

मानगो और बागबेड़ा में हुई फायरिंग की घटनाओं की जांच में मिली सफलता

मो. चांद और नीरज दुबे समेत छह अपराधी गए जेल

भारी संख्या में हथियार और गोलियां बरामद, एसएसपी ने प्रेस कांफ्रेंस कर दोनों मामलों की दी जानकारी

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

बागबेड़ा में विजय उर्फ मोनु पर फायरिंग करने के मामले में पुलिस ने बीते दिनों मुख्य साजिशकर्ता कन्हैया सिंह को गिरफ्तार कर जेल भेज दिया था।

इधर, मोनु पर फायरिंग करने वाले मो. चांद और नीरज दुबे समेत उलीडीह में गड्डू पांडे के घर पर भी फायरिंग करने वाले सिंदू सिंह, डेविड टोपो, सुनील रजक और ब्रजेश कुमार पांडेय भी पुलिस के हथकड़े हैं।

आरोपियों की निशानदेही पर पुलिस ने एक रिपोटर बंदूक, चार देसी पिस्टल एक देसी कट्टा, और कुल 102 राउंड गोली भी बरामद की है। बुधवार को सभी को जेल

कोलकाता से घरायें

मामले की जानकारी देते हुए एसएसपी किशोर कोशल ने बताया कि पुलिस को गुप्त सूचना मिली थी कि सभी आरोपी कोलकाता में छिपे हुए हैं। इसके बाद डीएसपी भोला प्रसाद सिंह के नेतृत्व में एक एसआईटी टीम का गठन किया गया। टीम ने कोलकाता पुलिस की मदद से कोलकाता के बागुईहाटी थाना क्षेत्र के लोकनाथ अपार्टमेंट में छापेमारी की।

भेज दिया गया है।

इस दौरान नीरज दुबे, डेविड टोपो, मो. चांद, सिंदू सिंह और ब्रजेश कुमार पांडेय को गिरफ्तार किया गया। इसके अलावा पुलिस ने सुनील रजक को जमशेदपुर से ही गिरफ्तार किया।



प्रेस कांफ्रेंस कर जानकारी देते एसएसपी व अन्य • फोटोन न्यूज

कई मामलों में थे फरार

एसएसपी ने बताया कि गिरफ्तार सभी अपराधी किसी न किसी मामले में फरार चल रहे थे। सिंदू सिंह पर हत्या और फायरिंग के कुल चार मामले दर्ज हैं। वहीं डेविड पर भी तीन मामले दर्ज हैं। मो चांद पर दो और सुनील पर एक जबकि नीरज पर दो मामले दर्ज हैं। ब्रजेश पांडेय हत्या के मामले में सजायापता है और फिलहाल अपील बेल पर बाहर है।



एक साथ दो मामलों का हुआ खुलासा

आरोपियों की गिरफ्तारी के साथ ही एक साथ दो मामलों का खुलासा हो गया। बागबेड़ा पर मोनु सिंह पर फायरिंग और उलीडीह में गड्डू पांडे पर फायरिंग का खुलासा किया गया है। फिलहाल सभी आरो.पियों को पुलिस रिमांड पर लेकर पृष्ठाछ करेगी। आरोपियों को न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया गया है।

चुनाव ड्यूटी में लगे कर्मियों ने किया मतदान, अधिकारियों ने किया निरीक्षण

मतदान कार्य में प्रतिनियुक्त सभी कर्मियों को वोटिंग का निर्देश, पर्यटक सूचना केंद्र में बनाया गया बूथ

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

पर्यटक सूचना केंद्र में पुलिस पदाधिकारी, पुलिस बल व होमगार्ड के लिए बनाए गए पोस्टल बैलेट सुविधा केंद्र का जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी अनन्व मित्तल ने निरीक्षण किया। इस मौके पर उप विकास आयुक्त मनीष कुमार भी मौजूद रहे। इस दौरान जिले के वरीय पदाधिकारियों ने प्रतिनियुक्त आईआरओ से अब तक हुए मतदान की जानकारी ली। इसके साथ ही हेल्प डेस्क के माध्यम से मतदाताओं को गाइड किए जाने तथा मतदान सुविधा केंद्र में बिजली, पेयजल, शौचालय, संखे आदि की उपलब्धता से अवगत कराया। इसके साथ ही चुनाव ड्यूटी में प्रतिनियुक्त सभी कर्मियों को निर्देश दिए कि वह अपने मत का



मतदान के लिए पहुंचे जनब

प्रयोग अवश्य करें। विदित हो कि 14 मई से पोलिंग पार्टी, पुलिस पदाधिकारी, पुलिस बल, होमगार्ड तथा जिले के पदाधिकारी व कर्मी एवं आवश्यक सेवाओं के मतदाता के लिए पोस्टल बैलेट से मतदान की प्रक्रिया शुरू है। वोटिंग को लेकर मतदाता काफी उत्साहित हैं, जहां पहले दिन 1437 मतदाताओं ने

टीडब्ल्यू सदस्यों ने लिया मतदान का संकल्प

JAMSHEDPUR : जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी अनन्व मित्तल के निर्देश पर 25 को 25 के साथ परिवार का पूर्ण थैम पर मतदाता जागरूकता कार्यक्रम टाटा वर्कर्स यूनियन के सदस्यों के बीच किया गया। कार्यक्रम में शामिल उप विकास आयुक्त सह वरीय पदाधिकारी स्वीप कोषांग मनीष कुमार ने सभी से अपील की कि 25 मई को 25 लोगों के साथ वोट डालने बूथ पर जाएं। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशासन द्वारा शहरी क्षेत्र के मतदाताओं को लक्षित कर व्यापक स्तर पर मतदाता जागरूकता कार्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे हैं,

मतदान किया। को- ऑर्परेटिव कॉलेज स्थित सुविधा केंद्र व पर्यटक सूचना केंद्र में मतदाताओं की लंबी कतार देखने को मिल रही है। साथ ही मतदान के पश्चात

जिले के कार्मिक उत्साहपूर्वक अपने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट, वट्सएप ग्रुप में में फोटो डालकर मतदाताओं से 25 मई को वोट करने की अपील भी कर रहे हैं।

मतदाता जागरूकता को गति देने का निर्देश



मतदान की स्वाही दिखाती बहरागोड़ा निवासी 101 वर्षीय टैटी हेखड़ा

JAMSHEDPUR : समाहरणालय सभागार में उप विकास आयुक्त सह वरीय पदाधिकारी स्वीप कोषांग मनीष कुमार ने स्वीप कोषांग में प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी एवं कर्मियों के साथ बैठक कर मतदाता जागरूकता अभियान को गति देने का निर्देश दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि अगला 10 दिन काफी महत्वपूर्ण है, कार्ययोजना बनाते हुए मतदाता जागरूकता अभियान चलाएं।

लंबित वेतन के लिए कुलपति से मिले केयू के बीएड शिक्षक



अपनी मांगों को लेकर मुलाकात के लिए पहुंचे बीएड शिक्षक • फोटोन न्यूज

PHOTON NEWS JSR: केयू बीएड शिक्षक संघ का प्रतिनिधिमंडल बुधवार को कोलहान विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति, कमिश्नर और कुलसचिव, सीवीसी से मिला। मुलाकात के दौरान जनवरी से लंबित वेतन दिलाने की मांग रखी। कोलहान विश्वविद्यालय बीएड शिक्षक संघ के अध्यक्ष डॉ. राजू ओझा ने बताया कि लगभग दो माह से बीएड विभाग के शिक्षक और शिक्षकेतर कर्मचारी वेतन के संदर्भ में विश्वविद्यालय का

चक्कर लगा रहे हैं। बीएड का अपना फंड है, जिसमें करोड़ों रुपये पड़े हैं, लेकिन इतना कम मानदेय देकर भी नियमित रूप से वेतन नहीं आने से सभी शिक्षक मानसिक रूप से परेशान हैं। कमिश्नर एवं कुलसचिव ने एक सप्ताह में अप्रैल तक का सैलरी आंतरिक क्षेत्र से देने की बात कही है। इसे राजभवन से अनुमोदन कराया जाएगा तथा बाद में बजट पास करने के लिए भी स्वीकृति के लिए राजभवन भेजा जाएगा।

पोटका में गिट्टी लदा अवैध डंपर जल्ला



POTKA: पोटका थाना प्रभारी समीर तिर्की ने बुधवार को अवैध बालू-गिट्टी के परिवहन को लेकर मंगलवार को रितिका ढाबा के समीप छापेमारी की। इस दौरान रात करीब 8 बजे एक डंपर गिट्टी पकड़ा गया। पृष्ठाछ में चालक कोई कागजात नहीं दिखा सका, जिसके बाद पोटका थाना की पुलिस ने डंपर को जब्त कर लिया। जिला खनन पदाधिकारी को इस संबंध में आगे की कार्रवाई के लिए लिखा गया है। पोटका में बड़े पैमाने पर ओडिशा से बालू एवं गिट्टी का झारखंड में अवैध परिवहन किया जा रहा है। वहीं, सरायकेला-खरसावां जिले के राजनगर से भी पोटका होते हुए जमशेदपुर एवं आसपास के क्षेत्र में गिट्टी एवं बालू पहुंच रहा है।

एनएमएल में स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा का हुआ समापन, बोले मुख्य अतिथि

स्वच्छता की शुरुआत सबसे पहले घर से होनी चाहिए: मंगल

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

भारत सरकार के 'स्वच्छ भारत मिशन' के अनुरूप, सीएसआईआर-राष्ट्रीय धातुकर्म प्रयोगशाला (सीएसआईआर-एनएमएल), जमशेदपुर में बुधवार को स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा का समापन हो गया। समापन समारोह बुधवार को सीएसआईआर-एनएमएल में आयोजित किया गया। इसमें मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में टाटा स्टील के उपाध्यक्ष, सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और स्थिरता राजीव मंगल उपस्थित थे। मंच पर उनके साथ सीएसआईआर-एनएमएल के निदेशक डॉ. संदीप घोष चौधरी, मुख्य वैज्ञानिक डॉ. शर्मिष्ठा सागर और प्रशासनिक अधिकारी विप्लव विशाल मौजूद थे। मुख्य अतिथि ने ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से बचने के लिए स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा



कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभागियों को मिठा प्रमाण पत्र • फोटोन न्यूज

और हरित पर्यावरण की आवश्यकता पर व्याख्यान दिया। राजीव मंगल ने संदेश दिया कि स्वच्छता की शुरुआत सबसे पहले घर से होनी चाहिए। डॉ. संदीप घोष चौधरी ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में समाज और भावी पीढ़ियों के लाभ हेतु स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा और संबन्धित सरकारी मिशन के महत्त्व के बारे में जानकारी दी। डॉ. शर्मिष्ठा सागर ने पखवाड़े के दौरान प्रयोगशाला के विभिन्न परिसरों में आयोजित

कार्यक्रमों का समग्र सारांश और पूरे कार्यक्रम से आगे की रणनीति प्रस्तुत की। यह कार्यक्रम डॉ. संदीप घोष चौधरी, निदेशक, सीएसआईआर-एनएमएल के मार्गदर्शनों में और कार्यक्रम के समन्वयक डॉ. शर्मिष्ठा सागर, मुख्य वैज्ञानिक एवं सदस्यों द्वारा 1 से 15 मई तक मनाया गया। इसके सदस्यों में आदित्य मैकन, अनिल दास चौधरी, चंद्रेश कुमार व उदय भास्कर राव शामिल थे।

राष्ट्रीय डेंगू दिवस आज : WHO के अनुसार वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य के लिए 10 खतरों में शामिल है यह बीमारी

नाक, मुंह और मसूड़े से खून आना डेंगू के गंभीर लक्षण, मच्छरों से बचें

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

डेंगू एक मच्छर जनित वायरल बुखार है। 2019 में, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य के लिए दस खतरों की पहचान की, और डेंगू उन्में से एक है। हाल के वर्षों में डेंगू के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं और लक्षावध को छोड़कर, भारत के सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में डेंगू के मामले सामने आ रहे हैं।

डेंगू संक्रामक एडीज एजिण्टी मच्छर के काटने से फैलता है और यह रोग के लक्षण संक्रमित मच्छर द्वारा काटे जाने के 5-6 दिन के बाद प्रकट होते हैं।

सामुदायिक भागीदारी



डेंगू बुखार के लक्षण

- अचानक तेज बुखार आना
- सिस्दर्द
- आंखों के पीछे दर्द, जो आंखों के हिलने-डुलने से बढ़ जाता है
- मांसपेशियां और जोड़ों में दर्द
- छत्ती व ऊपरी अंगों पर दाने
- जी मिवताना और उल्टी



डेंगू के गंभीर लक्षण

- बार-बार उल्टी आना, खून के साथ या बिना खून के
- नाक, मुँह, मसूड़ों से खून आना और त्वचा पर चकते पड़ना
- नींद और बेदनी
- पास और मुँह सूखना
- सास लेने में कठिनाई

डेंगू बुखार के वाहक

एडीज मच्छर को अपने शरीर में वायरस को विकसित करने में 7-8 दिन लगते हैं और फिर वे बीमारी फैलाने के लिए किसी और को काटते हैं। वे घरेलू और अर्ध-घरेलू परिवेश में, घरों के छायादार कोनों में, फर्नीचर के नीचे, या कपड़े या छतारियों जैसी लटकी हुई वस्तुओं पर पनपते हैं। कोई भी मानव निर्मित कंटेनर, यहां तक कि थोड़ी मात्रा में पानी भी, एडीज मच्छरों के लिए प्रजनन स्थल हो सकता है।

बचाव का तरीका

मच्छरों के काटने से बचना डेंगू बीमारी से बचाव का सबसे अच्छा तरीका है। हमारे देश में डेंगू के टीकों का लॉन्स नहीं है। ऐसे कपड़े पहनें जो आपके शरीर के ज्यादा से ज्यादा हिस्से को ढकें, मच्छरों को दूर रखने के लिए मच्छर भग्ना वाली क्रीम या स्प्रे का उपयोग करें, और अपने घर से मच्छरों के प्रजनन के स्रोतों को दूर करने के लिए हर चीज को साफ-सुथरा रखें, सभी पानी के कंटेनरों को ढकें।



ये हैं गंभीर डेंगू विकसित होने के लिए जोखिम वाले समूह

बुजुर्ग (क्योंकि उनकी प्रतिरोधक क्षमता कम होती है और आमतौर पर अन्य सखती बीमारियाँ होती हैं), मोटापा या अन्य पुरानी बीमारियाँ (जैसे मधुमेह, हृदय रोग, उच्च रक्तचाप, थैलेसीमिया, आदि) से पीड़ित लोग और शिशु।

- डॉ. कुमार दिवाकर सीनियर कंसल्टेंट एच एचओडी, पेडियाट्रिक्स, टाटा मेमॉस्पिटल

आईपीएल सट्टाबाजी में चार गिरफ्तार

SUNDARGARH : सुंदरगढ़ टाउन पुलिस ने मंगलवार रात महादेवपाड़ा में आईपीएल सट्टाबाजी (सट्टा) पर बड़ी छापेमारी की। इसमें चार सट्टा खिलाड़ियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया और उनके पास से 5 लाख 17 हजार 2 सौ रुपये नकद, एक लेनोवो लैपटॉप, 6 स्मार्ट मोबाइल फोन, 3 बाइक और विभिन्न डेबिट और क्रेडिट कार्ड जब्त किए गए। गिरफ्तार आरोपियों में खमारपाड़ा के मिथुन साहू (33), सुभाष साहू (40), संजय कुमार साहू (40), सुबोध चौधरी (46) शामिल हैं। मंगलवार को सभी को कोर्ट चालान किया गया। जानकारी के अनुसार महादेवपाड़ा में आईपीएल सट्टाबाजी की सूचना मिलने पर सोमवार की रात एसडीपीओ हिमांशु बेहरा, टाउन थाना प्रभारी आदित्य महाकुड़ के प्रत्यक्ष तत्वावधान में एसआईअन अनिल कुमार सामल ने वहां पर सखलबल छापेमारी की थी।

Lessons from a Himalayan village

RECENTLY, I visited a remote Himalayan hamlet in Uttarakhand — not as a typical tourist in search of temporal relief from the unbearable heat, but as a wanderer, a seeker or a student of life. Well, I am aware of my addiction to the privileges associated with my urban/metropolitan existence. I have tasted the fruits of modernity, development and a market-driven economy. Yet, I have no hesitation in saying that this time, this silent Himalayan village taught me three important lessons that my modernity or university education could seldom offer. First, it was really great to feel, realise and internalise the power of silence. Think of the noise associated with our urban/metropolitan existence — the noise of thousands of vehicles running ceaselessly through our impersonal expressways and flyovers and causing massive carbon emissions; or the noise of television channels, loud music and constant bombardment of WhatsApp messages causing some sort of psychic pollution. Or, think of the fetish for speed we have begun to worship in our times. We are continually running after some sort of over-consumptionist mode of living. Is it that we are afraid of silence? But then, as I move around this village without any 'goal', I begin to realise the beauty of the art of doing nothing. And this relief from my hurried existence makes me realise the beauty and power of silence. The snow-clad peaks, the whispers of pine trees, the rhythmic play of butterflies and tiny yellow flowers, the slowness in the movement of an old lady walking through the rhythmic curved path, and the mystic presence of the fold of mountains: everything around me tends to detox my mind. I become light — free from the noise inside. This inner richness tends to free me from the practice of over-consumption that destroys the earth.

Second, I learn the art of relatedness. In the achievement-oriented/hyper-competitive/professional world, we often carry the heavy burden of our egos — our degrees and diplomas, our official powers and salary packages, or our wealth and status. And these egos disrupt the rhythm of holism, interconnectedness and a network of organic relationships. However, in this Himalayan village, as I find myself amid the majestic mountain peaks, the dense forest filled with extraordinarily graceful trees, the vast sky not yet blocked by huge towers and gigantic skyscrapers, and the chirping of birds (something that seems to have completely disappeared from our cities), I realise that it is futile to exist as a solitary, egotistic and possessive individual. I feel that I am not different from this entire ecosystem. To borrow Walt Whitman's poetic wisdom, "I contain multitudes"; and I cannot live meaningfully if, instead of merging with the rhythm of nature, I seek to manipulate and conquer it through the arrogance of neoclassical economics and the cult of consumerism. In a way, it activates my ecological consciousness.

Third, I learn the futility of competition. As I look at the garland of trees, I realise that there is no standardised notion of 'perfection'; in fact, each tree is unique and has its own story to tell. The gentle anarchy I experience as I walk through the Himalayan forest makes me realise the hollowness in our quest for standardised/homogenised aspirations (say, all beauty queens look similar; or, all our school 'toppers' want to become doctors/computer engineers). In fact, this striving for a 'perfect' and standardised notion of beauty and excellence has created a neurotic culture that causes psychic anxiety and restlessness because of constant comparison with others. In the natural world, there is no competition. A butterfly does not compete with a leopard; a tall pine tree does not want to touch the Nanda Devi peak; and the valleys and the peaks know the beauty of their coexistence. Yes, my walk through the Himalayan path tends to make me a seeker or a wanderer. I begin to appreciate the value of these three lessons that no modern university can teach me — the power of silence, the spirit of holism or interconnectedness, and the beauty of gentle anarchy. I begin to appreciate a mode of living that cherishes minimalism and simplicity. Well, I know that pragmatic economists and development experts would remind me of the limits to my 'poetic romanticism'. Uttarakhand, they would assert,

Concerted efforts needed to deal Maoist insurgents a death blow

Development, the biggest enemy of Maoists, has gained a firm foothold in the areas dominated by them.

RECENT encounters between the security forces and Maoists have had a debilitating effect on the Naxalite movement. Twelve Maoists were killed after a fierce encounter with the joint forces, comprising commandos of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), the Bastariya Battalion and the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), in Pedia forests in Bijapur on May 10, taking the toll of Maoists this year to 103.

On April 16, in one of the biggest encounters in recent years, 29 Maoists were killed when a combined force of the Border Security Force and DRG raided their hideout in the forests adjoining Binagunda and Koragutta villages of Kanker district bordering Maharashtra. Among the dead were Maoist leaders Shankar Rao and Lalita Meravi, who together carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh on their heads. Sophisticated weapons like AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles, carbines and a huge haul of ammunition were recovered. Thirteen Maoists were killed in an encounter with the combined forces of CoBRA, CRPF and the Chhattisgarh Police in Kendra-Karcholi forests of Bijapur district on April 2. Among the weapons recovered were a light machine gun, a .303 rifle, three under-barrel grenade launchers, a 12-bore gun and a huge quantity of ammunition and explosives. With greater pressure exerted on their hideouts in forests, the Maoists are on edge, coming out in large numbers to surrender lest they get killed in encounters. As many as 18 Maoists of Bhairamgarh and Malanger area committees, including three women, surrendered before the CRPF and the Dantewada Police on April 24. Earlier, six Maoists of the Dandakaranya special zone committee surrendered before the Andhra Pradesh Police on April 22. Sixteen others surrendered in Bijapur on April 30, followed by over 30 more in Dantewada on May 5, taking the total number of surrendered Maoists to nearly 200 this year. Over 800 Maoists have surrendered in the past two years, while 125 have been arrested. Though all left-wing extremism-affected states have their own

surrender policy in place, the Chhattisgarh Government is formulating a new policy that may lure many more Maoists to surrender in the days ahead. The fact that the security forces have gained an upper hand in recent months is evident from the figures of casualties among Maoists this year. The death of 103 Maoists this year, killed in various operations till May 10, far surpasses last year's toll of 22. In 2022, the figure stood at 30. The number of Maoists killed



was 65 in 2019, 36 in 2020 and 47 in 2021. The security forces have enough reasons to gloat over the success achieved this year, though they lost six of their men. As of May 10, a total of 21 civilians had died in Maoist violence this year, while 41 others had lost their lives last year.

The credit for the success achieved in various operations goes to the intelligence agencies that shared accurate, specific and timely information about the movements of Maoists with the security forces. Hitherto, intelligence inputs were either lacking or vague. How would one explain that intelligence agencies were caught off guard when a combined force of CoBRA, CRPF, DRG and STF of Chhattisgarh Police personnel was attacked by over 500 Maoists near Tekulagudem village along the Sukma-Bijapur border on January 30? Three CRPF men, including two from CoBRA, were martyred in the attack, while 15 were injured.

The entreaty of the security forces into the citadel of

Maoists in Abujmad area has unnerved them, forcing them to shift. Nearly 200 new camps have been established by the security forces since last year in Chhattisgarh, where Maoists called the shots. With 17 other forward base camps in Abujmad area, the Maoists find themselves confined to limited areas. This has not only instilled confidence and a sense of security among the villagers but also proved conducive to the easy flow of intelligence inputs to the security forces. It has cut short the time for the forces to rush to any location on receipt of intelligence inputs and reduced the risk involved in travelling long distances. Development, the biggest enemy of Maoists, has gained a firm foothold in the areas dominated by them. Villagers now have access to better health and education facilities. The construction of roads, which was almost impossible in these areas, is finally happening in these villages and connected cities. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 9,356 km of roads have been laid in these areas in the last eight years. Several security personnel, mostly CRPF, sacrificed their lives guarding the roads and the navvies while they were being laid. Maoists tried to obstruct the construction of roads by killing contractors and workers, planting IEDs, attacking the forces and setting machines on fire. Now that the Maoists are on the back foot, it is time for the security forces to hit them hard through incessant operations based on specific and accurate intelligence inputs. The Maoists are now believed to be reduced to just about 2,500 in strength. With their morale low, the thrust must be on arranging large-scale surrenders. Latest reports indicate that Maoist movements have been observed in Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, which must coordinate with other Maoist-affected states for intelligence inputs and ensure that they do not get a foothold. The revival of Maoist violence in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana cannot be ruled out, as most of their leaders happen to be from these states. Concerted and sustained efforts to crush the Maoists will prevent youngsters from joining their ranks and thus dry up their sources of recruitment. The day may not be far when the nation will rejoice that the citadel of Maoists has finally crumbled.

Russian oil

Jamaican case turns spotlight on the menace

INDIA'S decision to buy highly discounted Russian oil despite Western sanctions has paid off in diplomatic as well as economic terms. Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, the US and its allies have realised that they cannot browbeat New Delhi, with its independent foreign policy, into toeing the Western line. US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has claimed that Washington allowed New Delhi to buy Russian oil to 'ensure that the prices did not go up globally'. This is virtually an admission that the US chose not to antagonise its close ally and fellow Quad member. Garcetti's remarks are in consonance with US Treasury Assistant Secretary Eric Van Nostrand's statement last month that the US had not asked India to cut Russian oil imports. Resisting intense pressure, India has managed to strike a fine balance between its growing proximity to the US and its time-tested trade ties with Russia. With India being the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil — its import dependency is more than 85 per cent — New Delhi's



approach has been guided by national needs. Commendably, India's crude oil import bill fell to \$132.40 billion in 2023-24, down from \$157.50 billion in 2022-23. The purchase of Russian oil at a good discount largely helped the country make significant savings.

New Delhi has made it clear that it won't let its ties with the US and other Western nations impact its enduring engagement with Russia. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar put it plainly at the Munich Security Conference in February: 'Different countries and different relationships have different histories... We are not purely unemotionally transactional...' This policy of eschewing unidimensional relationships in the emerging multipolar world order is expected to stand India in good stead. Moreover, it seems to have finally dawned on the West that India can't be taken for granted on any matter with international implications, be it the war in Ukraine or Gaza.

Stories of fidelity to the oath, loyalty to comrades

Lt Barshilia was awarded the Sena Medal for his dedicated leadership and gallantry.

READING exhaustive narratives of the Kargil War in The Tribune over the past month, I was reminded of a phone call that came one morning in the summer of 1999. Even before I could say hello, an excited voice said: "Jai Hind shaab, aap aur memshaab theek hain?" The voice did seem familiar, but to avoid embarrassment, I asked: "Aap kahan se bole rahey ho?" His response, with a controlled chuckle, was: "Shaab, main Som Bahadur STD booth Kargil main hoon. 3/3 GR (Gorkha Rifles) ne peak capture kar liya, shaab!" He was on cloud nine, but much to my disappointment and his helplessness, the connection snapped all too soon.

Back in 1981, when my brigade, inclusive of 3/3 GR, was moved to establish a permanent presence in north Sikkim, Lance Naik Som Bahadur Punn was my affable sahayak. And it had been an article of faith ever since for this comrade-in-arms to get in touch every year. By 1999, he was a battle-blooded, proud havildar. Som Bahadur's call reminded me of the legend of Pheidippides from 490 BC, when the Persian army had invaded Greece. Outnumbered 10 to one, the Greeks sought help from the neighbouring Sparta, but to no avail. However, their deity Pan so spurred the soldiery to "...take heart, laugh Persia to scorn, have faith in the temples and tombs..." that they inflicted a crushing defeat on the invading Persians. And Pheidippides, a champion runner, set out on 40-km non-stop run from the battlefield of Marathon back to Athens. When he reached there, he informed anxious fellow citizens gathered at the Acropolis: "Rejoice, we have won!"

Another Kargil narrative came from Lt Sanjay Barshilia of 286 Medium Regiment, who on

June 7, 1999, after two nights of a gruelling climb, had teamed with a detachment of 4 Jat atop Point 5299 (17,385 ft above sea level) to commence the



interdiction of enemy reinforcements and logistics by artillery fire. A narrow horizontal niche cut into an ice-face about 50 metres below that hilltop, where four men could curl up at any one time, was their sole communal sleeping shelter. But sleep remained elusive because the sleeping bags tended to be damp due to frequent sleet sprays and the night temperature dipped below 10°C. Cooked food and water were supplied by night ferries daily, but were sufficient only for one meal a day.

However, this young man had a job at hand and the vantage hilltop proved an excellent perch for directing artillery fire on enemy locations with a telling effect. It was not long before the enemy retaliated in equal measure, best narrated by Sanjay thus: "You fire a round at him, and sure enough, you

can expect him on your location in precisely one minute. The game was dangerous, but all of us enjoyed it immensely... It was a tremendous feeling for all of us at the post, more so for myself, who had the fortune of experiencing combat at a young age and from such a close distance. It was a dream come true." Befittingly, he was awarded the Sena Medal on August 15, 1999, for his dedicated leadership and gallantry. In November 2023, I had an unbelievable chance meeting with a veteran of two wars — he was part of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) in October 1987 during the Sri Lankan civil war and also present at Kargil in 1999. On an errand to an establishment, the gatekeeper greeted me with a smart salute, but with his left arm, and that prompted me to enquire about his antecedents. Within minutes,

it emerged that this Napoleon-sized Suraj Lama was a veteran from the elite 10 Para Commando and was among the first members of the ill-fated heliborne mission to land upon the Jaffna University stadium, where they received a horrendous reception by LTTE combatants. However, born under a lucky star, Lama survived not just the Jaffna onslaught but multiple battles till the cessation of the war across the length and breadth of Sri Lanka. Much as I admired and respected his unique combat experiences, I was driven to a guarded cross-examination. But the moment he mentioned that he was part of that platoon of 13 Sikh Light Infantry battalion which had perished within minutes of touchdown upon mother earth to the last man but one, it was my turn to shake hands and salute Lama.

It is in the nature of warfare that every soldier in battle enjoys in equal measure both the grace of angels and the dictums of destiny. So, Lama sailed through three bloody years with the IPKF in the Lankan war, but on the penultimate day of the war in Kargil, in the blink of an eye, he was knocked out cold, airlifted to Leh Military Hospital and regained consciousness three days later. For five-and-a-half years, he remained bed-ridden and partially wheelchair-bound at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantonment; AIIMS, New Delhi; and the Command Hospital, Chandimandir, where his service as a havildar was terminated with 100 per cent disability pension. His left leg and right arm were severely damaged, but undaunted he drives a scooter and a car confidently. He cannot climb up steps, salutes with his left hand and clicks heels at attention in a ramrod posture — always with a broad, infectious smile.

Allied Blenders gets SEBI nod for Rs 1,500 cr IPO

NEW DELHI: Liquor maker Allied Blenders and Distillers has received a nod from the capital markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to raise Rs 1,500 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The company had refilled its IPO papers with Sebi on January 15, 2024. The shares are offered at a face value of Rs 2 and is a mix of fresh issue of up to Rs 1,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to Rs 500 crore by Promoters and Promoter Group.

The OFS comprises up to Rs 250 crore by Bina Kishore Chhabria, Rs 125 crore by Resham Chhabria Jeetendra Hemdev and Rs 125 crore by Neesha Kishore Chhabria. As per the company's filing, the proceeds from its fresh issuance to the extent of Rs 720 crore will be utilised for prepayment or scheduled re-payment of a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by the company and for general corporate purposes. The Mumbai-based company sells Officer's Choice Whisky among other brands in the mass premium segment. It claims to have a market share of 11.8% in fiscal 2023 in the Indian market. The company said it has shifted its focus from mass premium whisky segment to premiumization, with the launch of brands like ICONIQ White Whisky.

US raises tariffs on Chinese goods, India may gain

NEW DELHI: In an election-year move, US President Joe Biden-led administration has decided to slap new and increased tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, semiconductors, lithium batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminium and medical equipment to appeal to US voters. This move, aimed at creating manufacturing jobs in the US and improving its competitive advantage, may spark a fresh trade war between the two economies. "Biden is directing his Trade Representative to increase tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 on \$18 billion of imports from China to protect US workers and businesses," said a White House statement on Tuesday. The US will raise the tariff on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) from 25% to 100% in 2024. "With subsidies and non-market practices leading to risks of overcapacity, China's exports of EVs grew 70% from 2022 to 2023. A 100% tariff rate on EVs will protect US manufacturers from China's unfair trade practices." It comes at a time when US EV makers are facing increased competition from Chinese firms such as BYD in international auto markets. There is a rush among countries to secure their semiconductor needs.

The tariff rate on Chinese semiconductors in the US will go up from 25% to 50% by 2025, while on certain steel and aluminium products, the tariffs will be jacked from 0-7.5% to 25% in 2024. The tariff on lithium-ion EV batteries will increase from 7.5% to 25% in 2024. On solar cells, it will go up from 25% to 50% in 2024, on ship-to-shore cranes (0% to 25% in 2024) and on syringes and needles (0% to 50% in 2024). The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said this move may have a significant impact on India. "The raising of tariffs on EVs, batteries and many other new technology items by the US may push China to dump these products in other markets including India. It's a moment for India's Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) to remain vigilant," said GTRI.

Maternity Insurance Gains Momentum, 78% Men Buy Plans For Their Spouses: Report

NEW DELHI: The year-on-year growth rate in the adoption of maternity insurance plans has skyrocketed by an impressive 80%, reflecting the growing awareness and recognition of the importance of comprehensive maternity coverage, Policybazaar said in the latest data assessment. "We've seen that the majority of customers buying maternity insurance fall within the 25 to 35 age bracket, comprising 91.2% of total buyers. This highlights a strong preference for maternity planning among young families," Policybazaar shared in a statement. Over the past year, there has been a significant surge in the adoption of maternity insurance, with 12.3% of the total health insurance customers choosing them, it added.

The platform has seen 78% of maternity plans purchased by men for their spouses, highlighting a growing trend of proactive family planning among couples. 22% of women are also opting to invest in maternity plans for themselves, demonstrating a shift towards individual empowerment in financial and healthcare decision-making. When it comes to enhancing their coverage, customers are prioritising add-ons that provide maximum benefits. The top add-ons chosen by customers include consumables (38%), no room rent capping (33%), and no claim bonus (24%). Policybazaar also shared a detailed comparison of maternity plans in the market for parents-to-be:

Maternity insurance in India

Maternity insurance is a specific type of health insurance policy designed to cover the medical expenses associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn care. Here's a breakdown of what it typically covers:

Maternity insurance can be a valuable tool for expecting parents, helping them manage the financial burden of childbirth and ensuring they can access quality healthcare during pregnancy and delivery. However, there are a few important things to keep in mind: Waiting period caution: Most insurance companies in India have a waiting period ranging from 9 months to 6 years before you can claim maternity benefits under the policy. This means you cannot get coverage for pregnancy-related expenses if you get pregnant within this period after purchasing the policy. It's crucial to understand the waiting period of the specific policy you're considering.

Southeast Asia to bring king fish to Malayali platter

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: King fish aka neymeen, one of the most sought-after fish among Malayalis, will soon be reaching the seafood lovers' platter all the way from Southeast Asia. With its availability having come down in recent times, a kilo of king fish is now priced at around Rs 1,500. Leading fish exporters and importers from the state have held talks with stakeholders in Europe and Southeast Asia to meet the demand as they feel the purchasing power of Keralites has increased.

Malayalis identify king fish by several names, like surmai, seer fish, and ayykoora. Considered the most delectable of fish, it has become highly expensive over the past several months. Its price almost doubled during the period, making it unaffordable for an average Malayali family. Mathew Joseph, the brain behind India's first digital fresh fish and meat store Fresh to Home, told TNIE that he has been involved in talks to import king fish. "The landing of king fish on the Kerala coast has come down, making it a rarity in the local markets. Its price in Kerala has risen beyond the international



market rate. This has led a few of us, fish exporters and importers, to seriously look into the aspect of importing king fish from Europe and Southeast Asia," Mathew said. At the same time, he said the price of imported king fish may not come down quickly as the demand among the

upper middle class continues to be huge. The king fish season starts after June, pointed out Sajju Ambrose who runs the restaurant Kadaloram near Vettucaud Church. "Normally, king fish catch comes from the coastal areas of Kollam, Alappuzha and Ernakulam. Albeit rarely,

it is spotted in Vizhinjam too. On Monday, a three-kilo king fish was auctioned off for Rs 4,200 there. My clientele won't buy fish at such an exorbitant price," Sajju said. Whether imported king fish is affordable or not will be known once the first consignment reaches Kochi harbour next month.

Too pricey to devour

It is not only the price of king fish that has gone up but of all varieties. With Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh witnessing trawling bans now, the traders from those states are making a beeline to the Kerala coast to buy fish caught here. Compared to a month ago, the price of fish has doubled, said Priya Dinesh, a resident of Jawahar Nagar in the capital. Apart from buying fish from the local vendor, Priya also buys from the Neerazhi Lane fish market at Ulloor. "I usually buy fish for C1,000 to 1,200. Last week, I bought a kilo of mackerel for C397, which otherwise costed Rs 160 to Rs 180. The same was the case with big anchovy which was earlier available for Rs 200. Now, I guess buying chicken or beef is more viable," Priya said.

Amazon invests Rs 1,660 crore in India arm as competition rises in e-commerce space

BENGALURU: Amazon has infused Rs 1,660 crore into its India entity and this is the second time that the company has invested money in the last few months. Earlier in February, Amazon Seller Services said its US parent pumped in Rs 830 crore into the company. The investment comes at a time when Walmart has invested about \$600 million in Flipkart. Bank-backed Meesho, also in a regulatory filing, has revealed its fresh fund raising. As per reports, the company has raised \$275 million. The Indian e-commerce space has been witnessing growing competition among major players. Amazon said in its filings, "The board is accorded for allotment of 166 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each aggregating to Rs 16,60,00,00,000 (one thousand six hundred sixty crore) to existing shareholders on right basis."

As per reports, the industry in India is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030. Last year, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy



had said the company will invest \$15 billion more in the country. "We have invested \$11 billion till date and intend to invest another \$15 billion, which will bring the total to \$26 billion," he had said. Last month, Amazon India launched Bazaar that offers unbranded products under Rs 600. This is to compete against other players including Meesho and Ajio. Meesho recently appointed Surojit Chatterjee as an independent Director. Meanwhile on Tuesday, Amazon Web Services (AWS) CEO Adam Selipsky has stepped down. Jassy said, "Adam leaves AWS in a strong

position, having reached a \$100 billion annual revenue run rate this past quarter, with YoY revenue accelerating again. And most importantly, AWS continues to lead on operational performance, security, reliability, and the overall breadth and depth of our services." Last month Amazon posted 13% increase in its net sales at \$143.3 billion in the March quarter compared with \$127.4 billion in the year-ago period. Its net income increased to \$10.4 billion in the March quarter.

Meesho too raising funds

Meesho also in a regulatory filing has revealed its fresh fundraising. As per reports, the company has raised \$275 million. The Indian e-commerce space has been witnessing growing competition among major players. Vi's CEO Akshaya Moondra has previously said that the company's focus is on upgrading its 2G subscribers (comprising nearly

A Photo Worth \$296 Billion: Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates Clicked Together As Facebook Boss Turns 40

New Delhi It was Mark Zuckerberg's birthday on May 14. As he turned 40, the Facebook founder recollected his memory by sharing a few pictures on social media. One particularly striking image captured Zuckerberg and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates — a combined net worth of a staggering \$296 billion. The picture was of Harvard dorm where Zuckerberg launched Facebook. According to Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires List, Zuckerberg has a net worth of \$165.6 billion and Bill Gates has a total valuation of \$130.4 billion, standing at ranks 4th and 9th among the richest in the world. Sharing his photo on Instagram along with Bill Gates, Zuckerberg wrote, "Harvard dorm where I launched Facebook (with special guest Bill Gates)."

Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard after he launched Facebook in 2004. In the surprising birthday photos, Zuckerberg is sporting a black t-shirt,

jeans, and a gold chain, a noticeable change from his usual grey t-shirts and blue jeans. Another picture Zuckerberg shared was of his first apartment,



featuring a simple setup with a study table, chair, and a mattress on the floor. "First apartment with just a mattress on the floor where I stayed until we reached 100 million people," a caption said. Zuckerberg also shared his childhood computer where he learned

to code. He also shared a nostalgic trip down memory lane. One picture showed his "office lockdown", a presumably cramped space where he and his team likely pulled all-nighters "fighting off competitors" in Facebook's early days. Another image captured a recreated "Pinocchio's Pizzeria", a college haunt where Zuckerberg apparently spent a significant amount of time fueling his entrepreneurial fire with slices. She wrote, "Mark doesn't usually let me go big for his birthday but for his 40th I was allowed to throw a bash as long our friends and family also roasted him. We all had a blast! Let's just say that no one suffered from a lack of material! Jokes aside, as I reflect on the 21 of Mark's birthdays we have spent together, one of my favorite things about Mark is how he really, truly believes in people. He sees the potential in all of us."

Aadhar Housing Finance IPO Listing: Shares Make Flat Market Debut, Should You Hold, Sell or Buy?

NEW DELHI: Shares of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd, which is backed by private equity major Blackstone, made a flat market debut on Wednesday against the issue price of Rs 315. The stock listed at par with the issue price at Rs 315 on the NSE. It later hit a high of Rs 329.90 and a low of Rs 292. On the BSE, the stock made its debut at Rs 314.30, a dip of 0.22 per cent from the issue price. The company's market valuation stood at Rs 13,480.12 crore.

Shivani Nyati, head of wealth at Swastika Investmart, said, "Aadhar Housing Finance, a major player in the low-income housing segment, witnessed a flat listing on the stock exchanges. The company's shares debuted at Rs 315, exactly matching its issue price. This performance fell short of pre-listing expectations, which were fueled by strong investor interest and a grey market premium (GMP) suggesting a 15-20 per cent gain. While the IPO itself was oversubscribed a significant 27 times, the lackluster listing raises questions about investor sentiment and future prospects." The low-income housing segment is



growing, but the industry is competitive. Investors might be seeking more clarity on Aadhar's competitive edge and long-term growth strategy, she said. "However, the strong financials, dominant market position, and extensive branch network remain attractive attributes, and investors may expect growth in the long term,"

Nyati said.

The initial public offer of Aadhar Housing Finance received 25.49 times subscription on the closing day of the share-sale on Friday. The Rs 3,000-crore initial share-sale was a combination of fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore and an OFS (Offer-for-Sale)

of Rs 2,000 crore by promoter BCP Topco VII Pte Ltd, an affiliate of Blackstone Group Inc. The three-day IPO had a price range of Rs 300-315 a share. The company plans to utilise Rs 750 crore of the fresh issue proceeds to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending, while a portion will be used for general corporate purposes.

Aadhar Housing Finance offers a range of mortgage-related loan products, including loans for residential property purchase and construction; home improvement and extension loans; and loans for commercial property construction and acquisition. The housing finance company is focused on the low-income housing segment, serving economically weaker and low-to-middle-income customers, who require small-ticket mortgage loans. It has a network of 471 branches, including 91 sales offices, as of September 30, 2023.

The company benefits from the resources, relationships and expertise of Blackstone, one of the world's leading investment firms.

Swati Maliwal assault: BJP's stir outside Arvind Kejriwal's home, Opposition mum

New Delhi: The BJP stepped up its attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday, demanding a thorough investigation into the alleged assault on AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence. BJP leaders and workers, including activists from its Mahila Morcha, staged a protest near Kejriwal's residence. Armed with placards and megaphones, they called for swift action against those responsible for the incident.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva questioned Kejriwal's silence on the matter and urged the police to launch a probe into the incident. "Why isn't the Chief Minister saying anything? The incident happened at his residence, he should have called the police. But, he is not doing anything which throws his role in all this under suspicion," said Sachdeva.

Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh confirmed the incident on Tuesday, stating that Kejriwal's personal secretary, Bibhav Kumar, had "misbehaved" with Maliwal when she visited the Chief Minister's home on Monday. Singh assured that the Chief Minister would take strict action against those involved. However, the BJP has attacked the AAP for its handling of the matter, with Sachdeva questioning the delay in taking action and suggesting political pressure may have prevented Maliwal from filing a police complaint. The Opposition has maintained a distance from the controversy, refraining from issuing any statements. When asked about the matter, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge remained silent, and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav evaded the question. Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women has

announced it will investigate the incident and has demanded an 'action-taken' report from Delhi Police within 72 hours. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has called on the Vice President to take suo motu cognisance of the incident, citing concerns over the safety of a Rajya Sabha MP at the Chief Minister's official residence. "There was an earlier allegation that a Delhi chief secretary was beaten by Kejriwal. Yesterday, he also thrashed a Rajya Sabha MP. I think the vice president, who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, should take suo motu cognisance of how a chief minister can beat a Rajya Sabha MP," Sarma said on Tuesday.

On Monday, Delhi Police confirmed receiving a call from Maliwal's phone number, reporting the assault, but she did not file a formal complaint when she visited the police station.



India 'deeply saddened' on death of retired Colonel Kale in Gaza

New Delhi: India on Wednesday said it is "deeply saddened" over the death of Colonel Waibhav Anil Kale (Retd), the Indian national who was working with the UN in Gaza. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York as well as its mission in Tel Aviv and Ramallah are extending all assistance in the repatriation of the mortal remains of Kale to India.



We are deeply saddened by the death of Colonel Waibhav Anil Kale (Retd), Security Coordination Officer in the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) in Gaza on May 13," the MEA said. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and dear ones," it said. "Our Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and our Missions in Tel Aviv and Ramallah are extending all assistance in the repatriation of mortal remains to India and continue to be in touch with relevant authorities regarding the investigation into the incident," the MEA said in a statement.

Bomb threat to 10 Kanpur schools, sources say email linked to Russian server

New Delhi: In a spate of bomb threats to all kinds of establishments in several Indian cities in recent weeks, at least 10 top schools in Kanpur on Wednesday received similar threats, sources said. The schools have reportedly received the threat through an email that was linked to a Russian server, just like the ones in the case of Delhi in Ahmedabad earlier this month. The schools have banned the entry of outsiders for the time being, while the police have joined a probe into the matter, the sources added.

Kanpur is the latest to be added to the list of Indian cities that have received bomb threats over the last two weeks, after Delhi, Noida, Jaipur, Lucknow and



Ahmedabad among others. It all began on May 1 when nearly 100 schools in Delhi, two in Noida and one in Lucknow received a bomb threat via email, prompting mass evacuations. As panicked parents crowded outside the schools, the Ministry of Home Affairs said the emails sent to Delhi-NCR schools appeared to be a hoax. The following week, several schools in Ahmedabad received emails threatening to blow up educational institutions. The bomb threat emails were sent from a Russian domain 'mail.ru'. Just three days ago, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) and over 10 hospitals received similar bomb threats via emails. The Delhi Police said that the threat was a hoax and further investigation was on for the miscreants who sent the email.

Mumbai hoarding collapse toll climbs to 16, rain, thunderstorm likely today

New Delhi: Two more bodies were recovered from under the debris of the giant hoarding which collapsed in Mumbai's Ghatkopar on Monday evening when the city was hit by dust storms and unseasonal rains. The death toll in the incident has now reached 16, as rescue teams had earlier retrieved 14 bodies from the hoarding crash site. Seventy-five people were injured in the incident, while the search and rescue operation continued on Wednesday, news agency PTI quoted a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) official as saying. The NDRF official also said a small fire broke out at the incident site in Ghatkopar during the search and rescue operation on Wednesday morning, but it was immediately doused by the fire tenders deployed there.



The search and rescue operation continued even 40 hours after the incident, officials told PTI. According to the India Meteorological Department, the city is expected to receive rain or thundershowers by afternoon or evening on Thursday. Meanwhile, as rain as thundershowers continue to lash parts of the state, two houses in Thane were damaged after a tree fell on them on Tuesday. No injuries were reported in the incident. The roofs of the two

single-storey houses were completely damaged after the tree fell on them on Tuesday, news agency PTI quoted an official as saying. A team of local fire personnel and the regional disaster management rushed to the spot soon after receiving information about the incident. In a separate rain-related incident, a portion of a two-storey building, which had been declared 'dangerous', collapsed in Bhiwandi town of Thane on Tuesday. Six persons were rescued from the building after the incident, which occurred at around 10 pm. The building, located at the Bhandari compound and having 15 tenements, had been declared as dangerous and unfit for occupation. The owner of the building had been asked to ensure it was vacated.

Delhi High Court Reverses Acquittal Of "Monster" Father For Raping Minor Daughter

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday held guilty a father of repeatedly raping his minor daughter for two years, reversing a trial court decision that acquitted him of all charges on the basis of delay in reporting the matter. Bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait allowed appeals by the State as well as the victim along with her mother and brother against the acquittal, and remarked that instead of finding a "monastery" in her father's lap, the minor girl found a "monster". Holding that every delay in reporting the matter cannot be branded fatal in a mechanical manner, the court noted that the victim, who was 10 years old at the time she was first raped, tolerated sexual assault by her father for approximately two years afterwards. She went to the police after noticing that her father had beaten her mother and brother instead of mending his ways, the court said.

It held that the testimony of the victim inspired full confidence and the trial court gave unwarranted weightage to superficial contradictions. "The wrongdoer was not any outsider or stranger. The victim must have thought that she would find a 'monastery' in the lap of her father. Little did she realise that he was rather a 'monster'," the bench, also comprising Justice Manoj Jain, said. "In view of the apparent compelling reason that the finding recorded in order of acquittal is contrary to the evidence, we have no hesitation in reversing the same. 106. Consequently, we hereby allow both the appeals and hold the respondent guilty for commission of offences punishable under Section 6 (Punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act and Sections 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation) and 323 (Punishment for voluntarily

causing hurt) IPC," the court held. The trial court had passed the order in June 2019 following the registration of a case in 2013. The court directed that the matter be listed on May 24 for arguments on sentence. In the order, the court observed that such incidents of sexual assault are often not reported because the victim and her family members feel that their image and reputation would be tarnished and even in the present case, the victim claimed to have told her mother about the incidents but she was snubbed. The court said it "strongly" felt and believed that the incident of the father beating up her mother and brother acted as a catalyst and acted as a "saturation point" for the victim and her family and therefore the delay could not be said to be fatal. "We need not remind ourselves that we are dealing with a matter where a daughter has been raped. Irregular set up, which is

India denies unauthorised aviation ops in Maldives, cites 'unforeseen exigency'

New Delhi: Indian aviation platforms in the Maldives have always operated according to the 'agreed procedures and with due authorisation', India said on Tuesday, adding that the emergency landing in Thimarafushi was due to an unforeseen exigency.

The statement by India came as it dismissed Maldivian Defence Minister Ghassan Maumoon's claims, alleging that Indian military helicopter pilots stationed in the Maldives carried out an unauthorised operation in 2019. Maumoon claimed at a press conference in Male on Saturday, that he knew of one of the aviation platforms undertaking an unauthorised sortie. He narrated an incident where one of the two helicopters operated by Indian military personnel in the Maldives landed in Thimarafushi, allegedly without permission—a case which he said was reviewed by the Parliament's Committee on National Security Services (241 Committee), when he was a lawmaker. Dismissing the allegation, India, in a statement said, "Indian aviation platforms in the Maldives have always operated as per agreed procedures and with due authorisation from MNDF. The specific sortie on 09 October 2019 referred to at the press conference was also undertaken with the approval of MNDF." "The emergency landing at Thimarafushi was necessitated due to an unforeseen exigency, which was carried out after taking necessary on-ground approvals from the Air Traffic Control (ATC) to ensure the safety and security of the platform and crew," India said.

The statement by the High Commission of India comes days after India completed the withdrawal of 76 military personnel from the Maldives following a demand by President Mohamed Muizzu. Muizzu, a pro-China leader who came to power in November last year, had set May 10 as the deadline for the withdrawal of the Indian military troops from his country.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT THIMARAFUSHI

According to local media reports, on May 11, the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) revealed that the Indian military personnel who were previously operating the helicopters gifted to the Maldives by the Indian government had made a trip on the helicopter without notifying the Maldivian military during the administration of former President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Incidentally, at the same press conference, Defence Minister Ghassan also confessed that the Maldives military still does not have pilots capable of operating three aircraft donated by India. The Indian military personnel were stationed in the Maldives to operate two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft gifted by India.

Chandigarh dhaba denies 'diesel paratha' claims after viral video sparks outrage

A Chandigarh dhaba is facing backlash after a food blogger's video, claiming they serve parathas cooked in diesel, went viral on social media.

New Delhi: A dhaba (roadside eatery) in Chandigarh is under fire after a video depicting the preparation of a so-called 'diesel paratha' went viral on social media. The establishment's owner has vehemently denied the claims. It all started with a video shot by food blogger Amanpreet Singh, in which he claims the dhaba serves parathas cooked in diesel, sparking concerns about food safety and public health. In the video, a man claiming to be the dhaba owner, Bablu, states that



he is preparing a 'diesel paratha'. He proceeds to pour a liquid from a can onto a paratha on a sizzling pan. The video shows smoke billowing and the paratha turning charred. The clip quickly gained traction online, triggering outrage and gag reflexes. Social media users expressed alarm at the

potential health risks of consuming diesel, which can be fatal. Others highlighted the danger of using a highly flammable liquid near an open flame. Many also called for authorities to investigate the dhaba and take legal action against the owner. Some also questioned the authenticity of the video. Shortly after the video went viral,

Amanpreet Singh deleted it and issued an apology. "To the esteemed Chandigarh Administration, the gracious people of Chandigarh, and the entirety of India, I humbly extend my sincerest apologies. I deeply regret the content of my recent video and acknowledge the distress it may have caused. I am profoundly sorry for any offence taken. Your understanding and forgiveness would mean a great deal to me," he said in an Instagram post.

The dhaba owner, Channi Singh, also issued a clarification, stating that the video was shot for entertainment purposes. He said the establishment uses only edible oil for cooking and prioritises hygiene. "We don't make or serve anything called a 'diesel paratha'," stated Channi Singh. "The blogger made that video for fun. It's common sense that no one would eat a paratha cooked in diesel, nor is it prepared that way. The blogger deleted the video and apologised after it went viral. We use only edible oil and provide hygienic food. We even supply langar from here."

NEWS BOX

Why is forest staff on poll duty?
Supreme Court on Uttarakhand fires

world. The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on the Uttarakhand government over the forest fires in the state, asking it why the forest fire staff was deployed on poll duty. "Why have you employed the forest fire staff on election duty amidst fire?" the top court asked the counsel for the Uttarakhand government after the court was informed the same. Responding to the bench, a state official asserted that the election duty was over and that the chief secretary had directed them to not put any official on poll duty. "It's a sorry state of affairs. You are only making excuses," the bench said. As the court continued to hear the pleas over forest fires in Uttarakhand, advocate Parmeshwar today said, "There is a huge fire and 40 per cent of the forest is under fire. This is undoubted." Responding to the advocate, the counsel for Uttarakhand said there were no new fires.

The counsel further argued that the state government had not received funds from the Centre to tackle the forest fire. It further said, "A six-member committee from the Centre and the state can help so that these fires can be controlled. We are on fire fighting situation. Over 9,000 people are working, and 420 cases have been lodged. We are meeting with the Chief Minister (Pushkar Singh Dhami) every second day. We are doing our best."

"Funding is a huge issue now. Had there been proper funding, the situation would have been better. The Centre has to chip in to help the state," the counsel said.

As the bench asked the counsel if they had done anything to "procure the equipment" since there were "280 fires in Uttarakhand alone", the counsel said, "We had filled 1,205 posts last year and rest is under process."

Upon being asked as to why the vacancy wasn't filled, the counsel said, "We are in recruiting spree."

Forest fires in Uttarakhand have affected more than 1,437 hectares of green cover since November, according to a Forest Department bulletin. However, the recent rain spell in various parts of the state provided much-needed respite from forest fires with no fresh incidents reported over the past few days, it said.

Flames erupt on US jet, passengers scramble down wings

World A US passenger plane caught fire on the tarmac at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport last week, prompting a mass evacuation of passengers. Videos show flames erupting and black smoke billowing from the aircraft's nose shortly after landing.

After the crew initiated an evacuation, passengers are seen opening the emergency exits of the Delta Air Lines Airbus A321 and scrambling down the plane's wings to escape. There were no casualties. The incident occurred on the evening of May 6 after the Delta jet plugged into the terminal's electrical network, according to airport officials. A malfunction with the connection caused sparks and ignited a fire near the nose of the aircraft, below the cockpit. Seattle-based software engineer Ashwin Menon, who was onboard the flight, told KOMO News, "There was a little bit of jostling in the aisles. But overall it was a pretty smooth evacuation process." Menon, who exited the plane via the emergency slides, said he witnessed a small fire burning near the cockpit and captured video footage of the damage. "Once I got out of the flight you could see the fire burning right below the cockpit," Menon said. "I was glad everyone was able to make it out." Around two-thirds of the 189 passengers on board used the emergency slides to evacuate, while others had already disembarked through the passenger bridge.

Seattle fire crews responded to the scene, although the fire had extinguished itself by the time they arrived. Airport officials reported that a few passengers were evaluated for minor injuries sustained during the evacuation, but no one required hospitalisation.

The evacuated passengers were transported to the terminal and processed through international arrivals. Delta Air Lines issued a statement regarding the incident, stating that the emergency slides were deployed "out of an abundance of caution" and that all passengers were safely evacuated. The airline said that the aircraft involved has been grounded for a thorough inspection and maintenance.

Viral Dublin-New York video portal shuts down due to 'inappropriate behaviour'

New York, The video screen 'Portal' that lets people in New York and Dublin peer into life on opposite sides of the Atlantic in real time has been a source of whimsical delight for sidewalk crowds in the two cities, but also a magnet for boorish behaviour that's prompted officials to hit pause for now. The livestreaming public art installation known as 'The Portal' made its North American debut on May 8, with a circular screen set up below New York City's iconic Flatiron Building and a companion screen on Dublin, Ireland's main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, with city landmarks including the Spire in the backdrop. Exhibit organisers touted the interactive display as a unique way to "embrace the beauty of global interconnectedness." "Portals are an invitation to meet people above borders and differences and to experience our world as it really is — united and one," said Benediktas Gylys, the Lithuanian artist who conceived the installation, when the screens were unveiled to fanfare. But just days into a run that was to have continued into the fall, the portals were shut down on Monday night after videos spread on social media of people behaving badly — from an OnlyFans model in New York baring her breasts to Dubliners holding up swastikas and displaying images of New York's Twin Towers burning on 9/11. The screens, which only broadcast video with no audio, were back up Tuesday morning but were to be powered down again Tuesday evening, according to officials in New York and Dublin. Michael Ryan, a spokesperson for the Dublin City Council, said exhibit organisers are looking into "possible technical solutions" to address the inappropriate behaviour. The displays are expected to return later in the week, he said. "Dublin City Council had hoped to have a solution in place today, but unfortunately the preferred solution, which would have involved blurring, was not satisfactory," Ryan wrote, declining to elaborate. "The Portals.org team is now investigating other options." Zac Roy, a spokesperson for the Flatiron NoMad Partnership, a local Manhattan business group, stressed the "overwhelming majority" of people interacting with the city's portal have behaved appropriately. Roy said there's been around-the-clock security and barriers in place at the New York location since the exhibit launched.

Donald Trump's former personal attorney testifies against him in hush money trial

New York, It wasn't until after a decade in the fold, after his family pleaded with him, after the FBI raided his office, apartment and hotel room, Micheal Cohen testified on Tuesday, that he finally decided to turn on Donald Trump. The complicated break led to a 2018 guilty plea to federal charges involving a payment to the porn actor Stormy Daniels to bury her story of an alleged sexual encounter with Trump and other, unrelated crimes. And it's that insider knowledge of shady deals that pushed Manhattan prosecutors to make Cohen the star witness in their case against Trump about that same payment, which they say was an illegal effort to influence the 2016 presidential election. To keep the loyalty and to do the things that he had asked me to do, I violated my moral compass, and I suffered the penalty, as has my family," Cohen testified Tuesday. But defence attorneys sought to portray Cohen as motivated by vengeance on his former boss, confronting him on the witness stand with his own profane social media about Trump and wanting to see the former president in handcuffs.

The most stunning moment came outside the courtroom on Tuesday, when House Speaker Mike Johnson showed up with Trump, who used his powerful bully pulpit to turn his political party against the rule of law by declaring the trial illegitimate. He and other GOP lawmakers are serving as surrogates while Trump himself remains barred by a gag order in the case following an appeals court ruling on Tuesday. I do have a lot of surrogates, and they're speaking very beautifully," Trump said before court as the group gathered in the background. "And they come ... from all over Washington. And they're highly respected, and they think this is the greatest scam they've ever seen." The Republican presidential nominee has pleaded not guilty and denies that any of the encounters took place.

As prosecutors laid out their case, Cohen testified about purposefully mislabelled checks, false receipts and blind loyalty that placed Trump at the centre of the scheme. The testimony, somewhat dry for a man who was defined for years by his braggadocio as Trump's problem-zapper,



underscored the prosecution's foundational argument — that the case isn't about the spectacle of what Trump was paying for, but rather his effort to illegally cover up those payments.

Cohen has testified in detail about how the former president was linked to all aspects of the hush money scheme, and prosecutors believe Cohen's testimony is critical to their case. But their reliance on a witness with such a checkered past — he was disbarred, went to prison and separately pleaded guilty to lying about a Moscow real estate project on Trump's

behalf — could backfire, especially as Trump's attorneys continue to cross-examine him. Blanche spent no time on Tuesday asking about the allegations at the centre of the trial, instead working to raise doubts about Cohen's credibility and his motivation for helping prosecutors try to put Trump behind bars. Amid rapid-fire objections from prosecutors, Blanche

probed Cohen's hyperfocus on Trump, suggesting he's attempted to parlay his insider knowledge into a reduced prison sentence and court supervision for his own crimes, and a new career making millions of dollars criticising Trump.

Cohen was asked to listen through headphones to a snippet of his podcast. Blanche asked Cohen if he recalled one episode in which he said Trump "needs to wear handcuffs and to do the perp walk" and that "people will not be satisfied until this man is sitting inside the cell."

Pro-Palestine and pro-Israel demonstrators come face to face. Here's why

World When do pro-Israelis and pro-Palestinians come together? To protest against each other. Where? In Toronto and Ottawa in Canada and in Chicago in the US. And what's the occasion? Israel's Independence Day.

Israeli protestors raised the national flag to celebrate Israeli Independence Day on May 14. This did not sit well with pro-Gaza protestors. They came out and protested and this time right in front of the pro-Israeli groups. In Ottawa, the celebrations were seen outside Ottawa City Hall. These celebrations of Israeli national pride were met by the fervent anger of the pro-Palestine protestors. Enclosed by steel barricades, hundreds of Jews and Israeli supporters gathered in the Town Hall to celebrate the founding day of Israel -- May 14, 1948.

The blue and white flag of Israel was raised, and yellow balloons were held high as a symbol of solidarity with people taken hostage by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. The crowd chanted, "Bring them home." The

names of the kidnapped Israelis were chanted. Soon, the balloons were released into the sky and the crowds sang the Israeli and Canadian national anthems, reports The Ottawa Citizen.

The pro-Palestinian protestors were just beyond the perimeter, and they chanted jeeringly, "From the river to the sea, Palestine is almost free!" They also said "Globalise the Intifada" and "We don't want two states, take us back to '48", referring to the time before Israel became an independent nation. In Toronto, the Israeli flag was raised at Toronto city hall. The pro-Palestinian protestors continued their chants through loudspeakers from down below, reports the Toronto Star.

Some of the local politicians also attended the annual Independence Day event along with Israeli consular officials and the Jewish UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies. Mayor Olivia Chow skipped the event amid the rising pro-Gaza demonstrations.

"The Mayor will not attend the flag-raising. She believes raising it is divisive at this time, and understands the deep pain and anguish felt by many in the community", Chow's office said. "Toronto will never waver from its unshakable commitment to Israel. But there's work to be done. We will continue to vigorously fight antisemitism in all its forms," said James Pasternak, who organised the Independence Day celebrations.

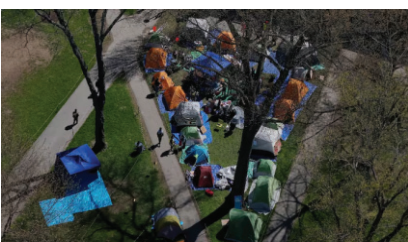
In the US, the protestors came face-to-face at Chicago's Daley Plaza. As the pro-Israel groups celebrated the 76th year of independence, Palestinians continued to protest against what they called a "genocide", according to CBS News. Israelis celebrated 76 years of independence, while Palestinians continued to protest the war with Israel that they framed as genocide.

"We love Israel not because it's perfect, but because it is ours -- the one and only Jewish state in the entire world," said Yinam Cohen, Consul General of Israel.

Harvard students to end pro-Palestine encampment, but to continue protests

UPDATED A group of Harvard students said on Tuesday they would peacefully end a pro-Palestinian protest encampment after the university agreed to discuss its endowment with the protesters and begin reconsidering involuntary leaves it imposed on some.

A Harvard spokesperson said the school had agreed to a "discussion regarding students' questions related to the endowment" and referred to prior statements from Harvard leaders rejecting calls for divestment from Israel-linked companies. The Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine (HOOP) coalition, which has called on the school to divest from companies with ties to Israel, announced in an Instagram post that it would dismantle the three-week-old encampment, but vowed to "re-group and carry out this protracted struggle through other



means. "We are under no illusions. We do not believe these meetings are divestment wins. These side deals are intended to pacify us away from full disclosure and divestment. Rest assured, they will not," the post said.

The encampment at one of the country's most prestigious universities had divided the campus community, with some wealthy alumni condemning the protests as antisemitic and counter to "Western values" while others signed

letters supporting the protesters. Colleges and universities roiled by similar protests across the country have taken varying approaches, with some controversially summoning riot police to campus and others allowing demonstrations to unfold without intervention. Harvard has agreed to begin the process of reinstating at least 22 students from involuntary leaves of absences and to expedite the cases of more than 60 students facing administrative charges for their involvement in the encampment, according to the student newspaper. Protesters on Tuesday morning played music from a speaker while taking down their tents and removing their sleeping bags from the Harvard Yard, a central part of the campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the student newspaper reported.

Exclusive | US envoy on Chabahar deal: Iran exports terror, businesses should be aware

World US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said businesses should be aware of the risks of interacting with Iran as it exported terrorism. However, Garcetti said the US mission in New Delhi was awaiting further clarification on the State Department's warning of "potential risk of sanctions" for India over the inking of the Chabahar port deal with Iran.

In an exclusive interview with India Today TV, the US envoy spoke about his experiences of completing a year in office, the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the Gurdipat Singh Pannun murder-for-hire case, student protests in US universities and India-US relations. Garcetti also said that two more US consulates would be opened over the next 12 months in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. "Usually these things take years. We are hoping that we can do this in the next 12 months, which would be a record, probably not only just in India, but maybe anywhere in the world," he said. Here are the excerpts from the interview: On completing one year as US envoy to India

It has been one of the most enjoyable years

of my life. Me and my family, to see and to feel the changes in India, but also to know the consistency of the spirit of this place and its people. That's why I have always loved this country. I think if you have been to India over many years or lived here, you really feel the optimism of this moment in so many ways. India's assertion of its place in the world, its kind of extension of what it can do as a force of good in the region and beyond.

I agree with President Joe Biden that the India-US relationship is the most consequential relationship. And to be a small player at the helm of that, to guide that relationship has been an honour.

On the Lok Sabha elections in India Before I was a diplomat, I was a politician. So I have faced elections myself. And I know that things get intense in any election. I judge democracy based on the execution of democracy. And by that measure, I am impressed with how India will travel to the remotest village, bring a voting machine even for a single individual, and that the Indian voter takes her or his vote very seriously.

In the United States, you usually vote one

way or the other, consistently. And here, three months ago, you might have voted one way, but you go to the politicians and the parties and say, what are you going to do for me this time?

We see the consistency, that no matter who is in power here, and I would say the same for the United States, that our people want a closer and closer relationship, a future together, if you will, guided by two diverse democracies. Democracies are difficult to manage, diverse populations are difficult to manage, but they are better than the alternative. On the India-Iran Chabahar port deal, the US had given a waiver. But, now we see the US threatening India with sanctions. Is it a change of mind or change in policy?

We are awaiting some further clarification on those comments. We know that Iran has been a force for terrorism, a force for exporting a lot of bad things, not just in the Middle East, but other places as well. We generally have sanctions, with some rare exceptions, where there is a strategic interest. But most businesses should be aware of those risks of interacting with Iran as it exports terrorism, as it directly

attacks another sovereign nation, as we saw recently. And that should be a concern for all of us. We certainly want to see a region surrounding India that is stable, that is democratic, and that adheres to the rule of law, and certainly does not export terrorism. I think that's a shared concern.

On Khalistan and Gurdipat Singh Pannun murder-for-hire case

Our law enforcement has never worked more closely with each other than it has now, whether it is the attacks on the San Francisco consulate, whether it is transnational crime that occurs on both sides of the Indo-Pacific, sometimes with immigrants that come from here to the United States. Such a level of cooperation and coordination has never existed before.

It's not what people say. It's what they do. When there are criminal acts, we take those incredibly seriously. But attacks across the line, that is also something that is equally unacceptable.

I hope both India and the United States are listening to each other more clearly than ever before, the concerns they have for security, for safety.

NEWS BOX

IPL 2024: Jos Buttler's absence a big hole but RR have back-up, says Riyan Parag

New Delhi . Star RR all-rounder Riyan Parag has expressed confidence in the team's ability to cope with the absence of star player Jos Buttler, citing the presence of backup options like Tom Kohler-Cadmore (TKC). Notably, Buttler has left the Royals camp and will miss the remainder of the season to take part in England's T20I series against Pakistan. "We are a good side. We've got backups for everyone. TKC (Tom Kohler-Cadmore) is our backup now and we've been practising with him as well. "It was a big loss but I think we will deal with it. It was something that we knew before the season started and we will be handling it well since we are a professional side," Parag said, addressing the media at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday.

The fact that the team, which has 16 points from 12 games, has now lost three in a row does not help. However, Parag stated that the chats in the dressing room have been lighthearted, and the environment is nice. Meanwhile, RR reached the Playoffs late on Tuesday after the Super Giants lost to the Capitals. "They (the chats) have been very positive. We have tried to learn from every small mistake that we have made in the last three games. We are also focusing on what we have done well. It's not that we've done everything wrong to lose the last three games," Parag said. "Due to the Impact Player rule, six bowlers can play now. You become the seventh option and that comes to play only when the main bowlers get hit for runs. "I have mixed feelings about it. I did feel I was not getting enough chances but Sanju (Samson) bhai has asked me to be ready so that I can be called upon anytime.

Pep Guardiola wary of Arsenal as Manchester City edge towards title: Job not done

New Delhi. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said there were no celebrations after a 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur put his side on the cusp of an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League title on Tuesday. City were well below their best and indebted to a late save by substitute keeper Stefan Ortega before Erling Haaland bagged his second goal of the game to finally seal a crucial victory with a stoppage-time penalty. "We were happy in the locker room but they know it's not done, they know it will be tough on Sunday," said Guardiola, whose side are two points ahead of Arsenal heading to the finale of a neck-and-neck title race. "We have to win a game to do something no team has done." City face West Ham United at home on Sunday knowing that with Arsenal hosting Everton, only a win is likely to be enough to capture a sixth title in seven seasons. While City sparkled in the sunshine at Craven Cottage on Sunday during a 4-0 rout, they were strangely subdued at Tottenham's new stadium where until Tuesday they had never scored a Premier League goal.

"They were playing for the consequences of the result (in the first half)," Guardiola, told reporters. "When you do that you are going to lose the Premier League. You cannot perform to your level. They are human beings, I understand the pressure.

"Not even Arsenal played well against Manchester United, they knew if they did not win there they would not win the Premier League." It will be the same on Sunday for us against West Ham.

Playing for pride: Rajat Patidar explains RCB's incredible turnaround in IPL 2024

New Delhi. RCB batter Rajat Patidar credited Bengaluru's impressive revival in the race to the IPL 2024 playoffs to the team's renewed mantra of 'playing for pride.' Dubbed as perennial underachievers in the cash-rich league, RCB lost seven of their first eight matches in the IPL 2024. However, the Bengaluru heavyweights staged a stunning comeback by winning their last five games in the lead-up to the playoffs. No side barring RCB has secured five consecutive wins in the ongoing edition of IPL 2024. RCB's commanding 47-run triumph over DC lifted the Kohli-led squad to fifth place in the IPL 2024 standings. Currently, RCB trail the 2016 champions, Hyderabad, by a mere two points on the table.

To get support from the franchise and the team management allows the players to do their best on the field. The environment was good in the team even when things were not going our way. I think that plays a huge role in building the character of the team. I think that of course it's a big franchise and playing for pride that was turned around. We have done earlier also in 2016. So I think we have an example in our own team pricing there," Patidar said in a media interaction on Tuesday. Rajat Patidar's exceptional form has worked as a catalyst for RCB and helped them win five consecutive matches to stay alive in the playoffs race. RCB lost their most destructive batter against spin, Glenn Maxwell, due to a dip in form, and Patidar stepped in to deliver in style. During RCB's winning streak, Patidar scored three of his five half-centuries, and a fourth nearly led to victory before RCB lost to the Knight Riders by a heart-breaking one-run margin. The standout features of Patidar's batting are his impressive strike.

RR vs PBKS Prediction, Head-to-Head, Guwahati Pitch Report and Who Will Win?

RR and PBKS are set to clash at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati Match 65 of IPL 2024. Tenth placed PBKS are already knocked out of the tournament while second placed RR need a win to stay in top two on points table.

New Delhi . The Match 65 of the Indian Premier League 2024 will pit RR and PBKS against each other on Wednesday, May 15 at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati. The contest may not seem mouth-watering from the outset. However, the fixture is extremely crucial for RR considering their position on

the points table.

The Sanju Samson-led side had a dominating campaign for the majority of the season so far having won eight out of their first nine fixtures. However, they faced back-to-back losses in their last three fixtures which brought them down to the second spot on the points table having 16 points from 12 matches.

The 2008 champions will be desperate to win both of their remaining fixtures to finish in the top two spots on the points table and get an extra chance to qualify for the finals. On the other hand, Punjab has had another forgettable campaign which has been exacerbated by the absence of their skipper Shikhar Dhawan from the sixth game onwards. Under the leadership of Sam Curran, Punjab have only won two out of their last seven fixtures and are reeling at the last spot on the points table with four wins from 12 matches having eight points to their name. The 2014 runner-ups will look to end their campaign on a high by winning their remaining two games.

RR vs PBKS: Head to Head
RR have an upper hand over PBKS in terms of



head-to-head records having won 16 out of the 27 matches played between the two teams. Furthermore, Rajasthan have also won six out of the last eight matches making them clear favourites of the upcoming encounter.

RR vs PBKS: Team News

RR will be without the services of their star opener Jos Buttler who has flown back to England for the T20I series against Pakistan. RR are likely to replace him with Tom Kohler Cadmore. On the other hand, PBKS will be without Liam Livingstone

Kagiso Rabada leaves IPL early, expected to be available for T20 World Cup

New Delhi. Star pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to undergo rehabilitation for a lower limb soft tissue infection, as confirmed by Cricket South Africa (CSA) in their recent announcement. "The 28-year-old consulted a specialist on arrival in South Africa and is being closely monitored by the Cricket South Africa medical team," said the release. The infection, however, will have no bearing on Rabada's preparation or participation in the T20 World Cup, as Cricket South Africa expect him to be fit for the tournament. It cuts short the 28-year-old's stint with the PBKS in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League, where he picked up 11 wickets in as many games at an economy of



8.86.

"Yeah, there will be (changes to the Playing XI). We know Rabada's gone home injured, so we've got to find a replacement. Liam Livingstone has also been called back by the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board). There'll be a change there also. We'll meet

later tonight to finalise the 11 or 12 that we'll go in with. Tomorrow's game is about going out there and expressing oneself. We are out of the tournament, which is disappointing, but it's still another opportunity for the younger guys and the team to develop," Haddin said. Rabada is expected to play a vital role in South Africa's T20 World Cup campaign as the spearhead of their pace attack, having been named in the squad on 30 April. The upcoming tournament in the West Indies and USA will mark his fourth appearance representing the Proteas in the T20 World Cup, having featured in the previous three editions in 2016, 2021 and 2022.

Gautam Gambhir turns 'cupid' for KKR fan with special Instagram post: Here you go

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Gautam Gambhir posted a special smiling picture on a fan's request on Wednesday, May 15 to allow her to propose to her crush. Notably, Gambhir is known for having a serious demeanour as he's rarely seen smiling or laughing. However, things changed quickly when a photograph of a fan holding a placard during the ongoing Indian Premier League 2024 caught the attention of the KKR mentor. The placard read 'I will not propose my crush until Gambhir smiles'. To cater to the fan's request, the two-time IPL winner posted a smiling picture of himself on his Instagram account with a caption, "Here you go!" As a result, Gambhir's reply instantly went viral as fans appreciated the former opening batter for his gesture.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing IPL season, KKR are having a dream run under Gambhir's mentorship. The 42-year-

old, who served as the mentor of LSG in the previous two seasons, was signed by the franchise ahead of the season and the move has worked wonders for the



Kolkata-based franchise.

KKR sitting on top of points table

The Shreyas Iyer-led side is ranked on the top of the points table with nine wins from 13 matches having 19 points to their name. The two-time champions

started the season with a hat-trick of wins against SRH, RCB and DC before losing their first game against CSK. Kolkata further suffered two harrowing losses at their home ground where they allowed first RR and then PBKS to chase down the highest score in the history of IPL. However, Kolkata once again made a strong comeback by winning the next four fixtures on the trot to rise to the top of the table. A washout in the previous game against GT has ensured that KKR will finish in the top two spots which will allow them to have two chances to qualify for the final. Their last league fixture will be against RR on Sunday, May 19 at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati. Gambhir, who's led KKR to both of their title victories in 2012 and 2014, will be eager to lead the franchise to their third title under his mentorship.

RCB vs CSK, Playoff chances: Bengaluru rain threatens to washout May 18 virtual knockout

New Delhi. The highly anticipated clash between RCB and CSK during Match 68 of the Indian Premier League 2024 is likely to get washed out as rain threat looms large over the crucial fixture. Notably, the match scheduled to be held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday, May 18 is extremely important for RCB as their playoff chances are pinned on a good win in the encounter. However, bad weather is expected to spoil the hopes of millions of RCB fans with heavy rainfall expected in the city throughout the day. According to weather.com, there are high chances of 73% of rain during the daytime on May 18 which is expected to go up to 80% around 6 pm. The incessant rainfall is likely to be accompanied by thunderstorms which further hampers the chances of the game being completed.

The continuous rainfall could well mean the likelihood of a shortened game which can



further make things tougher for the home team. According to the IPL rules, the shortest game that can take place is five overs which can begin latest by 10:56 PM. The only good thing for RCB is the unpredictability of Bengaluru weather and the drainage system of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium which is

considered to be the best in the country. Notably, RCB's last fixture of IPL 2023 against GT was also under rain threat, however, much to their good fortune, a complete 20-over match was conducted despite inclement weather in the lead-up to the game.

and Kagiso Rabada who've both flown back home ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024. Shashank Singh is also fit again to play after sustaining an injury in the previous game against RCB.

RR vs PBKS: Guwahati Pitch Report

The surface in Guwahati is expected to be a high-scoring one despite having long boundaries. The average first innings score in the last four T20 games has been just over 213 and dew is also expected to play its part during the game. The captain winning the toss will look to bowl first as has been the tradition so far in the tournament.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Sanju Samson(w/c), Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult, Avesh Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Yuzvendra Chahal(Impact Player: Nandre Burger/Rovman Powell)

PBKS Predicted XI

Jonny Bairstow(w), Prabhshimran Singh, Rilee Rossouw, Shashank Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Sam Curran(c), Ashutosh Sharma, Harshal Patel, Rahul Chahar, Arshdeep Singh, Vidhath Kaverappa.

Rishabh Pant is an instinctive captain, and will get better with time: Sourav Ganguly

New Delhi. DC's Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly believes Delhi captain Rishabh Pant is an instinctive leader whose leadership qualities will improve with time and experience. The wicket-keeper returned to competitive cricket after a lengthy recovery from a horrible vehicle accident in December 2022. Under Pant's leadership, DC made it seven wins in the group stage with a 19-run victory over the Super Giants (LSG). However, with 14 points and a net run rate (NRR) of -0.377, their playoff chances are significantly dependent on other results. "Pant is a young captain, he'll learn with time. The way he returned from injury to play a full season; we had our doubts during the off-season," Ganguly told JioCinema. "Indian players are crucial, especially since the TATA IPL shifted to 10 teams. I am very happy for him that he returned to play so well over a full season. He has all my well-wishes for whatever is next," Ganguly added.

Pant has demonstrated his savvy captaincy on numerous occasions, but he has also made some mistakes. "With time, he'll become a better captain. Nobody is a great captain from day one, but he is an instinctual captain. He makes decisions on the ground. With more time, he'll get better." DC finished the league stage with seven wins and seven losses. Although they still have a mathematical chance of making the playoffs, they have most likely played their final game of the season. Pacers Mukesh Kumar and Rasikh Dar Salam have risen to the occasion several times this season, and Ganguly lavished them with praise.

"You've seen Rasikh's development over time. The more matches he played, the better he got. It's not easy to bowl on the Delhi wicket. This wicket is great, and the ground isn't that big, so I think for any bowler, it isn't easy to bowl here. Rasikh has improved a lot. Mukesh has been our best bowler this season. He bowls all the difficult overs, whether at the start or at the death. There has been no match this season where we didn't need his bowling in the death. We knew that conceding sixes would lead to more losses, so he has consistently delivered there. Our Indian bowlers have been great this season."

RCB on a five-match winning streak

The upcoming fixture against CSK is once again pivotal to the playoffs chances of the late-bloomers who could only win one out of their first eight matches. However, their campaign finally got some momentum with a 35-run victory against the formidable SRH in their ninth fixture. The win started a juggernaut for the three-time runner-ups who've now won their last five matches on the trot and have a great chance of finishing in the top four.

The Bengaluru-based franchise need to beat CSK by 18 runs if they score 200 batting first or chase down 201 with 11 balls remaining to surpass their opposition on the net run rate. However, a washout or a loss will knock them out of the tournament. Hence, RCB will hope that their city's weather obliges and gives them a fair chance of reviving their sluggish campaign.

Sexy Video!

Disha Patani

Turns Up the Heat As She Slips into Racy Bikinis For Vacay

Bikini-clad Disha Patani is turning up the heat on the internet with her hot video from her recent beach holiday.

Disha Patani is oozing hotness in her latest Instagram post. The Bollywood actress on Tuesday dropped a sexy video from her recent beach vacay with her girl squad. In the video, Disha slipped into very racy bikinis as she struck a series of bold poses on the beach. Disha has been sharing glimpses of her all-girls getaway on her social media for a while.

Sharing the post, Disha wrote, "A day on the beach with my girlies pt 1." Fans cannot stop drooling over Disha's sexy looks in the hot video. One user said, "Hotness overloaded!" While another one commented, "Best figure with beautiful face in Bollywood!"

Disha has been on a roll with her outfits lately and aside from these racy snaps, she often grabs headlines for her close bond with Tiger Shroff. While Tiger and Disha have remained silent about their affair and subsequent break-up speculations, Disha has been a part of his family gatherings on several occasions. She is very close to Tiger's



sister Krishna Shroff. Disha recently topped the trend charts for a very hot photoshoot with a magazine. For the shoot, Disha opted for nude-coloured skintight bodysuit which highlighted her hot curves and toned legs. Disha also struck a series of sensuous poses wearing black bralette with matching tights. She completed her look with emerald green dangles.

On the work front, Disha was last seen in Karan Johar's production Yodha alongside Sidharth Malhotra. The film received a lukewarm response at the box office. Disha will next be seen in Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2898 AD, which stars Prabhas, Deepika Padukone and Amitabh Bachchan.



Sanjay Kapoor Makes BIG Revelation, Says 'Anil Kapoor Maybe More Successful, But I'm Happier'



Bollywood actor Sanjay Kapoor has got candid about his equations with his brothers, actor Anil Kapoor and producer Boney Kapoor. The actor said that even though Anil is more successful actor than him, it doesn't bother him because he feels more content with his life.

In a conversation with Shivani Pau, Sanjay talks about how his relationship with his brothers doesn't get affected by the constant comparisons they are often subjected to.

Sanjay Kapoor said, "We lived together, and we were living in a two-bedroom hall when we started off. We are a very close-knit family. Obviously, then you have your own children, everything. There are times when I don't meet Anil or Boney maybe for a month or month and a half also. But we respect each other, we love each other, and we are intelligent enough to know, okay, this is part of movie making."

Sanjay also spoke about the competition among the three brothers. He said, "Today, I have nieces, nephews, they are going through their highs, they're going through lows, but our relation is not changing according to the Friday of the movie releases of Arjun or Sonam or Janhvi or whoever."

Sanjay continued, "I'm not saying there's no competition. I think it's a person-to-person thing. I think even though Anil is more successful than me, I always feel that I am happier and more content than him, for whatever reason. I am always saying God is kind. Even if I've achieved less than him, I just feel I'm happier. I'm always in a better mood. I'm not saying he's sad or anything, but I don't know how to put it. But I feel I'm more content than him."

Despite coming from a well-known film family, Sanjay Kapoor faced many challenges in his career. He was launched into the industry by his brother, producer Boney Kapoor, with a lead role in Prem (1995). While he went on to star in some big projects, his career didn't take off as expected, and he mainly got offered smaller roles. In the same podcast, Sanjay also talked about his career journey, recalling how his brother Boney didn't offer him roles during his tough times.

"My brother (Boney) didn't cast me when I was going through the (tough) phase. When he made No Entry, he could have taken me instead of Fardeen Khan; but he didn't. There already was Anil Kapoor and Salman Khan in its cast, so he could have sold the picture anyway."

Priyanka Chopra Says Cousin Mannara Is 'Not Actually A Chopra' In Viral Video



Mannara Chopra has quickly become a prominent name in the entertainment industry after her stint in the Bigg Boss 17 house. Mannara Chopra has always received support from her superstar cousin, Priyanka Chopra. Now, an old video of the duo has resurfaced on Reddit in which Priyanka says that Mannara is not really a 'Chopra'. It was earlier revealed that Mannara's real name is Barbie Handa.

In the now-viral clip, Priyanka Chopra introduces Mannara to the media and tells them that she's the newest member of her family to join the industry. She calls her a 'Chopra' but quickly adds that Mannara is not really a 'Chopra'. Priyanka said, "This is my newest Chopra to, actually she's not a Chopra. The newest member of my family to join the movie business, this is Mannara."

Mannara Chopra had earlier opened up about her relationship with Priyanka Chopra and why she didn't mention her famous sister's name on Bigg Boss 17. She talked about their fallout rumours and clarified that their relations are "very sorted". The actress explained that she did not talk much about her cousins in the Bigg Boss house because it was a personality show and she wanted the showcase her personality.

"If I would take my family's name, they would have called me a nepo kid. They would have said that I don't have a personality. Now that I didn't take their names, they created another story that my relationship with my sisters is not good. My relations are very sorted," Mannara said while speaking to Siddharth Kannan.

Alia Bhatt

Says She Won't Let Daughter Raha 'Move Out of House' in 20s: 'I Felt So Guilty About...'

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt welcomed her first child, daughter Raha Kapoor, in November 2022. The actress is currently awaiting the release of her next, Jigra.

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt, who welcomed daughter Raha Kapoor with actor-husband Ranbir Kapoor in 2022, has opened up about navigating the challenges of being a working mother while also experiencing the guilt of neglecting her own mom.

In conversation with her mother, actress Soni Razdan, Alia spoke about how she wouldn't want Raha to move out of home in her early 20s. Talking to The Nod Mag, Alia recalled, "I remember when I was pregnant and shooting in London for Heart of Stone, I couldn't



sleep for three days because I felt so guilty about how maybe I wasn't a good enough daughter." To this, Soni added, "She works hard on her mental health, but there are days she feels anxious about not picking up my calls or giving us any attention."

Alia said that she couldn't get enough time to spend with her mother because she started working when she was just 23. She said, "I was barely 23 when I moved out of the house. I'd be away on long shooting schedules, and sometimes you wouldn't even know which city I was in. So that was a defining point in my life, and our relationship. But I do feel I left home too soon—and I won't let that happen with Raha. Believe it or not, usually I'm a forward-thinking

kind of person, but with Raha, I'm just taking each day as it comes. Papa recently told me: 'If you don't let Raha fall down, it will be the biggest mistake you'll make because she'll never learn how to pick herself up.'"

During their discussion, Soni also said that after a point she began feeling like Alia's manager not mother. "Those days I remember feeling less mom and more like a manager. You'd barely spend five minutes with me in the morning for tea," she said. However, the veteran actress said that she is proud of Alia and really happy about what the 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' star has achieved in life.

