



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Indian-origin married man kills girlfriend in Singapore, gets 20 years in jail

Singapore. An Indian-origin married man was sentenced to 20 years in jail on Monday for culpable homicide not amounting to murdering his girlfriend for having relationships with other men. Upset about her relationships with other men, M Krishnan punched and kicked Mallika Begum Rahamansa Abdul Rahman, 40, who died on January 17, 2019. Krishnan, 40, pleaded guilty in the High Court last week, "TODAY" newspaper reported on Monday. Justice Valerie Thean noted that Krishnan had promised he was a reformed individual in 2018 in his mitigation (for another offence of abusing police officers), but continued to abuse his wife and girlfriend.

She also noted during the sentencing that although Krishnan's intermittent explosive disorder had some contribution to his violent actions, alcohol had also influenced the way he acted. Justice Thean added that even though he was diagnosed with the disorder after the offence, "the accused knew he was susceptible to showing his temper in socially unacceptable ways" through his past brushes with the law. Saying that she could not overlook his repeated domestic abuse against women, the judge sentenced Krishnan to 20 years in jail.

For culpable homicide not amounting to murder, the maximum penalty is life imprisonment and caning, or a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine or caning. In November 2015, Krishnan's wife caught him and his girlfriend drinking alcohol in the master bedroom of their marital home. Upset, she uttered vulgarities at Krishnan and he then punched her in the face, before grabbing a whisky bottle. Afraid that he would hurl the bottle at her, the wife apologised and later, obtained a personal police protection order against him. Krishnan and Mallika continued their relationship all this while up until her death. During their time together, Krishnan hit Mallika at least once in 2017 "over a trivial matter", court documents stated. The abuse intensified at the start of 2019 after Mallika admitted to having sexual relations with several men, including when Krishnan was in jail in 2018, according to TODAY's report. On January 15, 2019, Krishnan kicked and slapped Mallika in the face, punched her in the ribs and kicked her in the thigh.

Peruvian woman dies by euthanasia after long fight for 'death with dignity'

Lima. A Peruvian psychologist who suffered from an incurable disease that weakened her muscles and had her confined to her bed for several years, died by euthanasia, her lawyer said on Monday, becoming the first person in the country to obtain the right to die with medical assistance. Ana Estrada fought for years in Peruvian courts for the right to die with dignity, and became a celebrity in the conservative country where euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal. In 2022, Estrada was granted an exception by the nation's Supreme Court, which upheld a ruling by a lower court that gave her the right to decide when to end her life, and said that those who helped her would not be punished.

Estrada became the first person to obtain the right to die with medical assistance in Peru. "Ana's struggle for her right to die with dignity has helped to educate thousands of Peruvians about this right and the importance of defending it," her lawyer, Josefina Miro Quesada, said in a statement. "Her struggle transcended our nation's borders." Estrada, 47, suffered from polymyositis, a disease that wastes away muscles and has no cure. She began to present the first symptoms as a teenager and started to use a wheelchair at the age of 20 because she had lost the strength to walk. Despite these obstacles, Estrada obtained a psychology degree and became a therapist. She earned enough money to buy her own apartment and became independent from her parents. By 2017, however, Estrada's condition worsened, and she could no longer get up from her bed.

She had difficulty breathing and survived pneumonia. And even though she could not type, Estrada used transcription software to produce a blog called "Ana for a death with dignity", where she discussed her struggles and her decision to seek euthanasia. "I am no longer free," she said in an interview with the Associated Press in 2018. "I am not the same person I was before. With the help of Peru's Human Rights Ombudsman, Estrada won a lawsuit that gave her the right to die through euthanasia. From her bed, she participated in court sessions through video conferences. Estrada told judges in 2022 that she valued life, and did not want to die immediately, but wanted to have the freedom to decide when to end her life. "I want to accede to euthanasia when I can no longer sustain suffering in life," she said. "And when I decide to bid farewell to my loved ones in peace and with tranquillity."

Trump orchestrated criminal scheme, claims prosecutor in hush money trial

On the first day of Donald Trump's criminal hush money trial, prosecutors said that the former US President broke the law and corrupted the 2016 election by trying to cover up sexual encounters with a porn star and a Playboy model, while his defence lawyer rejected the charges, saying Trump committed no crime. Prosecutor Matthew Colangelo, who presented his statement in New York Court on Monday, said that the case is "about conspiracy of fraud" and "The defendant, Donald Trump, orchestrated a criminal scheme to corrupt the 2016 presidential election." "This was a planned, long-running conspiracy to influence the 2016 election, to help Donald Trump get elected through illegal expenditures to silence people who had something bad to say about his behaviour... It was election fraud, pure and simple," news agency Associated Press quoted Colangelo.

Trump's lawyer, Todd Blanche, arguing against the charges, said "President Trump is innocent. President Trump did not commit any crimes. The Manhattan district attorney's office should never have brought this case". The case is related to the payment of hush money of \$130,000 (Over Rs 1 core) to porn star Stormy Daniels before the 2016 presidential election, to keep quiet about a sexual encounter she says they had 10 years earlier.. Donald Trump faces charges of falsifying business records to conceal the payment.

Elon Musk calls Australian court ruling against X terror posts 'censorship'

Tech magnate Elon Musk has lashed out at the Australian PM after a court ordered his social media company X to take down footage of a terrorist attack in Sydney.

Sydney. Elon Musk lashed out at Australia's prime minister on Tuesday after a court ordered his social media company X to take down footage of an alleged terrorist attack in Sydney, and said the ruling meant any country could control "the entire internet". At a hearing

overnight, Australia's Federal Court ordered X, formerly called Twitter, to temporarily hide posts showing video of the incident a week earlier, in which a teenager was charged with terrorism for knifing an Assyrian priest and others. X said it had already blocked the posts from Australian users, but Australia's e-Safety Commissioner had said the content should be taken down since it showed explicit violence. Billionaire Musk, who bought X in 2022 with a declared mission to save free speech, posted a meme on the platform that showed X stood for "free speech and truth" while other social media platforms represented "censorship and propaganda". "Don't take my word for it, just ask the Australian PM!" he wrote alongside the post. In another post, Musk wrote that the company's "concern is that if ANY country is allowed to censor content for ALL countries, which is what the Australian eSafety Commissioner is demanding, then what is to stop any country from controlling the entire



Internet?" The pushback by the world's third-richest person sets up a new front in the battle between the platform he paid \$44 billion for and countries and nonprofits seeking more oversight of its content. Last month, a US judge threw out a lawsuit by X against the hate speech watchdog, Center for Countering Digital Hate. In Australia, the e-Safety Commissioner fined X A\$610,500 last year for failing to cooperate with a probe on anti-child abuse practices; X is fighting that penalty in court. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hit back at

Musk, saying the country would "do what's necessary to take on this arrogant billionaire who thinks he's above the law, but also above common decency".

"The idea that someone would go to court for the right to put up violent content on a platform shows how out-of-touch Mr Musk is," Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Spokespeople for X and the e-Safety Commissioner were not immediately available for comment.

Although Musk wrote in another post that X had made the attack footage "inaccessible to Australian IP addresses", a Reuters reporter in Australia was able to view the content. "Pro-terror materials are a particularly strange hill to die on, but fits the company's chaotic and negligent approach to the most basic user safety considerations that under previous leadership, the platform used to take seriously," said Alice Dawkins, executive director of internet policy non-profit Reset. Tech Australia.

UK Parliament approves Rwanda deportation bill after weeks of stalemate

London. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's latest effort to send some migrants to Rwanda finally won approval from Parliament early Tuesday, hours after he pledged deportation flights would begin in July. The parliamentary logjam that had stalled the legislation for two months was finally broken just after midnight when the unelected House of Lords "recognized the primacy" of the elected House of Commons and dropped the last of its proposed amendments, clearing the way for the bill to become law. Earlier in the day, Sunak held a rare morning press conference to demand that the Lords stop blocking his key proposal for ending the tide of migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats, promising that both houses of Parliament would remain in session until it was approved. The legislative stalemate was just the latest hurdle to delay implementation of a plan that has been repeatedly blocked by a series of court rulings and opposition from human rights activists who say it is

illegal and inhumane. Migrant advocates have vowed to continue the fight against it. "For almost two years, our opponents have used every trick in the book to block fights and keep the boats coming," Sunak told reporters Monday morning in London. "But enough is enough. No more prevarication, no more delay." The government plans to deport to Rwanda some of those who enter the United Kingdom illegally as a deterrent to migrants who risk their lives in leaky, inflatable boats in hopes that they will be able to claim asylum once they reach Britain. Despite Parliament's approval of the legislation, further court challenges may still delay the deportation flights, said Tim Bale, a politics professor at Queen Mary University of London. "I don't think it is necessarily home and dry," he said. "We will see some attempts to block deportations legally." Sunak has staked his political future to the deportation flights, making a pledge to "stop the boats" a key part of his pitch to voters as opinion polls show that his

Conservative Party trails far behind the Labour Party ahead of a general election later this year. Next week's local elections are seen as a barometer for how the parties will fare in the general election.

The debate in Britain comes as countries throughout Western Europe and North America look for ways to slow the rising number of migrants as war, climate change and political oppression force people from their homes. Small boat crossings are a potent political issue in Britain, where they are seen as evidence of the government's failure to control immigration.

The number of migrants arriving in Britain on small boats soared to 45,774 in 2022 from just 299 four years earlier as people seeking refuge pay criminal gangs thousands of pounds to ferry them across the channel. Last year, small boat arrivals dropped to 29,437 as the government cracked down on people smugglers and reached an agreement to return Albanians to their home country.

US man pinned underwater by alligator, survives attack with broken arm

world. Out of air and pinned by an alligator to the bottom of the Cooper River in South Carolina, Will Georgitis decided his only chance to survive might be to lose his arm. The alligator had fixed his jaws around Georgitis' arm and after he tried to escape by stabbing it with the screwdriver he uses to pry fossilised shark teeth off the riverbed, the gator shook the diver and dragged him 50 feet (15 meters) down, Georgitis told The Post and Courier. The alligator attacked Georgitis on April 15 as he surfaced from his dive, nearly out of air. His tank emptied with the gator's jaws crushing the arm he put up in defense. Georgitis figured he had one last chance. "I put my feet up against him and just launched back as hard as I possibly could and somehow ripped my arm out and not off,"

Georgitis told ABC's Good Morning America. Georgitis frantically swam to a friend's waiting boat and was taken to shore and the hospital. His arm was broken, and he needed "a ton" of staples to close up the wounds from the alligator's teeth, he said. There are probably several surgeries and six months of recovery. His family has set up a page on GoFundMe to raise money to pay his medical bills. "Every moment from here on out is a blessing to me," Georgitis told Good Morning America. Georgitis frequently dives looking for shark teeth and other fossils in the waters around Charleston. He has been to the spot where he was attacked, at least 30 times and, while he has seen alligators before, they are usually sunning the back or stayed back far away. He was

stunned that this one made a beeline for him as soon as he surfaced. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is aware of the attack and is investigating.

South Carolina has about 100,000 alligators, which are federally protected species and have strict rules about when they can be removed or killed, wildlife officials said. Attacks are rare and usually take place on land when alligators attack pets or someone falls into a pond. South Carolina has had at least six fatal alligator attacks since 2016. A 550-pound (250-kilogram) alligator attacked and tore off the arm of a snorkeler in 2007 in Lake Moultrie. He staggered to shore looking for help and five nurses at a picnic were able to give him first aid until paramedics arrived.

Mass arrests, online classes: Pro-Palestine protests sweep US college campuses

New York. Columbia canceled in-person classes, dozens of protesters were arrested at New York University and Yale, and the gates to Harvard Yard were closed to the public on Monday as some of the most prestigious US universities sought to defuse campus tensions over Israel's war with Hamas. The various actions followed the arrest last week of more than 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had camped out on Columbia's green, as schools struggle with where to draw the line between allowing free expression while maintaining a safe and inclusive campus. In addition to the demonstrations at the Ivy League schools, pro-Palestinian encampments have sprouted up on other campuses, including at the University of Michigan, New York University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In a statement on Instagram on Monday, New York University officials warned protesters to clear the plaza by 4 pm or face consequences. Mass arrests began around 8.30 pm. The protests have pitted students against one another, with pro-Palestinian students demanding that their schools condemn Israel's assault on Gaza

and divest from companies that sell weapons to Israel. Some Jewish students, meanwhile, say much of the criticism of Israel has veered into antisemitism and made them feel unsafe, and they point out that Hamas is still holding hostages taken during the group's Oct. 7 invasion. Tensions remained high Monday at Columbia in New York City, where the campus gates were locked to anyone without a school ID and where protests broke out both on campus and outside. US Rep. Kathy Manning, a Democrat from North Carolina who was visiting Columbia with three other Jewish members of Congress, told reporters after meeting with students from the Jewish Law Students Association that there was "an enormous encampment of people" who had taken up about a third of the green. "We saw signs indicating that Israel should be destroyed," she said after leaving the Morningside Heights campus. A woman inside the campus gates led about two dozen protesters on the street outside in a chant of, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" — a charged phrase that can mean vastly different



things to different groups. Meanwhile, a small group of pro-Israel counter demonstrators protested nearby. University President Minouche Shafik said in a message to the school community Monday that she was "deeply saddened" by what was happening on campus. "To deescalate the rancor and give us all a chance to consider next steps, I am announcing that all classes will be held virtually on Monday," Shafik wrote, noting that students who don't live on campus should stay away. Robert Kraft, who owns the New England Patriots football team and funded the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life across from Columbia's campus, said he was

suspending donations to the university. "I am no longer confident that Columbia can protect its students and staff and I am not comfortable supporting the university until corrective action is taken," he said in a statement. Protests have roiled many college campuses since Hamas' deadly attack on southern Israel, when militants killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took roughly 250 hostages. During the ensuing war, Israel has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the local health ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and non-combatants but says at least two-thirds of the dead are children and women. Prahlad Iyengar, an MIT graduate student studying electrical engineering, was among two dozen students who set up a tent encampment on the school's Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus Sunday evening. They are calling for a cease-fire and are protesting what they describe as MIT's "complicity in the ongoing genocide in Gaza," he said. "MIT has not even called for a cease-fire, and that's a demand."

Delhi Court Extends Judicial Custody Of Arvind Kejriwal, K Kavitha Till May 7



RNS I New Delhi: Delhi Rouse Avenue Court today extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha till May 7th, in connection with the money laundering case linked to the now scrapped Delhi excise policy. Special judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court directed the Tihar jail authori-

ties to produce both Mr. Kejriwal and Kavitha through virtual conferencing on May 7th at 2 PM. The court's decision comes a day after it rejected the Aam Aadmi Party leader's plea seeking to allow him 15-minutes of medical consultation with his doctor daily in the presence of his wife Sunita Kejriwal. Arvind Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 by the

Enforcement Directorate after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the central agency. Kavitha, a Telangana MLC and daughter of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, was arrested on March 15 by the ED. She was later arrested by the CBI while she was in judicial custody.

Successful Test Of New Variant Of Medium-Range Ballistic Missile



RNS: A successful launch of the new variant of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command today.



Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the user launch has proven the operational capability of the Command and validated new technologies.

CCL to hold free cardiac medical camp on 26 April

RNS I Ranchi: A free cardiac medical camp, known as the Cardiac Clinic, is scheduled to be held at CCL Central Hospital on Gandhinagar, Kanke Road, Ranchi, on 26 April, starting at 9 am. The primary objective of the camp is to offer medical assistance to residents of Jharkhand who are grappling with heart ailments, with a special emphasis on providing free medical consultations. The camp will feature the presence of esteemed physician Dr. Rajiv Rathi, a Senior Interventional Cardiologist from Max Super Specialty Hospital in New Delhi, who will be available to examine patients and provide medical guidance. Patients are encouraged to bring any past treatment reports or test results for a more thorough evaluation. CCL, under the stewardship



of CMD Dr. B. Veera Reddy, is committed to delivering medical services to all sections of society, including employees and stakeholders. To uphold this commitment, CCL routinely organizes health camps featuring distinguished expert doctors from around the nation. These camps are designed to offer modern treatment facilities for critical illnesses to underprivileged families, ensuring that a larger number of people can access and benefit from these services.

Students should get serious about their studies: Das



RNS I Bokaro: An induction program marked the beginning of the new session for class 11th at DAV Public School Sector-6 Bokaro. The event was attended by newly admitted students, parents, and teachers from various faculties. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp and rendition of the DAV school song. Jhuma Chakraborty and Akhilesh Kumar presented a welcome song. Addressing the students and parents, Principal Brij Mohan Lal Das emphasized the importance of students taking their studies seriously, especially in the classroom. He stated that education is not just about studying but also about achieving success in every aspect of life. The objective of the induction program was to provide parents with detailed information about the academic and extracurricular activities planned for the new session 2024-25 and to familiarize new students with their new environment. The program was conducted by Neha, and the vote of thanks was delivered by senior teacher Jhanvi Banerjee. Senior teachers from the commerce faculty, including Nagendra Prasad, Gautam Nag, Vishal Modi, Jhanvi Banerjee, Jyoti Bala, Sunita Kumari, and Amit Anand, as well as senior teachers from the commerce faculty, Bhonlalach Swain and B.K. Jha, and from the arts faculty, Swaroop Kumar Nath and Rajesh Kumar Manoj, were present. Additionally, teachers Mishra, Akhilesh Kumar, Akhilesh Mishra, Prashant Kumar, Kumar Samresh, and technical expert Shyambhushan Srivastava, along with all the teachers, parents, and students, attended the event.

Chinmaya Mission Bokaro Celebrates Hanuman Jayanti Mahotsav with Reverence



RNS I Bokaro: The Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm at Chinmaya Mission Bokaro, located at Janavrit 5. The residential Acharya of the Mission, His Holiness Swamini Sanyukta Nanda Saraswati, conducted the worship of Pawanputra Hanuman Lala. During the event, Swamini Ji led a large gathering of devotees in reciting the Hanuman Chalisa 11 times in unison to soothing music. The devotees also chanted the 108 names of Shri Hanumanji and prayed

for the wellbeing of the world. Swamini Sanyukta Nanda ji discussed the various forms and attributes of Hanuman ji, emphasizing the spiritual significance of chanting the Hanuman Chalisa. She highlighted that worshipping Hanumanji is akin to worshipping Lord Shri Ram, as Hanumanji is a devoted and enthusiastic follower of Lord Ram. Regular worship and recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa are believed to bring strength, intelligence, humility, and

divine power. Swamini Ji stressed that chanting the Hanuman Chalisa or Hanuman Mantra can bring mental peace and stability, promoting happiness and enthusiasm in life. In the morning, Chinmaya Vidyalaya organized a recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa. Following the worship rituals and offering flowers with utmost devotion, Prasad was distributed to all the devotees, marking the conclusion of the celebrations.

DRDO develops lightest bullet proof jacket for protection against highest threat Level 6 of BIS



RNS: DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition. Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018. This jacket is based upon new design ap-

proach, where novel material along with new processes have been used. The front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) of this jacket defeats multiple hits (06 shots) of 7.62 x 54 R API (Sniper rounds) in both ICW (In-conjunction with) and Standalone design. The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort

during the operation. The areal density of ICW Hard Armour Panel (HAP) and standalone HAP is less than 40 kg/m² and 43 kg/m² respectively. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO has congratulated DMSRDE for the successful development of this lightest bullet proof jacket for protection against highest threat level.

Eleven Candidates File Nominations in Jharkhand for LC Poll 2024

RNS: All total eleven candidates filed their nominations for upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Jharkhand. Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar provided updates on the nominations for the upcoming elections in Jharkhand. On Tuesday, a total of 11 candidates submitted their nomination papers. According to Kumar, on April 23, four nomination forms were purchased in Singhbhum, four in Khunti, seven in Lohardaga, and five in Palamu. Of these, three candidates filed nominations from Singhbhum, two from Khunti, three from Lohardaga, and three from Palamu. With these latest filings, the total number of candidates contesting in the fourth phase of elections in Jharkhand has reached 21. During the press conference, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Neha Arora was also present to provide additional information.

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- Wear long clothing

Kolkata STF Foils 26/11-Like Incident, Apprehends Man Conducting Recce Around Abhishek Banerjee's House, Office

Kolkata Police Special Task Force arrested a man for allegedly conducting recce around the residence and office of TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee.

New Delhi: Kolkata Police Special Task Force (STF) on Monday apprehended a man for allegedly conducting recce around the residence and office of Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee. This development comes days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) is conspiring against the top brass of TMC, she said that 'we are not safe.'

According to the police, the arrested individual has been identified as Rajaram Rege, who is linked to a political party in Maharashtra. He attempted to contact the Diamond Harbour MP of TMC and his personal assistant. As per Zee news TV report, Rege stayed at a Mumbai hotel for over 2 days.

A Situation Resembling The 26/11, Averted: TMC Leader Derek O'Brien

While talking to the press, TMC leader Derek O'Brien commended the Kolkata Police for nabbing the suspect before the "plot" was executed. "Today, a situation resembling the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack has been thwarted, all thanks to the Kolkata Police. The target was the national general secretary of the Trinamool Congress, Abhishek Banerjee. The person detained had ties to the Mumbai terror attack too. The police possess ample evidence suggesting that he also



reached out to certain individuals," he said in a press conference. In a scathing attack on the opposition in West Bengal, O'Brien said that BJP's political bankruptcy has driven them to these despicable acts. He added that the

Bhartiya Janta Party cannot fight against TMC politically, so they have sorted out such acts.

He also mentioned Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu

Adhikari's remark from Saturday, where he said a "huge explosion" would shatter the top brass of the TMC on Monday. A video clip of Adhikari's comment was played in the press conference. Investigation Underway Additional Commissioner of Police Murlidhar Sharma asserted that Rege had previously convened with David Headley, the prime suspect in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. He added that the individual has been taken to Kolkata and an investigation into the matter is underway.

"Today our officers arrested Rajaram Rege from Mumbai. He had visited Kolkata last week, stayed here, and conducted a recce of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's offices and residence. He obtained the mobile phone numbers of Banerjee and his PA and tried to contact them," reported PTI quoting the officer. Sharma further said that the recce and the meeting with 26/11 suspect indicates a potential for an event akin to Mumbai terror attack and suggested the possibility of a significant conspiracy.

As per PTI's report, the police are trying to get CCTV footage of the hotel that Rege checked-in to examine his movements, the police are also checking whether he was in the city to organise any political rally or not.

PM Modi 'a new Putin in making', does nothing but criticise: Sharad Pawar

NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that he fears "a new Putin is in the making in India."



New Delhi: NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that he fears "a new Putin is in the making in India." Pawar alleged PM Modi was trying to create fear and emulating Russian President Vladimir Putin. Sharad Pawar claimed that former prime ministers worked to make a new India but PM Modi only criticises others and doesn't speak about what his

government has done for the people in the last ten years. "Instead of telling what the Central government did in the last ten years, he (Modi) keeps criticising others," Sharad Pawar said. We fear that a new Putin is in the making in India", he added. Sharad Pawar, addressing a campaign rally in Amravati for a Maha Vikas Aghadi candidate, said former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution to the country

cannot be questioned. He claimed some BJP leaders had spoken publicly about changing the Constitution and appealed to the people to not allow autocracy to take shape in India. "After Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I saw the work of almost all PMs ranging from Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Narasimha Rao to Manmohan Singh. Their efforts were to make a new India, but the incumbent PM only criticises," Pawar said.

He said that no one in history can forget the contribution of former PM Jawaharlal Nehru, but the prime minister (Modi) continuously criticises him. A high-profile poll battle is shaping up in the Amravati Lok Sabha constituency where the BJP has fielded Navneet Rana, the sitting MP who won the 2019 polls as an Independent candidate, against Balwant Wankhede of Congress.

Jijaji Ki Nazar...": Smriti Irani Mocks Rahul Gandhi Amid Amethi Pick Buzz



New Delhi: With the Congress yet to announce its candidate in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, sitting BJP MP Smriti Irani has taken a swipe at Rahul Gandhi and his brother-in-law Robert Vadra, and claimed that she ensured more work in the constituency in five years than Mr Gandhi did in 15. The remarks come after Mr Vadra sparked speculation that he may contest the Amethi seat, a Congress stronghold where Ms Irani won in 2019. Amethi votes on May 20 in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls. "Jijaji ki nazar hai, saale sahab kya kareng. (brother-in-law is eyeing the seat, what will he (Mr Gandhi) do?) There was a time when people travelling in buses would leave their handkerchief to mark their seat so that no one sits on it. Rahul Gandhi will also come to mark his seat with a handkerchief because his brother-in-law is eyeing this seat," she told a gathering in Amethi.

"Has this ever happened? Just 27 days left for election, but Congress has not announced its candidate. Such arrogance. What I could do in five years, Rahul Gandhi could not do in 15," Ms Irani added. Before she defeated Mr Gandhi in the 2019 election, he had represented Amethi for three terms in a row. The seat has been represented in the past by his parents Sonia Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and uncle, late Sanjay Gandhi, and was once considered a bastion of the Congress. Mr Gandhi, who is contesting from Kerala's Wayanad, was recently asked if he would be Congress's candidate in Amethi too. "I will do whatever the party orders me," he replied. Earlier, Mr Vadra sparked a buzz when he said that the people of Amethi feel that if he contests there, "they'll have the option of correcting their mistake of electing Smritiji". "I am sure they will ensure my victory by a huge margin if I contest," he said. Wayanad is voting on April 26 and the last date of filing nomination for the Amethi Lok Sabha seat is May 3. This means Mr Gandhi can announce his nomination after the polling in Wayanad.

Ms Irani's campaign, meanwhile, is in full swing. She has alleged that Mr Gandhi will come to Amethi after April 26 and try to divide people in the name of caste.

Karnataka Government To Hand Over Student Murder Case To CID: Siddaramaiah

Shivamogga: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said his government has decided to hand over the Hubballi student murder case to the Crime Investigation Department and set up a special court for its speedy disposal. Neha Hiremath (23), daughter of Congress Councillor of Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation Niranjana Hiremath, was stabbed to death on the campus of BVB College on Thursday. The accused Fayaz Khondunai, who fled from the scene, was arrested by the police subsequently. Neha Hiremath was a first-year Master of Computer Application (MCA) student and Fayaz was earlier her classmate.



The Hubballi incident, we have decided to give it to the CID. We will set up a special court for it. Charge sheet has to be filed in a time-bound manner and the case has to be disposed of, so a special court (will be constituted)," Siddaramaiah told reporters, adding, "I strongly condemn Neha's murder." Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said the CID will submit its report in 12 days. "The CID team will go to Hubballi today and take over the case from the district police," the minister said.

He said some people have suspected the involvement of more people. "Whatever the case may be, the CID will investigate and submit its report in 10 to 12 days. We have set this deadline. They cannot take months together to investigate it. I am confident that the parents of the victim will get justice and the truth will come out," Dr G Parameshwara said. Meanwhile, in response to a question, the chief minister said, "I have not been able to go to her (parent's) residence. Our district

in-charge minister and party workers had gone. Also H K Patil (Law Minister) is going. I will go when I go there (Hubballi)." Siddaramaiah said cases of crime have come down during Congress rule. "In 2023 (Congress rule) it was 1,295 (crime cases), from 2019-2022 during four years of BJP it was -- 1,300, 1,318, 1,342, 1,370 respectively," he said.

The murder case, which has sparked widespread outrage, snowballed into a political slugfest between ruling Congress and opposition BJP. While the ruling party says the motive for the murder was personal, the saffron party has labelled it a case of "love jihad", and claimed it stands as a testimony to the alleged deterioration of law and order in the state. BJP's student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and other organisations aligned to Hindutva outfits have staged protests demanding justice and calling for severe punishment for the accused. Similar protests have been reported in various other places. Home Minister Parameshwara accused the BJP of stooping low in their statements against him and the chief minister with regard to the case.

Arvind Kejriwal given insulin in Tihar Jail after sugar level rises: Sources

This was the first first dose of insulin administered to the Delhi Chief Minister after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21.

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is a Type-2 Diabetes patient, was given insulin in Tihar Jail after his sugar level spiked to 320. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sources said on Tuesday. This came a day after the jailed Chief Minister claimed that the prison administration's recent statement on his health was false amid the "denied insulin" row. The sources told India Today TV that this was the first insulin dosage administered to the jailed Chief Minister, who has high blood sugar levels, after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in connection to a money laundering case linked to the Delhi liquor policy case. The AAP supremo is currently under judicial custody at the Tihar Jail till April 23, when the next hearing will take place.

Further confirming the development, a Tihar Jail source told India Today TV

that two units of insulin was given to Kejriwal on Monday evening after a doctor from AIIMS advised the prison administration to administer a dosage if absolutely necessary. The AAP chief used to take 50 units of insulin on a daily basis when he was not in jail. Earlier on Monday, Kejriwal, in a letter to the Superintendent of Tihar, said that he had been requesting insulin as his glucose metre reading had a "dangerous" range between 250 and 320. He asserted that the jail administration was lying about his health due to "political pressure".

The Tihar Jail source further said that Arvind Kejriwal also met his wife Sunita on Monday at the prison premises. On April 20, doctors from AIIMS provided a 40-minute consultation to the AAP supremo on Saturday, during which he was assured of no serious health concerns and was advised to continue taking



the prescribed medicines, a prison source had said earlier. During the consultation, which was organised on the request of Kejriwal's wife, the Chief Minister's complete record of the Glucose Monitoring Sensor, as well as details of his diet and

medicines were also checked, the source added. The insulin issue, however, was neither raised by Kejriwal nor suggested by the doctors during the video consultation, the source noted. On Tuesday, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that

since the time the Chief Minister's arrest, the latter has said "over and over again" that his blood sugar level crossed the 300-level and was not provided with any insulin. "In order to put Arvind Kejriwal in trouble, deliberately through conspiracies there is an attempt has been made to harm him. Today the BJP and the Central government stand completely exposed. After the court's order, when the AIIMS specialist saw him (Kejriwal), then insulin was provided," he added.

The insulin row further escalated after the Enforcement Directorate alleged last week that Kejriwal had been eating mangoes, aloo puri and sweets daily in an effort to raise his blood sugar level and create a ground for a medical bail. His lawyer countered the allegations saying he only had mangoes thrice in jail and consumed aloo puri as a Navratra prasad.

Memories that food triggers

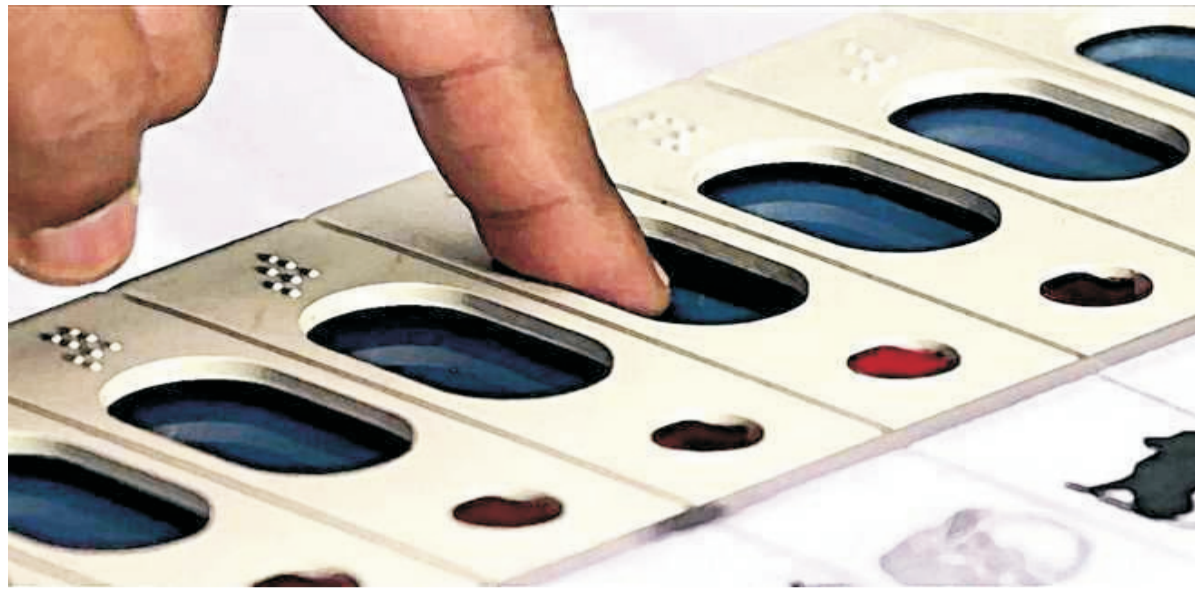
Travelling around, one has had good food, terrible food, excellent food and strange food. Also, 'food' that should not be called food. Years ago, when Hong Kong had just gone back to China, tired after travel, we searched high and we searched low for a vegetarian meal. None seemed to be forthcoming and we settled for bread and jam. At least that was available. That was a minor adventure. That was a far-off place. Let's come closer home and to some other minor forays into uncharted gastronomic territory. Places that are relatively free of the 'edible menace'. At a small dhaba in Spiti, one asked for thupka, which was something that one was familiar with and fond of. The soup was a generous dose of red chilli powder stirred in tepid water with an afterthought of noodles. At another time, in the village of Janjheli, tucked in the inner hills around Mandi, another dhaba offered meat in rajma. The thought of mutton cooked in kidney beans sounded deliciously exotic, but the result that arrived in a steel bowl was a disappointment — the flavour of both had been lost. This was no fusion, this was more like culinary fission. Janjheli, home of that rare meal of rajma-meat, like other parts of the Mandi parliamentary constituency, is going to see a fair bit of activity in the coming weeks. There is another place in another district that also witnesses its share of action, and is one where election hopefuls go to seek blessings of the divine. The temple of Baglamata lies near the little village of Bankhandi in the district of Kangra. It is nestled in a dip by an ancient peepal tree and the highway takes a long sweeping bend around it. Symbolic of the colour associated with the goddess, this is painted a bright yellow. Enshrined at various places around India, Baglamukhi is considered the eighth of the 10 Mahavidhyas, the 'Great Goddesses of Wisdom'. In belief, she holds the cudgel that dispels and destroys a believer's illusions — this great power can also destroy enmity. It is widely believed that Baglamata's blessings bring victory in elections and without them, there is no mandate. It was three decades ago in an old Ambassador car that a driver, who seemed to know every cow and goat in every village, took us to Bankhandi. My sister and I were taking what would perhaps be the last trip of just the two of us. After this, there would be spouses, children, the roll call of responsibility and a separation of several thousand miles. We would be lucky if we met once a year and talked about the weather and compared the noses and teeth of children who were now cousins; discussed whose jaw had originated with which grandfather. As we knew then, our parents would soon be gone and the bonds of the time when we were inseparable could loosen. We knew and did not speak of it, but this trip was to be the last chapter of what remained of childhood.

We rattled past the earth and stone walls covered with bright bracts of bougainvillea; we walked by banyans that proclaimed sacred domains. Karam Singh, the driver, had worked everything out for us; we were friends now. Ten days of companionship had taken care of that. He was the older one and he decided whom we would meet and where we would eat. Apart from a brief and passing delusion, one has had no plans of entering politics. Going to the temple of Baglamata was simply for darshan and lunch at this temple, that lies on the road between the village of Dehra and the town of Dharamsala.

In belief, Baglamata, the goddess at Bankhandi, is a Vaishnavi who shuns meat and animal sacrifices. We had been to the main temple and to the smaller one that enshrined a large Shivalinga. By the side is the temple's bhandara or storeroom. Smoke was wafting out of the windows and in the darkened haze of the room, a wood fire burned. We took our shoes off outside and were given our places on low wooden stools. Partly squatting and partly sitting, we watched in silence as the fresh corn flour was kneaded and the ball flattened by hand to make a small roti, which was then whirled into position to join the other half a dozen over the large griddle.

Magic moments of India's first election

Have we frittered away the wealth of civilised innocence of a nation for the mockery of hustings as they have come to pass



I was at home on winter vacation in a mofussil town of Punjab, where my father was posted as the Deputy Commissioner, and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was scheduled to address an election rally in the last week of December 1951. Here I was to witness the diligent administrator, criss-crossing his district from dawn to dusk, ensuring that all his subordinate revenue functionaries down to the patwari and the police constabulary at each thana understood the import of the historic change-in-the-making, and their onerous responsibility to maintain peace for free and fair polling. The PM's motor cavalcade was late by an hour and the crowd of several thousand peasants was becoming restive. However, the moment Nehru, in a brown woollen achkan and white churidar, mounted the podium, the audience fell into instant reverential silence. Though I was privileged to sit on one of the few chairs upon the rostrum, I too was so mesmerised in the shadow of the great man that I registered not a word of his speech.

I concluded, asking the audience to arise and join him in a full-throated chorus of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai Ho', three times over! And that chant persisted for at least the next half hour, till the last of the gathering had dispersed!

Perhaps an unparalleled episode which captures the magic moments of India's first election comes from the book 'The Vanishing Indian Tiger: Diary of a Forest Officer', edited and gifted to us by the late Vice Admiral MP Awati. A Divisional Forest Officer posted in the interiors of Madhya Pradesh had set out on a 106-

km-long bumpy ride over a dirt track to establish a polling booth in Pathera village, along with one clerk,

two unarmed police constables and a sealed ballot box.

The district revenue authorities had alerted the headman of the village to expect the DFO's party. So, all the 20 huts had been given a fresh coat of mud and lime-wash for the big day. At the weekly market in their vicinity, the villagers had even acquired three national flags which were already aflutter, one each atop the hut of the headman and over the two huts vacated for the election party and the election booth! By 10 am the next morning, the entire village of about 60 persons of all ages had gathered outside the election booth. With utter humility and solemnity, the womenfolk first applied kum-kum on the ballot box and then garlanded it! The DFO then called out the 12 eligible listed voters and explained the object of the election, who the candidates were, what they stood for and the significance of their vote. Of course, we shall never know what passed through their minds but when the last ballot was cast by 11.30 am, they all arose in unison and led by the headman returned to their huts, cheerfully chorusing aloud, 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai Ho'.

Two days later, the sealed ballot box was matter-of-factly deposited at the district headquarters' treasury.

Fear of the other

As democracy begins its dance, xenophobia begins to peak — as do various other phobias of distrust of the 'other'. The fear of the stranger can be explained in evolutionary terms. In his book 'Snakes, Sunsets, and Shakespeare', evolutionary biologist Gordon Orians says: "Throughout human history, we have distrusted people outside our clan, our tribe... We believe strangers will do us harm. Why? In deep time, hominids outside the family group were likely to be a raiding party."

We're not living in ancient times now, of course, and wars and raids across the borders are very, very rare; we now know meetings with strangers often go very well — in foreign lands, two persons, each a stranger to the other, are often at their best behaviour because they believe themselves to be representatives of their tribe/country. We also know that danger often lurks at home, in the shape of predators who may sexually exploit the young, or relatives who may covet property or other possessions. It's not the stranger

who's the biggest danger when you're seemingly safe. Sport, the celebration of extreme athleticism and teamwork, chips at xenophobia and racism of an athlete, reducing it to dust; but the fans, roused by tribal feelings for their team, often turn despicable bigots. This writer has heard chants of "go back to your country" — peppered with unprintable expletives — spat by home team fans at Indian and Pakistani fans in cricket grounds of England and Australia; or horrible exchanges between Brazilian and Argentinean football fans in Rio de Janeiro; West Indian players called 'kalu' by fans in Indian grounds — and a black England player called 'kaliya' in an England ground! During the IPL, Indian teammates of Daren Sammy, the former West Indies captain, used to call him 'kalu', and he believed it to be a term of endearment. Indian sports persons have spoken about racism — colourism, rather — in sport. Abhinav Mukund, the Tamil Nadu cricketer who has played for India, spoke of being stigmatised for his dark skin:

West Asia on the boil

Iran-Israel conflict impacts crude oil prices

ISRAEL launched a tit-for-tat attack on Iran on Friday, days after Tehran unleashed drones and missiles on Israeli territory. The development has raised the spectre of a wider West Asian conflict amid the prevailing hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group Hamas. The reverberations of the Iran-Israel confrontation are already being felt beyond the region, with the benchmark Brent crude price rising to above \$90 a barrel before falling a bit. This is a matter of concern for India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements. A steep hike in global oil prices could significantly raise the country's oil import bill and make the rupee depreciate due to the larger outflow of foreign exchange. It's the purchase of cheaper oil from sanctions-hit Russia that helped India reduce its import expenditure over the past year or so. Supply disruptions caused by geopolitical turbulence have prompted India, the world's third biggest



oil consumer and importer, to firm up plans to build its first commercial crude oil strategic reserve. Indian

Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd, a special purpose vehicle created by the government, has invited bids for constructing an underground storage facility in Karnataka. However, the project is expected to be completed only by 2029-30. In the immediate future, India will continue to be heavily dependent on oil imports. The resilience demonstrated by the country in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war is now being put to the test by the shocks originating from West Asia.

India has been quick to express concern over the 'new emerging realities' and has noted that any escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran will threaten peace and security in the region. A global economic upheaval can be avoided if neutral countries like India impress upon both sides the vital importance of exercising restraint.

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.

When this column celebrates birth anniversaries of famous writers, how can April go by without a column on William Shakespeare (April 23, 1564 — April 23, 1616), on his 460th birth anniversary. It is true that Shakespeare came to us with colonialism, may even have been introduced to India as part of a 'civilising mission', may have been seen as a good foundation for an education meant to turn out officials working for the white rulers, but Shakespeare came to occupy a different place in the theatrical (and later cinematic) world and was also seen as a playwright who could be approached and read from various Indian points of view. It is very often said that after the blackout of Shakespeare during the high nationalistic phase, we got back to his plays only after Independence with a new confidence, beginning with translations and productions by Utpal Dutt in Bengali.

While this may be true, early productions and translations of Shakespeare constantly Indianised his plays. While visiting troupes performed Shakespeare in Bombay (Mumbai) and Calcutta (Kolkata) from the second half of the 18th century, his plays began to be performed by Indians in the 19th century. In Mysore, the Maharaja was the patron of the Palace Company which was formed in 1881. They performed Shakespeare's plays in Kannada and the translations changed the settings and the names of characters so as to not alienate the audiences. This resulted in interesting changes. Ananda Rao, who translated 'Romeo and Juliet', writes that many parts of the play would appeal to only an English audience and had to be changed. Most significantly, he changes the ending of 'Ramavarma-Lilavati' (1889) by adding a short scene where the friar prays to God that the lovers be saved, and God obliges. The lovers come back alive and live happily ever after. Ananda



Rao felt that according to Indian conventions, plays should have a happy ending. You can see such changes in many Indian languages.

While changing names and settings is almost to be expected, it is this imposition of Indian theatrical conventions that make late 19th century

translations/performance interesting. Girish Chandra Ghosh, one of the major figures in Bengali theatre, translated 'Macbeth' in 1893. The changes he effects in the play start right at the beginning! While he kept close to Shakespeare otherwise, the structure he adopts is of Sanskrit plays. Sanskrit plays begin

with naandi, a prayer or benedictory verse, followed by a prologue that speaks about the play to be performed. Ghosh says here that this play of his is his token of appreciation to the great playwright Shakespeare. There are other ways in which Ghosh Indianises the play, making it speak to the Bengali audience. All this is to point out that we have a history of appropriating Shakespeare's plays, enriching our theatres, while our conventions and worldview had an impact on the plays. So, while it is true that Utpal Dutt brought insouciance to the translation and performance of Shakespeare, which could be seen later in Habib Tanvir's versions as well, it is only a renewed attempt by a resurgent Independent India. So Shakespeare was performed not just in different languages, but also in different performance traditions like Kathakali. Shakespeare has had such an impact that we see echoes of his plays in many of our movies made in India. However, I want to highlight the adaptations of Shakespeare by Hindi cinema which I have seen and liked. Gulzar's 'Angoor' (1982), which is based on 'Comedy of Errors', is a brilliant adaptation. I recommend that you should watch it if you haven't or even if you did a long time ago! Jumping to this century, I will recommend Vishal Bhardwaj's trilogy — 'Maqbool' (2003), 'Omkaara' (2006) and 'Haider' (2014). They are based on 'Macbeth', 'Othello' and 'Hamlet', respectively. 'Macbeth' becomes a gangster film set in the Bombay underworld, 'Omkaara' about the political system in Uttar Pradesh, and 'Haider' about the Kashmir conflict in the mid-1990s. Thus, the colonial imposition Shakespeare still inspires and entertains us, nor have his plays lost their political edge under a different sky! He can speak to us about us!

NEWS BOX

Children of Vishy on the loose: Garry Kasparov thrilled by Gukesh's Candidates triumph

New Delhi. Grandmaster Garry Kasparov noted the 'shifting tectonic plates in the chess world', highlighting the upcoming World Championship title match which will be played between holder Ding Liren of China and contender D Gukesh, who rallied against the odds to win the Candidates in Toronto on Sunday. The holder of multiple world titles credited the legendary Viswanathan Anand's role in the success of Indian Grandmasters at the highest level. As many as 3 Indians, including eventual champion D Gukesh, were part of the 8-man field in the Open section of the Candidates, a tournament that decides the world title challenger. Runner-up of the Chess World Cup from last year, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa and Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi, who won the Grand Swiss last year, also impressed in the Candidates, finishing 5th and 6th, respectively in their maiden appearance in the tournament. In fact, 17-year-old Gukesh became the youngest-ever challenger to the world title, bettering a record created by Garry Kasparov 40 years ago. Congratulations! The Indian earthquake in Toronto is the culmination of the shifting tectonic plates in the chess world as the 17 year old Gukesh D will face the Chinese champion Ding Liren for the highest title. The "children" of Vishy Anand are on the loose!" 61-year-old Kasparov said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Bowlers' captain: Sandeep Sharma talks up Sanju Samson's impact on RR's success

New Delhi. RR fast bowler Sandeep Sharma credited the team management, including head coach Kumar Sangakkara and captain Sanju Samson, for giving a free hand to their bowlers, saying it's the good vibes in the dressing room that has contributed to their success on the field. Sandeep rattled MI in their IPL 2024 at the Savai Mansingh Stadium on Monday with his maiden 5-wicket haul in T20 cricket as the visiting team was restricted to 179 for 9 in 20 overs.

Speaking to the press after winning the Player of the Match award, Sandeep Sharma said Sanju Samson is a bowlers' captain and it has been an enjoyable ride, working under the Royals skipper. "It's just a happy environment and a very positive. Our management is really good, they are allowing everyone to go and express themselves and I would say Sanju is doing a great job. He gives a lot of freedom to the bowlers and asks them to set their fields and bowl according to that. I would say that freedom and, at the same time, a good environment. That is getting us the results," Sandeep said.

Sandeep revealed that he was given assurance by the team management that he would find a place in the XI as soon as he recovered from a side strain, which kept him out of action for 5 games. Sandeep played 2 games at the start of the IPL 2024 season and returned to action only on April 23 and he made an instant impact, picking up a 5-wicket haul.

HE ALWAYS SAYS THE RIGHT WORDS: SANDEEP

Sandeep also heaped praise on Kumar Sangakkara, talking up the Sri Lankan legend's ability to manage the players. "Obviously, he has played enough cricket to understand everyone's mind and he knows how to motivate and if you have not done well, he knows what to talk about. Somehow, he always comes up with the right words and what he needs to say.

CSK vs LSG Prediction, Head-to-Head, Chennai Pitch Report and Who Will Win?

New Delhi. LSG captain KL Rahul said in their last game that Ekana felt like a mini-Chepauk against CSK. Well, on Tuesday, KL Rahul and his team are set to be welcomed by the real Chepauk for their reverse fixture in the Indian Premier League. It was a fairly straightforward win for the LSG side last week and they would hope to double down on their success. LSG snapped their 2-match losing streak after they crushed CSK by 8 wickets at the Ekana Stadium on April 19., Chennai completed 16 years in the IPL, but Lucknow spoiled their party thanks to pieces of brilliance from Quinton de Kock and KL Rahul. A target of 176 was expected to be challenging for LSG, who went into the game after losing back-to-back matches at the hands of GT and KKR. However, de Kock and Rahul made a mockery of the target as the Super Giants chased it down with 6 balls to spare. The loss meant that CSK and LSG are neck and neck in the 4th and 5th spot in the league table with 8 points from 7 matches. A superior NRR has kept CSK ahead for the moment but that could change in Tuesday's game. LSG captain KL Rahul had shown his admiration for MS Dhoni for his incredible legacy and he will get to see that in full force in Chennai on April 23.

On the other hand, LSG have travelled without Mayank Yadav to their away game and are expected to retain their winning combination at Chepauk.

CSK vs LSG: CHENNAI PITCH CONDITIONS AND WEATHER

This is going to be the first match at Chennai after 8 April. A gap of 15 days should help the ground recoup and one can expect a decent amount of runs from the pitch today. Conditions are going to be hot and humid throughout the evening and the players will need to hydrate well in the excessive heat.

Yashasvi Jaiswal thanks Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli after comeback hundred in IPL

Yashasvi Jaiswal roared back to form in the Indian Premier League with a hundred vs MI. After the game, the youngster credited Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for their guidance during the tough period.



New Delhi. RR youngster Yashasvi Jaiswal returned to form in the Indian Premier League with a stylish century against MI on 22 April. Jaiswal had been struggling at the opening spot for RR in the last 7 games and

had not been able to control his aggression. Against MI, Jaiswal took a measured approach, hitting the ball through the ground rather than giving it an aerial route. Senior MI batter and India captain Rohit Sharma looked elated with Jaiswal's century as the player hugged the left hander

after the completion of the game. Speaking to the IPL website, Jaiswal credited Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for helping him through tough phases and also thanked RR coach-captain duo of Kumar Sangakkara and Sanju Samson for their inputs. "It's incredible and I am enjoying it. Initially, it

was tough for me but that's how cricket is. I guess you have to go through ups and downs and learn. I want to thank all my seniors Virat bhैया and Rohit bhैया and especially Sanga sir and Sanju bhैया, the way they have been talking to me. It's incredible to go through these phases and still enjoy the game," Yashasvi Jaiswal said in an interview with the IPL website. "It is important the effort that I have been putting in my practice sessions. In my mind I want to play with good intent and help my team," Jaiswal further added.

Jaiswal's century put the batter in contention for the openers' spot in the T20 World Cup 2024 once again. The batter looked in good touch against MI and would hope to carry forward the momentum that he gained in this innings. Jaiswal will be in competition with Shubman Gill for the openers' spot as India are unlikely to take more than 3 openers in the T20 World Cup. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have opened for India before, if the selection committee takes that route then the left-hander might warm the benches in the tournament set to be played in June.

Teams will need anchors in slow pitches of T20 World Cup: David Warner

New Delhi. Australia and DC opener David Warner feels that teams will need an anchor in the T20 World Cup 2024. Speaking in a DC press meet Warner said that slow pitches at the Caribbean will require someone to guide the innings and that's when teams will need someone like Virat Kohli who has executed the role for several years. Warner spoke about his experience at the Caribbean Premier League where he played for the St Lucia Stars. The left-hander spoke about how the pitches were friendly for the spinners and how they would keep getting tired as matches are played on them. "They (pitches in West Indies) can be slower and they're gonna turn a bit. I don't think they're going to be as compact as they are here. You know, I've played a lot of cricket over there. I've played in the CPL. The wickets tend to get a little bit lower and slower," Warner said in the press



conference. "Even when we played there in 2010 World Cup, the pitches there weren't high scoring. That's when you did need an anchor. Someone like Mike Hussey came out and scored runs for us. He had to come and sort of knock it around," Warner said while recalling the 2010 edition where Australia finished runners-up. The Australian believes that the timing of the matches will be one of the major factors

behind how the pitches play. Warner said that the games will be played during the day to have favourable broadcast timings, which means that bowlers will find plenty of help in those conditions. "It's gonna be completely different there. Add the natural elements as well. There's going to be predominantly day games. I think because of the timing. So that plays a big a big factor," Warner said. "So the ball definitely will not be swinging like here at least in India. Here for first four or five overs, the ball can swing and could be challenging so. The pitches in Caribbean being dry, the ball will get roughed up and it's going to spin," the left-hander who is playing his final ICC tournament further added. Asked about the trend of anchors losing their place in the batting line-up, Warner said that this has happened due to pitches turning into concrete tracks.

Bat without fear: Sourav Ganguly's piece of advice for KL Rahul ahead of T20 World Cup

New Delhi. Former India captain and Delhi's Director of Cricket, Sourav Ganguly, said he wants to see KL Rahul bat more fearlessly in T20s, much like the way he has approached his batting for Lucknow in the last few games of the IPL 2024 season. Ganguly said there's no doubting Rahul's class and that a bit of fearless approach will unlock him and allow him to dominate the shortest format of the game. Ganguly recalled his chat with KL Rahul from the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022, saying that the wicketkeeper-batter shouldn't worry about losing his wicket in a power-packed batting line-up like India's.

"But for India, the most important thing in T20 cricket and I said that to Rahul in Australia (T20 World Cup) also, just play without fear. Just go and hit. There is long batting. You can always control if you lose wickets, but just go and hit," Ganguly told news agency PTI.

"I think it (change) depends on what the captain and the coach instructs him to do in the middle. The other day I saw him play an innings against Chennai, which Lucknow won, I thought he was exceptional. He played well at the top of the order and did exactly that that was required to do at that moment.

"As I said, it's about playing freely and playing without fear. That is a must in T20 cricket. Players like Virat, Rohit, Rishabh (Pant), Rahul, Surya (Yadav), Hardik (Pandya), Shivam Dube of CSK. They are exceptional talent, the six-hitting ability in all of them is enormous." KL Rahul faced flak for his 31-ball 33 against Gujarat even as LSG went on to win that game. In his very next outing against Delhi, Rahul hit 39 off 22 at a strike rate of 177. In the next game against KKR, Rahul hit 39 off just 27 balls. LSG, however, lost both the said matches as Rahul was not able to convert his starts into a big one. Rahul quickly learnt from his mistakes and stepped up for LSG against the Super Kings on Friday. The skipper smashed 82 from just 53 balls, hitting 3 sixes and 9 boundaries as he inspired LSG's successful chase of 177 in just 19 overs.

With his improved striking in the last 3 matches, Rahul has put himself in contention for a spot in the Indian T20 World Cup squad. Rahul's ability to keep wickets and be flexible with his batting position might work in his favour when Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel meet to pick the squad for the World Cup, starting June 1.

Mike Hussey hopes CSK get 'dangerous and confident' KL Rahul out early in Chepauk

Chennai. CSK are up against LSG on Tuesday, 23 April in their reverse fixture of the Indian Premier League. Speaking ahead of the fixture, CSK batting coach Mike Hussey has warned the side against the dangerous KL Rahul. Rahul has an average of 44.75 against CSK and holds his personal best strike rate (142.82) after playing 14 matches. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Mike Hussey lauded the batter for batting aggressively in the past few games and said that it will be the job of the pacers to get KL Rahul early in the powerplay. Both CSK and LSG are neck and neck at the moment with the CSK holding the 4th place in the points table. In case LSG win today, they will leapfrog CSK.



Rahul has been a fantastic player for a long period of time. He's very difficult to bowl to because he plays great shots all around

the ground. He seems like he's in a really good mindset at the moment as well, so he's confident. And he's playing some good cricket, so that makes him very dangerous," Mike Hussey said in the pre-match press conference. "He's also got the

ability to go on and play that big innings. He can score 80+, so if you've got a player in your batting order who can score 80 plus, then you're going to be in most

games," Hussey added. In the previous fixture against CSK, Rahul and Quinton de Kock added 134 runs for the first wicket, which helped LSG chase down a small target of 177 runs. At Chepauk the par-score might be around that range and hence Hussey has put the onus on his bowlers to get the duo out. I guess if we can get the ball moving early, that would be a big bonus for us. You know, to both him and De Kock. That was one of our problems in the last match. So our focus will be to try and get that new ball moving. Any batter, whether you're KL or anyone else, can be vulnerable against the moving ball," Mike Hussey concluded. KL Rahul has scored 286 runs so far from 7 matches. The batter has

actively tried to attack in the powerplay and show a lot more intent than he usually does. Rahul has a strike-rate of 143 at the moment, the best in last 5 years.

Record-breaking Chamari Athapaththu returns to top of ICC Women's ODI Rankings

New Delhi. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu is back at the top of the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings after a record-breaking 195 not out in the third ODI against South Africa in Potchefstroom that helped her team level the ICC Women's Championship Series 1-1. Athapaththu's ninth ODI century, which is the highest score in a successful chase in Women's ODIs, helped her overtake England all-rounder Natalie Sciver-Brunt to the top spot. The left-hander had earlier been number one from July 3 to 12, 2023 before Beth Mooney and then Sciver-Brunt overtook her. She had become the first Sri Lankan to top the Women's ODI batting charts last year. Another former number one batter also rose after the series, Athapaththu's counterpart Laura



Wolvaardt moving up two places to third position after scoring an unbeaten 184 that helped South Africa post a huge total of 301 for five in the third ODI. West Indies captain Hayley Mathews completed a trio of captain-openers who

moved up the rankings, her double of 140 not out and three for 17 in the first match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Pakistan in Karachi helping her move up seven places to 11th position among batters and to second in the all-

rounders' list. Former captains Stafanie Taylor of the West Indies (up two places to 18th) and Bismah Maroof of Pakistan (up one place to 27th) are other notable gainers in the batting rankings while Sri Lanka's Nilakshi de Silva and the West Indies pair of Shemaine Campbell and Chinelle Henry have also moved up the rankings. Pakistan's left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal has progressed from 23rd to 17th position after grabbing three wickets in the first two matches against the West Indies. Connell (up three places to 25th), Henry (up six places to 36th), Kavisha Dilhari of Sri Lanka (up seven places to 48th) and Umm-e-Hani of Pakistan (up nine places to 60th) are others to move up the bowling rankings.

Manushi Chhillar

Says She 'Loves' Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Would've Loved To Play THIS Part In Animal

Miss World 2017 and actor Manushi Chhillar recently praised Sandeep Reddy Vanga and said she admired Rashmika Mandanna's performance in Animal (2023). In an interview with Zoom, when asked about rumours of her being offered a role in the film, she said she wasn't aware of them but wished she had known. When asked which character she would have chosen between Rashmika Mandanna's and Triptii Dimri's roles if the rumours were true, Manushi replied, "I love him (Sandeep Reddy Vanga). See, both are really interesting roles (Rashmika Mandanna's and Triptii Dimri's characters). But I loved Rashmika's character because, in this whole world where men were fighting each other, she really stood her ground." In Animal, Rashmika's character Geetanjali is married to Vijay, played by Ranbir, while Triptii's character Zoya has an affair with him. "She really confronted a man. She held him accountable. She said I don't care about who you are, what you are doing outside, and how dangerous you might be. But you're my husband, and I will hold you accountable. Her character had an arch. I



felt that was such a good opportunity, and she did a great job. So, that's a role I would have loved to do," Manushi said. After the massive success of Animal, Ranbir Kapoor fans are eagerly waiting for the film's sequel Animal Park. However, looks like they will have to wait a little longer for the movie. Animal director Sandeep Reddy Vanga recently attended an award show in Mumbai when he shared an exciting update about the film's sequel but revealed that the shooting will begin only in 2026. "This is going to be bigger and wilder than Animal," Vanga said as quoted by E-Times and then added, "The shooting of the film will begin by 2026." Reportedly, Vicky Kaushal is being considered for a negative role in Animal Park.

Aisha Sharma Flaunts Her Curves In Black Cut-Out Dress, Hot Photos Go Viral; See Here



Aisha Sharma never fails to impress all with her hot looks. Whenever she drops a photo or video of herself on social media, she leaves everyone completely stunned. Recently too, Aisha took to her Instagram handle and shared a bunch of photos which are now setting fire online. In the latest photos, Aisha Sharma was seen flaunting her perfectly toned body in a black cutout dress. She ditched accessories and flaunted her smile as she posed for the camera. Needless to say, the actress looked breathtakingly gorgeous as ever. In the caption of her post, Aisha wrote, "I own too much BLACK - said no one ever." Check out the post here:

Aisha Sharma made her Bollywood debut in 2018 alongside John Abraham and Manoj Bajpayee in the film Satyameva Jayate. She also went on to star in several music videos, which garnered her immense popularity. Aisha Sharma is now known for her dedication to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Her fitness and skincare regimes are carefully curated, inspiring her fans to prioritize self-care and well-being. Through her social media platforms, she shares valuable insights and tips, empowering her followers to embark on their wellness journeys.

Earlier this year, Aisha turned 32 and celebrated her birthday with her sister Neha Sharma in Sri Lanka. Neha Sharma penned a sweet note for her. "Happy birthday baby sister..thank you for always inspiring and forging a path less travelled always making you the unicorn we all need... May you forever be this rare, crazy, mad, fun, child woman who is sensitive yet so strong. I'm not the one with words but you know what you mean to me and I love you no matter how many disagreements we may have. I will always come to you ?? @aishasharma25 #sunshinegirl #myaquababy #siblinglove," Neha wrote, sharing pictures of Aisha from their trip.

Do Aur Do Pyaar Box Office Day 2: Vidya Balan-Pratik Gandhi Film Shows Potential, Earns Rs 1.4 Cr



On the second day, the box office collection of Do Aur Do Pyaar starring Vidya Balan, Pratik Gandhi, Ileana D'Cruz, and Snehil Ramamurthy, directed by Shirsha Guha Thakurta, amounted to around Rs 85 lakh nett in India, as reported by Sacnilk.com. According to the website, Do Aur Do Pyaar collected around Rs 55 lakh nett on its first day in India. Now, the film has garnered a total of approximately Rs 1.4 crore nett in India over two days. On Saturday, Do Aur Do Pyaar recorded a Hindi occupancy rate of 13.72%, with the highest occupancy seen in Chennai at 40%.

The trailer teased Vidya and Pratik has a few intimate scenes in the film. Vidya recently opened up about the scenes and said that her laughter doubled up as a relief in 'uncomfortable or intimate scenes.' Speaking with Free Press Journal, she said, "As actors, we are trained to portray characters but most of the times, my laughter on the sets gave enough breather to the discomforting or intimate scenes. The way this film is written is pleasing, there is a light touch to a subject like infidelity. The writing is very fun and nuanced at the same time which is a very fine balance. The film could have become very serious or frivolous else." Meanwhile, News18 gave the film a four star-rating. It read, "Do Aur Do Pyaar will make you want to fall in love despite all its chaotic messiness. It's a warm and fuzzy ode to love in all its glory and grime. In this generation of swipe right and left and open romantic choices, it is companionship and communication that has become the foundation of relationships. And who doesn't want to feel and be loved? Films like this don't get made very often and it is this novelty that makes it a cut above the rest. It also reinforces the fact that simplicity is bliss and in most times, simplicity is more than enough to hold your undivided attention and it is the need for the same that keeps you going."

Aditi Roy Hydari

Waves At The Paparazzi As She Gets Snapped Post Salon Session



Aditi Roy Hydari has been making headlines following her engagement with Sidharth. The couple got engaged last month. Well, today the actress was spotted in the city post her salon session. Aditi was seen waving at the paparazzi as she tried to make her way towards her car. In the video, shared by Snehzala, we can see Aditi wearing a cool casual wear. She opted for a brown tee and flared pants. She kept her hair in a bun style and looked very chic. As soon as she came out of the salon, she was clicked by a camera. The actress also waved at them and sat inside her car. The video went viral on social media.

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth made their first joint appearance on April 18 evening ever since they exchanged rings. The couple was snapped by the paparazzi as they arrived for an event in Mumbai. In a video that surfaced on social media, Aditi and Siddharth were seen holding hands as they posed for the cameras and flaunted their million-dollar smiles. Aditi sported a black trouser and paired it with matching off-shoulder body-hugging top. She opted for golden hoop earrings, kept her tresses open and looked breathtakingly gorgeous as ever. On the other hand, Siddharth looked dapper in his casual attire. He wore a blue t-shirt with matching jeans and a denim jacket.

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth's love story is not secret. Their romance blossomed during the filming of the 2021 movie Maha Samudram. Since then, they have been together. Last month, reports of their secret wedding also made headlines after Great Andhra claimed that the two took wedding vows at the Sri Ranganayakaswamy temple in Srinangapuram, Wanaparthy District, Telangana. However, later, Aditi revealed that they are not married but engaged. On March 28, 2024, she dropped an engagement photo with Siddharth. In the picture, they held each other close as Aditi flaunted a diamond ring whereas Siddharth sported a gold band on his ring finger with magenta detailing. Captioning the photo, Aditi wrote, "He said yes! E. N. G. A. G. E. D."

