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Priyanka Gandhi Takes A Sour Jibe At PM Modi For 'Heart Attacks' Causing 'Vaccines'

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Radicalised' teen carries out knife attack in Perth, shot dead by cops

Sydney, Australian police said on Sunday they shot dead a boy after he stabbed a man in Western Australia's capital Perth, in an attack authorities said indicated terrorism. There were signs the 16-year-old, armed with a kitchen knife, had been radicalised online, state authorities said, adding they received calls from concerned members of the local Muslim community before the attack, which occurred late on Saturday night. The attack, in the suburb of Willetton, had "hallmarks" of terrorism but was yet to be declared a terrorist act, police said. At this stage it appears that he acted solely and alone.

Slithering surprise! Passenger hiding snakes in pants intercepted at Miami airport

Miami, US, There was a slithering surprise for airport security officials in Miami, United States as they encountered a passenger who was hiding a bag of snakes in his pants. The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said in a post on X that Miami International Airport officials discovered a bag carrying snakes in a passenger's pants on April 26, 2024 at a checkpoint. Officers at iflymyia detected this bag of snakes hidden in a passenger's pants at a checkpoint on Fri, April 26. @TSA called our @CBPSoutheast and Miami-Dade Police partners in to assist, and the snakes were turned over to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

India's consulate identifies Indian couple killed in accident during police chase in Canada



TORONTO. The Indian diplomatic mission here has identified the Indian couple who died in a crash with their grandchild during a multi-vehicle collision when Canadian police pursued a liquor store robbery suspect driving the wrong way earlier this week. "Heartfelt condolences on tragic loss of Indian nationals Mr. Manivannan, Mrs. Mahalakshmi and their grandchild in the Highway 401 collision," the Consulate General of India in Toronto posted on X on Friday. The consulate general "met the bereaved family at the hospital & assured all possible assistance. We are in touch with Canadian authorities", the post said. The couple, probably from Tamil Nadu, was on a visit to Canada. The couple's three-month-old grandson also died in the multi-vehicle collision. Highway 401 was closed for several hours after the incident on Monday, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) said on Thursday. The 21-year-old robbery suspect was also killed in the collision, which involved at least six vehicles, CBC News earlier reported.

Pakistan: Milk price soars to PKR 210 per litre in Karachi

KARACHI. The price of milk at Karachi in fiscally-stressed Pakistan shot up to 10 per litre after the city's commissioner approved a hike, according to the demands of the Dairy Farmers Association, ARY News reported. As per the commissioner's directives, the price of milk has surged by PKR 10 per litre, with shops in Karachi now selling milk at PKR 210 per litre. Earlier speculations of a potential PKR 50 per litre increase in milk prices have loomed over the inflation-burdened citizens of Karachi, ARY News reported. Mubasher Qadeer Abbasi, the president of Dairy Farmers Karachi, has indicated that an increase of PKR 50 per litre of milk is expected soon for the people of Karachi. Abbasi cited the high cost of milk production, soaring cattle prices, and government negligence as factors contributing to this imminent rise. Abbasi stressed the urgency for the Karachi Commissioner to promptly issue a notification regarding the new prices aligned with the milk production costs. He further emphasised that if the authorities do not announce the increase in milk prices by May 10, stakeholders will take matters into their own hands and raise prices after consensus.

Northern Gaza is now in 'full-blown famine': UN World Food Program chief

The panel that serves as the internationally recognised monitor for food crises said in March that northern Gaza was on the brink of famine and likely to experience it in May.

WASHINGTON. A top UN official said Friday that hard-hit northern Gaza was now in "full-blown famine" after more than six months of war between Israel and Hamas and severe Israeli restrictions on food deliveries to the Palestinian territory. Cindy McCain, the American director of the UN World Food Program, became the most prominent international official so far to declare that trapped civilians in the most cut-off part of Gaza had gone over the brink into famine. "It's horror," McCain told NBC's "Meet the

Press" in an interview to air Sunday. "There is famine—full-blown famine—in the north, and it's moving its way south." She said a cease-fire and a greatly increased flow of aid through land and sea routes was essential to confronting the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, home to 2.3 million people. There was no immediate comment from Israel, which controls entrance into Gaza and says it is beginning to allow in more food and other humanitarian aid through land crossings. The panel that serves as the internationally recognised monitor for food crises said in March that northern Gaza was on the brink of famine and likely to experience it in May. Since March, northern Gaza had not received anything like the aid needed to stave off famine, a US Agency for International Development humanitarian official for Gaza told The Associated Press. The panel's next update will not come before this summer. The USAID official said on-the-ground preparations



for a new US-led sea route were on track to bring in more food—including treatment for hundreds of thousands of starving children—by early or mid-May. That's when the American military expects to finish building a floating pier to receive the shipments. Ramping up the delivery of aid on the planned US-backed sea route will be gradual as aid groups test the distribution and security arrangements for relief workers, the USAID official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing security concerns accompanying the official's work on conflicts. They were some of the agency's first comments on the status of

preparations for the Biden administration's \$320 million Gaza pier project, for which USAID is helping coordinate on-the-ground security and distribution. At a factory in rural Georgia on Friday, USAID Administrator Samantha Power pointed to the food crises in Gaza and other parts of the world as she announced a \$200 million investment aimed at increasing production of emergency nutritional paste for starving children under 5. Power spoke to factory workers, peanut farmers and local dignitaries sitting among pallets of the paste at the Mana nonprofit in Fitzgerald. It is one of two factories in the US that produces the nutritional food, which is used in clinical settings and made from ground peanuts, powdered milk, sugar and oil, ready to eat in plastic pouches resembling large ketchup packets. "This effort, this vision meets the moment," Power said. "And it could not be more timely, more necessary or more important."

Afghan diplomat, caught smuggling gold, resigns due to 'personal attacks'

World A senior Afghan diplomat in India has resigned from her position after reports of her involvement in gold smuggling from Dubai surfaced. Zakiya Wardak was reportedly caught at the Mumbai airport last month for allegedly trying to smuggle 25 kg of gold worth Rs 18.6 crore from the capital of the UAE. She had been the acting Ambassador of Afghanistan to New Delhi since late last year after working as the Afghan Consul General in Mumbai for more than two years. Taking to X, Wardak mentioned "numerous personal attacks and defamation" directed towards her as well as her family that impacted her ability to operate in the position of an Afghan diplomat. However, she didn't mention the reports of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seizing gold from her on April 25. Wardak was not arrested for her diplomatic immunity, news agency PTI reported. "These attacks, which appear to be organised, have severely impacted my ability to effectively operate in my role and have demonstrated the challenges



faced by women in Afghan society who strive to modernise and bring positive change amidst ongoing propaganda campaigns," her statement, released in both Pashto and English, read. Wardak said the "persistent and coordinated" attacks exceeded a "tolerable threshold". She further stated that while she was prepared to tackle the attacks on her character that were "not altogether surprising", she was not "unprepared for the toll it took on those close to me". Zakiya Wardak said while it's her passion to serve her country and bring about a positive change, in the wake of the attacks, she has to prioritise her "well-being and

ability to function in a normal capacity". She thanked the Government of India and the citizens for their "warm welcome" and "unwavering support" during her three-year tenure, and called the experience "a privilege". "I sincerely hope for a future where women in leadership roles are supported and respected, where opportunities for progress are embraced rather than met with hostility and defamation. My commitment to advocating for positive change remains unwavering despite this decision," she wrote in the statement. Zakiya Wardak took charge of the Afghan embassy in New Delhi last November after the mission helmed by the then-Ambassador Farid Mamundzay announced its closure. Mamundzay had moved to the UK. Wardak was appointed before the Taliban regained control in Afghanistan in 2021 and was reportedly the sole woman Afghan diplomat.

Nearly 60 killed, over 69,000 displaced as heavy rains batter southern Brazil

Sao Paulo, Brazil. Heavy rains in Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul this week killed at least 55 people, local authorities said on Saturday evening, while dozens remain unaccounted for. Rio Grande do Sul's civil defence authority said 74 people were still missing and more than 69,000 had been displaced as storms in the last few days have affected nearly two thirds of the 497 cities in the state, which borders Uruguay and Argentina. The local authority said it is now investigating whether another seven deaths were related to the storms, after earlier in the day it had reported a total of more than 55 deaths. Floods destroyed roads and bridges in several regions of the state. The storm also triggered landslides and the partial collapse of a dam at a small hydroelectric power plant. A second dam in the city of Bento Gonçalves is also at risk of collapsing, authorities said.

In Porto Alegre, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, the Gaiba lake broke its banks, flooding streets. Porto Alegre's international airport has suspended all flights for an indefinite period. State Governor Eduardo Leite told reporters on Saturday evening that Rio Grande do Sul would need a "Marshall Plan" to recover from the storms and its consequences, referring to a plan for Europe's economic recovery after World War Two. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who had visited Rio Grande do Sul on Thursday, will travel back to the state on Sunday to follow the rescue efforts, his chief of communication Paulo Pimenta said on Saturday. Lula said on X that his government is in constant contact with state and cities' authorities to support the region with whatever they need. Rains are expected in the northern and northeastern regions of the state until Sunday, but the volume of precipitation has been declining, and should be well below the peak seen earlier in the week, according to the state meteorology authority. Still, "river water levels should stay high for some days", Leite said earlier on Saturday. Rio Grande do Sul is at a geographical meeting point between tropical and polar atmospheres, which has created a weather pattern with periods of intense rains and others of drought.

London mayor Sadiq Khan wins historic third term as Tories routed in local polls

LONDON. London's Labour mayor Sadiq Khan on Saturday secured a record third term, dealing the Conservatives another damaging defeat in their worst local election results in recent memory months before an expected general election. Khan, 53, easily beat Tory challenger Susan Hall to scupper largely forlorn Tory hopes that they could prise the UK capital away from Labour for the first time since 2016. The first Muslim mayor of a Western capital when first elected then, he had been widely expected to win as Labour surged nationally and the Conservatives suffer in the polls. In the end, he saw his margin of victory increase compared to the last contest in 2021. "It's truly an honour to be re-elected for a

third term," Khan told supporters, accusing his Tory opponent of "fearmongering". "We ran a campaign that was in keeping with the spirit and values of this great city, a city that regards our diversity not as a weakness, but as an almighty strength—and one that rejects right hard-wing populism," he added. It adds to a dismal set of results for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, as his Tories finished a humiliating third in local council tallies after losing nearly 500 seats in voting Thursday across England. With Labour making huge gains, the beleaguered leader's Conservatives lost crunch mayoral races in Manchester, Liverpool, and Yorkshire, as well as the capital and elsewhere. In the West Midlands, Tory incumbent Andy Street, bidding for his

own third term, reportedly requested a recount in one district, with the contest too close to call. An unexpected Tory defeat there could leave Sunak with only one notable success: the party's mayor winning a third term in Tees Valley, northeast England, albeit with a vastly reduced majority. "Voters are frustrated" Writing in Saturday's Daily Telegraph, Sunak conceded "voters are frustrated" but insisted "Labour is not winning in places they admit they need for a majority." "We Conservatives have everything to fight for," Sunak argued. Labour, out of power since 2010 and trounced by Boris Johnson's Conservatives at the last general election in 2019, also emphatically snatched a parliamentary .

Anti-Israel protest at US university declared 'unlawful assembly', 25 arrested

World At least 25 people were arrested during a clash between pro-Palestine protesters and the police at the University of Virginia in the US after the demonstrators refused to remove their tents from the campus. The university located in Charlottesville said the police had to "declare an unlawful assembly" at the protest site due to "violent conduct and failure to follow police directions". This latest development comes as more than 2,000 people have been arrested in the US since mid-April for staging protests at college and university campus across the nation against the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Dozens of Virginia State Police officers in riot gear surrounded the student encampment area on Saturday and used a chemical spray to disperse the protesters from the area. In a tweet on Sunday morning, the university said, "A pro-Palestinian protest ended on Grounds Saturday after University, local and state police cleared the area. This followed repeated policy violations. Violent conduct and failure to follow police directions led officers to declare an

unlawful assembly." The university also said that it was awaiting confirmation on how many of the 25 arrested individuals were affiliated with the school. On May 7, the students launched their protest on a lawn outside the university chapel. On Saturday, however, they refused to remove their encampments despite repeated requests by the university authorities. Soon thereafter, state police troopers wearing heavy riot gear and holding shields lined up on the campus, while the defiant protesters chanted slogans like "shame on you" and "free Palestine". A video on social media shows police officers moving in on the encampment on the campus' lawn, cuffing some demonstrators with zip-ties and using what appeared to be pepper spray. Speaking to The Washington Post, Laura Goldblatt, an assistant professor of English and global studies, said the protesting students were pushed to the ground as soon as the police moved in. She said the students were "sprayed with a chemical irritant" and forcibly pulled by their arms. Our concern since this



Unlawful assembly, said the university. "The situation here is not safe right now," Goldblatt said. In a statement, the University of Virginia said the Virginia State Police were asked to help with enforcement as the tents and canopies erected by the protesters were "prohibited under school policy" and were asked to remove them. University of Virginia president James E. Ryan said the protesters "complied with requests to adhere to university policies, including a long-standing prohibition on erecting tents absent a permit" until Friday evening. But on Saturday morning, when the University Police Department "offered a final warning to the protesters, reminding them once again of their

University policy violations and pleading for a peaceful resolution. That request was ignored", he said in a letter to the student community. When the department's "attempts to resolve the situation were met with physical confrontation and attempted assault, it became necessary to rely on assistance from the Virginia State Police", Ryan noted. "The police declared an unlawful assembly, issued no trespass orders to those who refused to disperse, and arrested those who continued to refuse dispersal," he added. Besides the arrests at the University of Virginia, dozens of people were taken into custody for criminal trespass outside the Art Institute of Chicago at a demonstration, reports Reuters news agency. The arrests occurred after the institute called in police to remove protesters it said were illegally occupying its property, according to the Chicago Police Department. Meanwhile, at Ann Arbor, pro-Palestinian protesters briefly disrupted a commencement ceremony at the University of Michigan.

'Pakistan not wearing bangles,' reacts Farooq Abdullah after Rajnath Singh's PoK remark

RNS I Srinagar: National Conference Chief Farooq Abdullah responded strongly to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent remarks regarding Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). According to media reports, Abdullah stated that Pakistan is "not wearing bangles" and possesses nuclear weapons.

Singh had earlier stated that India would never relinquish its claim on PoK, suggesting that the region's residents would voluntarily choose to join India as Jammu & Kashmir's prosperity grows. He expressed confidence that as the economy of Jammu and Kashmir improves and peace is restored, the people of PoK would desire integration with India. Singh reiterated India's



stance on PoK, emphasizing that it has been, is, and will remain an integral part of India. He also mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir would soon hold assembly elections, although he did not specify a date. Regarding the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Singh indicated that it might become unnecessary in Jammu and Kashmir as the situation improves, leaving the deci-

sion to the Home Ministry. On the issue of Pakistan's involvement in the Jammu and Kashmir conflict, Singh accused Pakistan of attempting to destabilize India, vowing that India would not allow it. In response, Farooq Abdullah challenged Rajnath Singh to take action to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Kashmir if he believes it should be done. He emphasized that Pakistan, like India,

is not passive and warned that "atom bombs will fall on us" if tensions escalate. The strained relations between India and Pakistan have been evident since the Pulwama attack in February 2019, which led to India conducting airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot. The situation escalated further in August 2019 when India revoked Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and divided the region into two union territories. Notably, India has expressed its desire for normal and friendly relations with Pakistan, but has emphasized the need for Pakistan to create a terrorism-free environment for this to happen.

First Image of Baba Barfani Revealed; Amarnath Yatra to Begin on June 29



RNS: The first image of Baba Barfani has been revealed from the holy cave of Amarnath in Anantnag district of Kashmir. The ice Shivalinga, standing at a towering height of 8 feet, is a significant attraction for devotees who visit from all corners of the country to worship at Amarnath. This year, the annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on June 29 and will span 52 days, concluding on August 29, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Rakshabandhan. Registrations for the yatra began on April 15, and the process of

obtaining the required medical certificate is currently underway. Indian citizens aged between 13 to 70 years are eligible to undertake the Amarnath Yatra. Registration for the pilgrimage can be completed both online and offline. For online registration, individuals can visit the official website of the Shrine Board, while those preferring mobile application can download the Shri Amarnathji Yatra App. Offline registration facilities are available at Punjab National Bank, SBI, Yes Bank, and Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Sampurn Vipra Samaj to Celebrate Lord Parshuram's Birth Anniversary on May 10



RNS I Bokaro: The Sampurn Vipra Samaj in Bokaro is gearing up to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Parshuram on May 10, 2024. A special puja program has been organized by the entire Vipra Samaj, Bokaro district unit, starting from 5 pm at Mansarovar Garden, Asha Lata, Sector 5. Preparations for the event were discussed in a meeting held on Sunday evening at Lord Parshuram Mandap, located in the Baba Niranjan Nath Shiv Temple complex in Sector 6D. The meeting, chaired by Vishnu Shankar Mishra, the Bokaro District President of Sampurna Vipra Samaj, unanimously decided to celebrate Lord Parshuram's birth anniversary with great enthusiasm, as is done every year. Vishnu Shankar Mishra appealed to Vipra brothers to participate in the program in large numbers. The meeting was attended by Shashi Bhusan Ojha Mukul, the state president of Sampurna Vipra Samaj, patron PN Pandey, Sampurna Vipra Samaj, Bokaro district secretary Arun Pathak, as well as several other prominent members of the samaj.

Muslim cleric plotting murders of BJP leaders arrested in Surat

RNS I Surat: A 27-year-old Muslim cleric from Nandurbar, Maharashtra, was arrested in Surat on Friday for allegedly plotting the assassination of BJP leaders. He is a right-wing group leader, with purported handlers in Pakistan and Nepal, as per media reports.



The cleric, identified as Maulvi Sohail Abubakar Timol, was apprehended from Bharimata Road near Phoolwadi Creek, reported Indian Express.

According to Surat Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot, Timol allegedly threatened the chief editor of Sudarshan TV channel, Telangana BJP MLA Raja Singh, and the party's former spokesperson Nupur Sharma, with assistance from handlers in Pakistan and Nepal, reported different media.

The police's attention was drawn to Timol through his activities on a WhatsApp group, where he was found disseminating content to provoke religious sentiments and incite communal unrest during elections. This led to a police investigation.

"Timol's mobile chats revealed he was conspiring with people from Pakistan and Nepal to offer Rs 1 crore 'supari' (contract for killing) and procure weapons from Pakistan to kill his first tar-

get, national president of Hindu Sanatan Sangh Upadesh Rana," Gehlot said, as per India Today. "After his detention, we found several objectionable contents in his mobile phones, including the one regarding offering Rs 1 crore for the murder of Updesh Rana. For this, he was continuously in touch with persons/numbers from Pakistan and Nepal," Gehlot added. "Photos and other details found on his phone number show they (accused and associates) were discussing on a secure app about targeting and threatening editor-in-chief of Sudarshan TV Suresh Chavhanke, political leader Nupur Sharma, and Hyderabad MLA Raja Singh. For this purpose, they were planning to collect funds and procure weapons," Gehlot stated. According to a senior police official, chat records indicate that Timol aimed to disrupt com-

munal harmony during the ongoing general elections. The Surat police are working with other agencies to determine if there were additional targets.

Initial investigations suggest that Timol was communicating with two individuals named Dogar and Shehnaz through phone numbers linked with Pakistan and Nepal, respectively. About a year and a half ago, these individuals allegedly contacted Timol through social media platforms, using phone numbers from Pakistan and Nepal, and radicalized him by claiming that Hindu organizations in India were insulting the Prophet and needed to be addressed.

Timol allegedly wrote speeches against Hinduism and threatened Rana on the chat app, likening his fate to that of Kamlash Tiwari, who was murdered. A member of Timol's chat group reportedly offered one crore rupees to murder Rana, along with his photo. The arrested accused was in contact with individuals using WhatsApp numbers with country codes from various countries such as Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Laos, police revealed.

Warren Buffett Warns of Potential AI Scams Becoming an Industry, Likens to Nuclear Weapons

RNS: Warren Buffett says AI scams could become industry, draws parallels with dangers of nuclear weapons. American businessman and investor Warren Buffett opines that in the future, fraudulent activities could develop into a full-fledged industry, based on his recent encounter with Artificial Intelligence, media reports said.



Recently, Warren Buffett encountered an AI-generated video of him speaking in his own voice, which even his family members couldn't discern as false. Addressing attendees at Berkshire Hathaway's Annual Shareholding meeting, Buffett highlighted the immense potential of AI for both positive and negative impacts, asserting that its true societal influence will only become apparent over time.

"I had an experience that does make me a little nervous. Very recently, I saw an image in front of my eyes,

on the screen. It was me and my voice, wearing the kind of clothes I wear, and my wife or daughter wouldn't have been able to detect any difference. And I was delivering a message that no way came from me," he said. "If I was interested in investing in scamming, it's going to be the growth industry of all time," he quipped. Buffett remarked that while Artificial Intelligence holds promise for beneficial applications, based on his recent encounter, that he might consider sending money to himself in another country. He drew a comparison between AI and the histori-

cal development of nuclear weapons.

"We let a genie out of the bottle when we developed nuclear weapons, and that genie has been doing some terrible things lately. And the power of that genie scares the hell out of me. And under that, I don't know any way to get the genie back in the bottle," he said.

He also said that he doesn't have any guidance on how the world should manage it, as he believes that the world has yet to effectively address the challenges posed by nuclear genie, which is an older.

Geeta Koda Criticizes Jharkhand Government over Closed Iron Ore Mines Leading to Youth Migration

RNS I Gua: BJP candidate Geeta Koda expressed concern over the rapid migration of youth caused by the closure of iron ore mines in various parts of the state. She was on her visit to the Noamundi block of Jharkhand on Sunday.



She criticized the Jharkhand government for not reopening these mines, which were shut down in recent years. Koda extended her condolences to those affected by the increasing unemployment, stressing the urgent need to reopen the closed mines across the state. She emphasized that scientific extraction of iron ore from areas like West Singhbhum

could lead to significant production. However, she criticized the state government's policy of not auctioning mines and keeping mining under its control, which has caused difficulties for mine owners, leading to rising unemployment and migration. The closure of mines has not only impacted employment but has also affected govern-

ment revenue from royalty. Koda highlighted the plight of those involved in the transportation of ore, stating that nearly 50,000 people in the state are currently unemployed according to government figures.

Koda called for the reopening of mines with a focus on providing 100 percent of jobs to local residents. She also noted a lack of employment opportunities in the education sector and pledged that under a Modi government, new schools, medical colleges, and engineering colleges would be opened in the West and East Singhbhum regions, setting new records of development.

Ranchi Postal Division Opens Post Offices to Facilitate Voter ID Distribution

RNS I Ranchi: In a bid to facilitate citizens during the Lok Sabha elections, the post offices of Ranchi Postal Division remained open today. Complete preparations were made in collaboration with Ranchi GPO to deliver approximately 53,000 Voter ID cards sent by the Election Commission to the common citizens through post.



The dispatch of Voter IDs began on Saturday night, with the Ranchi JPO office staying open until late to ensure timely delivery. The Voter IDs were sorted according to pin codes and reached the post offices by morning. Postmen displayed great dedication, deliver-

ing the Voter IDs to people's homes on Sunday. Senior Postal Superintendent Udaybhan Singh praised the postal workers, postmen, and GDS brothers for their efforts in distributing around 10,000 Voter ID cards door-to-door. He also thanked the citizens for their cooperation.

Singh emphasized the importance of casting valuable votes and expressed the department's commitment to providing improved facilities in future elections. He stated, "The Postal Department will be ready to provide facilities to the citizens in the coming elections."

NEET (UG) 2024 Conducted Peacefully in Bokaro with 2785 Candidates



RNS I Bokaro: The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) (UG) 2024, a crucial examination for admission to medical educational institutions, was conducted successfully on Sunday at five centers in Bokaro. The examination, organized by the National Testing Agency (NTA), was held without any malpractice or disturbances, thanks to the meticulous efforts of all involved.

City Coordinator of NTA and Principal of DPS Bokaro, Dr. A S Gangwar, expressed his gratitude to all the inspectors, supervisors, center superintendents, and district administration officials for ensuring a smooth conduct of the exam. A total of 2884 candidates had registered for NEET (UG) 2024 in Bokaro, out of which 99 candidates were absent. Consequently, 2785 candidates appeared for the examination, aspiring to pursue a career in medicine.

At the various examination centers in Bokaro, the turnout was significant. In MGM Higher Secondary School, Sector-4F, 816 out of 840 registered candidates appeared; in Holy Cross School, Balidih, 684 out of 720 candidates appeared; in Guru Gobind Singh Public School, Sector-5, 720 out of 720 candidates appeared; in Crescent Public School, Sector-6, 468 out of 480 candidates appeared; and in Delhi Public School (DPS Bokaro), Sector-4, 115 out of 124 candidates appeared.

The examination process commenced after all necessary security checks were completed at the examination centers. A sizable crowd had gathered outside the centers since noon, and the exam started promptly at 2:00 pm, concluding at 5:20 pm.

Tagore Society, Dhanbad Organizes Rabindra Jayanti Celebration



RNS I Dhanbad: The Tagore Society of Dhanbad organized a cultural program on Sunday to celebrate the upcoming 163rd birth anniversary of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore, which falls on May 8. The event, held at the Railway Club premises, was organized by the Bharat Scouts and Guides of Dhanbad and featured a cultural program inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's ideals.

Vishwanath Rai, a member of the Tagore Society of Dhanbad, highlighted that this program has been a tradition for 38 years, aiming to pay tribute to the poet guru on his birthday. The event attracts Rabindra enthusiasts from various parts of Dhanbad, as well as from Kolkata, with participants eagerly awaiting and preparing for the cultural extravaganza.

Suvarna Banerjee, another member of the Tagore Society, emphasized that the program was organized in the spirit of Shantiniketan, as per Rabindranath Tagore's vision. The celebration takes place in a natural environment, resembling the setting of Shantiniketan, fulfilling the poet's desire. The event typically takes place on the first Sunday following Rabindra Jayanti, and features performances by artists from Dhanbad and beyond, including musical dramas and other cultural presentations.

The program featured performances by several artists including Arup Ratan Banerjee, Rajdeep Chatterjee, and Laboni Dutta, among others. The cultural event also included dance performances by Roma Sister Payal Nriyita Malik Goshti and musical accompaniment by Sukhendu Dutt and Sanjay Majumdar on tabla, and Vasudev Chakraborty and Deepu Bajpai on synthesizer, among others.

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'Awaiting details': S Jaishankar as Canada arrests 3 Indians in Nijjar killing

The External Affairs Minister said he had seen news of the arrests and said the suspects "apparently are Indians of some kind of gang background... we'll have to wait for the police to tell us".

New Delhi: India will wait for Canadian police to share information on the three Indian nationals it has arrested and charged with the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. Jaishankar said he had seen news of the arrests and said the suspects "apparently are Indians of some kind of gang background... we'll have to wait for the police to tell us".



shortly after evening prayers at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey. Meanwhile, Sanjay Verma, India's High Commissioner to Canada, said that it hopes to get regular updates from Canadian authorities regarding the three arrested Indians. "I understand that the arrests have been made as a result of investigations conducted by the relevant Canadian law enforcement agencies. This issue is internal to Canada, and therefore we have no comments to offer in this regard," Verma added.

At a separate event, Jaishankar said what is happening in poll-bound Canada over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar is mostly due to their internal politics and nothing to do with India. Jaishankar said this while replying to a question on why Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is criticising India. He said a section of pro-Khalistan people are using Canada's democracy, creating a lobby and have become a vote bank. The ruling party in Canada has no majority in Parliament and some parties depend on pro-Khalistan leaders, he said.

Superintendent Mandeep Mooker said at a press conference. The trio has been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, according to court records. They had been in Canada for three to five years. Investigations are ongoing, with Assistant Commissioner David Teboul confirming that there are separate and distinct investigations underway, not limited to the involvement of the individuals arrested. Investigators believe there may be others involved in the killing, and further arrests or charges are possible. Nijjar was gunned down on June 18, 2023,

Rape case against Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna in sex tapes scandal

Bengaluru. A rape case has been filed against JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna in the sex tapes scandal. This is the second case against the legislator in the case, and was filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Karnataka Police.

The case has been filed under Section 376 of the IPC. It lists charges under Section 376(2) (N) (committing rape repeatedly), 506 (criminal intimidation), 354A(1)(ii) (demand for sexual favour), 354(B) (assault or criminal force on a woman with the intention to disrobe her), and 354(C) (uploading of nude or semi-nude pictures), and the IT Act. Prajwal Revanna, who is the grandson of former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda, has been named as the sole accused in the FIR. The SIT officers submitted the FIR to the magistrate's court on Thursday. Earlier, a case was registered against Prajwal Revanna and his father and

former Karnataka minister HD Revanna for sexual harassment, intimidation, stalking and outraging the dignity of a woman based on a complaint by a woman who worked at their house. Prajwal Revanna, who is seeking re-election from Hassan constituency in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, has been embroiled in a massive controversy after multiple explicit videos purportedly of him were shared widely on social media. The JD(S) MP, however, has alleged the videos were morphed and also lodged a complaint in the matter via his polling agent.

The SIT formed by the Karnataka government issued a global lookout notice against him on Thursday at all immigration centres around the world. Prajwal Revanna fled the country soon after the sexual abuse allegations surfaced, and later was reported to have gone to Frankfurt in Germany on April 26.

Phase 3 Of Voting In Uttar Pradesh A Test For Samajwadi Party Bastion

This phase will witness polling in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, including Sambhal, Hathras, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Badaun, Bareilly and Aonla.



Badaun, Bareilly and Aonla. Of the 10 seats that will vote on Tuesday, the BJP won eight in 2019 -- Hathras, Agra, Firozabad, Fatehpur Sikri, Etah, Badaun, Bareilly and Aonla -- while Mainpuri and Sambhal went to the Samajwadi Party. This phase will be a test for the Samajwadi Party's (SP) first family as well, with Dimple Yadav, Akshay Yadav and Aditya Yadav contesting Mainpuri, Firozabad and Badaun respectively. In Mainpuri, an SP

Lucknow: Even as Uttar Pradesh gears up for the third phase of polling on May 7, the 10 constituencies will witness the culmination of a high-pitched campaign on Sunday evening.

This phase will witness polling in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, including Sambhal, Hathras, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah,

bastion that the party has never lost, sitting MP Dimple Yadav will take on Jaiveer Singh of the BJP. In Firozabad, BJP candidate Chandra Sen Jadon is contesting against Akshay Yadav and in Budaun, Aditya Yadav -- the son of Shivpal Yadav -- is making his electoral debut against Durvijay Shakya of BJP. The third phase unfolds with the emergence of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), prominently including Yadavs, Lodhs, and Kachhi/Shakya/Murao communities, exerting influence as decisive factors across various constituencies. Alongside, the enduring impact of Muslim and Jat demographics remains significant in select areas. The third phase has also seen some high-pitched campaigns by leaders of all parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the BJP's campaign against what they called, dynasty and appeasement politics of the Congress.

Politics Around COVID-19 Thickens, Priyanka Gandhi Takes A Sour Jibe At PM Modi For 'Heart Attacks' Causing 'Vaccines'

Davanagere: Top Congress Leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, criticized the central government on Saturday over the COVID vaccine. Taking a major dig at PM Modi, Priyanka claimed that many healthy children are suffering from heart attacks due to vaccines. Do you remember whose photo was on the vaccine certificate? Is there was Modi ji photo or not? Recently a report has come that people who took the vaccine can suffer from Heart attacks. Healthy youngsters are getting heart attacks, they are not ill, it happened because of the vaccine. All these vaccines were made by one company, which gave Modi ji Rs 52 crore donation," she said. She further said that the BJP-led central government is 'corrupt'.



connections with billionaires. They took donations from those who made the COVID vaccine," she said. Vadra went on to say that the BJP introduced the "electoral bond scheme," which allowed them to accept donations from anybody. "They did not increase job opportunities, inflation is at an all-time high, and getting a sick family member treated is a problem. Had Congress guarantees not been implemented in the

state, your life would have been as difficult as the rest of the country. To deeply understand the Central Government, you must understand where their focus lies," she said. Praising Karnataka, she said, "Karnataka gave many great men to the country and also showed the way to the country. Karnataka has had a very deep relationship with my family. You supported my grandmother Indira Gandhi when she was in trouble. Indira ji had said a day before her martyrdom that when she is no more, every drop of her blood will be for the country," she said. Numerous UK media reports state that AstraZeneca made the statement in court filings related to a lawsuit claiming that the vaccine—which was created in collaboration with the University of Oxford—caused fatalities and significant injuries in numerous cases. The COVID-19 vaccine Covishield was developed by the Serum Institute of India without utilizing the mRNA platform.

Rahul Gandhi "Politicised" Rohith Vemula Case, Must Apologise: Nirmala Sitharaman

Pune: Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday demanded that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi apologise for "politicising" the suicide of Rohith Vemula, the University of Hyderabad student who died in 2016, as police in a state ruled by his own party have now said that "it was not a Dalit issue". The Telangana Police has filed a closure report before a court following a probe into Vemula's death, claiming that he was not a Dalit and died by suicide as he feared that his real identity would be discovered. Speaking with a group of select journalists in Pune, Ms Sitharaman pointed out that the police report has been filed in a Congress-ruled state.



The closure report says he had a wrong certificate of SC (Scheduled Caste), and he was not an SC. But, the family of Vemula was dragged and exhibited in the country when it was grieving. The Congress, by dragging the family of Vemula in public, tried to politicise the issue. Look at the statements made by Rahul Gandhi then in Parliament that Vemula was pressurised," the Union minister said. Mr Gandhi should listen to the speeches he had made in the Lok Sabha at the time and apologise to the country, the BJP leader said. "He should also apologise to the SC community for misusing (them). It was not a Dalit issue but (Gandhi) made it look like a Dalit issue. Now he is running 'Mohabbat ki Dukan', but back then he was running 'toxic dukan', and for that he should apologise," she added. Later, speaking on "The role of higher education in realising the vision of 'viksit Bharat' at Deccan College in the city and interacting with the students after the talk, Ms Sitharaman said the University of Hyderabad was not allowed to handle the issue with sensitivity. A narrative was built that the government is suppressive, against students and against SCs, she claimed, adding, "Today the same people, who dragged that unfortunate family to the street, should stand up before the entire country and apologise for having politicised the incident."

BJP vs Trinamool over Sandeshkhali sting: 'Conspiracy, scripted allegations'

The ruling Trinamool Congress in Bengal has called the entire Sandeshkhali episode "scripted" by the BJP after an alleged video showed a saffron party leader naming Suwendu Adhikari as the orchestrator. However, Adhikari has hit back, saying it's a conspiracy because Trinamool senses defeat in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

Kolkata. Bengal Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari called the video in Sandeshkhali sting "doctored" and said it was orchestrated by the ruling Trinamool Congress after sensing defeat in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. "We will go deeper with the matter. The primary issue in Sandeshkhali is the agony of women and elderly people... There have been hundreds of complaints by women, and rape and molestation charges are there. Are these all false? It (video) was committed with malafide intention," Adhikari told reporters. Mocking Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, Adhikari further stated that he has "clearly rattled" the aunt-nephew duo.

"There will be more. I will make them dance even more. I will make the aunt (referring to Mamata Banerjee) a former (Chief Minister) and will send her beloved nephew - involved in coal scam, sand scam, cow smuggling, teachers recruitment scam - to jail," Suwendu Adhikari said. The BJP leader added that Gangadhar Kayal, the man who features in the video, has already lodged a complaint with the CBI, claiming it was morphed and edited. The federal agency is investigating the Sandeshkhali sexual abuse complaints on an order of the Calcutta High Court. Adhikari also



shared a clip of Kayal on X, saying a "twisted and misleading" version of a truth has a "very, very short shelf life".

Kayal, a BJP mandala president in Sandeshkhali, could be purportedly heard in the video saying that the entire Sandeshkhali ordeal has been conspired by Suwendu Adhikari. India Today couldn't

independently verify the authenticity of the video. In his written complaint to the CBI, Kayal said the video was uploaded from an unverified YouTube channel owned by someone named 'Williams'. "It can be seen that the same (footage) has been made using my face and the voice has been modulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI) so that it can mislead the public at large," he added. The BJP mandala president also provided the link to the YouTube video. He further mentioned in his letter that the video was made to "safeguard the actual culprits of Sandeshkhali incidents by shifting the blame and the burden to the person who stood by the

victims of the Sandeshkhali incident and also to disturb the ongoing investigation conducted by the CBI". The recent development has triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress. Mamata Banerjee said the entire Sandeshkhali episode was "pre-planned" and the BJP "had scripted it well". "The truth has been exposed. I have been saying this for a long time. I have not seen the entire video. I will definitely see it," the Chief Minister added. Abhishek Banerjee said during a press briefing in Kolkata on Saturday that he never thought the "politics of Bengal would stoop so low to get votes". "We have been saying from day one that a shameless attempt was made to malign Bengal ahead of the elections," he added.

A fearless arbiter of justice

DISGUSTED as I am by the invectives, jibes and mostly false accusations hurled at each other by leaders of the BJP, the Congress and even smaller parties, I venture to write about a judge who has made me proud of being an Indian. Justice Gautam S Patel retired last week from the Bombay High Court. The farewell function was held in the Chief Justice's court, with all judges present. The protocol followed on this occasion was not the usual one, where the retiring judge sits with the Chief Justice to hear a case and the litigants and lawyers present constitute the audience. For Justice Patel, the protocol was shunned. The courtroom was packed to capacity with all judges of the High Court in attendance. Lawyers, too, were present in large numbers.

Justice S Muralidhar got a grand send-off when he was peremptorily shifted from the Delhi High Court to the Punjab and Haryana High Court overnight in March 2020. Lawyers lined the staircases from the Chief Justice's court to the ground floor to show a truly just and fearless judge that he was appreciated and that he would always be remembered with love and respect. Public servants loved and respected by their colleagues, staff members and the people at large are becoming a rarity. That is why we should celebrate the life and times of Justice Patel.

He was a true servant of the people. I first met him during a lecture by retired Supreme Court judge Sujata Manohar on the High Court premises. It's an annual affair in commemoration of her late father (Justice KT Desai). Justice Patel was the Secretary of the Bar Association at that time, and in that capacity had taken on the task of welcoming the guests. I learnt that he is the son of Shirish Patel, a well-known engineer and builder from Mumbai who is widely respected by members of my generation for his unflinching concern for the wellbeing of the citizens of my city and his own. Only last year, Shirish had asked me to endorse a public appeal made by him to the local authorities to review their plan to redevelop the Bombay Development Department chawls in the heart of the city. He appealed for more open spaces for the residents, mainly the young who wanted playgrounds, another rarity today.

I was delighted when Gautam accepted his elevation to the Bench. Many successful lawyers prefer the lakhs of rupees they make in private practice to the public service of dispensing justice to litigants. He accepted the honour and the accompanying responsibility. He took the oath of office in 2013 and became an instant success with his unshakable sense of fair play and compassion. My daughter, Ana, who uncannily picks up stories of good deeds that benefit the poor and the defenceless, recounted a story she had heard in Goa. There was Poonam, a backward-class girl in a Goan village who was the only member of her community who was educated. She had appeared in a test for a seat in the Goa Medical College, but had missed her chance by a whisker. Two months later, the student who was the last to squeeze in was debarred for submitting false documents. The college decided to keep the seat vacant because of the lapse of time between the start of the semester and the debarment. Justice Gautam S Patel retired last week from the Bombay High Court. The farewell function was held in the Chief Justice's court, with all judges present. The protocol followed on this occasion was not the usual one, where the retiring judge sits with the Chief Justice to hear a case and the litigants and lawyers present constitute the audience. For Justice Patel, the protocol was shunned. The courtroom was packed to capacity with all judges of the High Court in attendance. Lawyers, too, were present in large numbers. Justice S Muralidhar got a grand send-off when he was peremptorily shifted from the Delhi High Court to the Punjab and Haryana High Court overnight in March 2020. Lawyers lined the staircases from the Chief Justice's court to the ground floor to show a truly just and fearless judge that he was appreciated and that he would always be remembered with love and respect. Public servants loved and respected by their colleagues, staff members and the people at large are becoming a rarity. That is why we should celebrate the life and times of Justice Patel, another rarity today.

Decriminalisation of more offences the way forward

Many laws impinge upon individuals' freedom of action and are often either unenforceable or too costly to enforce.

IT was reported recently that the Haryana Government will take a final call on the decriminalisation of offences under about 235 Acts. These will be treated as civil offences and covered by administrative measures and other non-criminal penalties. Criminal sanctions have been traditionally viewed as society's moral condemnation of the defendant's behaviour and its "hatred, fear and contempt for the convict" (Henry M Hart, The Aims of Criminal Law). Criminal sanction has thus a stigmatising quality. In view of the proliferation of criminal laws, it is strongly felt by some criminologists and law-enforcement experts that laws should be reviewed with the objective of decriminalisation of many aspects of human behaviour. Apart from crimes against persons and property, there are several offences which fall in the realm of immorality, such as gambling, liquor consumption, and sexual pursuits like pornography and prostitution.

It is also seen that many of these laws impinge upon individuals' freedom of action and are often either unenforceable or too costly to enforce.

Norval Morris and Gordon Hawkins, in their book The Honest Politician's Guide to Crime Control, referred to the 'overreach' of the criminal law. They argued that the criminal justice system should be stripped of moralistic excrescences so that it can concentrate on the essential. Some criminologists opine that it is obligatory on the part of society to enforce morality through criminal sanctions. Conservative criminologists like HLA Hart (Law, Liberty and Morality) and Patrick Devlin, however, believe that public morality is the 'cement of society', which must be maintained in order to prevent social disintegration. It is difficult to consider some kinds of behaviour as immoral when there is no consensus about their harmfulness.

It is also felt that decriminalisation, in a large measure, is necessary to reduce the workload on the police. The police are working under great stress and are plagued by the shortage of manpower and other material resources.

There is considerable substance in the argument of advocates of decriminalisation that when the police are not able to devote adequate time to the investigation of important cases, they should not be burdened with probes into 'victimless' crimes. The police are indeed devoting an enormous amount of time and energy to the investigation of such cases without getting proportionate results. It is seen that many laws are criminogenic. Sometimes, laws create crimes by labelling and encouraging 'secondary deviance'. According to the labelling theory, the person who is arrested, prosecuted and convicted internalises the label of the criminal and proceeds to act out the role and commit crimes. The law also creates 'secondary deviance'. For instance, a drug addict takes to crime to keep up his habit because the drug is illegal and expensive. Decriminalisation has been proposed in certain areas of criminal law. Some criminologists and law enforcement experts are of the view that sexual activities between consenting adults in



private should not be the subject of criminal law in cases of adultery, homosexuality, pornography and obscenity. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which will soon replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), has omitted adultery as an offence. The Supreme Court decriminalised adultery in a landmark judgment in Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2018). The IPC's Section 497, which exempts the woman from culpability as an abettor and puts the entire blame on the man, is not part of the BNS. However, the new statute's Clause 84 has retained the IPC's Section 498, which penalises a man for enticing the wife of another man so that she may have intercourse with any person. Under Section 377 of the IPC, homosexuality was both a non-cognisable and punishable offence. However, the apex court struck down Section 377 and decriminalised same-sex relations between consenting adults. The BNS has dropped Section 309 (attempted suicide) of the IPC. However, attempted suicide with the intent of preventing a public servant from carrying out his/her duty is still a punishable offence.

Sections 292 and 293 of the IPC state that by itself, possession of obscene material is no offence unless it is so possessed for the purpose of sale, hire, distribution, public exhibition and circulation. Section 293 prohibits the sale of obscene material to any person under the age of 20. In 1969, Denmark became the first country in the world to legalise pornography. Initially, there was a great rush for obscene material, but soon the craze faded and

people did not pay much attention to pornographic books and other material freely available for purchase. Similarly, perhaps, the time has come to think about decriminalisation of gambling by permitting it under licence. In Japan, law enforcement authorities focus on the activities of professional gamblers. No action is taken against betting for small sums of money. While decriminalising gambling, there should be essential safeguards; for example, no attempt must be made by people who indulge in gambling to use force or violence on anybody or entice juveniles into their group to further their activities. The drug menace has become a malaise afflicting many countries. Like a tidal wave, illegal drugs are invading the global market. In the US, there is a growing feeling that criminalisation of heroin has done more harm than good. Advocates of decriminalisation acknowledge that the drug is a destructive commodity which requires control. Decriminalisation means the removal of criminal penalties for the use of heroin, but narcotic trafficking would remain a crime. Drug addiction should be viewed as a health-related rather than a criminal problem. Similarly, cases registered under the liquor laws significantly increase the work on the police without solving the problem itself. There is a growing realisation that criminalisation is not an appropriate response to social and medical problems. Constant efforts are needed to decriminalise unenforceable laws to ease the pressure on the justice delivery system.

Delhi bomb scare

Need to crack down on cybercriminals

THE bomb threat emails received by about 200 schools in Delhi-NCR on Wednesday turned out to be a hoax, but the perpetrators succeeded in creating mass panic and disturbing public order. The emails sent students, parents and the authorities of schools into a tizzy, with the police and fire departments receiving a flurry of phone calls from the institutions. The campuses were swiftly evacuated and the premises were thoroughly searched, but nothing suspicious was found.

The incident has demonstrated the sheer audacity and expertise of cybercriminals, who are using the dark web — encrypted online content that allows users to hide their identity and location — for their nefarious purposes. It is suspected that the hoax is the handiwork of elements from across India's borders. Even as a probe is in progress, what has made things more difficult for the police are the false messages or fake news being circulated on



WhatsApp. The police have requested the citizens to be wary of rumours or misinformation. This is the second such incident in less than a month. More than 20 schools in Kolkata had received bomb threat emails in early April.

Declaring that 'our aim is bloodbath', the senders had claimed that bombs had been placed in classrooms in various schools and would explode during the morning hours. That warning had proved to be a hoax, too. The fact that several airports across the country received threatening emails earlier this week clearly shows that a pattern is being followed to cause nationwide pandemonium. With India in the midst of a General Election, security agencies and cybercrime cells need to work in close coordination and thoroughly probe every case to nail the miscreants. At the same time, there is a need for all to avoid panic and desist from mindlessly forwarding content on social media. Most importantly, criminal elements must not be allowed to disrupt the poll process in any way.

Autocratisation poses a threat to democracy

The theory of autocratisation alerts us to the fact that political practices and policies cannot be divided into neat compartments.

AROUND 35 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of socialist societies — when Francis Fukuyama triumphantly declared that the future belonged to liberal democracy and the West proceeded to mandate global norms of democracy — we are witnessing waves of autocratisation in the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Burundi, Israel, Russia and India. The V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute, based at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, stated in its 2024 democracy report that India was one of the worst autocratisers. The country had been downgraded by V-Dem to the status of an 'electoral autocracy' in 2018. Democracy in the country, stated the report, has declined even further on multiple metrics. V-Dem reports categorise countries into four regime types based on their score on the liberal democratic index: liberal democracy, electoral democracy, electoral autocracy and closed autocracy. The report states that 71 per cent of the world's population (5.7 billion people) lives in autocracies. This represents a sharp increase from 48 per cent 10 years ago. A major decline in democracy has taken place in eastern Europe and South and Central Asia. The level of liberal democracy enjoyed by the average Indian is now reportedly down to the levels of 1975, ie, the Emergency. According to the report, a country falls into the category of liberal democracy when it institutionalises free and fair elections, ensures judicial independence, establishes robust constraints on executive overreach, rigorously safeguards civil liberties and upholds equality before the law. The government in India has occasionally used laws on sedition, defamation and counterterrorism to silence critics. A third electoral term for the BJP government "could lead to further autocratisation, given the already substantial democratic decline under Modi's leadership and the

enduring crackdown on minority rights and civil society," the V-Dem report says. Autocratisation is diametrically opposite to democratisation or the process of deepening democracy. It signifies that today, democracy does not die in military coups, as in Chile in 1973, or through election malpractices. Autocrats now consider sudden takeovers of power politically imprudent. The use of violence to take over the government and the consequent loss of lives provoke outbreaks of outrage and resistance, or, at the least, simmering discontent. Democracy dies when governments slowly but surely subvert institutions that realise and protect democracy to a point where only elections remain. Multi-party elections are held, but under conditions that are palpably unfair. Above all, autocratisation implies a massive concentration of power in the chief executive. Elected executives weaken checks and balances and implement measures to prevent the Opposition from challenging power. Crucially, the substantial decline of core institutions and practices of democracy takes place under the guise of legal proprieties. The process is prolonged, measured and opaque. Contemporary autocrats have perfected the art of eroding democratic institutions while maintaining democratic façades. Piecemeal changes are cloaked in appeals to hyper-nationalism and majoritarianism and through anti-minority and anti-immigrant rhetoric. Autocratisation is a process, not a predestined end to full-blown authoritarianism. The outcome of the process cannot be predicted. We cannot assume whether there will be a complete democratic breakdown or a return to democracy.



Politics is chancy, contingent and unpredictable. Miracles can happen, perhaps. Elections, even if held under unfair conditions, can either kindle the democratic spirit, or spur the stabilisation of authoritarian regimes. What is crucial is the ability of citizens to comprehend the gradual withering away of democracy to the point where the vote is the only weapon available to them. Nevertheless, the power of the vote gives us hope. Perhaps competition between different agendas might enable us, once again, to become what we are meant to be — Aristotle's Zoon Politikon (political animal). Perhaps the autocrat will be deterred by the fact that the idea and ideals of democracy have become the standard for judging existing regimes. After all, after the end of the Cold War, democracy, as

a global norm, has been increasingly shaping expectations. Finally, the theory of autocratisation alerts us to the fact that political practices and policies cannot be divided into neat compartments: democracy vs authoritarianism or dictatorship or fascism. There are elements of authoritarian rule in a democratic government. And autocrats or aspiring autocrats hesitate to adopt policies that draw international condemnation or lead to an uprising within the country. India, despite the whittling away of democratic norms and institutions, has seen at least two major social movements in recent times that have challenged political power. There were massive protests led by university students against the Citizenship Amendment Act in December 2019. In the year that followed, farmers assembled at the borders of the national capital to protest against laws that allegedly favoured the corporate sector. Today, Adivasis are opposing the transfer of their land by the government to corporates. The crucial issue of who owns land in the country is being fought in the apex court. Activists and eminent legal personalities won a court battle against electoral bonds. And thousands of Indians wrote to the Election Commission to call out the objectionable language used by the PM to describe our fellow citizens amid the Lok Sabha elections. India has been and will continue to be a home for a million mutinies. We have experienced the process of autocratisation. Whether the powers that be will or will not achieve their objective of establishing a closed autocracy depends on our vote.

रात के खाने में ना खाएं दही

हम सभी जानते हैं कि दही खाना सेहत के लिए बहुत अधिक लाभकारी होता है। दही एक सुपर फूड है, जिसे हर दिन खाय़ा जा सकता है और यह सेहत को सिर्फ एक नहीं अनेक तरीकों से लाभ पहुंचाती है। पाचन से लेकर त्वचा और बाल सबको हेल्दी रखती है। इस विषय पर नए सिरे से बात करने की जरूरत नहीं है। आज हम इस विषय पर बात करेंगे कि आखिर रात के खाने में दही खाने को क्यों मना किया जाता है।

लाभकारी दही हानि क्यों करने लगती है ?

- आपने अपने पैरेंट्स से अक्सर सुना होगा कि रात के समय दही या दही से बना रायता नहीं खाना चाहिए। लेकिन आज कल शादी-पार्टीज में यह ट्रेंड है कि आप रात के 12 बजे भी डिनर ले रहे होंगे तो आपको रायता जरूर मिलेगा खाने में। खैर, सर्व करनेवाले तो सर्व करते हैं। यह तो आपको निर्णय लेना है कि रात में रायता या दही खाकर आप बीमार पड़ना चाहते हैं या नहीं।
- दही पाचनत्र को ऊर्जा देने का काम करती है। साथ ही हमारे शरीर की रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता भी बढ़ाती है। लेकिन यदि दही का सेवन रात में किया जा तो पाचनत्र भी डिस्टर्ब होता है और रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता पर भी बुरा असर पड़ता है।

पाचकाग्नि को मंद हो जाती है

- अब आपके मन में यह सवाल आ रहा होगा कि आखिर रात में दही खाने पर ऐसा क्या हो जाता है ? तो जान लीजिए कि रात को दही खाने पर पाचनत्र मंद हो जाता है। आयुर्वेद की भाषा में बात करें तो जठराग्नि मंद हो जाती है और शरीर की वायु कुपित हो जाती है। इस कारण रात में दही का सेवन करने पर हाथ, पैर, सिर, कमर या शरीर के किसी भी हिस्से में दर्द की समस्या हो सकती है।

जुकाम लगा सकती है दही

- इसके साथ ही दही खाने पर रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता पर इस लिए बुरा असर पड़ता है, क्योंकि दही तासीर में ठंडी होती है। यदि रात में दही खाई जाती है तो शरीर में कफ की मात्रा में वृद्धि हो सकती है। इससे गले में दर्द, खराश, बलगम वाली खांसी, सिर में भारीपन, जुकाम आदि की समस्या हो सकती है।

जोड़ों का दर्द बढ़ सकता है

- जिन लोगों को जोड़ों के दर्द की शिकायत होती है यदि वे लोग रात के समय दही खाना शुरू कर दें तो यकीन मानिए कि जल्द ही ऐसा समय आएगा जब उनके जोड़ों का दर्द इस कदर बढ़ जाएगा कि दिन-रात का चैन खो सकता है।

सो नहीं पाते ऐसे लोग

- जिन लोगों को अस्थमा की शिकायत है, उन्हें रात के समय भूल से भी दही का सेवन नहीं करना चाहिए। नहीं रात के समय अस्थमा अटक के कारण सांस लेना मुश्किल हो सकता है। हालांकि सभी लोगों को इस बात की जानकारी भी होनी चाहिए खट्टी दही और मीठी दही दोनों के शरीर पर अलग-अलग प्रभाव होते हैं। लेकिन रात के समय आपको किसी भी प्रकार की दही लेने से बचना चाहिए।

आ सकता है बुखार

- रात के समय दही खाना आपको बुखार आने का कारण भी बन सकता है। इसकी वजह ऊपर बताए गए कारणों को मिलाकर तैयार हो जाती है। क्योंकि शरीर में पित्त और वायु का कुपित होना, जुकाम लगना, शरीर में दर्द होना जैसी समस्याएं शरीर के सामान्य तापमान को स्थिर नहीं रहने देती हैं। इससे बुखार आने की समस्या हो सकती है।

रात को दही खाने से बढ़ती है सूजन

- रात को दही खाने से शरीर में सूजन बढ़ने की समस्या बढ़ सकती है। क्योंकि रात में दही का सेवन करने से पित्त की मात्रा में बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है, जो आपके शरीर में सूजन बढ़ाने का काम करेगा।
- अगर आपके शरीर में सूजन की समस्या पहले से है या कोई चोट लगी हुई है तो रात के समय दही खाना आपके शरीर को अंदर से कमजोर करने का काम करेगा। इससे आपके शरीर में दर्द और पीड़ा कई गुना बढ़ सकती है।

जरूरी नहीं अगले दिन ही दिखे रिजल्ट

- अगर आपको लगता है कि आपने तो रात को दही खाई थी, आपको तो कोई समस्या नहीं हुई। तो यह जरूरी नहीं है कि आपने रात में दही खाई है तो अगले दिन सुबह के समय ही आपके शरीर में बीमारी के लक्षण दिखने लगेंगे। ये लक्षण दिन में किसी समय, अगली रात में या एक-दो दिन बाद भी नजर आ सकते हैं।
- ऐसा इसलिए होता है क्योंकि हर किसी की रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता अलग-अलग होती है। एक तरफ जहां किसी में एक बार रात को दही खाने के बाद कुछ ही घंटे में तबीयत खराब हो सकती है तो किसी अन्य व्यक्ति के शरीर में इसका असर 3 दिन बाद भी दिख सकता है।



हरा साग जैसे पालक व्लॉटिंग रोकने वाली वार्फेरिन या कुमारिन दवाओं के असर को काफी हद तक कर देता है बेअसर इसलिए ऐसे लोग जो इन दवाओं को प्रयोग करते हैं उन्हें सलाह दी जाती है कि हरा साग न खाएं।

जि न रोगियों में खून के असामान्य थक्कों के बनने और खून जमने की समस्या होती है, उन्हें एक विशेष दवा के सेवन के कारण कई बार हरा साग खाने से मना किया जाता है। यह दवा वार्फेरिन है। यह और इसके जैसी अनेक दवाएं, जिन्हें कुमारिन-परिवार की दवाएं कहते हैं, विटमिन-के का प्रतिरोध करती हैं। इम्प्युनोलॉजिस्ट एवं यूरोलॉजिस्ट कहते हैं, विटमिन-के का काम खून की क्लॉटिंग से होता है। यह विटमिन एकृत में जमा होता है और इसी कारण हमारा खून सही ढंग से जमता है। यह विटमिन शरीर में

खून के थक्के बनने से रोकने की दवा लेते हैं तो न खाएं हरा साग

क्लॉटिंग फैक्टरों का निर्माण करता है। विटमिन-ख न हो तो न जाने कितने ही लोगों की रक्तस्राव से मौत हो जाए, लेकिन फिर अनेक रोगियों में खून का जमना हानिकारक हो जाता है। मान लीजिए किसी रोगी में हृदयवॉल्व की सर्जरी हुई है या उसे कोई ऐसा रोग है, जिसमें खून बार-बार और जल्दी-जल्दी जमा करता है। ऐसे में अगर विटमिन-के का प्रतिरोध न किया गया, तो फिर खून का लगातार जमना हानिकारक या कभी-कभी जानलेवा साबित होगा। इसलिए ऐसे रोगियों में खून को पतला करने वाली दवाएं चलाई जाती हैं। इन्होंने दवाओं में कुमारिन-परिवार की सदस्य दवाएं भी शामिल हैं, जिनमें वार्फेरिन प्रमुख है। हरा साग विटमिन-के का प्रमुख स्रोत है। इसे खाने से शरीर को विटमिन-ख की प्राप्ति होती है। लेकिन फिर जिन रोगियों

को विटमिन-ख नहीं चाहिए या जिनके लिए विटमिन-के की प्रचुरता हानिकारक है, वे दवा करें? वह ब्लड की व्लॉटिंग (रक्तमन) को रोकने के लिए वार्फेरिन जैसी दवाओं पर निर्भर रहते हैं। और हरे साग का सेवन वार्फेरिन को समुचित कार्य करने से रोकेंगा।

आयरन की गो लियों खाएं

इसलिए डॉक्टर की सलाह होती है कि अगर आप वार्फेरिन या अन्य कुमारिन-दवाएं खाते हैं, तो हरा साग कम-से कम खाएं या न खाएं। हां, यह जरूर है कि ऐसा करने से आपको आवश्यक आयरन नहीं मिलेगा और अनीमिया की आशंका बढ़ जाएगी, लेकिन ऐसी परिस्थिति में वार्फेरिन के साथ हरे साग की बजाय आयरन की गो लियों का सेवन की बेहतर है।

खर्राटों की समस्या से निजात दिलाएगा चुंबक

अगर आपको भी खर्राटें लेने की समस्या है तो आपके लिए एक खुशखबरी है। माउंट जियॉन यूनिवर्सिटी के शोधकर्ताओं ने चुंबक की मदद से एक ऐसा उपकरण बनाया है जो खर्राटों की समस्या से निजात दिला सकता है। दो चुंबकों के खींचने की क्षमता की मदद से हवा की नली को रात में सोने के दौरान खुला रखकर खर्राटों की समस्या को ठीक किया जा सकता है।

इस समस्या से दुनियाभर में लाखों लोग जूझ रहे हैं। इस बीमारी के कारण रात को सोते वक्त हवा की नली संकरी हो जाती है और सांस लेने में अवरोध पैदा होता है। इसके लक्षणों में खर्राटें लेना और मुंह से अजीब आवाजें निकालना भी शामिल हैं। यह बीमारी 40 साल की उम्र से ऊपर के पुरुषों में ज्यादा होती है। मोटापा, शराब की लत और धूम्रपान इसके जोखिम कारक हैं। इससे हार्ट अटैक और स्ट्रोक का खतरा बढ़ जाता है। मैग्नेटिक एपनोइया प्रीवेंशन (मैग्नेट) उपकरण में उस तरह के चुंबक का इस्तेमाल होता है जो कंप्यूटर हार्ड ड्राइव और साइकिल के डायनेमो में पाए जाते हैं। यह उपकरण सांस की नली को खुला

रखने में मदद करता है। चुंबक में एक क्षरण-पूफ टाइटेनियम कोटिंग है और यह दवा किया जाता है कि इन्हें एक बार प्रतिरूपित करने के बाद सालों तक सुरक्षित रूप से शरीर में छोड़ा जा सकता है। इस उपकरण का आकार पचास पैसे के सिक्के के जितना है और इसे सर्जरी के द्वारा गले के हायोड बोन में फिट किया जा सकता है। यह हड्डी जीभ के ठीक नीचे गले में होती है। इस चुंबक को फिट करने की सर्जरी को करने में एक घंटे का समय लगेगा। सर्जरी के चार हफ्ते के बाद एक और चुंबक गले में लगाया जाएगा।

यह दूसरा चुंबक पहले से गले में लगाए गए चुंबक को आकर्षित करेगा जिससे एक हल्का खिंचाव तैयार होगा और हवा की नली खुल जाएगी। मरीज के गले और हवा की नली के आकार के अनुसार विभिन्न आकार के चुंबकों का प्रयोग किया जा सकेगा। अब तक माउंट जियॉन यूनिवर्सिटी हॉस्पिटल में छह लोगों के गले में इस उपकरण को प्रतिरूपित किया गया है। उनकी निगरानी की जा रही है ताकि इस उपकरण की उपयोगिता का पता लगाया जा सके।



दिल का रखेंगे ध्यान ब्रोक्ली और पतागोमी

क्या आपको भी ब्रोक्ली, पतागोमी और ब्रसल्स स्प्राउट जैसी सब्जियां अच्छी नहीं लगती? अगर आप भी इन सब्जियों को खाने से परहेज करते हैं तो आप अनजाने में दिल की बीमारियों को न्योता दे रहे हैं। एक हालिया शोध के अनुसार ये सब्जियां रक्त धमनियों और वाहिकाओं की बीमारियों के जोखिम को कम करने में मदद करती हैं। रक्त धमनियों में अवरोध पैदा होने से हार्ट अटैक और स्ट्रोक का जोखिम बढ़ जाता है। ब्रिटिश जर्नल ऑफ न्यूट्रिशन में प्रकाशित शोध में पाया गया कि पतेदार हरी सब्जियों जैसे ब्रोक्ली, ब्रसल्स स्प्राउट और पतागोमी का सेवन करने का संबंध बुजुर्गों में रक्त वाहिकाओं की बीमारियों को कम जोखिम के साथ था। इसी युक्त ऑफ मेडिसिन और डयूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ वेस्टर्न ऑस्ट्रेलिया के शोधकर्ताओं ने 684 बुजुर्ग महिलाओं पर अध्ययन किया। शोधकर्ताओं ने देखा कि जिन महिलाओं ने ज्यादा हरी पतेदार सब्जियों का सेवन किया उनकी महाधमनी में कैल्शियम के जमाव का खतरा कम पाया गया। यह रक्त वाहिकाओं में होने वाली बीमारियों का पहला संकेत होता है।

हार्ट अटैक हो सकता है

रक्त वाहिकाओं की बीमारियां धमनियों और नसों को प्रभावित करती हैं। धमनियों और नसों में कैल्शियम का जमाव होने से रक्त के प्रवाह में बाधा आती है जिससे हार्ट अटैक और स्ट्रोक का खतरा बढ़ जाता है।

ब्रोक्ली और स्प्राउट

है बेहद फायदेमंद

प्रमुख शोधकर्ता डॉक्टर लारेंस ब्लैकनहॉर्स्ट ने कहा, हरी पतेदार सब्जियों के बारे में कुछ पतागोमी या जिंस पर इस अध्ययन ने अधिक प्रकाश डाला है। हमारे पूर्व शोधों में हमने पाया कि जिन लोगों ने हरी पतेदार सब्जियों का सेवन किया उनमें दिल संबंधी बीमारियों और घटनाएं जैसे हार्ट अटैक और स्ट्रोक का जोखिम कम पाया गया। हमारे शोध से हरी पतेदार सब्जियों के फायदों के बारे में पता चलता है। बुजुर्गों में ज्यादा हरी पतेदार सब्जियों का सेवन करने से धमनियां स्वस्थ रहती हैं और इससे दिल भी स्वस्थ रहता है।

विटामिन-के

मौजूद होता है

हरी पतेदार सब्जियों जैसे ब्रोक्ली, स्प्राउट और पतागोमी में बड़ी मात्रा में विटामिन-के मौजूद होता है। विटामिन-के रक्त वाहिकाओं में कैल्शियम के जमाव को रोकने का काम करता है।



कोलेस्ट्रॉल बढ़ने या घटने से हो सकते हैं मानसिक दिव्यांगता का शिकार

कोलेस्ट्रॉल बढ़ने या घटने से ऑटिज्म जैसी मानसिक दिव्यांगता विकसित हो सकती है। हार्वर्ड विश्वविद्यालय समेत तीन संस्थानों के अध्ययन में यह जानकारी सामने आई है। ऑटिज्म के मरीज न तो अपनी बात ठीक से कह पाता है ना ही दूसरों की बात समझ पाता है और न उनसे संवाद स्थापित कर सकता है। यदि इन लक्षणों को समय रहते भांप लिया जाए, तो काबू पाया जा सकता है। प्रतिष्ठित नेचर पत्रिका में प्रकाशित इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, बच्चे के धीमे मानसिक व शारीरिक विकास से जुड़ी इस बीमारी के लक्षण बचपन में ही दिखने लगते हैं। हार्वर्ड विश्वविद्यालय, मैसाचुसेट्स इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी और नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी के वैज्ञानिकों ने कोलेस्ट्रॉल और ऑटिज्म के संबंध के बारे में जानने के लिए

वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन किया। शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि ऑटिज्म के सबटाइप वाली एक बीमारी उन्हीं अनुवांशिक तत्वों से होती है जो शरीर में कोलेस्ट्रॉल मेटाबोलिज्म और मस्तिष्क विकास को नियंत्रित करते हैं। वैज्ञानिकों ने मस्तिष्क के नमूनों के डीएनए अध्ययन से पाया कि लिपिड डायफंक्शन और ऑटिज्म के बीच साझा आणुविक जड़ें होती हैं। फिर वैज्ञानिकों ने ऑटिज्म पीड़ित लोगों के मेडिकल रिकॉर्ड का अध्ययन करके इस बात की पुष्टि की। लिपिड जीवित कोशिकाओं में एक महत्वपूर्ण अवयव होता है जो एल्कोहल में घुलनशील है। अध्ययनकर्ता इसहाक कोहेन का कहना है कि शोध के निष्कर्ष बताते हैं कि यह बहुत जटिल बीमारी है और इसके विभिन्न प्रकार अलग-अलग कारणों से उत्पन्न होते हैं।



घुटने का दर्द हो जाएगा छूमंतर ट्राय करें यह देसी नुस्खा

बढ़ती उम्र और डेली रूटीन में अलग-अलग स्थितियों के कारण हमारे शरीर में अलग-अलग प्रकार के बदलाव होते हैं। इसके परिणामस्वरूप कई प्रकार की बीमारियां और स्वास्थ्य समस्याएं भी शरीर को अपना शिकार बनाती हैं जिनमें घुटनों का दर्द भी प्रमुख रूप से गिना जाता है। घुटने

के दर्द की समस्या ज्यादातर बुजुर्गों को परेशान करती है वहीं खेलकूद से जुड़े लोगों को भी इस समस्या से जूझना पड़ता है। ऐसे लोगों के लिए यहां पर एक देसी नुस्खे के बारे में बताया जा रहा है जो उनके घुटनों में होने वाले दर्द को दूर करने के लिए कारगर रूप से कार्य कर सकता है। आइए इस देसी नुस्खे के बारे में आपको पूरी जानकारी देते हैं।

क्यों होता है घुटनों में दर्द ?

इस देसी नुस्खे को जानने से पहले आपको यह जरूर जान लेना चाहिए कि आपके पैरों में होने वाले दर्द का प्रमुख कारण क्या होता है ? मुख्य रूप से अगर बात की जाए तो घुटनों में होने वाला दर्द टेन्डाइलिस, गाउट, ऑस्टियोआर्थराइटिस, बर्सेस सिस्ट, बर्साइटिस जैसी मेडिकल कंडीशन के कारण होता है। इसके अलावा खेलकूद के दौरान लगने वाली चोट या फिर किसी दुर्घटना में गिरने के कारण भी घुटनों में दर्द की समस्या हो सकती है। नीचे आपको ऐसे दो खास देसी नुस्खे बताए जा रहे हैं जो सामान्य रूप से घुटने में होने वाले दर्द की समस्या को ठीक करने के लिए आपके मदद कर सकते हैं।

सेब के सिरके का करें सेवन

सेब के सिरके में ऐसे कई औषधीय गुण मौजूद रहते हैं जो आपकी सेहत के लिए भी प्रभावी रूप से फायदेमंद साबित होते हैं। एक चम्मच सेब के सिरके को अगर आप गर्म पानी के साथ मिलाकर पीने के लिए इस्तेमाल करते हैं तो इसमें मौजूद पेन रिलीविंग गुण आपके घुटनों में होने वाले दर्द को दूर करने के लिए प्रभावी असर दिखा सकता है। आप इस तरह सेब के सिरके का दिन में दो बार सेवन कर सकते हैं। कोशिश करें कि खाना खाने के पहले इसका सेवन करें।

नींबू और तिल के तेल का इस्तेमाल

एक नींबू लें और उसे काटकर रस निकाल लें। अब दो चम्मच तिल के तेल में नींबू के रस को मिलाए और हल्के हाथों अपने घुटनों पर इस मिश्रण की मालिश करें। रात में सोने से पहले और सुबह उठने के बाद यानी मॉर्निंग वॉक पर जाने से पहले आप इस देसी नुस्खे को ट्राय कर सकते हैं। नींबू में मौजूद एंटी इन्फ्लेमेटरी गुण घुटनों में होने वाली सूजन को कम करके दर्द को दूर कर सकता है। प्रतिदिन 125 मिलीलीटर सब्जी के जूस का सेवन करना चाहिए।

NEWS BOX

Faf du Plessis's GT blitz praised by Watson: He wanted to do this for RCB all season

Shane Watson heaped praise on Faf du Plessis after his knock against GT in Bengaluru. Du Plessis scored 64 off just 23 balls and set up the win for RCB.

Bengaluru Shane Watson praised Faf du Plessis for his whirlwind knock against GT and said that the RCB skipper wanted to play such a knock for his side this season. Du Plessis hit a 23-ball 64 to set the platform for RCB's win on May 4. The RCB skipper got to his fifty in 18 balls, the second-fastest for the franchise.

Du Plessis' knock helped RCB get the win in the end, despite a small collapse. Speaking to JioCinema, Watson said that it was excellent batting from the RCB skipper and he got the pace and bounce of the wicket very quickly. The former all-rounder said that when Du Plessis is in such a mood, the margin for the bowlers is very low. Watson said that Du Plessis was determined to put the foot down for his side against GT, as evident from his landmark fifty.

"Certainly was. Excellent batting. He played these beautiful shots. He got the pace and bounce of the wicket so quickly. And when



Faf is in this type of mood, he has access all around the ground. So, the room for error for the bowlers is so small. He has been wanting to do this all season for RCB. He has got off to a start in a couple of innings but hasn't been able to go through the innings like he did tonight." And now, 18-ball 50 he got. The second fastest for RCB, that showed how Faf put his foot down tonight. His team needed that kick along in the powerplay," said Du Plessis.

How well has Du Plessis performed this season in IPL 2024?

Compared to his fantastic 2023 campaign, Du Plessis has had a lacklustre time in IPL 2024. The RCB skipper had scored 730 runs in 14 matches last season and has only 352 to his name this time around. The knock against GT was Du Plessis' third fifty of the campaign. He is now the second-highest run-getter for RCB this season, behind Virat Kohli. RCB will need to win all their remaining matches to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Madrid Open: Iga Swiatek gets her revenge, beats Aryna Sabalenka in marathon final

New Delhi. Iga Swiatek won the women's singles title in the Madrid Open 2024 after beating Aryna Sabalenka in a humdinger of a final on Saturday. After over 3 years, Swiatek won the match 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7) at Manolo Santana. The Pole also avenged her defeat to Sabalenka last year when she lost in another 3-setter. The 25-year-old Sabalenka had the chance to equal Petra Kvitova's tally of 3 Madrid Open titles, but Swiatek did not let that happen. Swiatek also extended her lead to 7-3 against Sabalenka on the WTA level. It also happened to be Swiatek's 20th title in the WTA. The opening set turned out to be an absolute thriller as both players earned a break apiece to make it 5-5. But then, Swiatek broke Sabalenka's serve to take the



opening set. Sabalenka had a decent first serve, but a winning percentage of only 30.8 from her second serves let her down. The excitement did not go down even in the second set. Sabalenka went 3-1 up with a break of serve after which Swiatek stormed back into the match. This time around, the Belarusian star held her nerve to take the match into the deciding third set. Swiatek with the last laugh

In the decider, both players were just not willing to throw in the towel. Swiatek and Sabalenka converted a break point apiece to make it 5-5. In the next game, Sabalenka fetched herself 2 championship points, but Swiatek saved both of them and took the contest into a tie-breaker.

It was also the first tie-breaker between them in 10 meetings. This time, Swiatek had a championship point at 6-5, but Sabalenka did not give up the ghost. Sabalenka failed to convert a third championship point as the match kept the audience at the edge of their seats. But at 8-7, Swiatek converted her second championship point as the curtains came down on the cliffhanger in Madrid.

Green revolution: Meet the next generation of Indian pitches

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino has slammed the "stupid rumours" swirling around his Stamford Bridge future and said it is up to the Premier League club's hierarchy to decide if he will continue beyond this season.

CHENNAI. Toss. Weather. Conditions. Pitch. Dew. Outfield. These are just some of the factors that have a significant say in the way a team approaches a match, irrespective of the format. Among the above, pitch takes prominence for how it behaves could dictate the pace at which play progresses. While cricket is still scratching the surface when it comes to data, significant technological advancements have been made in many other aspects, including the pitch.

Whether it is drop-in or conventional, there are different types of pitches based on the soil used, and so on. Over the past decade or so, hybrid pitches, too, have come into practice, especially for the white-ball format.

SISGrass, a UK-based synthetic turf manufacturer, has been a pioneer in the field — not just in cricket but also in football, rugby and hockey. With over 650 hybrid pitches installed across the globe, including Dubai, where conditions are vastly different from England. And now, joining hands with Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), they have installed four hybrid pitches on the square of the scenic venue at the foothills of the Dhauladhar Range and two pitches in the nets outside. While they are used just for practice at the moment, it is the first time a venue in the country has installed hybrid pitches. Now, what is a hybrid pitch and how is it different from a conventional surface? Paul Taylor, former England cricketer and International Sales Director, Cricket at SIS Grass, explains. "There are different kinds of hybrid pitches. There is an artificial hybrid, a concrete base with a carpet on top and then a soil profile on top of that. There's a carpeted hybrid, which is a synthetic carpet. It's then filled with soil, and then grass grows within that soil. Then there's the stitched hybrid, which is what we do. It takes your existing natural turf pitch and we inject synthetic fibres into that surface. And the stitching is at 20*20m centres. It covers the whole pitch,



and it extends beyond the stump lines by about a metre to make sure that the back foot contact for the bowlers is part of the system. The fundamental thing that is different about our pitch, is that it's still 95 percent a natural turf surface. There's only 5 percent of fibre injected into it," Taylor tells this daily.

"The stitching goes to a depth of 90mm but we can stitch deeper. In cricket, we only stitch to 90mm because that's all that's really needed. The fibre that we use is a polyethylene monofilament fibre. It's the latest technology in terms of how that's made. It's resilient and durable. It enhances performance. It doesn't fade in UV light and things like that. And it comes in different colours as well. We have a green fibre, a beige fibre, then a mixture of green and beige, so whatever the surface that

we're stitching into, we can pick the suit," he adds. The 5 percent fibre is expected to keep the wear and tear in check; it also enables the grass to recover after a match. "The fibres help the grass plant to become stronger. There's a natural air space around the fibre when it's injected, obviously, water will go down. And all the nutrients that are put onto cricket squares will also get down to the root. So the grass is a lot stronger, a lot more durable. You get up to three times the amount of cricket on one pitch that you would ordinarily get with a fully natural surface," says Taylor. However, when it comes to pitches, it is never one size fits all. The conditions in England, where SIS Grass began working in 2017, is very different from India, a country where different states will have different climatic conditions throughout the year. This is where the other factors like soil content and clay content come into play. "It is different in different places. However, we have installed it in Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and so on. One of the things we noticed when we installed the pitches in the UK is that the moisture content within the soil profile needed to be about 40% to allow the injecting needles to inject the fibres. In India, because the clay content is a lot higher

Real Madrid clinch record extending 36th LaLiga title after Girona thrash Barcelona

Real Madrid claimed a record-extending 36th LaLiga title on Saturday after Girona fought-back to beat Barcelona 4-2, a result that left Carlo Ancelotti's side with an unassailable lead in the standings.



New Delhi. Real Madrid claimed a record-extending 36th LaLiga title on Saturday after Girona fought-back to beat Barcelona 4-2, a result that left Carlo Ancelotti's side with an unassailable lead in the standings. Real Madrid, who have lost only once in the league this season, beat lowly Cadiz earlier on Saturday. They hold a 13-point advantage over second-placed Girona while Barcelona dropped to third with four matches remaining. Real now can turn their attention to a LaLiga-Champions League double as they get ready to host Bayern Munich in the semi-final return leg on Wednesday after snatching a 2-2 draw in Germany last week. It was an afternoon of celebration for Girona too as the win secured them a spot in Europe for the first time after

they qualified for next season's Champions League. A brace from substitute Portu helped surprise package Girona to humble their Catalan rivals for the second time this season. Girona had also beaten Barca away in December by the same score. On Saturday Andreas Christiansen gave Barca the lead in the third minute before Girona hit back a minute later with LaLiga top-scorer Artem Dovbyk heading in the equaliser. Robert Lewandowski put the visitors back in front from the penalty spot after Lamine Yamal was fouled inside the box just before the break and a wasteful Barca missed several chances to extend their lead early in the second half. However, in the 65th minute, in his first action after coming off the bench,

Portu netted the equaliser and Miguel Gutierrez scored from a rebound two minutes later to give Girona the lead. A stunning volley from Portu in the 74th minute secured the win.

"It's incredible to look at your shirt and experience this. There is nothing more beautiful than living this," an emotional Portu told DAZN with tears rolling down his face. "I had a thorn in my side with this club. A few years ago, I experienced the other side, which was relegation and I felt very responsible because I played a lot. Today I made amends with the fans and I can smile again." If Barcelona end up finishing outside the top two, it will be a further blow to the club which is facing mounting financial problems related to their massive wage bill, a 1.2 billion euro debt and a 1.6 billion euro Camp Nou stadium renovation project.

The champions and runners-up of the Copa del Rey and LaLiga contest the lucrative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, with the winner bagging a potential 6.6 million euros. With four matches remaining, Barca now rely on Girona slipping up if they are to have any chance of contesting the Super Cup.

Never say die: Sunil Gavaskar praises Mohammed Siraj for heroic spell vs GT

Bengaluru Sunil Gavaskar heaped praise on Mohammed Siraj after the fast bowler produced a match-winning spell for RCB in their IPL 2024 match on Saturday, May 4 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Siraj got the prized wickets of Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill to finish with figures of 4-0-29-2. After the speedster removed both openers, GT could hardly recover and were bowled out for 147. Thereafter, the Challengers chased down the target with 38 balls to spare and won the match by 4 wickets. Lauding Siraj, Gavaskar recalled the times when the pacer played in the Test series against Australia back in 2020-21 despite his father passing away. "He realised that playing for India was important. Also, he was not established at the stage. An established player would 100 percent have gone back.



When you are not established and you are looking to get your place in the team, you stick around," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

IPL 2024, RCB vs GT: Match Report | Full Scorecard | Siraj's strength is self-belief

Gavaskar also praised Siraj for dismissing Steve Smith in the historic Gabba Test when

the Australian batter was batting on 55 in the second innings.

"And look how spectacularly he bowled in that Gabba Test match, getting somebody like a Steve Smith out when he was batting on 55. Dismissing Smith when he has come in to bat is one thing and to get him out when he was set is another. This is the strength of Siraj, the self-belief and never-say-die attitude," Gavaskar added.

After RCB beat GT, Siraj said that he wasn't on top of his health as he was sick. However, he motivated himself to get up and take the field. After winning the Player of the Match award, Siraj also helped RCB stay alive in the competition. RCB jumped to seventh in the table with 8 points and a net run rate of -0.049 thanks to wins in 4 out of 11 matches.



are set to meet KKR on Sunday, May 5 in IPL 2024. LSG will be fighting KKR for a spot in the top two positioning in the Indian Premier League. Both LSG and KKR have played 10 matches and are separated by only 2 points. If LSG win by a big margin, there are chances that they replace KKR at the second spot in the league table.

KL Rahul would be hoping to continue his aggressive form and would want a little more contribution from the rest of the team. LSG won their last match against MI at home and will back Marcus Stoinis and KL Rahul to deliver once again.

LSG, RR, KKR, SRH and CSK are currently the top contenders for the playoffs spot in the Indian Premier League 2024 season.

GT were not losing 'crucial moments' in last 2 years: David Miller

IPL 2024: GT batter David Miller feels that the team has lost crucial moments in the ongoing season of the tournament, something that did not happen in the last two years. Under Shubman Gill's captaincy, GT have lost 7 out of 11 matches.

Bengaluru GT are sitting at the 9th position in the Indian Premier League after their loss against RCB on Saturday, 4 May. It has been a hapless season for the Shubman Gill side who have lost 7 out of their first 11 matches. GT batter David Miller feels that the team has lost crucial moments throughout the tournament, something that did not happen in the last two years of their campaign. In 2022 and 2023, GT reached the final of the tournament, winning one of them - in their debut season. Speaking at the press conference after the match, Miller said that the side had lost several close

games and if they had won those, they could have been in the top half of the table. On the day, against RCB, both GT batting and bowling departments failed in the powerplay, resulting in a 4-wicket loss vs Faf du Plessis' side. "I think it's a tough one because, um you know this game of cricket where margins are so small and there are certain games that we potentially should have won that we did lose that. We're pretty close. And if you win those, you know, if we had one, those two games, things would have been, you know, very different would have been six from 11. Um, you know, now we are 4 from 11, so it kind of behind the eight ball," Miller said at the press conference. "But I feel like the first two years we played, you know, like, we won crucial moments. And this year we've been we just haven't been able to win those crucial moments in the game and hence losing the close games," Miller further added. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full



Schedule

Asked about GT's failure against RCB, Miller said that they were not going to win many games by scoring 150 runs, but the batter was proud of the fightback that the team showed in Bengaluru. GT after getting hammered for 90 runs in the first 6 overs, managed to pick up 6 wickets in the next 5 overs to put the side under pressure. But the Shubman Gill side just did not have

enough runs on the board to defend.

"To be honest, we lost the game, I feel like in the powerplay, batting and bowling. Look, I mean, we were a couple of wickets down for not too many runs while batting, and then bowling. They were on about 90 after 6 overs. So it was tough to, you know, you're not gonna really win too many games like that, by scoring 150," Miller said. "I think taking the positive out

of this game, I thought the fight was incredible. You know, being the position that we were with the bat managing to get to 140-150 is, you know, something on the board, and then for them to be what they were in the powerplay, extraordinary powerplay. We had to fight back. The way that we did was really good to see," concluded the middle-order batter.

Sonakshi Sinha

Reveals She Will Not Join Dad Shatrughan In Politics: 'Don't Have The Aptitude For It'

Sonakshi Sinha has revealed that she is not interested in joining politics, unlike her actor-turned-politician father Shatrughan Sinha. In a recent interview with Raj Shamani, Sonakshi was asked about her plans to join politics when she joked, "No, fir vahan bhi tum nepotism nepotism karoge."

The 36-year-old actress further explained that one has to be a "people's person" to join politics but contrary to this, she is a very private person. She also admitted that she lacks "aptitude" to be a politician and therefore, there is no point in joining a political party just for the sake of doing it.



Sonakshi Sinha is currently enjoying the success of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar.

"All jokes aside, I don't think I would because I've seen my dad do it. I don't think I have the aptitude for it. My dad is a very people's person. I am a very private person, and you've to be a people's person, you've to be there for them and this could be anyone strangers from every part of the country, and I've seen my dad do that, so I don't think I have that in me," Sonakshi added. Meanwhile, on the work front, Sonakshi Sinha is currently enjoying the success of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. In Bhansali's OTT debut, Sinha played the role of Fareedan, who is formidable, shrewd and sardonic. She essays the role of the daughter of Mallikajaan's elder sister, who had a catastrophic end. She's a doppelganger of her mother and poses the biggest threat to Mallikajaan, who worries that this new Heeramandi entrant will raze her to the ground. Her only ambition is to avenge the injustice meted out to her mother and is single-handedly fighting the battle.

Besides Sonakshi, Heeramandi also stars Manisha Koirala, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal Mehta, Farida Jalal, Shekhar Suman, Fardeen Khan and Adhyayan Suman in key roles. It explores the various aspects of a woman's trials and tribulations.

Showsha's review of Heeramandi reads, "With Heeramandi, Sanjay Leela Bhansali creates a world that's exquisite and is rich and vibrant in its culture and texture. Inhabiting this realm are some characters that are as

unapologetic, complex and imperfect as a human can be. Here, the women call their own shots and is unafraid of what the civil society might think of them. They're pitted against each other, sometimes one even wishing for and conspiring against another's downfall and shattering their self-worth, pride and ego. They can tear apart and even love like tigresses. And when the right time comes, they don't bat an eyelid before fiercely protecting one another.



Mom-To-Be Deepika Padukone Flaunts Pregnancy Glow As She Poses With Co-actors On Singham Again Set



Mom-to-be Deepika Padukone is currently shooting for Singham Again. While on set, Deepika posed with the junior artists working with her. Deepika Padukone's pregnancy glow caught everyone's attention in the photo. Deepika, who is expecting her first baby with Ranveer Singh, is working through her pregnancy. In Singham Again, she will be playing the role of Lady Singham.

Recently, a junior artist who worked with Deepika dropped a selfie on Instagram with the actress. She also shared a sketch she made for Deepika and a bouquet of flowers with a note that read, "To our hero, Lady Singham". The bouquet and note were also shared by Deepika on her Instagram account.

The artist also penned a heartfelt note for Deepika and wrote, "@deepikapadukone The Only Lady Singham? Glad to work with you ma'am? One of the best days of my life Felt so lucky to work with you, still remember the day you smiled at me and the way you appreciated and became happy after seeing the sketch. I pray that we meet many more times in future.....??? Lots of love from us!! Always and forever ma'am???? Love Love????"

Deepika Padukone has a prominent role in the movie. Back in 2023, Rohit Shetty had said that Singham Again would feature Deepika as one of the heroes. He said, "She is like one of the heroes and what we are doing with it is that we will go with her story. We will make a film which has only Deepika... it is her story... Like Sooryavanshi, Singham and Simmba, the films had already been made and people knew about them but with Singham Again we are introducing these characters and then we will tell their stories."

The film features Ajay Devgn in the lead role, along with Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor Khan. Other than Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff will also be introduced into Rohit's cop-verse through Singham Again. Meanwhile, Deepika is expecting her first child with Ranveer. The couple announced their pregnancy in February this year. Deepika shared an adorable poster with "September 2024" written on it. The poster also had children's clothes, toys and balloons as the border.

Dharmendra and Hema Malini Get Married AGAIN After 44 Years? Couple's Pics Spark Rumours



Hema Malini and Dharmendra celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary on Thursday and it seems like the couple got married yet again. The veteran actress sparked rumours of a possible second marriage ceremony after she shared pictures of her and Dharmendra's intimate celebrations. Taking to X, Hema Malini shared a picture in which she and Dharmendra were seen sporting massive garlands while they posed for pictures. The Sholay actress was seen wearing a bright traditional saree and sindoor while Dharmendra sported a peach-coloured shirt.

She also shared a photo in which Dharmendra was seen planting a kiss on Hema's cheek while she blushed. The couple was joined by their daughter Esha Deol. Sharing the photos, Hema wrote, "Photos from today at home." Esha also shared one of the pictures from the intimate celebrations and wrote, "That's pretty much what I'm made of Hema Malini and Dharmendra first met in 1970 when they were shooting for their film Tum Haseen Main Jawaan. Fans loved their pairing. But when they decided to get married, even Hema's parents were not in favour. However, life had different plans for the couple and after many difficulties, they got married in 1980. They have two daughters - Esha Deol and Ahana Deol.

Before Bollywood's Dream Girl, Dharmendra was married to Prakash Kaur with whom he has two sons - Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. Meanwhile, Dharmendra was last seen in Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon's Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya. He will soon be seen in Srimant Raghavan's 'Ikkis', which will star Amitabh Bachchan's grandson, Agastya Nanda in the lead. On the other hand, Hema Malini is currently busy with the Lok Sabha elections. The actress is contesting from the Mathura constituency on the BJP ticket. Recently, Hema was also joined by her daughters Esha and Ahana for the campaign in Mathura.

Shah Rukh Khan To Begin Filming Next Project Soon, Says 'I Felt Ki Thoda Rest Kar Leta Hu'



Shah Rukh Khan was occupied throughout 2023 and has yet to start filming for his upcoming project this year. During an interview for Knight Club's King Khan Rules on Star Sports, the actor shared insights on his return to the shooting schedule for the year. Shah Rukh mentioned that last year, he had three movie releases (Pathaan, Jawan, and Dunki), which kept him constantly engaged. Considering the physical demands of his roles, he opted to take a break and focus on his IPL cricket team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

He expressed, "I just felt ki main thoda rest kar sakta hoon. Teen filmen kar chuka hoon, it took a lot of physical work also. So I said maybe I'll take some time off. I told the whole team ki, main matches ko aaunga. Fortunately, meri

shooting ab August main hain, ya July... we plan in June, to June se shuru hojayege. So, I am absolutely free to come to all the matches. Main khushi se aata hoon. (I felt I could rest. I did three physically demanding films. I told the whole team I'll come to their matches. Fortunately, I don't shoot my next till August or June, we plan in June. It makes me happy to be here.)"

In a recent interview on the same channel, Shah Rukh referred to Virat Kohli as Bollywood's 'damaad', acknowledging his marriage to actor Anushka Sharma. He shared, "I spent a lot of time with him, I just love him. We say that he is our son-in-law, he is our fraternity's 'damaad'. I have known him the most compared to other players. I have known Virat and Anushka for a long time,

spent a lot of time with them. I know him since his dating period was going on and I was shooting the film with Anushka. So, he spent many days with us, and became very friendly." Meanwhile, if a new report is to be believed, Shah Rukh will be playing a Don in his film with his daughter Suhana Khan. Much like his OG Don role, Shah Rukh will have shades of grey in the film. It is widely reported that SRK and Suhana are working together in a film by Sujoy Ghosh. The film is allegedly titled King. It is co-produced by Pathaan maker Siddharth Anand and Gauri Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment. A source told Pinkvilla, "Shah Rukh Khan is making films for the audience and is well aware about their urge to see him in shades of grey. King is his passion project and he has been meticulously working on all aspects of the project with Siddharth Anand and Sujoy Ghosh. They have collectively carved a very cool full of attitude and swag character with shades of grey for SRK in King."

A source told Pinkvilla, "Shah Rukh Khan is making films for the audience and is well aware about their urge to see him in shades of grey. King is his passion project and he has been meticulously working on all aspects of the project with Siddharth Anand and Sujoy Ghosh. They have collectively carved a very cool full of attitude and swag character with shades of grey for SRK in King."

Meanwhile, speaking about this look, the insider added that Shah Rukh will sport 'long hair with a faint beard.' We are already having Don 2 Deja vu. The source added, "While the character designing is already done, Siddharth Anand is presently working on the action blocks with international stunt teams. Sujoy, on the other hand, is getting the dialogue draft ready, whereas SRK is overseeing the creative process and training with Suhana on some new-age action sequences." "Shah Rukh, Sujoy, Siddharth and Suhana are yet to react to the claims. It was previously claimed that the filming of 'King' is scheduled to commence in May, over a span of five months, with plans to premiere the movie in the latter half of 2025.