestlé and IndiGo — find themselves at the forefront of this discourse, facing scrutiny and accountability. This affords an opportunity for the stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to consumer wellbeing.

Nestlé's responsive approach to reducing added sugars, sodium and saturated fats in its products and aligning with global dietary guidelines over the years reflects the market risk faced by a company failing to recognise the importance of providing healthy options. From revising sodium levels in Maggi Masala Noodles to cutting sucrose content in infant cereals, the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) giant has been trying to foster healthier lifestyles to remain on top of the business. However, the latest allegations about higher sugar content in its baby food in developing countries like India are worrisome and



warrant an investigation. Adherence to regulations is crucial to rebuilding trust and nutritional integrity. Similarly, IndiGo's response to concerns about the sodium levels in on-board meals emphasises the need for

transparency. Consumer awareness is pivotal in shaping food choices and driving industry practices. As people become more informed about the health implications of their dietary decisions, companies face pressure to prioritise nutritious alternatives and provide accurate information about the ingredients. The food industry must reassess its practices and the food regulators strengthen their enforcement strategies. This need is particularly significant in India, where the burden of nutrition-related non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular ailments, is rapidly escalating. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from consumers and the food industry to promote healthier eating habits. Initiatives such as the taxation of the addictive high-fat sugar salt foods offer a glimmer of hope.

Rollercoaster journey of India's political economy

Rahul Gandhi's image of being anti-business and pro-poor made him suspect in the eyes of the capitalist class. In contrast, Modi successfully projected a pro-business image.

LET me begin with a provocation — the Congress ceased to be a national party in 1998. If it came to power in 2004 and then consolidated its hold five years later, it was because it represented regional aspirations.

To understand this, we need to perform a couple of thought experiments. Imagine that, in 2004, Chandrababu Naidu and his party's ally, the BJP, had managed to hold on to their numbers in Andhra Pradesh. Then, the Congress would have slid to become the second largest party, down to 121 seats, the BJP would have risen to 145, and the NDA would have got 220 seats across India.

Now, imagine that the BJP had decided to stick with the DMK in 2004 and not align with Jayalalithaa's party. As it turned out, the decision to switch allies in Tamil Nadu cost the NDA dear: The AIADMK was extremely unpopular, and the DMK-Congress alliance swept all 39 seats in the state. If the BJP had held on to the DMK, there was a chance that the NDA could have swept the state. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu effectively changed the course of Indian politics in 10 years. If they had held on to the NDA, its all-India tally would have been 239 seats, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee would have returned to power. The Congress would have dropped to 111 seats, lower than what it had got in 1999, and perhaps, its decline would have been hastened by a decade. Why have I chosen these two southern states? Because they tell an important story about India's political economy — how it evolved in the post-liberalisation period and changed the fortunes of India's grand old party. A big part of this was the rise of new entrepreneurial groups, which were hitherto unable to make a dent during the 'licence quota Raj'.

Economic journalist Harish Damodaran has chronicled the change that took place in the composition of 'India's New Capitalists' and showed how new caste-communities were able to break through the monopolistic grip of the traditional mercantile groups

from the mid-1990s. Each of these 'new capitalists' emerged within the domestic markets of their states. Leading the charge were the Andhra capitalists — the Kamra, Reddy, and Raju entrepreneurs — who had initially made money in local enterprises, and then expanded into infrastructure during Chandrababu's rule. In 2004, a section of the entrepreneurial class in Andhra Pradesh switched its allegiance to YS Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), who swept to power and gave the Congress its largest contingent of MPs. Andhra Inc became the biggest infrastructure and power companies during UPA-1 — GMR, GVK, Lanco, IVRCL, Gayatri Projects, to name a few. The grapevine in the corridors of power those days was that the rise of the captains of industry from Andhra Pradesh was a testimony to YSR's clout in New Delhi.

The rise of Tamil entrepreneurs was less spectacular but equally significant. Tamil Nadu has been recognised as one of India's most business-friendly states, even if the overt political rhetoric of the main Dravidian parties has been left of centre. As early as 1996, a report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research had ranked the state as the most reform-oriented. John Harris and Andrew Wyatt's research shows that successive governments in Tamil Nadu have favoured a private sector-led development model, which has ensured a stable two-party political system. The so-called 'national' parties are entirely dependent on what the DMK or AIADMK is willing to give them.

The new 'regional' capitalists who emerged during the late 1990s could still not have competed with the traditional mercantile-industrial caste-communities, had it not been for the massive financial bubble that



developed across the world from the early 2000s. In India, new entrepreneurs got access to PSU bank funds, partly because of their growing heft in the corridors of power. But the stock market boom of 2005-08 also allowed them to raise money from the public. This led to an unrealistic credit-fuelled investment boom in infrastructure, steel and power, which came a cropper once the global financial crisis of 2008-09 caused a collapse of valuations. These companies, which lived off their market capitalisation, as opposed to real earnings, suddenly found that they could no longer raise funds to finance their operations. The result was what came to be known as India's NPA (non-performing assets) crisis, where mega loans given by banks turned bad. By 2011-12, many of the biggest 'new capitalists' unravelled under the weight of their debt burdens.

Banks took over their assets and sold them to big companies with secure profits and big piles of cash reserves. What resulted was a massive consolidation in almost every industry. Babus and bankers who had cleared projects or granted large loans came under the scanner as companies began to collapse around them. The response from the bureaucratic-managerial class was to withdraw into its shell, refusing to clear files or expedite project finance. The media gave this a name — 'policy paralysis'. Coincidentally, this was also the time when big business expanded its control over the news media by beginning to pick up stakes in media companies. The pricking of the credit bubble also burst the 'new capitalist' balloon that had threatened to overwhelm 'old' capital in the 2000s. From the 2010s, the Indian economy

has increasingly gone into the hands of monopoly capital — big conglomerates, echoing the Zaibatsus and Chaebols of Asian capitalist powers. Could the Congress have ridden this wave? After all, it had strong ties with old business houses since the time of the 'licence quota Raj'. This is where leadership made a difference. Rahul Gandhi's image of being anti-business and pro-poor naturally made him suspect in the eyes of India's capitalist class. In contrast, Narendra Modi successfully projected the image of being a business-friendly leader. As early as January 2009, corporate honchos like Sunil Bharti Mittal and Anil Ambani had said that Modi had the qualities to lead the nation. India Inc chose to back Modi, and it has had no cause to regret its decision.

जब हम अपने बालों को खोल कर ज्यादा धुल-मिट्टी में जाते हैं तो ऐसे में हमारे बाल रूखे और बेजान हो जाते हैं। ऐसे में उनकी केयर करनी बहुत ही जरूरी होती है नहीं तो हमारे बाल टूट कर झड़ जाते हैं। कभी-कभी तो ज्यादा हेयर ड्रायर करने से, क्लोरीनेटर पानी से और स्टाइलिंग प्रोडक्ट भी हमारे बालों को बेजान बना देते हैं। ऐसे में रूखे बालों को कंधी करना बेहद मुश्किल काम हो जाता है। कंधी बालों में फंसती है और बाल टूट जाते हैं। आज हम आपके सामने रूखे और बेजान बालों की देखभाल करने के लिए ऐसे ही कुछ घरेलू उपाय लेकर आए हैं जिनसे अपनाकर आप अपने बालों में चमक ला सकती हैं।

1. दूध रूखे बालों को मुलायम करने के लिए एक कटोरी में कच्चा दूध लेकर रूई के फाड़े से बालों की जड़ों और बालों में लगाएं और एक घंटे बाद सिर धो दें। 2. सीसम ऑइल आप घर में सीसम ऑइल में नींबू का रस मिलाकर बालों और स्कैल्प पर आधा घंटा लगा कर रखें। बाद में गर्म पानी में एक टॉवेल को भिगो कर इसमें अपने बालों को लपेट लें और आधे घंटे बाद बालों को धो लें। 3. कढ़ू बालों में चमक पाना चाहते हैं तो कढ़ू के टुकड़ों को बाँयल कने के बाद ठंडा होने पर दही में मिलाकर 20 मिनट के लिए लगाएं।

4. कोका पाउडर दही में शहद, विनेगर, कोका पाउडर को मिला कर स्कैल्प और बालों में लगाएं



रूखे बालों में चमक लाने के लिए अपनाएं ये घरेलू नुस्खे

और कैप पहन लें। कुछ समय बाद में इन्हें धो लें। 5. शुगर वाटर अगर आपके बाल झड़ रहे हैं तो पानी में एक चम्मच चीनी मिला कर बालों पर स्प्रे की तरह लगाएं। बाद में सूख जाने पर पानी से धो लें। 6. घी अगर आपके बालों में चमक नहीं है और रूखापन ज्यादा है तो देसी घी लगाएं। घी लगाने के कुछ समय बाद ही बालों को सैपू से धो लें। 7. ब्लैक टी ब्लैक टी बनाकर हफ्ते में एक बार आधा घंटा लगा कर रखने से बालों में चमक आती है। 8. टी ट्री ऑयल टी ट्री ऑयल में शैंपू मिलाकर लगाने से बालों में चमक आती है क्योंकि इसमें एंटी फंगल और एंटी बैक्टीरियल गुण होते हैं जो बालों को मजबूत बनाए रखता है।

1 मिनट में चमकेगा चेहरा, बस अपनाएं ये बेस्ट तरीका!



सेहत के लिए बहुत ही फायदेमंद होती है लेकिन शायद आप यह नहीं जानते होंगे कि यह पानी सेहत के साथ साथ स्किन के लिए बहुत ज्यादा फायदेमंद है। इससे आपकी खूबसूरती में चार चांद लग जाएंगे। हफ्ते में एक बार इस घरेलू तरीके को अपना कर आप सौंदर्य संबंधी कई समस्याओं से निजात पा सकते हैं।

स्किन के लिए चावल का पानी

चावल का पानी क्लींजर का काम करता है। चावल के पानी में प्रोटीन, विटामिन और एंटी-ऑक्सीडेंट की पर्याप्त मात्रा के कारण त्वचा में नमी बनी रहती है। साथ ही त्वचा की रंगत में निखार आता है और दाग धब्बे, झुर्रियां दूर होती हैं। अगर आपके चेहरे की स्किन ढीली ढाली हो गई है तो चावल के पानी से कसावट और पोर्स टाइट होंगे।

कैसे करें इस्तेमाल

एक कप चावल को पानी में अच्छी तरह से भिगो लें। आधे घंटे के बाद उसे गैस पर पकने दें। चावल पकने के बाद उसका माड़ निकाल लें और इसे ठंडा होने के लिए छोड़ दें। फिर उस पानी से अपने चेहरे पर हल्के हाथों से मसाज करें। मसाज करने के 10 मिनट बाद चावल के पानी से ही चेहरा धोएं और सूखे कपड़े से पोछें। आपको तुरंत ही अपनी त्वचा में बदलाव नजर आने लगेगा। बालों के लिए फायदेमंद

त्वचा के साथ-साथ बालों के लिए भी चावल का पानी बहुत फायदेमंद होता है। अगर आपके बाल पतले या बेजान हैं तो चावलों के पानी से बालों को धोएं फिर शैंपू और कंडीशनर करें लेकिन इन तरीकों को अपनाने से पहले डाक्टरों से सलाह जरूर लें।

लड़का हो या लड़की आजकल हर कोई गौरा और चमकदार चेहरा पाना चाहता है, जिस पर न तो पिंपल के दाग-धब्बे हो न ही झुर्रियां। वैसे तो जैसा हमारा खाना-पीना होगा, वैसे ही हमारे फेस और बालों की ग्रोथ होगी। अगर हमारा आहार पौष्टिक तत्वों से भरपूर नहीं है तो उसका असर हमारे चेहरे और बालों पर पड़ता है लेकिन खाने के साथ-साथ चेहरे और बालों की अलग से केयर करने की भी जरूरत होती है। इसके लिए आज के यंगस्टर्स महंगे से महंगे ब्यूटी प्रॉडक्ट्स का इस्तेमाल करते हैं लेकिन अगर कास्मेटिक की बजाए अगर घरेलू नुस्खों का इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो बेहतर है क्योंकि इनका न तो कोई साइड इफेक्ट होता है और न ही पैसे की बर्बादी होती है। उबले हुए चावल का पानी जिसे हम मांड कहते हैं,

2. अब इस घोल में अपने पैरों को डुबोएं। 3. अगर दूध न हो तो आप टब में 2 कप मिल्क पावडर भी डाल सकते हैं।
4. उसके बाद में अपने पैरों की फटी एड़ियों को अच्छे से रागें।
5. बाद में पैरों को इसमें से निकाल कर तौलिए से साफ कर लें।
6. इस विधि को रोजाना करने पर ही आपको दर्द से फायदा मिलेगा।

ज्यादातर महिलाएं अपने पैरों की फटी एड़ियों से बहुत परेशान होती हैं। ऐसे में जब पैरों में हलकी सी भी दरार आ जाती है तो चलते समय पैरों में दर्द होता रहता है। यह सब आपकी लापरवाही के कारण होता है। फटी एड़ियों से इंफेक्शन भी हो जाती है। आज हम आपको इनकी दर्द से

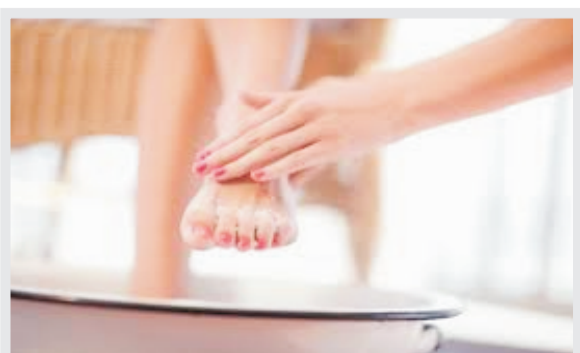


फटी एड़ियों से हैं परेशान तो इस तरह घर पर करें इलाज

छुटकारा पाने के घरेलू उपायों के बारे में बताएंगे। जिनसे आपके पैरों का दर्द गायब हो जाएगी और पैर कोमल और खूबसूरत दिखाई देंगे। - बेकिंग सोडा और दूध का घोल अगर आप अपने पैरों की तकलीफ को कम करना चाहते हैं तो बेकिंग सोडा और दूध का घोल घर पर तैयार करके अपनाया चाहिए। दूध एक प्राकृतिक मॉइस्चराइजर है जिसमें लैक्टिक एसिड होता है जो कि आपकी त्वचा को मुलायम और कामल बनाता है।

- इस तरह से तैयार करें घोल

1. सबसे पहले एक टब लें और उसमें 1 कप दूध और थोड़ा सा बेकिंग पावडर मिलाकर लें।



बढ़ती उम्र को थामने में मददगार साबित होते हैं ये 5 एंटी एजिंग तेल

आजकल हर कोई चाहता है कि उनका चेहरा खिला और चमकता रहे, फिर चाहे वह महिला हो या पुरुष। ऐसे में आपकी बढ़ती उम्र आपके चेहरे पर झुर्रियां, त्वचा में रूखापन अर्थात् छोड़ जाती है जिससे आपकी उम्र ज्यादा लगने लगती है। पर यह सब आपके खानपान से भी हो सकता है। आजकल बाजार में बहुत से ऐसे प्रोडक्ट्स आ रहे हैं जिनमें अपनाकर आप इन सब प्रोब्लेम्स को दूर कर सकते हैं और बढ़ती उम्र को भी रोकते हैं। पर जरूरी नहीं है कि यह उत्पाद हमारी त्वचा को ठीक हो। कभी-कभी इनसे नुकसान भी पहुंच सकता है।

आज हम आपको कुछ ऐसे एंटी-एजिंग तेलों के बारे में बताएंगे जिनसे आप मार्केट में आसानी से खरीद सकती हैं। यह तेल आपकी बढ़ती उम्र को थामने में आपकी मदद करेंगे। इन्हें अपनाने से आपको बहुत से सौंदर्य लाभ हो सकते हैं। तो आइए जानते यह कौन से तेल हैं।

1. खुबानी की गिरी खुबानी की गिरी से बने हुए तेल में भरपूर मात्रा में लिनोलेनिक एसिड होता है जिससे लगाने से आपकी त्वचा अंदर कोमल, कोशिकाएं और कोलेजन उत्पादन अच्छा होता है। इसे लगाने से झुर्रियां भी ठीक हो जाती हैं।
2. बादाम तेल बादाम के तेल में विटामिन ई और विटामिन के पाया जाता है जिससे लगाने से त्वचा को चमकदार बनाई रखता है।

3. गरी का तेल गरी के तेल से चाहे की मालिश करने से रूखापन दूर हो जाता है और पोषक तत्व भी मिल जाते हैं क्योंकि इसमें एंटीऑक्सीडेंट और विटामिन ई होता है

4. एवोकैडो तेल इस तेल में विटामिन ई और ए पाए जाते हैं। इसे लगाने से बढ़ती उम्र को रोक जा सकता है क्योंकि यह सबसे अच्छा स्वास्थ्यवर्धक तेल है।

5. आर्गन तेल अगर आपके चेहरे पर झुर्रियां पड़ गई हैं तो इसे लगाने से वह दूर हो जाती है और त्वचा को नमी व चमक आती है।



NEWS BOX

R Sai Kishore's mentality shift behind success vs PBKS: Approaching game as captain

New Delhi. GT beat PBKS to bag a crucial win in the Indian Premier League 2024 on Sunday. Spinner R Sai Kishore set up the win for GT at the Mullanpur Stadium with his four-wicket-haul. Sai Kishore won the player of the match award, his first one of the season. The POTM award was an important one for the player who had been in and out of the team this season. The GT game was Sai Kishore's third one this season and the bowler seemed to be in his element in the sluggish pitch of Mullanpur. The Tamil Nadu Ranji Trophy captain flighted up the ball and beat the batters in flight. On the important wickets of the game came against Jitesh Sharma, who failed to read Kishore's delivery after stepping down against him. The spinner spoke about shifting his mentality from player to captain in the match and said that he was rewarded for his way of thinking. "What I try to do is think for the team, what the team wants, approach the game as a captain as a captain what you would do in that situation," R Sai Kishore said in an interaction with the Indian Premier League. "I think when you think as a team, the pressure is off, the targets are more achievable and then it is just playing for your wickets," he further added. Kishore lauded GT for their hard-fought win and said that it will build the character of the team. "There are a lot of positives to take. It was a hard-fought win, I won't say that it came in a platter," concluded the spinner.

IPL 2024: PBKS captain Sam Curran fined for dissent, Faf du Plessis penalised

New Delhi. PBKS captain Sam Curran was fined 50 percent of his match fee for showing dissent to an umpire's decision during their defeat to Gujarat in an IPL 2024 match in Mullanpur. Curran was penalised for his act during PBKS's defeat to GT, their fourth successive defeat at the newly-built stadium in Mullanpur. Curran admitted to the offence for a Level 1 Breach of IPL's Code of Conduct, the IPL said in a statement. "Curran committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.8 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the statement read.

Sam Curran was given out LBW after he opened the batting to bolster their batting line-up. However, Curran managed just 20 runs as PBKS's batting crumbled again, managing just 142 on the board in 20 overs. Despite a disciplined effort with the ball, PBKS ended up losing the contest after Rahul Tewatia came up with a handy late cameo from Gujarat.

DU PLESSIS FINED Rs 12 LAKH

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, RCB captain Faf du Plessis was fined Rs 12 lakh for the team's first over-rate offence of IPL 2024 during their heartbreaking 1-run defeat to KKR at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Du Plessis joins the likes of Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya in copping over-rate fines. RCB gave away 222 runs in 20 overs to KKR despite a much-improved bowling show from the likes of Mohammed Siraj and Lockie Ferguson. Despite losing Du Plessis and Virat Kohli early, RCB managed to come up with a stiff fight. Despite Karn Sharma hitting Mitchell Starc for 3 sixes in the last over, RCB lost by a run, falling to a crushing defeat in a last-ball thriller. It was the 7th defeat for RCB in IPL 2024 as their chances of reaching the playoffs look all but over.

D Gukesh dissects Candidates triumph: Proving Magnus Carlsen wrong and more

New Delhi. 17-year-old D Gukesh said he had come to know about legendary Magnus Carlsen's pre-tournament prediction before the Candidates and the noise around it did not affect his confidence. Battling against the odds, Grandmaster Gukesh stunned the 8-man field, winning the Candidates to become the youngest-ever challenge for the World Championship crown. Gukesh finished with 9 points out of a total of 14 to leave the likes of seasoned pros in Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi behind.

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Speaking exclusively to India Today, D Gukesh said he was confident about his winning ability despite having qualified for the Candidates as the last amongst the three Indian contenders. While R Praggnanandhaa qualified for the Candidates after finishing as runner-up at the World Cup, Vidit Gujrathi made it to the Candidates via Grand Swiss. Gukesh came up with impressive performances at the World Cup and Grand Swiss, but it was not enough for him to seal a place in the Candidates. The Chennai man worked his way through to the 8-man field as the second-placed player in the FIDE Circuit after Caruana, the winner, booked his place via the World Cup. "I actually came to know about that a couple of days before the Candidates. Honestly, I didn't care much about it. I think he gave an honest opinion. Obviously, I was not the favourite there. There were far more experienced players," Gukesh said on Monday, April 22 from Toronto. Deep down, I already knew that if I was in my absolute best shape, and if I managed to stay calm and focused, I could win the tournament. Yeah, Magnus sharing his opinion did not really affect that belief in myself," he added.

Virender Sehwag slams Sam Curran after PBKS vs GT: Wouldn't have him in my team

Virender Sehwag slammed Sam Curran's performances so far in the IPL 2024 season and claimed he wouldn't have the all-rounder in his side. Curran hasn't had the best of times this season as he has failed to inspire Punjab with both bat and ball.

New Delhi. Virender Sehwag has slammed PBKS stand-in skipper Sam Curran, saying that he wouldn't have him in the team as a batting or a bowling all-rounder as Punjab slumped to their 6th loss of the season.



Curran scored 20 off 19 balls and picked up one wicket from his two overs as he conceded 18 runs. GT would end up winning the match as PBKS' Mullanpur struggles continued. Speaking to Cricbuzz, Sehwag was very critical of Curran performances with both bat and ball, saying

that a person who is doing some batting and bowling isn't helping the side. The former India cricketer said that he needs to help the side with either the bat or with the ball, which he feels the England all-rounder has struggled to do all season. "I wouldn't keep Sam Curran as a batting all-rounder or a

bowling all-rounder. Because such a player is of no use, who does some batting and some bowling. Either you win the game with your batting or win the game with your bowling. Either you hit the bullseye or you don't perform at all," said Sehwag.

How well has Curran fared this season?

Curran started things off with a fine performance with the bat against DC as he scored 63 to get PBKS off to a winning start. However, since then, the England all-rounder has struggled to make any impact with the ball or bat. In 8 matches so far, Curran has just 153 runs to his name with an average of 19. Curran had scored 276 runs last season in the IPL at an average of 27.60.

In terms of bowling, while he has picked up 11 wickets, the economy rate has been 8.79 and he decided to only use himself twice against GT. Curran and Punjab will next be in action against KKR at the Eden Gardens on Friday, April 26 as they look to end their losing streak and return back to winning ways. The defeat to Gujarat means that PBKS are 9th on the table.

Absolute disaster: Tom Moody tears into 'reckless' PBKS batters after 'meltdown' vs GT

New Delhi. Tom Moody lashed out at the PBKS batters for their 'reckless' approach while facing spinners against GT in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match on Sunday in Mullanpur. Punjab slumped to their sixth loss after losing to Gujarat by 3 wickets and are struggling at the ninth position in the table with 4 points and a net run rate of -0.292. Moody was critical of the PBKS batters, saying that they faltered against the spin trio of Noor Ahmed, Rashid Khan and Sai Kishore. After Sam Curran and Prabhshimran Singh put on 52 runs off 5.3 overs, PBKS completely lost their way and were bowled out for 142 in 20 overs.

Very poor, extremely poor with their spin management. 7/68 off spin was an absolute disaster. It was the way the players got out against spin that would be frustrating me the



most. It looked reckless. I get the fact that you need to be proactive and busy," Moody told ESPNcricinfo. "Yes, GT have a good spin attack, but they would have gone into this contest knowing that would have been the challenge. It looked like a complete

meltdown," he added.

'Prabhshimran should have taken responsibility'

Former Indian batter Wasim Jaffer also sounded critical of the Punjab batters for throwing their wickets away. Prabhshimran scored 35 runs off 21 balls before Mohit Sharma accounted for his wicket. Jaffer reckoned that the youngster should have carried on to get a big score. "Punjab have themselves to blame. Prabhshimran gave them a decent start, but he should have kicked on and got a much bigger score. I thought he should have taken a lot of responsibility," Jaffer said. "When you have got so many players who are out of form and not scoring runs, you get days like these," Jaffer added. PBKS are next set to face Shreyas Iyer's KKR on Friday, April 26 at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

RCB Star SLAPPED With Rs 12 Lakh Fine By IPL Due To This Reason

New Delhi. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Faf du Plessis was fined Rs 12 lakh for IPL's Code of Conduct breach after his team maintained a slow over-rate in their match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens on Sunday. The Indian Premier League (IPL) on Monday announced that Du Plessis was fined for maintaining a slow-over rate in the match against KKR and it was RCB's first over-rate offence of the season. A statement from IPL read, "Faf du Plessis, Captain, Royal Challengers Bengaluru has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 36 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata on April 21, 2024." "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Faf du Plessis was fined INR 12 Lac," the statement further read. Meanwhile, on a sweltering Sunday, KKR and RCB played out another memorable game in Kolkata with the home team winning the match



with just one run. In the end, RCB lost their sixth consecutive game of the season and are placed rock-bottom on the points table. Meanwhile, now Bengaluru will look to turn its fortune around when the team take on Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Thursday.

IPL 2024: Sam Curran fined 50 per cent of match fees for breaching Code of Conduct

Punjab Kings (PBKS) stand-in skipper Sam Curran has been handed a hefty 50 per cent of his match fees fine for breaching the Indian Premier League (IPL) Code of Conduct. Curran was fined 50 per cent of

his match fees for a Level 1 offence under Article 2.8, during PBKS' flop performance against Gujarat Titans, which handed Punjab a 3 wickets defeat. According to a statement issued by the IPL, "Sam Curran, the Punjab Kings captain, has been fined 50 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's Indian Premier League 2024 match against the Gujarat Titans at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur on April 21." "Curran committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.8 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the statement further read. Talking about the match, Sai Kishore's four-wicket haul and yet another clutch finish by Rahul Tewatia were the highlights as GT beat PBKS by three wickets at Mullanpur Stadium. After Sunday's match, PBKS remained second last in the points.

Shubman Gill will lead Indian team in near future, says Robin Uthappa

New Delhi. Robin Uthappa feels that Shubman Gill will lead the Indian team in the near future after the Indian star helped GT secure a win against PBKS on Sunday, April 21. Gill scored a crucial 35 as GT got over the finishing line in the end in Mullanpur. This was Gill's 4th win as captain of Gujarat, since taking over as skipper before the start of the season. Speaking to JioCinema after GT's 3-wicket win, Uthappa hailed Gill as a gift for Indian cricket and claimed that star batter is slowly maturing into an all-time great. The former cricketer also said that Gill is slowly becoming a very prolific leader and could lead the national team as well. "Yeah, I think he's a gift for Indian cricket. I think he's some who's maturing into an all time great within the Indian cricket fraternity. And I think, we've seen him thrive, and we're seeing him grow into a very prolific leader who is going to lead not just his IPL side, but I also think the Indian team in the near future," said Gill.

Gill needed someone to play aggressive:



Uthappa

While talking about his innings of 35, Uthappa said that the GT skipper went about it in the right way. However, the former cricketer feels that Gill needs someone to play aggressively at the other end.

Uthappa said that Gill got out trying to up the ante and felt Sai Sudharsan would soon transition into an aggressive batter to help the GT skipper. "Great innings. I thought he went about his innings the right way because it's important for him to bat through the course of the innings for GT to get success, so he approached it in that fashion. He needed someone to play a little bit more aggressively at the end and take off pressure from him so that he could play that." "So, when he went to up the ante is when he got out. He didn't need to do that. Sai Sudharsan could have done it. But you know, I think that Sai Sudharsan transition into upping his strike rate also will happen in due time. And when that happens, I think that combination will be great," said Uthappa.

Candidates: Koneru Humpy runner-up, Vaishali finishes 4th after terrific run

Toronto. Indian grandmaster Koneru Humpy delivered the goods when it mattered, defeating erstwhile joint leader Tingjie Lei of China to finish second on a superior tiebreak in the women's candidates tournament in Toronto. Zhongyi Tan of China expectedly topped the tables after settling for a draw with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine. Her real story of the day was R Vaishali who scored her fifth victory on the trot at the expense of Kateryna Lagno of Russia to tie for the second spot before finishing fourth on tiebreak. Tan finished with 9 points in all, 1.5 points clear of the nearest rivals Humpy, Lei and Vaishali who all finished second to fourth respectively. Aleksandra Goryachkina finished fifth on seven

points, a full point ahead of Lagno, while Nurgul Salimova of Bulgaria and Muzychuk ended in the last two spots in the eight-player double round-robin contest.

LATE COMEBACKS FOR HUMPY, VAISHALI

At the halfway stage, Humpy was languishing at 2.5 points out of seven games but came up with a splendid effort to score five points from the last seven games – a score matched by Vaishali who was even worse at 2.5 out of nine. Playing black against Lei, Humpy got a complicated middle game out of a Nimzo Indian defense and Lei came up with a spectacular queen sacrifice that needed perfect follow-up.



Humpy cashed in when the Chinese erred in her calculation and reached a winning endgame with her two rooks against white's rook and Bishop. The complexities were far from over but on this day Humpy could do no wrong and squeezed out a

victory after 62 hard-fought moves. Vaishali faced the Ruy Lopez as black against Lagno who sacrificed a piece early in the middle game to initiate an attack against the black king. The Indian was however up to the task in defense and returned the extra material back to maintain the dynamics. Lagno blundered on her 31st turn, handing the initiative to Vaishali who did not look back thereafter and coasted home after 45 moves.

Results final round (Indians unless stated): Tingjie Lei (Chn, 7.5) lost to Koneru Humpy (7.5); Kateryna Lagno (Fid, 6) lost to R Vaishali (7.5); Aleksandra Goryachkina (Fid, 7) drew with Nurgul Salimova (5.5); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 5.5) drew with Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 9).

When

Shilpa Shetty

Revealed How Being Called 'Home Breaker' Made Her Physically Ill



Shilpa Shetty Kundra is one of the leading names in Bollywood, famous for her fitness and energetic dance moves. Despite being such a huge star, her personal life has been under a lot of media scrutiny, especially after her marriage to businessman Raj Kundra, when she was accused of being a home breaker. Entrepreneur Raj Kundra and Shilpa Shetty tied the knot in February 2009, after dating for two years. Before the actress, Raj Kundra was married to the daughter of a businessman, Kavita. As per reports, after Raj's marriage to Shilpa, his ex-wife Kavita accused her of being a homebreaker. In an earlier interview, Kavita shared how she felt about her ex-husband's marriage to Shilpa. She claimed that when she was trying to sort their marriage, he only talked about Shilpa. In an interview with Hello Magazine, the actress commented on the accusations saying, "I'm no home wrecker. I made it clear to him that our relationship could go no further than friendship until he had his divorce," quoted by the Daily Mail. Speaking further, Shilpa revealed that the ordeal made her feel "physically ill" and it was the "worst thing possible". Shilpa Shetty was last seen in the Amazon Prime series, Indian Police Force. In this Rohit Shetty directorial, she was seen sharing the screen space with Sidharth Malhotra and Vivek Oberoi. Produced under the banners of Rohit Shetty Picturez and Reliance Entertainments, the show premiered on Amazon Prime on January 19.

Her next project is the Kannada film titled KD-The Devil, which is being made under the direction of Prem. The cast of the film includes Dhruva Sarja, Reeshma Nanaiah, Sanjay Dutt, Shilpa Shetty, Jisshu Sengupta and more. Suprith is producing the film under the banner of KVN Productions. Some of the Shilpa Shetty's superhit releases include films like Baazigar, Mai Khiladi Tu Anari, Dhadkan and many more.



Premalu 2 To Be Released In 2025: Fahadh Faasil



The Malayalam romantic superhit Premalu is gearing up for a sequel. The exciting news was shared by the makers of the film at the movie's success event. Released earlier this year, Premalu became one of the biggest Malayalam releases ever, garnering more than Rs 100 crore at the box office. As per the latest update, the blockbuster rom-com Premalu is set to have a sequel, titled Premalu 2. The director of the film Girish AD announced the news during Premalu's success party, which was held in Kochi on Saturday, the reports state. According to him, the audience will get to see "more fun and energy than Premalu". The film is set for release in 2025. One of the producers of the film, prominent actor Fahadh Faasil shared the announcement on his official Facebook handle. He wrote, "The Biggest RomCom blockbuster ever in Malayalam Cinema will be back in 2025! Let's Premalu 2." The actor attached an animated, announcement poster with the news. The film's Telugu distributor, SS Karthikeya took to his official X account to announce Premalu 2's Telugu release. He tweeted, "#Premalu was such a beautiful chapter in my life. I'm truly grateful to my Telugu audience for making it unforgettable. Big thanks to @BhavanaStudios for all the support and love. Excited and humbled to present #Premalu2 in Telugu, with even more love." Directed by Girish AD, Premalu was released on February 9, 2024. He co-wrote the film with Kiran Josey. The cast of the film includes Naslen K Gafoor, and Mamitha Baiju as the lead. They are supported by Sangeeth Prathap, Shyam Mohan and Akhila Bhargavan. It was produced by Fahadh Faasil, Dileesh Pothan and Syam Pushkaran under the banners of Bhavana Studios, Fahadh Faasil and Friends and Working Class Hero. The music in the film was composed by Vishnu Vijay, Ajmal Sabu did the cinematography and Akash Joseph Varghese was the editor. Made on a budget of Rs 3 crore, the film has collected more than Rs 136 crore at the box office.

Salaar Makers Give Fans A Chance To Win Prabhas' Bike



Actor Prabhas' action-packed film Salaar, released in December 2023, opened to mixed responses from the audience and the critics. However, the film amassed a staggering performance at the box office as it has minted over Rs 700 crore worldwide. In the film, Prabhas is seen riding a bike several times. Considering the interest and craze of the actor's fans and bike lovers, the makers of the film Hombale Films have initiated a giveaway campaign on social media platforms. In the giveaway campaign, the makers are offering Prabhas' bike to one lucky winner.

Sharing an image of the actor's character in the film, Hombale Films in collaboration with Salaar The Saga on Instagram shared a post with other crucial details. The caption of the post reads, "Here's your exclusive opportunity to win the same iconic motorcycle ridden by Rebel Star #Prabhas in #SalaarCeaseFire." Additionally, it also has directed the willing participants of the giveaway. The post further reads, "All you need to do is count the number of times the bike image/bug appears on the left of the screen during the movie from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. When the SMS lines open, send the SMS to 922211199 by typing SALAAR."

According to the makers, the SMS line will be open from 8 PM on April 21. The post also provides the link to the terms and conditions applied to the giveaway campaign. As per the reports, the bike, featured in the film, is a customised Royal Enfield. It was specially crafted by the well-known motorcycle customisation workshop, Eimor Customs, located in Hyderabad. The customisation was made based on the components from the older generation Thunderbird motorcycle. As the film was based on the backdrop of the 1970s, the vintage look of the bike helped to recreate the era. Meanwhile, Prabhas is preparing for two major projects The Rajasaab and Kalki 2898 AD. As per the reports, the science fiction thriller Kalki 2898 AD includes a stellar cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Disha Patani, and Deepika Padukone, marking it as one of the highly anticipated films of the year.

Kareena Kapoor

Shares Photos On Mother Babita's Birthday, Taimur And Jeh Make Cards For Granny; See Here

Kareena Kapoor's mother and veteran actress Babita is celebrating her birthday today. She has been getting wishes from all corners. Well, the special wish came from Taimur and Jeh as they made a handmade card for their granny. Kareena also shared an old photo to wish her birthday. Taking to her Instagram handle, Kareena shared a series of photos and wrote, "Happy birthday to our world ???? ??" In the first photo, we see Taimur making a card and in the second, the card is visible which has a long list of wishes. In the third photo, Jeh is also making a card and it is simple with stickers. In the last, Babita is seen posing with Kareena and Randhir Kapoor is also seen in the background. Kareena Kapoor Khan starred in Crew with Tabu and Kriti Sanon. It is an all-female lead film, directed by Rajesh A Krishnan, has managed to earn Rs 43.75 crore in India till its seventh day. On the other hand, its worldwide collection stands at Rs 82 crore so far. Notably, the film witnessed a smooth landing at the box-office with a collection of Rs 62.53 crore worldwide. As reported Kareena Kapoor Khan is all set to star in Toxic co-starring Yash. It has now been claimed that Kareena will play the role of Yash's sister. It is also claimed that she has a powerful role in the film. If the report is true, this will mark Kareena's first Kannada film. A source told Times Now, "It is basically a brother-sister story with Yash and Kareena playing inseparable siblings. The director was keen to have Kareena on board in Toxic from the inception of the project. Negotiations were on. Everyone presumed Kareena was being brought into the project as Yash's leading lady when in fact Kareena was offered a far more powerful role. She has never been seen like this before." Meanwhile, it is also rumoured that Shruti Haasan could play the lead role.

