

THE GOAN



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GOA
Litmus test for Digambar, Congress in Margao **2**

GOA
PM skipped burning issues of Goans at Sat rally: INDIA bloc **3**

INFO
Wonderful aloe vera masks for dry and rough hair **10**

SPORTS
FC Goa takes on Mumbai City in do-or-die ISL semis second leg **11**

Smart City chaos continues to trouble Panaji residents

DUG UP ROADS, TRAFFIC JAMS ORDER OF THE DAY

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Woes of residents and commuters in Panaji amid the disruptions caused by the ongoing work on multiple 'smart city' projects continue unabated as some of the damage on patched up roads caused by the torrential rain witnessed on April 20 is yet to be rectified at several locations more than a week later. Continuous traffic logjams are being experienced in the area around the Panaji market, particularly in the area around the main entrance gate of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) market complex due to a foot-deep depression left unattended at a crucial spot on the T-junction as the picture of our lensman indicates. Further south along this same road near the old Education Department building,



A traffic jam near Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji. (File photo)

workers have dug a trench right across the road once again, weeks after it had been patched up after sewerage work and laying of underground cables was completed. Enquiries have revealed that the trench has been dug up by workers at the instance of the CCP which is carrying out pre-monsoon work and building a cross-drain there, raising questions as to why this work could not have

Rua de Ourem smart road may not make the cut before May 31

PANAJI: Work on the 'smart road' along the Rua de Ourem creek from the Old Patto Bridge to the Four Pillars junction is unlikely to be taken up any time soon. With May 31 deadline to complete all work set by the government and endorsed by the Bombay High Court at Goa just a month away there is not enough time to execute the smart road work there from start to finish, an IPSCDL official said. All other work on this stretch of road like building sewerage chambers and laying the underground cables is completed but there is not enough time until May 31 to start and finish the 'smart road' project which involves laying a concrete road and laying footpaths on either side, the official said. The project may now be deferred to after the monsoon in September-October, he added.

The damage was visibly the aftermath and impact of the burst of rain which had almost the entire network of city roads flooded with shin-deep water. safety issues after the redesigned pavements which were freshly lined with interlocking tiles under the 'Smart City Mission' had caved in at several places in the city.

Man found dead with gunshot wounds near bar in Canacona

Local gun, live cartridges found at site

THE GOAN | NETWORK

CANACONA

A 53-year-old resident of Ponsulem was found dead with gunshot wounds outside a bar & restaurant that he was operating on rent at Sakhrewal-Canacona in the wee hours of Sunday. Wilson Fernandes was noticed in a pool of blood by the cook of the restaurant at about 3:30 am, lying face down on the road, beside a parked Omni-van. A local gun and live cartridges were also seen besides the body. The bar owner living nearby was alerted by the restaurant staff who reportedly informed Wilson's wife and later informed the Canacona police. Speaking to media, the owner of the bar said he had rented out his premises to Wilson two months ago. "When I came out, I saw Wilson lying in a pool of blood, fallen face-down on the road, beside a parked Omni-van. His body was in a pool of blood and his lower part was in a mutilated condition, as if he was hit by a bomb", he said.



The site where the incident took place at Canacona.

Police who reached the site, conducted the panchanama and shifted the lifeless body of Wilson to Canacona Health Centre, where doctors declared him brought dead. The body was later shifted to South Goa District Hospital, Margao for post-mortem. Police, meanwhile, swung into action and rounded up three persons including the restaurant cook for questioning. While Canacona police led by PI Harish Raut Dessai conducted the panchanama and a team of forensic experts also visited the site. SP (South) Sunita Sawant, alongwith Dy SP Tikam Singh Verma also made their presence felt at the site later in the day as part of investigation. According to PI Dessai, primary investigation revealed that Wilson died of gunshots which could have accidentally fired from the gun found beside him. However, the actual cause will be known only after forensic and post-mortem reports are out, he said. Forensic experts also picked up evidence from the site. Sources said Wilson was a resident of Ponsulem while his family lived in Salcette. After closing the bar, he came out and was reportedly sitting on the edge of Omni-van side door.

IN SHORT >>>

EVMs loaded with symbols in Salcete

MARGAO: The day-long process of loading symbols in EVMs of four Assembly segments of Salcete followed by mock polling ended late Sunday. The EVMs of the remaining four constituencies of Salcete will be taken up on Monday to load the symbols of candidates. >>> See **pg 2**

Greens red-flag trimming of trees

MARGAO: Greens red-flagged the ongoing operation of trimming trees along Margao ring road between Comba subway and Colva road, insisting that the contractor has cut many trees along the road. >>> See **pg 3**

Woman found dead at Ponda bus stand

PANAJI: An unidentified woman was found dead underneath a bus at Ponda bus stand. Sources said the woman around 30-35 years was from Tiral, Usgao.

WEATHER >>>

Max: 34 C
Min: 27 C
Humidity: 75%

TIDES

Low: 07:37 20:31
High: 00:32 15:00



Voters queue up to cast their vote at a booth in Taleigao on Sunday. Narayan Pissurlenkar

Nearly 69% vote in Taleigao p'yat election, results today

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI Voters in Taleigao got their middle finger inked after casting their votes by ballot to pick their representatives in the 11-member panchayat on Sunday. Throughout the day since voting began at 17 booths, people eligible to vote including first-time electors came out enthusiastically to exercise their franchise in the election to pick seven of the

11 panchas of the Taleigao panchayat. As per the report of the State Election Commission, the final turnout was 68.79 per cent as 8,246 votes were cast till voting ended a little before 5:30 pm. Elections by ballot was held only for seven of the eleven wards in the panchayat as in four wards -- I, VI, X and XI -- candidates of the panel floated by Revenue Minister Atanasio (Babush) Monserrate, Taleigao Progressive

Development Front, were already elected unopposed. The voting process was peaceful without any major complaints of either violence or voter intimidation barring in ward II, where AAP leader Cecille Rodrigues brought to the notice of poll officers that voter slips were being distributed with the symbol of the candidate from the Monserrate-backed panel. Rodrigues, who is >>>Continued on **P5**

Newly-recruited constable loses life in accident

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PONDA

Rachat Ashok Satarakar, a 21-year-old resident of Adkon, Banastari, tragically lost his life in a scooter accident early Sunday morning at Keri-Ponda. He had recently been appointed as a constable in the police department.

The unfortunate incident occurred after Rachat had returned from Margao, where he had gone with a friend for a volleyball tournament on Saturday evening. Late that night, he set out for Keri to visit his aunt. Unfortunately, while nearing Satode-Keri, he lost control of his scooter, collided with an electricity pole and sustained fatal injuries. His friend, who was following behind in another vehicle, immediately called the 108 ambulance service upon witnessing the accident. Inspector Yogesh Sawant of the Mar-dol police rushed to the scene upon receiving information. After conducting the necessary procedures, including the panchnama, Rachat's body >>>Continued on **P5**

Drugs worth ₹ 600 crore seized in massive sea Op, 14 Pak crew held

PTI

AHMEDABAD

The Indian Coast Guard has seized 86 kg of drugs worth Rs 600 crore from a Pakistani boat and arrested 14 persons on board the vessel off the Gujarat coast, the maritime security agency said on Sunday. The overnight operation in

the Arabian Sea was carried out in coordination with Gujarat Anti-terrorism Squad and the Narcotics Control Bureau. This was the 11th successful joint operation in three years involving the Coast Guard and the ATS, it said, seeking to underscore the synergy between the two agencies. A top Gujarat police official

said heroin was seized from the boat. In a breathtaking overnight operation, ICG undertook an intelligence-based anti-narcotics operation at sea. Approx 86 kg of narcotics worth Rs 600 crore has been apprehended along with 14 crew from the Pakistani boat, the agency said in a release.

North Goa voters silent amidst lacklustre campaign

AGNELO PEREIRA THE GOAN | MAPUSA

As the Lok Sabha election campaign gains momentum in North Goa, a notable trend emerges -- the electorate's skepticism and preference for silence. Despite the fervent efforts of candidates, the prevailing atmosphere of discouragement among voters remains palpable.

GROUND ANALYSIS

In contrast to the vibrant campaigning scene, characterized by corner meetings and temple visits, the mood on the ground suggests a significant shift in voter sentiment.

KEY CONTENDERS IN NORTH GOA



The key contenders in the North Goa constituency -- Union Minister Shripad Naik of the BJP, Ramakant Khalap of the Congress, and Manoj Parab of the Revolutionary Goans Party -- have embarked on intensive campaigning strategies. While Naik and Khalap have completed the initial phase of their outreach activities, Parab stands out for his distinct approach. Naik and Khalap have prioritized corner meetings, religious visits, and targeted voter interactions, demonstrating proactive engagement with constituents. Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Goans Party has opted for a more localized campaign, focusing on specific >>>Continued on **P5**

Your vote ensured the implementation of Ayushman Yojana for free medical treatment of up to 5 lakhs to over 50 crore citizens

This time with your vote Every senior citizen above 70 years of age will get guaranteed free medical treatment of ₹5 lakh

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Right intent Right results

Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

LITMUS TEST FOR KAMAT, CONG IN MARGAO

■ MLA ASSURES TO GIVE MINIMUM 10,000 VOTE LEAD FOR BJP, BUT OBSERVERS CLAIM IT WON'T BE EASY TASK
■ OPPN EYES TRADITIONAL PARTY VOTES, INDIA ALLIES' ASSISTANCE TO CHECKMATE KAMAT IN HIS FIEFDOM

GUILHERME ALMEIDA
 THE GOAN | MARGAO

When Congress-turned-BJP Margao MLA Digambar Kamat launched South Goa candidate Pallavi Dempo's campaign over a fortnight ago, he thundered that Madgavkars will give minimum 10,000 vote lead for the BJP in the May 7 polls.



How Kamat has arrived at the figure of 10,000 vote-margin has since become a subject of debate – whether the assessment is based on the 2022 Assembly poll results, wherein the seven-time Margao MLA had led over BJP's Manohar Aijaonkar by a whopping 7,794 vote margin. Or, is it that Kamat has calculated the 10,000 vote margin based on the simple arithmetic of adding the votes polled by him in the 2022 Assembly polls, around 13,674 votes to be precise and Aijaonkar's 5,880 votes, which works out almost 20,000 votes, around 19,554 vote to be precise, since he is now part of the BJP.

Notwithstanding the vote margin target and the calculations, undercurrents in the lanes and by-lanes in the commercial capital, however, does not seem to suggest that Kamat and the BJP will have a free run. It's true that the Congress party organisation in Margao is no match to



Congress-turned-Margao MLA Digambar Kamat leading Pallavi Dempo's campaign in Margao ahead of the May 7 polls. (Right) INDIA bloc leaders rally to drum up support for Capt Viriato Fernandes in Margao.



the Kamat-BJP combine. In fact, the Congress had to literally go on a hunting mode for the last two years to find a replacement for the Margao block after the rank and file defected to the BJP along with Kamat lock, stock and barrel.

Political observers, however, sounded a word of caution for the seasoned former Chief Minister.

Kamat's overconfidence in setting up a target of 10,000 vote lead in Margao notwithstanding, observers say the Margao MLA now runs the risk of losing his loyal and traditional Congress voters, comprising of the Catholics and Muslims, who had stood behind him in his political journey during his 17-year stint with the Congress.

Stats reveal BJP enjoyed upper hand in Margao with Digambar in party

MARGAO: Poll statistics reveal that the BJP enjoyed an upper hand in Margao in the recent Lok Sabha elections when Digambar Kamat was part of the saffron dispensation.

The BJP had led over the Congress in the 1999 Lok Sabha election when the Lotus bloomed in South Goa for the first time when

Digambar Kamat was then MP Ramakhandt Angle's election agent.

In the following election in 2004, the BJP had lost the South Goa seat, but the party had led over the Congress in Margao.

In the 2009 Lok Sabha election, however, the Congress led over the BJP. This was the time when Kamat

was with the Congress party and was heading the party government in the State as the Chief Minister.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha, the BJP again made a comeback in Margao with a slender lead of 1,128 votes, before the Congress bounced back in the 2019 Lok Sabha when the party led over the BJP by 2,000-plus vote lead.

It's precisely this factor that the city-based Congress leaders are trying to exploit in a bid to reduce BJP's lead in

Margao setting the stage for a keen tussle in the May 7 Lok Sabha poll. If sources are to be believed, the Congress leader-

ship has been primarily concentrating on the traditional Congress vote, which also has been Kamat's vote bank in

2022 Assembly poll results (Margao)

■ Digambar Kamat (Cong)	13,674
■ Manohar Aijaonkar (BJP)	5,880
■ Lincoln Anthony Vaz (AAP)	1,173
■ Mahesh Amonkar (TMC)	923
■ Shashiraj Naik Shirodkar (RGP)	722
■ NOTA	261

lent strength to the anti-Kamat campaign, with observers pinning hopes on the neighbouring Fatorda MLA to tap his connections and corner the Margao MLA in his own bastion.

The INDIA bloc must be also hoping to tap the resentment in the BJP camp, the camp loyal to former Chief Minister late Manohar Parrikar, over Kamat's return to the BJP fold after 17 years.

Political observers, however, say that Kamat's stranglehold over his vote bank, spread across the migrant-inhabited Moti Dongor to Azad Nagar and right up to Khareband will come in handy for the BJP to win big, unless the INDIA bloc manages to storm the migrant vote bank this time round.

Kamat has task cut out to prove his dominance in Margao to bosses

MARGAO: The May 7 Lok Sabha poll is indeed seen as a testing time for seven-time Margao MLA Digambar Kamat to prove a point or two to his party bosses as well as the opposition that his writ runs large in Margao.

For, this is the first major election that Kamat would be facing since he along with seven other Congress MLAs had defected to the BJP on September 14, 2022. Though Kamat is silent in treating the May 7 election as a referendum on his much-talked about defection, political observers say the seasoned Margao MLA seemed working right in that direction.

With the Congress down in the dumps, literally, post-defection, political observers say the Margao MLA will go all out to silence his opponents, both within the BJP and outside, in the event he scores big in his fiefdom. "When Kamat himself set a target of 10,000 vote lead in Margao for the BJP, it was clear that he is working to a plan. A 10,000 vote lead in Margao for Pallavi Dempo will propel the Margao MLA back in the scheme of things vis-à-vis the BJP leadership. It will also imply that Kamat is in full control of the situation in Margao and that may pave way for son Yogiraj's entry into electoral politics as an when the Margao MLA hands over the baton," remarked a political observer.

Key political players intensify campaign in South Goa

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MARGAO Sunday saw the three key players, BJP, Congress and the Revolutionary Goans Party intensifying their election campaign for the South Goa seat.

If the Congress had an impressive public meeting in support of Captain Viriato Fernandes in Opposition Leader Yuri Alemao's Cuncolim constituency, the RGP top brass descended comprising of supremo Manoj Parab and MLA Viresh Borkar in support of party candidate Rubert Pereira at Aquem-Margao.

INDIA bloc leaders comprising of Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai, former Minister Mickky Pacheco and Radharao Gracias and other Congress leaders at Loutolim village.

With less than 10 days to go for the May 7 election, the three main parties are expected to further give a boost to their ongoing campaign.

RGP in fray as matter of right: Manoj takes on Congress, BJP at Aquem



Revolutionary Goans Party chief Manoj Parab addressing an impressive public meeting at Aquem on Sunday.

MARGAO: Revolutionary Goans Party chief Manoj Parab on Sunday took on both the BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo and Congress candidate Capt Viriato Fernandes on Sunday as the regional party intensified its Lok Sabha campaign in support of party candidate Rubert Pereira.

With the Congress labeling the RGP as the B team and the vote splitter, Parab said the RGP is in the fray as a matter of right given its status as the regional party.

While addressing an impressive meeting of party candidate Rubert Pereira at Aquem on Sunday, he questioned the Congress over its stance on Mhadei and track doubling project, saying the Congress double engine government in Goa and in Delhi was responsible for bringing the track doubling project in Goa.

Parab further questioned the rationale behind Captain Viriato sharing the dais with Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai and former MLA Alina Saldanha when he had criticised them in the past.

He questioned Sardesai for terming Pallavi Dempo as the Brand Dempo, saying the Goa Forward chief is promoting the BJP candidate for the South Goa seat.

The RGP chief also came down heavily on the BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo, wondering whether the BJP candidate has any idea of the issues facing the common man, ranging from inflation to unemployment.

Pallavi descends in Fatorda again after Vijai's meeting with workers

MARGAO: South Goa BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo once again entered into Fatorda with party leaders MLA Digambar Kamat and former MLA Damu Naik for yet another round of campaigning in the constituency.



BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo with MLA Digambar Kamat, former Fatorda MLA Damu Naik and Councillor Camilo Barretto at Borda on Sunday.

Pallavi's return to Fatorda on Sunday after several rounds of campaign in the constituency with party leaders Digambar Kamat and Damu Naik, assumes significance and comes against the backdrop of the workers meeting called by Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai on last Sunday in support of Congress candidate Viriato Fernandes.

Pallavi along with Digambar, Damu and Margao Municipal councillor Camilo Barretto urged the people of Borda to vote for the BJP candidate and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP candidate assured the people that she would open an office in Margao after her election for the benefit of the people of South Goa.

Symbol loading process for EVMs in Salcete sparks controversy

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO The day-long process of loading symbols in the symbol loading unit in the EVMs of the four Assembly segments of Salcete taluka followed by mock polling ended up only late Sunday night.

The EVMs of the remaining four constituencies of Salcete will be taken up on Monday morning to load the symbols of the candidates in the symbol loading unit.

President of Corruption Abolition Party Sadanand Vaingankar, who represented the party at the collectorate, took objection to that what he termed as the "faulty" process of loading of symbols in the symbol loading unit of EVMs at the district Collectorate on Sunday.

Armed with the Election Commission manual on loading of the symbols in the symbol loading unit, Vaingankar insisted that the election officials strictly adhered to the guidelines in the manual.

Saying there were excess of engineers than the sanctioned strength, besides the engineers and police officials had come to the hall with mobile phones, Vaingankar said this is prohibited as per the manual.

Pointing out that the engineer has prepared the program and uploaded the same

in the symbol loading unit, Vaingankar said he drew attention of the officers that they were following a wrong process, not recommended in the manual. He also insisted that the computers with a host of other files cannot be used for the loading of symbols in the unit.

"The Returning officer Asvin Chandru was called in the hall to oversee the process as per the manual," he said adding that the actual process started around noon though it was supposed to start at around 8 am.

Vaingankar said the Returning Officer impressed upon the officials and staff on duty to strictly go by the EC manual on the loading of symbols in the units.

Congress leader Savio Coutinho, who represented the Congress at the process, said the actual mock polling started only at around 4 pm after the loading of the symbols. "By the time the votes were counted and the VVPAT slips were counted, and the machines sealed and stored in the strong room, the entire process got over by around 10 pm," he added.

The process of loading the symbols of the remaining four Assembly segments of Salcete taluka will be taken up in the district Collectorate on Monday.

PM criticised for ignoring demands of Goemkars

MARGAO: Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai has slammed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence on river Mhadei and the persistent demand of the people of Goa against making the State as a coal hub.

He was addressing the meeting at Loutolim of INDIA bloc candidate for the South Goa seat Captain Viriato Fernandes on Sunday evening.

Sardesai said the Prime Minister was silent on the plan to increase coal handling to 51 million tons a year by 2030, which if allowed, will spell doom for the people of Goa.

He further demanded to know why the Prime Minister spoke nothing on Mhadei, considered the lifeline of Goa and the environment.

Saying that the BJP has opened the doors for outsiders to come out and settle in Goa, Sardesai said the Prime Minister has not touched on the issue of demography and how to protect the identity of Goa.

Making an appeal to the people to treat the coming election as a second Opinion Poll, he said Delhi businessmen will come down to Goa to buy heritage houses in the State.

In his address, former Minister Mickky Pacheco said the time has come for the people of Goa to vote and elect Captain Viriato Fernandes to Parliament.

Oppn slams PM for his silence on issues plaguing Goans at Cuncolim meeting

MARGAO: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Sunday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence on all the burning issues plaguing the State of Goa, including Mhadei, double tracking and unemployment.

Addressing an impressive meeting in his home constituency of Cuncolim on Sunday, Yuri said people of Goa had high expectations that the Prime Minister should shed light on the burning issues affecting Goemkars. Sadly, he said the Prime Minister preferred to skip the burning issues, realising that the BJP has nothing to speak on the issues, including Mhadei, dear to the heart of Goans.

He made an appeal to the people of Cuncolim and come out to vote in large numbers to save Goa from destructions. "Cuncolim has a rich history as they were the first in entire Asia to fight against the colonial powers. During the Opinion Poll movement, freedom fighters led by late Shabu Desai and others have participated in the movement to retain Goa's separate identity," he said,



Senior Congress leader Altinho Gomes addressing the meeting of Congress candidate Viriato Fernandes at Cuncolim on Sunday.

adding that the time has come for the people to unite and treat the May 7 Lok Sabha poll as the second Opinion Poll.

In his address, Congress South Goa Election Coordinator MLA Altona D'Costa said the Congress party has given a candidate, who cannot be compared to the other candidates in the fray. "There was a delay by the Congress to announce the party candidates. People even had accused the party for match

fixing. But, the party has now given the right candidate for the people of South Goa. There is no comparison between Captain Viriato and other candidates, who will fight to save Goa from destruction."

A host of Congress and INDIA bloc leaders addressed the public meeting with a plea to the people to come out in large numbers on May 7 and vote for Captain Viriato Fernandes.

Aquem-Baixo gram sabha adjourned after members object to timing of meeting

MARGAO: The gram sabha of the Aquem-Baixo village panchayat was adjourned after panch members raised objections to the timings of the meeting.

Sarpanch Pradeep Acharya had convened the meeting on Sunday at 9.15 am to discuss and approve the budget estimates for the current financial year. Deputy sarpanch Natasha Dias chaired the meet in the absence of the sarpanch.

Panch members led by Inacio Dias and others, however, questioned the 9.15 am timing mentioned in the meeting agenda, when the gram sabha meetings in the past used to take place at 10 am.

They pointed out that people, who attend the religious services on Sunday mornings, will not be able to make it to the gram sabha if the meetings are held at 9.15 am.

After much discussion, the deputy sarpanch adjourned the meeting.

Meanwhile, the gram sabha of Betalbatim village panchayat on Sunday approved a surplus budget for the current financial year.

CM pitches for BJP's unity against Cong's divide-and-rule in Aldona

TAKES ON LOCAL MLA CARLOS FERREIRA IN HIS OWN BACKYARD

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

In a spirited campaign rally held in Aldona, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant fervently championed the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) commitment to inclusive development while sharply criticizing the opposition Congress for allegedly sowing seeds of division among communities.

Sawant reiterated the BJP's mantra of 'sab ka sath, sabka visvas', accusing the Congress of promoting division with 'sab ka sath, lekin sabka division'.

"The BJP worked for the development of all sections of society, while the opposition, Congress, believed only in dividing people on the basis of caste and religion," remarked Sawant, energizing the crowd with his impassioned rhetoric.

"They (Congress) identify people as Hindu, Muslim, Catholic and then instigate a fight among them. Such instigation of fights among people is happening in a big way in Aldona," he said, accusing the Congress of exploiting religious and caste identities for electoral gains.



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant addressing a gathering during the campaign meeting in Aldona on Sunday. BJP North Goa candidate, Shripad Naik, ex-MLA Glenn Ticlo and other leaders were also present.

The Chief Minister's remarks carried a pointed reference to the local Congress MLA, noted for his legal background.

"Everyone is aware who benefitted after putting one person against the other," Sawant remarked, eliciting murmurs of agreement from the audience.

His insinuation resonated with the crowd, particularly when he questioned, "When such fights take place then whose stomach gets full?"

The crowd responded emphatically, "advocates," in an apparent reference to the legal profession, symbolizing their understanding of the political dynamics at play.

Furthermore, Sawant cautioned against complacency, warning of potential consequences if internal disputes were not resolved.

"Remember, in the next three years if you don't stay united and if you don't solve your problems then you will be in trouble," he cautioned.

Sawant attributes Aldona's development to BJP govt, dismisses MLA's role

MAPUSA: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant refuted claims of Aldona's development being linked to the local Congress MLA, asserting that credit belonged solely to the BJP-led government.

"The ongoing development projects in Aldona were a result of the government's initiatives, not the efforts of the incumbent MLA. When it comes to development I have never differentiated between the ruling and the opposition MLAs," Sawant stated during a campaign event. He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring the welfare of the people, regardless of their political affiliations.

Sawant's remarks come amid debates over the extent of development witnessed in Aldona during the tenure of Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira. Notable projects, such as underground power cabling and road improvements, have been initiated following Ferreira's election, prompting comparisons with the previous MLA's tenure.

Former MLA Glenn Ticlo's 10-year tenure has also come under scrutiny, with discussions suggesting a lack of significant developmental projects during his incumbency. Incidentally, Aldona MLA Carlos Ferreira is the election coordinator of North Goa Congress candidate Ramakant Khalap.

Meanwhile, BJP's North Goa Lok Sabha candidate Shripad Naik seized the opportunity to launch a scathing attack on Congress candidate Ramakant Khalap. Naik accused Khalap of negligence, alleging his role in the collapse of Mapusa Urban Coop-

erative Bank, which reportedly led to financial losses for many depositors.

Former MLA Glenn Ticlo, among other prominent figures, was present at the rally, adding weight to the BJP's campaign efforts in Aldona constituency.

Govt can tie-up with land owners to reserve land for posterity: Khalap

MOOTS FORMING CORPORATION TO MANAGE PARTNERSHIP

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

In a public meeting held in Mandrem, Ramakant Khalap, the North Goa candidate representing the INDIA bloc, emphasized the critical need to preserve Goa's land resources for future generations.

Khalap proposed a partnership between the government and private landowners to reserve land, highlighting the looming issue of dwindling land availability. He suggested the formation of a corporation to manage this partnership, with specific allocations for agriculture to sustain local livelihoods.

Drawing on his past experience as union law minister, Khalap underscored his commitment to job creation. He recalled organizing recruitment drives for various security forces, including the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Central Reserve Police Force, and Railway Police Force, in Goa during his tenure. These efforts resulted in numerous job opportunities for Goans, addressing a pressing concern in the region.

Criticism was directed towards incumbent MP Shripad Naik for allegedly failing to generate adequate employment opportunities for locals. Aldona MLA and North Goa



Congress North Goa candidate, Ramakant Khalap addressing a gathering at a campaign meeting in Mandrem. State Congress chief Amit Patkar, Aldona MLA Carlos Ferreira and other leaders were also present

Drawing on his past experience as union law minister, Khalap underscored his commitment to job creation. He recalled organizing recruitment drives for various security forces, including the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Central Reserve Police Force, and Railway Police Force, in Goa during his tenure.

Lok Sabha seat coordinator, Carlos Ferreira, lambasted the BJP government for what he deemed as misleading the public with empty promises.

He cited the rising prices of essential commodities, particularly gas cylinders, as evidence of the government's neglect of common people's welfare.

Ferreira accused the government of favouring its associates and family members, rather than prioritizing the needs of the populace.

Echoing these sentiments,

State Congress president Amit Patkar called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address pressing issues such as escalating accidents and water supply shortages.

Patkar reminded the Prime Minister of his unfulfilled promises made during the 2014 elections, including curbing inflation, unemployment, and retrieving black money. He urged Modi to provide reassurances on these issues, emphasizing their significance to the electorate.

ILLEGAL WALL CONSTRUCTION ON BEACHFRONT

Siridao locals to file plaint with relevant authorities

THE GOAN NETWORK

OLD GOA

Siridao locals have decided to file complaint over illegal wall construction on the beachfront, with relevant authorities.

The decision was arrived at a meeting held on Sunday where the local MLA Viresh Borkar along with a large number of villagers participated.

Speaking at the meeting, MLA Borkar informed that he had given the contractor time till Saturday to demolish the wall as well as the iron pillars.

"However, today is Sunday and the wall is still standing tall and so are the iron pillars. So, now it has been decided that the locals will file complaint against the contractor and the GTDC as there is no mention of any wall in the plan," Borkar



St Andre MLA Viresh Borkar along with the villagers who had gathered at the Siridao beachfront, on Sunday, to oppose the illegal wall construction. Manuel Vaz

stated. He further stated that the complaint will be filed with the Chief Minister, local Siridao panchayat, the Agassaim police station, the Tourism Department, and others.

The MLA then came down heavily on the panchayat authorities for failing to stop the

illegal wall construction. "Despite being in the know of the opposition of the locals, the panchayat has not acted against the illegal wall construction," Borkar said.

Earlier, the locals stopped the work of laying underground power cable to connect the transformer to the private property.

TRAFFIC CRAWL



Vehicles seen bumper-to-bumper on Kadamba plateau bypass road as the work on the crucial overbridge picks up pace. Narayan Pissurlenkar

Water pipeline bursts on Peddem service road

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

Hundreds of litres of water was wasted due to a burst water pipeline on the service road at Peddem. It was a 110-mm diameter water pipeline which supplies water to homes and establishments in Peddem.

The incident took place at around 5 pm on Sunday. The pipeline burst under the ser-

vice road in vicinity of Veggies restaurant near Peddem junction. It is suspected that the water channel burst due to the weight of vehicular traffic.

On getting information about the incident, the PWD, Water supply officials immediately turned off the water supply.

Meanwhile, officials informed that the repair work on this water pipeline will be taken up on Monday morning.



Water flowing on the road from a burst water pipeline in Peddem, Mapusa.

INDIA bloc accuses PM of skipping all local issues

SAYS MHADEI, MINING, HAR GHAR JAL, UNEMPLOYMENT, COAL POLLUTION FOUND NO PLACE IN HIS SANCOALE SPEECH

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Flagging the absence of any reference to Mhadei, mining, har ghar jal, unemployment, coal pollution and issues of fishermen; the INDIA bloc leaders on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of skipping issues that matter to Goans in his Saturday rally speech at Zuarinagar.

At a press conference held in Panaji, along with NCP State President Jose Philip D'souza and Goa Forward Party (GFP) General Secretary Durgadas Kamat, Congress vice-president Sunil Khawthankar said, Modi's sole motto to with his speech was to load it with false information and misguide Goans.

"If PM Modi was concerned about Goa then he should have spoken about the Mhadei issue. He failed to do it," Khawthankar said, adding that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already said that Mhadei water is diverted by taking a nod from Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

"If Prime Minister Narendra Modi was concerned about Goa then he should have spoken about the Mhadei issue. He failed to do it," —Sunil Khawthankar, Congress vice-president

Blaming the BJP for closure of mining activities in the State, Kawthankar said for the last 12 years, they make promises to resume mining only at election time and later ignore it entirely even as thousands of dependents have lost livelihoods permanently.

"Shockingly even the Prime Minister didn't utter a single word on Goa's mining conundrum," he said, adding that the 'double-engine government failed to restart mining.

Khawthankar also criticized Modi for failing to address the alarming unemployment situation in his rally speech even as he pointed out that the Centre for Monitoring

the Indian Economy (CMIE) has reported the situation to be three-times worse than the national average.

Pointing out that the venue of the PM's rally was in Mormugao, the taluka where people have suffered health and other issues due to the coal pollution but the issue found no mention.

Adani is a major player in the coal import business which may perhaps explain the silence on the issue, Khawthankar said.

Former minister and NCP State chief Jose Philip D'souza alleged that the Prime Minister tried to create fear among fishermen saying that Congress will grab boats of fishermen if they come to power.

"No government will do such a thing. He is trying to create fear among fishermen to grab attention and votes for his party," D'Souza said, adding that fishermen are deprived of benefits of schemes and face economic hardship due to the stoppage of the VAT subsidy on diesel used in fishing boats.

Activists decry felling of trees in Margao instead of trimming



Uproar over cutting down of trees along the Margao ring road under the guise of trimming. Santosh Mirajkar

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Greens red flagged the ongoing operation of trimming of trees along Margao ring road between Comba subway and the Colva road, insisting that the contractor has cut down many trees along the road.

Activists Zarina Da Cunha, Kim Miranda, Crydon Madeira cried foul over the manner in which the authorities went about trimming of trees went about the work.

When they raised objections to the cutting down of trees along the ring road, those present at the site are believed to have fled away. Someone later came with a copy of the order issued by the disaster manage-

ment agency to the various authorities on pre-monsoon works.

Activist Zarina told the media that what has taken place along the Margao ring road is not trimming, but murder of the trees by the administration.

Activist Crydon Madeira echoed similar sentiments. "Let the Collector come and personally inspect the site and find out what has been done along the ring road is trimming or felling of trees", he demanded.

Activist Kim Miranda told the media that she came across the cutting down of the trees while returning home from Panjim when the road was closed and traffic diverted. She demanded that the district Collector Asvin Chandru order an inquiry into the matter.

NGO hails advisory on inverters, gen-sets but calls it 'belated'

SAYS IT HAD SUGGESTED INCLUDING 'INVERTERS' IN 'FORM A' FOR REGISTERING GEN-SETS THREE YEARS AGO

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa's leading consumer rights and awareness group GOACAN welcomed the advisory on use of inverters and gen-sets issued by the Goa Electricity Department, but called it "belated" even as it pointed out that it had suggested including 'inverters' in the existing 'form A' for registering gen-sets three years ago.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Goacan mentor Roland Martins demanded that the Chief Electrical Engineer (CEE) act on the suggestions related to safety and other issues made in a letter to him back in May 2021.

In its May 2021 letter to the CEE, Goacan had asked for modification of the existing form A (see Rule 4 (1)) used to register gensets to also include registration of Inverters.

It may be recalled that in a recent incident at Bicholim, a linesman died instantly of electrocution while working on repairs to a main supply line.

INFO HEAD

Goacan said, the department needs to conduct a drive to check if the installed "change over switch" is the same as approved by it and whether it is still in a sealed condition

It added that this drive should begin with the gen-sets being used by government departments like the Directorate of Health Services and their allied facilities like Hospitals, Primary Health Centres among others

The May 2021 letter of Goacan also said, that an awareness drive on use of Solar Power also needs to be undertaken among consumers using gen-sets and inverters, Martins recalled

Although all precautions were taken to ensure supply was shut down, Aijaonkar got electrocuted when he touched the neutral line, reportedly due to a backfield current from an Inverter of a nearby establishment 'Fitness Factory'.

The advisory on gensets and Inverters issued by the Electricity department comes just a week after the Bicholim incident.

Goacan said, the department needs to conduct a drive to check if the installed "change over switch" is the same as approved by it and

whether it is still in a sealed condition.

It added that this drive should begin with the Gen-sets being used by government departments like the Directorate of Health Services and their allied facilities like Hospitals, Primary Health Centres among others.

The May 2021 letter of Goacan also said, that an awareness drive on use of Solar Power also needs to be undertaken among consumers using gensets and inverters, Martins recalled.



THE GOAN EVERYDAY

There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.
Graham Greene

PM didn't touch on Goa issues, only lifted BJP morale

Prime Minister Narendra Modi came, spoke and drew cheers from the strong crowd that waited hours to see him at Zuarinagar in Sancoale on Saturday as he attempted, by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's admission, to help the BJP bridge the narrow gap between the Congress and BJP's tallies in south Goa in 2019 and help the party win both the seats in the state.

In the 45-minute speech that he delivered, the Prime Minister spoke about how his model of ensuring 100% coverage of government flagship schemes like *har ghar nal se jal*, 100% LPG coverage, 100% electricity coverage, etc is the "true secularism" while he berated the Congress for indulging in 'vote bank politics.'

According to the Prime Minister, the Congress was playing a 'dangerous game' of vote bank politics as he went on to repeat the contents of his speech delivered in several other parts of the country claiming that the party would take away reservations belonging to SC/ST/OBCs and give it to their 'vote bank', referring to Muslims, without directly saying so.

The Prime Minister makes a promise of building 3-crore homes for the poor when he returns to power in the third term, but his speech is entirely silent on his previous promise of Rs 2-crore jobs per year, an area which is so crucial in Goa's context because the State is facing an exodus of people to overseas pastures due to joblessness

Similarly, the Prime Minister claimed that the opposition party would take away the inheritance of everyone in the form of inheritance tax. It didn't matter to the prime minister that he was trying to "dangerously" polarise the electorate in a state known for its communal harmony and peace.

Nowhere in the Congress manifesto is the word inheritance tax mentioned, much less that the Congress promise of higher reservations for backward classes based on the caste survey that will be conducted will come at the cost of reservations for existing backward classes.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister completely ignored several burning issues that have repeatedly shown up as a top priority in prepoll surveys done by various agencies the topmost being that of jobs. The Prime Minister makes a promise of building 3-crore homes for the poor when he returns to power in the third term, but his speech is entirely silent on his previous promise of Rs 2-crore jobs per year, an area which is so crucial in Goa's context because the State is facing an exodus of people to overseas pastures due to joblessness.

It is quite evident that when the Prime Minister taunts Congress candidate Viriato Fernandes for his demand for dual citizenship and comment on the Constitution, he remains completely silent on his partymen claiming that the BJP needs a 400+ majority to change the Constitution. The Prime Minister has accused the Congress of playing vote bank politics and Muslim appeasement but has not spoken a word about what is happening in Manipur.

On the flip side, Modi came and did his best at what he was called for – blow the Opposition to smithereens and uplift the BJP cadres. The PM's visit has had no effect on the State at large, but has simply uplifted the mood and morale of the BJP workers on the ground, and created a 'feel-good' effect on the BJP vote bank. The repeated chants and the "cellphone light show" are testimony to the fact that Modi's visit was intended to throw light on the BJP campaign and not usher in a shift in fortunes. To a large extent, the PM managed to do what he came here for.

OPEN SPACE >>

Take steps to protect voters from heat wave on polling day

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reportedly issued a red alert for severe heat wave conditions over the weekend, which are likely to continue well into the month of May with above average temperatures expected in most parts of the country. The country is in the midst of the general elections with May 7 being the polling date for Goa. It would be in the fitness of things for the authorities concerned to make all necessary arrangements at the polling booths in order to protect the voters from the heat wave. Several senior citizens and elderly people come out to exercise their franchise. However they need to be adequately protected from the deadly midday heat. Care should be taken to see that adequate shelter is provided from the sun for those standing in queues waiting for their turn to cast their vote. Each polling booth should have an adequate number of fans which are in working condition. Drinking water facilities should be made available. If need arises provision should be in place to call for an ambulance in quick time if anyone is showing signs of a heatstroke.

ADELMO FERNANDES, Vasco

The nature of patience

The patience shown in overcoming a serious setback or the resolve shown for achieving a long-term goal would in itself essay a virtue



PACHU MENON

> The writer is a resident of Margao who strongly desires to bring about some socially relevant changes with his musings

Distraught, disheartened and disillusioned by a wait spanning an eternity in that quest for something meaningful and worthwhile in one's life, it is not unusual to have people comforting one with those sage words of advice that things have a way of falling back into place with regard to human problems and situations all by themselves. But do they really!

A feeling that everything in one's life is falling apart is best countered by an assertive response that we have it within us to reverse the situation and it only takes patience and a firm resolve to bring things back on track.

As a phrase believed to have originated from the poem "Piers Plowman," written in 1360 by English poet William Langland, patience has however ceased to be a virtue in the present order of things, or so it seems.

The opinion that the effect of patience in many life equations is either negligible or harmful does appear palpable considering that there could not be anything more demoralizing than the 'long wait' after the seemingly best efforts put in fail to bring about the desired results.

What could be more disappointing than the thought that one's sincerest efforts need to be coupled with an interminable wait to see light at the end of the tunnel! This is tantamount to the belief that one does not have any rights to the fruits of work as paraphrased in our Holy Texts.

The contention that as humans we are not always calm and collected as we navigate the unknowns in life seemingly justifies another post on this subject which would have us believe that patience is not about waiting, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.

"This too shall pass," many feel, is that eternal conviction that sees one sailing through braving the ups-and-downs in life.

In a moment of introspection, after the moment passes, we then feel that our reaction to the situation was absolutely unwarranted and a bit of patience could have saved the day for everyone concerned.



Impatience has its roots in frustration. The ability to maintain self-discipline and give a job – no matter how mundane – the attention to detail it needs is a hallmark of patience



Now I am left wondering whether this suggestion makes better sense!

An article that I chanced upon mentions that inculcating a patient outlook to happenings around us helps us maintain a calm demeanour. Sometimes the best things in life are not delivered to us instantly. Good things often take time, it says. Patience is the ability to stay calm while one is waiting for an outcome that one needs or wants. People perceive patience in different ways.

To a question as to whether patience is becoming a rare human trait, it was interesting to note some of the answers. A clinical associate feels that patience is not a trait but a tendency to either reason the delay or to be considerate of the purpose rather than the period when it comes to getting things done. 'Trait' he feels is something natural, a characteristic feature that is mostly in-built right from the birth, while a 'tendency' is something which is eventually developed over time as you grow.

But how can one overlook the suggestion that one's patience is directly proportional to the time that one has at one's disposal!

This probably describes the haste and impatience which characterizes the modern generation. Time is a rare commodity as far as the youngsters today are concerned. Take the chaotic traffic scenarios which are everyday occurrences in our country for instance! Getting out of the melee by 'navigating the labyrinth' best epitomizes our impatience in the given circumstances.

There are several other instances where our patience has been tested to the limits. The never-ending queues which have become a part of our daily lives whenever availing any services, private or public; the fidgeting around in clinics waiting for the receptionist to call out your name despite having an appointment to meet the doctor; well, there are numerous such examples!

In this rocket-age where people

want things done in a jiffy, patience has been the biggest casualty. With frustration thus getting the better of us, the results have been disastrous. Delving a bit deeper into the intricacies of patience, I garnered some more interesting facts which makes the subject all the more engrossing.

The website "MindTools" informs that according to research by psychologist Sarah Schnitker, patience comes in three main varieties: interpersonal patience, life hardship patience, and daily hassles patience. Interpersonal patience is patience with other people, their demands and their failings. We often come across people who are slow learners, hard to understand, or even downright unreasonable. Or they may have bad habits that drive you crazy. Coping with people exhibiting these idiosyncrasies forms the crux of interpersonal patience. Life hardship patience on the other hand is that mental perception that we usually correlate patience with. No other term but 'perseverance' could aptly sum up this variety of patience.

The patience shown in overcoming a serious setback or the resolve shown for achieving a long-term goal, whether professional or personal, would in itself essay a virtue, a feature that allows one to be focused and motivated all through the crisis.

We are often miffed by simple happenings in life and lose our cool. One also needs patience to get through those dull but unavoidable day-to-day tasks that don't necessarily contribute to one's personal goals. "Life hassles," according to the author! Impatience has its roots in frustration. The ability to maintain self-discipline and give a job – no matter how mundane – the attention to detail it needs is a hallmark of patience.

Right now though, I am losing my patience over the sweltering heat that has me pining for a few quick showers which could take a bite out of this energy-sapping ordeal!

THE INBOX >>

Mass movement for INDIA bloc candidate

I have been observing Lok Sabha Elections for quite some time in Goa. Earlier it was mostly led by the respective party and their cadre, but now for the first time I am noticing a sort of big mass movement in the election campaign, particularly in South Goa and clearly for India Alliance (Congress Candidate) Captain Viriato Fernandes. Ordinary people (including myself) are taking ownership, volunteering, promoting Captain in a mass campaign as much as they can. I (like many others) personally am not a member of Congress or any particular political party, but the selection of Captain Viriato by the Congress Party (they did this thing right!) seems to have brought a lot of zeal, hope and enthusiasm to many Goan voters.

ARWIN MESQUITA, Colva

PM Modi did not discuss real issues affecting Goans

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and his party colleagues should be congratulated for successfully bringing in thousands of their die-hard supporters to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally at the Pilani campus at Zuarinagar-Sancoale on Saturday evening. Surprisingly, Modi was not heard uttering a single word about the ongoing rampant destruction that was being carried out by his own party government in different parts of the state or telling as to why the state government was finishing our hills/forests or going ahead with its three linear projects by even demolishing the houses of some poor Goans in the name of bringing development and generating employment in the state. I think that if PM Modi was really serious about the well-being of Goans then he should have discussed the above mentioned issues on priority basis at his rally because today the whole world knows that the reason why the Central/state BJP government

Stuck like a broken record at Sancoale

Modi came to Goa with his usual pitara of lies, half truths, polarising agenda, opposition bashing tropes, emphasized that he had a 'purana nata' with the state... and then flew back. The Rs 500 per head hired audience mainly from Maharashtra and Karnataka bore the speech in stoic silence, applauded seldom, enjoyed the refreshments and went back home. Of course he rained fire and brimstone on the Congress and branded the opposition parties as 'anti-national'. Modi sounds like a stuck broken record, he did not once mention about issues directly affecting Goans like the disastrous double tracking being undertaken for the benefit of industries in Karnataka, the Kalasa-Bhandura project which will deprive Goa of a large volume of the Mhadei's waters, the Tamnar project gobbling up forests, increase in coal handling and transportation playing havoc with Goans' health, unemployment, price rise of even staples etc. Modi conveniently forgot that the Centre has issued notices to 3,000 Goan farmers demanding that they return Rs 6,000 along with interest which they had received under some 'kisan samman' scheme. Come May 7, let us all right thinking people resolve to rid Goa of the saffron blight.

VINAY DWIVEDI, Benaolim

is forcibly bringing some projects with the sole intention of bringing hordes of migrant workers to the state and to give them employment in such projects to permanently finish the unique identity of Goa.

JERRY FERNANDES, Saligao

Don't interfere with Goa's culture and language

It is nice to see that every single state in India has its own official language and its traditional way and culture. Goa is the smallest state of India and the official language of Goa is Konkani. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) along with few Hindu groups want to make Marathi as a official language of Goa and always wanted Goa to merge with Maharashtra. Remember that Marathi is the official language of Maharashtra. Approximately 84,000,000 people claim Marathi as their mother tongue language of Maharashtra. I don't understand why they want to make it a Goa official



Send your letters to us at editor@thegoan.net. Letters must be 150-200 words and mention the writer's name and location

language too. Please do not interfere with our state traditional culture and language. Thanks to Dr Jack de Sequeira who has given Goans a separate state via Opinion Poll as he will always be remembered for his role in safeguarding Goa and its Goan identity. Respect the official language of Goa which is Konkani. I really appreciate and salute our people of Goa, Goans throughout the world, Konkani drama lovers and artists, Konkani newspaper, Konkani film directors and writers, Konkani magazines, Konkani media channels, Konkani singers and the priests who have kept our mother tongue Konkani alive.

RONNIE DSOUZA, Chandor

Vote wisely for those who will protect Goa's resources

Goa has just 2 MPs and if by number is insignificant then why a busy PM of India is investing his time in Goa? He has sent a broadside warning for the rest of India that Goan minority embraces secular BJP. On the face of it is apparently true as twice Congress MLAs shocked the electorate with defections to share company with BJP en masse. Goa's mineral wealth is plundered by mining barons and loot is yet to be recovered, besides the environmental degradation is unprecedented. Goans are on a war path to avoid double tracking to prevent environmental damage. The emphasis on coal import causing pollution and being a health hazard, is to the benefit of Adani and his business partners. Whatever precious land resource is left is being bartered away by landsharks in connivance and fast tracked by our government. Resistance is a must to overcome threats to freedom from majoritarian rule and to maintain checks and balances. As defectors have strengthened base in many secular constituencies they are under severe pressure to demonstrate their allegiance and worth by fixed quota of votes. Vote wisely for the party candidates with proven credentials.

NELSON LOPES, Chinchinim

Kejriwal's wife denied permission to meet him in jail, claim AAP

ALLEGES DENIAL IS AT BEHEST OF MODI-LED GOVERNMENT

PTI

NEW DELHI
The AAP claimed the Tihar jail administration has denied permission to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita to meet him on Monday.

Tihar jail official sources said that the permission has been given to Delhi minister Atishi who had applied last week to meet Kejriwal on April 29, while Sunita's application was received earlier in the day.

"Sunita has been meeting Kejriwal and there is no question of denying permission to her. We have to follow protocols and preparations have already been made for the Atishi's meeting," said a Tihar jail source.

However, AAP sources rejected Tihar jail administration's claim.

"The names of Sunita Kejriwal and Atishi were sent to the Tihar administration on April 27 for meeting the chief minister on Monday (April 29). The prison administration informed us just now that they would not allow Sunita Kejriwal to meet the CM on Monday. They will only allow Atishi," a party functionary said.

Vote against dictatorship, high-handedness: Sunita Kejriwal at West Delhi rally

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita said her husband has been in jail without his guilt proven, as she appeared for a second roadshow in as many days seeking people's votes against the "dictatorship" as "daughter of Mother India." Standing through the sunroof of a car, she greeted people with folded hands and sought support for AAP candidate Mahabul Mishra from the West Delhi constituency.

People showered flower petals on her from their balconies as her carcade winded through the Mall Road, also known as Lala Ganes Dass Khatri Marg.

"They have been keeping your chief minister and my husband Arvind Kejriwal in jail for the last one month. So far, no court has pronounced him guilty. They are saying the investigation is on. If the investigation continues for 10 years, will they keep him in jail for 10 years?" she said from the car's sunroof.

"This is clearly their high-handedness and dictatorship," she said apparently hinting at the Narendra Modi-led central government for the jailing of her husband, who she called a "lion." "Nobody can bend Kejriwal ji. Nobody can break him. He is the true son of Mother India. Today, this daughter of Mother India is urging you to save this country, save Mother India. This country is going towards dictatorship, save it from dictatorship."

"Realise the strength of your vote. All of you have to go to vote on May 25. Promise, all of you will go to vote," Sunita Kejriwal, a former IRS officer said.

In a post on X in Hindi, the party alleged, "At the behest of the Modi government, the Tihar jail administration cancelled Sunita Kejriwal's meeting with her husband Arvind Kejriwal. The Modi government is crossing all limits of

inhumanity."
"Sunita Kejriwal was supposed to meet him tomorrow (Monday) but the Tihar administration has denied permission. The jail administration has not cited any reason for denying the permission,"

the party said.

"An elected chief minister is being treated like a terrorist. The Modi government should tell the people of the country as to why it is not allowing Sunita Kejriwal ji to meet her husband Arvind Kejriwal ji?" it said.

As per jail manual, an inmate can meet his visitors twice a week and two of them can meet at one time, another Tihar jail source said.

In this case, permission for Atishi's meeting had been applied at least a week ago but permission for Sunita's meeting was applied earlier in the day, the official source told PTI.

"The token number and other formalities for Atishi have been finalised. Sunita can meet later," the official source added.

The source also said security arrangements and protocol for Delhi minister Atishi and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who are meeting Kejriwal on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, are different from other common visitors.

Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 in connection with excise policy linked money laundering case. He is in judicial custody till May 7.

1 killed in gunfight between village volunteers in Manipur

PTI

IMPHAL

One person was killed and three others injured in a gunfight between village volunteers of two warring communities in ethnic strife-torn Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Sunday, police said.

Dozens of gunmen had attacked Koutruk in Imphal West district on Sunday morning from elevated hilltops of neighbouring Kangpokpi district prompting village volunteers deployed in the fringe village to retaliate, the police said.

Exchange of fire gradually spread to adjacent villages of Kadangband and Senjam Chirang, they said.

Koutruk village has been witness to intense gunfights between village volunteers of two warring communities since ethnic violence broke out on May 3 last year. It has been identified as one of the most vulnerable areas for gun attacks. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic strife between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis since May 3 last year.

Estellar Academy produces Goa State topper for JEE Main 2024

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

In a remarkable display of academic excellence, Estellar Academy has once again proven its mettle by producing the Goa State topper in the JEE Main 2024 April session.

Supash Chodankar, a student of Estellar Higher Secondary School of Excellence, has achieved an outstanding score of 99.94 percentile, setting a new benchmark for academic achievement in the region.

Expressing his elation, Supash Chodankar stated, "I am very happy that I have topped the state of Goa in JEE Main 2024. I plan to pursue engineering in premier institutes of India or career in pure science and research as I have a keen interest in these fields. The teachers at Estellar Academy has always been very supportive, motivating and always guided us in the best way possible. I strongly recommend all the future medical and engineering aspirants who wish to crack NEET and JEE to join Estellar Academy. I am thankful to



Supash Chodankar, his parents and Principal of Estellar Higher Secondary School of Excellence, Yogendra Singh Sikarwar.

my parents for all the support they have given me."

Vikas Chodankar, father of Supash Chodankar, expressed his pride, stating, "We are very proud of our son as he has topped Goa in JEE Main 2024. We had full faith on Estellar Academy right from first day and we had completely relied on the academy. We are very much grateful to Estellar Academy and all its teaching and non teaching staff for guiding our son to get this score."

The Principal and Chief Mentor of EHSSE, Yogendra Singh Sikarwar, congratulated Supash and his parents on this significant achievement. He also highlighted the out-

standing performance of three more students from Estellar Academy, namely Ammar Lashkarwale, Alaya D'cruz, and Warren Sequeira, who scored above 99 percentile in JEE Main 2024.

With a total of 26 students scoring above 90 percentile in JEE Main 2024, Estellar Academy has once again demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence. Looking ahead, the academy aims to replicate this success in the upcoming JEE Advanced examination.

Estellar Academy has earned a reputation for producing top results in both competitive exams and board exams.

NPP candidate from J&K declares zero income, assets

PTI

SRINAGAR

Arsheed Ahmad Lone, National Panthers Party (NPP) candidate from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir, has said he is using money borrowed from his father to fund his election campaign.

Lone, the poorest of the 20 candidates in the fray, is taking on political giants like PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference leader and former minister Mian Altaf Ahmad.

According to the affidavit filed before the Election Commission, Lone has declared that he has no income and no assets but a liability of Rs 2.60 lakh, a loan he had taken for a vehicle a few years ago. Also, he has not filed any returns over the past five years, the affidavit said.

"I do not have any income and I am dependent on my father to fund my election campaign," the 28-year-old from Shopian district told PTI.

Lone's father Ghulam Mohammad Lone owns half an acre of apple orchard, which is the only source of income for the family.

The NPP leader said if elected, he wants to serve the people and address the issues of unemployment and development needs of the constituency.

Businesses offer discounts to voters in Chhattisgarh's capital

VOTING FOR LOK SABHA POLLS TO BE HELD ON MAY 7

PTI

RAIPUR

Prominent hotels, hospitals and multiplexes in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur have offered discounts on their services to electors in a bid to enhance voter turnout in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, officials said on Sunday.

LOK SABHA POLLS

The offers will be applicable to voters for a few days from May 7, the date of polling in Raipur Lok Sabha constituency. They can avail the offers by showing the indelible ink mark on their index finger, a public relations department official said.

Several organisations and business establishments have been joining the 'Sab Kare Matdan' (everyone should vote) campaign of the district administration, he said.

Representatives of various establishments have given letters to Raipur Collector Gaurav Singh, city civic chief Abinash Mishra and Zila Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep pertaining to their offers and discounts.

Hotel Babylon Inn has offered 30 per cent discount on room bookings, 25 per cent on mocktails, 20 per cent on food order and 15 per cent on buffet orders from May 7 to 12. It has

TRENDING OFFERS

- Raipur establishments offer discounts to voters during Lok Sabha polls to boost turnout
- Discounts available from May 7 for a limited time
- Voters can avail offers by showing ink mark on finger
- Discounts include hotel bookings, food, health check-ups, and entertainment
- Trader associations also offer discounts on various products and services from May 7 to 12

also offered one free buffet on the order of three buffets, the official said.

The Mayfair Lake resort has offered a 30 per cent discount and one free buffet on the order of three buffets, which will be applicable from May 7 to 12, he said.

The Ramkrishna Care Hospital has announced 30 per cent discount on health checkup for voters and their family members and 30 per cent discount on OPD consultation for the electors voters from May 7 to 12, he said.

The Sanjeevani hospital has offered 25 per cent discount to voters visiting the OPD for examination on May 7 and 50 per cent discount on the OPD consultation from May 8 to 12. If a person is admitted to the hospital on the voting day, he/she will not have to pay the room rent for that day, the official said.

The Balaji Hospital management has announced free OPD for voters on May 7, 50

per cent discount in OPD consultation from May 8 to 12. There will be a 50 per cent discount in OPD check-ups from May 7 to 12, he said.

Other hotels, restaurants and hospitals have also announced various discounts, the official said.

Besides, voters will get a 30 per cent discount on the show tickets of films screened at the PVR, he said.

Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce president Amar Parwani said the furniture association has announced a 10 per cent discount, cloth traders association 10 per cent, Raipur optical association 15 per cent and plywood association 5 per cent on their various products. The Sarafa association has also offered voters a 15 per cent discount in gold making charges, he said.

Other trader associations have offered similar discounts on their products and services to be applicable from May 7 to 12, he said.

the sixth consecutive time. People are growing weary, and behind the scenes, local leaders at the panchayat level are quietly mobilising for change, potentially favouring the Opposition," said Robert Colaco, a resident of Tivim and a keen political observer.

Premand Diukar, a resident of Calangte, second his him. "People are scared to express their views. But the silent vote is going to play a big role in this election and it is going to be against the establishment," Diukar said.

As the campaign progresses, anticipation mounts for the arrival of national leaders, expected to inject fresh energy into the electoral arena. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in South Goa on Saturday once again underscores the BJP's proactive stance, positioning the party ahead of its rivals in terms of mobilization and outreach efforts.

Yet, amidst the flurry of activities and high-profile appearances, the overarching sentiment among North Goan voters remains one of skepticism and reticence, signalling a challenging road ahead for candidates vying for their support.

Deve Gowda grandson Prajwal booked in sex scandal

PTI

HASSAN

A case of sexual harassment and stalking was registered on Sunday against the son and grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, former minister H D Revanna and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna respectively.

The case was registered in Holenarasipur police station in the district based on a complaint by their cook.

The complainant said she is a relative of Revanna's wife Bhavani.

She alleged that four months after she started working, Revanna used to sexually harass her, and his son Prajwal used to make video calls to her daughter and have "vulgar conversations" with her.

IT'S A HARD LIFE



A woman from the Meiti ethnic group serves herself food at a relief camp for internally displaced people on Sunday in Imphal, Manipur.

Amid row, RSS chief says Sangh always supports reservation

PTI

HYDERABAD

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday asserted the organisation has always been supportive of reservation, and advocated for its implementation as long as "discrimination exists," comments that came in the wake of a viral video claiming the Sangh was against the quota system.

The remarks also assume significance as the Opposition, especially the Congress has mounted an attack against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the ruling BJP at the Centre, accusing them of being opposed to reservation.

Speaking at the inauguration of Vidya Bharati Vignana Kendra here, Bhagwat referred to the video in circulation and said it falsely claims the RSS was opposed to reservation. The video shows him as holding a meeting, he said but claimed it never happened.

"RSS has been supporting reservations as per the Constitution since the time it came."

"The Sangh says that reservation should continue till the time people, to those whom it is given due, to those whom it is given due to social reasons till discrimination exists," he added.

With the help of technology and Artificial Intelligence, what did not happen can also be shown (as to have happened), he said.

Bhagwat's pro-reservation statement also comes in the backdrop of the Congress alleging that BJP and RSS are against the quota system.

Parts of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh West Bengal in grip of heat wave: IMD

NANDYAL RECORDS MAXIMUM TEMP AT 45.6 DEGREES CELSIUS



A boat is sitting on the dry riverbed due to a heatwave on the outskirts of Kolkata, India, on Sunday.

PTI

NEW DELHI

Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh and parts of Odisha were in the grip of a sizzling heat wave on Sunday, with Nandyal recording its maximum temperature at 45.6 degrees Celsius which was 4.6 notches above the season's normal.

The mercury touched 45.3 degrees Celsius in Mangapet in Telangana and 45.2 degrees in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, while several parts of West Bengal and Bihar too were in the grip of a heat wave, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Heat wave conditions have been prevailing over Odisha since April 15 and over Gangetic West Bengal since April 17, the IMD said.

In Odisha, Angul was the hottest city with a maximum temperature of 44.3 degrees Celsius, which was 4.1 degrees above normal, followed by Baripada at 44 degrees,

which was 6.5 notches higher than normal.

Large parts of Gangetic West Bengal scorched under above normal temperatures as high as 8.6 degrees higher than the usual at Panagarh (44.2 degrees), Kalaikunda at 44.3 degrees (+7.5), Madnapore at 43.4 degrees (+6.6), and Canning at 42.4 degrees (+6.9).

In Kerala, Kottayam recorded a maximum of 38.5 degrees Celsius, which was the highest ever in April. Similarly, Alappuzha matched its highest maximum temperature of 38 degrees Celsius last on April 1, 1987.

Bihar also witnessed above normal temperatures across the state, with Sheikhpura recording 43.2 degrees Celsius which was 5.5 degrees above normal, followed by 42.7 degrees at Banka, which was 5.1 notches higher than the usual for the season, the IMD said.

Village defence guard killed in gunfight with terrorists in J&K

PTI

JAMMU

A Village Defence Guard (VDG) member was killed in a gunfight with recently infiltrated terrorists in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district early Sunday, a senior police officer said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, who rushed to the area to supervise the anti-terrorist operation, said a massive search operation is on to track down and neutralize the terrorists who have infiltrated from Pakistan.

The ADGP said two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infiltrated from across the border.

Jain led the wreath laying ceremony of slain VDG member Mohd Sharief at Basantgarh police station this evening and saluted his supreme sacrifice for the nation.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi range, Rayees Mohd Bhat and other officers from police and CRPF also paid floral tributes to the martyr.

"We got information about the presence of terrorists (in Panara village of Basantgarh) late Saturday night and activated police and VDG members. Because the information was not pin-pointed and we have a vast jungle area, the area domination patrols were launched," Jain told reporters after the Sharief's body was dispatched to his home at village Khaned for last rites.

FROM PAGE 1 >>>

Nearly 69% vote in Taleigao p'yat election, results today

backing the joint Opposition panel 'Taleigaokars United' said she clicked pictures and presented the evidence to poll officers in the Camrabhat area. Later in the day, Rodrigues and Monserrate were briefly engaged in heated arguments over the issue in full media glare. The latter however said, it is for the poll duty officers to deal with the matter and he had nothing to do with it.

The contest in ward II is a straight one between Agnelo D' Cunha, a long-time political aide of Monserrate, and Domnic D' Cunha of the Taleigaokars United panel. In the first half of the day, meanwhile, voting was fairly brisk as officials said large number of people turned up perhaps aided by the fact that they headed straight to the 17 booths after attending Sunday morning church services.

By 12 noon, 4,012 of the total 11,988 eligible voters had already cast their votes by ballot accounting for nearly 33.47 per cent turnout. Meanwhile, counting will be taken up on Monday at the Bal Bhavan complex in

Campal from 8 am.

Newly-recruited constable loses life in accident

was sent for post-mortem examination. Subsequently, his remains were handed over to his grieving family. Rachat's family members were in a shock as he had been appointed as a constable on April 26, 2024. The community came together to bid him farewell, and his final rites were performed later.

North Goa voters silent amidst lacklustre campaign

constituencies and grassroots mobilization. However, despite these efforts, voter response remains lukewarm, with a prevailing sense of disillusionment overshadowing the campaign trail.

The reluctance of voters to actively engage contrasts starkly with the enthusiasm of party workers, highlighting a growing disconnect between the electorate and political establishments.

"There's a noticeable shift against BJP's Shripad Naik, who's contesting for



It's not whether you're right or wrong that's important, but how much money you make when you're right and how much you lose when you're wrong
- George Soro, billionaire hedge fund manager and philanthropist

Explore the Nifty's weekly performance, upcoming market influences, and factors like US Fed meetings, corporate earnings, and crude oil prices, shaping market sentiment and direction



FII action, Q4 earnings among 10 factors to influence stock market this week

The Nifty saw a two per cent increase in its value over the week, despite facing considerable ups and downs.

However, it ended Friday in the red, breaking its streak of gains over the past five sessions. As markets reopen on Monday, several important domestic and global events are set to unfold, likely influencing market dynamics.

Equity markets will remain closed on May 1st, Wednesday, in observance of Maharashtra Day.

Commenting on the previous week's activity, Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart, noted that the Nifty relinquished most of its gains on Friday. This was attributed to concerns over inflation in the US, geopolitical tensions, and selling pressure from Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).

Looking ahead, Meena highlighted that FII activity remains a key factor to watch, particularly given their relatively low holdings in the Indian market.

Factors Influencing Market Movement:

US Fed FOMC: The Federal Reserve's rate-setting committee is scheduled to commence a two-day meeting on April 30th, Tuesday. The outcome of this meeting, expected on May 1st, will be closely monitored. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is anticipated to maintain interest rates unchanged. Market observers will pay heed to the Fed's commentary regarding the timing of potential rate cuts, amidst expectations of a 25 basis points cut in the June policy.

Q4FY2024 Earnings: This week, over 200 BSE listed companies are slated to announce their earnings for the March quarter. Prominent results are expected from companies such as Adani Enterprises, Dabur India, and Titan, among others. Additionally, market reactions will be influenced by earnings reports from major banks like ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, RBL Bank, and IDFC First Bank.

US Markets: US stocks concluded Friday with significant gains, providing cues for the reopening of Indian markets on Monday. The perfor-

mance of the Dow 30, S&P 500, and Nasdaq Composite will be closely watched. Additionally, movements in GIFT Nifty futures on Monday will serve as an early indicator of the Nifty 50's trajectory.

Rupee vs Dollar: The Indian rupee maintained stability against the US dollar on Friday, marking its strongest week-on-week rise in nearly three months. Despite recent recovery from its all-time low, the rupee is expected to remain within its prevailing range in the near term.

Corporate Action: Several corporate actions are scheduled for May 2nd and May 3rd, including ex-dates and record dates for rights issues, dividends, and Annual General Meetings (AGMs).

Technical Factors: Technical analysis suggests that both the Nifty and Bank Nifty may encounter resistance at critical levels. The Nifty's immediate support lies within the 22,400-22,200 zone, with a major support level at the 100-day moving average around 21,900. On the other hand, Bank Nifty struggled to maintain levels above 48,600, with potential breakout targets towards 50,000.

FII/DII Action: On Friday, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers of Indian equities, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers. The performance of both domestic and foreign investors will influence market movements.

IPO Action: Following last week's sole IPO of JNK India, the primary market is relatively quiet this week. However, attention will be on SME issues and listings, alongside the listing of JNK India's shares.

Crude Oil: Oil prices continue to be significant, impacting inflation and global central bank policies. Brent crude settled at \$89.35 a barrel on Friday, with fluctuations influenced by OPEC decisions and geopolitical factors.

Bond Yields: Indian government bond yields ended marginally lower on Friday amidst volatility in global risk-free rates and oil prices. Focus remains on US Treasuries, with bond markets resilient to volatility, contingent upon stable crude prices.

In summary, market participants will closely monitor these factors, which collectively shape market sentiment and direction.

Why Nifty Bank underperformed Nifty 50 in past one year?

Market rallies may not fully reflect significant developments due to their complex nature. Nifty Bank index gained only 12.41% in the past year compared to Nifty 50's 25.89%. Preference for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) over Private Sector Banks (PSBs) due to valuation. HDFC Bank, a major Nifty Bank Index stock, faced challenges post-merger with HDFC. Regulatory actions by RBI, including fines and restrictions, impacted bank stocks negatively.

Auto, power, and energy sectors performed well, boosting Nifty 50 returns. Banking stocks, including HDFC Bank, underperformed, with Q4 results below expectations. Expectations for improved bank profitability as net interest margins stabilize and inflation decreases. Near-term market volatility expected due to geopolitical tensions and Lok Sabha elections. Strong support levels for Nifty Bank and Nifty 50 indices, with potential upside if key levels are maintained or breached.

Policy expectations affect stocks more than rate changes: RBI

An analysis suggests that stock markets are more influenced by expectations of future monetary policy than by surprises in policy rates announced by the Reserve Bank. The study, conducted by RBI officials, also highlights the impact of regulatory measures announced alongside monetary policy decisions on equity markets.

According to the paper titled 'Equity Markets and Monetary Policy Surprises,' authored by Mayank Gupta, Amit Pawar, Satyam Kumar, Abhinandan Borad, and Subrat Kumar Seet from the Reserve Bank of India's Department of Economic and Policy Research, equity markets react more

to changes in expectations of future monetary policy (path factor) than to surprises in policy rates (target factor).

The paper analyses the effects of monetary policy announcements on BSE Sensex returns and volatility by decomposing changes in Overnight Indexed Swap (OIS) rates on policy announcement days into target and path factors.

It acknowledges that while short-term windows aim to isolate equity price drivers, regulatory and developmental measures announced alongside monetary policy decisions can also influence markets. The analysis covers the period from January 2014 to July 2022.

FPIs sold ₹6,304 crore in Indian equities in April

- Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers of Indian equities in April, selling stocks worth Rs 6,304 crore so far.
- This breaks their two months of buying streak, with FPIs being net buyers at Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February.
- Despite the April outflows, FPIs remain net buyers at Rs 4,589 crore for the year.
- April will have two more trading sessions on April 29 and April 30.
- US inflation concerns have triggered the outflows, raising expectations of prolonged elevated interest rates by the US Federal Reserve.
- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on May

- 2024, is expected to maintain unchanged interest rates.
- V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, attributes the April selling to the sustained rise in US bond yields, which are currently around 4.7%.
- High US bond yields diminish expectations of early rate cuts by the Fed, leading to more FPI outflows in both equity and debt markets.
- However, FPI selling in equity markets is being offset by buying from Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs), and retail investors.
- Despite volatility, the Nifty index ended the week with a 1.3% gain on a week-on-week basis, with Indian markets closed on May 1, Wednesday.

TOP GAINERS

COMPANY	CURRENT PRICE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	GAIN	CHANGE %
AXIS BANK	1130.30	1029.10	101.20	9.83%
DIVIS LABS	4016.35	3671.70	344.65	9.39%
TECH MAHINDRA	1278.75	1193.65	85.10	7.13%
SBI	801.30	750.45	50.85	6.78%
HERO MOTOCORP	4491.60	4213.70	277.90	6.60%

TOP LOSERS

COMPANY	CURRENT PRICE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	LOST	CHANGE %
KOTAK BANK	1608.50	1792.65	-184.15	-10.27%
BAJAJ FINANCE	6731.20	7119.50	-388.30	-5.45%
TATA CONSUMER	1102.65	1138.10	-35.45	-3.11%
INDUSIND BANK	1446.40	1482.05	-35.65	-2.41%
HDFC LIFE	587.85	601.55	-13.70	-2.28%

TOP PERFORMING MUTUAL FUNDS (EQUITY)

NAME	3Y RETURNS
ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE PSU EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	48.25%
SBI PSU DIRECT PLAN GROWTH	45.39%
ICICI PRUDENTIAL BHARAT 22 FOF DIRECT GROWTH	44.46%
ICICI PRUDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECT GROWTH	43.40%
QUANT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND DIRECT GROWTH	42.77%
INVESCO INDIA PSU EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	41.98%
QUANT SMALL CAP FUND DIRECT PLAN GROWTH	41.86%
NIPPON INDIA POWER & INFRA FUND DIRECT GROWTH	40.89%
QUANT MID CAP FUND DIRECT GROWTH	39.34%
QUANT ESG EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	33.92%

Different styles of managing money: Active vs passive funds

SHAILESH SHRIRAM TANPURE
THE GOAN | PANAJI

Active and passive funds are two different ways to invest your money. Each has its own features, goals, and possible results. Knowing the differences between them is important for investors who want to make smart choices about their

IN SIMPLE WORDS

investments.

Active Funds:

Management Style: In active funds, fund managers actively make decisions on which assets to buy, sell, or hold within the fund's portfolio. They aim to outperform a particular benchmark or index.

Research and Analysis: Fund managers conduct extensive research and analysis to identify investment opportunities and attempt to capitalize on market inefficiencies or mispricings.

Portfolio Turnover: Active funds typically have higher portfolio turnover rates as managers adjust holdings in response to changing market conditions or investment opportunities.

Fees: Due to the active management and research involved, active funds often charge higher fees compared to passive funds.

Performance: The performance of active funds depends heavily on the skill and expertise of the fund manager. While some active managers may outperform their benchmarks, others may underperform, making it a mixed



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Active vs. Passive Funds

- Active equity funds rely on managers' decisions.
- Passive funds aim to track indices efficiently.

SPIVA Study Insights (2023):

- 5 out of 10 large-cap funds underperformed S&P BSE 100.
- Over 73% of mid- and small-cap schemes lagged S&P BSE 400 MidSmall-Cap.
- 30% of ELSS funds underperformed S&P BSE 200.

Longer-Term Data Insights:

- Various nuances about the frequency of underperformance.
- Different performance cycles like fluctuating weather patterns.
- Well-diversified large-cap active funds perform well during broad-based market

Passive Funds:

- Management Style: Passive

movements

- Concentrated holdings benefit index offerers during narrow rallies or downturns.

Changes in SPIVA Study Results:

- 52% of active large-cap funds lagged the index in 2023, down from 87.5% in 2022.
- 75% of mid-/small-cap schemes lagged benchmarks over a 10-year period, up from 50% in 2022.

Insights from Nirav Karkera (Head of Research at Fisdom):

- Allocation to cash and exposure to large caps may lead to a return drag in mid- and small-cap funds.

Considerations for Passive Fund Investors:

- Active funds delivering alpha could provide substantial returns.
- Market dynamics, poor manager skill, and risk mitigation follies can impact active fund returns negatively.

funds aim to replicate the performance of a specific market index or benchmark rather than trying to outperform it. They seek to match the

"Active management is a zero-sum game before cost, and the winners have to win at the expense of the losers,"

— Eugene Fama

returns of the index they track.

Investment Strategy: Passive funds typically follow a "buy-and-hold" strategy, maintaining a portfolio that mirrors the composition of the chosen index.

Minimal Management: Since passive funds aim to track an index rather than actively manage investments, they require minimal research and decision-making, resulting in lower management fees.

Portfolio Turnover: Passive funds generally have lower portfolio turnover rates compared to active funds because they aim to maintain consistent exposure to the index they track.

Fees: Passive funds tend to have lower fees than active funds due to their passive management style and lower operating costs.

Performance: Passive funds aim to match the performance of their respective benchmarks, minus any fees. They do not seek to outperform the market but rather provide investors with market-like returns.

In summary, active funds rely on the expertise of fund managers to outperform the market, while passive funds aim to replicate the performance of a specific market index at a lower cost. Each approach has its advantages and drawbacks, and the choice between active and passive investing depends on individual preferences, investment goals, and risk tolerance.

[The writer possesses a fascination with the world of business and the intricacies of stock markets]

Some countries, institutions seeking weak govt to make easy profits: PM

ALLEGES THAT CONGRESS WAS ALSO BENEFICIARY OF 'THIS CORRUPTION'

PTI

HOSPET

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday alleged that some countries and institutions want India and its government to be weak to make profits easily.

He alleged that Congress was also a beneficiary of "this corruption." When the country is moving fast, some countries and some institutions don't like it. There are many people who don't like a strong India. They want the country and its government to be weak, so that they can make profits easily, Modi said addressing a public meeting at



this taluka headquarters town in Vijayanagara district.

Weak government helps them get their work done according to their requirements, he said.

Congress too was a clear

beneficiary of this corruption. This was the game going on but the BJP has become a challenge for them. Their worry is that there is a BJP government which no one can bend, the Prime Minister said.

MODI SPEAKS

■ When the country is moving fast, some countries and some institutions don't like it. There are many people who don't like a strong India

■ They want the country and its government to be weak, so that they can make profits easily

■ Weak government helps them get their work done according to their requirements

He added that those who are aware of the Lutyens Delhi know that before 2014, brokers ruled the roost in the corridors of power.

Hotel suites were booked for years for the lobbyists who would get all their works done through lobbying, Modi said.

The Prime Minister said there is a cleanliness drive in the corridors of power after 2014.

"I want to tell the Congress and its allies in clear terms that how much ever effort you make to stall the BJP, India will be a developed nation," he said.

Navy rescues Panama ship with 22 Indians onboard after attack

PTI

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy swiftly assisted a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker with 30 crew members including 22 Indians after the vessel came under missile attack from Houthi militants.

Indian Navy's destroyer INS Kochi responded following the attack on the vessel, MV Andromeda Star, on April 26, officials said, adding all the crew members are safe.

The US Central Command said Iranian-backed Houthi militants launched three anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen into the Red Sea in the vicinity of merchant vessel Maisha and MV Andromeda Star.

MV Andromeda Star is a Panama-flagged and Seychelles-operated vessel.



Oil tanker reported minor damage from Houthi missile attack.

The vessel reported minor damage, the US Central Command said.

"A mission deployed Indian Naval destroyer INS Kochi responded to a maritime security incident involving the attack on Panama-flagged crude oil tanker MV Andromeda Star on April 26," the Indian Navy said.

The vessel was intercepted by the Indian Navy ship and an aerial rescue involving a heli-

copter operation was undertaken to assess the situation, it said.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Navy was also deployed to carry out "residual risk assessment", the Navy said in a statement.

"A total of 30 crew including 22 Indian nationals are reported to be safe and the vessel is continuing its scheduled transit to the next port," it said.

K'taka govt protests over Centre's 'insufficient' drought relief

Placards read 'Modi govt is betraying Kannadigas'

PTI

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar along with several ministers and legislators on Sunday staged a dharna here alleging injustice to the state by the union government while releasing drought relief funds.

The state government has declared 226 out of the total 236 Talukas in Karnataka as drought-hit and said there was a crop loss in 48 lakh hectares of land.

According to Siddaramaiah, against the demand for Rs 18,171 crore for drought relief, the union government ordered release of only Rs 3,454 crore, that too after the state was driven to the Supreme Court to get its rights enforced.

The sanction is "woefully inadequate" and just a quarter of the state's demand, he noted.

Displaying 'Chombu', a water pot symbolising emptiness and deception, the leaders charged the Centre with "cheating" Karnataka by not releasing adequate relief to face acute drought, the kind



THE PROTEST

■ According to Siddaramaiah, against the demand for Rs 18,171 crore for drought relief, the union government ordered release of only Rs 3,454 crore, that too after the state was driven to the Supreme Court to get its rights enforced

■ Displaying 'Chombu', a water pot symbolising emptiness and deception, the leaders charged the Centre with "cheating" Karnataka by not releasing adequate relief to face acute drought, the kind of which was not witnessed in the past several decades.

They held the symbolic dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises of Vidhana Soudha, which houses the Legislature and Secretariat.

Holding placards and posters that read, Modi government is betraying Kanna-

digas, Cheating by the Modi government by not releasing adequate grants," the leaders raised slogans condemning the Centre. They also shouted "Go back, go back, Modi go back", as the Prime Minister was on his way to holding four back-to-back public meetings in the state.

Wednesday's hearing was a response to an earlier request from Patel who is seeking a mental health diversion in his case, the New York Post newspaper reported.

If a judge grants the doctors' request, Patel would be placed on a two-year treatment plan instead of receiving jail time.

EC has banned party's LS poll campaign song: AAP

PTI

NEW DELHI

The AAP on Sunday claimed the Election Commission (EC) has imposed a ban on the party's Lok Sabha campaign song, 'Jail ke jawab mein hum vote denge', stating that it shows the ruling BJP and central investigation agencies in a bad light.

There was no immediate response from the poll panel to the AAP's claim.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader Atishi said, "It is probably the first time that the EC has imposed a ban on a party's campaign song." According to the EC, she said, the song shows the ruling party and investigation agencies in a bad light.

"The song does not mention the BJP and does not violate

Apex court to hear Kejriwal's plea against ED arrest

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta is likely to hear the matter.

the Model Code of Conduct. It includes factual videos and incidents," she added.

Atishi, who is also a Delhi government minister, accused the EC of not acting on poll code violations committed by the BJP.

Delhi Cong chief Lovely quits party over tie-up with AAP

Says that he found himself 'handicapped'

PTI

NEW DELHI

In a setback to the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, senior leader Arvinder Singh Lovely has resigned as the party's Delhi unit chief, citing the alliance with the AAP as one of the reasons.

He said the Delhi Congress unit was against the alliance but the party high command went ahead with it.

In his resignation letter sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday, Lovely also said that he found himself "handicapped" as all unanimous decisions taken by senior Delhi unit leaders have been "unilaterally vetoed" by AICC Delhi in-



charge Deepak Babria.

This comes days after former Delhi minister and AICC member Rajkumar Chauhan resigned from the party following an altercation with Babria.

Reacting to the development, the Delhi BJP on Sunday said this "explosion" was set in motion when the Congress started naming candidates for the Lok Sabha elec-

It is with a heavy heart that I write the present letter to you finding myself handicapped and unable to continue as the President of the Delhi party unit,"

— Arvinder Singh Lovely

tions, while the AAP said this is an internal matter of the Congress.

In his letter to Kharge, Lovely said, "It is with a heavy heart that I write the present letter to you finding myself handicapped and unable to continue as the President of the Delhi party unit."

Indian-origin doctor who drove Tesla off cliff experienced psychotic break

PTI

LOS ANGELES

An Indian-origin radiologist who drove his Tesla off a cliff in the US with his wife and children inside allegedly suffered from major depressive disorder and was experiencing a psychotic break at the time of the incident, media reports quoted two doctors testifying at a recent hearing.

Dharmesh Patel from Pasadena, California was charged in January last year with three counts of attempted murder after he drove the



family's Tesla off the cliff at Devil's Slide on Highway 1 near Half Moon Bay, according to prosecutors.

Patel, his wife, Neha, and their children a 7-year-old girl

and a 4-year-old boy at the time miraculously survived.

Patel, 43, was experiencing hallucinations, hearing footsteps and believed his children had been sex trafficked, two doctors testified at a hearing on Wednesday in Redwood City.

Wednesday's hearing was a response to an earlier request from Patel who is seeking a mental health diversion in his case, the New York Post newspaper reported.

If a judge grants the doctors' request, Patel would be placed on a two-year treatment plan instead of receiving jail time.

Russian drones set hotel ablaze in Ukraine

PTI

KYIV

Russian drones early Sunday struck the Black Sea city of Mykolaiv, setting a hotel ablaze and damaging energy infrastructure, the local Ukrainian governor reported, while ammunition shortages continued to hobble Kyiv's troops in the more than 2-year-old war.

Vitaliy Kim, the governor of Ukraine's southern Mykolaiv province, said that Russian drones seriously damaged a hotel in its namesake capital, sparking a fire that was later extinguished. Kim also reported that the strike damaged heat-generating infrastructure in the city, but gave no details. He added that there were no casualties.

Russian state agency RIA carried claims that the strike on Mykolaiv targeted a shipyard where naval drones are assembled, as well as a hotel housing English-speaking mercenaries who have fought for Kyiv.

Army, homeguards join IAF to douse Uttarakhand forest fire

Blaze brought under control in many areas on Day 2

PTI

DEHRADUN

The firefighting operation in Uttarakhand's forests with the help of an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter continued for the second day on Sunday with the blaze brought under control in several areas, officials said.

Efforts have also intensified to extinguish the raging forest fires in the state, especially in the worst-affected areas of Nainital, Haldwani and Ramnagar forest divisions, forest officials here said on Sunday.

The forest fires are gradually being controlled with the flames already doused in many areas. The fires in Marora and Khanana civil areas in Maniknath range of the Narendranagar forest division have been completely extinguished, they said.

The forest blaze in Nainital



A firefighter attempts to control the fire caught in the forest in Nainital, Uttarakhand.

and adjoining areas is gradually being brought under control after the deployment of an IAF helicopter for the firefighting operations on Saturday morning, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said after reviewing the situation in the Kumaon region on Saturday night.

According to the Indian Air Force, a Mi-17 V5 helicopter

has been deployed in Nainital and surrounding areas to douse the flames.

Apart from the IAF helicopter and Army personnel, Prantiya Rakshak Dal volunteers and homeguard personnel have also been roped in to help in the firefighting operations, Kumaon Commissioner Deepak Rawat said.

Dubai's airport to be world's largest; 400 aircraft gates, 5 parallel runways planned at new terminal

AGENCIES

DUBAI

Dubai began building a new terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport on Sunday. The ruler of the Gulf emirate stated that it will be "the world's largest" terminal, with a projected cost of around \$35 billion (Rs 2.9 lakh crore).

"We approved the designs for the new passenger terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport and (are) commencing construction of the building for AED 128 billion (\$34.85 billion)," Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, said on X.



As per the government announcement, once the new terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport is fully operational, it will have the capacity to handle up to 260 million passengers annually.

The new airport will boast five parallel runways, a capacity to host 260 million passengers and 400 aircraft gates.

Sheikh Mohammed described it as having "the world's largest capacity" and being "five times larger than the current Dubai International Airport," which is one of the busiest air hubs worldwide.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and CEO of Emirates, said,

DUBAI FLYING HIGH

■ Once the new terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport is fully operational, it will have the capacity to handle up to 260 million passengers annually

■ The new airport will boast five parallel runways, a capacity to host 260 million passengers and 400 aircraft gates

■ The initial phase of the project will be completed within a decade, with a capacity to serve 150 million passengers annually

"The initial phase of the project will be completed within a decade, with a capacity to serve 150 million passengers annually."

The CEO of Emirates also stated that the airport will serve as the new hub for flagship carrier Emirates, its low-cost counterpart Flydubai, and all airline partners, enabling global

connections to and from Dubai. Al Maktoum Airport, situated on the outskirts of the city, has not drawn a large share of Dubai's air traffic since 2010. Authorities intend for it to take over from Dubai International Airport, which can handle up to 120 million passengers each year but cannot expand further due to its central location in the city.

LA-PAZ GARDENS BEACON HOTEL - VASCO DA GAMA

TENDER NOTICE - CLUSTER PROCUREMENT

Sealed tenders are invited for fixed price annual supply contract for the following categories for a period of 12 months commencing from 01 June, 2024 to 31 May, 2025.

Food Item:- American Shelled Corn/Green Peas/ Chinese Items/ Eggs/ Mutton/ Chicken / Chicken Products/Cold Cuts(Pork & Chicken) Fresh & Frozen Sea Foods/ Fruits/ Indian & English Vegetables/Groceries/Dry Fruits/ Masala/Ice Cubes/Ice Cream/ Juices/ Milk/ Milk Products/ Dairy Products/Cheese (Imported & Local) Packaged Water/ Sweet & Farsan / Bakery Products (Chocolate, Frozen Fillings & Fruits, Premix, Fresh Yeast, Gel & others) Canned Products/ Imported Cans/ Pasta & Groceries/ Tea & Coffee/ Milk Sachets/ Sugar/ Refined Oil & Olive Oil/Honey /Dry Fruits Sachets & Jar Jam Blister Packs.

Non-Food Item:- Cleaning Chemicals (Eng., KST & HK) Carpet Cleaning, Garbage Bags/ Guest Amenities Supply/ Warmex Fuel & Liquid Fuel/ Charcoal Food Packages Materials (Boxes & Cake Base, Parcel Container & Parcel Bag) Stirrers & Cocktails Stick/ Food Wrap & Foil/ Tissue Products/ Cutlery, Crockery & Glassware/ Marble/ Complete Uniform set & Uniform Stitching/ Shoes/ Cloth & Jute Bag/ General & Housekeeping Items (Mop & Brushes) Banquet Decoration Materials, A.V. Equipment Supplier & Event Organizers on Hire/ Engineering Items/ Painting & Polishing Materials/ Hiring Planners/Office Stationery.

Tender forms are available with the Accounts Department on all working days between 10.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M. at a fee of Rs. 100.00 (non-refundable) at the below given address. The tender committee reserves the right to reject the tenders in full or in part without assigning any reasons. **The last day of submission of tender is 15 May, 2024 before 5.00 P.M.** Please send sealed tender to the Purchase Department at the below given address:

LA PAZ GARDENS BEACON HOTEL,
Swatantra Path, Vasco da Gama, Goa - 403 802,
U.R. Bhat (Accounts Manager), Mobile: 9699754264

Classifieds

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted Security Guard in
Aporra, Siolim, Mapusa Sites Contact
- 7499778731 / 9552058892.

BEFORE THE MAMLATDAR/ Jt.MAMLATDAR OF SALCETE AT MARGAO GOA

Case No. MUT/314088
314089/314090/Margao/2024

1. Sayed Iftiyaz, 2. Rizvi Aasia Wajhat, 3. Sayed Sabir Ussein A. Tabussum All r/o. H. No. 326, Madel Grande, Margao, Salcete, Goa. --Applicants

V/S

1. Sayed Abdul Karim, deceased 2. Mrs. Naziya Begam —3. Mr. Dauded Khan Jafulla Khan Pathan —4. Mrs. Sabia Khatun —5. Mr. Shaikh Abdul Majid —6. Mrs. Faizana Bi —7. Mr. Shaikh Fayyazuddin

... Respondents

To, The above named respondents/ legal heirs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named applicant Applicants Sayed Iftiyaz, Rizvi Aasia Wajhat, Sayed Sabir Ussein and Tabussum all r/o. H. No. 326, Madel Grande, Margao, Salcete, Goa had requested in their mutation application to include their names in the occupants column as co-holders after deleting the names of existing holder, Sayed Abdul Karim in respect of Form D of Chatta No. 1 of PT Sheet No. 140 of Margao City of Salcete Taluka. The right acquired by virtue of Deed of Declaration of Heirship cum Deed of Deed of Relinquishment drawn on 26/06/2023 recorded at Folios 99y onwards of Deed Book No. 1711-17-12 executed before the Judicial Division of Salcete, Margao, Goa. WHEREAS, The notices in Form G was sent to all the interested parties by registered A.D. however some of the notices could not be served and returned unserved to the sender with postal remark expired, incomplete address, house locked, no known, insufficient address and party out of station Etc.

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid applicant by application dated 19-03-2024 has prayed for substitute service by means of publication in the Local Daily newspaper under Order V rule 20 (1A) of the C.P.C. 1908. As the applicant has submitted that they are not aware about the correct addresses of the respondents/their heirs if any for effecting personal service of the notice and prayed to serve notice by way of publication in the local newspaper. Whereas I am satisfied that this is a fit case for such a publication. NOW THEREFORE, all the interested parties are hereby given notice of the said mutation entry and called upon to file their objection if any to the mutation entry in the office of Mamlatdar/Jt. Mamlatdar of Salcete within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice alongwith material/ documentary evidence on which you rely upon in person or through authorized agent, failing which deem fit action under relevant provision of the Goa, Daman & Diu Land Revenue code, 1968 will be taken in your absence. Given under my hand & Seal on this 18th day of April 2024.

Sd/-
Mamlatdar/Jt.Mamlatdar of Salcete Margao-Goa

BRANDSutra

THE GOAN EVERYDAY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL



"BE DRAMATICALLY WILLING TO FOCUS ON THE CUSTOMER AT ALL COSTS, EVEN AT THE COST OF OBSOLETING YOUR OWN STUFF."

- SCOTT COOK, CO-FOUNDER OF INTUIT

Fandom of the Future

The dynamics of sports viewing have changed and how! From watching pixelated matches on TV to influencing outcomes of live matches, technology has brought sports fans a long way... **SIDDHARTH RAMAN**, CEO at Sportz Interactive, tells us all about it.



BY TSUNAMI COSTABIR

Sports fans will pull all-nighters on game night and turn best friends with strangers just because they support their favourite team. They are a breed in themselves. Fans aren't mere spectators. They're a passionate force at the heart of every sporting experience. And leagues, teams and broadcasters have come to realise their value.

Excerpts from the interview...

Tell us about sports viewership and how it has evolved over the years.

The '70s and '80s were all about the passive consumption of sports over radio or television. In the '90s, broadcast quality started to improve, and the commentary and storytelling got better. But a big change came in the early 2000s when passive consumption started to turn into active interaction.

As internet penetration grew and we had the ability to consume content on a second screen, active participation got a lot more intense. Through polls that let you select 'who you think the next bowler should be', fans were given the ability to influence live matches.

Today, with Dream11 and My11Circle, we're talking fantasy. But the 2000s was when ESPN Super Selector came up for the first time, and people started to understand what fantasy was - where they could create their own teams and compete with experts. Formula E even had something called the 'FanBoost', where drivers could get a nitro boost through votes from their fan base.

In Europe, fans are also consulted on certain big decisions, giving them an implicit sense of ownership. Often, fans are also actual stakeholders. While India is still in a relatively early stage, leagues want to see that high level of fan involvement.

What are some interesting trends in sports viewership in India?

In terms of both TV and digital, cricket is the largest driver of consumption in India. The numbers that turned up on JioCinema for MI vs CSK peaked at 71.5 crore views. And viewer concurrency, which is the number of people watching at the same time, has peaked at 2.2 crore views, which happened last year when Dhoni came out to bat the final over. There is also TV viewership data for the IPL, which is anywhere from 400 to 600 million viewers.

Sport, unlike any other entertainment, has a certain level of unpredictability - especially when

you're watching it live. There is also a community element which makes it very engaging.

When did the sports industry begin to realise the importance of fan engagement and interaction?

The nature of how technology has evolved is what caused the change. It answered the question: 'How do we enable great fan experiences for viewers who have an internet connection?'. There are also certain phases when viewership goes into a trough. That's when creating good viewer experiences and interaction can help make the sport more enjoyable.

Today, you can choose on your OTT platform which camera angle you want to view your match from. You can select to see various charts and graphics whenever you want - and not based on when the producer chooses to air it. And the numbers it brings in is why platforms like Netflix, Apple TV, YouTube and Prime Video are investing in sports broadcasting.

It is said that sports broadcasting is moving from B2B to D2C. What are its pros and cons?

From an India perspective, it is going to be B2B for a long time. So an organisation like the BCCI will end up selling their media rights to Disney, Star, Jio Cinema etc because India is an ad-supported market.

Subscription is still a very Western concept and as Indians, we are used to getting content for free. D2C is where a lot of Western markets are right now because over there, people are used to paying subscription fees for multiple services.

Are there other key differences between the Indian and international markets?

The sheer volumes you can get in India make it an area of focus for sports organisations. A lot of international federations and teams are looking to build fanbases in India. The logic for that is you can show a larger fanbase to potential sponsors and give international brands a chance to connect with the Indian audience. As for broadcasters, your numbers for daily and monthly active users can essentially double or quadruple.

What are some engagement solutions your company has implemented this IPL season?

We work on multiple levels - from teams to broadcasters. Our goal is to help them develop a better understanding of their audience and fan behaviours. Through detailed 'fanalytics', loyalty programs and content can be curated. Teams and brands can also make smarter marketing and business decisions. Today, sponsors want to know exactly whom they will get access to.

As for solutions, we provide analytics on games, automate the generation of highlights and short clips using AI/ML, and curate websites and apps to provide a high level of customisation. We create quizzes and predictors and modify games like houseie, bingo, snakes and ladders, and Wordle with sporting content.

We also curate digital marketing solutions by having people travel with the team throughout the IPL, meet their favourite players, showcase BTS content, and satiate fans' appetite for content through that.

What does the future of sports viewing look like?

Going forward, I think the importance of the fan in the ecosystem is only getting more critical. Leagues and brands are realising that fans are important stakeholders and should be involved in the governance and running of the organisation.

Streamline your creative processes with Gen AI

The modern era requires constant and consistent churning out of high-quality content. Luckily, you don't have to do it all alone.



BY NEEL PANDYA

Generative AI is quietly orchestrating a paradigm shift in marketing, proving itself to be an indispensable ally in a world where precision and efficiency drive success. A recent Salesforce survey mentions the momentum behind this trend, revealing that 55% of marketing professionals already leverage these technologies, with another 22% planning to follow suit shortly. This significant shift underscores the critical role of Generative AI in modern marketing strategies and its potential to redefine industry standards and practices.

Generative AI's role in post-production

In post-production, Generative AI has been streamlining cumbersome tasks, easing complex editing processes and ensuring content meets required standards of consistency and precision. This automation extends to:

- **Post-Production Analysis:** After content is created and distributed, Generative AI tools analyse various metrics such as view counts, engagement rates and user interactions. This data helps to understand what resonates with audiences and can inform future content creation. For instance, AI can identify patterns in which types of videos retain viewers' attention longer or what features of an image lead to higher engagement on platforms like Instagram versus Twitter.
- **Automated Editing and Enhancement:** AI algorithms swiftly edit video footage, optimise sound levels, and enhance visuals, reducing hours of manual labour significant-

ly. This efficiency boost is reflected in the AI-powered video-editing software market, which is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6.3% from 2023 to 2032, reaching a valuation of USD 1,032.0 million by 2032.

Transforming cross-platform creative optimisation

Generative AI excels in adapting content and this capability ensures that content is not only visually appealing but also optimised for engagement on individual platforms. Key functionalities include:

- **Tailored Content Formatting:** AI systems resize and format content, from images to videos, ensuring it meets platform-specific requirements without compromising on quality or aesthetics.
- **Engagement Optimisation:** By analysing data from past performance, AI can predict what adjustments will enhance engagement on platforms by customising content to resonate more effectively.

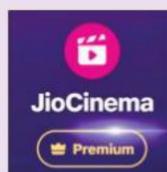
Continuing impact of Generative AI in the creative field

Widely regarded as the cornerstone of future digital content creation, Generative AI epitomises unparalleled efficiency gains and adaptability, promising significant strides in conception, production and delivery. Witnessing the evolution of Generative AI, it's evident how rapidly this technology is progressing with each passing month.

As we journey forward, Generative AI is reshaping the future of content creation and delivery across diverse sectors, from digital marketing to entertainment and beyond. By integrating Generative AI now, businesses can not only streamline operations but also provide invaluable insights that enable smarter, more strategic business decisions.

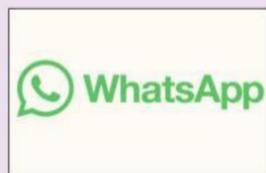
(The author is the CEO - EMEA and APAC at Pixis)

IN BRIEF



JioCinema announces premium subscription plans

JioCinema Premium plans start at a market-defining Rs 29 per month for a single device and a family plan at Rs 89 per month for up to any four devices. The premium plans offer an ad-free experience delivered in up to 4K quality and offline viewing options.



WhatsApp puts its foot down on encryption

At an ongoing hearing at the Delhi High Court, WhatsApp and its parent company Meta are challenging the IT Rules 2021 that undermine the core of its services and if undermined, they will have to leave India. With 400 million users, India is WhatsApp's largest market.



HUL rebrands 'health food drinks' to 'functional nutrition drinks'

Following directives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Hindustan Unilever has removed the 'health' label from Horlicks and Boost. The label has been rebranded as 'functional nutrition drinks'. The FSSAI has also instructed e-commerce portals against labelling dairy-based or malt-based beverages as 'health drinks'.



Meta establishes itself as a leader in AI

Meta has released 'Llama 3' - an open-source large language model that can be downloaded, run, and built on by anyone. The model enables developers to deploy it in most commercial apps and services. Experts opine that it beats models like Google Gemini and Mistral 7B on various parameters.



Spice brands MDH and Everest face international bans

Singapore and Hong Kong have banned the sale of Indian spice brands MDH and Everest for containing the pesticide ethylene oxide in several spice mix samples. Ethylene oxide has been classified as a group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research.

India's FMCG landscape is evolving

MANISH ANANDANI of Kenvue spoke at the 'TAA & ISA Retrospect and Prospects' event held in Mumbai's BKC. The talk revolved around the increasingly vigilant consumer and what brands need to focus on to stay relevant.

BY TEAM BRANDSUTRA

The India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA) together with the Indian Society of Advertisers (ISA) hosted the 'TAA & ISA Retrospect and Prospects' with Manish Anandani, Managing Director in India at Kenvue (erstwhile Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health). Manish was the keynote speaker at the event and brought to light how the Indian FMCG industry has been a key driver contributing to India's buoyant economy. This is attributed to factors like the dynamic youth, increasing urbanisation and a rising middle class. All these factors present a tremendous opportunity for the industry.

Like event attendees pointed out, of late, a number of FMCG brands have

come under the radar for promoting their products in unethical ways - aimed at leveraging the ignorance of a customer. In such a world, brand transparency and trust come to the forefront.

He elaborated on the evolution of the classification system. Earlier consumers were segmented into three income stratas - lower, middle and upper. But today, a 'Many Indias' approach with many consumer cohorts has come about. From high-income value-seekers, to lower-income dreamers, each segment needs to be treated differently. "It is imperative for brands to design personalised, customised and immersive campaigns to better engage with specific audiences," said Manish.

In retrospect of the controversy John-



son & Johnson has gone through, Manish said about regaining consumer trust, "Brands need to proactively communicate with consumers." Rather than staying quiet as vigilant social bodies and consumers spark debate with their revelations and claims, the brand, too, should have a share in the conversation.

Consumer behaviour has seen a big shift with sustainability, purpose, and transparency being prioritised. Further, in a majority of households, decision makers lie between the 15-27 age group. These aspects will continue to shape the marketing agenda.

Purpose-driven marketing that focuses on causes like women's empowerment, scientific information and environmental consciousness resonates with consumers. There is also value for quality information of what goes into products that can be communicated well through social media and influencers.

The presentation showcased the massive opportunity and possibilities that lie ahead in India driven by the positive GDP, demographics, digitalisation and consumption behaviours.

Apr 29 China's Mfg PMI data
Apr 30 India's fiscal deficit data
May 1 India's auto sales figure
India's Mfg PMI data
US Fed interest rate decision
US Mfg PMI data
May 3 US non-farm payroll data and
India's Forex Reserves data

BIZ BULLETIN

Unemployment among Indian youth is transient

Unemployment is highest for younger age brackets, but it is 'transient' as Indian youths spend more time acquiring skills and trying hands at entrepreneurship, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Ashima Goyal has said. There is steady improvement in job creation in the country with the strong growth recovery, Goyal added. "Youth unemployment is higher for the more qualified, but they also earn higher wages."

Mkt valuation of 6 most valued cos rises ₹1.30L cr

The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms increased Rs 1,30,734.57 crore last week, with State Bank of India and ICICI Bank emerging as the biggest gainers in line with an overall positive trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark advanced 641.83 points or 0.87 per cent.

IRCON bags ₹1,200-crore order

State-owned IRCON on Sunday said it has secured a railway project worth about Rs 1,200 crore in a joint venture. "Iron International Ltd (IRCON) under its joint venture with Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt Ltd (DRA) i.e. IRCON-DRA JV has been awarded the LoA for the construction of Kottavalasa-Koraput Doubling Project from Shivalingapuram Station to Borraguhalu Station..." the Railway PSU said in an exchange filing.

ICAI passes orders against 3 EY affiliates

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has passed an order against auditing major EY's three affiliates and a retired partner for "professional misconduct". Besides, the ICAI has issued an order against S V Ghatalia & Associates, LLP, and its partner for professional misconduct.

Former Tech M India biz head to set up AI startup

Former Tech Mahindra India business head Jagdish Mitra has set up an AI startup with a proposed initial investment of Rs 65-80 crore. "We will start going to customers in 8-12 months. Initially, we will invest USD 8-10 million," Mitra -- one of the contenders for the post of Tech Mahindra CEO position after Gurnani resigned -- told PTI.

448 infra projects hit by cost overrun of ₹5.55L cr

As many as 448 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of Rs 150 crore or above, were hit by cost overrun of more than Rs 5.55 lakh crore during December quarter 2023, an official report stated.

'Startups in India grew over 300 times in 10 yrs'

From just about 350 startups in 2014, their number in India grew over 300 times in the past ten years, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. He said the country today has the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns.

Corporate governance charter for startups

Industry body CII on Sunday announced it has launched a charter for startups that enlist voluntary recommendations on corporate governance keeping in view unique nuances to govern startups. The Corporate Governance Charter also prescribes guidelines appropriate for startups based on the specific stages of their life cycle.

IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Co debt restructuring

NCLAT has rejected SBI's pleas opposing the liquidation value of IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company Ltd (ITPCL) provided by the debt-ridden firm's lead banker PNB and said SBI cannot "wriggle out" the debt restructuring process of the IL&FS group's thermal power company. The NCLAT has dismissed all 3 applications moved by SBI and said it does "not find any error in fixing the liquidation value as of 30.09.2018" of ITPCL.

Himadri Speciality to invest ₹220 cr in Bengal

Himadri Speciality Chemical Ltd plans to expand its speciality carbon black capacity in a brownfield expansion project in West Bengal, with an estimated investment of Rs 220 crores, a company official said on Sunday. The expansion is envisaged to meet the increasing demand from Europe amid an impending ban on Russian carbon black imports in the EU. —Agencies

RBI PAPER

Expectations of future monetary policy impact stock mkts more than rate announcements

Equity markets are impacted more by the expectations of future monetary policy than the policy rate surprises on the day of announcement of the policy by the Reserve Bank, said an analysis. According to a working paper prepared by RBI officials, the regulatory and development measures which are announced along

China's share in India's industrial goods imports jump to 30%: GTRI

India's dependence on Chinese industrial goods rose to 30% from 21% in the last 15 years

PTI / New Delhi

With increasing India's dependence on Chinese industrial goods like telecom, machinery and electronics, Beijing's share in New Delhi's imports of such goods rose to 30 per cent from 21 per cent in the last 15 years, a report said.

According to the report by the economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the growing trade deficit with China is a cause of concern, and the strategic implications of this dependency are profound, affecting not only economic but also national security dimensions.

From 2019 to 2024, India's exports to China have stagnated at around USD 16 billion annually, while imports from China have surged from USD 70.3 billion in 2018-19 to over USD 101 billion in 2023-24, resulting in a cumulative trade deficit exceeding USD 387 billion over five years.

The Indian government and industries must evaluate and potentially recalibrate their import strategies, fostering more diversified and resilient supply chains, GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.



This is imperative not only to mitigate economic risks but also to bolster domestic industries and reduce dependency on single-country imports, especially from a geopolitical competitor like China, he added.

"Over the last 15 years, China's share in India's industrial product imports has increased significantly, from 21 per cent to 30 per cent."

"This growth in imports from China has

been much faster than India's overall import growth, with China's exports to India growing 2.3 times faster than India's total imports from all other countries," the report said.

In 2023-24, India's total merchandise imports amounted to USD 677.2 billion, with USD 101.8 billion of that coming from China.

This means China accounted for 15 per cent of India's total imports.

Out of these imports from China, USD 100 billion or 98.5 per cent were in major industrial product categories.

"When compared to India's global imports of these industrial products, which total USD 337 billion, China's contribution is quite significant, representing 30 per cent of India's imports in this sector. Fifteen years ago, China's share was just 21 per cent," it added.

The key sectors, where New Delhi's dependence is rising significantly, include electronics, telecom and electrical; machinery; chemicals and pharmaceuticals; products of iron, steel and base metal; plastics; textiles and clothing; automobiles; medical, leather, paper, glass, ships, aircraft and remaining categories.

Corporate earnings, US Fed interest rate decision to drive mkts in truncated wk

PTI / New Delhi

Quarterly earnings from corporates, the US Fed interest rate decision and other global trends will be the major driving factors for determining movement in the domestic equity market in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

Besides, factors like trading activity of foreign investors, global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trend would also influence trading.

Domestic equity markets would remain closed on Wednesday on account of Maharashtra Day.

"Domestically, the next batch of Q4 earnings reports will drive stock-specific movements," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Monthly auto sales figures will be announced at the beginning of May, and the next phase of voting will be significant, he said.

"On the global front, the out-



Last week, the BSE Sensex advanced 641.83 points and the NSE Nifty climbed 272.95 points

come of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on May 1st will be important. Economic data releases from China and the US, along with movement in the global currency market, will also be the factors to consider," Meena added.

Major corporate earnings announcements this week are from Tata Chemicals, Central Bank of India, IOC, Adani Power, Adani Enterprises, Adani Green Energy, MRF and Titan.

"The upcoming US Fed policy, US non-farm payroll data will dictate the global market, while the ongoing Q4 earnings reports are poised to influence the domestic market dynamics," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"We expect market momentum to resume with a focus on stock-specific action due to the ongoing result season and sector rotation at play," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

"Indian market is synched perfectly with global markets and thus global cues will be essential in dictating our market trend next week. Domestically, stock specific movements are expected due to ongoing earnings season.

For global cues, China's and US manufacturing PMI, US FOMC statement and Non-farm payrolls will be major trigger point for the markets," said Aasif Hirani, Managing Director, Tradebulls Securities.

RISE IN US BOND YIELDS

FPIs dump Indian equities worth ₹6,300 cr in Apr so far

PTI / New Delhi

Foreign investors pulled out domestic equities worth Rs 6,300 crore in April on concerns over tweaks in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and sustained rise in US bond yields. This came following a whopping net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February, data with the depositories showed.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net outflow of Rs 6,304 crore in Indian equities this month (till April 26), the data showed.

"The trigger for this renewed FPI selling, in both equity and debt, is sustained rise in US bond yields. The 10-year bond yield now stands at around 4.7 per cent, which is hugely attractive for foreign investors," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Bks may have to slowdown loan growth in FY25: S&P

PTI / New Delhi

Indian banks' credit growth, profitability and asset quality would remain robust in current fiscal reflecting strong economic growth, but they may be compelled to slow down their loan growth as deposits are not growing at a similar pace, S&P Global Ratings has said.

In the Asia-Pacific 2Q 2024 Banking Update, S&P Global Ratings Director SSEA Nikita Anand said the agency expects the sector's strong credit growth to moderate to 14 per cent in FY25, from 16 per cent in FY24, if deposit growth, especially retail deposits, remain tepid.

Anand said there is a deterioration in loan-to-deposit ratio in every bank, with loan growth being 2-3 percentage points higher than deposit growth.

"We expect banks to bring down their loan growth in FY25 and bring it in line with deposit growth. If banks do not do that, they would be paying higher to get wholesale funding, which will impact profitability," she said at a recent webinar of S&P Global



Ratings.

Anand said Indian banks can support loan growth of as high as 15-20 per cent over three years without need for raising capital. The loan growth is 2-3 percentage points higher than deposit growth of the banking sector.

"For India, we expect credit growth, profitability and asset quality to remain robust reflecting strong economic growth. Loan growth is 1.5 times of nominal GDP growth, while deposit growth is in line with nominal GDP growth."

"Loan growth should come in line with deposits rather than outpacing deposits. If credit growth doesn't slow, banks will have to fund it from wholesale funding and higher cost of such funding could further strain margins and hurt profitability," Anand said.

RCAP lenders urge Hinduja Group arm to stick to resolution plan deadline

PTI / New Delhi

Concerned over slow progress, the lenders of debt-ridden Reliance Company (RCAP) have asked the Hinduja Group arm, IndusInd International Holdings Ltd, to expedite the process of obtaining necessary regulatory approvals and stick to the resolution plan deadline of May 27.

In a meeting held in Mumbai on Friday with the senior officials of IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), the lenders of RCAP said the company has to make a payment of Rs 9,650 crore to them by the said date, a source said.

It is to be noted that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai, while approving the resolution plan on February 27, directed the IIHL to implement the resolution plan within 90 days i.e. May 27.

As per the approved resolution plan, IIHL has to make an upfront payment of Rs 9,650 crore to the RCAP lenders.

According to the sources, the lenders expressed concerns over the slow progress towards the implementation of RCAP resolution plan, as IIHL is yet to receive the crucial IRDAI approval on the resolution plan.

The IRDAI has raised multiple queries and concerns over the proposed corporate structure for the transfer of RCAP's insurance businesses to IIHL, and the company is yet to address those concerns. IRDAI approval is crucial for the transfer of insurance businesses of Reliance Capital i.e. Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, to the IIHL.

AdaniConneX raises \$1.44bn from 8 global bks

PTI / New Delhi

AdaniConneX, a joint venture equally owned by Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX that is building data centres, secured India's largest sustainability-linked financing arrangement, raising up to USD 1.44 billion (around Rs 11,520 crore), the company said on Sunday.

Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship of billionaire Gautam Adani-run conglomerate, is investing around USD 1.5 billion on its fledgling data centre business in the next three years. Its joint venture with EdgeConneX plans to build

nine data centres with a total capacity of 1 gigawatt by 2030 to provide infrastructure for the booming digital services demand.

In a statement, the firm said the "financing has an initial commitment of USD 875 million, with an accordion feature to extend commitment up to USD 1.44 billion."

"The transaction elevates AdaniConneX's construction financing pool to USD 1.65 billion, building on the maiden construction facility of USD 213 million executed in June 2023," it said.

AdaniConneX, which has only one operational data centre in Chennai so far, has completed al-

most two-thirds of the construction in the Noida and Hyderabad facilities.

"The upcoming data centre facility will employ state-of-the-art technologies and renewable energy solutions to minimise the ecological footprint while optimising operational efficiency."

"The sustainability-linked financing reinforces AdaniConneX's commitment towards driving a safety-first culture, delivering world-class Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) by adopting global best practices, and leveraging renewable energy resources," it added.

Need to be watchful about steel imports: T V Narendran

PTI / New Delhi

As steel imports continue to surge, Tata Steel CEO T V Narendran has said there is a need to be watchful about the situation.

The comment comes at a time when India has reported a 38 per cent surge in steel imports to 8.319 million tonnes, becoming a net importer of the commodity during the 2023-24 financial year.



Speaking to PTI, the industry executive said, "It would be a pity if the situation continues in the long run. We have to be watchful

about imports." As long as it is unfair imports, the government needs to deal with it, Narendran said without elaborating further.

Steel consumption is expected to grow 8-10 per cent in the ongoing 2024-25 fiscal year, he said in reply to a separate question on demand.

Steelmakers have been raising concerns on increasing imports

from certain countries, including China and seeking the government's intervention on the issue. Domestic players have also been demanding a curb on imports and review of free trade agreements (FTAs) with several countries.

"I don't think reviewing FTAs would be easy. But that's for the government to decide," Narendran added.

AMCs pursue spl opportunities funds: 3 firms file draft papers with Sebi

PTI / New Delhi

Asset management firms are showing enthusiasm for special opportunities funds, with three such firms submitting draft papers with markets regulator Sebi to float schemes based on this theme recently.

During March-April, three Asset management companies (AMCs) - WhiteOak Capital, Kotak Mahindra and Samco - filed draft papers for the Special Opportunities Fund or Special Situation

Fund, data with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed.

At present, Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, ICICI Prudential MF, Axis MF are the fund houses that offer special situation funds.

Special Opportunities Funds are mutual fund schemes that intend to take advantage of the opportunities created by special situations in the market. These situations are unique situations, op-

portunities or challenges faced by a company, sector, or economy as whole.

Feroze Azeez, Deputy CEO, AnandRathi Wealth Ltd, said special situation funds aim to invest in stocks that are mispriced, often due to companies facing unique circumstances such as regulatory or policy changes, management restructuring such as merger or amalgamation, technological disruptions, or temporary challenges in their operating

environments. While these funds were previously categorized under Category I of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), mutual funds are now exploring them to appeal to a broader investor base.

Meanwhile, Sebi said that Farm Tech Silo LLP, also known as Growpalt, other related entities and their directors will remain barred from securities markets till the outcome of a probe into collection of money through unauthorised investment schemes.

Macrotech Developers to invest ₹5K cr in FY25 on construction of realty projects: Abhishek Lodha

PTI / New Delhi

Realty firm Macrotech Developers will step up its investment this fiscal year on construction of projects to over Rs 5,000 crore in line with growth in sales and new supply, its MD and CEO Abhishek Lodha said. Macrotech Developers, which sells properties under the Lodha brand, is targeting to deliver more than 10,000 apartments during 2024-25, he said.

In an interview with PTI, Lodha highlighted that the company achieved all its major targets for 2023-24 related to pre-sales, new land acquisition and debt reduction amid strong housing demand.

He noted that demand would sustain as India's housing sector is probably in the third year of a long-term upcycle, driven by high economic growth and rising consumer preference towards home ownership over renting.

Lodha said the company would be launching more projects and



also adding more land for future development to maintain "consistent and predictable" growth trajectory.

Asked about guidance for construction spend, he said, "We spent around Rs 3,700 crore on construction last fiscal year. We are going to invest more than Rs 5,000 crore during the current fiscal." Lodha said the company spent less than the targeted Rs 4,500 crore last fiscal due to some delay in launch of few projects. "We will make up for that," he asserted. Macrotech Developers handed over around 8,500 units to customers during 2023-24 and the target is to scale it up to more than 10,000 units, he outlined.

Essentials for a perfect indoor garden



ABHISHEK

Growing a garden in the backyard is something most people are doing these days. But, it is important to note that not all weather conditions support an outdoor garden. That is when the prospect of growing an indoor garden sees considerable sheen. One of the best features of growing an indoor garden is that it can be as simple and as complex as you want it to be. So depending on your requirement, you can take necessary steps and make necessary amends as and when required. This article highlights the essential tips for the perfect indoor garden. Here are 4 tips for a perfect indoor garden. Read on to know further.

Choose planters

It is important to choose the right size of planters depending on the plant you wish to grow. A good thing about planters is that you can customize them the way you wish. Choose a planter that isn't too big or too small. While purchasing your planter, keep in mind the size your plant is capable of growing and make a purchase on the basis of that.

Choosing the soil

Remember not to use garden soil to grow your plants indoors. This is an important tip that has to be taken into account. Garden Soil if used in pots indoors, owing to its high density and weight, disallows adequate oxygen from nourishing it. The plants therefore don't grow appropriately. Also, try not to incorporate prepared mixes. They usually squeeze out oxygen from the soil, thereby hindering healthy plant growth. Use humus and perlite in the ratio 4:1 for best results.

Don't follow a predetermined watering cycle

Yes, it is a fact that experts advise watering of plants once a week. Actually, that wouldn't be the accurate method you'd have to follow. You'll have to water your plants as and when it is required. Maybe twice a week sometimes. Keep this in mind. The frequency of watering is dependent on the type of soil, the plant and the weather.

Know the moisture content

Depending on you plant, you'll have to keep a tab on the moisture content. Know this for a fact- the average moisture content in a home during winter is equivalent to the level in the Sahara desert. You can consider clustering plants together in order to ward off the ill effects of excess moisture.

SOMYA OJHA

Does your hair have a rough texture and look dry and unruly? Do you always have to rely on store-bought serums to make your hair appear moisturized and soft? If you answered yes to all the above questions, then do read on to know about certain homemade hair masks made with aloe vera gel that can restore moisture into dry hair and soften its texture. Aloe vera gel is an excellent source of numerous hair-benefiting features. It acts as a natural moisturizer that can put moisture back into your hair strands and also conditions them. Apart from that, the antioxidants present in this versatile gel can give your hair a major boost of hydration, thereby revealing softer and shinier strands. When this multi-purpose gel is used in combination with other potent ingredients, it tends to become particularly effective in treating dry and rough hair. Read to know about these easy DIY aloe vera masks that can help you attain well moisturized, soft and smooth tresses that look naturally beautiful.

Wonderful aloe vera masks for dry and rough hair

Aloe vera gel and almond oil

The remarkable combo of aloe vera gel and almond oil can strengthen the hair follicles and provide moisture to rough and dry hair.

How to use: Mix 1 tablespoon of each aloe vera gel and almond oil. Put the resulting mask on your scalp and leave it overnight. Wash it off with lukewarm water and your regular shampoo.

Aloe vera gel and egg white

The goodness of aloe vera gel combined with the powerful proteins present in egg white can effectively soften the hair's texture and provide hydration to it.

How to use: Put an egg white in a bowl and add 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel to it. Thoroughly mix the components. Massage your scalp and hair with the resulting material. Leave it on for another 40-45 minutes before washing it off.

Aloe vera gel and yogurt

A high content of lactic acid in yogurt when combined with aloe vera gel's hair-benefiting property can strengthen the roots of your hair and treat dry and rough hair.

How to use: Combine 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel with 1 tablespoon of fresh yogurt. Massage your scalp and hair with the prepared material. Cover your head with a shower cap and let the mask stay on for an hour. Wash it off with lukewarm water and shampoo.

Aloe vera gel and olive oil

A storehouse of antioxidants, olive oil is another potent remedy which when combined with aloe vera gel can effectively treat dry and coarse hair.

How to use: Create a blend of 1 table-spoon of aloe vera gel and 1 teaspoon of olive oil. Massage it all over the scalp area and also apply it to the ends of your tresses. Leave the mask on for the night. Wash it off with lukewarm water and shampoo.



Aloe vera gel and honey

The fusion of aloe vera gel and honey can not only moisturize dry hair but also repair damage and prevent dryness of the hair strands.

How to use: Put 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel and 1 teaspoon of organic honey in a bowl. Stir thoroughly to get a smooth paste. Apply it to the scalp area and also to the ends of your roots. Let it sit there for 30 minutes before washing it off.

Aloe vera gel and banana

This hair mask can moisturize the scalp, prevent the dryness of hair and add shine to it. Banana is packed with potassium and many other compounds that are known to improve the hair's manageability and texture, especially when it is used with aloe vera gel.

How to use: Mash a ripe banana and add 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel to it. Mix the components to get a creamy paste. Apply it to your hair and scalp. Leave it there for an hour. Wash it off with lukewarm water and your regular shampoo.

Aloe vera gel and fenugreek seeds

Methi is a potent remedy that can remove impurities from the scalp and hair. Combining it with aloe vera gel can help you attain dirt-free and soft tresses.

How to use: Soak a handful of fenugreek seeds in water for 6-7 hours. Mash them and mix with 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel to get the hair mask ready. Apply the material to your scalp and hair. Leave the mask on for the night. Wash it off with lukewarm water.

Aloe vera gel and avocado

This aloe vera mask is perfect for treating damaged rough hair. Aloe vera and avocado can collectively repair damaged hair and soften its texture.

How to use: Mash a ripe avocado and mix with 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel. Slather the paste all over your scalp and towards the ends of your tresses. Leave it there for an hour before washing it off with lukewarm water.

Aloe vera gel and vitamin E oil

This hair mask can also help seal moisture in your hair, boost its volume and make it appear soft and smooth.

How to use: Extract the oil from a vitamin E capsule and mix it with 1 tablespoon of aloe vera gel. Apply the mixture to your scalp and hair. Cover your head with a shower cap and let the mask stay on for the night. Wash it off with lukewarm water.

NEHA GHOSH

Have these vitamins to help you grow taller

There are various ways to increase your height. Food plays an important role in this regard. Vitamins in foods play a significant role in increasing height along with the genetic structure. In this article, we will be writing about the vitamins that promote height growth. The human body requires a balanced diet that is rich in vitamins and minerals. Vitamins such as vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin D, and vitamin C and minerals like phosphorus and calcium are necessary for your growth and development. Many studies have shown that consuming foods rich in few vitamins and minerals will not help in growing tall. Sometimes, nutritional deficiencies can also lead to a shorter height. People who work out drink protein shakes to build muscles and it also helps them to grow tall. But only drinking protein shakes will not yield best results. Let's read on to find out the best vitamins for growth and development.



Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)
Vitamin B2 or riboflavin is also another important vitamin in helping you grow taller. It is mostly present in green leafy vegetables. This vitamin aids in the growth of skin, nails, bones, and hair.

Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)
Vitamin B1 promotes growth and helps in growing taller. It also helps in the smooth functioning of the digestive process. Vitamin B1 provides blood supply to the organs which aids in contributing to the proper growth of the body. This vitamin also promotes good heart health and proper functioning of the nervous system.
Sources of vitamin B1: Peanuts, soybeans, rice, oats, pork, seeds, nuts, eggs, etc.
How to have: Vitamin B1 is abundant in poultry, so ensure to include them at least thrice a week in your diet.

Vitamin D
Vitamin D, also called the sunshine vitamin, contributes to making your bones strong. A nutritional deficiency of vitamin D makes your bones and teeth weak. Vitamin D is an essential mineral that helps in absorbing calcium and phosphorus which also contributes to growing taller.
Sources of vitamin D: Milk, tomatoes, potatoes, citrus fruits, cauliflower, fatty fishes, cheese, etc.
How to have: Incorporate fatty fishes like tuna, salmon, and mackerel into your diet.

Vitamin C
Vitamin C is also known as ascorbic acid which is abundantly found in almost all the citrus fruits. This vitamin aids in flushing out toxins from the body and thus boosts your immunity. It promotes the growth of bones and strengthens them.
Sources of vitamin C: Citrus fruits, guavas, tomatoes, berries, potatoes, etc.
How to have: Have a bowl filled with mixed fruits like guavas, orange, kiwis, and grapefruit daily to see a significant increase in your height.



Calcium

Calcium is another important mineral that helps the body to increase the growth of the bones. This helps in making you grow taller. Calcium should be taken every day to increase the strength and longevity of the bones.

Sources of calcium: Milk, dairy products like cheese, curd, butter, spinach, turnip greens, etc.

How to have: Have a glass of milk at night for adequate calcium requirement. Add cheese, yogurt, and butter into your diet daily.

Phosphorus

Calcium isn't sufficient to make tissues and bones strong. Phosphorus is required along with calcium as both these together are essential to attain the maximum results in growing taller. The body's bones have 80 per cent of phosphorus and this helps in preventing the slow growth of bones and osteoporosis.

Sources of phosphorus: Nuts, beans, fish, etc. contain an enormous amount of this mineral.

How to have: Take a handful of nuts and eat daily and also make it a point to eat fish thrice a week.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A is great for normal growth and development, and tissue and bone repair. This fat-soluble vitamin is good for enhancing healthy skin, eyes, and immune responses as well.

Sources of vitamin A: Cheese, milk, eggs, carrots, yam, etc.

How to have: Add carrots and eggs in your salad or drink a glass of milk every day.

Serve yourself a wide variety of whole, fresh foods as much as possible. Just remember that eating healthy foods will make you grow tall.

31 Things you must do in case of sun damage!

RIDDHI M



Stepping out into the sun can make a lot of elements in your skin go absolutely haywire. There are certain things you must do after you go out in the sun, to avoid issues and skin problems from happening to your skin! We usually do manage to pay extra attention and take care of the skin on our faces. It has almost become like second nature to us. But, the body skin often gets neglected, which is at times a little logical, as the skin on our bodies is a lot tougher than the skin on the face. It does not mean that the body is immune to ever getting tanned. Of course even the body gets tanned. And, sometimes, it shows up in the form of a stark contrast in colour in the areas that were covered and the areas that were exposed.

Shower: A cool shower is sometimes the best thing to do after facing sun damage. It can be relaxing and really help take down the burn and the itchiness.

Skin coolant: Under the things to do after sun damage, this is the most important step. After taking a shower, be sure to apply any skin coolant of your choice.

be it aloe vera gel or cucumber gel. You can even rub cucumber slices on your body.

Cold compress: Keep applying cold compress on the areas as much as you can, in order to get rid of the burns fast. Wrap some ice cubes in a handkerchief and use it as a cold compress.

SPF: For stepping out into the sun after this, make sure you use an SPF product of at least SPF 30, to avoid any more damage to the skin that is already irritated. We recommend going for SPF 50.

Umbrellas: As an additional measure of precaution, carry an umbrella with you to ensure that the harsh rays of the sun do not hit you directly.

Cover: In case the damage looks too unsightly, use a body foundation to cover it up. Do this only if you have an event or a function to go to.

For feet: Always remember to apply sunscreen to your feet. They often get neglected and ignored and end up getting tanned the most. This is one of the things to do after sun damage without fail.

Shoes: Try to wear shoes that cover your feet rather than sandals or slippers, in order to prevent the skin from being exposed to the sun.

Witch hazel: A witch hazel toner can be really helpful when dealing with sun damage. Witch hazel can heal the skin and reduce the redness of the skin to a great extent.



NEHA GHOSH

Fresh or dried fruit – Which is better?

Whether you are unwell or not, doctors always recommend you to have fruits, isn't it? Fruits are required by the body, because it is an excellent source of body fibres, essential salts, and minerals. So, in this article, we will be discussing which fruit is better - fresh fruits or dried fruits.

Why should you eat fruits every day?

- Eating ample amounts of fruits lowers the risk of many harmful diseases.
- Having fruits daily will make your immune system strong.
- Fruits contain antioxidants that combat free radicals.
- The water content in fruits keeps your skin supple and the body well hydrated.
- Fruits are high in fibre and hence hinder the fat-storing process.
- Fruits boost your brain power. Fruits are a nutrient-dense food.
- Fruits will keep your digestive system healthy and keep your body energized.

Dried fruit vs fresh fruit nutrition

But apart from the supply of nutrients that the fresh fruits have dried fruits are also not left behind. Let's have a look at the dried fruit vs fresh fruit in terms of nutrition.

Nutrient density

Since fruits are a nutrient-dense food, their calorie content is less. The advantage of having fresh fruits is that it will keep your body hydrated due to the water proportion in them. On the other hand, when water is extracted from the dried fruits, calories get concentrated alongside the nutrients. People who are trying to lose weight can't have dried fruits because of the high calorie content. Fresh fruits can provide your body with energy.

Vitamins

Fresh fruits are extremely necessary for the body to prevent dehydration. They contain vital vitamins like vitamin A, vitamin B, and vitamin C. Dried fruits do not contain water, which sometimes compromises their vitamin content since these vitamins are generally heat-sensitive. The essential mineral, folate is also lost. Vitamin C is also decreased in the dehydration process of dried fruits.



Sugar content

Fresh fruits and dried fruits are at par when it comes to the density of glucose. The water content is higher in fresh fruits and lower in dried fruits. On the other hand, the sugar content is higher in dried fruits and lower in fresh fruits. Dieters need the fibre and water from fresh fruits to stay fuller for a longer period as dried fruits won't last long in the stomach.

Are the nutrients lost in the dehydration process?

The vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals are important for helping your bodies to function properly but this may not contribute to energy in the body. Health experts say there are some nutrients that are lost in the drying process. For example, vitamin C and folate, in particular, are lost when dried.

Water loss equals volume loss

Fruits can be left out in the sun to dehydrate naturally. The loss of water completely from the fruit means loss of physical size. If you compare dried fruit and fresh fruit by volume, then you will always find more sugar and calories in the dried fruit. 30 grapes have about 12 grams of sugar and 48 calories, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference. 30 raisins have 47 calories and just 10 grams of sugar.

Is dried fruit good for you?

Though fresh fruits have more vitamins, minerals, and fibre content compared to dried fruits, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to avoid dried fruits. People who are trying to lose weight should keep a check on calorie counts and serving sizes while having dried fruits. Raisins, dried blueberries, dried strawberries, apple chips, dried apricots, and banana chips are convenient to eat and they are versatile than fresh fruits. By weight, dried fruit contains up to 3.5 times the fibre, vitamins, and minerals of fresh fruit.

How much dry fruit can you eat daily?

Make a salad of your favourite vegetables, and fruits, add dried apple and cranberries, and a little goat cheese.

Add dried fruits to a bowlful of oats for a hearty and healthy breakfast.

Which is the best time to eat dry fruits?

Dried fruit can be eaten at any time of the day but the best time to eat them is early in the morning to get the maximum benefits. How many servings of fruit should you have a day? The American Heart Association recommends having four to five servings of fruit per day.



FC Goa take on Mumbai City in do-or-die semis second leg

GAURS FACE ONE-GOAL DEFICIT AFTER STUNNING LATE COLLAPSE AT FATORDA

THE GOAN NETWORK

MUMBAI
After a thrilling first-leg encounter that saw Mumbai City FC snatch a late victory against FC Goa with a 3-2 scoreline, anticipation is high for the second leg of the ISL semi-final clash between these two teams. The match is set to take place at the Mumbai Football Arena on Monday at 7.30 pm IST.

In the first leg, Mumbai City FC staged a dramatic comeback with three goals in the final minutes, courtesy of Lallianzuala Chhangte and Vikram Partap Singh. Despite

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

FC Goa initially taking a 2-0 lead through strikes from Boris Singh and Brandon Fernandes, Mumbai City FC's late surge secured them the advantage going into the second leg.

Mumbai City FC comes into the second leg with confidence, having won four of their last five matches. They have been formidable in attack, scoring 45 goals in 23 matches this season. With a strong defensive record and momentum on their side, Mumbai City FC aims to capitalize on their home advantage.

FC Goa, despite their defeat in the first leg, has shown resilience throughout the season. They finished third in the standings with 45 points and have displayed consistent attacking prowess. FC Goa will be eager to bounce back and make



FC Goa's Carl McHugh during a training session.

Home sweet home: ISL teams with impressive home records

CLINTON D'SOUZA
THE GOAN PANAJI

Home advantage is crucial in the Indian Super League (ISL), with teams thriving on the support of their fans to secure wins. Let's take a look at some standout performances by ISL teams on their home turf:

- FC Goa (2019-20)** - With an impressive 80% home win rate, FC Goa dominated the ISL during the 2019-20 season. Led by coach Sergio Lobera, they not only won the League Shield but also showcased their strength at Fatorda.
- Odisha FC (2023-24)** - Odisha FC had a remarkable home record in the current season, winning 76.92% of their home games. Under coach Lobera, they remained unbeaten at the Kalinga Stadium, securing a playoff spot with their formidable home form.
- Kerala Blasters FC (2016)** - Kerala Blasters

had a stellar 75% home win rate during the 2016 ISL season. Head coach Steve Coppell guided them to six wins at their home stadium, propelling them to the playoffs and eventually to the final.

4. ATK (2019-20) - ATK FC achieved a 75% home win rate during their memorable 2019-20 ISL season. They clinched their third ISL Cup victory under coach Antonio Habas, with their strong home record playing a crucial role in their success.

5. Bengaluru FC (2018-19) - Bengaluru FC boasted a 75% home win rate during the 2018-19 ISL season. Under coach Carlos Cuadrat, they remained unbeaten at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, finishing third in the league table.

These teams' remarkable home performances highlight the importance of home advantage in the ISL and showcase their ability to turn their home stadiums into fortresses.

WATCH OUT FOR

- Lallianzuala Chhangte:** Chhangte has been instrumental this season, contributing nine goals and six assists. His attacking threat and ability to create scoring opportunities make him a vital player for Mumbai City FC.
- Brandon Fernandes:** Fernandes has provided three goals and four assists this season. His playmaking ability and vision will be crucial for FC Goa's attacking efforts in the second leg.

amends in the second leg. For Mumbai City FC, maintaining their dominance over FC Goa is crucial. They have not lost to FC Goa in their last 11 meetings, keeping clean sheets in five of those matches. Additionally, they are close to reaching a milestone of 300 goals in the ISL, which would further solidify their status as a dominant force in the league.

FC Goa, on the other hand, is determined to overturn their first-leg defeat and secure a spot in the final. They have been impressive on the road, scoring in their last nine away matches, and a win in this match would validate their resilience and determination.

PLAYING TONIGHT

Mumbai City vs FC Goa, 7.30 pm; Live on Sports 18 Network & JioCinema

Cummings, Sahal strike to send Bagan into ISL final

DOWN ODISHA TO REACH SECOND STRAIGHT FINAL

SCOREBOX

MOHUN BAGAN SG 2
Jason Cummings 22', Sahal Abdul Samad 90+3'
ODISHA FC 0
Mohun Bagan SG won 3-2 on aggregate

AGENCIES

KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant emerged triumphant against the Odisha FC by 2-0 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata tonight to win the second leg of their semi-final fixture and become the first finalist of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season.

The Mariners produced a professional and clinical performance to defeat the Juggernauts by 3-2 on aggregate and storm into the summit clash of the competition for the second season in a row. Mohun Bagan Super Giant will now play the ISL final on May 4 at their home ground, i.e. the Salt Lake Stadium as they were the highest-ranked team from the league stages.

The Antonio Lopez Habas-coached side came into this match after a 2-1 loss to Odisha FC in the opening leg of their last-four match in Bhubaneswar. However, they set any concerns arising from that result aside in a contest that they dominated right from the beginning to the end, offering little to Odisha FC at the bastion of the Mariners in the City of Joy. Jason Cummings opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, whereas Sahal Abdul Samad sealed the game lock, stock, and barrel in the added time of the second half



Mohun Bagan SG's Sahal Abdul Samad scores in the stoppage time to confirm his team's spot in the ISL final.

MATCH STATS

46%	Possession	54%
19	Total shots	13
10	Shots on target	4
12	Fouls	8
2	Yellow cards	3
0	Red cards	0

Petratos, who has not been immune to producing magical moments aplenty in this campaign. His long-ranged effort was spilled by Odisha FC custodian and ex-Mariner Amrinder Singh. Like a fox in the box, Cummings jumped upon the ball and netted it home to get the opener under his belt.

Thereafter, the home side had several chances coming up, but there was a lack of decisiveness upfront to bury them and grab the victory with both hands. That moment arrived deep into the game courtesy of attacking midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad, who has endured an injury-ridden season campaign thus far.

Manvir Singh cut into the inside of the left flank and shot in a powerful low cross for Sahal, which the former Kerala Blasters FC player tried to tap in on first go. Amrinder managed to stop that effort but the deflection landed on Sahal's head, who then somehow scrapped it into the back of the net and steered the team to the grand finale.

to cap off a compelling victory by Habas' men.

The fact that the Mariners have a star-studded squad at their disposal needs no second telling. However, their Spaniard tactician has laudably managed to galvanise their potential and get them functioning as a cohesive collective unit in the last few months, the results of which are visible here. After becoming the Champions of the ISL 2023-24, Mohun Bagan Super Giant are now marching towards the ISL Cup with equal vigour with all their big stars being at the top of their game lately.

The groundwork of Cummings' goal was laid out by his striking counterpart Dimitrios

Active Youth drub Young Blood Seraulim 3-0

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Active Youth Soccobhatt Per Seraulim clinched a resounding 3-0 victory over Young Blood Seraulim in the Inter Seraulim Under-16 League football tournament organised by the United Sports Club of Seraulim, at Seraulim Panchayat Ground.

Right from the outset, Active Youth asserted their dominance, launching relentless attacks against their opponents. The breakthrough came in the 7th minute when Manglash Bennekappa unleashed a powerful shot that eluded the

goalkeeper's grasp.

The second half saw Active inflating their advantage with two quick goals courtesy of Istiyant Mohammed and Kaustok Mandal, leaving Young Blood Seraulim struggling to contain their onslaught.

In another exciting fixture of the day, S. Mini Mart emerged victorious over Cameroon Boys with a narrow 2-1 win. Ethan Fernandes and Valene Noronha found the back of the net for S Mini Mart, while Ashif Sheekh managed to pull one back for Cameroon Boys, though it wasn't enough to change the outcome of the match.

SC Davorlim in semis

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Hosts Sporting Club Davorlim entered the semi-finals of the 15th Davorlim Cup organised by Sporting Club Davorlim at Davorlim Panchayat ground by defeating Carmona Sports Club 4-0 on Sunday.

In an exciting quarter-final, Carmona started the match with a fast pace and tried to hit the target. Carmona came closer to scoring but Stanford Fernandes shot into the hands of Davorlim goalkeeper Francisco Colaco in the 7th minute.

On the other hand, Davorlim's Roysen sent a through pass to Milton Colaco whose powerful shot found the Carmona net in the 25th



minute. Before the half-time whistle, Ajay Raj of Davorlim scored with a powerful header.

In the second session, both Milton Colaco and Ajay Raj completed their brace in the 45th and 52nd minutes of play and made the issue safe for Sporting Club Davorlim. Martin Rocha presented the Man of the match prize to Milton Colaco of Sporting Club Davorlim.

Man City keep heat up on EPL leaders Arsenal

AGENCIES

LONDON

Manchester City took another step in their bid to win a fourth consecutive Premier League title with a 2-0 victory over relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest on Sunday, with Josko Gvardiol and Erling Haaland on target.

Pep Guardiola's men kept the pressure on leaders Arsenal, pulling to within a point of the Gunners -- who held on to win 3-2 at Tottenham Hotspur earlier in the day -- in the table with a game in hand.

"I think the most important

thing is to not think (about the title race), especially these moments, but take it day by day," Haaland told Sky Sports. "Honestly if you overthink, you're going to be crazy in your head, so relax now, enjoy, focus on the next one."

Forest had matched City in a nervous first half at the sundered City Ground before Gvardiol got the holders on the scoreboard with his second career league goal when he headed in Kevin De Bruyne's corner kick from the near post in the 32nd minute. Forest had only 10 men on the pitch at the time following an injury to Neco Williams.

IN SHORT >>

Maina SC secure quarters berth with 1-0 win

PANAJI: In a tense encounter at the Sankhali Municipality ground, Maina Sport Club Curtorim clinched a hard-fought 1-0 win over PVC Parra Association on Sunday to advance to the quarter-finals of the Eagle Sports Club's 50th Golden Jubilee All Goa Football Tournament, also known as the Late Musa Ali Aga Memorable Football Tournament. The event is sponsored by Sukur Aga and Roshan Sukur Aga. The solitary goal of the match came from the boot of Jossian Fernandes of Maina Sports Club, who capitalized on a precise pass from Jolishthan Rebello in the first half. Maina goalkeeper Prakash Joshi won the Man of the Match prize.

PSG squander chance to clinch Ligue 1 title

PARIS Saint-Germain squandered the chance to secure another Ligue 1 title on Saturday after playing out a 3-3 draw at home to struggling Le Havre in their last game before facing Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League semi-finals. PSG would have been officially confirmed as champions for a French record-extending 12th time, and a 10th in 12 seasons, with a win against a side who began the day in the relegation play-off place. However, in the end, they needed a 95th-minute goal by Goncalo Ramos just to salvage a draw after finding themselves 3-1 down in the second half -- although there is effectively no chance of them being caught at the top of the table now.

Inter continue Serie A title party

INTER Milan celebrated the Serie A title in front of their home fans on Sunday with a straightforward 2-0 win over 10-man Torino which will be followed by a parade and city centre party. Hakan Calhanoglu's second-half double sealed the three points at the San Siro, where on Monday Inter won their 20th league championship as the away team in a thrilling Milan derby. The 75,000 fans present at Sunday's on-pitch procession will be able to follow their team around Milan as Inter go on an open-topped bus parade which will finish in front of thousands at the Italian city's iconic Piazza del Duomo.

Senthilkumar enters Batch Open squash final

NATIONAL champion Velavan Senthilkumar brushed aside Hong Kong's Andes Ling to enter the final of the Batch Open squash tournament in Paris. Senthilkumar, who is ranked 58 in the world, won his semifinal match 11-2, 11-1, 11-6 in 22 minutes on Saturday night. The Indian will face Frenchman Melvil Scianimanco for the title. Senthilkumar had earlier defeated Jakub Solnicko of the Czech Republic in his quarterfinal match 11-5, 11-6, 11-2 in 37 minutes in the USD 12,000 PSA Challenger Tour event.

Nadal shines in Madrid win over De Minaur

RAFAEL Nadal avenged his defeat to Alex de Minaur from Barcelona with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 victory over the Australian on Saturday to extend his stay in Madrid on his final appearance at his home tournament but admitted he still "needs time" to return to his competitive peak. Nadal's farewell tour has pitted him against De Minaur twice in as many weeks but this time the result was reversed as the 22-time Grand Slam champion advanced to a third-round meeting with Argentina's Pedro Cachin. In front of a capacity crowd that included the King of Spain, Felipe VI, French football icon Zinedine Zidane, and Real Madrid winger Vinicius Junior, Nadal dug deep to dismiss the world number 11, despite admitting ahead of the tournament he was still struggling with numerous physical issues.

MotoGP: Bagnaia denies Marquez fairytale win

TWO-TIME defending world champion Francesco Bagnaia won his third successive Spanish MotoGP denying home favourite Marc Marquez his first win since 2021 in a thrilling race on Sunday. Bagnaia recorded just his second win of the season as he held on on his factory Ducati despite poleman Marquez's gargantuan efforts on his Ducati satellite Gresini bike.

Misal wins Bukkam single wicket cricket tournament

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Goa Ranji captain Darshan Misal defeated Tunish Sawkar in the final to emerge champion of the B G Bukkam Memorial single wicket cricket tournament played at SAG ground, Curchorem.

In all, top 16 cricketers were invited to the tournament. Darshan received a cash prize of Rs 25025 and a trophy while Tunish Sawkar had to be content with Rs 15025 and a trophy. The third place was bagged by Deepraj Gaonkar with a cash prize of Rs 10025 and a trophy. Earlier, the tournament was declared open by GCA President Vipul Phadke in the presence of Hon Secretary of GCA Rohan Gauns Dessai and MLA of Curchorem Nilash Cabral. Balkrishna Hodarkar was the chief guest and handed over the prizes in the presence of Rupesh Naik, GCA Jt Secretary, Sachin Bukam and Aydhoot Amnkar.

The results: Pre-quarters matches - Darshan Misal beat Mohit Redkar, Imran Mulla beat Aditya Suryavanshi, Veer Yadav beat Ishaan Gadekar, epaper.thegoan.net



The top three finishers at the B G Bukkam Memorial single wicket cricket tournament.

Tunish Sawkar beat Saish Sawant, Heramb Parab beat Manthan Khutkar, Deepraj Gaonkar beat Yash Kasvankar, Shantanu Nevgi beat Shubham Desai, Rahul Mehta beat Aryan Narvekar; Quarter-finals results - Tunish Sawkar beat Shantanu Nevgi, Rahul Mehta beat Imran Mulla, Deepraj Gaonkar beat Veer Yadav, Darshan Misal beat Heramb Parab; Semifinals- Tunish Sawkar beat Rahul Mehta, Darshan Misal beat Deepraj

Gaonkar. Final- Darshan Misal beat Tunish Sawkar.

Individual prizes: Highest individual score in an over - Heramb Parab, Maximum sixes in the tournament - Tunish Sawkar, Emerging talent of Curchorem - Saish Sawant & Imran Mulla, Best catch of the tournament - Satvik Naik, Best fielder of the tournament - Pi-yush Yadav, Best batsman of the tournament - Darshan Misal, Best bowler of the tournament - Tunish Sawkar.

Caetano into 45+, 55+ singles semis at Baale BPS Open 2024

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Caetano Fernandes took rapid strides in the ongoing Baale BPS Open 2024 at Margao, reaching the semifinals of the 45+ and 55+ singles' men's event, while also advancing to the finals of the 55+ men's doubles event in the tournament's veterans category.

Caetano reached the 55+ men's singles semifinals defeating Raju Paiginkar (6-1) and paired with Jude Cardozo to defeat Jose Lourenco and Basavaraj (6-0) in the 55+ men's doubles event.

In other matches held on Day 2 of the state ranking tournament being held at the BPS Sports Club courts, Kane Pereira, Joshua Cardozo and Pankaj Naik won their matches in the men's singles event against Aarav Kumar, Sauryabh Trivedi and Anup Sardesai, respectively, without losing a single game.

In other matches in the same event, Avadhut Palekar beat Ehrlick De Ataide (7-5), Sachin Ambre beat Amulya Sethi (6-4), Akhil Shirwaikar beat Rehana Diaz (6-4), Dun-



Caetano Fernandes in action during his 55+ men's singles match against Raju Paiginkar.

stan Dias beat Rajaram (6-2), Apoorv Bamba beat Joshua Cardozo (6-4), Siddharth Chaudhary beat Gaurang Nerurkar (6-3), Raoul Vas beat Sujit Sahoo (7-5), Punit Fadte beat Jason Pereira (6-1) and Jai Gill beat Kishor Metry (6-2).

In the 45+ men's doubles, Vikrant Karandikar/Vishal Gaurav beat Kishor Metry/Savio Vales (6-3) moved into

the semifinals, so did Ashwin Chandio/Mano Chhabra who beat Valinton Fernandes/ Jose Lourenco (6-0) to enter the semifinals. While Chandio and Chhabra will meet Karandikar/Vishal Gaurav, Sameer Kakodkar and Laxman Iyer will face Suresh and Sandeep Verlekar in the semifinals. In other matches in the same event, Ashok Borkar/Sagar Utagi beat Bhaskar Suryanarayan/Ninaad (6-3), Suresh/Sandeep Verlekar beat Vinod Chandra/Wilfred Mascarenhas (6-1), Sameer Kakodkar/Laxman Iyer beat Ashok Borkar/Sagar Utagi (6-4).

In the 45+ men's singles event, Ashwin Chandio beat Venctexa Burye (6-0) to enter the semis of the event, where he will face Caetano Fernandes in the semifinals.

Jude Cardozo beat Savio Vales (7-5), Suresh beat Basavaraj (6-4), Sameer Kakodkar beat Jose Lourenco (6-1) and Manoj beat Suresh (6-0) to advance in the men's 55+ singles event, while Sameer Kakodkar/Sandeep Verlekar beat Raju Paiginkar/Aman Gaonkar(6-2) (6-2) in a 55+ men's doubles match.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

KOHLI, JACKS POWER RCB TO CRUSHING WIN OVER TITANS

ENGLISH BATTER ECLIPSES INDIA STAR WITH 41-BALL 100 IN 201-RUN CHASE

SCOREBOX
 Royal Challengers Bengaluru 206 for 1 (Jacks 100*, Kohli 70*) beat Gujarat Titans 200 for 3 (Sai Sudharsan 84*, Shahrukh 58, Swapnil 1-23) by nine wickets

PTI
AHMEDABAD

Will Jacks slammed a sensational hundred while Virat Kohli upped his game in the middle overs as Royal Challengers Bengaluru outplayed Gujarat Titans by nine wickets in the IPL here on Sunday.

Kohli (70 not out of 44), whose approach in the middle overs was questioned in the previous game, employed the sweep shot against the spinners to make a statement before Jacks (100 not out off 41) cut loose to gun down the 201-run target with as many 24 balls to spare.

Jacks went berserk in what turned out to be the final over of the game, hammering as many as four sixes and four off Rashid Khan to close out the game much sooner than expected. The Englishman plundered as many as 10 sixes in his breathtaking effort.

Put in to bat, Shahrukh Khan (58 off 30) had made full use of his promotion in the batting order while Sai Sudharsan (84 not out off 49) stayed till the end to guide Gujarat Titans to 200 for three.

Titans introduced spin very early and Kohli was up to the task, collecting back to back sixes off left-arm spinner Ravi Sai Kishore to make his intent



Virat Kohli and Will Jacks finished things off with 24 balls to spare.

crystal clear.

He was particularly harsh towards another Afghan spinner Nour Ahmed, sweeping him at will before bringing up his fifty off 32 balls.

Thereafter, Kohli did not need to do much as Jacks put the Titans bowlers to sword.

RCB, who are enduring another tough season, picked up their third win in 10 games while Titans suffered their sixth loss in 10 matches.

The Faf du Plessis-led team seemed to have finally found some momentum, having picked a back to back win

on Sunday. Earlier, batting at number four, Shahrukh teamed up with Sudharsan to give Gujarat Titans a much needed push after a tepid start. The duo shared an 86-run stand off 45 balls.

RCB came out to bat in the scorching Ahmedabad heat with Glenn Maxwell returning to their playing eleven from a "mental and physical health" break.

Wriddhiman Saha (5 off 4) was dismissed early as the first over bowled by left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh. The

former India wicketkeeper tried to make room for an aerial hit over extra cover but ended up mistiming to Karn Sharma at third man.

Skipper Shubman Gill (16) was undone by the on-field brilliance from Cameron Green who ran towards his left to take a stunning catch at long-on off Maxwell.

With Sudharsan at the other end, Titans decided to do something different and sent Shahrukh ahead of the likes of Azmatullah Omarzai and David Miller.

The move worked as Shah-

HAPPY HUNTING

■ Kohli (70 not out off 44), whose approach in the middle overs was questioned in the previous game, employed the sweep shot against the spinners to make a statement before Jacks (100 not out off 41) cut loose to gun down the 201-run target with as many 24 balls to spare

■ Jacks went berserk in what turned out to be the final over of the game, hammering as many as four sixes and four off Rashid Khan to close out the game much sooner than expected. The Englishman plundered as many as 10 sixes in his breathtaking effort

rukh milked the spinners mainly in the cow corner region, hammering five sixes and three fours. He completed the half-century with a maximum over long-on off Green before Mohammed Siraj cleaned him up with a sharp yorker.

Miller (26 not out off 19) joined Sudharsan in the middle and two shared an unbeaten 69 run stand off 36 balls to push the team to a par score.

Sudharsan's second straight fifty plus score comprised eight fours and four sixes.

Gaikwad, Deshpande guide CSK to 78-run win over SRH

CHENNAI MOVE TO THIRD SPOT WITH HUGE WIN

SCOREBOX

Chennai Super Kings 212/3 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 98, Daryl Mitchell 52; Jaydev Unadkat 1-38) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad 134 in 18.5 overs (Tushar Deshpande 4-27, Mustafizur Rahman 2-19) by 78 runs

PTI

CHENNAI

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's belligerent 98 was complemented by a clinical bowling display, led by pacer Tushar Deshpande, as Chennai Super Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 78 runs in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Invited to bat, Gaikwad's valiant 54-ball knock was the driving force which propelled CSK to an imposing 212 for three. He was ably supported by Daryl Mitchell, who returned to form with a crucial 32-ball 52 before Shivam Dube's 20-ball 39 not out took CSK past the 200 mark.

In response, SRH's ultra-cautious batting approach backfired again as they couldn't recover from Deshpande's (4/27 in 3 overs) three-wicket burst with the new ball and the middle-overs squeeze to be all out for 134 in 18.5 overs as CSK snapped their two-game losing streak.

Following the win, CSK moved to the third spot with 10 points, same as Kolkata Knight Riders, Lucknow Super Giants and Delhi Capitals. SRH, who are also on 10 points, slipped to fourth after their fourth loss.

Chasing 213 to win, Travis Head (13) and Abhishek Sharma (15) made rapid starts but Deshpande got rid of the former with a slower wide ball



Tushar Deshpande celebrates after sending back in-form Abhishek Sharma.



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and then returned to remove impact sub Anmolpreet Singh with an outswinger on the stumps as the batter went for a golden duck. Abhishek was next caught at deep point as Deshpande broke their back,

leaving SRH at 40 for 3 in the fourth over.

Nitish Reddy (15) and Aiden Markram (32) tried to steady the ship but Ravindra Jadeja bamboozled the former with a bouncer, while Matheesha Pathirana produced a superb yorker to uproot the middle stump of the South African. At 85-5 in 10.5 overs, Heinrich Klaasen and Abdul Samad joined hands but runs were tough to come by as the bowlers executed their plans to perfectly. While Jadeja completed a superb spell of 4-0-22-1, Shardul Thakur kept bowling at wide outside off to frustrate the batters as CSK conceded just two boundaries in nine overs after the powerplay. With an improbable 104 needed off 30 balls, Klaasen, Samad, Pat Cummins and Shahbaz Ahmed all holed out as Mitchell claimed five catches in the outfield during the match.

Earlier, Gaikwad missed out on a successive hundred by a whisker but his 107-run stand with Mitchell was the cornerstone of CSK's innings. It is CSK's 35th 200-plus total, the most by any side in T20 cricket.

Kirsten, Gillespie named as new coaches by Pakistan

PTI
LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday appointed World Cup-winning Gary Kirsten as their head coach for ODIs and T20s, while former Australian pacer Jason Gillespie will take over that role in Test cricket.

Along with them, former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood was appointed as the assistant coach of the team across the formats. All appointments have been made for a duration of two years, and Naqvi said the coaches will not be subjected to evaluation before their term comes to an end.

"The appointment of (Gary) Kirsten and (Jason) Gillespie who are high-profile coaches shows how much value is given to the Pakistan cricket team and how much potential foreign coaches see in our



Gary Kirsten (L) and Jason Gillespie.

players," PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi said during a media conference. "We want to give the team the best facilities and that is why we have gone for Kirsten and Gillespie, he added.

Kirsten, who is currently the mentor of IPL side Gujarat Titans, is expected to take over from Pakistan's tour of England from May 22. Pakistan will play four T20s and from there the team will travel for the T20 World Cup in June.

"He is presently occupied in the IPL while Gillespie will join the team before the start

THE ROLES

■ The Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie to two-year terms as head coaches in white-ball and red-ball cricket, respectively

■ Kirsten will take charge of the Pakistan team immediately after completing his assignment in the Indian Premier League where he is serving as batting coach and mentor to 2022 champion Gujarat Titans

of our Test cricket schedule in August," Naqvi said. Asked if Kirsten and Gillespie would be available with the Pakistan team all the time he said the coaches will mostly be with the team and take their vacations as agreed in their contracts.

KKR way of resurgent Capitals

HOSTS LOOKING TO ADDRESS THEIR PROFLIGACY IN BOWLING

PTI

KOLKATA

A resurgent Delhi Capitals will look to exploit Kolkata Knight Riders' bowling vulnerabilities and ascend to top-four in the table during their Indian Premier League match here

IPL PREVIEW

on Monday.

With four wins in their last five matches, the Rishabh Pant-led side is gradually assembling their pieces and starting to look like a force to be reckoned with. On the other hand, the Gautam Gambhir-mentored side has endured three defeats in their last five matches with their profligacy in bowling hurting them badly.

Signed up as Lungi Ngidi's replacement, Aussie Jake Fraser-McGurk has proved to be their X-factor with his ferocious batting display at the

Signed up as Lungi Ngidi's replacement, Aussie Jake Fraser-McGurk has proved to be their X-factor with his ferocious batting display at the top. A natural power-hitter with superb hand-eye coordination, the 22-year-old has taken the IPL by storm scoring 247 runs in five matches at a strike-rate of 237.50. His brutal treatment of the otherwise sensational Jasprit Bumrah stands as a testimony of his skill-level. McGurk slammed a slower ball from the Mumbai Indians pacer for a six and it was the first time a batter lofted Bumrah for a first-ball six. The pacer conceded 18 runs

in his first over, the most by him in this season in a single over as DC overcame MI by 10 runs on Saturday. He made a 27-ball 84 against MI, and McGurk will relish the batting-friendly conditions at Eden Gardens where 523 runs, including a record 42 sixes, were scored between Punjab Kings and KKR. The PBKS on that occasion had scaled down a world record 262.

But DC's batting is not only about McGurk, the South African Tristan Stubbs also left everyone in awe with his astonishing power-hitting, smashing a 25-ball 48 not out against Mumbai. Pant is also making rapid progress with every match as the DC top-five in Fraser-McGurk, Abhishek Porel, Shai Hope, Pant and Stubbs will be a cause of concern for KKR bowling.

PLAYING TONIGHT

■ KKR vs DC, 7:30 pm; Live on Star Sports Network & JioCinema

IN SHORT >>

Archery WC: India men bag historic gold

INDIAN men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions South Korea in a historic win to land an Archery World Cup gold medal after 14 years, on Sunday. This triumph over the archery powerhouse in well over a decade also comes as a boost to their chances of securing a berth in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Shooter Maheshwari secures Olympic quota

SHOOTER Maheshwari Chauhan on Sunday sealed India's 21st quota place for the Paris Olympics by winning a silver medal in the women's skeet event on the concluding day of the ISSF Final Olympic Qualification Championship Shotgun in Doha. Maheshwari, competing in her maiden ISSF Final, lost 3-4 to Chile's Francisca Crovetto Chadid in a shoot-off for gold, after both were tied at 54 hits in the 60-shot final.

India women seal Uber Cup quarter-final spot

ISHARANI Baruah and Anmol Kharb shone bright as the Indian women's team entered the quarterfinals of the Uber Cup badminton tournament with a lopsided 4-1 win over Singapore in the second tie of group A, on Sunday. Asian champions India, who had defeated Canada 4-1 in the opening tie, produced another fine show as they recovered from the opening match loss.

India beat B'desh in women's T20I

WIN FIRST MATCH BY 44 RUNS

SCOREBOX

India 145 for 7 (Yastika 36, Shafali 31, Rabeya 3-23) beat Bangladesh 101 for 8 (Sultana 51, Renuka 3-18, Vastrakar 2-25) by 44 runs

PTI

SYLHET

Pace duo of Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar shared five wickets as India produced a clinical bowling display to outclass Bangladesh by 44 runs in the opening women's T20I here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia provided solidity in the middle order but India missed the late flourish to manage 145 for seven. The hosts must have fancied their chances of chasing down the total but Indian bowlers led by Renuka delivered the goods to limit Bangladesh to 101 for 8.

Skipper Nigar Sultana waged a lonely battle with a 51 off 48 but didn't get any support from the other end. For India, Renuka was the leader of the bowling unit as she trapped Dilara Akter (4)



Yastika Bhatia top scored for India with 36.

in her third ball before cleaning up Sobhana Mostary (6) in 5th over.

Experienced spinner Deepti Sharma then removed Murshida Khatun (13) LBW, while Vastrakar rapped Fahima Khatun (1) on the pads in 7th over to leave the hosts at 30 for 4. Radha Yadav too tossed one up to deceive Shorna Akter (11), while Renuka returned to get rid of Rabeya Khan (2). Shreyanka Patil too joined the party, sending back Nahida Akter (9), before Sultana fell to Vastrakar in the final over.

Interest in hosting Olympics 'never so high', says IOC boss

AGENCIES

LAUSANNE

Despite threats from climate change, AI-enhanced doping or competition from e-sports, the boss of the International Olympic Committee believes the future has never looked so bright for his sports movement.

Thomas Bach, a 70-year-old German fencer, has run the Switzerland-based guardian of the Olympic Games since 2013 when interest in hosting the event was near rock-bottom after repeated scandals over costs and corruption.

Its diminished appeal was clear at the time of bidding for the 2024 and 2028 Summer Olympics when there were only two candidates, Paris and Los Angeles, who divided the honours between themselves.

Since then, the 2032 Games have been awarded to Brisbane, Australia, and Bach said in an interview at IOC head-

quarters on Friday that there were "double-digit" numbers of countries in the running for 2036.

"We have never been in such a favourable position. We have never seen such a high interest in hosting the Olympic Games," he said on Friday from his offices that overlook Lake Geneva.

After a string of Games in Western democracies, 2036 could be an opportunity for Saudi Arabia, sole candidate for the 2032 FIFA World Cup; Qatar, a losing candidate for 2032; Indonesia, or India.

"We are now 12 years away from these Games, so it is way too early to comment on any of these interests," Bach replied when asked about Saudi Arabia and Qatar, whose human rights records would make them contested destinations.

Bach attributes the revival of interest in hosting the Olympics to reforms undertaken on his watch, which have sought



There are "double-digit" numbers of countries in the running for 2036 Olympics, including India.

to put an end to the wasteful spending that has near-bankrupted several host cities in the past. Instead of oversized and gleaming new stadiums and facilities that often fall empty afterwards, the IOC now encourages the use of existing or temporary infrastructure.

An estimated 96 per cent of the sport during Paris

2024, which begins on July 26, will take place in existing or temporary locations, while LA 2028 might reach 100 per cent. "Paris is the first Olympic Games which is absolutely in line with our Olympic agenda reforms from start to finish," Bach added.

As a result, French organisers claim that their event will

be responsible for around half the carbon emissions of previous editions in London 2012 and Rio in 2016.

Critics, such as environmental research group Carbon Market Watch, commend the efforts to improve but remain sceptical that the Games can ever be sustainable. "The most significant factor affecting the games' environmental footprint is its enormity," a report from the group stated in mid-April.

Bach acknowledges that global heating is an increasing challenge, above all for the snow-dependent Winter Games but also the much larger Summer version. He confirmed that in the future, the Summer Olympics might have to move from their traditional slot in July and August to the cooler autumn months -- as the 2022 football World Cup did in Qatar.

"The international sports calendar may look very differ-

ent from the one we are used to now," he said.

He also stressed the importance of the ongoing revolution in artificial intelligence, which led the IOC to unveil a strategy last week to harness the computer technology to help athletes. But he warned too of the potential downside -- of AI-powered medical advances enabling even more sophisticated cheating. "I'm not a prophet, but when you look at the combination of AI and biochemistry, you can arrive at a rather dystopian conclusion of what this could mean... to improve the performance of an individual," he said.

The development of e-sports is also creating a growing challenge for eyeballs, particularly among young people. "I don't think that you will see e-sports events at the Olympic Games, but you may see very soon its own Olympic e-sports Games," he said.