

THE GOAN



MONDAY MAY 13, 2024 12 pages | PRICE ₹ 10 PANAJI | MARGAO GOA | VOLUME IX, NO.326 RNI: GOAENG/2015/65729 E | V | E | R | Y | D | A | Y

GOA
Questions over plugging rainwater infiltration in sewerage line **2**

GOA
Mapusa's battle against encroachment: Illegal biz back despite prior crackdown **3**

INFO
Natural body butters to take care of your dry skin **10**

SPORTS
RCB beats DC by 47 runs to stay alive in IPL playoffs race **12**

Shiroda man drowns during fishing trip

PONDA: In an unfortunate incident, a man who had gone for fishing drowned in the Zuari river on Sunday. The incident occurred when Sandeep Durbhatkar from Karai-Shiroda had gone for fishing with his friend at around 7.30 am. After a while Sandeep lost his balance and fell into the river. His friend who was nearby, managed to pull him out with the help of other locals. He was later rushed to the Shiroda Health Centre but doctors declared him 'brought dead'. Ponda police conducted the panchanama and later shifted his body to the South Goa District hospital for post mortem. Police Inspector Tushar Lotlikar is investigating the case.

IN SHORT >>

IMD extends rain forecast for 2 days

PANAJI: The Indian Meteorological Department Goa has extended its earlier May 9 to 12 forecast of light rain and thunderstorms by an additional two days up to May 14. It said, it may rain in many parts of Goa on Monday and Tuesday even as it also extended the 2-day 'yellow alert'. >> See **pg 3**

32-year old man stabbed in Revora

MAPUSA: A 32-year-old resident of Revora identified as Alistair Pulickal was stabbed by his neighbour late Sunday evening, Colvale police said. The incident, believed to be fueled by past enmity, occurred as Pulickal was returning home after attending a football match. >> See **pg 2**

2 hospitals, airport get bomb threats

NEW DELHI: Delhi Fire Services said two city hospitals and IGI Airport received bomb threats through email, 11 days after over 150 schools in Delhi-NCR received a bomb scare. The bomb threats were reported from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Burari Hospital and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, a senior official said. >> See **pg 7**

Nijjar killing: Fourth Indian arrested

WASHINGTON: A fourth Indian has been arrested by Canadian authorities in connection with the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a week after police arrested three Indians linked with the high-profile case.

WEATHER >>

Max: 34 C
Min: 25 C
Humidity: 79%

TIDES

Low: 07.55 21.12
High: 00.59 15.24

India votes in Phase-4 of LS elections today

96 SEATS UP FOR GRABS | 1,717 CANDIDATES IN FRAY

PTI

NEW DELHI
The electoral fate of several prominent candidates like Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Union minister Giriraj Singh, TMC's firebrand leader Mohua Moitra and AIM-IM's Asaduddin Owaisi will be decided on Monday when polling will be held in 96 Lok Sabha constituencies across 10 states and Union Territories in the fourth phase of the general elections.

Voting will simultaneously be held in all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, which is witnessing a triangular contest involving ruling YSRC, the Congress-led INDIA bloc and the NDA, comprising the BJP, Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP).

As many as 28 legislative assembly seats of Odisha are also going to polls in this phase.

PROMINENT CANDIDATES IN FRAY

- Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan of TMC (both from Baharampur, WB)
- Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni eyeing hat-trick from Kheri
- Mahua Moitra seeking re-election from Krishnanagar
- Film star-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha seeking re-election from Asansol
- AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi contesting from Hyderabad
- Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav contesting from Kannauj

A total of 1,717 candidates are in the fray in the Lok Sabha seats and more than 19 lakh polling officials have been deployed at 1.92 lakh polling stations for the over 17.70 crore eligible voters, including 8.73 women, in this round of the seven-phase polls.

Among the keenly watched contests are those involving former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav (Kan-

nauj, UP) and Union ministers Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar), Nityanand Rai (Ujjainpur, Bihar) and Raosaheb Danve (Jalna, Maharashtra).

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan of TMC (both from Baharampur, WB), BJP's Pankaja Munde (Beed, Maharashtra), AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi (Hyderabad, Telangana)

Normal to below normal temp likely, says IMD

NEW DELHI: Normal to below normal temperatures are likely in areas going to polls on Monday, according to IMD. In view of the hot weather and people's reluctance to step out, EC has increased the poll timing in some seats.

and Andhra Pradesh Congress president YS Sharmila (Kadapa) are among the prominent candidates.

Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni, whose son is an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, is eyeing a hat-trick from Kheri (UP), while TMC's Mahua Moitra, is seeking re-election from Krishnanagar in West Bengal.

Gas leak snuffs out life of youth at Vasco, three others in GMC

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO
In a tragic incident early Sunday, a gas cylinder leak at Fakir Galli in Vasco, claimed the life of one person while three others landed in hospital and are undergoing treatment at GMC, Bambolim.

According to information a group of eight people had come to Goa from Ghaziaabad-Varanasi in search of work. They rented two rooms at Fakir Galli in Shantinagar. Four of them were staying in one room while the other 4 were in another room.

Unfortunately on Sunday, when one group woke up they found their colleagues had not woken up and knocked the door but there was no response. After numerous attempts, they alerted residents and forcibly opened the door and found all 4 unconscious and the room filled with LPG gas.

The police and the fire department officials were immediately summoned who rushed them to Chicalim Sub District Hospital. While Sanjay Bind (21) was declared 'brought dead', the other three were later rushed to GMC where one is critical.

16 KTC workers on hunting jaunt at Netravali detained

5 LIVE CARTRIDGES, HATCHET, AXE SEIZED

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI
Forest officials detained 16 employees of the State-owned Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) on suspicion of being on a hunting trip at Saljini in Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary.

Five live cartridges, a hatchet, an axe and cooking utensils have been seized from them. The sixteen KTCL employees, including drivers and porters from the Sanguem area, were moving to Saljini in the Netravali sanctuary area in batches at around 9.30 pm on Saturday night.

Their movements alerted the forest department officials on duty leading them to suspect that the group was headed to the sanctuary to hunt wild animals and then hold a party.

A forest department team was then in hot pursuit of the suspected hunting party and detained 16 persons. Two oth-

Inquiry on, says Gaokar

PANAJI: Deputy Conservator of Forests Aniket Gaokar confirmed the incident and said that an inquiry has been initiated. He also confirmed the detention of the KTCL personnel and that all will be investigated.

ers succeeded in escaping, the forest officials suspect.

From those detained, the forest officials recovered five live cartridges, a hatchet, an axe and utensils like cups, plates, etc, besides cooking utensils.

However, hunting guns are yet to be recovered by the forest department team.

The group was brought to the Netravali office of the wildlife division late at night and a case was registered against them under the

>Continued on **P7**

DHS taps churches, mosques in bid to tackle dengue threat

DOCTORS AT UHCs, PHCs, CHCs ASKED TO START GROUND ACTION ON MALARIA TOO

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI
Stung by the rising graph of dengue cases each year, the vector-borne disease cell of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) is readying to tackle the menace much before the monsoon hits this year and is banking heavily on the involvement of local communities in the battle.

In late April and early May, the DHS approached parish priests in Panaji and St Inez to make announcements during Sunday liturgical services about the do's and don'ts to check mosquito breeding and thus tackle dengue.

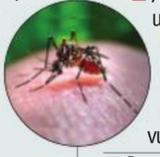
"We also approached Muslim religious leaders to make similar announcements at Mosques," Dr Kalpana Mahatme, who heads the DHS' national vector-borne disease control programme, said.

Dr Mahatme said temple managements too have been approached but Hindus worship individually and not as a community so announcements are not that effective as they are in churches and mosques.

"Last year we did get significant help from local bodies,

A STITCH IN TIME...

- DHS has approached parish priests in Panaji and St Inez to make announcements during Sunday services about do's and don'ts to check mosquito breeding
- Anti-larval measures, cleanliness drives and fogging operations to be carried out particularly in vulnerable locales
- Dengue graph has been steadily rising with almost 450 confirmed cases last year
- Muslim religious leaders have also been urged to make similar announcements at mosques



including providing us with staff, to carry out our awareness and mosquito breeding prevention measures across the State. However, we need the local population (community) to join in the efforts if we are to check and eventually eliminate dengue," Dr Mahatme said.

Meanwhile, doctors in-charge of Urban Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres have already been issued instructions to commence ground action on measures to tackle dengue and also malaria.

Anti-larval measures, >Continued on **P7**

91 cases of new Covid variant in M'rashttra; US infections rise

AGENCIES

MUMBAI
Maharashtra has recorded 91 instances of the new Covid-19 Omicron sub-variant KP.2, which has surpassed the previously dominant JN.1 variant and is now fueling infections in several countries.

Pune reported 51 cases, and Thane recorded 20 cases of KP.2 sub-variant. This new strain was first identified in January and is currently the dominant variant in the US.

Apart from Pune and Thane, seven cases each were identified in Amravati and Aurangabad. Additionally, Solapur had two cases, while Ahmednagar, Nashik, Latur, and Sangli each reported one instance.

KP.2 is a descendant of JN.1, which held prominence as the primary Covid strain by the end of 2023.

Dr Rajesh Karyakarte, the State's genome sequencing coordinator, said by March and April, KP.2 had become predominant strain in the region. However, there hasn't been a corresponding increase in hospitalisations.

In March, Maharashtra experienced a slight increase in cases, with an average of around 250 detections, which is likely attributed to the spread of the KP.2 variant.

More worms found in tap water at Mandur, supply disconnected

THE GOAN | NETWORK

OLD GOA
Close on the heels of AAP leader Prof Ramrao Wagh slamming authorities for delay in action on water contamination at Dhaktem Bhat-Dongrim, more worms were found in the tap water thereby prov-

ing Wagh right in expressing fears over continuance of water supply in the area.

And this time the worms were found in the household of Gauda family on Saturday evening.

The incident forced authorities to disconnect water supply to the area and water

was supplied through water tankers.

Speaking to The Goan about the latest incident, Mandur sarpanch Prashant Naik informed that he came to know of worms being found in Gauda's household only at 10 pm on Saturday night.

>> See **pg 5**

Top medical body exposes sneaky side of food labels

PTI

NEW DELHI

Food labels on packaged items can be misleading, apex health research body ICMR has said stressing that consumers should read the information carefully to make informed and healthy choices.

It also pointed out that sugar-free foods may be loaded with fats, while packed fruit juices may contain only 10 per cent fruit pulp.

In its recently issued dietary guidelines, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said health claims on packaged food are designed to catch the consumer attention and convince them that the product is healthy.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: LABELLING CONUNDRUM

- **FRUIT JUICE:** Any food item with even a small amount of fruit is allowed to state it is made with real fruit pulp or juice... But the product claiming to have real fruit may have added sugar and other additives
- **MADE WITH WHOLE GRAIN:** These words could

be misinterpreted... Such a statement does not necessarily imply that the food items are not tertiary or ultra processed

■ **ORGANIC:** When a food label says "organic", it may simply mean that it is free of all artificial preservatives, flavours and

colours and that the food ingredients are free from pesticides and chemical fertilizers

■ **SUGAR-FREE FOOD:** These may be loaded with fats, refined cereals and even hidden sugars and would imply high glycemic index and high calories

"Though the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has strict norms, the information presented in labels could be misleading," the dietary guidelines for Indians issued by the Hyderabad

based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) under the apex health research body said.

Giving some examples, the NIN said a food product can be called "natural" if it doesn't have added colours and fla-

vours or artificial substances and goes through minimal processing.

"This term is often used rather loosely. It is often used by manufacturers to identify one or two natural ingredients

in the mix and this can be misleading," it said, urging people to read the label, specifically the ingredients and other information carefully to cross-check the claims.

The NIN presented some examples of statements on labels that could be misleading.

For the claim "real fruit or fruit juice", the NIN said that according to the FSSAI regulation, any food item with even a small amount, for example, fruit juices containing only 10 or less percent of fruit added to a product is allowed to state that the product is made with real fruit pulp or juice.

But the product claiming to have real fruit may have added sugar and other additives with only 10% actual fruit pulp.

जालिम®
लोशन

दाद, खाज की खुजली एवं एक्जिमा में तुरंत आराम

For Orders Scan QR Code

www.zalimlotion.in | amazon | meesho | Flipkart | TATA 1mg

Questions over plugging rainwater infiltration in line as authorities rush to complete sewerage works in Margao

MADGAVKARS KEEP FINGERS CROSSED, HOPE SIDCGL, PWD HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE JOB TO PLUG LINES

GUILHERME ALMEIDA
THE GOAN | MARGAO

The Sewerage Infrastructure Development Corporation of Goa Ltd (SIDCGL) is rushing with pending sewerage works along the Margao fly-over road before the onset of monsoon.

Reason: Underground sewerage works cannot be executed during the monsoons and that the SIDCGL or the PWD will have to wait till the monsoons to retreat to resume sewerage works around November-December.

What about the existing underground sewerage line? Is the line free from rain water infiltration? Has the line undergone any testing post-monsoons till date to clear the blockages, if any? And, will the sewage chambers no longer resemble as water fountains when monsoon finally sets in and the city is hit by a heavy downpour in a month from now?

Well, these and other questions remain unanswered as Madgavkars only hope that both the SIDCGL and the PWD have carried out their job to plug rain water infiltrations into the underground sewerage line post-monsoons.

In the past, the SIDCGL and the PWD were involved in a blame game, with the SIDCGL pushing the buck on the PWD



File photo of a sewage manhole resembling like water fountains in Margao during the heavy downpour raising questions on rainwater infiltration.

STATE OF AFFAIRS

■ Ex-PWD Minister Nilesch Cabral had stressed on the need to undertake the work of testing of the underground line after large scale infiltration of the rain water during the last monsoons

■ After Cabral's exit, the fate of the proposal to rope in an agency to find out the infiltration points and plug the same remains unknown

over the maintenance of the underground sewerage line. The PWD, on the other hand, had insisted that the SIDCGL had never tested the line before it was handed over to the department for the maintenance.

In fact, a former senior PWD official had been categorical in saying that the PWD's role

in the maintenance of the underground line comes into play when the chambers are choked with debris. "Here is a case wherein rain water infiltration has been rampant, suggesting that the underground line needs urgent testing to ascertain the infiltration points," remarked the former PWD official.

NGO raises accountability in sewerage infra

MARGAO: Margao-based NGO Shadow Council of Margao has questioned whether anyone is bothered to ensure quality work when crores of rupees from the public exchequer goes into various tenders for laying of sewerage network lines.

SCM convenor Savio Coutinho told The Goan on Sunday that the SCM has been consistently pointing out to the substandard works executed by the sewerage department contractors over the years. "Faulty work at the time of execution has been made known to the department engineers on several occasions. Video evidence has also been shown to this effect, but for very obvious reasons, the department has to remain mute to complaints as these contractors have taken care of the 'bosses' in advance," Coutinho charged.

He said the outcome of the substandard works executed results into seepage of outside soil into the network lines, and eventually brings about sewage fountains at dozens of locations all over the town.

Just as the High Court is hearing the Saipem lake pollution petition, Coutinho pointed out that citizens would appreciate if the court orders any inquiry into the reasons for the man-hole chambers turning into sewage fountains, as eventually, even if the entire city is connected to the sewerage network, a new source of pollution will have to be dealt with in future – the overflowing manhole chambers.

Incidentally, ex-PWD Minister Nilesch Cabral had stressed on the need to undertake the work of testing of the underground line after large scale infiltration of the rain water during the last monsoons. After Cabral's exit, the fate of the proposal to rope in an agency to find out the infiltration points and plug the same remains unknown.

In fact, overflowing sewage chambers during the

monsoons have become an annual feature in the commercial capital with a number of chambers resembling sewage mixed with rain water, posing health hazard to the inhabitants.

Sadly, neither the government nor the Powers that be controlling the city have displayed any urgency in plugging the rain water infiltration and cap the threat of health hazard posed by the overflowing sewage chambers.

Concerns raised over blockages in chambers around MMC building



Sewage water along the Margao Municipal building passage last monsoons. (right) The sewage chambers still packed with concrete, throwing up questions whether the line has been checked for blockages.

MARGAO: When the city was hit by back flow of sewage water last monsoons, the Margao Municipal building passage literally resembled a sewage cesspool, posing nuisance and a health hazard to the citizens.

Sewage water gushed out of a couple of sewage chambers around the Municipal building, bringing to the fore the issue of water infiltration into the underground line.

After days of nuisance when raw sewage was strewn along the MMC building passage, both the Margao Municipal Council and the PWD, Sewerage

fixed the issue by packing the sewage manholes with concrete after the issue found a mention on the floor of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

A visit to the MMC passage and the sewage chambers on the road behind the MMC building would testify that concrete was used to pack the chambers to prevent overflowing, throwing up a simple question – have the PWD checked the underground line laid around the Margao Municipal building for any blockages to ensure the overflowing chambers do not come back to haunt

the citizens in the ensuing monsoons.

A Margao Municipal official pointed out that the issue falls in the domain of the PWD or the SIDCGL since testing of the underground line or removal of blockages falls under their purview.

"The sewage water that gushed out from the MMC sewage chamber was actually the back flow of sewage water due to the blockage of the underground line. We also hope the PWD has cleared all blockages from the underground line," remarked a senior MMC officer.

Passport revocation issue has been resolved in HC: NGO

SAYS MAY 6 ORDER CLEARLY STATES MEA/MHA WILL GRANT OCI STATUS TO APPLICANTS AS PER APRIL 4 CIRCULAR

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Goans for Goa (GFG) has said that the NGO is not unduly worried about the reports of the MEA corrigendum on OCI status, saying the matter is already resolved in the High Court, with the May 6 High Court order clearly stating that the MEA/MHA will grant OCI status to applicants as per the guidelines set by the MEA circular dated April 4, 2024.

GFG convenor Kennedy Afonso reminded that the MEA circular of 04/04/2024 states that all revoked passport holders will be granted OCI status based on the revoked passport order.

"If there was a Corrigendum to the earlier circular of 04/04/2024, the advocate appearing for the MEA/MHA and the government should have brought this matter to the notice of the High Court on hearing held on 6 May, 2024, six days after the corrigendum was issued," he said.

He added that the government lawyer had only showed the MEA circular of 4th April 2024 stating that all revoked passport holders will be issued OCI based cards on the revoked passport order. "Based on this circular, and on their own analysis of the case, the High Court

Double-engine govt had no intention in giving relief to Goans, says Vijai

MARGAO: Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai has said it's now abundantly clear that the double-engine government had no intention of bringing any relief to the thousands of Goans applying for OCI cards.

The MEA's earlier office memorandum which Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had called 'great news' has now turned to 'horrible news' with the MEA passing the buck to the Home Ministry.

"Goa elections are over, BJP U-turns begin. Will the CM now call up everyone at the Centre he's earlier thanked, and register his protest on behalf of Goans? Or should Goans take this event also as yet another example of the habitual insensitivity and chronic insincerity that define BJP Goa and its leaders," Sardesai said.

judges has specifically passed the order that as per the MEA circular, revoked passport holders will be issued a OCI status upon producing a revoked certificate.

"Therefore the corrigendum of 30th April 2024 has no significance as GFG totally relies on the order of the High Court and the MEA/MHA has to comply within 4 weeks or it will amount to contempt of court," Kennedy said.

He, however, said the corrigendum exposes the fact that the MEA has not been applying its mind properly to this issue, and that the MEA/MHA and the government are not working in tandem, to resolve the issues of the people, probably

due to inter dept rivalries, and game of one-upmanship. "If the circular of 04/04/2024 was not approved by the MHA why was it released to the RPOs, by the MEA? What purpose did it solve? None," he added.

Saying that the revoked passport holders have suffered enough mental trauma for the last 18 months, Kennedy has appealed to the MEA/MHA to resolve their inter department squabbles and focus on giving relief to the people, who has been made to suffer for the 18 months unnecessarily, by denying them the right to apply for OCI, despite them being entitled to OCI through naturalisation.

BJP cheated Goans, says Yuri on promise to resolve issue

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Congress has slammed the ruling BJP for cheating Goans on the issue of OCI, asserting the INDIA bloc government will resolve the issue in June.

Asserting that once again jumlas of BJP stands exposed with Ministry of External Affairs backing out on its earlier memorandum creating confusion over OCI registration, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemo said that giving hardships and mental torture to citizens is in the DNA of BJP. He said the INDIA government will resolve this issue after coming to power in June.

Reacting to the corrigendum issued by Ministry of External Affairs stating, "It is under consideration of Home Ministry to accept 'Revocation Certificate' as an alternative in lieu of Surrender Certificate of Indian Passport to grant OCI cards, Yuri Alemo said BJP has cheated Goans.

"It is noticed time and again that BJP always gives step motherly treatment to seafarers and Goans working abroad. BJP has always insulted and abused our own Goans who work abroad to earn their livelihood, claimed Yuri. He demanded that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant who was prompt to thank the Central government after the memorandum was issued on 4th April 2024 should now make government's position clear.



BEATING THE HEAT: Thousands of people descended on the world famous Colva beach to beat the sultry heat on Sunday even as some parts of the State received pre-monsoon showers. Santosh Mirajkar

Man stabbed in Revora, one detained

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

Late Sunday evening, a 32-year-old resident of Revora, identified as Alistair Pulickal, was stabbed in an alleged attack by his neighbour, according to Colvale Police reports.

The incident, believed to be fueled by past enmity, occurred as Pulickal was returning home after attending a local football match.

The victim sustained serious injuries and was initially transported to North Goa District Hospital, Mapusa, before being shifted to the Goa Medical College, Bambolim, for further medical care.

Family members of the victim expressed shock over the incident, highlighting the sudden and violent nature of the attack.

Colvale Police have detained one individual in connection with the stabbing, and investigations into the matter are ongoing.

Further details regarding the motive and circumstances surrounding the incident are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

Farmers net bumper catch of fresh water fish at Mai Tollem

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

S miles lit the faces of farmers of Mai Tollem in Curtorim village as they netted a good harvest of fresh water fish on Sunday.

The incident, believed to be fueled by past enmity, occurred as Pulickal was returning home after attending a local football match.

The victim sustained serious injuries and was initially transported to North Goa District Hospital, Mapusa, before being shifted to the Goa Medical College, Bambolim, for further medical care.

Family members of the victim expressed shock over the incident, highlighting the sudden and violent nature of the attack.

Colvale Police have detained one individual in connection with the stabbing, and investigations into the matter are ongoing.

Further details regarding the motive and circumstances surrounding the incident are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.



Fish harvesting by the farmers of Mai Tollem and the bumper harvest of fish. Santosh Mirajkar

Mai Tollem to lay their hands of the freshwater fish. A farmer Rozamo Azavedo told the media that unlike the past, the farmers now harvest the fish after releasing the water.

"We used to auction the fish harvesting, but the practice has been discontinued since

the last couple of years. Our main interest is in agriculture. Pisciculture is secondary for the farmers. Our committee members have been putting in hard work in the interest of agriculture. We have put new breed of fish with the help of government departments," he said.

Unknown person booked for impersonating Capt Viriato

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Fatorda police have registered a FIR against unknown person for allegedly impersonating INDIA Alliance candidate Captain Viriato Fernandes by circulating doctored voice clips on the social media during the height of electioneering for the May 7 election for the South Goa Seat.

A complaint to this effect by lodged with the Fatorda police by the Congress party. Based on the complaint, the Fatorda police have registered a case of cheating and impersonation against unknown person.

Miscreants target Chinchinim club, decamp with trophies and cash

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

Unknown miscreants targeted the Our Lady of Fatima Sports and Cultural Club, Baida in Chinchinim village by lifting away the trophies, besides decamping with cash from the club premises and damaging the goal posts and nets.

A complaint to this effect has been lodged with the Cuncolim police by the club committee. The incident came to light in the morning when the club members had come to clean the ground.

Club President Rosario Dias told the media that miscreants targeted the club house last night when unknown persons

THE THEFT

■ Miscreants targeted the club house Saturday night when unknown persons ransacked the cupboards to lift away the winners and runners-up trophies stored inside

■ The cash stacked inside the cupboard, generated through the Housie has also been lifted away along with some documents. The miscreants also damaged the goal-posts and the nets

ransacked the cupboards to lift away the winners and runners-up trophies stored inside. "The cash stacked inside the cupboard, generated through the Housie has also been lifted away along with some documents. The miscreants have also damaged the goalposts and the nets," he said.

Saying that club had pur-

chased the winners and runners-up trophies since the football finals are scheduled on the day coinciding with the feast, Rosario said a similar incident had taken place in the year 2022. "We have lodged a complaint with the Cuncolim police. The Cuncolim police is investigating into the incident," he said.

Pitiable condition of Mapusa roads raises concerns ahead of monsoon

PUBLIC SAFETY AT RISK AS REPAIR WORK OF ROADS IS DELAYED

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

As the monsoon season looms on the horizon, the Mapusa civic body braces for potential chaos as key roads remain in a state of disrepair, posing significant risks to both pedestrians and motorists.

Several thoroughfares, including those in Angod, market area, Gaunsavaddo, Peddem, and other areas, are currently marred by trenches and uneven surfaces, stemming from recent underground electricity cable installation work.

Residents and business owners alike are voicing their frustrations over the lack of action from authorities to address these pressing issues.

Pratik Shirodkar, a shop-owner in Tali-wada, Mapusa, lamented the sloppy execution of the underground cabling project, highlighting the frequent need for road re-excavation and the ensuing hazards posed to two-wheeler riders.

Laura D'Sa, proprietor of Popular Pharmacy in Angod, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the dual challenges



The trenches that were dug up across the roads to lay the underground power cables have made life miserable of motorists in Mapusa. This is one such road stretch from Vileenna Hotel to the church at Angod, Mapusa. (Right) A key road that was dug up for underground cabling is yet to be repaired at Altinho, Mapusa.



Pics: Agnelo Pereira

of uneven roads and pervasive dust pollution, which have made daily operations exceedingly difficult for local businesses.

"The situation is dreadful. Ever since the roads were excavated for cable work, we've been inundated with issues. Not only are the roads uneven, but the dust pollution is unbearable. We're constantly wiping down our counters and merchandise every five minutes just to keep up with the fine dust creeping into our premises," lamented D'Sa.

Moreover, disruptions to water pipelines during the cable installation process have

further exacerbated the plight of residents, who now find themselves contending with inadequate water supply.

The condition of Mapusa's municipal market is equally distressing, with patch-up work on roads proving to be haphazard and substandard.

Concrete slabs covering drains have been haphazardly placed, posing additional risks to public safety.

Despite assurances from municipal authorities, concerns remain regarding the timely completion of road repairs.

Narayan Ratwad, an ex-councillor and resident of

Khorlim, Mapusa, expressed disappointment over the slow progress, emphasizing the urgency of completing repairs before the onset of monsoon.

In response to mounting criticism, a senior engineer from the Mapusa civic body outlined the division of responsibilities between the Department of Electricity and the Public Works Department (PWD).

While the PWD is tasked with repairing roads excavated by the electricity department, progress has been sluggish, with completion estimates falling short of public

expectations.

With monsoon just a fortnight away, the urgency of addressing Mapusa's road infrastructure woes cannot be overstated.

Failure to expedite repairs not only jeopardizes public safety but also threatens to disrupt essential services and impede economic activity in the region.

As residents anxiously await tangible solutions, the onus lies squarely on municipal authorities to prioritize the well-being of their constituents and ensure that Mapusa's roads are fit for purpose ahead of the impending deluge.



Thousands of devotees throng Shirgao for Lairai Devi zatra

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

On the occasion of the famed Shri Devi Lairai zatra in Shirgao, where lakhs of devotees worship the goddess, devotees have been present at the Lairai temple throughout the day on Sunday.

From early morning, thousands of devotees performed Devdarshan as well as 'Homkund' rounds and prayed at the feet of the Goddess for their happy life.

The Dhonds arrived at Shirgao in the morning and bathed in the holy pool. Dhonds were seen wearing a garland of mogra flowers around the neck and by dancing hailed the goddess.

A huge crowd of devotees was seen on the road from Assnora to Shirgao. Lakhs of devotees are going to be present at Shirgao on the head of Moda, the Chira leaves to

person from every house attends the zatra in five days.

On the occasion of zatra, since lakhs of devotees attend the festival for five days, Devasthan Committee Chairman Ganesh Gawkar said that many measures and preparations have been made to avoid crowding.

Homkund was completed on Saturday night to realize 'Agnidivya'. On Sunday, lakhs of devotees had darshan all day and night.

The administration had prepared proper arrangements for the traffic system, water system and other systems as well as the parking system for the safety of the people as well as avoiding crowding in order to have a proper darshan.

In the morning after the puja ritual is completed, after placing the Chira (celebration idol) on the head of Moda, the Chira leaves to

go to the temple at Muddar, the original place of Goddess, then in the afternoon, the Chira leaves again from the other place to come to the temple.

Late at night, preparations are being made to make the 'Agnidivya'. Thousands of Dhonds were performing the 'Agnidivya' at midnight and there was a huge crowd of devotees to see this ceremony.

It was said that the administration and the devasthan committee are making special efforts to ensure that the devotees do not face any problem at this place and many measures have been taken in view of the heat.

The police, traffic officer, deputy collector, case officer etc., all the administration officials have made all arrangements so that there is no inconvenience due to the fair.

Mapusa's anti-encroachment drive comes to haunt it; illegal businesses sprout again

RESIDENTS DEMAND SWIFT ACTION AS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TURNS A BLIND EYE

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

A year ago, the Mapusa civic body launched a high-profile anti-encroachment campaign aimed at reclaiming public space and footpaths from illegal business activities.

However, despite initial efforts, the situation in the town remains largely unchanged, with unlawful encroachments resurfacing in the market area.

The Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC) stands accused of turning a blind eye to the resurgence of these violations, prompting residents to demand swift action from local authorities.

Atmaram Gadekar, a resident of Verla-Canca, expressed dismay over the lack of progress in curbing illegal encroachments.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Officer of Mapusa, Gadekar highlighted the persistence of unauthorized business outlets and vendors occupying public spaces and footpaths within the council's jurisdiction. He called for the immediate reinstatement of the anti-encroachment measures initiated last year to rectify the situation.



ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE A SHAM: A chicken centre run by the kin of a former councillor is blatantly flouting rules by arranging tables and chairs in the open space at a prime spot opposite the taxi-stand in Mapusa. (Right) The bhel-puri gaddas (moving carts) stationed along one side of the road near old Asilo Hospital at Angod, Mapusa were removed by the municipality during its anti-encroachment drive last year. All those gaddas have come back and are making roaring business at the same spot.



Pics: Agnelo Pereira

Gadekar raised concerns regarding allegations of corruption within the market, citing reports of vendors allegedly paying "hafta" (protection money) to operate unlawfully.

He emphasized the detrimental impact of such unethical practices on the business environment and urged the municipality to conduct a thorough investigation into these allegations.

"It is crucial to hold those involved in corrupt practices

accountable and establish clear protocols to prevent such misconduct in the future. By promoting integrity and accountability, Mapusa market can flourish as a dynamic and law-abiding commercial centre," Gadekar stressed.

Furthermore, he underscored the need for the MMC to enforce regulations and ensure compliance with de signated boundaries for business operations.

He stressed the importance of upholding integrity and ac-

countability to foster a conducive environment for lawful business practices in Mapusa market.

Last year's anti-encroachment drive received mixed reactions from locals, who appreciated the initiative but remained skeptical about its long-term effectiveness.

Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza had previously reassured the public that the campaign was not intended as an extortion tactic and reiterated the municipality's commitment to

upholding the law.

The resurgence of illegal encroachments underscores the challenges faced by the civic body in maintaining order and regulating business activities in Mapusa.

As residents await decisive action from authorities, concerns persist regarding the efficacy of future anti-encroachment efforts and the need for sustained vigilance to prevent a recurrence of such violations.

IMD extends rain-thunderstorm forecast by another 2 days

LIGHT RAIN HAS BEEN FORECAST AT ISOLATED PLACES TILL MAY 18

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The Indian Meteorological Department at Altinho Goa has extended its earlier May 9 to 12 forecast of light rain and thunderstorms by an additional two days up to May 14 (Tuesday).

It said, it may rain in many parts of Goa on Monday and Tuesday even as it also extended the 2-day 'yellow alert' by an additional day to also cover Monday.

Light to moderate rain and thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and wind speeds touching 30-40 kmph are expected in many parts of Goa on Monday and Tuesday.

It also said that heavy rainfall is expected at isolated places.

PONDA RECORDS MAXIMUM RAINFALL

■ In another late night nowcast, the IMD said rain was very likely at many places across Goa in the next 3-4 hours

■ It said at 7:30 pm on Sunday, clouds were fast approaching towards the talukas of Sattari, Bicholim, Dharbandora and Sanguem



■ Other talukas are also likely to get affected since the clouds are generally

moving in the South-West direction, the late night nowcast said

■ Meanwhile, in the 24 hours ending May 12 morning, Ponda recorded the maximum rainfall of 38.2 mm. At Ella (Old Goa) the rainfall was measured to be 38 mm and 29.4 mm at Valpoi

places. Additionally light rain has been forecast at isolated places till May 18.

Meanwhile, in the 24 hours ending May 12 morning, Ponda recorded the maximum rainfall of 38.2 mm. At Ella (Old Goa) the rainfall was measured to be

38 mm and 29.4 mm at Valpoi.

In another late night nowcast, the IMD said rain was very likely at many places across Goa in the next 3-4 hours.

It said at 7:30 pm on Sunday, clouds were fast approaching

towards the talukas of Sattari, Bicholim, Dharbandora and Sanguem.

Other talukas are also likely to get affected since the clouds are generally moving in the South-West direction, the late night nowcast said.



Houses damaged after Saturday's rain in Ponda

THE GOAN NETWORK

PONDA

A large branch of a tree fell on the house of Sanjeev Naik in Kavangal-Savoi Verem due to which his house was damaged.

In another incident, a coconut tree fell on the house of

Jadish Naik at Adushe Borim due to which his house got damaged and he suffered a loss of Rs40,000.

This incidents took place during the heavy rains that lashed Ponda on Saturday night. The staff of Ponda fire brigade removed the trees on Sunday morning.

Ponda market's roof leaking after heavy rain

THE GOAN NETWORK

PONDA

The roof of the market project, which has been in the news for the past few years in Varcha Bazar, Ponda, is leaking and the water is directly falling on to the ground floor.

As one of the sheets of the roof broke on Saturday

evening due to torrential rains and a lot of water got collected on the ground floor.

Losses to shop owners have been avoided as the shops in the project have not yet been auctioned.

The people are demanding immediate repair of the market project roof by Ponda Municipality ahead of the monsoons.



The cracked roof sheet of market project at Varcha Bazar, Ponda.



THE GOAN EVERYDAY

There is a woman at the beginning of all great things.
Alphonse de Lamartine

Goa as a wedding destination? Set up the ecosystem first

The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) has recently appealed to the State government to streamline processes for events and weddings, through a single-window online system. The TTAG's argument is based on the fact that licencing processes are cumbersome because there are multiple departments involved -- the State Pollution Control Board, Fire and Emergency Services, PWD, Electricity Department and even coastal nodds if held near the shore.

The truth of the matter is that under the current system, the organiser faces numerous hurdles in seeking those clearances and in the bargain leaving enough room for corruption to prevail. Events have been a major attraction in Goa lately, and there is no denying the State is seen as a wedding destination, but the systemic hurdles do not bode well for this idea.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated while campaigning in Goa that "Wed in Goa" will be one of the focus areas of his government, implying that the State is a perfect stage for destination weddings. Last December, Modi gave a clarion call for a "Wed in India" movement titled "India says I do" with a focus on not only encouraging affluent Indian families to host weddings in India but also to draw foreign couples to tie the knot here. The Indian wedding market is massive, and if one goes by the KPMG report, an estimated Rs 3-4 lakh crore was spent annually a few years ago. Goa can tap into this segment in a big way, given the goodwill it has as a beach destination.

If the State government is seriously considering the avenue of opening up Goa as a destination for weddings it must understand the sensitivity of noise pollution and define zones so that the common man's life is not affected

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has amplified the thought of promoting Goa as a wedding destination and explained how the State could open up new vistas through this segment and simultaneously give a further push to tourism. However, these ideas have not culminated in a concrete plan of action. The government has not created an ecosystem for beach weddings and under the current protocol where there are severe restrictions on outdoor events, promoting Goa as a destination for weddings is a ridiculous proposition. The current time regulations act as an impediment to high-spending tourists

The sound restrictions, time restrictions and logistical issues are standing in the way. But again, this is a very sensitive issue which is socially connected. When the issue came up in the Legislative Assembly last time members argued that the sound ban would weaken Goa's appeal as a wedding destination and negatively impact tourism, hospitality and the entertainment industry. Sawant had assured the House that his government is willing to create special venues for hosting destination weddings.

On the flip side of the story, there's a contrast. Locals along the coast have been up in arms against events that go late into the night and even the wee hours of the morning with blaring music played non-stop. In the excitement of seeing Goa as a hospitality hub or a wedding destination, such violations cannot be permitted because they infringe upon the basic rights of individuals and disturb the peace of living.

If the State government is seriously considering the avenue of opening up Goa as a destination for weddings it must understand the sensitivity of noise pollution and define zones so that the common man's life is not affected. The sad irony is that the talk of 'beach destination' is hollow and without any thought.

OPEN SPACE >>

Will urrack which is a seasonal drink get GI tag?

It is learnt that the Goa government has submitted a proposal to secure a GI tag for 'urrack'. Once achieved it can be made available in bottled form, exclusively produced in Goa with authentic Goan cashews thereby ensuring authenticity. One may say that if 'feni' could successfully get a GI tag, why not the more soothing and equally unique Goan 'urrack'. But it must be said that there is a world of difference between 'feni' and 'urrack'. Urrack is made after the first distillation of the cashew fruit while the feni is the second or third. Like feni, urrack is very popular in Goa's many local pubs and taverns. Urrack is only available and enjoyed in the summer season. Hence urrack is a seasonal drink. It is distilled only from March to May which is the cashew fruit-bearing season. It also has a short shelf life. Hence in bottled form it may not be possible to store it for long. It has a fruity and mildly pungent aroma and flavour. People usually prefer to drink it when it is freshly distilled. Given the fact that urrack is a seasonal drink one wonders whether the government's effort to get a GI tag for it will be fruitful.

ADELMO FERNANDES, Vasco

Arresting upward trend in youth violence

The rising prevalence of violent behaviour among youths in our communities poses a significant threat to public health and safety



PACHU MENON

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

Violent behaviour among youths has become a serious cause of concern for the society at large in recent times.

We were out for a quiet dinner at one of the famous shacks in Benaulim on the eve of the elections. While returning home, we noticed that a commotion had broken out on one of the interior roads near Khareband.

A couple of youngsters quite oblivious to the nuisance they were creating with their bikes in the middle of the road had got into an altercation with passers-by who were questioning their stubborn attitude. Quite obviously, they were in an inebriated state.

After throwing a few tantrums, they zoomed off on their bikes as if nothing had happened.

The very fact that not many thought it appropriate enough to confront the youths and berate them for their uncivil manners on the road -- and in the middle of the night at that -- points to a trend where the uncaring and non-interfering attitude of the public towards such incidents only fuels further brashness by such youngsters.

Or perhaps, understanding the perils of interfering in matters that do not concern them, people are taking the cautious approach by staying clear of such incidents that portend a violent outcome.

Verbal altercations, intimidating stances, obscene gestures and abusive language describe the defiance shown by youngsters finding themselves in 'distressing' situations. This adversity in modern times basically boils down to anything that hurts their ego.

It could be a hostile reaction to someone questioning their road etiquettes, admonishing them on their discourteous manners in public places; or a host of such other reasons where their cockiness invites castigation which they could easily get offended with.

It is this despicable behaviour that has come in for sharp criticism from all quarters but which tends to be forgotten and forgiven as immature acts that will change for the better as they age, many believe.

When we talk of youth violence in India, we generally associate it with student unrest and such other protests where the youth are at the forefront demanding solutions to their problems.

But what we are referring to is something far worse than that!



During adolescence and young adulthood people appear to be more prone to violent behaviour.

"A greater tendency to violent behaviour appears to be associated with hyperactivity, impulsivity and low tolerance for frustration and provocation in social settings."

Imagine the scary picture of a young driver pulling out a gun on a motorcyclist during a road rage incident!

Although gun-culture is yet to manifest itself in its worst form in India; traditionally seen as a symbol of bravery and status, firearms are gaining attention for less dignified reasons.

The Jessica Lal murder case of 1999 comes readily to one's mind. But then this was a high-profile case that garnered the entire nation's attention!

What could be more worrisome than having an eighteen-year old boy bringing a firearm to his school just to impress his friends? Sounds frightening!

Last year, the media was agog with news about two teenage students from Agra in Uttar Pradesh who shot their teacher in the leg and later recorded a video branding themselves 'gangsters'.

Such episodes may sound atrocious; but as so rightly explained, gun violence is not just a US problem! Apprehensions over its 'infiltration' into our educational institution premises cannot be overlooked either!

It is such rude manners bordering on sheer arrogance that has youngsters even questioning the authorities at times.

Youth violence is described as the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people between ages 10-24. It can include fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence.

Some days back, while returning from a late night show, we happened to see a heated argument taking place between an elderly gentleman and a youngster along the Eastern Bypass in Margao. He was apparently miffed at the way the young lad was riding his bike.

After giving him a piece of his mind, the elderly person got into his car and

drove off. I was aghast to see the youngster pumping the air with his clenched fists and following the car for quite a distance.

With this sort of a psyche; many, rightfully called the future of the nation, are charting a dangerous course.

An anguished submission that "the frequency and severity of youth violence incidents appear to be escalating, leaving a trail of devastating consequences ranging from physical altercations to tragic outcomes such as homicide", echoes the sentiments of a larger part of the society which is at pain to understand this queer phenomenon that has come to afflict our youths today.

One cannot however concur completely with the argument that youth violence is caused to some extent by socioeconomic disparities. We have had instances where children from well-to-do families are known to have given into outbursts of violence for the flimsiest of reasons.

However, one cannot just generalize these violent actions as misbehaviour of the rich kids or wrongdoings of youngsters from the lower economic strata in the society!

Yet, the contention that factors such as poverty, lack of education, exposure to violence in the community or on screen and inadequate support systems can contribute to the perpetuation of youth violence cannot be denied either.

Influenced by the TV and cinematic adaptations of crime fictions, some youngsters have dared to commit the most appalling crimes. The upshots of social media 'inspiring' violence among youth present a very troublesome scenario.

There can be no doubt whatsoever about the fact that the rising prevalence of violent behaviour among youths in our communities poses a significant threat to public health and safety.

"Arresting the upward trend in youth violence demands our collective commitment, compassion and wisdom to implement practical measures that will foster a safer and more equitable world for our future generations," suggests an article on this subject.

THE INBOX >>

Hate mongering has an expiry date too

The BJP's 2024 Lok Sabha campaign relies heavily on communal hate and disinformation spearheaded by the Prime Minister himself. Modi has claimed in several vitriolic speeches that Congress if elected to power would redistribute wealth including the mangalsutras and gold owned by women to the Muslims whom he described as 'ghuspaithiye' (infiltrators) and 'those who produce more children'. In an abhorrent attempt to further demonise the minorities, the BJP has been releasing animated videos on social media. Their first video on Instagram got a whopping 1.6 million views before being taken down. The animated clip stereotypes Muslims and shows Rahul Gandhi giving a plethora of benefits to them by snatching away the rights of SC, STs and OBCs. The video then goes on to paint Muslims as invaders who looted all of ancient India's wealth and claims that the Congress party's manifesto is nothing but the Muslim League's ideology in disguise. Hate mongering and fear mongering too has an expiry date like everything else, the Indian voter shall hopefully give a befitting reply to this fount of evil come June 4.

VINAY DWIVEDI, Benaulim

Sorrowing lies our beloved Ribandar

It is very distressing and deeply anguishing to see the very alarming state of the roads in Ribandar. Our roads were already in dire straits when I saw them last two months ago and was hoping that the sad state of affairs would improve. But contrary to hopes and high expectations, the situation has

The uncaring and non-interfering attitude of the public towards such violent incidents only fuels further brashness by such youngsters

Digging turns Ribandar into graveyard

With the frequent, indiscriminate digging of roads, the Ribandar and Chorao island residents and commuters have no option but to go through the peril. Commuters facing hardship due to the ongoing "unplanned and haphazard" projects, including sewerage works, being implemented under the Smart City mission leaving no space at Ribandar. Free movement of vehicles is hindered and it has become a nightmare for motorists to navigate the stretch. Commuting to Chorao island from Ribandar ferry is herculean task. Peoples have suffered immensely on account of the haphazard digging of roads. The roads of Goa are nowhere good enough. One organisation digs the road after another, making traffic jams a never-ending problem. It has become a common sight for us to see the roads being dug very often in most of the areas. Most roads in the city have become unfit for travel. With digging, Ribandar looks like a graveyard. The digging for the smart city projects is causing potholes, and they are crippled by limitations to carry out repairs on rainy days which leaves the roads in a bad state.

KG VILOP, Chorao

just worsened with the people having to commute on these treacherous roads. Ribandar looks like a war battered zone. The digging of our roads in Ribandar has been going on for the last three years. Even for the blind eyes, the works are all shoddy and being done in a very haphazard manner, endangering the life and well being of the locals. With the monsoons fast approaching, it is a matter of grave concern as to what the residents would have to endure if immediate remedial measures are not taken. Let us all make a very personal appeal to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and our Chief Secretary Punit Goel to please swiftly intervene and alleviate the misery looming large on the residents of Ribandar.

AIRES RODRIGUES, Ribandar

Proper signage must at key locations along roadsides

Mandatory signage, is in fact the need of the hour which can prevent road fatalities to a certain extent, as far as Goan roads are concerned. Frequently, we have encountered some sort of maintenance work which has been done haphazardly at any side of the road. Trapped in a never ending frenzy at times, the drivers/riders have to stop abruptly, just to negotiate such type of drastic scenarios. A proper signage board could avoid such type of jolts on the roads. Moreover, tourists who are new to Goan roads can also have access to the right direction. Furthermore, the signage ought to be clear and written in language well understood by everyone including the tourists. Moreover, signage tends to be in other forms too such as symbols, or emblems. Eventually, to safeguard the interest of the citizens, the authorities concerned should display proper signage at relevant locations along the roadside.

JOSEPH SAVIO DESOUZA, Candolim

Nuisance of rumblers at Dandeavaddo continues

The nuisance of rumblers at Dandeavaddo had been ill-conceived by MLA Cruz Silva and Chinchinim Panchayat without consulting residents in the vicinity. Letter of authorities substantiate that rumblers for record have caused 2 fatal accidents and number of other serious accidents and continue to haunt the users. At the public meeting with PWD and NH authority in the presence of MLA, suggested broadening of junction as it is a blind spot. The MLA was explained at the site on the need to remedy the situation.

NELSON LOPES, Chinchinim



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

More worms found in tap water at Dongrim-Mandur

WATER SUPPLY TO AREA DISCONNECTED AS PRECAUTION

THE GOAN | NETWORK

OLD GOA

Close on the heels of AAP leader Prof Ramrao Wagh slamming authorities for the delay in action on water contamination at Dhaktem Bhat-Dongrim (Mandur), more worms were found in the tap water, thereby proving Wagh right in expressing fears over the continuance of water supply in the area.

And this time, the worms were found in the household of the Gaude family on Saturday evening. The Goan had reported that Wagh had feared that ailments like jaundice, cholera, tapeworm, etc., could spread among the population of the affected area due to the water supply not being disconnected.

The incident though forced the authorities to disconnect water supply to the area, and



Residents of Dhaktem Bhat line up to collect water from a tanker after supply to the area was disconnected over safety concerns.

water was supplied through tankers.

Speaking to The Goan about the latest incident, Mandur Sarpanch Prashant Naik informed that he came to know of worms being found in Gaude's household only at 10 pm on Saturday night.

"However, they did not keep the water in which the worms were found because of which it became difficult to confirm. The PWD workers came and

collected fresh water samples from the household but no worms were found but directions have been given for disconnection of water supply to the area," Naik stated.

Local Subham Kuttikar later informed that the water supply to Dhaktem Bhat was disconnected. He then informed that he called the PWD officials to highlight the problem after which Sarpanch Naik sent two water tankers in the area.

Save Konkani to protect identity: Ex-DKA chief

THE GOAN | NETWORK

OLD GOA

Highlighting the importance of speaking in Konkani, former president of Dalgado Konknni Akademi (DKA) Vincy Quadros has stated that it will help in preserving our identity as Goans.

Quadros was speaking at a Konkani Quiz contest organized by Mandur Church for the children of catechism in its parish.

Speaking on the occasion, Quadros said, "Konkani is

getting marginalised today and English is given prominence which doesn't augur well for Konkani. We may save everything, be it our environment, our culture, but if we do not save our language Konkani then our identity as Goans will be lost."

"So, I urge everybody to use Konkani in their day-to-day life and promote it through the organization of such quizzes," he said and added that if anybody wants help in promoting the Konkani language, he is always willing to help.



Former DKA president Vincy Quadros congratulating the winners of the Konkani quiz in the junior category.

Manuel Vaz

Nurses lauded for their contribution to healthcare by Arihant Hospital

THE GOAN | NETWORK

BELAGAVI

Stating that patient service is God's service, noted social activist Meenakshi Patil has stated that nurses are nothing less than God's incarnation and a divine gift to humanity. She was speaking at a public function to celebrate the International Nurses Day at Arihant Hospital here. Noted ophthalmologist Dr Madhuri Dixit presided over the function. Dr Sonali Sarnobat was present as the guest of honour.

"Nurses play a major role in giving new life to patients by shouldering the burden of patient care. This is a selfless service. While they take care of their family, the nurses take care of the patients with equal commitment and devotion, hence they are God's best gift to humanity," Patil asserted.

Doctors treat patients in hospitals, nurses are responsible for taking care of them. Only nurses can have the



Noted social activist Meenakshi Patil, Dr Sonali Sarnobat, Dr Madhuri Dixit and Dr M D Dixit at the event on International Nurses Day.

strong will to serve the patients regardless of their lives. Their service is truly commendable; hence, nurses play a pivotal role in relieving the patient from any health-related problem.

Dr Sonali Sarnobat lauded the services rendered by Arihant Hospital, stating that the hospital has become a household name in a very short span of time.

"Arihant Hospital is not only famous for its excellent

doctors, but now it has also come into the limelight for its best nurses," Dr Sarnobat said, adding that managing hospital and health services without nurses is impossible.

On this occasion, the nurses were honoured with the Best Nightingale and Mother Teresa awards by the dignitaries. Hospital Chairman Raosahab Patil, Director Abhinandan Patil, Youth Leader Uttam Patil extended greetings on Nurses Day.

CELEBRATING GOA'S HERITAGE: Cashew Fest 2024 wraps up with enthusiasm

CLINTON D'SOUZA
THE GOAN | PANAJI

The three-day Cashew Festival, which commenced on Friday and concluded on Sunday evening, drew to a close with an air of festivity and enthusiasm. The festival, spanning three days, witnessed an impressive turnout on its opening day, as crowds flocked to explore the 78 stalls set up for the occasion. Mandated to feature cashew in at least 75% of their offerings, these stalls showcased the versatility of the cashew nut in various delectable forms.

More than just a celebration of the nut, the Cashew Festival serves as a symbol of tradition, culture, and community empowerment. It aims to sustain and promote the rich heritage of Goan cashew cultivation for generations to come.

POSITIVE RESPONSE

The Goan spoke to some of the stall owners and vendors at the Cashew Fest, capturing their insights and experiences.

Ashutosh, owner of Jambhale Cashews from Tisk Ponda, expressed his thoughts on participating in Cashew Fest 2024 for the first time. Hailing from Usgao Tisk, Ponda, Ashutosh shared details about their cashew processing unit, which specializes in producing plain cashews ranging from W400 to export-quality W150. Additionally, they offer various flavors to entice customers.

Regarding the event, Ashutosh commended the event for promoting Goa's small-scale products, including cashews. He emphasized the festival's significance in boosting the rural economy by showcasing products from small producers and farmers. However, he suggested involving more farmers and producers in future editions to ensure the festival's focus remains on its original motive.

Reflecting on the festival's response, Ashutosh noted the positive feedback despite encountering challenges like rain interruptions. He highlighted the event's ability to attract people from rural areas to the capital city, underscoring the importance of continuing such initiatives in the future.

PLATFORM FOR LOCALS

Cashew Fest's role in providing a platform for small-scale producers like Jambhale Cashews to showcase their products signifies a step towards promoting State's local economy on a larger stage. With Ashutosh's insights, it becomes evident that such festivals play a crucial role in supporting Goa's agricultural and small-scale industries.

Nihal, representing Rosita Cashew Cocktail brewing, shared his insights on Cashew Fest 2024, highlighting its significance in promoting local brewing companies and businesses in Goa.

Expressing the importance of the festival, Nihal emphasized its instrumental

Attendees praise event for celebrating local traditions

PANAJI: Cashew Fest 2024 concluded with resounding praise from attendees who lauded the event for its celebration of Goan tradition and heritage. Custadio Fernandes from Mumbai, attending his second season of the festival, expressed his satisfaction, remarking on the evident improvement and preservation of Goan traditions.

He noted that this year's festival was significantly larger than the previous one, offering more to explore and enjoy at the venue in Campal.

Megdaline Vaz from Britona, who has attended various festivals in the State, highlighted the notable differences she observed at Cashew Fest. She emphasized the festival's ability to attract a diverse audience and unite people despite adverse weather conditions. Vaz commended the event for showcasing the essence of Goan culture and the

significance of cashew products, which many attendees may have been previously unaware of. She expressed pride in being part of such an enriching festival experience and hoped for its continuation on a larger scale in the future.

Marianne Veigas from Fatorda, attending the festival for the first time, shared her amazement at the diverse offerings at the food stalls. Despite only being present for the concluding day, Veigas was impressed by the variety of drinks and delicacies available at the festival. She expressed her recommendation for the government to continue organizing similar events that showcase the authentic essence of Goa, its traditions, and heritage.

The overwhelming positive feedback from attendees underscores the success of the event in promoting Goan culture and heritage.

Festival highlights economic contribution of cashew industry

PANAJI: The Cashew Fest had a great start, with lots of people coming to check out the 78 stalls set up for the event. These stalls were mandated to feature cashew in at least 75% of their offerings, showing off how versatile this nut can be in different tasty foods.

During his talk, Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude talked about how important it is to save land for farming, saying it's as valuable as gold because it's so important for growing cashews. Dr. Deviya Rane said something similar in her speech, talking about how the festival helps keep Goan culture alive and supports local groups, especially ones run by women in rural areas.

She said the festival is a good time to talk about important stuff like making cashew farming better and helping farmers with their problems. They had meetings and workshops to help

people work together and come up with new ideas to keep the cashew industry strong and helpful for local communities.

Right now, Goa makes about 25,800 tonnes of raw cashews every year, which helps a lot with the State's economy. There are about 20 factories that process cashews, providing jobs for over 3,500 people, which is a big deal for the State's economy.

The Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC) has been working hard to make cashew farming and processing better, so it keeps growing and helps the local economy.

Overall, the event is more than just a party about nuts; it's a way to keep traditions alive, support local culture, and help people in the community, all while making sure Goan cashews keep being important for a long time.

role in supporting Goan culture, particularly regarding feni, a local liquor. He noted that feni's traditional flavour may not appeal to everyone, especially the younger generation. Thus, Rosita Cashew Cocktail was introduced to offer a more palatable option, aiming to revitalise the feni culture.

Having participated in the festival last year as well, Nihal observed significant growth in this year's event. He mentioned that the festival had doubled in size, with an increased number of brands showcasing feni-based products. This expansion, according to Nihal, reflects the festival's positive impact on local entrepreneurs and their ability to introduce new brands.

Regarding the response to their products at the festival, Nihal expressed satisfaction, noting a significant increase in sales compared to the previous year. He described the overall experience as "insane" and expressed a desire for such festivals to occur more frequently, given their positive outcomes for local businesses.

Nihal's perspective highlights the success and growing popularity of the event in supporting local brewing companies and fostering the revival of traditional Goan culture, particularly in the context of Feni-based products.

FLAVOURS OF URRAK

Sangeeta, representing Urrak Tales, shared insights about the unique offerings at the event, celebrating indigenous flavours and local products.

Sangeeta expressed enthusiasm for

showcasing the diverse play board of urrak, highlighting its versatility and the distinctive tastes it offers. She emphasised the festival's focus on promoting the local urrak industry and its significance in highlighting State's cultural heritage.

At the festival, visitors had the opportunity to explore a wide range of urrak-based products, from traditional urrak to innovative flavoured variations. Sangeeta explained that their stall featured a variety of flavours, catering to different preferences and tastes, along with creative combinations to enhance the experience.

Reflecting on their participation in the festival for the first time, Sangeeta described the response as overwhelming, with visitors showing keen interest in trying out different products. She expressed gratitude for the positive feedback received and highlighted the importance of such events in promoting local businesses and preserving traditional practices.

Overall, the event proved to be a successful platform for showcasing the rich flavours of cashew.





With a good perspective on history, we can have a better understanding of the past and present, and thus a clear vision of the future
— Carlos Slim Helu, Mexican business magnate and investorSearch Results

The Nifty 50 experienced a 2.6% weekly decline amidst heightened volatility, with the India VIX reaching a 52-week high. As trading resumes, several domestic and global events are poised to influence market dynamics



Sensex likely to reach 1.5 lakh by 2029, long-term outlook positive

The Sensex, initially breaching 25,000 in May 2014 and then 50,000 on January 21, 2021, soared to 75,124 on April 9, 2024, propelled by FMCG, energy, and metal shares. Despite a slight 0.08% dip due to profit booking in Reliance Industries, the market surged nearly 25% over the past year, surpassing Rs 400 lakh crore in market capitalisation. Midcap and Smallcap indices rose by almost 67% and 65%, respectively, led by top performers like Infosys Ltd and Apollo Hospitals. Factors driving the market included strong US economic data, easing policy rates globally, and a positive Asian market outlook. Investing in mid-cap companies offers a diversified portfolio with growth potential and lower costs. Domestic institutions have outpaced foreign ones in investments since 2014. On April 29, 2024, the Sensex surged by 700 points, with Nifty50 climbing over 22,550. Banking stocks led the surge, aligning with gains in global markets like Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500. The Indian economy's growth trajectory, forecasted at 7% for FY 24, reflects structural transformations and robust earnings expectations. With softening CPI inflation and a projected real GDP growth of 7%



for FY 25, India aims to become the third-largest economy by 2027. The rise in retail investors, with monthly SIPs increasing from Rs 1,200 crore in 2014 to over Rs 19,000 crore in 2024, underscores a growing interest in equity markets. Despite global uncertainties, India's sustained growth trajectory remains evident, supported by strong macroeconomic policies and structural reforms. While concerns persist regarding valuation, corporate profits, and earnings growth, the long-term outlook for the stock market remains positive. With the potential for Sensex to reach 1,50,000 by 2029, investors are advised to maintain a consistent, long-term investment approach rather than speculative trading.

Elections, Q4 earnings, FII flows in focus for this week on Dalal Street

Polls

Concerns over election uncertainty contributed to last week's market decline, with the fourth voting phase scheduled for Monday, May 13. Perception shifts regarding political outcomes have prompted investor caution.

Q4 Earnings

Over 530 BSE-listed companies, including prominent names like Bharti Airtel and Colgate-Palmolive, will disclose their March quarter earnings. Market reactions to previous reports, including those of Eicher Motors and Tata Motors, will also influence sentiment.

US Markets

Mixed performances on Wall Street provide an initial gauge for Indian markets on Monday. Attention will also be on GIFT

Nifty futures, indicating potential movements in the Nifty50.

Rupee vs Dollar

The rupee's stability against the dollar, closing nearly flat on Friday, reflects market sentiment. Expectations of central bank intervention and exporters' hedging strategies will be observed alongside poll results.

Corporate Actions

Ex-dates and record dates for dividends and subdivisions of various companies could affect investor decisions and market liquidity.

Technical Analysis

Market volatility is expected to persist amid ongoing voting phases. Key support and resistance levels for Nifty and Bank Nifty guide potential trading strategies.

FII/DII Action

Net selling by FIIs contrasts with DII buying, influencing market movements and investor sentiment.

IPO Activity

The market anticipates the launch of Go Digit's IPO alongside several SME IPOs and listings, impacting overall market liquidity and investor interest.

Crude Oil

Oil prices' influence on inflation and global central bank policies, including India's, remains significant.

Bond Yields

Indian government bond yields remained stable, with a focus on upcoming US and domestic inflation data for future market directions.

ONLY 11 SMALL CAP STOCKS POST DOUBLE-DIGIT WEEKLY RETURNS

- Indian markets witnessed a bearish trend driven by valuation concerns amid election uncertainties
- BSE mid- and small-cap indices both dropped nearly 4%
- Only 11 smallcaps showed double-digit returns, led by CarTrade Tech with 24% gains.
- HUL topped Sensex returns at 6.3%
- The midcap segment saw Bharat Forge rise 11.56%, while others posted modest gains.
- Several midcap companies, including Voltas and

- Canara Bank, experienced losses
- The upcoming week remains data-heavy, with India and US CPI data, Europe and Japan's GDP numbers, and the FED chair's speech being closely monitored
- Siddhartha Khemka predicts consolidation in the market, taking cues from Q4 results and global factors
- Technically, the index's bearish sentiment suggests selling on rallies, with resistance at 22,200 and support at 21,950

FPIs withdraw ₹17,000 cr from equities in May

Foreign investors withdrew Rs 17,000 crore from Indian equities in the first 10 days of May due to election uncertainty, expensive valuations, and profit booking, exceeding April's Rs 8,700 crore withdrawal. FPIs previously invested Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February. Post-election, corporate India's strong Q4 FY24 performance is expected to be rewarded, with FPIs likely to return cautiously, according to Trivesh D, COO at Tradejini. FPIs experienced a net outflow of Rs 17,083 crore in equities by May 10. Multiple factors contribute to FPIs' aggressive selling, including election uncertainty and high market valuations, noted Himanshu Srivastava of Morningstar Investment Research India. Additionally, Krishna Appala of Capitalmind highlighted FPIs' shift to a risk-off mode amidst political uncertainty and appealing US interest rates. Before the outflow, foreign inves-



tors injected significant sums, driven by the impending inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index, anticipated to benefit India by attracting USD 20-40 billion over 18 to 24 months. Overall in 2024, FPIs withdrew Rs 14,860 crore from equities but invested Rs 14,307 crore in the debt market. Domestic institutional investors remained consistent buyers, with cumulative buying reaching Rs 19,410 crore, according to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

TOP GAINERS

COMPANY	CURRENT PRICE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	GAIN	CHANGE %
HERO MOTOCORP	4877.40	4552.75	324.65	7.13%
BRITANNIA	5066.80	4744.60	322.20	6.79%
HUL	2362.55	2217.05	145.50	6.56%
KOTAK BANK	1627.95	1546.70	81.25	5.25%
TATA MOTORS	1046.65	1013.40	33.25	3.28%

TOP LOSERS

COMPANY	CURRENT PRICE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	LOST	CHANGE %
SHRIRAM FINANCE	2344.35	2588.55	-244.20	-9.43%
TITAN	3289.85	3533.90	-244.05	-6.91%
DR REDDYS	5921.00	6349.55	-428.55	-6.75%
ADANI ENTERPRISES	2797.25	2993.25	-196.00	-6.55%
L&T	3271.45	3499.80	-228.35	-6.52%

TOP PERFORMING MUTUAL FUNDS (EQUITY)

NAME	3Y RETURNS
ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE PSU EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	41.80%
ICICI PRUDENTIAL BHARAT 22 FOF DIRECT GROWTH	39.87%
SBI PSU DIRECT PLAN GROWTH	38.73%
ICICI PRUDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECT GROWTH	38.72%
INVESCO INDIA PSU EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	37.62%
NIPPON INDIA POWER & INFRA FUND DIRECT GROWTH	37.38%
QUANT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND DIRECT GROWTH	36.18%
QUANT MID CAP FUND DIRECT GROWTH	34.27%
QUANT SMALL CAP FUND DIRECT PLAN GROWTH	33.92%
QUANT ESG EQUITY FUND DIRECT GROWTH	29.84%

Pyrrhic victories in investing: Winning in short-term and losing in long-term

SHAILESH SHRIRAM TANPURE

In investing, making money quickly can feel like winning a battle. But sometimes, those victories come at a high price. Imagine you're playing a game and you win, but you get hurt so badly that you can't play anymore. That's like a pyrrhic victory.

For investors, a pyrrhic victory means getting short-term gains, like making lots of money fast. But it's risky because it can lead to losing money in the long run. It's like winning the battle but losing the war.

One common way this happens is when people invest in things that are very popular at the time. For example, in the late 1990s, everyone was excited about internet companies. People invested a lot of money in these companies, hoping to make a quick profit. But when the internet bubble burst, many lost everything.

Another way is by borrowing money to invest, thinking it will help make more money. But if the investments don't go well, they can end up owing a lot of money they can't pay back.

In the end, it's important for investors to think long-term and not just focus on making money fast. It's better to have steady, sustainable gains than to risk everything for a quick win.

What it means

You technically "win" the investment, meaning you make money. However, the gains are overshadowed by the losses incurred in achieving that win.

Scenarios

Holding onto a losing stock for too long: Imagine buying a stock that drops significantly. You cling to



STORY OF KING PYRRHUS

- King Pyrrhus of Epirus fought the Romans in the 3rd century BC
- His victory at the Battle of Asculum in 279 BC was significant
- However, Pyrrhus suffered heavy casualties in the battle
- He famously remarked, "Another such victory and we are undone"
- This phrase gave rise to the term "pyrrhic victory"
- A pyrrhic victory describes a win that comes at a great cost, almost as damaging as a defeat
- Despite his military success, Pyrrhus's victories weakened his army
- Pursuing short-term gains without considering long-term costs and risks is cautioned against

the hope it will rebound, but it keeps falling. Eventually, you sell at a major loss, even though it might eventually recover. The emotional toll and missed opportunities on better investments can be significant.

Selling a winning stock too early: You buy a stock on the rise and see some good gains. But fearing a correction, you sell prematurely. The stock continues to climb much higher, leaving you with the regret of missing out on those additional profits.

Overly aggressive trading: Constantly buying and selling to chase short-term gains can rack up transaction fees and potentially lead to bad decisions made out of haste. While you might make some winning trades, the overall cost might outweigh the

benefit. **Winning a legal battle but incurring high legal fees:** Sometimes legal disputes regarding investments arise. Even if you win the case and recover some money, the legal fees might have eaten into your profits significantly.

Examples

Dot-Com Bubble: The late 1990s saw a surge in tech stocks fueled by speculation and hype. Early investors who saw the bubble forming and sold before the crash enjoyed significant gains. However, many investors held on as the bubble burst, leading to catastrophic losses. While some tech companies did survive and thrive, the overall market crash wiped out a lot of wealth.

Real Estate Boom and Bust of the Early 2010s: The early 2010s witnessed a surge in Indian real estate prices, particularly in major cities. Investors flocked to the market, expecting high returns. However, the rapid price increase wasn't backed by strong economic fundamentals. Several factors, including rising interest rates and limited affordability, led to a slowdown.

While some early investors who bought at lower prices might have seen some gains, many others who entered later faced stagnant or declining property values, especially on the outskirts of cities. This resulted in a situation where the "profit" wasn't worth the long wait and missed opportunities in other asset classes.

Biotech Stock Speculation: Biotechnology stocks often experience speculative frenzies driven by breakthroughs in drug development or regulatory approvals. Investors who chase these speculative gains without considering the risks can suffer significant losses when companies fail to deliver on their promises.

Pyrrhic victories show why it's important to think about how our investment choices will affect us in the long run. To avoid these costly wins, investors should stick to plans that aim for stability and growth over time. It's smart to avoid taking too many risks or getting caught up in quick-money schemes. By being careful and sticking to a solid plan, investors can protect themselves from the dangers of pyrrhic victories and make their investment portfolios stronger.

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

IN SIMPLE WORDS

Delhi airport, 2 city hospitals receive bomb threat emails

SEARCH ON; NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAS BEEN FOUND YET

PTI

NEW DELHI
Delhi Fire Services on Sunday said two city hospitals and IGI Airport received bomb threats through email, 11 days after over 150 schools in Delhi-NCR received a bomb scare of unprecedented scale.

The bomb threats were reported from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Burari Hospital in the northern part of the city and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in outer Delhi, a senior official of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said.

According to the police sources, the airport authorities received a threat email at 6 pm. After a call regarding the threat from Burari Hospital at 3 pm, local police, bomb squad, dog squad were rushed to the spot, Deputy Commissioner of Police

THE BOMB SCARE



Hospital at 3 pm, local police, bomb squad, dog squad were rushed to the spot

(north) M K Meena said. Teams are checking the hospital. Nothing suspicious has been found yet," he said.

In a statement, an official at the Burari Hospital said, "At around 3 pm, we received an email regarding a bomb in the hospital. After this, all the safety measures had been thoroughly checked and everything was

■ The bomb threats were reported from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Burari Hospital in the northern part of the city and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in outer Delhi

■ According to the police sources, the airport authorities received a threat email at 6 pm

■ After a call regarding the threat from Burari Hospital at 3 pm, local police, bomb squad, dog squad were rushed to the spot

■ Burari Hospital received an email regarding a bomb in the hospital at around 3 pm

stable. This was the first time we received such an email." Sanjay Gandhi Hospital also received a threat email around 3 pm, according to officials.

Soon after the call, we immediately pressed two fire engines at both the locations. Our teams are still there as the search operation is going on," a DFS official said.

On May 1, over 150 schools in Delhi-NCR received an identical threat email claiming that explosives had been planted on their premises, triggering massive evacuations and searches as panic-stricken parents rushed to pick up their children.

Nothing objectionable was found during searches by authorities which later declared it a hoax.

Fourth Indian held in Canada in Nijjar murder case

PTI

WASHINGTON/ OTTAWA

A fourth Indian national has been arrested by Canadian authorities in connection with the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a week after police arrested three Indians linked with the high-profile case that has severely strained India's relations with Canada.

Amandeep Singh, 22, a resident of Brampton, Surrey, and Abbotsford areas of Canada, has been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Nijjar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that Singh was arrested on May 11 for his role in the killing of Nijjar. He was already in the custody of the Peel Regional Police for unrelated firearms charges, the release said.

Flash floods, cold lava flow hit Indonesia's island; 37 killed

Over 100 houses and buildings submerged in water

PTI

PADANG

Heavy rains and torrents of cold lava and mud flowing down a volcano's slopes on Indonesia's Sumatra island triggered flash floods that killed at least 37 people and more than a dozen others were missing, officials said Sunday.

Monsoon rains and a major mudslide from a cold lava flow on Mount Marapi caused a river to breach its banks and tear through mountainside villages in four districts in West Sumatra province just before midnight on Saturday. The floods swept away people and submerged more than 100 houses and buildings, National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said.

Cold lava, also known as lahar, is a mixture of volcanic material and pebbles that flow down a volcano's slopes in the rain.

By Sunday afternoon, rescu-



People inspect an area affected by the flash flood that killed a number of people in Agam, West Sumatra, Indonesia, on Sunday.

ers had pulled out 19 bodies in the worst-hit village of Canduang in Agam district and recovered nine other bodies in the neighboring district of Tanah Datar, the National Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement.

The agency said that eight bodies were pulled from mud during deadly flash floods that also hit Padang Pariaman, and

one body was found in the city of Padang Panjang. It said rescuers are searching for 18 people who are reportedly missing.

Flash floods on Saturday night also caused main roads around the Anai Valley Waterfall area in Tanah Datar district to be blocked by mud, cutting off access to other cities.



Dr Rakesh Sharma, OSD to President NBEMS and governing body member, was honoured with the NBEMS Presidential Medal of Merit for his contribution to medical education in the country. The award was presented to him by President of India Droupadi Murmu. Dr Sharma is recognised for his successful CPR training program, which has benefited over 20 lakh citizens, along with numerous other initiatives.

One police officer killed, 100 injured in clashes during protest in PoK

PTI

ISLAMABAD

One police officer was killed and more than 100 people, mostly policemen, injured in violent clashes between security forces and protesters agitating against high prices of wheat flour and electricity in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, media reports said on Sunday.

The disputed region witnessed clashes on Saturday between the police and activists of a rights movement amid a wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across the territory, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Mirpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kamran Ali told Dawn.com that sub-inspector Adnan Qureshi succumbed to a gunshot wound in the chest in the town of Islamgarh, where he was deployed along with other police personnel to stop a rally for Muzaffarabad.

Sandeshkhali protest: New video claims 70 women received cash

PTI

NEW DELHI

In a purported video that surfaced from Sandeshkhali, a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader was heard saying that over 70 women had received Rs 2,000 each for taking part in protests against local Trinamool Congress satrap Shahjahan Sheikh and his aides who were accused of sexual assault and land grab.

In the video, lasting over 45 minutes, a man resembling Sandeshkhali mandal president Gangadhar Kayal told this to the questioner. It was Kayal who had earlier said in another purported clip, the first in a series in the past week, that the rape allegations were 'staged.'

In the latest tape that surfaced on Saturday night, Kayal was heard saying that 70

TMC files complaint with EC against NCW chief, BJP leaders

NEW DELHI: The TMC on Sunday filed a complaint with the Election Commission against National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma and BJP leaders including Piyali Das, alleging that they committed "criminal conspiracy by exploiting" innocent women of West Bengal's Sandeshkhali for political gains.

In a letter to the EC, the TMC said they are filing a complaint against Sharma and Das for "commission of serious offences of forgery, cheating, fraud, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy upon innocent women of Sandeshkhali and the entire electorate in general".

women got Rs 2,000 each for taking part in protests against Sheikh who was arrested and later suspended by the police. "We will need Rs 2.5 lakh in cash for 50 booths where 30 percent of protesters would be

women. We have to keep the SC, ST and OBC people here in good humour by paying them satisfactorily. In any situation, women will form the front row confronting the police," he said in the video.

Kayal could not be contacted, but the BJP has dubbed the videos as fake.

TMC spokesperson Riju Dutta said, "The truth of the BJP's fake narrative on Sandeshkhali is tumbling out of the closet."

Multiple purported videos of Sandeshkhali women have surfaced and shared by the TMC in the past few days.

In the first such videotape that emerged on May 4, Kayal was heard saying that the 'staged' protests were lodged at the behest of Leader of the Opposition, Suwendu Adhikari, who was behind the 'whole conspiracy.'

The second video was about women, who had earlier filed rape complaints, claiming that they were made to sign a blank paper by the BJP leaders and coerced to go to the police station.

AAP national chief woos voters, unveils 'Kejriwal ki Guarantee'

DELHI STATEHOOD, 2 CRORE JOBS FOR YOUTH AMONG LIST OF 10

PTI

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced "Kejriwal ki Guarantee", listing 10 works that will be done on war-footing, including to "free" Indian land from Chinese occupation, and if the INDIA bloc forms government at the Centre.

The opposition bloc, which has parties such as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress, Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam among others as its members, was formed to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Lok Sabha polls.

A day after his release from jail on interim bail, Kejriwal on Saturday said the INDIA bloc will form next the government and his AAP will be part of it.

Addressing a press con-

BJP had plans to topple AAP govts in Delhi, Punjab: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Sunday that the BJP's plan was to topple the AAP governments in the national capital and Punjab after his arrest in a money-laundering case, but it did not work out and the party became stronger in his absence.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) became more united "after my arrest", Kejriwal said while addressing the party MLAs following a meeting at the chief minister's residence here.

ference on Sunday, the AAP leader said people will have to choose between "Modi ki Guarantee" and "Kejriwal ki guarantee". The latter is a "brand", Kejriwal said.

On the announcement of his guarantees, Kejriwal said, "I have not discussed with my INDIA bloc partners about this. I will press upon my INDIA bloc

partners to fulfill these guarantees." Kejriwal said.

On "Kejriwal ki Guarantee", he said 24x7 power supply, good education and health facilities, and arranging two crore jobs for youth every year are part of it.

Kejriwal also promised to provide full statehood to Delhi.

K'taka CM rules out CBI probe against MP Prajwal

PTI

BENGALURU

Ruling out transfer of the probe into sexual abuse charges against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna to the CBI, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said he reposed faith in the Special Investigation Team of the state police, which is investigating the case.

Questioning BJP's locus standi to make such a demand, he asked the opposition party as to why it doesn't trust the police. He also hit out at the saffron party for making misleading statements aimed

at causing confusion in the minds of the people about SIT, which is conducting a "fair probe".

"We are getting the probe done by our police (SIT), we have belief and faith in our police. They are efficient," Siddaramaiah said in response to a question on BJP demanding a CBI probe.

Speaking to Reporters here, he pointed out that the BJP had once called CBI "Corruption Bureau of Investigation", and the party never handed over a single case to the central agency while in power, despite Congress' repeated demands.

Flash floods in Afghanistan sweep away livelihoods

PTI

ISLAMABAD

Shopkeeper Nazer Mohammad ran home as soon as he heard about flash floods crashing into the outskirts of a provincial capital in northern Afghanistan. By the time he got there, there was nothing left, including his family of five.

"Everything happened just all of a sudden. I came home, but there was no

home there, instead I saw all the neighbourhood covered by mud and water, said Mohammad. 48. He said that he buried his wife and two sons aged 15 and 8 years, but he's still looking for two daughters, who are around 6 and 11 years old.

The U.N. food agency estimated that unusually heavy seasonal rains in Afghani-

stan have left more than 300 people dead and thousands of houses destroyed, most of them in the northern province of Baghlan, which bore the brunt of the deluges Friday.

Mohammad said Sunday that he found the bodies of his wife and two sons late Friday night on the outskirts of Puli Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province.

FROM PAGE 1 >>>

16 KTC workers on hunting jaunt at Netravali detained

Wildlife Protection Act. The Forest department said that the search for the other two who escaped is still on. RFO Devidas Varip posted at the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, is investigating the case and he is being assisted by Assistant Forster Damodar Salelkar. Meanwhile, incidents of poaching wild animals at night are seemingly on the rise in Saljini and nearby areas of the sanctuary. Night patrolling and some other measures are regularly being carried out, officials said, but in the last few years, such hunting expeditions are suspected to be happening frequently.

DHS taps churches, mosques in bid to tackle dengue threat

seven days. "This is why we need the support of the local community. They must first be aware of the do's and don'ts and act on it," she added. The graph of dengue cases has been steadily rising annually and Goa was the worst hit last year (2023) when almost 450 confirmed dengue cases and multiple times of that figure of 'suspected' cases were reported. Cortalim, Vasco (Vaddem, New Vaddem and Shantinagar), and the Borda, Fatorda and Moti Dongor locales of Margao were identified as high risk areas during the year, when the State also reported a handful of dengue deaths.

Mountaineer Kami climbs Mt Everest for 29th time, beats own record

PTI

KATHMANDU

Nepal's legendary mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa made history on Sunday by breaking his record for the highest number of ascents of Mt. Everest as he scaled the world's highest peak for the 29th time.

The 54-year-old veteran climber reached the 8,849-metre peak at 7:25 am local time on Sunday, according to Rakesh Gurung, director at the Tourism Department in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The expedition was organised by the Seven Summit Treks and had 20 climbers. They scaled Everest on Sunday morning, said Thani Guragain, a senior staff at the Seven Summit Treks.



At least 20 climbers from Seven Summit Treks including Kami made a successful ascent of Mt. Everest Sunday morning, Seven Summit Treks said, issuing a statement.

The climbing members were from countries including the USA, Canada and Kazakhstan besides thirteen climbers from Nepal.

Kami had climbed Everest for the first time in 1994.

Last year, he made two successful attempts to scale Ever-

est for the 27th and 28th times in the same season. This way, he became the person who climbed Everest for the highest number of times.

Last year, Pasand Dawa Sherpa of Solukhumbu completed his 27th summit of Everest, but he remains uncertain about attempting the climb this season, according to Republica newspaper.

Kami, a senior mountain guide at Seven Summit Treks, was born on January 17, 1970.

Kami's mountaineering journey began in 1992 when he joined an expedition to Everest as a supporting staff.

Since then, Kami has fearlessly embarked on several expeditions. Besides the Everest, he has also conquered Mt. K2, Cho Oyu, Lhotse, and Manaslu.

CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE IN NAME	CHANGE IN NAME
<p>I. ALMAS SUFIYAN SHAH, Ro. GRB Colony, no. G-7, Nr. Govt. School, Head Land Sada, South-Goa, hereby change my name "ALMAS ARIF AGA" To "ALMAS SUFIYAN SHAH" hereafter in all my dealings & documents, I will be known by the name "ALMAS SUFIYAN SHAH".</p>	<p>I, RITINHA RODRIGUES resident of House No.1433, Gotmbhat Curtorim, Salcete, Goa: 403709, would like to change name from RITINHA FERNANDES to RITINHA RODRIGUES Hereinafter in all my future dealings I would be known as RITINHA RODRIGUES Sd/- RITINHA RODRIGUES</p>	<p>I, VEENA FERNANDES resident of House No. 88/B, Revorda, Guiridolim, Chandor, Salcete, Goa: 403714, would like to change name from VEENA RODRIGUES to VEENA FERNANDES. Hereinafter in all my future dealings I would be known as VEENA FERNANDES Sd/- VEENA FERNANDES</p>

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate Office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra 411014
Branch Offices: Vagali Investment Goa Project (Bagamane Group) 1st Floor Next To GIDC & Passport Office, Patto Plaza, Panjim Goa- 403001

Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home Loan(s)/Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, and as a consequence the loan(s) have become Non Performing Assets. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/undelivered, as such the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Loan Account No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) & Addresses	Address of the Secured/ Mortgaged Immovable Asset/ Property to be enforced	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : PANAJI LAN No. 411HSLEL976669 & 411TSHEM411236 and 411TSHEM908651 1. VAIBHAV VITHU NAIK (Borrower) A/ 42(1) Cotto Vil-Tilco Quepasa South Goa 403703	All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: Flat No. S-1 admeasuring area of 83.5 sq.mtrs, Second Floor, Rachana Residency A, Plot No. C, Urdagal, Ponda, District - South Goa, East : By property of Apu Oleiro, Bolo Shet and Sada Shet Arsekar, West : By the compound wall beyond which lies the property of Comunidade of Kavlem, North : By the boundary wall of the property of Shri Swamiji of Kavlem Math, property of Ladu Sinai Cundoclear and a pathway, South : By Seven Hundred the compound wall of the property belonging to the Comunidade of Kavlem/ Fifty Nine Only).	27th April 2024 & Rs. 28,28,759/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine Only)

This step is being taken for suballotted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/or Co-Borrowers/Guarantors are advised to make the payments of outstanding liability within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with Bajaj Housing Finance Limited) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/ mortgaged property will be initiated as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which Bajaj Housing Finance Limited has the charge.

Place: Goa Date: 13 May 2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

BRAND Sutra

THE GOAN EVERYDAY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL



"IF YOU'RE COMPETITOR FOCUSED, YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THERE IS COMPETITOR DOING SOMETHING. BEING CUSTOMER-FOCUSED ALLOW YOU TO BE MORE PIONEERING."

- JEFF BEZOS, FOUNDER OF AMAZON

SUSTAINABLE IMPACT, RAPIDO CHANGE

Bike-taxis are a convenient and cheap transportation option that can help declutter roads. But owing to concerns over personal and ride safety, they face the heat of regulation. What are bike-taxi companies doing to ease the minds of policymakers and people? We spoke with PAVAN GUNTUPALLI, Co-Founder of Rapido, to find out.

BY TSUNAMI COSTABIR

Rapido was founded in 2015 by Aravind Sanka, Pavan Guntupalli and SR Rishikesh. In the mostly orthodox society of India, they envisioned making people comfortable with the idea of a woman sitting on a stranger's bike. But a reason for the comfort being - it's a Rapido rider. The company now operates in over 100 cities across India with their bike-taxi services. And while the gender ratio of bike-taxi users is still very much in the favour of men, they strive to change that by implementing industry-first safety features.

What was your vision for Rapido when you founded it?

We wanted to build something that would change people's lives through sustainable impact. By 2015, the ride-sharing revolution had begun in the country, but we could still see people inconveniencing themselves trying to get into overcrowded buses and metros. The reason being - a majority of the country cannot afford to shell out approximately Rs 200 every day over commute. So affordability was a barrier.

Then, when you move away from metro cities, you realise that apart from the barriers of convenience and cost, there are places with a lack accessibility to vehicles. After 10 pm or so, there are no options to leave your home.

India is the home of the largest two-wheeler manufacturers and two-wheeler owners, with approximately 160 million two-wheelers on

the road. Even a farmer in a small town would own a bike for their own commuting purposes and they could leverage that vehicle to help others with their commute and even earn additional money for themselves.

To create a sustainable impact meant that we didn't want to get into adding new vehicles on the road but rather leverage the already existing infrastructure of those millions of two-wheelers. We also wanted to open the opportunity of becoming a part-timer captain (rider) to anyone with a bike and some extra time. I'm proud to say that approximately 1.5 lakh new part-time jobs are generated through Rapido per month, which helps enhance people's quality of life.

What are the safety features Rapido has worked on for bike-taxis?

A cornerstone for the brand is safety. In India, it is not okay for a girl to get onto a stranger's bike, but we want to tell people that while it might not be okay to get onto a stranger's bike, it is okay to get onto a Rapido.

For our captains, there is a stringent four-step process with background verification, document verification, training and assessment. After these steps, they are allowed onto the system, and everything that the captain does during their first ten rides is closely monitored - from speed to steep turns and rash driving. Subjective feedback - behaviour, professionalism and courtesy - is taken from the customer. The questions we ask are pointed and go beyond a generic rating or review. In case of any negative feedback, we put that rider back onto the training module.

Then, we also have a system of features for users where rides are tracked and can be shared with friends. We have an emergency support centre that notifies first responders (the local police station) in case of an emergency and a unit that tracks route deviation and unscheduled stops. The user gets pinged immediately in such events for a check-in.

We launched an industry-first late-night check-in call where between 10 pm and 6 am, all users get a safety check-in call on completing their ride.

We are working on building a feature that allows you to connect with the nearest captain in case of an emergency. The nearest captain can show up in 3-5 minutes, which is way faster than emergency services.

Since bike-taxis are a new concept in India, one mishap can up-turn the entire industry. This is why, even when we were a small team, we put a major focus on safety. In 2015, we were the first company in India to work with insurance companies to create customised insurance for bike-taxis.

In light of the bans on bike-taxis in certain states, from a policy perspective, what suggestions would you recommend?

There are two ways to go about it in the future. First, two-wheelers can be bought only for commercial usage; second, we can leverage the available behemoth two-wheeler infrastructure.

All bikes in India are bought with a sense of personal usage. The more constraints that are put in place, like changing number plates, the more detrimental it will be. The emerging youth face unemployment and under-employment, so it is important to minimise the barriers to entering into earning opportunities. An inclusive framework to allow more people to access the opportunity is necessary.

What product and service expansions are you looking forward to in the future?

Rapido's bike-taxis are present in 100+ cities across the country. In 2020, due to Covid-19, users requested autos, citing proximity concerns and we introduced autos across all 100 cities. Currently, we have cab services in 40+ cities, which will go up to 70 by the end of the year.

What do you think is necessary to improve India's transportation system?

We want people to view bike-taxis as a first and last-mile transportation option for places that already have a well-developed metro and railway infrastructure. This way, we can actively promote the use case to encourage public transportation. Like in Lucknow and Hyderabad, Rapido's tie-up with metro authorities has increased metro usage.

People don't use metros because they have problems with parking or last-mile connectivity. The more inconvenience there is, the more reluctance there is. We're working on developing a product that can book both the first-mile and last-mile bike ride with a single click and even integrate metro ticketing into the booking.

Our roads operate at 4x their capacity, so ride-sharing options can decongest roads and accommodate more people in fewer vehicles.

What are some key lessons you've learnt building Rapido?

If we wanted to build a profitable taxi company, it would be easy enough for us to do it with a small team. But change is not easy. When Rapido started, other than Goa, no other state recognised bike-taxis. After consistent efforts, 11 states have now recognised them as a form of public transportation. So persistence and the team have played a big role in building the company.

Navigating the intricacies of Cashback & Coupons

Cashback and coupons are pillars of consumer satisfaction. They act as rewards for the brain, encouraging shopping habits, says the author.



PINION

BY DELPHIN VARGHESE

The bustling world of consumerism transcends the concepts of transactions and purchases. It entails an ecosystem that thrives on the allure of incentives, like cashback rewards and coupons which are instrumental in shaping consumer behaviour and provide retailers with insights uncovering the nuanced dynamics of the consumer market and help them tailor their strategies accordingly.

With a surge in selling prices, consumer purchases are declining. This is where coupons and cashback play a pivotal role in influencing buying decisions. Consumers are increasingly resorting to digital price comparison tools and coupon tracking to plan their purchases in order to maximise savings. A Gartner consumer community survey revealed that over 30% of consumers leveraged these tools to combat inflation.

93% of shoppers used a coupon code or discount code at least once in 2023, as highlighted by a RetailMeNot survey. This acts as a testament to the widespread appeal of saving money.

The excitement fueled by cashback rewards is no different. Research conducted by Rakuten revealed that 68% of consumers feel excited when they receive a cashback. Whether it is a percentage back on credit cards or cash rewards through dedicated platforms, nothing beats the enthusiasm ignited by the promise of getting something back on every purchase. Cashback and coupons act as catalysts for the rapidly growing e-commerce and retail ecosystem in India.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SAVING

Apart from the monetary benefits, cashback and coupons elicit feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment as they tap into the brain's reward system. This addictive phenomenon can encourage consumers to shop more in or-

der to save more. The amount of discount usually does not play a very important role in shaping the consumer mindset. What matters to the buyers is that they gain something extra while saving money. The perceived value of the discount is greater than its actual monetary worth. This aspect exerts a significant influence in driving purchase decisions and fosters brand loyalty, too.

MONITORING PURCHASE PATTERNS AND TRACKING TRENDS

In the digital era, every click, swipe, and purchase is analysed and capitalised on. Retailers and marketers leverage this data to track consumer behaviour and personalise their offerings accordingly. By monitoring cashback redemption patterns and coupon usage, companies gather valuable insights about what their target consumer prefers, their purchasing habits and the popularity of their products and services. An analysis by Nielsen reported that a rise in coupon redemption for eco-friendly products can be attributed to a growing demand for sustainable options among the consumer segment.

Besides this, demographic data helps marketers tailor their strategies to cater to the interests of diverse user segments. For instance, millennials who are more tech-savvy might be more inclined to use mobile apps for cashback offers, while GenX people might prefer printable coupons.

The savings process is further streamlined owing to the advent of technology. Brands are also leveraging Augmented Reality (AR) to offer virtual coupons and cashback rewards in-store. The advancements in blockchain technology have the potential to revolutionise loyalty programs and reward systems.

The consumer world is evolving at an unprecedented rate, with cashback and coupons at the forefront, acting as steadfast pillars of savings and satisfaction. Enhanced insights fueled by technological advancements open endless possibilities for both consumers and retailers.

(The author is the Co-Founder and Chief Revenue Officer of AdCounty Media)

IN BRIEF



Shark Tank issues legal notice to participants using segments from the show

Sony India has sent legal notices to startups regarding the unauthorised use of clips from their show Shark Tank for advertisement purposes. Certain social media posts on Google and Meta platforms have also been taken down due to copyright violations. As per a report, startups desiring to utilise the content should have obtained a licence from Sony.



Leo Burnett India onboards new Chief Creative Officers

Vikram Pandey and Sachin Kamble have been elevated from National Creative Directors to Chief Creative Officers for Leo Burnett South Asia. In their new roles, they will lead the creative growth of the agency across Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. Vikram and Sachin have been with the agency for 16 and 10 years, respectively.



NCLT approves resolution plan of Sapphire Media for Big 92.7 FM

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the resolution plan of Sapphire Media for the radio network Big 92.7 FM, owned by Reliance Broadcast Network. As per the plan, Sapphire Media will pay Rs 261 crore to secured and operational creditors as against the total claims of Rs 947.5 crore.



Apple apologises for iPad Pro advertisement

In Apple's latest advertisement, books, paints and musical instruments were seen getting crushed to create the iPad Pro. The ad aimed to showcase the creative potential of the device but ended up disrespecting the creative objects. Tor Myhren, Apple's VP of Marketing Communications, released a statement to AdAge saying, "We missed the mark with this video, and we're sorry."



Swiggy ropes in Mayur Hota as Vice President - Brand

In his new role, Mayur will work on convenience, integrated marketing, strategy building, brand equity, pop culture and consumer behaviour to increase Swiggy's brand distinctiveness. Mayur has over 23 years of experience in the industry and his last stint was as the Chief Marketing Officer at Culinary Brands.

Observability empowers India's tech ecosystem

The volume of users and speed at which operations run in India make it imperative for platforms to provide exceptional digital experiences. ASHAN WILLY, CEO of New Relic, tells us how their observability platform is the backbone of apps we use in our everyday lives.

look at the volume of users and user concurrence, it becomes critical for companies to ensure that it doesn't affect the platform functioning. So the speed and scale of operations necessitate that applications are really robust.

What has led to the growing importance of observability?

New Relic was set up in 2008 by Lew Cirne, a pioneer in the development of Application Performance Management. The way applications were being written was getting more complex and he realised that observability can be done from the cloud. For the various services and microservices they offer, an end-to-end monitoring of the application is really important. And today, with AI being embedded into applications, different performance capability characteristics need to be observed.

What does the future of observability with data security look like?

For effective observability, we do need data and have a responsibility to make the data secure. The cyber security industry is working to stop vulnerability and attacks at an early stage rather than waiting to find them later downstream. Interestingly,

observability has a unique opportunity to disrupt that security market. We conduct vulnerability management and penetration testing while developers are building new software. So when the applications are already tested and secured, the role of the security industry will change. We're trying to move the security testing to a step ahead of where it is.

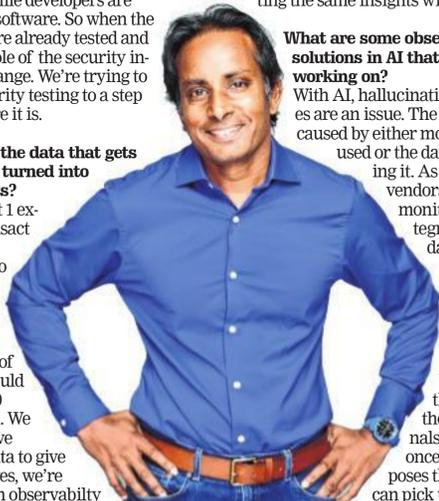
How much of the data that gets collected gets turned into actual insights?

We store about 1 exabyte and transact 2.5 exabyte of data per day. To put that into context, it's 122 million Bollywood movies worth of data which would take you 42,000 years to watch. We process massive amounts of data to give insights. But yes, we're moving into an observability

3.0 phase where we're looking at being intelligent about the amount of data being collected. That way, we can work on getting the same insights with lesser data.

What are some observability solutions in AI that New Relic is working on?

With AI, hallucinations and biases are an issue. The biases can be caused by either model being used or the data we're feeding it. As observability vendors, first we can monitor the integrity of the data that the large language model (LLM) is consuming. And second, LLMs are building into the model their own signals of biases. So once the model exposes that bias, we can pick up on it.



BY TSUNAMI COSTABIR

In March 2022, New Relic, a US-based observability company, set up operations in India with an office in Bangalore. Since then, the company valued at USD 6 billion has heavily invested in the country, setting up an Innovation Centre and a new office in Hyderabad.

Observability provides visibility into how systems and apps operate, allowing engineers to monitor performance, understand user behaviour, diagnose issues and optimise functionality effectively.

Used in popular apps like HealthifyMe, Swiggy, BigBasket and on financial and OTT platforms, New Relic's software touches almost every aspect of our lives. With smartphone adoption in India reaching close to 71% in 2023, the elimination of disruptions in digital experiences has never been more important.

What is the India potential you're looking to tap into?

India is a growing investment space given the talent. The India market, too, is our fastest-growing market where we have over 12,000 customers. We service both digital-native and traditional businesses and since India has been at the forefront of everything digital, it gives us a bit of an opportunity here. Lastly, a lot of observability operators for large MNCs in the US sit in India. So if we service this market well, it will help us globally.

What are some key areas of difference between India and global markets?

Models in India are different. Like quick commerce for example, having services and deliveries at your doorstep in nine minutes is something that doesn't happen in other parts of the world. And when you

- May 13 India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for April
- May 14 India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) figures for April
- May 14 US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech
- May 15 US Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for April

With neighbour like China, we have to learn to compete: EAM

Jaishankar says boosting India's manufacturing will help in expanding its influence globally

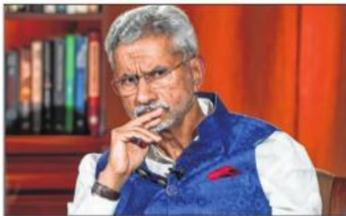
PTI / New Delhi

Boosting India's domestic manufacturing and the overall economy will provide much more resources in its foreign policy toolkit to expand the country's influence globally and compete with China on the economic front, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Jaishankar said India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been focusing on enhancing domestic manufacturing in the last 10 years as there was a neglect of the sector before 2014 that created many problems for the country.

He also suggested that lack of focus in the past on the manufacturing sector is linked to the upward trajectory in India-China trade notwithstanding New Delhi's approach that normalisation of ties with Beijing is dependent on resolution of the eastern Ladakh border row. "We need to be confident. I am clear that international politics, international relations are competitive. I have a neighbour like China. I have to learn to compete," he said.

"By my complaining, China is not going to



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during an interview with PTI, in New Delhi

stop doing things. If I do not build up my strength at home, our foreign policy will be as good as our domestic policy," Jaishankar said.

"It is a function of our domestic policy that if I can actually build up my economy, if I can build up my manufacturing, if I can create the kind of capabilities which today I am trying to do, I think you are going to find the foreign policy has much more resources and much more tool in its toolkit to actually influence the world," he added.

His response came to a query on why

India's bilateral trade volume with China is going up when New Delhi has been insisting that the ties cannot be normal if the border situation is abnormal.

Jaishankar suggested that such a scenario has arisen as adequate attention to the manufacturing sector was not given before 2014 in the country.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved.

"I think it is common sense that if there is no peace and tranquillity in the border, how can you have a normal relationship," Jaishankar said.

"After all, if somebody is at your front door in an unfriendly manner, you are not going to go out there and act as though everything is normal," he said.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for normalisation of overall ties.

However, trade between the two countries is steadily expanding, especially with rising imports from China.

FPIs withdraw ₹17K cr from equities in May

PTI / New Delhi

Foreign investors pulled out a massive Rs 17,000 crore from Indian equities in the first 10 days of the month owing to general election and the uncertainty surrounding its outcome coupled with expensive valuations and profit booking.

This was way higher than a net withdrawal of Rs 8,700 crore in the entire April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Before that, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March. Looking ahead, post-general elections, corporate India's strong financial performance in Q4 FY24 is anticipated to be rewarded. While FPIs may adopt a cautious stance until the election results are clear, favourable outcomes and established political stability could see their return in significant numbers, Trivesh D, COO at Tradejini, said.

As per data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) experienced a net outflow of Rs 17,063 crore in equities this



month (till May 10).

There are multiple reasons behind this aggressive selling by FPIs. With the ongoing general election and the uncertainty surrounding its outcome, investors are wary to enter the markets before the election results, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Also, with markets trading at relatively high valuations, many would have found this as an opportunity to book profit and wait until clarity emerges on the country's political landscape, he added.

"Given the current political uncertainty in India and with US interest rates still appealing, FPIs have shifted to a risk-off mode,"

Krishna Appala, smallcase manager & Senior Research Analyst at Capitalmind, said.

BIZ BULLETIN

Anarock FY24 revenue rises 36 pc to ₹566 cr

Real estate consultant Anarock Group has posted a 36 per cent increase in its revenue to Rs 566 crore in the last fiscal, helped by better earnings from housing brokerage and other services. During 2022-23, the company posted a revenue of Rs 416 crore. Homegrown Anarock was established by Anuj Puri in April 2017 after serving as country head for 10 years in an international property consultancy firm.

Gold ETFs see net outflow of ₹396 cr

Gold Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) witnessed a net outflow of Rs 396 crore last month, making it the first withdrawal after March 2023, owing to profit booking. Despite the decline, the asset under management (AUM) of gold funds rose 5 per cent to Rs 32,789 crore at April-end from Rs 31,224 crore in the preceding month, according to the data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

AI users doubled in last six months: Report

The number of people using AI has nearly doubled in the last 6 months and around 75 per cent of global knowledge workers are using AI at workplaces, according to "2024 Work Trend Index Annual Report" by Microsoft and LinkedIn. The report highlights the increasing reliance on personal AI tools by employees, who are grappling with the overwhelming pace and volume of work. However, while leaders recognize the importance of AI for business, many feel their organizations lack a clear strategy to effectively leverage AI to drive bottom-line results.

NDTV unveils NDTV Marathi

On Maharashtra Day, NDTV unveiled the sixth addition to its news channel lineup — NDTV Marathi — at the Taj Lands End in Mumbai. The channel was launched by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. "NDTV Marathi, launched on Maharashtra Day, is the sixth channel from the NDTV network. It is our privilege to serve the people of Maharashtra with meaningful, accurate, and trustworthy news and analysis. On this occasion, we are also launching a unique campaign - 'Let's Start Up in Maharashtra' - to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit among the state's youth," said Sanjay Pugalia, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of the NDTV Network.

IOC, BPCL, HPCL post ₹81,000 cr record profit

State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd reported bumper profits totalling about Rs 81,000 crore in FY24, which far exceeded their annual earning in pre-oil crisis years. The combined standalone net profit of IOC, BPCL and HPCL in April 2023 to March 2024 (FY24) was better than their annual earning of Rs 39,356 crore in pre-oil crisis years, regulatory filings by them showed. All the three companies posted the highest ever standalone as well as consolidated net profit in FY24.

China largest trading partner of India in FY24

China has emerged as the largest trading partner of India with USD 118.4 billion two-way commerce in 2023-24, slightly edging past the US, according to the data of economic think tank GTRI. The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at USD 118.3 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23. The data showed that India's exports to China rose by 8.7 per cent to USD 16.67 billion in the last fiscal. The main sectors, which recorded healthy growth in exports to that country, include iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, spices, fruits and vegetables, plastic and linoleum.

Auditor of Zomato subsidiaries resigns

Zomato on Sunday said the auditor of its subsidiaries Zomato Hyperpure and Blink Commerce has resigned with immediate effect, paving the way for the food tech platform's auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells to be appointed in its place to make the audit process more efficient. Baliboi & Associates, who was appointed as statutory auditors of the two wholly-owned subsidiaries for five years beginning April 1, 2023, till the conclusion of the 13th AGM, resigned w.e.f. May 12, 2024, Zomato said in a regulatory filing.

Inflation data, Q4 results, global trends to drive stock markets'

PTI / New Delhi

Stock markets will be driven by domestic inflation data, ongoing quarterly earnings from corporates and global trends this week, analysts said.

News flows around the general election would also be tracked by investors, market experts said.

Besides, investors would also take cues from the trading activity of foreign investors, the movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and the rupee-dollar trend.

"Investors will be bombarded with economic data on both domestic and global fronts. Domestically, watch for Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Globally, focus will be on the US Producer Price Index (PPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures.

"Additionally, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech



will be a key event to watch. China's industrial production data and Japan's GDP figures round out the important releases for the week," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said that the current trend in the domestic markets is likely to continue in the short-term due to election-led uncertainties.

"In the data-quiet week ahead, investors' attention will be focused on the release of India and US CPI data, Europe and Japan's GDP releases, and the FED chair

speech. Furthermore, the next set of Q4 results will also attract market sentiment," he added.

DLF, Zomato, Bharti Airtel and Mahindra & Mahindra are among the major companies scheduled to announce their earnings during the week.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by major global and domestic economic data, India's WPI inflation data, US PPI data, Core CPI data, initial jobless claims, Japan's GDP data, India Q4 company results and speech by Fed Chairman Jerome Powell," Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

"Overall, we expect the market to consolidate in a broader range and take cues from Q4 results, global factors and news flows around the general election," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

India's coal import rises 8% to 268 MT in FY24

PTI / New Delhi

India's coal import rose by 7.7 per cent to 268.24 million tonne (MT) in FY24 driven by softness in seaborne prices and likelihood of increase in power demand during summer.

The country's coal import was 249.06 MT in FY23, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction services.

Coal import in March FY24 also rose to 23.96 MT, over 21.12 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal.

Of the total volume recorded in March 2024, non-coking coal import stood at 15.33 MT, against 13.88 MT in March FY23. Coking coal import in March 2024 was 5.34 MT against 3.96 MT a year ago.

During FY24, non-coking coal import was at 175.96 MT, higher than 162.46 MT imported during FY23. Coking coal import was at



57.22 MT in 2023-24, against 54.46 MT in 2022-23.

"There was an increase in coal import volumes due to the continued softness in seaborne prices and expectation of a demand uptick during the summer season. However, as there is ample availability of domestic coal in the market, it is to be seen if import demand remains strong in coming months," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said.

The all-India production of coal during 2023-24 was at 997.25 MT, registering a growth of 11.65 per cent over FY23.

Adani Enterprises to invest ₹80k cr in current fiscal

PTI / New Delhi

Adani Enterprises, billionaire Gautam Adani-led group's flagship firm that has interests spanning from new energy to airports and data centres, plans to spend Rs 80,000 crore across businesses in the current financial year, a senior company executive said.

A bulk of the capital expenditure planned for 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal will be on new energy businesses and airports, said Saurabh Shah, deputy chief financial officer, at an analyst call, transcript of which was released by the company.

"We are looking at a capex of about Rs 80,000 crore in FY25, out of which a major part...will go in ANIL and airports business which take up about Rs 50,000 crore of capex," he said.

ANIL is Adani New Industries Ltd, which makes solar modules that convert sunlight into electricity, and green hydrogen.

"Then the third would be in roads, which, because of Ganga Expressway, will be capex of Rs



12,000 crore and rest put together in other businesses," he said. "Because we are also starting our PVC project, there will be a capex of about Rs 10,000 crore in the PVC business, while the remaining would be in the data centre at about Rs 5,000 crore."

Shah said ANIL is targeting factories to produce 10 gigawatt of solar modules as well as 3 GW of wind turbines.

"For FY26, the other capex would be for the initial requirements that we have to meet for our green hydrogen business, which will be as a kickstart for our green hydrogen as well as downstream products," he said.

Adani Group has begun commercial production of wafer and ingots used for making solar cells and modules at its factory in Gujarat.

India all set to overtake Japan as 4th largest economy by 2025: Kant

ANI / New Delhi

Citing various macroeconomic parameters that are doing pretty well, India's G20 Sherpa and former CEO of Niti Aayog Amitabh Kant projected that the country is all set to overtake Japan as 4th largest economy in the world by 2025.

The size of India's GDP is currently ranked 5th, after the US, China, Germany and Japan. It overtook the UK in 2022.

Just a decade ago, Indian GDP was the eleventh largest in

the world. Currently, India's GDP is estimated to be around USD 3.7 trillion.

Some highlights of India's journey to the top 5 economies of the world in 2024 from Fragile 5 in 2013, according to Kant, among others, record GST collection, over 8 per cent GDP growth in the past three quarters, trading in Indian currency Rupee with various countries (to be precise 27), inflation at manageable levels.

Double-digit growth in the steel, cement, and automobile

manufacturing sectors; global leader in digital public infrastructure, with e-transactions surging to 134 billion, accounting for 46 per cent of all global digital payments; accounts opened under Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile trinity have over Rs 2.32 lakh crore as current balance; average annual inflation between 2013-14 and 2022-23 declined to 5 per cent from 8.2 per cent between 2003-04 and 2013-14 are some other things he attributed to India's firm growth.

Escorts Kubota plans to invest up to ₹4,500 cr in new plant in next 3-4 yrs

PTI / New Delhi

Farm and construction equipment manufacturer Escorts Kubota Ltd plans to invest up to Rs 4,500 crore over the next three to four years to set up a new manufacturing plant, according to its whole-time director and CFO Bharat Madan.

The company is currently in talks with the Rajasthan govern-

ment for a site at Ghiloth, where it intends to set up the greenfield plant to double its domestic tractor production capacity to 3.4 lakh units annually, while also setting up new engine and construction equipment lines in phases.

"The greenfield plant will involve doubling tractor production capacity, setting up a new engine line and a construction equipment line in phases. Overall, the

greenfield project may cost Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 4,500 crore over the next three-four years," he said.

He further said, "This year, we expect to procure land, which may cost Rs 400 crore to Rs 450 crore and then start construction by the end of this fiscal."

At present, the company has a total annual tractor production capacity of 1.7 lakh units. The main plant is located in Farid-

abad. Its engine production capacity is 1.5 lakh units annually with Kubota engines currently being imported.

Madan said the normal capex for FY25 will be around Rs 300 crore. On the tractor sales outlook for FY25, he said the industry is expecting "a mid-single digit growth" with demand pick likely to gain momentum only in the second half of the fiscal.

Maruti Suzuki expects over 30% jump in CNG vehicle sales

PTI / New Delhi

Maruti Suzuki India expects its CNG car sales to rise over 30 per cent to around 6 lakh units this fiscal, according to a senior company official.

The country's largest carmaker also aims to export around 3 lakh units in the ongoing financial year.

"So CNG, this year, we did about 4,50,000 (units) in passenger vehicles. We are hoping to do something like 6,00,000 vehi-

cles in FY24-25," Maruti Suzuki India Executive Director Corporate Affairs Rahul Bharti said in an analyst call.

The company sells CNG trims across various models like Wagon R, Brezza, Dzire, and Ertiga, among others in the domestic market.

Bharti said the company's capacity expansion by around 1 lakh units per annum at its Manesar plant, in Haryana largely addresses the Ertiga supply issues.



Ertiga CNG demand is huge in the market leading to supply issues, he noted.

On overseas shipments,

Bharti said the company aims to export about 3 lakh units.

"We did about 2,83,000 units in FY24. Despite the fact that we've increased substantially over the usual 1,00,000 units per year that we used to do just about 4 years ago. We wish to take it further in the future years.

"And this year, we should be doing about 3,00,000 units fairly diversified across markets, across products," he noted.

'Govt to focus on promoting India's textiles exports'

PTI / New Delhi

The government will accord focused attention to promote India's textiles exports, which declined for the second year in a row in 2023-24, Textiles Secretary Rachna Shah said.

The government has set an ambitious target to achieve USD 100 billion export for textile products by 2030.

The cumulative exports of textiles and apparel from India during April 2023-March 2024 registered a de-growth of 3.24 per cent at USD 34.4 billion, as compared to USD 35.5 billion in April 2022-March 2023.

In 2021-22, outward shipments of textiles and apparel were recorded at over USD 41 billion.

"We had challenges like the Red Sea crisis making it slightly more challenging," Shah said on the decline in India's textiles exports in 2023-24.

Although geo-political challenges remain, the textiles secretary said some exporters have re-



ported improvement in their order books in the first quarter and the shipments are likely to improve in the coming months.

"We will be looking at more focused attention on products, which have greater export potential and the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme is focused on those globally traded products," the textiles secretary told PTI.

Shah also outlined other measures being looked at to promote exports from the sector, including "possibly looking at newer markets".

She said the FTAs, which India has entered into with other nations "hopefully will open up more opportunities" for the textiles exports.

E-tailing sector in India projected to grow at 18 pc by 2028-29: Report

ANI / New Delhi

The e-tail sector in India, which is expected to be nearly USD 60 billion in the financial year 2023-24, is projected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18 per cent by 2028-29, according to a report by Knight Frank India, a property consultancy firm.

Electronic retailing (E-tailing) is the sale of goods and services through the Internet.

At the current levels of consumption across all retail categories, the revenue potential of all shopping centres across Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities is expected to grow at a CAGR of 23 per cent during the same period, it said in a report, titled 'Think India Think Re-

tail 2024'.

The Indian retail industry is rapidly growing and accounts for 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and 8 per cent of the workforce.

The sector is witnessing exponential growth with the development of shopping centres and new retail destinations, not just in major metros but also in Tier 2

cities.

"Leaving the series of disruptions in consumption during the pandemic years behind, the retail industry is back on track with a vengeance," the report noted.

In the backdrop of the flourishing e-tail sector, it may be debated that the revenue potential offered by online spending far surpasses those of offline channels.

After careful assessment of the average trading densities in the 10 retailer categories across 58 high streets, the potential consumption in high streets is derived at nearly USD 3 billion for 2024-25.

Indian high streets occupy nearly 7 per cent of the total gross leasable area as compared to the shopping centre stock across all cities.

Vastu Tips

Simple dining room Vastu hacks

JYOTI S



Dining table vastu

According to Dining Table Vastu, the table should always be square or rectangle! Yes, in fact, the circular dining tables are shunned by Vastu Shastra; this is one of the major reasons why our old traditional dining tables had four corners. This does go against the conventional modern outlook, which prefers circular tables. But in order to attract positivity and fortune, some rules have to be followed right. Facing South-West is the best Dining table direction as per Vastu.

Dining room direction as per vastu

Dining Rooms should always be constructed or placed in West Direction for the perfect flow of positive energy! However, in the modern age, especially many could not follow Vastu tips for flats as their layout often is different from our ancient or traditional architecture; hence you might not be able to set it up in the western direction. So the second-best place for a perfect dining room Vastu is North or the East.

Dining room's door

Yes, the door matters too! Nowadays, dining rooms are open or attached to the kitchens, usually adhering to the trending interior design ideas; however, if you are constructing a home, and if there is a doorway to the dining room, then it should always be either in East, North or West Directions. Never place the door opening towards the dining room in the South direction. Also, keep in mind it should not face the main door or entrance of the home.

Proper seating positions at dining table

Yes, there are methods to be followed in the seating arrangement, too; the head of the household should always face the Eastern side. The children in the family should not be seated at the Southern side of the table; in fact, it is better if none of the members faces the South wall.

RIMA CHOWDHURY

Who does not want to be blessed with a healthy and glowing skin, right? Each one of us wants healthy and glowing skin, but due to several external factors, we fail to achieve our goals. If there is anything that takes care of dry skin, it's a body butter. Here, we have listed some of the best natural body butters that could do a whole lot of good to your skin. There are several kinds of butters available in the market, which can be used on a daily basis to get glowing skin and hair. These butters are made by natural ingredients of nature and hence, there are no chances of you facing skin allergies or problems due to their use. We have even found some women choose body butters over the regular moisturisers or body lotions. Body butter helps to keep your skin hydrated and also helps shrink large pores on the skin. So, have a look at the different types of body butters to use on skin.

Shea butter

Shea butter is the most popular natural body butter, which is known for its smooth consistency and hydrating quality. Shea butter contains cinnamic-acid esters which help to keep your body hydrated and supple, each time you apply it on.

Vastu colors for dining room

Though usually, the present homeowners would paint it according to a colour combo of the home, some even try to even out the odds between paint vs wallpaper. But for people who want to rope in positive vibes more than aesthetics or colour palettes, the best Vastu colours to paint the dining room are off-white, cream, yellow, pink and orange. Choose any of these, and you are set for the deal!

Vastu tips

- The best options for hanging a mirror in your dining room are North and Eastern Walls.
- In a home with more than a single floor, it's better to build both the kitchen and dining room on a single floor.
- Avoid including the dining table in your smart storage or compact housing plans, especially folding tables.
- The dining hall needs ample carpeted space with good ventilation.
- Optimal placement for the wash basin is in the North or East corner.

Natural body butters to take care of your dry skin



Mango body butter

Mango body butter contains a large amount of vitamin A, vitamin E and beta-carotene that help to benefit the skin. It helps to protect the skin from the harmful rays of the sun by decreasing the melanin productivity in the skin.

Almond body butter

Almond body butter is extracted from almonds, which keeps your skin clear and fresh. Almond body butter helps to unclog the clogged pores, thus giving you a more clearer and brighter complexion. It is ideal to be used on all skin types.



Chocolate body butter

This natural body butter is made from exotic chocolates found around the world. It helps to keep your body hydrated and also treats hyperpigmentation on the skin. It is extremely good for normal and dry skin types.

Shea cocoa fusion body butter

Combining the hydrating properties of shea butter with the antioxidant-rich benefits of cocoa butter, this fusion body butter offers a luxurious treat for the skin. It deeply nourishes and repairs dry, damaged skin while imparting a subtle, natural fragrance. The blend of these two potent ingredients creates a powerhouse moisturizer that is perfect for all skin types, especially those in need of intense hydration and rejuvenation.

Avocado body butter

Avocado body butter is extracted from avocados, which is one of the healthiest fruits in the market. It helps to keep your skin hydrated and also helps to give you a wrinkle-free skin. Due to a large amount of antioxidants present in this butter, it helps to prevent the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles on the face.

Lavender body butter

This natural body butter is made from lavender essential oil that is extracted from the plant. This body butter helps to prevent dryness on the skin. It is extremely good to be used on extremely dry or irritated skin.

Sunflower seed body butter

If you are not aware of the fact, let us tell you that sunflower seeds are the healthiest ingredients on the list. Sunflower seed body butter is made from essential oil that is extracted from the sunflower seed. It helps to deal with extremely oily and irritated skin. Being light in consistency, it gives you a glowing and beautiful skin.

Coconut body butter

Coconut body butter is derived from the flesh of coconuts and is rich in fatty acids that deeply moisturize the skin. It's particularly beneficial for those with dry or eczema-prone skin, as it helps to soothe irritation and inflammation.

NUPUR JHA

Health Benefits: Adzuki beans



Health benefits of adzuki beans

- **Boosts kidney health** Adzuki beans are a great source of fibre and they also contain antioxidants which aid in improving the functioning of your kidneys when consumed in the right amounts. This helps in curbing kidney inflammation, injuries as well as kidney failure. This amazing legume also helps in maintaining the bladder health.
- **Improves metabolism & aids weight management** Obesity is the root cause of various health issues like diabetes, heart ailments and strokes, breathing problems, etc. Adzuki beans help in treating obesity in a healthy way by reducing starch metabolism. The fibre content in them helps in controlling the blood sugar and keeps diabetes at bay and even help in weight management by keeping you fuller for longer.
- **Promotes heart health** These legumes contain antioxidants, potassium, vitamin B and folate which help in improving your cardiovascular health. Consumption of this legume helps in preventing the accumulation of LDL or bad cholesterol keeping heart ailments at bay. These components aid in reducing hypertension by relaxing the blood vessels.

Prevents chronic liver diseases

These legumes aid in improving your liver health by preventing liver ailments like liver cancer, fibrosis, liver cirrhosis and inflammation. Consuming the adzuki beans reduces the absorption of cholesterol and triglycerides. Therefore the liver is less exposed to toxic residues making it free from chronic liver diseases.

Helps build muscle mass

These beans are rich in proteins and are a good source of carbs which help in keeping you satiated. They also aid in building your muscle mass.

Enhances bone

Health Adzuki beans help in strengthening your bones and also increase muscle mass. Pre-menopausal women suffer from weak bones which often lead to osteoporosis. Eating adzuki beans helps in resorption of bone tissues and also keeps total degeneration and inflammation at bay.

Promotes women's health and pregnancy

The adzuki beans are amazing for women's health as they contain nutrients like iron, phosphorous and manganese which aid in managing the menstrual cycles in women and also aid in regulating the premenstrual symptoms (PMS). It also helps in keeping anaemia at bay providing iron.

Pain in the ears is often owing to an ear infection. If the infection is in the outer ear or ear canal, it is known as otitis externa or swimmer's ear. Are you aware? Swimmer's ear is not similar to the middle ear infections, known as otitis media, commonly seen among children. Moreover, a swimmer's ear is rarely fatal but can become serious if it spreads to other areas around the ear, such as the skull, and can be treated with the help of an expert. This condition can strike anyone irrespective of his/her age group. It is not only seen in people who swim but even in children and young adults. This infection happens when water or moisture is trapped in the ear canal while taking showers or baths, washing hair, or being in a moist or humid environment. This infection can be seen when one does excessive ear cleaning. If you have skin conditions that affect the ear canal, such as eczema or psoriasis, you may be more prone to developing a swimmer's ear at any point of time in your life. Shockingly, even wearing earplugs, earbuds, or hearing aids can cause this infection.

Know about swimmer's ear



DR. RINKY KAPOOR, Consultant Dermatologist, Cosmetic Dermatologist & Dermato-Surgeon, The Esthetic Clinics



The symptoms:

Swimmer's ear or otitis externa, can lead to uncomfortable symptoms and steal your peace of mind. The signs and symptoms of a swimmer's ear are ear pain that worsens when the earlobe is pulled or pushed, itching inside the ear canal, feeling of fullness or pressure, fluid or pus from the ear, and diminishing hearing ability due to inflammation and swelling. Other symptoms of this infection are also redness and swelling of the outer ear, mainly around the opening of the ear canal. It is important to seek timely treatment if you experience severe pain, persistent drainage from the ear, fever, or if your symptoms do not improve. Early detection and proper treatment are key to dealing with this unpleasant infection.

The prevention:

Make sure your ears are dry after swimming. Keeping them wet can raise the risk of this infection. Using a towel to allow water to drain out can help prevent moisture buildup and infection. Try to wear earplugs while swimming to protect your ears from water entering the ear canal and causing pain and further problems. Use cotton swabs to clean inside your ears without any further damage and pain. By maintaining good ear hygiene and avoiding fidgeting of the inner ear, you can lower your chances of suffering from this infection.

The treatment:

Opt for medication suggested by the doctor to get that much-needed relief from discomfort while waiting for prescribed medications to take effect. Avoid swimming in chlorinated pools or contaminated water can help prevent the recurrence of the infection. One will also have to take the below-mentioned precautionary measures to keep the swimmer's ear at bay.

NEHA GHOSH

Stroke: Causes, symptoms and treatment

Causes of stroke

The cause of a stroke depends on the type of stroke, which are ischemic stroke, hemorrhagic and transient ischemic attack (TIA).

• **Ischemic stroke-** This is the most common type of stroke. It occurs when the arteries supplying blood to the brain is interrupted or blocked, due to the build of plaque or blood clots in the arteries. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 87 per cent of strokes are ischemic stroke.

• **Hemorrhagic stroke-** This type of stroke happens when an artery breaks open or leaks causing blood leakage which creates excess pressure in the brain cells and tissues eventually damaging them. Medical conditions that cause hemorrhagic stroke include aneurysms (the enlargement of a weakened artery), high blood pressure, trauma and overtreatment with blood thinners.

• **Transient ischemic attack (TIA)-** A transient ischemic attack (TIA) also known as mini-stroke occurs when the blood flow to the brain is temporarily blocked, usually not more than 5 minutes. This type of stroke is a warning sign of a future stroke. Most often, blood clots cause transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Stroke in men

According to the CDC, stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in men. It is also the leading cause of disability that mostly affects younger men aged below 44 as compared to women. The symptoms of stroke in men include slurred speech, muscle weakness and drooping on one side of the face.

Stroke in women

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in women according to the CDC. The symptoms include pain, hallucination, general weakness, nausea or vomiting, seizures, fainting, shortness of breath, confusion and sudden changes in behaviour.

Symptoms of stroke

- Paralysis.
- Confusion.
- Slurred speech.
- Numbness or weakness in the arm, face and leg.
- Trouble in speaking.
- Trouble in walking.
- Vision problems.
- Dizziness.
- Loss of balance/coordination.
- Severe, sudden headache.

Risk factors of stroke

- Family history.
 - Sex.
 - Age.
 - Race and ethnicity.
 - Lack of exercise.
 - Unhealthy diet high in salt, saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol.
 - Excess alcohol consumption.
 - Tobacco use.
- Some health conditions can also increase the risk of stroke, which include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disorders, heart valve defects, sickle cell disease and diabetes.

Treatment of stroke

The treatment depends on the type of stroke, which includes the following:

- **Ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attack (TIA) stroke**
- **Anticoagulant drugs and anti-platelet drugs -** They are given within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of stroke symptoms.
- **Thrombolytic drugs -** They are given to dissolve the blood clots in the arteries to lower brain damage. Angioplasty and stents - In angioplasty, the doctor threads a catheter into the carotid arteries through an artery in your groin and a balloon is filled to widen the narrow artery. After which a stent is inserted to support the opened artery.
- **Mechanical thrombectomy -** The doctor inserts a catheter into a large artery inside your head and then a device is used to pull the blood clot out of the artery. In rare cases, if these treatments don't work the doctor may perform a surgery to remove the blood clot or fatty deposits from the arteries.

Hemorrhagic stroke

• **Clamping -** The doctor may find out that an aneurysm hasn't started bleeding yet or has stopped bleeding. To prevent bleeding, the doctor will insert a tiny clamp at the base of an aneurysm.

• **Coiling -** With the help of a catheter, a coil-like device is inserted into a weakened artery to block the blood flow in the area that is bleeding.

• **Stereotactic radiosurgery -** This treatment procedure is used to repair the malformations of the artery.

Prevention of stroke

Maintain a healthy weight, Stay physically active, Eat fruits and vegetables, foods low in saturated and trans fat, Consume alcohol in moderation, Quit smoking, Manage diabetes, Control high blood pressure.

Stroke recovery

After the treatment of stroke, the patient will be closely monitored and then the recovery process will start to help the patient recover. A speech therapist, cognitive therapist, physical therapist, dietitian, neurologist, psychologist or psychiatrist are usually recommended for people who are recovering from a stroke.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL DOWN MAN UTD TO TAKE TITLE RACE TO THE WIRE

TROSSARD SEALS 1-0 WIN TO TAKE TITLE RACE WITH RIVALS MAN CITY TO FINAL DAY

AGENCIES

LONDON

Arsenal kept their Premier League title dreams alive by ending an Old Trafford hoodoo to grind out a 1-0 win at Manchester United on Sunday, moving back top of the table and taking the championship battle down to the last weekend.

Leandro Trossard scored the only goal on 20 minutes as Arsenal won for just the second time in 17 games away at United to go a point clear at the summit. Manchester City still have the destiny of the title in their own hands as the defending champions have two matches left to Arsenal's one.

However, the Gunners kept the pressure on Pep Guardiola's men ahead of their tricky trip to Tottenham on Tuesday. "Our history wasn't very optimistic (here) but we found a way to win it and that says a lot about how much the team wants it," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "We want to knock that door and open that box of dreams to have in front of our people the opportunity to win the Premier League."

Arsenal host Everton on the final day next Sunday, while City entertain West Ham. Defeat further dented United's chances of competing in Europe next season.

Erik ten Hag's men showed more spirit than in a dismal 4-0 defeat to Crystal Palace on Monday, but have now won just one of their last eight Premier League games. United re-



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard (C) scores against Manchester United at the Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester on Sunday.

main eighth in the table, three points adrift of both Newcastle, who they face on Wednesday, and Chelsea.

Arsenal have been in scintillating form in 2024 to remain in the race for their first league title in 20 years. Arteta's men have won 15 and drawn one of their 17 league games since the turn of the year.

But Arsenal were far from their flowing best as the expected onslaught of an injury-ravaged United never materialised under unusually stifling heat in England's north-west. The manner of defeat at Palace had increased the scrutiny on

United boss Ten Hag.

The Dutchman's options were again hamstrung by a lengthy list of absentees with captain Bruno Fernandes among those sidelined and a bench littered with youngsters.

'Hands tied behind back'

"It's like trying to swim with your hands tied behind your back," said Ten Hag of United's injury crisis. "You see the fans are behind us. They fought with us. Today we gave them (something) back but that should be the standard in every game."

"You see even when we

miss seven starting players we are competitive with one of the best teams in the league."

However, Ten Hag's decision to retain Casemiro as a makeshift centre-back after his woeful showing against Palace will become another stick with which to beat the beleaguered coach. After United had managed to keep the free-scoring visitors at bay for the opening 20 minutes, Casemiro was culpable for the goal.

The 32-year-old was laboured in pushing up from a United goal-kick to play Kai Havertz onside and Trossard then stole in on the blind side

11 Arsenal have kept 11 away clean sheets in the Premier League this season; only Chelsea in 2008-09 (12) have ever recorded more on the road in a campaign in the competition

9 This is Manchester United's ninth defeat of this season at Old Trafford in all competitions - they have never lost more at home in a single campaign in their history (also 9 in 1920-21, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1962-63, and 1973-74)

of Casemiro to tap in the German's cross.

United's new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe was in attendance at Old Trafford rather than at Wembley to see the club's women pick up their first-ever major trophy in the FA Cup final. The work that lies ahead of Ratcliffe has been laid bare in recent weeks and he saw first-hand the improvements that are also required at Old Trafford as rain poured through a leaking roof once the sun turned to a thunderstorm late on.

Alejandro Garnacho was United's one live wire but Arsenal were rarely seriously troubled as they held out for a sixth clean sheet in their last seven away league games. The Gunners victory also set a club record of 27 wins in a Premier League season. Yet, even that may not be enough should City maintain their ruthless run.

WRESTLING

Aman only male Indian wrestler to win quota for Paris Games

Jaideep, Sujeet bow out of Qualifiers for Olympics

PTI

ISTANBUL

Sujeet Kalkal and Jaideep Ahlawat resisted their respective rivals well at the World Qualifiers on Sunday but could not add more quotas to India's kitty for the Paris Olympic Games, where the country will have only one male wrestler presenting his challenge.

In his crucial 65kg bronze medal contest, Sujeet matched USA's Zain Allen Retherford in terms of skills but conceded a takedown on counter attack to lose 2-2 on criteria. It was Sujeet who got on board first with a tremendous counter-attack move. He was about to concede points on takedown but surprised the American with his quick counter and led the bout for considerable period.

Looking for another takedown, he went after Retherford but it was now turn of the American to pull off a counter move as he got the take-down near the end of circle. Retherford maintained the scoreline to walk out a winner. Sujeet's



Wrestler Aman Sehrawat grabbed the first Olympics quota in men's freestyle for India.

defeat also means that if Barjang Punia, who has been suspended for refusing to provide sample for a dope test, had any hopes to make it to the Paris, they have been dashed.

Jaideep was also in fray on Sunday and began with a technically superior win in his 74kg repechage round clash against Turkmenistan's Arslan Amanmyradov. However, he could not do much against home favourite Soner Demirtas, losing the bronze match 1-2.

India will have six wrestlers in its contingent in Paris with five quotas coming through women. Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) qualified for Paris Games at different qualifying events. It will be interesting to see if the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) holds trials to pick the Indian team or allows the quota winners to represent the country at the Games, starting July 26.

AIFF prez hails Guj as sports hotbed

PTI

NEW DELHI

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey on Sunday said that Gujarat, with its infrastructure and pro-sports policy, has emerged as a hotbed for young athletes to pursue, prosper and take up sports professionally.

Chaubey, who is also the

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) joint secretary, was speaking on the concluding day of the inaugural Gujarat Super League (GSL), played by six teams in a round-robin format. Six franchise teams Ahmedabad Avengers, Gandhinagar Giants, Karnavati Knights, Saurashtra Spartans, Surat Strikers and Vadodara Warriors participated in the GSL. All

matches were streamed live on FIFA+.

Chaubey said: "A small step in 2010 like a 'Khel Mahakumbh', a brainchild of the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi, not only gave opportunities to millions of youths in sports, but the very initiative has given birth to the idea of 'Khelo India' a road to becoming a sporting powerhouse."

BANDODKAR TROPHY

Sesa FA top group, secure semis berth

Edge out Sporting Clube 1-0 to maintain perfect record in group stage

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Sesa FA booked their spot in the semifinals of the Bhausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Sporting Clube de Goa. Sesa FA emerged as the winners of Group A with a perfect record in the group stage.

The match began with both teams displaying intent and determination, with Sesa FA's Omkar Shetgaonkar and Sporting Clube's Adil Khan both unfortunate to see their efforts denied by the crossbar early on. Despite Sporting Clube's dominance in midfield, they struggled to capitalize on their opportunities, with Sesa FA's goalkeeper thwarting Alister Anthony's strike to keep the score level.

As the first half progressed, Sesa FA began to assert themselves more effectively, with Omkar showcasing his skill and agility down the flank. However, Sporting Clube's defence held firm, denying Sesa FA any clear-cut chances to break the deadlock. The first half concluded with both teams deadlocked at halftime,



Action between Sporting Clube de Goa and Sesa FA at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Sunday.

Sesa FA scored the winner in the 72nd minute through Clencio Pinto, who fired a shot from distance past the Sporting Clube goalkeeper

their opponents any clear opportunities to score.

In the 72nd minute, Sesa FA finally broke the deadlock through Clencio Pinto, who seized the opportunity to fire a shot from distance past the Sporting Clube goalkeeper, catching him off guard and giving Sesa FA the crucial lead. Despite Sporting Clube's late efforts to find an equalizer, Sesa FA's defence held firm, denying their opponents any clear opportunities to score.

In the dying moments of the match, Sporting Clube came agonizingly close to finding an equalizer, with Rohan Rodrigues delivering a dangerous cross into the box that met the head of Adil Khan, only for his effort to be denied by the crossbar once again. Despite their best efforts, Sporting Clube were unable to find the breakthrough, as Sesa FA held on to secure a hard-fought 1-0 victory and a spot in the semifinals.

GROUP A STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	M	W-D-L	GD	PTS
1.	Sesa FA	3	3-0-0	7	9
2.	Cortalim Villagers	3	2-0-1	2	6
3.	Sporting Clube	3	1-0-2	2	3
4.	Mumbai City	3	0-0-3	-11	0

with neither side able to find the breakthrough.

The second half saw Sporting Clube come close to finding a breakthrough, with

Alister Anthony testing Sesa FA's goalkeeper with a powerful shot from inside the box. However, Sesa FA remained resolute in defence, denying

Cortalim Villagers cruise past Mumbai City 4-1

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Cortalim Villagers secured a commanding 4-1 victory over Mumbai City FC in the Bhausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy, earning themselves a spot in the next round alongside Sesa FA.

Right from the onset, Cortalim Villagers exhibited their intent, with Denil Rebello converting a penalty to give them the early lead. The momentum continued in their favour as Preston Fernandes capitalized on an opportunity towards the end of the first half, extending their advantage. Mumbai City FC, however, managed to pull one back just before the halftime whistle through Eashan Sartape, providing a glimmer of hope for a comeback.

Despite Mumbai City FC's resurgence, Cortalim Villagers remained relentless. Vikram Venkatachalam swiftly restored their two-goal cushion with a well-taken strike, leaving Mumbai City FC trailing. The first half concluded with Cortalim Villagers firmly in control, leading 3-1.

The second half witnessed a spirited effort from Mumbai City FC, who sought to bridge

GOAN SIDE DOMINATE

Right from the onset, Cortalim Villagers exhibited their intent, with Denil Rebello converting a penalty to give them the early lead

The momentum continued in their favour as Preston Fernandes extended their advantage before the break

the gap on the scoreboard. However, Cortalim's goalkeeper, Savio Periera, stood firm, denying Mumbai's attempts to claw their way back into the contest.

As the match progressed, Cortalim Villagers continued to assert their dominance, with Vikram Venkatachalam once again showcasing his prowess in front of goal, effectively sealing the victory with a clinical finish in the 72nd minute.

Despite Mumbai City FC's late surge and relentless pressure, Cortalim's resilient defence held firm, thwarting their opponents' advances and ensuring a convincing 4-1 triumph for Cortalim Villagers.

IN SHORT >>



TKS A beat Chris Boys 3-1 in the final.

TKS A win D'Cunha U-12 football tourney

MARGAO: TKS A made short work of Chris Boys 3-1 to win the Late Petorina D'Cunha Trophy 7-a-side Under-12 football tournament at Figureido ground, Curchorem on Sunday. TKS A boys scored through Stan who netted a brace and Jade scored the other goal while for Chris Boys, Vladen Fernandes scored the lone goal. Tito was adjudged as the Man of the final. Pradeep Naik, the chairperson of Curchorem Municipal Council, gave away the prizes to the winners and the runners-up in the presence of Balkrishna Hodarkar, ex-chairperson and councillor of Curchorem Municipal Council, Ali Shaikh, social worker, Fr Ashliff Correia, assistant parish priest of Guardian Angel Church, Curchorem.

Snows FA hammer Parish Youth Assn 5-0

MARGAO: In a thrilling encounter of the GFA Under-17 Division 2, Snobs Football Academy scored a resounding 5-0 victory over Parish Youth Association Consua at Cansaulim Sports Complex on Sunday. Snobs led 3-0 at halftime. The match began with Snobs taking control of ball possession, and opted for a more tactical approach, focusing on counterattacks and displaying commendable confidence in their defensive skills. In the 5th minute, Chiraj Gaunekar slotted past the rival goalkeeper with a snap-shot. The early goal spurred Snobs Academy as they mounted pressure and Gibbs Pinto doubled the lead in the 30th minute. Messiah Rebello put the issue beyond doubt in the 39th minute. Crossing over, Snobs continued their attacking intent and in the 42nd minute, Bleston Simoes added his name to the scorers' list. Messiah Rebello then embarked on a brilliant run to punt the ball to the far corner of the net in the 67th minute.

Esha, Anish register second win in Oly trials

ESHA SINGH and Anish Bhanwala registered their second Olympic Selection Trial wins in the women's 25m pistol and men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) respectively on Sunday. While Anish had won the first trial in the same event in Delhi, Esha had claimed the second trial in the women's 10m air pistol, also at the Karni Singh range in Delhi. At the M.P. State Shooting Academy (MPSSA) ranges, Esha notched her first win in women's 25m pistol trial, shooting 43 in the finals. Her score was a point more than the world record set by Korean Kim Yeji at the Baku World Cup earlier this month. Manu Bhaker came second with 40 hits while Rhythm Sangwan picked up the final podium place, bowing out ahead of the 10th and final series with a score of 33.

Federation Cup athletics makes low-key start

DEFENDING champion and joint national record holder 400m hurdler Vithya Ramraj pulled out of her event due to back pain as the National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Competition made a low-key start on Sunday. Vithya, part of the Indian women's 4x400m relay squad that booked a Paris Olympics berth in Bahamas recently, pulled out immediately after the start of the women's 400m hurdles final race on the opening day of the competition at the Kalinga Stadium. Veerpal Kaur of Punjab won the gold with a very slow time of 59.43 seconds. Salini Valupararambil of Kerala was second with a time of 1:00.73 while Ramandeep Kaur of Punjab took the third spot in 1:01.29.

Sub Junior Badminton: Dimple, Astrid make a mark

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The electrifying atmosphere at the Yonex - Sunrise All India Sub Junior Badminton Ranking Tournament 2024 continued to captivate audiences on day three at the multipurpose stadium in Peddem.

Organized by the Goa Badminton Association in collaboration with the Badminton Association of India and the Sports Authority of Goa, the tournament showcased remarkable talent and fierce competition as qualifying matches unfolded.

In the Girls Singles U17 event, local talent Dimple Revankar of Goa emerged as a

standout performer, securing a hard-fought victory against Mythri Velugula in Qualification Round 1, only to face a tough 5-15, 6-15 defeat against Gowri Bhat in the subsequent round. Additionally, in the Girls Singles U15 category, Revankar showcased commendable skills despite falling short against Shreeja Wankhede, going down by a 8-15, 10-15 scoreline.

Goa's Astrid Dias displayed resilience in a closely contested match against Maharashtra's Venisha Kolhe succumbing to a narrow 15-7, 4-15, 16-14 defeat. Meanwhile, in other results featuring Goa Girls in U15 singles, Jasmitha Penneru defeated Astha Poudel (Goa) 15-1,



A player in action on day three at Peddem.

15-2; Yamini V. S. (TN) defeated Aaryaa Metry (Goa) 15-10, 15-6 and Angel defeated Palak

Ramnathkar (Goa) 15-8, 15-6. Meanwhile, Priyansh uspet qualification top seed Leslee

Roy 15-11, 15-11 in Boys singles U17. Gurtej Singh Vasir had a good day defeating Konark Inchekar [7]. Avadh Billore [5], Saivasan B. [8], Bornil Akash Changmai [3] progressed into the final qualification round. In Girls singles U17, Remya Pravin [1], Mayukha Sreejesh Nair [8], Nishika Gokhe [2], Disha Santosh [5], Gagan Kolapaneni, Sampri Pal [6], Shaina Manimuthu [4] and Praanjala Nisarga were among the players who progressed into the final qualification round.

"This prestigious National ranking event is a good exposure to Goan players to play against the best young talents from India. A few players

such as Dimple Revankar and Astrid Dias put up notable performances. There is a lot of interest that is there among Goans in badminton but the lack of specialized training academies hinders their progress at the National level. We plan to build on the momentum created in the last few years and the legacy of the National Games to develop Goa talent through State of art centres of excellence where a few years down the line, we will see much-improved performances," stated Manoj Patil, the Goa Badminton Association president.

The main draw of the eight-day event commences on May 14.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

CSK brighten playoffs prospects

HUMBLE RAJASTHAN BY FIVE WICKETS TO KEEP KNOCKOUTS HOPES ALIVE

SCOREBOX
 Chennai Super Kings 145 for 5 (Gaikwad 42*, Ashwin 2-35) beat Rajasthan Royals 141 for 5 (Parag 47*, Sijarjeet 3-26, Deshpande 2-30) by five wickets

PTI
 Chennai Super Kings stayed in contention for a place in the IPL play-offs with a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals after pacer Sijarjeet Singh exemplified the home team's discipline with the ball with career-best figures of 3/26 here on Sunday.

In a low-scoring match which had its share of drama with Ravindra Jadeja being given out for obstructing the field, CSK chased down a target of 142 with 10 balls to spare on a tricky surface. Skipper Rituraj Gaikwad was the star for CSK with the bat, remaining unbeaten on a 41-ball 42.

Rachin Ravindra (27 off 18 balls) and Gaikwad managed a 32-run stand before the former was dismissed by Ravichandran Ashwin in the fourth over. However, that did not have any impact on Gaikwad and Daryl Mitchell (22 off 13 balls) as they maintained a run rate of over nine and ended the powerplay at 56 for one. Pacer Sandeep Sharma was the most expensive bowler for the visitors during this phase and was hammered for 23 runs.



Mitchell appeared to be the man on a mission, but his stay was cut short by spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who trapped him leg-before wicket in the eighth over to end a 35-run partnership with Gaikwad. Moeen Ali (10 off 13 balls) came in next, but he holed out to Nandre Burger in the 12th over.

With the score reading 92 for three in the 13th over, Shivam Dube decided to have

IMPACT SPELL: Chennai Super Kings' Sijarjeet Singh celebrates after taking the wicket of Rajasthan Royals' captain Sanju Samson. Sijarjeet picked 3-26.

to go at Ashwin in his final over. While Dube hammered Ashwin for a six and two fours in the over, the veteran had the last laugh, which also turned out to be his 50th IPL wicket at this venue.

Also, Jadeja (5 off 6 balls) survived a scare in the subsequent over after Jos Buttler dropped him off Chahal at long-on. Rookie Sameer Rizvi then hit an eight-ball 15 not out with three fours to end the game in a jiffy after Jadeja became the third batter in IPL history to be adjudged out for obstructing the field after miscommunication with Gaikwad, who refused to go for a second run even as the all-rounder was half-way down the pitch. The third man hurled it to Sanju Samson, who aimed the ball at the bowler's end but the throw hit Jadeja. RR appealed, and the third umpire was convinced that Jadeja knew in which direction the ball was heading.

CSK needed 21 off the final four overs, and the duo of Gaikwad and Rizvi got the job done. The win took CSK to the third spot on the points table, while RR suffered their third straight defeat but remained in second position.

Earlier, Sijarjeet dished out his best performance in the IPL while helping CSK restrict RR to a modest total. For the visitors, the in-form Riyan Parag top-scored with a 35-ball unbeaten 47 on a slow wicket.

Opting to bat, the RR openers were off to a cautious start. After RR ended the powerplay at 42 for no loss, the 26-year-old Sijarjeet made the first breakthrough in the seventh over, getting rid of Jaiswal

PLAYOFFS BOOST

■ Skipper Rituraj Gaikwad's unbeaten 42 and three wickets by Sijarjeet Singh helped holders Chennai Super Kings move closer to an IPL playoff spot with a win over Rajasthan Royals. Five-time champions Chennai restricted Rajasthan to 141-5, a total they overhauled with five wickets and 10 balls to spare in their last home game at MA Chidambaram Stadium

■ Chennai moved to 14 points and third place with seven wins in 13 matches. Rajasthan remain second in the 10-team table led by Kolkata Knight Riders, who are the only team to have already qualified for the playoffs

(24 runs off 21 balls). Sijarjeet came up with the second breakthrough in the ninth over, with Jos Buttler (21 off 25 balls) departing.

Samson failed to get going, and it was Sijarjeet again who grabbed the prized wicket of the RR skipper, ending his 42-run partnership with Parag. Deshpande, bowling the final over, got rid of Jurel and Shubham Dubey (0 off 1 ball) in consecutive deliveries. Eventually, the visitors didn't get a big enough total on the board.

Patidar fifty, gritty bowlers lift RCB to fifth in playoffs race

Bangalore secure NRR-boosting 47-run victory

SCOREBOX
 Royal Challengers Bengaluru 187 for 9 (Patidar 52, Jacks 41, Salam 2-23, Khaleel 2-31) beat Delhi Capitals 140 (Axar 57, Dayal 3-20, Ferguson 2-23) by 47 runs

PTI

BENGALURU
 Royal Challengers Bengaluru kept their playoff dreams intact through Rajat Patidar's blazing fifty and a strong-willed effort from the bowlers, who set up the hosts' 47-run victory over Delhi Capitals in the IPL here on Sunday.

The target of 188 was not insurmountable, but the Capitals' chase descended into disarray once they lost four wickets inside 3.3 overs up-front, eventually finishing at 140, with Axar Patel 57 (39b, 5x4, 3x6) playing a lone hand.

RCB now have 12 points from 13 matches same as the Capitals and need a win against Chennai Super Kings in the last league match here on May 18 to push their case for a playoff berth. The Capitals also need a win in their final league game against Lucknow Super Giants on May 14 to stay in the hunt.

Cutting back to the match, Impact Player David Warner, who missed the action for close to a month due to a wrist injury, slog-swept left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh into the waiting hands of Will Jacks at deep. The dismissal flagged off Capitals' train of disaster. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal (3/20) consumed Abhishek Porel, caught at covers by Lockie Ferguson, in the



Rajat Patidar slammed a 32-ball 52.

first ball of the third over.

Delhi suffered a body blow in the very next ball. The in-form Jack-Fraser McGurk, who smashed Mohammed Siraj for two fours and a six in the second over, backed up too far as Shai Hope's straight drive rattled the stumps after taking a deflection of Dayal's outstretched left-hand. Siraj trapped Kumar Kushagra, who came in for the suspended Rishabh Pant, plumb in front with a nip-backer as DC slumped to 30 for four.

Axar and Hope (29, 23b) added 56 runs for the fifth wicket off 36 balls but the partnership offered only temporary relief than any real hope to the visitors. Axar, who took over the reins of DC in the absence of Pant, played a handy innings, but it just delayed the inevitable.

The rest of the DC batters were bogged down by a confused mind, best exemplified by the run out of Tristan

Stubbs. Stubbs sprinted out of the non-striker's crease as if chased by a lion after Axar defended a length ball from Cameron Green, who quickly grabbed the ball and completed the simple task of hitting the stumps.

Earlier, RCB could not exploit Patidar's quick fifty to the optimum, settling for an underwhelming 187 for nine. Patidar (52, 32b, 3x4, 3x6) and Jacks (41, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) added 88 runs off 53 balls for the third-wicket as RCB overcame the early departures of skipper Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli.

Du Plessis' slice off pacer Mukesh Kumar was gobbled up by McGurk near third man. Kohli gave signals of another T20 masterclass while creaming 27 off 13 balls, including two sixes off Ishant Sharma and one off Khaleel Ahmed (2/31). But a waft outside the off-stump with little foot movement resulted in a catch to stumper Abhishek Porel.

GT face table-toppers KKR in must-win game at home

PLAYING TODAY
 GT vs KKR, 7:30 pm; Live on Star Sports Network & JioCinema

PTI

AHMEDABAD
 Shubman Gill's return to form will provide a big boost to Gujarat Titans as they square off against table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders in their must-win IPL game here on Monday.

Gill roared back into form with his fourth IPL hundred to keep GT's slim playoff hopes alive with a comfortable win against Chennai Super Kings at home in their last outing. Gill and Sai Sudharsan's twin centuries were the cornerstone of the hosts' huge total and their role will be crucial once again as they face KKR, which has become the first team to qualify for the playoffs.

As many as seven teams are still in the race for the playoffs. While Rajasthan Royals (16) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (14) are well-placed at sec-

PLAYOFFS SCENARIO

■ With 5 wins from 12 games, Gujarat Titans need to win the remaining two matches by big margins and hope other results go their way to have any chance, whereas Kolkata Knight Riders, the first team to book a berth in the playoffs, are all but assured of a top-two finish owing to a superior NRR as compared to Hyderabad and Rajasthan, the other two contenders for the spot

ond and third position, three teams -- CSK, Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants -- are at 12 points each. GT and Royal Challengers Bengaluru are at 10 points and can reach a maximum of 14 points. With a negative net run-rate, GT's

chance are the least and it will take a miracle for the former champions to sneak into the top four.

However, one thing is clear, GT will once again have to play out of their skin and register big wins to keep their mathematical chances alive. GT's bowling has lacked teeth this season with the pacers inconsistent and spinners leaking runs. But the bowlers did manage to snap three CSK wickets in the first three overs in their last outing.

Mohit Sharma's variations and knuckle balls were effective and Rashid Khan's guile also stood out and they would hope for another good outing. But it will again boil down to the top-order batting, which has failed to fire in the last few games before Gill and Sudharsan came up with sensational tons en route a record 210 opening stand.

KKR, on the other hand, need just one win in their remaining two games to seal a top-two finish.

Impressive Pragga finishes fourth; Carlsen claims title

WORLD NO. 1 EDGES WEI YI WITH 8/9 PERFORMANCE

SUPERBET CHSS

Final results rapid: 1. Magnus Carlsen 26; 2. Wei Yi 25; 3. Duda 19.5; 4. Praggnanandhaa 19; 5. Arjun 18; 5. Abdusattorov 17.5; 7. Shevchenko 15; 8. Giri 14; 9. Keymer 13.5; 10. Gukesh 12.5

PTI

WARSAW

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa proved himself better than his peers and finished clear fourth while Magnus Carlsen came up with a rousing 8/9 performance on the final day to seal his place at the top of the tables in the Superbet rapid and blitz tournament, a part of the grand chess tour.

Leading by a huge 2.5 points margin going in to the last day with nine rounds of blitz still remaining, Wei Yi of China had to be content with a second place finish after a below par 5 points in the last nine games.



R. Praggnanandhaa proved himself better than his peers.

Carlsen won by a whisker getting past Yi in the closing stages of the tournament. The World number one was visibly tired after nine games yesterday followed by another four games in an event that he played online. However, when it comes to crunch sit-

uations, Carlsen reminds why he is hailed as one of the best ever player in current times. Scoring one win after another, the Norwegian won seven and drew just two games to reach the magical 26 points, a half point more than Wei Yi in the overall standings.

Deeksha sets new nat 1500m mark

PTI

NEW DELHI

Indian track athlete K M Deeksha set a new national record in the women's 1500m while Avinash Sable finished second in men's 5000m event at the Sound Running Track Fest in Los Angeles.

The 25-year-old Deeksha finished third in the final on Saturday after running the distance in 4:04.78, bettering the previous record of 4:05.39 set by Harmilan Bains in 2021 at the National

the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar in 2023, where she upstaged Bains to win gold. Deeksha who is from Amroha, UP has been part of the MP Athletics academy for the last five years training under coach S K Prasad.

Parul Chaudhary ran 15:10.69s in the women's 5000m to finish fifth. Parul narrowly missed out on improving her national record while compatriot Ankita ended 10th with a time of 15:28.88. Sable finished second in the men's 5000m with a time of



Open Athletics Championships in Warangal.

Deeksha's previous personal best was a 4:06.07 set in the final of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships at

13:20.37 and not his pet 3000m steeplechase event, and in the same event, Gulveer Singh ran a 13:31.95. Sable's 5000m national record time is 13:19.30.

Madrid parade trophy, eye European glory next

AGENCIES

MADRID
 If anything defines Real Madrid it is a relentless hunger for silverware and that remained clear even as they celebrated their 36th La Liga title triumph on Sunday.

Los Blancos players parted with fans at their traditional location outside the city's Cibeles palace but the upcoming Champions League final remained in focus. The record 14-time European champions face Borussia Dortmund at Wembley on June 1 and various players said they hoped they could return to celebrate again after the final.

"Thank you for being here to celebrate this day... I hope we see each other again in June," said veteran midfielder Luka Modric, a five-time Champions League winner with Real. Madrid sealed their triumph last weekend with four games to spare, taking the title back



CAMPEONES: Real Madrid players parade onboard a bus as they celebrate their 36th La Liga trophy at the Cibeles square in Madrid on Sunday.

from rivals Barcelona, but delayed the celebration to concentrate on beating Bayern Munich in midweek to reach the Champions League final. Dominant Madrid have lost just one match this season in La Liga, against rivals Atletico Madrid last September, and at present have scored more

goals and conceded fewer than any other side in the division. They won both Clasicos against Barcelona and twice defeated their closest challengers for much of the season, Catalan upstarts Girona. Coach Carlo Ancelotti was a central figure in the celebra-

tions, once again toting a cigar and wearing sunglasses as he did at Madrid's last parade in 2022. The day began early with RFEF president Pedro Rocha delivering the league trophy to Madrid's Valdebebas training ground at 0730 GMT, with captain Nacho Fernandez lifting it, for the first but certainly not the last occasion on the day. "Today is the day to enjoy it, when it's something so deserved, something so big as winning the league, it's the day to go to Cibeles," said Nacho.

There were other stops on the way for Madrid's jubilant players, first heading to the Madrid regional government's headquarters, presenting the trophy to president Isabel Diaz Ayuso. "This team has overcome a lot of adversity, with a lot of injuries," said Madrid chief Florentino Perez, referring to Thibaut Courtois, Eder Militao and David Alaba's long-term absences in par-

ticular. "This squad rebelled against the situation, this club badge achieves everything that seems impossible -- the attitude (you need) in the face of life.

"I want to thank all of the players that now form part of the history of the club -- they have won it all and are still hungry."

Of course, Perez was keen to highlight the team's next target. "We will leave our soul out there to come back with the 15th," he added.

Ayuso congratulated Madrid on "years of glory" and said the club was a "joy" for the city and Spain itself, before receiving a shirt signed by the players and a replica of the trophy. "At Wembley, we will win!" declared England international Jude Bellingham, the club's top scorer this season, who has taken Spain by storm since his arrival from Borussia Dortmund last summer.

Hockey team working hard to be in best shape for Paris

PTI

BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team has identified areas that "needed attention" following its whitewash by Australia in the five-Test series and is ready for the tough European leg of the Pro League, said skipper Harmanpreet Singh on Sunday.

Last month, India, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists, lost all their matches to the Kookaburras, raising doubts about their preparations for the Paris Games later this year. But drag-flicker Harmanpreet said the squad has done a lot of high-intensity training and the confidence in the side continues to grow.

"We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now. The team has worked on



We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now.

The team has worked on the areas we felt needed attention after the tour of Australia... Soon, we will head to Europe to play some essential matches in the Pro League 2023/24 to test ourselves against some tough opponents like Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain. "The chemistry in the squad continues to grow and with only 75 days left for the Paris Olympics we are working to be in the best shape possible," he added. India will begin their Olympic campaign against New Zealand on July 27. The other teams in Pool B are Belgium, Australia, Argentina, and Ireland. Pool A comprises the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, South Africa, and hosts France.