Rivalry intensifies as BJP, INDIA bloc allies vie for migrant vote in Margao

CBI arrests 4 for pushing Indians into Russia-Ukraine war

How to do a cucumber facial at home in three easy steps

### Kejriwal fails to get relief, SC puts off bail plea hearing

**GOA** 

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal failed to get any relief from the Supreme Court on Tuesday, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order on granting him interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

Kejriwal has been accused of money laundering in a case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which reserved its order on grant of interim bail earlier during the day and said it will be pronounced at 2 p.m., rose without delivering its verdict. >> See **pg 7** 

### IN SHORT >>

### BJP govt reduced to minority in Haryana

**CHANDIGARH:** Three Independent MLAs on Tuesday withdrew support to the BJP government in Haryana and announced they would back the Congress, reducing the Nayab Singh Saini government to a minority in the state assembly. The government which has the support of two other Independents is now two short of the majority mark in the 90-member House which has a current strength of 88. >> See **pg 7** 

### **Mayawati drops** nephew as heir

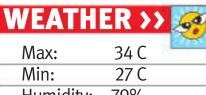
**NEW DELHI:** Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand is no longer her political heir or the party's National Coordinator. The 29-year-old got dropped, days after his comment comparing the BJP with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban. His aunt, though, has left a small hope for reprieve, saying he is "being separated" from his responsibilities "until he attains full maturity".

### **SC raps IMA chief** on knuckles

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court termed as "very, very unacceptable" the statements made by IMA president RV Asokan targeting the apex court in a recent interview where he answered questions about Patanjali Ayurved advts.

### 51 Indian soldiers **leave Maldives**

**NEW DELHI:** India has withdrawn 51 of its soldiers from the Maldives so far, the government has said ahead of the May 10 deadline.



79% Humidity:

**TIDES** 04.30 17.03 11.28 22.30 High:

### **INDIA**

### **INFO**

### **SPORTS**

Delhi Capitals beats Rajasthan Royals by 20 runs

# GOA SPEAKS ITS 'MANN KI BAAT'

**■ FATE OF CANDIDATES SEALED ■ OVER 75% CAST VOTES ■ YOUNG, OLD, INFIRM COME OUT TO VOTE AMID SCORCHING HEAT** SEVERAL EVMs DEVELOP SNAGS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

#### **PANAJI**

The young, the old and even the infirm, many on wheelchairs, kept their date with elections in Goa on Tuesday.

They turned up at the 1725 polling booths in robust numbers, got their index fingers inked and cast their votes to choose their next representative in the lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha from both the North Goa and South Goa constituencies.

Across the State, people braved the scorching heat which breached the 34 degrees centigrade mark for well over five of 11 hours of voting between 7 am and 6 pm.

In at least eight booths across both the parliamentary seats, voters were burdened with an additional wait in queues outside as polling there had been suspended for time-periods ranging from thirty minutes to an hour because of malfunction of either the Electronic Voting Machines or the Voter Verifiable



Voters queue up at a polling booth in South Goa on Tuesday.

chines. At the end of the day, election officials came up with clichéd summaries of Tuesday's poll process: "Polling was peaceful and incident free." However, the official version does not quite tell the

Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) ma-

story of Tuesday's 11 hours of polling in which nearly 75% of Goa's 11-odd lakh voters moved from their homes to their designated polling booths to exercise this quintessential right-cum-duty of political democracy.

Vying for the honours in

Santosh Mirajkar

North Goa are two septuagenarian politicians -- incumbent MP Shripad Naik of the BJP and former MP Ramakant Khalap of the Congress. The third horse in the race is Manoj Parab, the boisterous head of the nascent regional party -- Revolutionary Goans

Party (RGP).

In South Goa, the contest, in the main, is between the BJP's Pallavi Dempo and the Congress' Captain Viriato Fernandes. Like in the North, the RGP has also fielded a candidate in the South -- Rubert Pereira.

In both the seats there are five more candidates each in the fray mostly independents and candidates of minor parties.

#### **VOTING FERVOUR**

Since early morning on Tuesday, movement of people to their designated polling booths was brisk and there was enthusiasm even among seniors and wheel-chair bound infirm in most areas.

There was also disappointment, bordering on angst, on the faces of some others, whose throats were parched by the scorching heat and who were looking forward to the ECI promised lemon juice but didn't get one. Reports of

>Continued on P7

Velim & Nuvem for INDI Alliance?

### **TOTAL VOTING PERCENTAGE: 75.22**

NORTH GOA **76.54**% **SOUTH GOA** 

Highest: Poriem 81.04%

Lowest: Vasco



### **EC's thirst-quenching plan** fizzles out on voting day

MAPUSA: The State Chief Electoral Officer's grand plan to quench the thirst of voters amidst scorching heat ended up as a tragic comedy on the voting day. The electorate, with parched throats and raised eyebrows, lambasted the Election Commission for their failure to deliver or rather falling way short on their promise. What was supposed to be a refreshing oasis in the desert of democracy turned into a desert mirage, as the much-awaited refreshment drinks arrived late at various polling stations. And to add insult to thirst, the quantity was as scanty as a politician's promises during campaign season.

### EVMs at over 6 poll booths play truant, leave voters stranded

PANAII: Amidst the heightened focus on efficacy of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) particularly after recent Supreme Court of India proceedings which ultimately ruled in favour of the technology, voters in Goa faced long delays in at least half-a-dozen booths at multiple locations due to their malfunction throughout Tuesday's polling for the two Lok Sabha seats -- North Goa and South Goa.. Technical glitches were cited by officials as reasons which

### **ON PAGES 2, 3 & 5**

With over 70% vote in hinterland, INDIA bloc leaders rush to allay fears of workers

Voting disrupted for 30 minutes at model polling booth in Canacona

Technical glitches halt voting in Salcete; voters raise concerns over VVPAT visibility

CEO's efforts tested as heat mitigation arrangements encounter challenges

Silent voting, sudden surge intrigues observers in Bardez

POLL POURRI: ECI confused over nationality?

CRPF accused of driving out agents from polling station in Cansaulim

How the political class reacted

Porvorim voter files plaint, claims ink on finger vanishes

Aleixo, Digambar, Reginaldo keep fingers crossed

### led to polling being suspended in some cases for over an >> See **pg 2**

# **Ire over 'Smart City' mess?** Panaji records low turnout

### **SEC DATA SHOWS THAT JUST 67% VOTED**

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **PANAJI**

The North Goa Assembly segment comprising the capital city Panaji logged the lowest number of voters, in terms of a percentage of the total electorate in it, who turned up at polling booths to get their index finger inked by casting their votes.

Many, specially 'karyakatas' and supporters of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are blaming this low turnout scenario on the troubles faced by residents due to the chaos unleashed by the continuous execution of 'smart city' projects over the

last two years. "Look at what the state of our city has become. Many people are angry and have not come out to vote to sort of reg-

### CAUSE & EFFECT

- Booths of capital city's BJP fortress running alongside Atmaram Borkar road and Dada Vaidya Road recorded below par voting turnout
- Last estimates issued by EC at 5 pm, an hour before voting closed, pegged Panaji's voter turnout at 67.26%
- Almost every other assembly segment had breached 70% mark

ister their protest," said a popular city restaurateur who is known to be a BJP supporter.

Even in the booths of the capital city's BJP fortress running alongside the Atmaram Borkar road and Dada Vaidya Road recorded below par voting turnout.

Although final voter turnout figures have not officially been released, the last es-

timates issued by the Election Commission at 5 pm, an hour before voting closed, pegged Panaji's voter turnout at 67.26% when almost every other assembly segment had breached the 70% mark.

Campaigning in the capital city by both the BJP's Shripad Naik as well as the Congress' Ramakant Khalap had been low key.

### 7 OF 8 ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS IN SALCETE REGISTER LOW TURNOUT

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **MARGAO**

Did the voter turnout in the minority-dominated Assembly segments of Benaulim, Velim and Nuvem fall short of expectations when there was as surge of voters in the hinterland talukas, considered the bastion of the BJP?

This question did the rounds in political circles at 5 pm on polling day just an hour before polling ended at 6 pm when statistics showed that the seven out of the eight Assembly segments in Salcete did not cross the 70 per cent mark when their counterparts in the hinterland segments of Ponda, Madkai, Shiroda, Sanvordem, Curchorem, Quepem, Sanguem and Canacona had surpassed the 70 per cent figure.



Did expectations fall short in Benaulim,

Nuvem voters at a polling booth on Tuesday.

Santosh Mirajkar

This question assumed significance when the Congress and INDI Alliance have been expecting an one-sided voting in the three segments of Benaulim, Velim and Nuvem voter turnout. in order to the achieve the Ouestions were raised 70,000 vote lead from Salcete. whether the higher turnout of In fact, political observers voters could not be achieved

pointed out that polling ad-

ditional 3-5 per cent in these

THE ₹3 CRORE SAGA

children arrive in Goa

papers & locker keys

with intention to sell their

\*They look through docu-

ments, stumble upon bank

three segments would have kept the Congress and INDI Alliance candidate in good stead when the hinterland segments have recorded huge

in Benaulim and Velim for

want of organization or sim-

**Velim & Nuvem -- would** have kept the Congress and INDI Alliance candidate in good stead when the hinterland segments have recorded huge voter turnout.

**Political observers pointed** 

out that polling additional

3 to 5 per cent in three

segments -- Benaulim,

tween the Alliance partners. Benaulim Aam Admi par

ply lack of coordination be-

ty (AAP) MLA Venzy Viegas. however, begged to differ. In fact, he came out with startling statistics blaming the less turn out to the absence of voters, who are either

➤Continued on P7

## 3rd phase records 65% turnout, clashes erupt in West Bengal

### **NEW DELHI**

#### A nearly 65 per cent voter turnout was recorded on Tuesday in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in 93 constit-

uencies spread over 11 states and Union Territories with stray incidents of violence in West Bengal. Assam recorded the highest turnout at 75.53 per cent followed by Goa at 74.47 per cent and West Bengal at 73.93 per

cent, while Maharashtra witnessed the lowest at 55.54 per cent, with Bihar at 56.55 per cent and and Gujarat at 56.98

**Assam recorded the** highest turnout at 75.53 per cent followed by Goa at 74.47 per cent and West Bengal at 73.93 per cent. while Maharashtra witnessed the lowest at **55.54 per cent** 

the Election Commission at 9

The overall voting percentage was around 61.89 per cent. According to the EC, the figures are an "approximate trend" and are likely to rise as data is being collected.

per cent doing slightly better, While the official time for according to the figures from the voting to conclude is 6

pm, it can go beyond to enable voters who have come in the queue before the end of fixed polling hours to exercise their franchise.

Among other states and UTs, Uttar Pradesh recorded 57.34 per cent polling, Chhattisgarh 67.64 per cent, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 65.23 per cent, Karnataka 68.85 per cent, and Madhya Pradesh 64.02 per cent, according to the EC. As many as 17.24 crore peo-

ple, including 8.39 crore females, were eligible to vote in the third phase and 1.85 lakh polling stations manned by 18.5 lakh officials had been

### **Kids find ₹3 cr stashed by father in bank lockers UMESH ZARMEKAR** THE GOAN | MAPUSA

Parents usually save money and jewellery during their lifetime and bequeath it to their children before or shortly after they are no more.

Imagine then the surprise of the children of a man, who passed away about 12 years ago, to find a staggering amount of about Rs 3 crore in currency notes and some jewellery stored in bank lockers which he and his wife had faithfully saved during their lifetime. But in an unusual twist of

fate, the money was virtually useless as the currency were all in the demonetised notes. This unusual story begins

time around 2012. when a gentleman from Bar-Twelve years later, his epaper.thegoan.net

### ■ Twelve years later, his

property

A man from Bardez had opened three lockers at Mapusa bank -- two in his name and one in his wife's name

His wife passes away and her locker was operated by him... He too passes away around 2012

■ After due process, they open the lockers and are dez had opened three lockers children who were abroad at a bank in Mapusa, two in

arrived in Goa with the his name and one in his wife's intention to sell their name. After his wife passed property. While looking away, her locker was also through documents in their being operated by him. The ancestral house, the children gentleman passed away some stumbled upon some bank documents and locker keys. The children then contacted

of notes along with some jewellery ■ Cash amounted to Rs 3

shocked to find bundles

crore, however the currency was in demonetised notes Children had to be con-

tent with jewellery which was worth a few lakhs

the bank and showed them the bank documents. After following up in the matter, the bank officers allowed the children to open the lockers of

On May 6, the children along with the officers opened the lockers after 12 years and

their deceased father.

bundles of notes along with some jewellery. The cash was then counted and it was found to be a stag-

they were shocked to find

gering amount of about Rs 3 crore.

The cash was, however, worthless as the currency was in the demonetised notes. The children had to be content with the jewellery which was worth a few lakhs of rupees. The children claimed had no clue that their parents had left behind such a huge amount of cash or else, they would have withdrawn the money from these lockers after their father's demise.

that their parents had made such huge savings during their lifetime. 

They were also surprised

mail us at >> desk@thegoan.net

### **VOTING DISRUPTED AT SEVERAL BOOTHS LEADING TO DELAYS, QUEUES AMID SCORCHING HEAT**

THE GOAN I NETWORK

**PANAJI** Amidst the heightened focus on efficacy of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) particularly after recent Supreme Court of India proceedings which ultimately ruled in favour of the technology, voters in Goa faced long delays in over half-a-dozen booths at multiple locations due to their malfunction throughout Tuesday's polling for the two Lok Sabha seats – North Goa and South Goa.

Technical glitches were cited by officials as reasons which led to polling being suspended in some cases for over an hour.

Such incidents where voting was halted and people had to face the inconvenience of the scorching heat for a bit longer were reported in Mapusa, Panaji, Davorlim, Benaulim, and Chaudi-Canacona.

The first reports of EVM malfunction on Tuesday came from Mapusa in North Goa around 9 am. A few minutes later, yet another booth in Davorlim which is part of the Navelim assembly segment of South Goa, reported EVM malfunction.

Engineers of public sector BHEL, which has the ECI contract for supply and maintenance of EVMs, were called in to rectify the glitches causing delay in voting for more than

### **EVM MALFUNCTION DELAYS START OF VOTING IN SHIRODA**

**PONDA:** A malfunctioning Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) led to a 30-minute delay at a polling booth in Shiroda.

According to reports, the EVM machine developed a technical problem when voting began at 7 am at the Polling Booth 23 in Waje-Shiroda.

Voters had to stand in a queue for about half an hour as officials worked to resolve the issue, before voting finally began at the polling booth at 7.30 am. After that, voting was conducted smoothly at the polling station.

Meanwhile, voting took place smoothly in Ponda and Dharbandora talukas, with queues of voters seen at the polling stations throughout the day. Voter turnout was consistently around 75% in all five constituencies of Shiroda, Ponda, Marcaim, Priol and Sanvordem.

Speaking to reporters after voting in Bandora, Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar said the BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo will benefit from the alliance between MGP and BJP.

Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik also confirmed the victory of Pallavi, adding that the BJP would secure a big lead in Ponda constituency.

Nonetheless the problem was resolved and voting in these two booths resumed more than an hour later.

There were at least two other booths where voting was interrupted because the VVPAT machines malfunctioned - Benaulim and Chaudi-Canacona.

At Chaudi's booth number 7, ironically a 'model booth', the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) screen malfunctioned prompting officials to halt voting for nearly 40 minutes.

"Voting resumed once the

VVPAT issue was fixed under the supervision of the local

Mamlatdar Jeetendra Bugde,"

a voter from the constituency

Around the same time before noon, a booth in Panaji's Mala area also reported an EVM snag where polling was suspended for about 45 minutes during which time the machine was fixed. However, during that interruption, the queue of voters waiting for their turn outside grew longer and many were

### Machine glitches at 2 booths in Sattari

**VALPOI:** Voters expressed displeasure over machine glitches at 2 polling booths in Sattari taluka.

The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at Booth 49 in Honda started malfunctioned for some time. Officials took some time to resolve the issue as voters waited in a queue. Some went home and returned to vote in the evening.

Elsewhere, voters got furious when the EVM developed a glitch at a polling booth in Murmune-Guleli. There was some delay in the voth process, as officials took time to resolve the faulty machine.

ing heat.

Another glitch in the VVPAT machine was also reported in Benaulim. According to local MLA, Venzy Viegas, the voting process was halted there for almost an hour, creating hardships for voters in the summer heat.

There was no official word from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Ramesh Verma, IAS, on these incidents or the reasons for the malfunction of these EVMs and VVPAT machines.

## Technical glitches halt voting in Salcete; voters raise concerns over VVPAT visibility

THE GOAN I NETWORK

#### **MARGAO**

Technical glitches in the electronic voting machines (EVMs) at a couple of polling booths in Salcete briefly halted polling in the morning session.

Complaints rent the air at many booths at Manora-Raia, Sirlim and other places wherein voters claimed the VVPAT slip was not visible.

There were also reports of slow pace of voting at many places, with the district election authorities attending to the complaints by deploying additional staff to the polling stations.

At booth No. 24 at Davorlim village in Navelim Assembly segment, polling was halted for over half an hour due to issues over the EVM's battery. Voters were left stranded in the queue for over half an hour as the polling officials anxiously waited for the technician to replace the battery.

Polling at a booth at Fatorda in the Benaulim segment was halted, again due to issues over the EVM's battery.



Technicians on the job to replace a battery of the EVM at a booth in Salcete. Santosh Mirajkar

Officials rushed to the polling station to replace the battery as voters stood in a queue to cast their votes.

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas along with former Varca Sarpanch Jose Afonso questioned the delay in replacing the battery of the EVM, saying people have been standing in a queue for over half an hour. The Benaulim MLA de-

manded to know why this is happening in the Benaulim Assembly segment, demanding that the election authorities will compensate the voters by extending the time lost by halting the polling.

At Raia, a group of voters claimed that the VVPAT slip

was not visible after they had cast their vote, claiming that they had brought the matter to the notice of the polling officials.

Velim MLA Cruz Silva pointed out that a similar situation was brought to his notice at Sirlim wherein a voter complained that the VVPAT slip was not clearly visible.

# VVPAT machine malfunctions, disrupts voting for 30 minutes at model polling booth in Canacona

disgruntled amidst the scorch-

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### CANACONA

It was a Model Polling Booth in Canacona equipped with all facilities, but a major glitch with the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machine which led to a disruption in the voting process for about 30 minutes became the talking point in Canacona on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Polling Booth 7 in Chaudi-Canacona, which was one of three Model Polling Stations of Canacona.

After exercising his franchise, a voter informed the presiding officer that after he had cast his vote, the screen on the VVPAT lit up partially and then turned black, with no display of the VVPAT inside.

The polling officer then halted the polling process and after checking with dummy votes, found the voter's con-



A long queue of voters at the polling booth in Palolem.

cern to be genuine.

The VVPAT machine was then opened to verify the presence of voter slips inside the machine.

"We saw the slips inside when the machine was opened, but we don't know whether those slips were in an equal number of votes cast at the time. After the VVPAT machine was rectified, I noticed that the slip does appear, but the screen turns black before it gets cut and falls inside. With that I don't know if it is the slip with the same vote symbol," said the unsatisfied

The officer immediately stopped further issuance of voter slips, and informed the sector officer, and the AERO/ Canacona Mamlatdar Jeetendra Bugde.

Officers rushed to verify the malfunctioning of the ma-

Technical experts were then summoned to the polling booth and after clearing the technical glitch, polling officers resumed the voting process after a halt of about 35 There was a long queue of

voters on account of the delay and many were heard demanding immediate rectification of the problem. The sector officer who su-

pervised the rectification later confirmed that the VVPAT machine had been rectified and that, the slips were being displayed properly.

There was another brief incident of a VVPAT machine at one polling station in Agonda.

A voter claimed that the voter slip which is correctly displayed after a prolonged time of voting on the EVM, remained on the screen for about 7-8 seconds, before suddenly turning dark.

"I informed the presiding officer about the disappearing the screen on the VVPAT, but the officer informed me it is functioning the same way since morning and there is nothing wrong in it," said the

"When I asked him how would I know if the slip, which had fallen inside, was the slip with the same symbol that I had voted, the officer pleaded with me not to create a scene as the voting had already crossed halfway."

"After arguing for a few minutes I had to finally come out to allow other voters in line to exercise their franchisee," informed the voter.

Incidentally, many voters who had voted in four of the six polling booths in Agonda voiced similar concerns that though the VVPAT displayed the slip with the symbol and name of candidate for a prolonged time, no voter slip is seen cutting and falling inside the VVPAT machine.

## Saligao MLA stranded as EVM snag hits Reis Magos booth

THE GOAN I NETWORK

### **PORVORIM**

Saligao MLA Kedar Naik was among the electorate stranded for some time after an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) developed a technical snag at a polling booth in Reis Magos.

According to reports, Naik had gone to the Polling Booth 32 at Reis Magos when the EVM developed a technical snag. Naik and others in the queue were held up for quite some time, before the snag was rectified and he was allowed to vote.

While soft drinks were made available at the polling booth they were not served to voters in the morning.

When enquired, the officer incharge of the polling booth mentioned that they have received instruction to serve it to voters between 12 noon and 3 pm. However, some voters who had cast their votes at 12.30 noon complained to this correspondent that they were



Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte waits in a line to cast his vote in Porvorim.

not served the soft drinks.

Meanwhile, people from Porvorim and Saligao constituencies turned out in large numbers to exercise their franchise.

In the morning, there was a steady turnout at the polling stations in both constituencies but in the afternoon the voters were seen trickling in. In the evening, long queues of voters were seen at the polling stations.

There was a heavy deploy-

ment of police personnel at all polling stations. Flying squads were seen moving in all parts of Porvorim and Saligao constituencies.

After voting, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte told media persons that there has been a good turnout of voters in his Porvorim constituency.

"It is the responsibility of residents of Porvorim to come out in large number and vote to achieve the objective of Viksit Bharat," said Khaunte.

# With over 70% vote in hinterland, INDIA bloc leaders rush to allay fears of workers

### SAY CONG HAS SIZEABLE PRESENCE; WILL WIN WITH COMFORTABLE MARGIN

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **MARGAO**

As the Assembly segments in the hinterland areas of South Goa Lok Sabha constituency put up an impressive polling with all the eight segments registering 70 per cent-plus voting till 5 pm, Congress and INDIA bloc leaders rushed to allay fears of party workers and sympathisers that all's not over with the impressive polling in the hinterland.

Right from Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao to Aam Aadmi Party Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas to ex-GPCC chief and Congress Working Committee member, Girish Chodankar, they all maintained that polling in Salcete and the hinterland areas of South Goa has clearly gone in favour of Alliance candidate Captain Viriato Fernandes.

Reason: While the INDIA bloc leaders pointed out that the voting in Salcete will predominately go in favour of the Congress candidate, they, however, were quick to point out that the Congress has a sizeable presence in most of the eight Assembly segments of Madkai, Ponda, Shiroda,



Margao MLA Digambar Kamat during his visit to Margao on polling day. Santosh Mirajkar

na in the hinterland. Opposition leader Yuri Alemao said the Congress will retain the South Goa seat with a comfortable victory margin. "Our voting percentage will go up in the 2024 election compared to the 2019 polls. In the hinterland, the Congress is expected to do much better this

Sanvordem, Sanguem, Cur-

chorem, Quepem and Canaco-

time. We have a presence in almost all the eight segments," he said.

AAP Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas echoed similar sentiments. While saying the IN-DIA bloc has presence in all the eight Assembly segments in the hinterland, Venzy demanded to know why the people in the hinterland vote for the BJP when there is not a to know.

ments," he said.

Girish further pointed out that the people of the hinterland talukas have been waiting to vote against the BJP for the wrong policies of the Modi government and the Pramod Sawant government and the BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo. South Goa seat with a handsome margin. There should not be any doubt from any quarter," he added.

#### single positive and happiness factor in favour of the ruling dispensation. "Tell me a single factor that has contributed to the happiness of the hinterland people during the BJP regime. Why they will vote for the BJP when they have nothing to cheer about under the BJP rule," Venzy demanded

Ex-GPCC chief Girish Chodankar pointed out there's a wrong notion that higher percentage in the hinterland talukas means a vote for the BJP. "The Congress has a huge presence in almost all the eight segments including Quepem, Curchorem, Canacona, Sanguem, Ponda, Shiroda, besides Madkai and Sanvordem. We also have a vote share in these seg-

"The Congress will retain the

# Rivalry intensifies as BJP, INDIA bloc allies vie for migrant vote in Margao

CM-MLA duo visit Moti Dongor during polling; GFP chief follows suit

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **MARGAO**

The BJP and the INDIA bloc jostled for a share of the migrant vote in Margao, with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant descending atop migrant inhabited Moti Dongor with Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, affectionately called "Baba' in the basty.

To make the INDIA bloc presence at the migrant inhabited colony, Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai also rushed to the area around noon with his supporters after the Sawant-Kamat duo left Moti Dongor.

What prompted the Chief Minister-Margao MLA duo to visit Moti Dongor remained unknown, more so when the migrant basty has been considered Kamat's stronghold over the years.

The Chief Minister, however, said that BJP's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' will fetch votes for the party candidate from the Muslim community inhabiting Moti Dongor. While saying Moti Dongor has been a stronghold of Digambar Kamat, the Chief Minister said





Chief Minister Pramod Sawant with Digambar Kamat at Moti Dongor. (Right) Goa Forward chief Vijai Sardesai and supporters also made their presence felt atop the hillock. Santosh Mirajkar

Moti Dongor and Margao will give a huge lead for the party.

The Goa Forward chief, who made his presence at Moti Dongor, just before electioneering ended on Sunday evening, and had come in face to face with Kamat's supporters, however, begged to differ. He said the Margao MLA has got a wind of the storm that is likely to hit Moti Dongor and other migrant inhabited areas of the commercial capital.

"Digambar Kamat would come to know when the EVMs are opened on June 4 the voting pattern at Moti Dongor. I do not say that Moti Dongor candidate, but the Margao BJP MLA should be ready to accept the surprise at the migrant inhabited area," Sardesai said.

had voted for the Congress

He added: "The very fact that a seasoned Kamat has brought the Chief Minister to visit his stronghold Moti Dongor when polling was in progress shows that something must have gone wrong for the BJP. But, Kamat and the Chief Minister do not know that their presence at Moti Dongor was to intimidate the voters, they will be terribly mistaken since the voters, who were supposed to vote for us had

Interestingly, the Goa For-

already cast their votes," he

ward chief along with his supporters later rushed to the South of the commercial capital following reports that the Chief Minister may visit the migrant inhabited areas. "Neither people of Fatorda nor Margao have approved of Kamat's supporters blocking our campaign at Moti Dongor. Kamat must have visited Fatorda so many times during the fortnight-long campaign, but our supporters had never stopped the Margao MLA from campaigning in Fatorda," he said.

# CEO's efforts tested as heat mitigation arrangements encounter challenges

### DESPITE METICULOUS PLANNING, PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES AFFECT IMPLEMENTATION

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer spared no effort in ensuring that heat mitigation arrangements at each polling booth remained intact, with each premises equipped to combat the scorching heat.

Fans and coolers were installed and refreshment drinks were made available to quench the thirst. However, despite meticulous planning, these arrangements encountered certain challenges as some polling stations saw delays in the timely arrival of the refreshment drinks, which angered voters.

Moreover, certain polling stations had coolers but lacked provisions for refilling

"We have just activated the cooler. However, there are no pipes to refill it. Are we expected to continually fetch water to fill the coolers and also perform our poll duties," an official stationed at a Pana-

ji polling station, questioned. Nevertheless, fans and to some extent the dry air cooler provided respite to the voters, who turned out in large numbers -- even during the afternoon hours --despite the heat.

Furthermore, in locations such as Pernem, the delivery



People show their voting cards as they wait their turn to vote in the Lok Sabha election at Mason de Amori polling booth in Panaji, on Tuesday. Narayan Pissurlenkar

Fans and coolers were installed and refreshment drinks were made available to quench the thirst. However, despite meticulous planning, these arrangements encountered certain challenges as some polling stations saw delays in the timely arrival of the refreshment drinks, which angered voters

of refreshment drinks was delayed by over two hours. despite the CEO's stipulated timings of 9 am to 4 pm. After complaints from senior citizens, officials hastily arranged the supply, which proved insufficient to cater to the actual voter count across two booths in close vicinity.

Although problems were seen in other places, many

voters refrained from complaining, considering efforts

taken for the overall arrange-

ment. The CEO had arranged

for 200ml bottled and tetra

packs of lime, orange and

mango juice, and 20ltrs of wa-

ter jars at each polling booth. Another grievance arose from a resident in Panaji, who confronted BJP's North Goa candidate Shripad Naik regarding the closure of eateries, and restaurants.

### **Porvorim voter files** plaint, claims indelible ink on finger vanishes

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **PORVORIM**

A voter from the Defence colony in Porvorim complained that the indelible ink applied to her finger disappeared shortly after washing her hands with water.

Reboni Saha said she had gone to vote at the polling booth near the electricity department at around 7.15 am. After returning home, she washed her hands with soap and water and was surprised to note that the ink applied to her finger had disappeared. She went back to the pooling booth and registered a complaint in the matter.

Later in a statement, officials from the office of DEO and North Goa Collector reiterated that reports of disappearing ink had been verified to be misleading and said voters can be assured that the ink is indeed indelible and long-lasting. "Complaints about disappearing ink from a particular polling booth in North Goa Parliamentary

#### **VOTER'S CLAIM**

- Reboni Saha said she had gone to vote at the polling booth near the electricity department at around 7.15 am
- After returning home, she washed her hands with soap and water and was surprised to note that the ink applied to her finger had disappeared
- She went back to the pooling booth and registered a complaint in the matter

Constituency have surfaced on multiple social media handles. In this regard, officials from the District Election Officer's office have examined incidents and have reiterated that all such reports are misleading. Voters can be assured that the ink is indeed indelible and long-lasting," stated a message on 'X' issued by the Department of Information.

As with any election, this one was no stranger to controversies and headline-grabbing issues captured the attention of journalists and social media users. Here is a compilation of some of them:

mail us at >> desk@thegoan.net

### **Voters brave heat, but shortage** of drinks leaves many thirsty

Despite scorching temperatures, Goan electorates were treated to a refreshing surprise: the introduction of refreshing drinks at polling booths. However, the rollout wasn't without its hiccups as shortages of these drinks left many voters disappointed. Yet, amidst the heat, voters turned out in droves, patiently waiting in makeshift shelters outside the polling booths... although not all were able to quench their thirst with promised beverages...



A voter is given a packaged beverage after casting his vote on

### **BJP candidates' slip** of the tongue

BJP's candidates in North and South Goa, Shripad Naik and Pallavi Dempo found themselves thrust into the spotlight after a slip of the tongue during a media comment. After casting votes in their respective polling booths, the duo's inadvertent appeal for votes for the BJP sparked controversy. This prompted Congress to quickly take advantage of the situation and file a complaint against them with the Chief Electoral Officer. The candidates and the party preferred to maintain silence to avoid any further violation of the ongoing code.

### A mishap for Shripad

In a moment of forgetfulness, Shripad Naik, the five-time MP from North Goa, left his identity card behind when heading to vote. While he managed to cast his vote using an alternate document – the official card provided by the Election Commission of India (being a contesting candidate), his oversight drew criticism and media attention. Naik admitted the importance of carrying proper identification, a lesson learned amidst the hustle of election day.

### **ECI confused over nationality?**

The Election Commission of India found itself in a state of confusion as OCI card holders and those who registered as Portuguese citizens kept receiving messages to participate in the world's largest democracy. The ECI sent text and WhatsApp messages appealing to these citizens "not to miss the chance to do their bit for the country" and that "the voting day is a no-excuse day."

### **Concerns over vanishing ink**

Concerns swept as voters took to social media to voice dismay that the ink marking on their index fingers disappeared shortly after casting their votes. Fearing the possibility of double-voting and sub-standard ink, one of them even escalated the matter to the concerned polling officer. However, district officials quickly dismissed the concerns tagging the reports as "misleading". Surprisingly, their investigation did not find any incident or evidence to support the claims on social media.

### **EVMs** throw tantrums

The saga of malfunctioning Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) once again unfolded this Lok Sabha polls, much to the election officials' embarrassment. It left voters stranded for a minimum of one hour in scorching heat until the glitches were either identified and rectified or machines replaced entirely. As if the torture of the sweltering heat wasn't enough, the lines just kept growing longer. In one of the polling booths in Benaulim, MLA Venzy Veigas dialled up the polling officers to report the mayhem even as the promised beverages failed to cool down the tempers of the frustrated voters.

### **Focus on senior citizens** and first-time voters

Senior citizens, who either opted not to vote via postal ballots or missed a chance; and the first-time voters took centre stage. Many young voters were eager to make their voices heard



First-time voters pose for a photo after casting their votes on Tuesday.

for the first time as they also clicked selfies with their inked index fingers. However, there were isolated instances wherein voters had to return without casting their votes, as their names did not reflect in the voters' list.

### **CEO's green thumb**

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) organized a plantation drive at all polling stations on the eve of the voting while on the voting day, May 7, the CEO spearheaded a 'green highway' initiative at Warkhand Junction in Pernem where voters planted saplings after casting their votes. The drive indeed showcased efforts to promote eco-friendliness during the electoral process.

### From cabinet discontent to church confrontation

BJP MLA Nilesh Cabral, once disgruntled over losing his cabinet status is upset yet again - this time his ire is directed not at his party but at some churches that appealed to people to vote against the BJP. Cabral had warned to expose them claiming he possesses evidence, which if needed will be placed in the public domain. The minority community leader has alleged that such churches are inciting people against the ruling party.

(Sidelights compiled by Vibha Verma)

# EC's thirst-quenching plan fizzles out on polling day

**AGNELO PEREIRA** THE GOAN I MAPUSA

The State Chief Electoral Officer's grand plan to quench the thirst of voters amidst scorching heat ended up as a tragic comedy on the voting day.

electorate, parched throats and raised eyebrows, lambasted the election commission for their failure to deliver or rather falling way short of their promise.

What was supposed to be a refreshing oasis in the desert of democracy turned into a desert mirage, as the much-awaited refreshment drinks arrived late at various polling stations. And to add insult to thirst, the quantity was as scanty as a politician's promises during campaign season.

Despite the CEO's office proclaiming that the elixir of

refreshment would flow from 9 am to 4 pm at various polling stations, voters were left high and dry well past the brunch hour.

Meanwhile, the election commission patted themselves on the back for generously providing drinking water, as if a mere sip could quench the voters' thirst for accountability.

In the bustling town of Mapusa, the disillusionment was palpable as voters questioned the sanctity of electoral assurances. "If they can't even deliver a cold beverage, how can we trust them with our votes?" lamented one voter.

Even in far-off Pernem disappointment reigned supreme. When the promised soft drinks did not come, thirst prevailed as voters found themselves in a desert

asm among BJP loyalists, par-

The aggressive and vigor-

ous campaign spearheaded

by the BJP appeared to reap

dividends as voters defied

extreme weather conditions

to cast their ballots in large

stations witnessed a rush of

voters in the morning, but as

the day progressed, the turn-

By 1 pm, several booths were

nearly deserted, with only a

trickle of voters.

out dwindled significantly.

numbers. Initially, polling

ticularly in Bardez. However.

beneath the surface, silent

undercurrents hinted at a

more complex narrative.

of despair. Eventually, a meagre stock of 280 soft drinks, reminiscent of a rationing scheme, made its way to the polling stations.

But alas, it was akin to throwing a drop of water to quench a wildfire, as the demand far exceeded the supply. "We had to face the people's wrath after the drinks got exhausted," confessed a beleaguered polling official, caught in the crossfire of thirst

and expectation. The Chief Electoral Officer, Ramesh Verma had boasted of elaborate arrangements to quench the electorate's thirst to beat the heat and achieve an 80 per cent voting target. In the end, as the sun set on Election Day, voters were left with nothing but a bitter taste in their mouths and a lesson learned.

## CRPF accused of driving out agents from polling station in Cansaulim

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **VASCO**

Allegations that the CRPF had driven away polling agents from a polling station and the indelible ink disappearing from former minister Alina Saldanha's finger were reported in Cansaulim, but by and large voting went off without any major untoward incident in the Mormugao taluka.

In Cansaulim, several Congress workers alleged that CRPF officials on duty drove out the polling agents from the St Thomas School polling station. They claimed that the CRPF officers evicted the polling agents from booths 34, 35 and 36 at the St Thomas High School in Cansaulim at around 8.30 am and that, despite appeals by a police official, the CRPF officer refused entry to polling agents into

### THE **ALLEGATION**

■ In Cansaulim, several Congress workers alleged that CRPF officials on duty drove out the polling agents from the St Thomas School polling station. They claimed that the CRPF officers evicted the polling agents from booths 34, 35 and 36 at around 8.30 am and that, despite appeals by a police official, refused entry to the agents

the polling booths.

Former minister Alina Saldanha complained that after casting her vote, the indelible ink got erased with plain water after having a cup

of tea. The presiding officer of

In the morning, however, voting began at slow pace and party workers took charge to mobilise voters. The voting which began on a slow note in the morning later picked up in the afternoon and a large number of voters were seen in queues at polling booths

mugao Constituencies in Mor-

matter was resolved.

Polling Booth 36 was immediately apprised of the matter and after due consultain Zuarinagar, Upasnagar tion with polling officials, and different polling booths the ink bottle was replaced. of Vasco, Dabolim and Mor-But polling was stopped for around 12 minutes till the mugao Taluka.

> ing slow voting due to long queues.

The joint opposition's candidate for North Goa, Ramakant Khalap exuded confidence in his campaign, expressing optimism about his chances of victory. "People are embracing the festival of democracy with enthusiasm. Despite the challenges, they have shown their support for my candidacy, reaffirming their commitment before and after casting their votes. I am confident of a resounding victory," Khalap stated after casting his vote in Mapusa.

## Silent voting, sudden surge intrigues observers in Bardez

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **MAPUSA**

n Bardez, the electoral landscape witnessed a captivating drama on voting day, characterised by intriguing shifts in turnout. unexpected surges and a few technical glitches in the voting process. From the early hours of

Tuesday morning, a see-saw battle in the voting pattern unfolded, intriguing political observers and engaging BJP supporters.

The sudden surge in voting post-noon sparked enthusi-

People want change,

to reach the parliament.

We have been working for

the people of Goa for the

past two years after the

assembly elections. It is

time to take the voice of

Goa to the Lok Sabha. Our

chances of winning are more this time.

People are tired of the current politics

and want change. They want their voice

— MANOJ PARAB, RGP North Goa candidate

want to be heard

### **COMPLEX NARRATIVE**

From the early hours of Tuesday morning, a see-saw battle in the voting pattern unfolded, intriguing political observers and engaging BJP supporters. The sudden surge in voting post-noon sparked enthusiasm among BJP loyalists, particularly in Bardez, However, beneath the surface. silent undercurrents hinted at a more complex narrative

The unexpected pattern prompted surprise even within the BJP ranks, prompting a swift activation of party cadres to mobilise voters. Post 2 pm, a sudden surge in voter turnout was observed across polling stations, continuing until the end of polling.

A reversal of the usual voting trend was noticeable in Mapusa, with longer queues dominated by men during the morning session. Conversely, rural villages saw a robust participation of female voters, signalling a potential shift in voting patterns.

However, the first half of the day witnessed a lack of enthusiasm not only among voters but also among BJP cadres in Mapusa. The usual zeal displayed by party workers in previous elections was notably absent on the ground. Interestingly, voters remained tight-lipped about their preferences, adding to the intrigue surrounding the surge in voting.

Despite a few technical glitches in electronic voting machines (EVMs), the polling process overall proceeded peacefully, albeit with some polling stations experienc-

### We have voted for



I thank the voters for voting in large numbers to show their support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat. We also express

our deep gratitude to all our

### **CANDIDATE SPEAK**

### My popularity will fetch votes

People will vote for 'Hand' in large numbers and be with Ramakant Khalap. The voters are our high command. We will walk with them. My personal popularity

and the popularity of the Congress party would fetch votes. I have a stronghold on all 20 constituencies and am expecting to win by a lead of 40,000 to 50,000 votes. —RAMAKANT KHALAP,

Congress North Goa candidate

### India wants Modi as PM again

People are responding spontaneously and are eager to come out of their homes to vote in the Lok Sabha elections this time. So, compared to the 2019

elections the voting percentage would be more. This shows there is great support for the BJP and the people want to see Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister again.

—SHRIPAD NAIK, BJP North Goa candidate

### nation's development

Karyakartas who toiled hard during the campaign to spread Modiji's message across Goa. We have voted for the nation's development and progress. —PALLAVI DEMPO, BJP South Goa candidate



What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything? Vincent Van Gogh

# Lok Sabha voting and the paradox of electoral campaigns

he State Election Commission has released data on Lok Sabha polling pegging the turnout at 75.22 per cent. Interestingly, Poriem recorded the maximum voting of 87.11 per cent while the port city of Vasco, was the lowest at 67.1 per cent. Surprisingly, South Goa which was seen as a 'hot seat' with both rival parties BJP and Congress going hammer and tongs at each other, saw a dismal 73.90 per cent voting.

The average to low polling percentage may not be good news for the Congress in Salcete, an area which forms the nerve centre of the party's political fortune and does not bode well for their math of 70,000odd lead in the taluka. Let's not forget that the Congress candidate was expecting a tsunami of votes in Salcete to offset the shortfall in the hinterland areas, especially Madkai.

Have the political players failed to read the electoral pulse in the State? Or, was the projected anger of the people against the establishment, a myth? If people wanted a change, why was it not visible in the voting numbers? And what happened to all the hype that was created, and the appeals by various religious leaders in the form of advisories? Has the electorate given up on leaders, or is there a sense of disillusionment? Or, have people lost interest in Lok Sabha elections?

Questions surface because the end appeared to be some sort of an anti-climax against the fierce build-up that brought the contest to life through some critical and emotive issues raised by all parties, pick of them being the Constitution. It now appears, that the issues that dominated the turf through the past 45 days, did not resonate on the ground or the common citizen remained numb. The emotion of anger

> that was anticipated by the Congress was not visible through these numbers.

> In fact, pilgrims taking the train to Vailankanni in Chennai on the eve of elections, despite an appeal from the Cardinal, explains a certain level of disenchantment in the electoral exercise. Cancelling the tickets was an easily available option since there were over 45 days between the announcement of the poll and the date of

voting.

While the numbers

present an opaque

picture, the reality could

still be different because

numbers don't reflect

dance of democracy

electoral emotion. A lot

can happen in this queer

On the flip side, possibly, the Congress flattered to deceive on voting day and failed to capitalise on their strengths. Contrary to the unity and aggressiveness shown right through the campaign, the party fell short in strategising logistics on the final day with several booths not being manned to facilitate voting, more importantly in constituencies which are party's strongholds.

An average or below-par percentage in Salcete is certainly not in Cong's interest, given the situation that it is no longer the force it was in 2019. Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, Navelim MLA Ulhas Tuenkar along with others like Nuvem MLA Aleixo Sequeira and Curtorim MLA Aleixo Reginaldo will eat into the Congress kitty in varying degrees making its numerical balancing very difficult in

The Congress now will have to calculate how much of a gain it could make in the hinterland and Mormugao, areas where the BJP has a strong presence. Also to be seen is how much damage is inflicted by the STs who have vouched to support the Congress clearly expressing their displeasure over reservations.

While the numbers present an opaque picture, the reality could still be different because numbers don't reflect electoral emotion. A lot can happen in this queer dance of democracy.

### **OPEN SPACE >>**

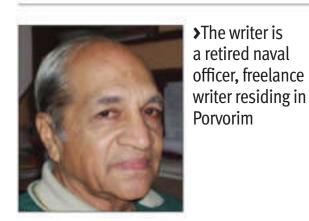


It is shocking to note that despite Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao appealing to the Catholics to forgo their pilgrimage to Vailankanni to avoid missing out on voting in the Lok Sabha polls, hundreds of pilgrim reportedly boarded the weekly train to the Marine Shrine on the eve of polling day. These pilgrims justified their journey by explaining that they had booked their tickets prior to the announcements of the elections. However, given the significance of these elections, the pilgrims could have postponed the trip to sometime in the future. Alternatively the railways should have given an option by making the tickets booked one day prior to the elections valid for anytime in the future. One can embark on a pilgrimage at any time of the year but elections come once every five years. Irrespective of whichever party one is supporting, these pilgrims have missed a golden opportunity to make their vote count. Elections in Goa have often been closely contested. When hundreds of voters have not exercised their franchise, it could have a telling effect on the final results.

**ADELMO FERNANDES, Vasco** 

## Most important guarantee missing

Our Constitution which is presently given lip service by Modi government should actually be honoured in letter and spirit



**JOHN ERIC GOMES** 

ndia is an ancient civilization, a potpourri of many languages, religions, castes, traditions, medical systems and when we made a tryst with destiny in 1947, we firmly decided not to go the Pakistan way and opted to strive for unity in our myriad diversity!

In all the chaos, violence and turmoil, against all odds and predictions of failure, led by illustrious stalwarts like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and many in the Indian National Congress overwhelmingly outvoting the others with RSS ideology after thoroughly discussing the matter in Parliament, India would be a country for everyone!

Today all these stalwarts, the founders and architects of our Constitution who laid the foundation and steered India to rise and become a world power from malnutrition, poverty, illiteracy, absolutely no educational and other institutions or commensurate infrastructure are being selectively reviled/criticized instead of being acknowledged for the miracle of India that is Bharat!

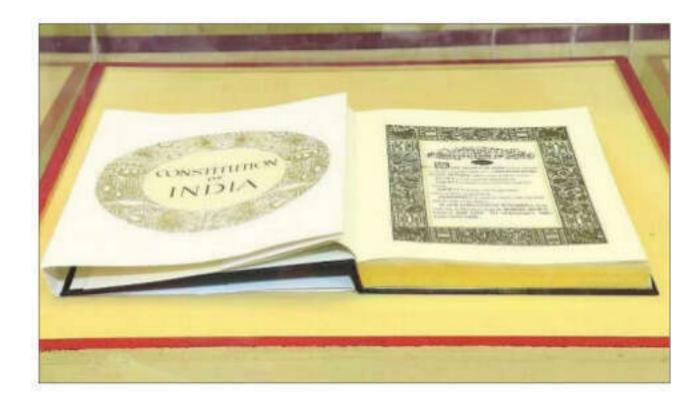
We managed to throw out the British, Portuguese, French colonisers who ruled us and remain a united secular nation despite it all! We are now on the cusp of being ruled by the BJP the political arm of the RSS. These elections are as important as our 1947 elections because our badly polarized nation needs only one guarantee which is missing; that our Constitution which is given lip service by Modi government is actually honoured in letter and spirit!

Every religion without exception always has fanatics, and by bringing in religion as the main plank and maximum appeasement of the majority community linking it with developmental national fervor, the PM with his oratory and increased built up worldwide stature has struck a politically winning chord.

Amazing no matter how incredulous, communal, inciting, unconstitutional his election rhetoric, allegations or narrative created maybe, it is backed up tooth and nail by the Parivar, similar rude counter allegations/rebuttals follow and everyone dutifully listens sometimes applauding! The EC takes no or



**Deeds speak** louder than words and if the Constitution is the BJP's sacred book as claimed by PM Modi, it is wrong to aim to somehow destroy all opposition since democracy cannot survive without a strong opposition?



selective action and courts keep quiet on blatant disregard of code of conduct and constitutional provisions openly flouted!

The RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat reportedly said that it is clear that there is need for society to understand that the identity and link that binds this nation is Hindu and that society must not be judged on wealth creation but religion and victory of this society would empower other societies and benefit the universe. The BJP manifesto also hints at making Hinduism a world religion with cultural centres to be established across the world.

We managed unity in diversity till 2014, when democracy started getting eroded, polarization, caste and religion brought strongly to the fore. The PM won a thumping majority on promise of 'Acche Din' and then established a macho image with Balakot. Now with Ram Mandir and Modi ki Guarantee, he hopes to destroy all opposition and send the only national Opposition party into oblivion.

In south India the Christian population is being wooed, Shashi Tharoor may not get a walk over as BJP has fielded Union Minister Chandrashekar against him. The Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao has issued a circular stating that the growth of a nation is dependent on its citizens active participation and responsible behaviour. Voting is their moral obligation and vote for those with secular credentials.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant reacting reportedly said "BJP is a truly secular party that has never differentiated people based on religion, caste or creed, has spent money for upkeep of churches in Old Goa and St Francis Xavier exposition, revived minority commissions in Goa and nationally". Health Minister Rane reiterates Opposition comments on various issues but people should think of development undertaken by the PM.

Fortunately the people of Goa are by and large educated, well connected and can decipher the truth, well aware of what is happening in Manipur, the targeted communalization, cannot forget what happened in GMC regarding oxygen cylinders and deaths during Covid epidemic, the migrant labour exodus, price rise, job situation etc. and notwithstanding the roads, bridges, development progress, are thoroughly dismayed at the gross land grab and haphazard development changes in zoning and illegal constructions which will drastically affect our climate, food and water scarcity.

The Courts are overwhelmed and people stand helplessly watching Goa being converted into a concrete jungle, agricultural land, river and beach areas encroached by arbitrary changes in land use, corruption rampant and no equitable justice. The smart city works, Kala Academy renovation in Panaji and development executed with no transparency and accountability, where normal people's lives, flora, fauna and climate change seems not to matter much. The pollution, recent flooding and drinking water shortage in Bengaluru should have opened our eyes to the consequences. Which way Goa goes will be decided in these elec-

Deeds speak louder than words and if the Constitution is the BJP's sacred book as claimed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is wrong to aim to somehow destroy all opposition since democracy cannot survive without a strong opposition?

The minorities have to be respected and protected and all Indians treated as one family before the world can be so treated. And to quote Charles Colton, "Power will intoxicate the best of hearts as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough nor good enough to be trusted with unlimited powers".

### THE INBOX >>

### Lok Sabha elections and responsibility of voters

On the local newspapers of Goa, the PM Modi is seen on the advertisement that 'Vote First everything else can wait '. Yes voting is our right to freedom. Voters in Goa who have voting rights went to Vailankanni for pilgrimage even knowing that their vote matters. When asked by media they said they booked the tickets before the Lok Sabha elections dates were declared. If they have love and respect for the nation they could have rebooked or cancelled the tickets. It is because of such selfish people unexpected candidates get elected. During the election time politicians divide us so that they can rule. I don't understand when the BLO is sitting outside the election booth to check your names and to give you information than what is the role of party workers sitting near the election booth. I think the people of Goa along with outsiders are well educated. Let the good candidate win and become a voice of Goa in the Parliament.

**RONNIE DSOUZA, Chandor** 

### The numbers game and fate of LS candidates

Ultimately it is the numbers that prevail in the final crunch count. However, in Goa as we are seeing voting taking place, it is pertinent that we analyse the numbers game. There are 11.7 lakh voters in Goa and South Goa accounts for about 5.9 lakh voters with women voters marginally outnumbering men. Similarly, the North Goa has about 5.8 lakh voters with almost half each being men and women voters. The fact is that the interweaving of the voters choice of the candidates will decide the fate of the major candidates. South Goa with about 2 lakh minority community voters which account for about one-thirds of the electorate and in the north, minority voters which account for about one-sixth of the electorate may not be enough to tilt the

### Pilgrimage to Vailankanni could work wonders

This is with reference to the news report 'Pilgrims embark on journey by Vasco-Vailankanni Express' (TGE, May 7). Notwithstanding the duty of every citizen to cast his/her vote on election day, there appears to be some justification on the part of the 500-odd pilgrims who undertook the pilgrimage to Vailankanni on the eve of elections in Goa, given the ordeal they underwent in securing a booking 4 months in advance, and totally oblivious of the election date in Goa. Secondly, it is not known whether the trip was sponsored by some well wishers, but the question remains as to how many of us would refuse such a godsend. Finally, prayers as we know are known to work wonders. We in Goa have been praying every day at masses and holy hours for the wisdom to select secular representatives who will work for the welfare of the people and the country and to protect the sacred Constitution and democratic values that are being currently eroded. And what better way than a pilgrimage to the shrine of the miraculous Our Lady of Vailankanni, who is known to work wonders?

**AF NAZARETH,** *Alto Porvorim* 

balance in favour of the INDIA candidates. It could be fair to expect a 60% to 40% chances of the INDIA candidate winning in the south and in the north much against expectations, it could be a 51% to 49% surprisingly for the INDIA candidate. These projections are merely on the strength of the experience of the candidates.

**ELVIDIO MIRANDA,** *Via email* 

### **Voter should insist on** critical election reforms

The Congress is crying hoarse about being deprived of funds as their accounts are frozen. Opposition leaders are shut in prisons. Massive raids are carried on against the opposition. Voters are wooed by incentives of cash and kind. Others are threatened and prevented from voting. It is an unfair advantage that this time round the voting is stretched too much. The propaganda period should be fixed when the elections are held. Booth capturing, bogus



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

voting, invalid votes are reduced so is the counting time. But various examples are doing rounds how the votes can be manipulated. As countries like Japan UK, USA highly advanced countries have pref ered ballot, why are we latched on to machines? Why is the government not ready to tally the VVPAT with votes registered? If after elected representatives can switch sides what is sacred about voting. The tenure of candidates should be fixed maximum for two terms The power of recall must be introduced. Changing sides should be banned, reelection be made compulsory, such candidates be made to pay the cost of reelection. All income must be taxed like other citizens. Voters must insist on these reforms.

**NELSON LOPES, Chinchinim** 

### **Elections should not be** arranged during summer

Goa went to polls for 2 Lok Sabha seats on May 7 in third phase having some 1,725 polling stations. The voting pattern is somehow different in the Lok Sabha elections as compared to Assembly elections. The voters turn out in morning is slow but as the day comes closer to evening time the percentage does increase and it's predicted to be around 70 to 75 per cent voting this time. With scorching heat and rise in temperature people are reluctant to come out for voting especially senior citizens. The scorching heat may have affected voting as those who have health issues and senior citizens may have avoided coming out due to the heat which may effect their health. The Election Commission will have to rethink over the date and month of elections as we saw many voters travelling to Vailankanni by train as the tickets were booked prior to date of elections in Goa. The elections should be in November - December as the climate is suitable and voting turnout out may also be more in terms of of percentage.

RAJU RAMAMURTHY, Vasco

THE GOAN & GOA TOTAL

# Aleixo, Digambar, Reginaldo keep fingers crossed, to await EVM verdict on June 4

### SAY WORKERS HAD DONE THEIR BEST, HAVE LEFT IT FOR VOTERS' DECISION

THE GOAN I NETWORK

**MARGAO** 

Congress turncoats from Salcete, Minister Alexio Sequeira and Digmabar Kamat, besides Independent Curtorim MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco virtually kept their fingers crossed and preferred to wait for the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to do the talking on June 4 on BJP's prospects in the Nuvem, Margao and Curtorim Assembly seg-

While Congress-turned-BJP MLA Digambar Kamat said he only expects a good lead in Margao, Salcete lone Minister Aleixo Sequeira said he and his workers had done their best and have left it to the voters to decide.

Independent Curtorim MLA Reginaldo Lourenco, on the other hand, maintained that



he had supported the BJP in the Lok sabha electin since he was indebted to the Chief Minister for ushering development works in Curtoroim constituency.

Alexio Sequeira, Digambar Kamat and Reginaldo Lourenco have been the BJP's key players as the ruling party made a determined bid to storm the Congress bastion in minority Salcete.

Digambar Kamat, who had set a target of 10,000 vote lead for the Pallavi Dempo in Mar-



gao, has exuded confidence that Madgavkars will give maximum lead to the BJP. He, however, hastened to add he cannot say whether he would be able to achieve the 10,000 vote target in Margao, saying the vote lead in Margao would all depend on the voter turn-

In fact, Kamat said he had set the 10,000 vote lead target in Margao to motivate and charge the workers and supporters to work hard for the success of the party can-



didate.

Though Kamat had in the past enjoyed the support of the minorities, including the Christians and Muslims, political observers do not rule out the possibility of the seven time Margao MLA losing sizeable vote of the minorities after his return to the BJP

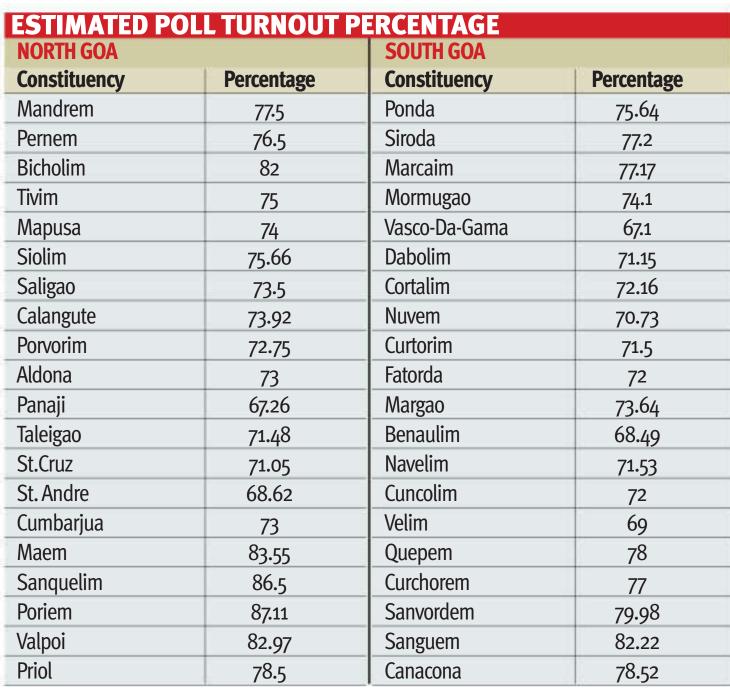
Salcete BJP lone Minister Aleixo Sequeira told the media after the first few hours of polling that he had been expecting around 7000-

Though Kamat had in the past enjoyed the support of the minorities, including the Christians and Muslims, political observers do not rule out the possibility of the seven time Margao MLA losing sizeable vote of the minorities after his return to the BJP fold

### 8000 votes for Pallavi Dem-

He, however, lamented there have been concerted attempts to misguide and misinform the voters and to instill fear in the voters about the BJP. "We had worked hard for the BJP. Now, let us all wait for the EVMs to open on June 4", he said.

Curtorim MLA Reginaldo Lourenco explained that he



had lent his support the BJP candidate because of the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who had initiated development works in Curtorim.

"The BJP leadership and the Chief Minister knows my predicament in Curtorim. And, they have requested me to do my best to get votes

for Pallavi", he said, while virtually leaving it on the voters to take a call on voting the candidate of their choice.

### Vijai demands probe into woman Salcete politicos cast votes with wives, families taking photo after casting vote

THE GOAN | NETWORK

**MARGAO** 

Goa Forward Chief Vijai Sardesai has demanded an inquiry into the episode when a woman was caught casting her vote by taking a photograph on a cell phone.

Saying that the woman

voter had clicked the photograph in order to prove to a BJP leader that she has voted for the BJP and ensure her transfer to Margao from Panjim, Sardesai said he has spoken to the Chief Electoral Officer to order an inquiry, failing which he threatened to move the Election Commission of India.

He said the Fatorda police did not bother to make an inquiry after the woman voter in Fatorda constituency has been caught clicking pictures of the voting machine to sub-



mit as evidence to a BJP Goa leader for favours.

"Who's this leader who gave such instructions in blatant violation of election norms? This could be the tip of the iceberg. This could be happening throughout Goa! I'm shocked and appalled by such illegal acts by the BJP to hijack people's will", he said, adding that he would take up the matter with the ECI.

Saying what had happened at the polling booth is unconstitutional, anti-people and anti democratic, he has called for a thorough inquiry into the matter. "When I visited the Fatorda police station, the woman voter was not found there. How can the woman be allowed to go home without conducting an inquiry as to who had sent her to click the photograph of the EVM", he questioned.

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **MARGAO**

It was a Lok Sabha election, but local satraps and local politicos were all on the field on polling day to cast their vote and to support their respective candidates.

In fact, some of the politicians including Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao went to the polling stations with their spouses and family members.

At Margao, Margao MLA and former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat went to the Adarsh polling to cast vote along with wife Asha and Son Yogiraj.

In neighbouring Fatorda, Goa Forward Chief Vijai Sardesai with wife Usha cast their vote at the Fatorda polling booth.

**Condemning the attempt** to misguide the voters on the eve of the election that he has withdrawn from the fray, Rubert said this only goes to show that his presence in the fray did not go down with his rivals

Revolutionary Goans Paring station at Arlem.

Condemning the attempt rivals.

While making an appeal to the voters to ignore the fake appeal being circulated on the social media, Rubert said people of South Goa will celebrate on June 4 when the EVMs are opened for counting as the RGP will make its presence





(From left) Digambar and family, Churchill and family, Navelim MLA Ulhas with supporters, Yuri and wife, Vijai and his wife after casting their vote in the Lok Sabha elections for South Goa seat on Tuesday.

### KEEN INTEREST AT UNIQUE POLLING BOOTH



International observers from Bhutan and Mongolia visited Green/Eco Friendly Polling Booth at Porvorim and Taleigao on Voting Day.

### ty candidate, Rubert Pereira, cast his vote at his home poll-

to misguide the voters on the eve of the election that he has withdrawn from the fray, Rubert said this only goes to show that his presence in the fray did not go down with his



felt in Parliament.

Former two-time MP Churchill Alemao cast his vote at his home village of Varca with daughter Valanka and



Congress South Goa election Coordinator, MLA Alton D'Costa cast his vote in

the morning before he set out to monitor the situation in his home constituency Quepem.

### **WHAT THEY SAID**

### **RG** is in the hearts of people

The response we have received from the public for our party, Revolutionary Goans, is overwhelming. People have a lot of expectations.

The result would be good. The lead would increase. There have been violations and people are moving in tinted cars. An ex-MLA of BJP and his family is moving out overnight. This shows how frightened the BJP is. We have never seen LS elections to be so aggressive. People are with RG and we have hope in North as well as South Goa.

- Viresh Borkar, Revolutionary Goans

### History would take a different turn this time

If till 3 pm more than 60 % people have already cast their votes, in both the constituencies, North and South Goa,

it shows that people have moved out of their homes despite all kinds of pressure techniques. There

was a lot of propaganda not to go out to vote, but people have voluntarily come out. Salcete is an important constituency, and history will take a different turn this time. North Goa will make history, besides Salcete.

- **Venzy Viegas**, AAP leader, South Goa

### Madgaokars have always been with me

Who is the winner you will come to know on June 4. Overall voters' turnout was good and I am expecting 75 % voting. Margao has always been with Digambar Kamat. Wherever we went people said that we are voting for Digambar. It is false propaganda that Margao is shaky and that Margao people are not with Digambar. When I was not in the BJP, the BJP Chief Minister has campaigned, all five ministers have campaigned.

Sadanand Shet Tanavade admitted on my birthday that we tried our level best to defeat Digambar Kamat. But they could not succeed.

- **Digambar Kamat**, former Chief Minister, Margao MLA

### **Election is the biggest** festival in democracy

**Election** is the biggest festival in democracy. The public is aware, vigilant, out to cast their vote even in this summer heat of May.

The queues started from 7 am, which shows that the democracy in India is healthy and the voter is eager to handover the power to the eligible, right leader. Results will be out on June 4 after the counting.

- Laxmikant Parsekar, former Chief Minister

### Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar

Voted for Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa! Urging everyone to come out in large

numbers and exercise your democratic right. #PhirEkBaarModiSarkar - Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister, Goa

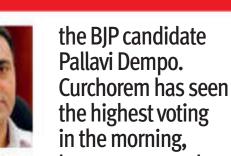
### I have been working for people for 35 years

All are minority community people in my constituency. It will go by the way it has been projected. Not traditional. People have been instigated. This is an MP election, it is not my election. So I went, gave my support to the government. I did my work, underground cabling, police station, primary health centre. They (government) have done work for me which no successive government previously has done. I have been working for people for 35 years

- Alex Reginaldo, Curtorim

### **BJP does not discriminate**

There is a good response. I am sure we will give a massive mandate for epaper.thegoan.net



workers taking stock of the

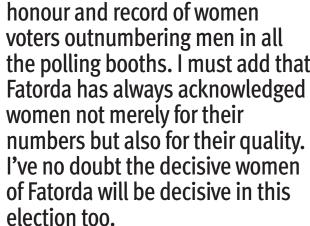
ground situation in the con-

because our workers were on their toes. Youth, women worked hard. We had decided to bring people out of their homes in the morning. Our workers cast their votes and now they are calling out other voters to come out to vote. I am vocal. Things which are incorrect or inappropriate should be openly talked about. There are some in the opposition who allege polarisation. My office is open for all. We work for everyone. BJP does not discriminate on the

basis of anything. - Nilesh Cabral, Minister, Curchorem

### **Women of Fatorda** will be decisive

I voted for the sake of our children, our grandchildren and for the generations to come. It appears that Fatorda might have the unique



- Vijai Sardesai, president, Goa Forward

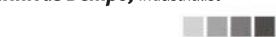
### People are happy with the development

urge all to go and vote because at the end of the day it is your fundamental right to choose the

leader that you want. In democracy, every vote counts. We need to focus on India's development and so we need a leader who is totally devoted to the 140 crore Indians. In that spirit, it is the duty of every Indian, every Goan, to go and vote for the leader

- Shrinivas Dempo, Industrialist

they want.



The Goan introduces a brand new offering called **BRAND GOA** with a focus on the business side of the State. The weekly page will feature stories on Goa businesses, entrepreneurs and their journeys, besides columns on corporates, establishments and finance.

쨃 log on to **thegoan**.net \infty @thegoanonline 👔 Facebook.com/thegoan 👸 The Goan E-Paper (Playstore/IOS) 👩 Instagram.com/thegoanonline

**MAY** 8,2024

# Crafting words: From corporate cubicles to creative canvas

An MBA in marketing, a PG in advertising Rochelle Potkar quit her corporate career calling it a grey box where she felt claustrophobic and the writer in her chose to mint words in place of coins and earn a name, but does poetry pay in the world's currencies, in today's capitalist society, is the million dollar question...

**BHARATI PAWASKAR** THE GOAN | PANAJI

ords are powerful weapons, we often say and hear, but do they bring in money? So, how does a writer, author or a poet survive? Goan poet of international repute Rochelle Potkar admits that she is an emerging novelist and screenwriter with many of her projects actively being evaluated, and she is hoping that will redeem monetarily, if not poetry.

"Poetry doesn't pay in the world's currencies of a capitalistic society. That's why I have coins on my latest book cover, 'Coins in Rivers', says Rochelle whose earlier books 'Paper Asylum', 'Four Degrees of Separation', and 'Bombay Hangovers' were sold internationally. "The ROI of poetry is in other currencies: making sense and semblance of an ever-changing world, catharsis, finding solace: equanimity and equilibrium the more one writes and reads, and a sense of calm. Poetry is like a prayer, a wish, or a dream. There is no market for it. Yet it has to be rendered on paper in ink and print and hence it's a book with a price tag and it stands in the marketplace," says Rochelle who quit her corporate job when she felt she was in a grey box with no light.



pics: Suhit Bombaywala

"Everything was great but I felt

claustrophobic and sad. A voice in me said: Your life hasn't even begun. And I was 27. So you can imagine how stunned I was. I spoke to my family and convinced them I had to jump ship. My mother suggested I do this simultaneously – I tried for three months but I would come home at 10 pm after work and didn't have the bandwidth to write, so finally my partner supported me to take

the leap of conviction," she recalls.

"I was in front of a large ocean of literature and didn't know how to cartograph it. I wasn't a literature

**BUSINESS** 

**SPACE** 

student. But I figured out my strengths: my corporate

work ethic, discipline, punctuality, and promptness. Also, my weaknesses: I didn't have a voice or a worldview. And so I began. I can't say poetry pays but the workshops I conduct, some readings, some book reviews bring the coins

in," admits Rochelle. An instructional designer (content reviewer) in Tata Interactive Services (TIS) at Mumbai Rochelle worked on multiple technical and some creative e-learning projects. "I was close to the word and learned to review and edit their language hygiene, as they call it. We were given bug reports by clients every evening when America woke up and the next few mornings were spent hectically fixing bugs with the graphic, content, and tech teams. It wasn't possible to think of story writing unless over the weekends. But it was also a life that taught me about resources on the bench, resource allocation, project and time management, punctuality, work ethics of discipline and putting in whole days of work," she recollects.

A graduate of commerce and a post-grad in advertising from Wigan & Leigh College, Mumbai, Rochelle has an MBA degree in Marketing (LaTrobe Uni. Australia, online), and she would score high in her favourite subject

> marketing. But was the flare of writing a newfound love, or was it always within her, maybe dormant, and got ignited when she seriously thought of leaving the corporate world? "I never wrote anything as a child in a diary – no story, no poetry. However, I scored the highest in English in SSC. I lived in Kalyan and my English teacher proudly said that I

had even beaten the Bombay students that year. I chose commerce because I wanted to be a corporate woman with a sleek laptop. In the 90's laptops were a glamorous asset and I dreamt of that and pantsuits as my end goal, not zari borders, and poetry books," Rochelle reveals.

Now in retrospect, she realises that she had a different kind of disposition in the making of her as a storyteller – "I may not have been a chronic chronicler, diarist, or blogger but I keenly observed people. I loved reading people's faces, body language, and the words they use. Do you know that the syntax and vocabulary a person chooses tells us a lot about them? Their intentions and their ego levels! I also soak in sensory details like weather, light, sound, smells, and tones very vividly that are reproduced in my work."

How was it to leave a handsome job to be a wordsmith? "In the beginning, there were middle-class worries of a loss of salary pay checks. Also, there was no other practicing artist in my family, so I seemed like someone who was just sitting and sitting and doing 'nothing'. But I think an 'unemployed woman' is written off to be a housewife and forgotten, unlike a writer-athome male. So I was a 'housewife' for years of my writing career. It's only when I won international writing residencies my family realised this wasn't a hobby. A salary defines a profession but then again it cannot define creative satisfaction and happiness. I wonder why these parameters are not on the list when life is about the pursuit of peace and happiness, before or after all the material wealth and well-being!"

Is writing, publishing, and selling books easy, or hard? Is there a taker? Rochelle discloses, "I have just begun to fuse together the two interests of my life: marketing and creative writing. Book marketing may seem difficult but it's quite possible, though a long road. If your book is good and interesting and you reach out to many, a few will buy. Doesn't that happen to all products in the market? The reader too is selfish and choosy with their time but you can't stop a stubborn reader once they decide to buy or read your book or connect with you on your journey."

Speaking on the international market, finding publishers, doing reading sessions, Rochelle points out that the poetry audience internationally reveres poetry a lot more! "They treat it as a rare art that few can do. But poetry book publishing, printing, selling, or buying is not a heavy industry there either. That's why you have many small presses who support wonderful lists of poetry books. But I have not heard of too many bestselling books there either. Just the reverence is very high," quips Rochelle, an avid traveller who has zeroed on South Goa's Majorda to build her home.

### Who is obligated to file an Income Tax Return?

s the financial year of 2023-24 has ended there is a natural rush of some prudent citizens to file their Income Tax Returns. However, there is also a large section that needs to be coaxed to complete their compliances and further there are some who are totally oblivious of this requirement.

Firstly, there is a misconception that only those who have taxable income, or any tax to pay, need to file an Income Tax Return. The law has become so over-arching now, that even if you have no income, but you trigger some high value transactions, then you need to file your Income Tax Return.

**GAURAV KENKRE** 

Who should file an Income Tax Return: Any individual (male/female/senior citizen) whose total income exceeds the minimum taxable threshold is required to file an Income Tax Return.

Under the old tax regime, individuals below 60 years of age have to file an ITR if their income exceeds Rs 2.5 lakh and individuals above 60 years of age to 80 years of age have to file an Income Tax Return if their income is more than Rs 3

### MONEY **MATTERS**

their Income Tax Return if their income exceeds Rs 5 lakh. Under the new tax regime, the basic exemption

lakh. Individuals above 80 years of age have to file

limit for individuals is Rs 3 lakh, so if you are opting for a new tax regime, then you need to file your Income Tax Return if your income is exceeding Rs 3 lakh (irrespective of age).

- If you have deposited more than Rs 1 crore in a 'current' account in a bank, you have to mandatorily file an Income Tax Return.
- If you have deposited more than Rs 50 lakh in a 'savings' bank account, you have to mandatorily file an Income Tax Return.
- If you have spent more than Rs 2 lakh on foreign travel, whether for yourself or any other person, you have to mandatorily file a tax return.
- If you have more than Rs 1 lakh in a year, towards electricity expenditure then you have to mandatorily file an Income Tax Return.
- If the tax deducted at source (TDS)/ tax collected at source (TCS) exceeds Rs 25,000 in the previous year, you need to mandatorily file an Income Tax Return. In the case of a senior citizen (above 60 years), this limit is Rs 50,000.
- If you are a businessman and your total sales, turnover, or gross receipt is more than Rs 60 lakh during the financial year, then you have to mandatorily file an Income Tax Return.
- If you are engaged in a profession and your gross receipts are more than Rs 10 lakh during the financial year, you have to file an Income Tax Return.
- If you hold any foreign assets, such as bank accounts, properties, or other financial investments, or have earned any income from sources outside India, then you are required to file an Income Tax Return, irrespective of the income threshold.
- Non Residents are required to file an Income Tax Return if they have any income arising in India, irrespective of the amount. However, if a Non Residents total income is below the basic exemption limit and consists only of certain specified incomes (such as interest income or dividend income), they may not be required to file an Income Tax Return, subject to specific conditions.
- If an individual has incurred a loss in any financial year and wishes to carry forward or set off the loss against future income or claim a refund of excess taxes paid, filing an Income Tax Return is necessary.

The above is a list of all the legal situations in which a person should file their Income Tax Return. Readers may appreciate that besides above legal requirements there can be several practical and other considerations/benefits of filing an Income Tax Return.

(The writer, a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA), specialising in Goods, Services tax, Transfer Pricing and Income tax, is the co-author of the book 'Comedium of Industrial Policy for MSMEs in Goa' released by ICAI)

# Branding of Goa's favourite 'Mankurad' mango



MIGUEL BRAGANZA

Without documentation a mango variety is like land without the title documents, open to grabbing by others

dle of the mango season in Goa, a place where 'mango means Mankurad' is not an uncommon statement. It is the first mango to hit the market, often at a whopping price for the first lot of fruits! It may have a 'Geographical Indication' or GI tag for Goa but the first fruits invariably come from across the border. The Mankurad variety is not registered under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV & FRA) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, New Delhi. In fact, a lot of research work needs to be done to identify the right clone and maybe give the other clones appropriate names like the Cardozo

> clones need not be called Mankurad at all. The Hapus or Ratnagiri Alphonso is in the market with the Mankurad but it is not preferred by Goans because it is generally force ripened in neighbouring Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. However, one farm from

Devgad markets slow ripened

Mankurad. Perhaps, the other

Hapus that meets the local taste and is even mistaken for the Mankurad by the uninitiated. The commercial story of the Hapus is a study in contrast with the Mankurad in the implementation of GI tag by the Konkan Hapus Mango Growers and Sellers Cooperative Society Limited (KHMGSCSL), Ratnagiri. Geographical Indications (GI) registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999. However, even that is proving inadequate and the growers have begun using QR code for traceability of each mango to the farm.

the soil and climate where it grows. Konkan coast has red soil from laterite rocks of volcanic origin and a hot climate with high humidity. There is salinity in the sea breeze wafting from the Arabian Sea on the West. All these provide a unique combination for the mango crop. There have

The taste of Hapus depends on

been many attempts to grow Alphonso mangoes all across the country. However, the topography

and the coastal volcanic soil of Ratnagiri and Devgad give Hapus its unique taste, aroma, and colour. Grown across the two hundred kilometres of Konkan coastline in Devgad and Ratnagiri, Alphonso mango or Hapus, is zealously



protected by the mango growers from the competition. The same is not yet the case with the Mankurad mango. My favourite is the Manga Hilario that comes in mid-season or in May to June.

It is a prime candidate for a GI tag and protection under PPV & FRA. The pulp in both varieties is firm, melting, juicy and aromat-

ic. The Mankurad at a sugar level of 21 Brix is slightly less sweet than Manga Hilario (23 Brix). The Manga Hilario or Mangilar is arguably the best mango variety of Goa. It has light butter yellow to ivory colour pulp and the cut edge

of the peel displays a saffron coloured edge. Its major disadvantage is that it arrives in the market almost a month after the Mankurad and the fruits ripening during the monsoons often have maggots of fruit flies, if not controlled. Pheromone-based fruit fly traps are now easily available and commonly used to overcome the maggots.

It was the presence of fruit flies in a consignment of Alphonso mangoes to the UK that made the mango growers in Maharashtra to respond and protect their mango variety and obtain a G.I tag. Apparently, the problem of fruit flies was in a shipment of Alphonso

mangoes cultivated in another state and were exported to the UK. All mango imports from India were banned that year and the mango growers in Maharashtra suffered a huge loss for no fault of theirs. So they worked hard to set their mangoes apart and obtained a GI in 2018. Only mangoes from Ratnagiri and

Devgad can now be called as Hapus. The book 'Mangoes of Goan Origin' by P A Mathew, documents the varieties still available in Goa then and multiplied by grafting to preserve the varieties for the future. The Portuguese and English book on Goan mangoes by Fernando do Rego was limited edition and not available in the bookshops. I am fortunate to have a copy. There are well-researched articles on mango available on the net. During the last two decades, beginning with May, 2003, the Konkan Fruit Fest has made mangoes from across the Konkan region visible to the people in Goa. We need to further research and document these varieties and register them. Without documentation a mango variety is like land without the title documents, open to grabbing by others.

(The writer, former agricultural officer and a mentor to the GenNext organic farmers, is committed to nurturing young talent for a food-secure future)

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FOOD

**SECURITY** 

# People have come out to vote for PM: Calangute MLA

### SAYS MODI WILL PROPEL INDIA TOWARDS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

THE GOAN I NETWORK

**MAPUSA** As people came o+ut to vote in large numbers, Calangute MLA Michael Lobo voiced his optimism regarding the resounding support

Lobo, emphasising the public's trust in Modi's commitment to the welfare of the nation, particularly the marginalised, highlighted the massive turnout as a testament to the Prime Minister's popularity.

for Prime Minister Narendra

"People have come out in large numbers to vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has concern for the people of India, particularly the downtrodden," remarked Lobo, echoing sentiments shared by many within the

He further underscored Modi's role in propelling India toward economic su-



Calangute MLA Michael Lobo voting in the Lok Sabha elections on Tuesdav.

"People see Modi as the

PM who will give employ-

ment opportunities to the

premacy, asserting, "The PM will lead this country to the strongest economy in the world."

poor. People have voted to In a nod to the aspirations see that this country gets raof the populace, Lobo emphation, food, clothing, shelter, sised the multifaceted beneand toilet facilities. People will also get pucca houses," fits envisioned under Modi's he elaborated. leadership.

### **Voters will elect Shripad Naik once** again: Mapusa MLA

**MAPUSA:** Deputy MLA Joshua

D'Souza exuded confidence in the BJP's prospects, expressing unwavering faith in the electorate's support for incumbent Shripad Naik.

D'Souza's sentiments mirrored Lobo's, highlighting the anticipated victory as a reflection of the people's trust in the BJP's vision for progress and development.

"I have full faith in the people of Mapusa that they will come out in large numbers and elect Shripad Naik yet again," stated D'Souza.

### RGP optimistic in North Goa, cites disillusionment

THE GOAN I NETWORK

#### **MAPUSA**

The Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), North Goa candidate, Manoj Parab has expressed confidence in the party's prospects, citing a growing disillusionment with traditional politics in the State.

Parab asserted that the prevailing sentiment among Goans is a yearning for change, driven by a fatigue with the status quo.

"People are tired of politics in Goa and want a change," he remarked, encapsulating the sentiments echoed by many within the electorate.

Highlighting RGP's unique position as a potential catalyst for change, Parab emphasised the party's commitment to elevating the concerns of the people to the national stage.

"People want their issues to be raised in Parliament and only RGP can do it. Hence people have decided among themselves, and we are getting a positive response," he explained.



# Self-sufficient Goa, developed India under PM Modi's rule in next 5 years, says CM

### PRAISES ELECTION COMMISSION FOR SETTING UP INNOVATIVE POLLING STATIONS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

**BICHOLIM** 

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said a new hope will once again be ready for a developed India and a self-sufficient Goa in the next five years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sawant was speaking to reporters after he, his wife, Sulakshana and his father, Pandurang, cast their votes at Booth 47 at Pali-Kothambi in Sankhali constituency at about 8.30 am.

Commending the Election Commission for setting up environment-friendly and inno-



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant casts his votes at Booth 47 at Pali-Kothambi in Sankhali constituency.

vative polling stations at various places, Sawant said it had created a good atmosphere and an environment where voters felt energised.

Elsewhere, Bicholim MLA Dr Chandrakant Shetye voted at Mencurem, while Mayem

MLA Premendra Shet voted at Kumbhar Wada.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, his wife and Poriem MLA Deviya Rane and his father and former chief minister Pratapsing Rane voted at a polling booth in Karapur.

Voting began at 7 am and picking up as the day progressed. Various facilities were made available for vot-

There was a delay of about 15 minutes on account of a technical snag with one machine at a polling booth in Bicholim, but voting by and large was conducted in a smooth and peaceful

# High voter turnout in Sattari to benefit BJP in North Goa seat: Valpoi MLA

SIZEABLE NUMBER OF NEW VOTERS EXERCISED FRANCHISE IN TALUKA

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **VALPOI**

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said a high voter turnout in Sattari taluka on Tuesday would benefit the BJP with a massive lead in North Goa.

Speaking to reporters, Rane said the high voter turnout had been the result of his efforts to create awareness among voters by holding various corner meetings and public meetings.

"Voters have opted for the BJP and Shripad Naik will get a huge lead from Sattari taluka," said Rane.

Voicing similar thoughts, Poriem MLA Deviya Rane said there had been a large



Health Minister Vishwajit Rane at a polling station on Tuesday.

turnout in her constituency in favour of the BJP after appreciated the various development projects in her constituency over the last two years.

Both claimed that the voting had taken place as

per expectations and were confidence that BIP would secure most votes in Sattari taluka. Meanwhile, voting was

peaceful across Sattari taluka on Tuesday. There was a sizeable number of new voters in both constituencies of Sattari taluka.

Many were happy to get the opportunity to participate in the polls for the first time.

Incidentally, many voters complained that cold drinks and water bottles were not made available at some poll ing stations in Sattari taluka, despite the Election Commission's promise to voters arriving at the polling station during the severe heat.

### **NEWS**

# Don't want Kejriwal to perform official duties if released on interim bail: SC

### SAYS IT WILL LEAD TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

### **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday it doesn't want Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to discharge his official duties if he is released on interim bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam as it would lead to a conflict of interest.

Kejriwal failed to get any relief from the top court, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order granting him interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)



leader was arrested on March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail under judicial custody.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which reserved its verdict on the question of interim bail,

said allowing Keiriwal to attend his office may have a "cascading effect".

"Suppose we grant you interim bail on account of elections. Then if you say you will attend office, it may have a cascading effect. If we give you interim bail, we don't want you to perform official duties as somewhere it will lead to conflict of interest. We don't want your interference at all in the working of the government," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Sin-

ghvi, appearing for Kejriwal. Singhvi said he is making a statement that Kejriwal will not deal with files related to excise policy. However, he

later submitted that Keiriwal won't sign any official files if released on interim bail provided the Delhi lieutenant governor does not reject decisions just because the files

were not signed by him. "First let us see whether at all interim bail can be given or not," the bench told Kejriwal's counsel.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, staunchly opposed showing any leniency to Kejriwal on account of the Lok Sabha polls and said granting interim bail to the AAP national convenor would amount to creating a separate class for politicians.

## 3 Ind MLAs withdraw support, BJP govt reduced to minority in Haryana

### PRESIDENT'S RULE SHOULD BE IMPOSED IN STATE, SAYS CONG

### **CHANDIGARH**

Three Independent MLAs on Tuesday withdrew support to the BJP government in Haryana and announced they would back the Congress, reducing the Nayab Singh Saini government to a minority in the state assembly.

The government which has the support of two other Independents is now two short of the majority mark in the 90-member House which has a current strength of 88.

In recent days, some Jannayak Janata Party MLAs have indicated support to the BJP though the JJP pulled out of the coalition government in

March. The BIP has 40 MLAs, the Congress 30 and the IJP 10 in the House.

Independent Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) announced their decision at a press conference in Rohtak in the presence of Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress

chief Udai Bhan. "The government should resign. President's rule should be imposed in the state and elections held. This is an anti-people government," Hooda said.

Meanwhile, JJP leader Digvijay Singh Chautala said Hooda should initiate the process to "bring down the government which has lost trust of people". He also said Hooda should immediately meet the governor and apprise him

The Congress said in a statement the three MLAs have already sent letters to the governor saying they have withdrawn their support to the government.

of the situation.

At the presser, Gonder said, "We are withdrawing support to the government and have decided to extend support to the Congress. We have taken this decision due to various issues, including those of farmers, inflation and unemployment."

### CBI arrests 4 for pushing Indians into war in Ukraine

The agency arrested two recruiters, Arun and Yesudas Junior alias Priyan, from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on Tuesday, while two other accused, Nijil Jobi Bensam, a contractual employee in Russian Defence Ministry, and Anthony Michael Elangovan, a resident of Mumbai, were arrested

Bensam and Elangovan are in judicial custody, the CBI said in a late night statement.

was working in the Russian defence Ministry on contract basis as Translator and was one of the key member of the network operating in Russia for facilitating recruitment of Indian nationals in Russian Army," an official in the know

Michael Anthony was facilitating his co-accused Faisal Baba based in Dubai and others based in Russia in getting the visa processing done in Chennai and booking the air tickets for victims to go to Russia, the CBI statement said.

The official said some more arrests could be made.

### FROM PAGE 1>>

### **GOA SPEAKS ITS 'MANN KI BAAT'**

incidents like these, where supplies of the refreshment either fell short or reached late to the booths have come in from various corners of the State.

By the time the half-way-mark was reached at 11 am an official estimate released by the Election Commission of India pegged the turnout in the first four hours at 30.94% -- 30.31% in North Goa and over a percentage

point higher in South Goa at 31.56%. A discernable departure from past polling day scenarios this time were the near absence or very subdued action outside polling booths, where volunteers and supporters of contesting parties usually gather in separate corners for voter mobilisation. In Panaji, for instance this activity was virtually absent through the day and was sparsely visibly only late evening in the last 5-6 pm hour.

### PLAINTS FILED

While officials claim the process was incident-free, the over a dozen complaints filed on behalf of the Congress party in both the constituencies tells quite another story. The Congress early in the morning filed a complaint with the office of the Chief Electoral Officer as well as before the Returning Officer against Ms Dempo for violating

the model code of conduct (MCC) by making an appeal to vote for the BJP on air.

One of the audio-visual media outlets had approached her for a comment when she was leaving the Altinho booth after voting early on Tuesday morning where she appealed to voters to come out in large numbers and "vote for the BIP candidates".

Another complaint filed by the Congress was against Siddesh Naik, the son of the BJP's North Goa candidate, who is also the North Goa Zilla Parishad Chairperson. Naik, according to the Congress was wearing a T-Shirt with 'Support BJP" embossed on it while he was inside the polling both in Sao Pedro.

### **WOKE INNOVATIONS**

There were the 'model booths', the 'pink booths' man aged entirely by women and those manned by persons with disability (PwDs) which added glitz and an element of wokeness to the otherwise rudimentary polling exercise on Tuesday. There were also a few 'unique booths' including two in North Goa -- one at heritage edifice of the Old GMC in Ribandar and another on an island in Cumbharjua, access to which is possible only via two ferry rides. The ECI also added another element this time around

-- polling officials planting trees in spaces around the

polling booths. In both the North and South Goa constituencies, a stretch of highways was also picked for polling parties to plant roadside trees. This tree planting activity was executed outside of Tuesday's polling hours.

### Did expectations fall short in Benaulim, **Velim & Nuvem for INDI Alliance?**

abroad, or are out of the state for various reasons. In fact, he pointed out that as many 18 per cent of the voters were not found in the constituency on polling day since they are staying abroad or working on board the ship.

Citing an instance of a polling booth at Fatrade-Varca, Venzy said the booth in question, which was the cynosure of all eyes, after polling came to a halt due to a technical glitch in the VVPAT, had a total around 800 voters, out of which 200 youngsters are presently abroad. "If we take this factor into account, we can conclude that it is not the fault of anyone for not getting the voters out since they are abroad", he added.

Going by the polling, Venzy has exuded confidence that Benaulim would give 15000-plus lead for Captain Viriato Fernandes.

"I think the voters from Nuvem and Velim too will give similar vote lead for the INDI Alliance candidate, which

would in the final analysis help to win the seat", he added.

Velim AAP MLA Cruz Silva said AAP had put in huge efforts to spread awareness amongst the voters to come out and vote on May 7. "While we took the initiative in spreading voters awareness, the booth management and transportation of voters was handled by the Congress. We were not taken into confidence as far as booth handling is concerned. I cannot say why the voter turnout is not as per the expectations",

Congress district Congress president Savio D'Silva, however, said the Congress had put in place arrangements for the transportation of voters at the booth level. "We had put the logistics in place. I cannot understand what the AAP MLA is saying when he said that they were not taken into confidence", Savio added. Former Majorda Sarpanch Creson Antao said that it

may not be correct to say that Nuvem Assembly segmen had less polling compared to other segments. "The total votes polled in Nuvem has crossed 20,000. One has to understand that there a significant number of voters are working abroad. In my own ward, around hundred voters are presently abroad. Such a situation is prevailing in other areas of Nuvem", he said, adding that Captain Viriato should get minimum 16,000 vote lead.

# **NEW DELHI**

The CBI has arrested four people including a contractual translator in the Russian Defence Ministry for their alleged involvement in the human trafficking network that pushed Indians into the Russia-Ukraine war zone, officials said Tuesdav.

on April 24.

"Accused Nijil Jobi Bensam

of development said.

Arun and Yesudas Junior alias Priyan, arrested on Tuesday, were the main recruiters of Indian nationals belonging to Kerala and Tamil Nadu for Russian Army, he said.

THE GOAN & BUSINESS

### **BIZ BULLETIN**

#### IDBI Bank gets ₹2.97 cr **GST** demand order

IDBI Bank on Tuesday said it has received a GST demand order of Rs 2.97 crore along with interest and penalty for alleged excess availment of input tax credit (ITC). In a regulatory filing, the private sector bank said the Dehradoon state tax department has issued an order under the GST rules pertaining to 2018-19 fiscal for alleged excess availment and utilisation of ITC. The order includes a tax demand of Rs 1.42 crore as well as interest and penalty of Rs 1.41 crore and Rs 0.14 crore, respectively.

#### Sanstar gets Sebi's nod to float IPO

Plant-based speciality products company Sanstar Ltd has received Sebi's go-ahead to float an initial public offering, an update with the markets regulator showed on Tuesday. The proposed initial public offering (IPO) comprises a fresh issue of 4 crore shares and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 80 lakh shares by its promoters and promoter group selling shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

#### **Premier Roadlines** IPO to open on May 10

Logistics solutions provider Premier Roadlines on Tuesday said it has fixed the price band at Rs 63 to Rs 67 per equity share for its initial public offer which will hit the capital market on Friday to mop up a little over Rs 40 crore. The company's shares will open for public subscription on May 10 and end on May 14. Shares of the company will be listed on the NSE's SME platform EMERGE, the company said in a statement.

#### **Piotex Industries IPO to** open on May 10

Piotex Industries Limited, a leading supplier of yarn, fabric and cotton bale, announced that its initial public offering (IPO) will open on May 10, 2024 and conclude on May 14, 2024. The company intends to raise approximately Rs. 14.47 crore from the offering and aims to be listed on the BSE SME platform. The price band for the issue has been fixed at Rs. 94/- per share, and

### **Finelistings Technologies** IPO to open on May 7

the lot size will be 1,200 equity shares.

Finelistings Technologies Limited, one of the leading player in the luxury car retail and software development sectors, has announced its plan to go public with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on May 07, 2024. The company is aiming to raise Rs 13.53 Crore at the price of Rs 123 per share through this IPO, with shares set to be listed on the BSE SME platform. The issue size is Up to 11,00,000 equity shares at face value of Rs 10 each.

### Lendingkart raises \$10 mn for lending to MSMEs

Fintech company Lendingkart, on

Tuesday, said that it raised \$10 million by way of external commercial borrowing from a fund managed by a leading global impact investment manager and member of the Schroders Group 'BlueOrchard'. The company said that this funding will be used for onward lending activities for MSMEs. "We see this investment as a testament to our unwavering dedication to supporting Indian MSMEs," Harshvardhan Lunia, Founder and CEO of Lendingkart Group, said in a statement.

### **Knit secures \$1 million** in seed funding

SaaS (software-as-a-service) startup Knit on Tuesday said it has secured funding of USD 1 million (about 8.3 crore) from Endiya Partners, Axilor Ventures and angel investors. The funds will be used to enhance the product capabilities and incorporate generative AI technologies to further streamline integration processes, the company said in a statement.

### **Sunkind Energy gets** solar projects in 4 states

Sunkind Energy on Tuesday said it has secured a contract for rooftop solar projects totalling 10 MW in four states. Cedaar Textiles has awarded a project of 2 MWp (megawatt peak), Aditya Birla Group company ABREL Solar Power (1.5 MWp), Jindal Stainless (4 MWp), Jindal Steel and Power (1 MWp) and SBF Rapid

### PhonePe unveils cashback offer for Akshaya Tritiya

(1.5 MWp), the company said.

PhonePe has announced a compelling offer for Akshaya Tritiya. On 10th May 2024, users can avail assured cashback of up to Rs 2000 on a minimum order value of Rs 1000 on the PhonePe app. The unique offer, available exclusively on PhonePe, is applicable only on one-time purchase of 24k digital gold. Users can choose to pay through multiple modes of payment such as UPI, UPI Lite, credit & debit cards, wallet and gift cards.

### Senco Gold & Diamonds

unveils Bangle Festival Leading jewellery retailer Senco Gold & Diamonds has announced the launch of its new Bangle Festival and offers to mark Akshaya Tritiya. Senco Gold & Diamonds is giving discounts to its esteemed customers from April 8 – May 12, 2024, of upto 60% in making charges on Diamond Jewellery & Polki Jewellery and upto 5% discount on Diamond Value pan India. — Agencies

# Markets end lower dragged by HDFC Bank, Reliance, ICICI Bank

After a positive start, Sensex-Nifty ended in red amid high volatility and continued FII selling

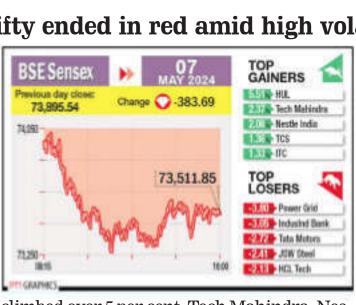
PTI / Mumbai

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined on Tuesday dragged by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid concerns over rich valuation of equities. After a positive start on Tuesday, the Indian stock market encountered selling pressure, leading to both indices slipping into the negative territory.

Paring all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85. During the day, it tanked 636.28 points or 0.86 per cent to 73,259.26. The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.

From the Sensex basket, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards.

Among the gainers, Hindustan Unilever



climbed over 5 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Nestle, ITC, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the other major gainers.

"Domestic benchmark indices opened higher on Tuesday, aided by favourable global clues. However, after some initial jitters, the market saw massive profit-booking," said Hrishikesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research, Asit C. Mehta Investment Interrmediates Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.90 per cent and smallcap index dipped 1.65 per cent.

Among the indices, realty dropped 3.41 per cent, utilities (2.85 per cent), commodities (2.18 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.73 per cent) and telecommunication (1.43 per cent). IT and teck were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled with gains while Hong Kong ended

European markets were trading higher Wall Street ended in the green on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.23 per cent to USD 83.51 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,668.84 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark edged up 17.39 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 73,895.54 on Monday. The NSE Nifty declined 33.15 points or 0.15 per cent to 22,442.70.

### Robust govt capex, improvement in biz confidence to push growth'

Robust capital expenditure by the government and improvement in business confidence will push the country's economic growth in 2024-25, an official said on Tuesday.

Chief Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Rural Development Kuntal Sensarma said that the focus areas in 2024-25 should be infrastructure growth, inclusive development and harnessing demographic dividend, among others.

"The major reasons cited for India's growth prospects in FY25 include robust public investment/ capex push by the government, sustained growth in business and consumer confidence, and strong services sector, among others," industry body PHDCCI said in a statement quoting Sensarma.

He was speaking at the chamber's conference on 'Economy: Inflation, Investments, Interest Rates and Inclusive Growth (EII-II) Perspective for FY 2024-25' here. Speaking at the event, Sak-



**Going forward the Indian** economy will grow at the rate of 8%, says Sakshi **Gupta, Principal Economist at HDFC Bank** 

shi Gupta, Principal Economist at HDFC Bank, said that despite the challenges of the global economy, India is consistently performing well and inflation is under the target band set by the monetary policy committee.

She estimated that going forward the Indian economy will grow at the rate of 8 per cent.

Presenting the interim Budget in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs 11.11 lakh crore spending on infrastructure.

### Sebi rejects NSE's proposal to extend trading hours



PTI / New Delhi

Capital markets regulator Sebi has rejected a proposal by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to extend the trading hours in the equity derivatives segment citing a lack of feedback from the stock brokers community.

"Currently, there is no plan to extend the timings as Sebi has returned our application as the stock brokers have not given the feedback that Sebi wanted. So, as of now, the extended time frame (plan) is shelved," NSE MD and

Ashishkumar Chauhan said in a post-earnings analysts call. This came after the NSE had urged Sebi to extend trading hours in the equity derivatives segment in a phased manner. This was aimed at potentially curtailing the overnight risk arising from global information flow.

Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer of NSE, had told PTI in September that the bourse was planning a session from 6 pm to 9 pm after a break from the closure of the regular session from 9.15 am to 3.30 pm. Based on the response, a gradual extension of the market timing till 11.55 pm was proposed on the lines of commodity deriv-

To begin with, only index derivatives in phase 1 were proposed to be available followed by single stock options and others.

### NSE to conduct live trading on May 18 to test preparedness for disruption

PTI / New Delhi

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday said it will conduct a special trading session in the equity and equity derivative segments on May 18 to check its preparedness to handle major disruption or failure at the primary site.

The special live trading session will have an intra-day switchover from the Primary Site (PR) to the Disaster Recovery (DR) site.

In a circular, the exchange said there will be two sessions the first from 9:15 am to 10 am from the PR, and the second from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm from the DR site. During the special session, all

securities, including those on which derivative products are available, will have a maximum



**Switching to the DR site** is done to ensure biz continuity in the case of a major disruption or failure at the primary site

price band of 5 per cent. Securities already in the 2 per cent or lower price band will continue to be available in the respective

"Exchange shall be conducting a special live trading session with intra-day switch over from

Primary site to Disaster Recovery site on Saturday, May 18, 2024, in equity and equity derivatives segments," NSE said in a Earlier, NSE and BSE con-

ducted similar trading sessions These sessions are being con-

ducted based on specific discussions with markets regulator Sebi and their technical advisory committee with a view to assessing the preparedness of market infrastructure institutions like exchanges to handle any unforeseen event impacting their operations and restore operations from the DR site within the stipulated time.

Typically, switching to the DR site is done to ensure business continuity in the case of a major disruption or failure at the pri-

### April e-way bill generation at 3-month low

**INFORMIST** / New Delhi

The number of e-way bills gener-

ated jumped 14.5% year-on-year to 96.65 mln rupees in April, according to data from the Goods and Services Tax Network. Irrespective of the on-year growth, this was at a three-month low, and down 6.7% from March's data. E way bills generated in March were at an all-time high of 103.55 mln. An e-way bill is a GST document for transport of goods worth more than 50,000 rupees within or outside a state. As such, the number of e-way bills generated is tak en as a lead indicator of economic activity and domestic trade.

The increase in e-way bills suggests that GST collections are like ly to be robust in May as most of the transactions will be reflected in this month's collections

### **NIELSENIQ REPORT**

### FMCG industry sees 6.5% volume growth in Mar qtr, rural surpass urban consumption

The Indian FMCG industry experienced a 6.5 per cent growth in volume terms at a national level in the January-March period of 2024, with rural consumption surpassing urban for the first time in five quarters, according to consumer intelligence firm NielsenIQ.

Both food and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption in the first quarter of 2024, but non-food saw almost double the growth as compared to food, NielsenIQ (NIQ) said in its quarterly snapshot for Q1 2024.

The FMCG industry has experienced a 6.6 per cent growth in value, attributed to a 6.5 per cent increase in volume at an all-India level. The volume growth for this quarter was higher than Q1 2023,



which stood at 3.1 per cent, it added. NIQ Head of Customer Success India, Roosevelt Dsouza said, "The FMCG industry's growth continues to be driven by consumption trends in Q12024 with rural areas surpassing urban growth for the first time in five quarters." Notably, Dsouza said home and personal care (HPC) categories have outperformed food categories. While food categories witness higher unit purchases, the growth in

HPC is largely driven by the popularity of larger pack sizes.

The quarterly snapshot pointed out that there is a consumption slowdown in urban and modern trade, while there is an uptick in rural and traditional trade.

"Rural consumption growth has gradually picked up pace and has surpassed urban (growth) in Q12024. Urban sees sequential decline in consumer demand leading to 5.7 per cent this quarter," NIQ said.

Within the retail sector, modern trade continues to exhibit strong double-digit volume growth at 14.7 per cent. Traditional trade, on the other hand, experienced stable growth, with volumes registering 5.6 per cent growth in Q1 2024, compared to 5.3 per cent in the previous quarter (Q4 2023).

### India's consumption reflects significant divide; K-shaped trend continues: Report ment that witnessed a significant

A Swiss brokerage on Tuesday said there is a "significant divide" in India's consumption story and that the K-shaped trend is likely to continue in the near-future.

"India's consumption story reflects a significant divide, driven by a resilient economy but characterised by a stark contrast in spending patterns," UBS India economist Tanvee Gupta Jain said in a note. "...the divergence between affluent and broad-based household demand persists, accentuated by factors such as income inequality, increased consumer credit access, and declining household savings," she added.

The brokerage anticipates household consumption growth in FY25 to "remain subdued" at 4-5 per cent, which is below the trend observed in previous years.

It can be noted that after the



pandemic, concerns have been raised about a K-shaped growth representative of deepening inequalities in the country. Some economists have gone public with their disapproval and called the pandemic as a 'leveller' for reducing inequalities as well.

The UBS report said India's household consumption nearly doubled in the past decade to USD 2.1 trillion in 2023, with an annual compound growth rate of 7.2 per cent. However, household consumption growth remained muted in the last two years, it said, adding that it is the affluent segincrease in demand.

The brokerage said the consumption growth recovery is "uneven", and pointed out that there has been faster growth in premium car sales, residential units of over Rs 1 crore, smartphones costing over USD 300, or Rs 25,000 while entry-level and mass market goods have seen muted

growth post-pandemic. It attributed the divide in consumption to factors such as income continuity being enjoyed by those in the top of the pyramid versus the bottom, limited fiscal support for vulnerable sections and lower household savings due to weaker incomes.

The 'K-shaped' consumption pattern continues post pandemic as well, it said, adding that the urban economy continues to outperform relative to the rural economy recovery post-pandemic.

### Apple working on own AI chips for data centres: Report

As the race for artificial intelligence (AI) chips intensifies, Apple has joined the bandwagon and is now reportedly working on its own chips for data centres.

The aim of the iPhone maker is

to run AI software in data centre servers to give the company an edge, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. The 'Project ACDC' (Apple

Chips in Data Centre) will first use the indigenous chips in the company's own servers, the report mentioned. The tech giant is likely to unveil

Developers Worldwide Conference (WWDC) in June. Tech giants like Microsoft,

new AI products at its flagship

Google, Meta and OpenAI are working on developing custom server hardware to power AI models. According to the company's CEO Tim Cook, Apple is making "significant investments" in generative AI. Apple is likely to soon share "very exciting things" with customers.

Cook said last week that "We have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software and services integration, groundbreaking Apple's silicon and with our industry-leading neural en-

Apple is also reportedly integrating OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini into its upcoming iPhones.

### Telecom dept blocks mobile handsets, disconnects numbers involved in frauds

Tightening the noose around fraudsters engaged in defrauding mobile users through text messages, the Department Telecom (DoT) has started blocking handsets used in such activities besides disconnecting mobile numbers. The DoT has launched Chakshu portal two months ago to handle telecom fraud related grievances.

Since the launch of the portal, the department has blacklisted 52 entities involved in sending malicious and phishing SMSes, blocked 348 mobile handsets on pan-India basis and flagged 10,834 suspected mobile numbers for reverification, according to official sources. In response to a post on social media platform X by a tech-



nology professional on an SMS related fraud, the DoT said that it has blocked the mobile number mentioned in the post as well as blocked handsets linked to it.

"Mobile number is disconnected, and 20 associated mobile handsets have been blocked for misuse in cybercrime/financial fraud. If you observe any such incidents, please immediately report suspected fraud to Chakshu," DoT said in its reply.

According to official sources,

the DoT has deactivated 700 SMS content templates.

The source said: "10,834 suspected mobile numbers flagged for re-verification to the telecom operators, 8,272 mobile connections disconnected failing re-verification till April 30, 2024."

Besides, DoT has blocked 1.58 lakh unique mobile device identification number IMEI due to involvement in cyber crimes and financial frauds or mobile connections taken on fake or forged documents.

Till April 30 this year, DoT has disconnected a total of 1.66 crore mobile connections, out of which 30.14 lakh were disconnected based on users' feedback and 53.78 lakh for exceeding individual limit to buy new SIM cards, as per official data.

### Gilts end down as momentum punctured by lack of fresh cues

**INFORMIST** / New Delhi

Government bond prices ended lower due to a spate of profitbooking by mutual funds and state-owned banks near psychologically crucial levels. Traders lacked fresh cues, and were uncomfortable purchasing after prices rose sharply on Monday,

dealers said. The 10-year benchmark 7.18%. 2033 bond closed at 100.33 rupees or 7.13% yield, compared with 100.48 rupees, or 7.11% yield, a day before. The 7.10%, 2034 bond closed at 100.04 rupees, or 7.09% yield, compared with 100.19 rupees, or 7.07% yield, on the previ-

Prices had opened flat but consistently lost momentum through the day as traders lacked further positive cues after a correction in US Treasury yields and a government bond buyback this week had aided bonds on Monday. US Treasury yields and crude oil prices were little changed from

bond's price had jumped 27 paise, falling below the key 7.12%-mark seen offering much value under the 7.08% yield, and the next trigger for bond prices to move ers said.

**TO CURB FAKE ONLINE REVIEWS** 

### Consumer affairs ministry to meet e-commerce firms on May 15

PTI / New Delhi

The government has called a meeting of ecommerce players and organisations engaged in publishing online reviews for consultation on quality control order in the works to check fake reviews, according to a notice issued by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

The consumer affairs ministry has also floated a draft of the Online Consumer Reviews (Quality Control) Order, 2024 (QCO) which proposes to accept reviews from verified purchasers and users of the product.



"This QCO mandates all the ecommerce aggregators and organisations engaged in publishing online reviews to party et

quirement prescribed in the order... "An organisation is required to register

declare self-compliance to the essential re-

with BIS and declare compliance to essential requirements. In this regard, a stakeholder consultation, chaired by Secretary (CA), to discuss the draft QCO has been scheduled on May 15, 2024," the notice The draft QCO mandates that the or-

ganisations shall not publish reviews that have been purchased and written by individuals employed for writing review by itself or the supplier, seller, or by a third

posed that all organisations managing and publishing online consumer reviews shall conform to the essential requirements, including bar on publishing fake reviews and register themselves as 'Review Administrator' with BIS declaring self-compliance to the essential requirements prescribed in this order. The proposed QCO bars platforms from

The consumer affairs ministry has pro-

rewarding consumers based on the content, edit reviews, prevent publishing of negative reviews and accepting reviews from individuals who have not used or experienced the good or service.

the previous day's close. On Monday, the 7.18%, 2033

The 7.10%, 2034 bond was also not higher may not be this week, dealUS market.

fourth quarter of FY23.

against Rs 24,588 crore in FY23.

**ICICI Pru Life** 

pays ₹1,867 cr

towards death

claims in FY'24

PTI / New Delhi

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

on Tuesday said it has settled

99.17 per cent of death claims in

just 1.27 days, with the total such

payout at Rs 1,867 crore in 2023-24.

In a statement, ICICI Pruden-

tial Life said the company's claim

settlement ratio for the June

quarter of FY24 was 97.94 per

cent, for the September quarter

at 98.14 per cent and for the De-

cember quarter at 98.52 per cent.

ICICI Prudential Life stood at

99.17% in FY2024, one of the best

in the industry. Significantly, the

average turnaround time taken

to settle a genuine death claim

For the fiscal year ended in

March 2024, the company paid a

total of Rs 1,867 crore in death

abled its digital touchpoints such

as WhatsApp and the mobile app

providing convenience to

claimants to lodge and track

claims. Also, the company pro-

vides home pick-up of claim doc-

ICICI Prudential Life Insur-

ance Senior Executive Vice Pres-

ident, Customer Service, Amish

Banker said in the last ten years

the company has settled death

try-leading claim settlement

ratio of 99.17% and the average

time taken to settle a claim was

investigated retail death claims

after receiving all documents,'

1.27 days for non-

"For FY2024, we had an indus-

claims totaling Rs 12,112 crore.

The company said it has en-

was just 1.27 days," it said.

claims, it added.

uments.

"The claim settlement ratio of

23 financial year.

GV Prasad said.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Tuesday reported

a 36 per cent increase in its consolidated profit

after tax at Rs 1,307 crore for the quarter

ended March 2024, aided by robust sales in the

The Hyderabad-based drug major had re-

Revenue increased to Rs 7,083 crore in the

For the full year ended on March 31, 2024,

the drug major said its PAT rose to Rs 5,568

crore as compared with Rs 4,507 crore in 2022-

Revenue rose to Rs 27,916 crore for FY24 as

"Our growth and profitability in FY2024

has been driven by our performance in the

US. We have also made significant progress

on future growth drivers through licensing,

collaboration and pipeline building," Dr Red-

dy's Co-Chairman and Managing Director

The company saw its revenue grow by 28

period under review from Rs 6,297 crore in the

ported a profit after tax of Rs 959 crore in the

January-March quarter of 2022-23 fiscal.

Dr Reddy's Q4 PAT rises 36% to

₹1,307 cr; revenue at ₹7,083 cr

per cent in the North American market at Rs

of Mayne portfolio, forex gains partly offset

domestic market stood at Rs 46.4 billion, a de-

by price erosion," the company said.

cline of 5 per cent as against FY23.

"The growth was largely on account of increase in base business volumes, integration

The company said its FY24 revenues in the

Dr Reddy's board, which met on Tuesday,

recommended a final dividend of Rs 40 per

share of Rs 5 each for the financial year 2023

24. The company said it has appointed M V

Narasimham as the Chief Financial Officer

Jaiprakash Associates

defaults on ₹4,616 cr loans

129.9 billion in FY24.

Voltas Q4 net down 22.5% at ₹110.64 crore Voltas Ltd on Tuesday reported a 22.75 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 110.64 crore in the fourth quarter

ended March 31, 2024, impacted by higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 143.23 crore in the same period previous fiscal, Voltas said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at Rs 4,202.88 crore as against Rs 2,956.8 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

### SRF Q4 profit falls 25% to ₹422 crore

Chemical firm SRF Ltd on Tuesday reported a 25 per cent decline in its net profit to Rs 422 crore for the quarter ended March 2024 on lower income. "The company's Profit After Tax (PAT) decreased 25 per cent from Rs 562 crore to Rs 422 crore in Q4FY24 when compared with the corresponding period of the last year," SRF said in a statement.

### IRB Infra Q4 net profit grows 45% to ₹189 crore

IRB Infrastructure Developers on Tuesday reported a 45 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 188.87 crore for the March 2024 quarter, mainly due to higher income. Its net profit was Rs 130.15 crore in the quarter ended March 2023, the company said in a regulatory filing. Total income surged to Rs 2,504.49 crore from Rs 1,698.91 crore in the year-ago period.

### **Rane Engine Valve Q4 PAT** remains flat at ₹4.7 crore

Rane Engine Valve Ltd on Tuesday reported a profit after tax for the January-March 2024 guarter at Rs 4.7 crore. The city-based manufacturer of engine valves, had clocked PAT at Rs 4.9 crore during the corresponding quarter of last year. For the year ending March 31, 2024, the profit after tax stood at Rs 11.5 crore, Rane Engine Valve Ltd said.

### Hindustan Media Q4 PAT down 11% at ₹10.74 cr

Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd on Tuesday reported an 11 per cent decline in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 10.74 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024. The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 12.08 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal, Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd (HMVL) said in a regulatory filing.

#### **Bigbloc Construction posts** 55% jump in Q4 profit

**Bigbloc Construction Ltd on Tuesday** reported a more than 55 per cent jump in profit after tax for the March quarter of FY2023-24 on the back of strong sales. The Surat-based company, which is the largest manufacturer of Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (AAC) blocks, bricks, and panels in India, reported a profit after tax of Rs 8.65 crore for the March quarter against Rs 5.56 crore in the yearago period, according to BSE filing.

#### Happiest Minds Tech Q4 profit up 25% to ₹72 cr

IT firm Happiest Minds Technologies reported a 24.83 per cent increase in consolidated net profits at Rs 71.98 crore for the quarter ended March 2024, and said it expects to encash on its newly launched GenAI business unit. According to a stock exchange filing, the company clocked a profit of Rs 57.66 crore in the year-ago period.

### Aadhar Hsg garners ₹898 cr from anchor investors

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd, which is backed by private equity major Blackstone, on Tuesday said it has mobilised Rs 898 crore from anchor investors, a day before the launch of its initial public offering (IPO). The company has decided to allot 2.85 crore equity shares to 61 funds at Rs 315 apiece, according to a circular uploaded on BSE's website.

### TBO Tek garners ₹696 cr

TBO Tek on Tuesday said it has collected a little over Rs 696 crore from anchor investors ahead of its IPO. The company has allotted 75.7 lakh equity shares to 47 funds at Rs 920 apiece, aggregating the transaction size to Rs 696.5 crore.

### from anchor investors

"Profit after Tax ( consolidated net profit) increased by a robust



During the quarter, total revenue increased by 3 per cent YoY to Rs 2,879 crore from Rs 2,806

The profit after tax increased by 17 per cent YoY to Rs 1,723 crore in fiscal year 2023-24 crore

compared to Rs 1,478 crore in

creased 10 per cent YoY to Rs 11,941 crore from Rs 10,867 crore in FY23, it said.

Namdev Finvest's AUM cross ₹1,200 cr

### mark in FY24 PTI / New Delhi

Non-banking financial company

management have almost doubled to cross Rs 1,200 crore during 2023-24 fiscal. company posted a growth of

92.62 per cent in AUM (asset under management) during fiscal 2023-24, with its net worth reach-

ence across eight states -- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

### Co will be "little different" in 10 yrs from now, says MD

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, which has

completed 40 years, is gearing up to the next phase of its growth journey driven by innovation, consumer health and digital therapeutics, G.V. Prasad, managing director, said on Tuesday. "We are building the future of Dr Reddy's in innovation, consumer health and niche digital therapeutics. The biggest driver will be innovative products, which will be licensed in and developed or discovered in India. Overall, in the next 10 years, we will be in transformation, and Dr Reddy's will look 'little different'," Prasad said in the postearnings press conference, along with the senior management of the company. Prasad said Dr Reddy's may look little different in the next 10 years but is committed to delivering the unmet needs of patients. He said a significant proportion of the revenues will be driven by innovation in the next 10 years. The management said the company also focused on strategic collaborations to drive growth.

### **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM REPORT**

### EO data can generate \$3 tn in economic benefits; help cut two Gt CO2 emissions

PTI / New Delhi

of the company.

Earth observation data could generate over USD 3 trillion in economic benefits globally and help eliminate two gigatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually by 2030, according to a new report by the World Economic Forum. Earth observation data refers to the collection, analysis, and presentation of information about the Earth's physical, chemical, and biological systems using remote sensing technologies. The report, created in partner-

Crisis-hit Jaypee Group's flagship

firm Jaiprakash Associates has

defaulted on loans worth Rs 4,616

crore, including principal and in-

In a regulatory filing late on

Monday, Jaiprakash Associates

Ltd (JAL) has informed that the

company on April 30, defaulted

on repayments of a principal

amount of Rs 1,751 crore and in-

"Total borrowing (including in-

terest) of the company is Rs 29,805

crore, repayable by 2037, against

which only Rs 4,616 crore is over-

due as on April 30, 2024," JAL

The loans pertained to various

banks, and the nature of the obli-

gation is fund-based working cap-

ital, non-fund-based working cap-

terest of Rs 2,865 crore.



ship with Deloitte and endorsed by industry and climate leaders, emphasised that EO data is a crucial tool for economic growth and sustainability. While certain sectors like agriculture, energy, and finance are expected to benefit the most from EO data, nearly all industries can gain insights to imronmental impact. For example, farmers can use

prove operations and reduce envi-

EO data to enhance crop yield and sustainability practices, while insurance companies can better understand and mitigate environmental risks. The predicted that the global value of EO data could grow from USD 266 billion at present to over USD 700 billion by 2030. This could lead to a cumulative USD 3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP and help eliminate 2 gigatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

### Sri Lanka okays 20-year power purchase pact with Adani Green

PTI / Colombo

Sri Lanka has approved a 20-year power purchase agreement between the island nation's government and Adani Green Energy for the development of 484 megawatt wind power stations in the northeast region.

"The negotiated tariff rate of USD 0.0826 per kilo watt hour is to be paid in local rupees on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment," energy minister Kanchana Wijesekara said in a post on social media platform

He added that the purchasing cost would be below the current average cost of energy at 39.02 Sri Lanka rupees per kilo watt hour.

### Export Concerns Shake Up Spice Industry for Investors

he Indian spice export industry, valued at \$4.25 billion, is currently going through a tough phase, with Indian spices becoming a topic of discussion internationally. Reports have surfaced about adulteration and harmful elements present in Indian spices, causing concern in several countries. Let's understand what exactly has happened and how it could impact the Indian spice industry.

### **What's Happening?**

Singapore and Hong Kong have banned some spices from renowned brands like MDH and Everest due to the presence of ethylene oxide (ETO) found during inspection, which could potentially cause diseases like cancer.

### **Impact on Exports**

According to IBEF, India is the largest exporter of spice products in the world. During FY24 (until February 2024), India exported spices worth \$3.67 billion, whereas in FY23, the country exported spices worth \$3.73 billion. From 2016-17 to 2022-23, India's total export volume has grown at a CAGR of 5.85%. These allegations could adversely affect India's spice exports.

#### Spices: A Recurring Issue? In 2014, biochemistry expert Dr

**Harmful Substances in** 

Ipsita Mazumdar found lead in some popular spice brands sold in Kolkata, raising concerns about the potential risks of consuming these products. While FSSAI is responsible for ensuring the safety of food

products, recently, they have increased the permissible limit of pesticides in spices and herbs by 10 times, raising further concerns.

STOCK INVESTING SIMPLIFIED tejimandi

**India and WTO** 

India has raised a significant issue in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India argues that in the absence of international standards, guidelines should be prepared to determine the maximum residue limit (MRL) for international trade.

#### **Action by FSSAI** According to The Economic Times,

after harmful chemicals were found in Indian spices, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has taken strict measures. Following the recent incident, FSSAI has ordered the inspection of all spice brands across the country. This step is not only essential for safeguarding the health of consumers but also crucial for maintaining the global reputation of Indian spices.

#### What's in it for Investors?

Currently, this situation is a matter of concern for investors in the spice industry. Uncertainty prevails in the spice industry, which could affect investments.

#### What's Next?

According to The Economic Times, the Economic think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has warned that India's nearly \$700 million spice export is at risk due to the stringent regulations being implemented in several countries. The report also expresses concern that if the EU imposes similar bans India's additional \$2.5 billion spice exports could be affected, posing a significant concern for the Indian spice industry.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt Ltd) is a SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA). Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visit www.tejimandi.com to know more.

### Japan's SMFG invests ₹1,300 crore in SMFG India Credit Co for expansion

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG) on Tuesday announced a Rs 1,300 crore investment in domestic nonbank lender SMFG India Credit Co (SMICC) through a rights

Pankaj Malik, the chief financial officer of SMICC, said the Rs 1,300 crore should be seen as a "strategic move" which underscores its commitment to fortify expansion efforts.

SMICC has invested Rs 150 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary SMFG India Home Finance Co, known as SMFG Grihashakti, a statement said. SM-FGICC, an NBFC - Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC), was acquired by SMFG in 2021 for a deal reported at USD 2 billion.

Its investment in Grihashakti will help it amplify the market presence by taking affordable housing finance solutions to the

underserved population in India and drive sustained growth, Malik added. SMICC's assets under management (AUM) stood at Rs 42,487

crore as of December 31, 2023, while the April-December 2023 disbursements were higher by 46 per cent compared to the yearago period at Rs 28,790 crore.

It has 990 branches in the country at present, as per the statement.

#### United Breweries Q4 PAT jumps 5-fold JSW Energy profit rises PB Fintech Q4 PAT rises 62% to ₹60 cr 29% to ₹351 cr in Q4

IANS / New Delhi

PB Fintech Ltd, the parent firm

of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar

platforms, on Tuesday posted a

net profit of Rs 60.2 crore in the

fourth quarter of FY24, a 62 per

The operating revenue jumped

25 per cent to Rs 1,089.6 crore in

Q4, the company said in a state-

ment. For the full year (FY24),

profit after tax (PAT) improved

from a loss of Rs 488 crore to a

Policybazaar's total insurance

cent jump (quarter-on-quarter).

ital, term loans and FCCBs (for-

eign currency convertible bonds).

Out of the total borrowing of

Rs 29,805 crore, the company said

Rs 18,955 crore will be transferred

to the proposed Special Purpose

Vehicle (SPV). For this, a Scheme

of Arrangement duly approved

by all the stakeholders, is pending

for sanction of the National Com-

The entire loan in any case is

under restructuring, the compa-

pany Law Tribunal (NCLT).

ny said.

Banker added.

Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Energy on Tuesday posted a 29 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 351 crore in the March quarter compared to a year ago

mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had reported a

consolidated net profit of Rs 272 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2023, according to a BSE filing.

29 per cent YoY (vear on vear) to Rs 351 Crore," it stat-

crore in Q4 FY23, it stated.

For FY24, total revenue in-

premium for Q4 stood at Rs 5,127 crore, a 43 per cent increase (YoY), led by growth in the new health and life insurance business.

profit of Rs 64 crore (YoY).

United Breweries Ltd on Tuesday reported a more than five-fold jump in net profit to Rs 80.15 crore for the January-March period of 2023-24 compared to the year-ago period.

The beverages maker had re-

ported a net profit of Rs 13.05 crore for the April-March quarter of 2022-23, according to an exchange filing. Revenue from operations rose 17 per cent to Rs 4,788.68 crore in the last quarter of FY24 compared to Rs 4.081.01 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total expenses rose to Rs

4,705.38 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 4,079.32 crore in the year-ago period. Net profit for the full fiscal year

pared to Rs 308.10 crore in the previous year. Total income rose 10.49 per cent to Rs 18,453.27 crore in FY24 compared to Rs 16,700.52 crore in the

previous year, the filing stated. The board of the company also recommended a final dividend of Rs 10 per share (1,000 per cent) of the face value of Re 1 for the 2023-

24 financial year. The dividend, if

approved by shareholders, will be

ended on March 31, 2024, rose 33

per cent to Rs 412.59 crore com-

paid on or before August 30, 2024 the filing stated. "Volume in Q4 increased 10.9 per cent predominantly driven by

South and East regions," United

Breweries said in a statement. The premium segment grew 21 per cent in the quarter. Within the segment, the company saw strong growth for Kingfisher Ultra & Kingfisher Ultra Max and it continued to drive premium volume growth.

"We continue to invest behind our brands & capabilities in combination with revenue management and cost initiatives. Investments in capex during the year were Rs 190 crore, primarily in supply chain initiatives to cater for future growth," the company

### IGL Q4 net profit rises 16%

PTI / New Delh

Indraprastha Gas Ltd, India's largest CNG retailer, on Tuesday reported a 16 per cent rise in March quarter net profit as it sold more The net profit of Rs 382.80 crore in

the latest January-March quarter was compared to Rs 329.75 crore profit registered a year ago, the company said in a statement. For the full 2023-24 fiscal (April

soared 21 per cent to Rs 1,748.08 crore as against Rs 1,445.02 crore in the previous year. Turnover slipped marginally to Rs 3,949.17 crore in January-March

from Rs 4,042.57 crore in the corre-

2023 to March 2024), net profit

sponding quarter of 2022-23. The gross turnover during the financial year 2023-24 was Rs 15,403.13 crore as compared to Rs 15,543.67 crore in the preceding financial year 2022-23 primarily due to cooling off of international gas

prices despite increase in sales vol-

"The sales volume in the quarter

increased from 8.25 million standard cubic metres per day in Q4 of 2022-23 to 8.73 mmscmd in Q4 of FY'24, showing a volume growth of 7 per cent. While CNG registered sales volume growth of 5 per cent during the period, piped natural gas showed overall sales volume growth of 11 per cent during this quarter (January-March)," it said. The average daily gas sale during

the year 2023-24 was 8.43 mmscmd as compared to 8.09 mmscmd in FY'23 (April 2022 to March 2023), showing an overall growth of 4 per cent. While CNG volumes registered a

growth of 4 per cent in the fiscal, piped gas sales volumes were up by 6 per cent in FY 2023-24 over the preceding fiscal.

Namdev Finvest, which focuses on small business lending, on Tuesday said its assets under The Jaipur-headquartered

ing Rs 410 crore. Namdev expanded its pres-

The company has secured a total funding of USD 41.5 million up to this point, with a USD 19 million of fundraise from Maj Invest in its latest round of Pre-Series C in April this year.

### **Trends Shopping Festival is here** India's largest and fastest growing

apparel, accessories and footwear specialty chain of Reliance Retail, TRENDS, announced the hottest sale of this Summer, TRENDS SHOPPING FESTIVAL in Mumbai city in the state of Maharashtra. Trends is truly democratizing fashion in India, by strengthening its reach & connect with consumers in India – right from Metros, mini metros, Tier 1, 2 towns and beyond- with the small towns of India! Trends embarked on the journey to democratize fashion in 2007 with its

Gurgaon. Trends is India's favorite fashion shopping destination and is patronized by an average of over three and a half lakh customers every day. TRENDS SHOPPING FESTIVAL TRENDS stores in Mumbai boasts of modern looks and ambience featuring an exciting range of good

first store at Ambience Mall.

affordable and seen as high value Customers of Mughairs and evok

quality and fashion merchandise

the region and at prices that are

that is relevant to the consumers of



forward to a uniquely special and superlative experience of shopping for trendy Women's Wear, Men's Wear, Kids Wear & Fashion Accessories, at delightful prices. Not only this but on 11th & 12th May TRENDS Mumbai are having TRENDS SHOPPING FESTIVAL for their customers, Shop for apparel worth Rs. 3499 & get apparel worth Rs. 3499 absolutely free. So head to your nearest TRENDS store now, for the joy of a great

fashion shopping experience!

### AIBOC MS-1 holds health check up camp on account of Intl Labour Day



International Labour Day, All India Bank Officers' Confederation Maharashtra State - 1 Unit had organized a health check-up camp for sake of banking community. This Health check up camp aimed to prioritize health and well-being of bank staff. The camp was inaugurated at the hands of BOI MD CEO Rajneesh Karnatak, Sr Vice President Manoj Wadnerkar, Mohan Gohil, BOI Executive Directors Rajagopal, Karthikeyan, Subrat Kumar, Rajiv Mishra, CGM HR Rajesh Ingale, other senior Executives & trade union leaders. This event was conducted in collaboration with Kokilaben

co-operation of Bank Management. BOI MD CEO while addressing the gathering, commended the entire team led by FBOIOA President G Nageswar, General Secretary Nilesh Pawar for orderly arrangement of said medical camp. ED Rajagopal & Karthikeyan also heaped praises on the leadership for recognizing importance of healthy workforce. Organiser of the said event, AIBOC Maharashtra State Secretary Nilesh Pawar conveyed heartfelt greetings on account of International Labour Day. He appealed bankers to their health and maintain necessary work-life balance while striving for the progress of Bank.

Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital under

**Special Court** 

adjourns H D

Revanna plea

**BENGALURU: JD(S) MLA** 

H D Revanna, who is in

the custody of the Special

Investigation Team (SIT), on

Tuesday failed to get relief

from the Special Court for

hearing to Wednesday.

Elected Representatives here,

which adjourned his bail plea

The 66-year-old former

Minister was arrested by

the SIT on Saturday in an

alleged case of abduction

of a woman and remanded

to police custody till May 8.

The court had on Saturday

bail plea.

turned down his anticipatory

Revanna, son of JD(S) pa-

triarch and former Prime Min-

ister H D Deve Gowda, and

his confidant Sathish Baban-

na were booked on Thursday

night for allegedly abducting

confidant Sathish Babanna

were booked on Thursday

night for allegedly abducting

a complaint filed by the wom-

an's son. In his complaint, he

accused Revanna's son and

JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna of

having sexually abused his

The SIT has also secured

the custody of Babanna.

The case was registered on

a woman on April 29.

a woman on April 29.

# Prajwal Revanna fails to meet 7-day deadline set by him

### H D DEVE GOWDA'S GRANDSON FLED TO GERMANY

#### **BENGALURU**

The seven days' time sought by Hassan's NDA Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna to appear before the Special Investigation Team probing sexual abuse allegations against him ended on Tuesday but there was no sign of his return from abroad.

The 33-year-old JD(S) MP and grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda flew to Germany as soon as news spread that the Karnataka State Commission for Women Nagalakshmi Chowdhary had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a probe into the explicit videos of Prajwal allegedly sexually abusing several women.

A lookout notice for Prajwal has been issued at all airports in India, along with a Blue Corner notice.

A Blue Corner notice issued by Interpol helps countries collect and share information regarding a person's location and their activities as part of a criminal investigation.

Former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy claimed on Tuesday that he was not in touch with his nephew Pra-

Addressing a press conference, the JD(S) ond-in-command said action against those who commit offences should be taken as per

Sources in the Special Investigation Team said they received calls on a helpline number on Monday as well as on Tuesday but they declined to share details.



H.D. Revanna being brought for medical check-up at a government hospital, a day after he was taken into custody by officials of a Special Investigation Team in a kidnapping case, in Bengaluru.

### **'25k pen drives distributed': Kumaraswamy claims conspiracy**

**BENGALURU:** JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy has claimed that 25,000 pen drives with videos of women being sexually abused allegedly by his nephew, Lok Sabha election candidate Prajwal Revanna, were distributed before polls, and accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar of a conspiracy.

The former chief minister also sought to discredit the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Congress government on April 28 to probe the charges against Prajwal of sexually abusing several women after videos allegedly involving him started making the rounds on social media.

However, Kumaraswamy claimed that no one had called the helpline number till

Meanwhile, JD(S) MLA H D Revanna and Prajwal's father, who is in the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on charges of kidnapping a woman who was allegedly sexually abused by Prajwal, failed to get relief on Tuesday from the Special

Court for Elected Representatives here.

The court adjourned the hearing on his bail plea to Wednesday.

The SIT took him to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital and Victoria Hospital for a medical check-up on Tuesdav evening.

Revanna, son of JD(S) patriarch and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, and his

### Former Congress leaders join BJP

#### **NEW DELHI**

Former Congress leader Radhika Khera and actor Shekhar Suman joined the BJP on Tuesday.

Khera, the former national coordinator of the Congress's media department, resigned from the party's primary membership on Sunday, days after her altercation with another leader at the party's Chhattisgarh office.

In her resignation letter to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Khera also claimed she was facing opposition in the party for her visit to the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Suman, a popular TV actor who also worked in many Bollywood films, has returned to politics after a gap of about 15 years. He had fought the 2009 Lok Sabha elections from Patna Sahib seat in Bihar on a Congress ticket but came third in the contest which was won by Shatrughan Sinha, who was then with the BJP.

Both Khera and Suman joined the BJP at its headquarters here in the presence of its senior leaders, including party national general secretary Vinod Tawde and national media department in-charge Anil Baluni.

Addressing a joint press conference with the BJP leaders, Khera claimed she left the Congress as she was being mistreated since she visited Ayodhya along with her family members for 'darshan' of Lord

She also alleged that the Congress has become "anti-Sanatan and anti-Hindu and anti-Ram".

"I could reach here due to a safe and secured government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (at the Centre). I could not have reached here if I had not got protection from the BJP government in Chhattisgarh," she claimed.

# Belagavi witnesses increase in turnout for Lok Sabha polls

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **BELAGAVI**

Election in Belagavi district was conducted peacefully for three Lok Sabha constituencies recording a total of voter turnout of 74.87%.

Chikkodi Lok Sabha constituency recorded a 78.51% voter turnout, while in the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, there was a 71.38% voter turnout. Khanapur Vidhan Sab-

ha constituency recorded a 73.87% voter turnout, while in the Kittur Vidhan Sabha constituency, there was a 76.25% voter turnout both these constituencies which fall under Uttar Kannada Parliamentary constituency.

There was an increase in voter turnout compared to last time. In the Chikkodi Lok Sabha constituency, there was a 75.52% voter turnout in 2019, which increased to 78.51%

in 2024, resulting in a 3% in-

Similarly, in the Belagavi

Ten members of the international delegation of elec-

Women queue up at a polling station in Belagavi. Louis Rodrigues

Lok Sabha constituency, there was a 67.70% voter turnout in 2019, which increased to 71.38% in 2024, resulting in a 4% increase, as informed by Nitesh Patil, the district electoral officer.

tion commissions from five countries who are here to observe India's election process, visited various polling booths before the actual voting process began.

Apart from visiting regular polling booths, they also visited sensitive polling stations and pink booths and gathered information about the election process.

## Putin begins fifth term as president

#### **MOSCOW**

President Vladimir Putin began his fifth term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration Tuesday, embarking on another six years as leader of Russia after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands.

At the ceremony in the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of hand-picked dignitaries looked on.

We are a united and great people and together we will overcome all obstacles, real-



Vladimir Putin walks to take his oath as Russian president during an inauguration ceremony in the Grand Kremlin Palace

ise all our plans, together we will win, Putin said after being

sworn in. Since succeeding President Boris Yeltsin in the waning hours of 1999, Putin has trans-

threatens global security. Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine that has become Europe's biggest conflict since formed Russia from a coun-World War II.

try emerging from economic

collapse to a pariah state that

### Israeli forces seize Gaza side of Rafah crossing, stops aid

### **CAIRO**

Israeli tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge.

The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing full-blown famine.

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands.

The high-stakes diplomatic



moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive if only barely for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month point Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift be-

tween Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Pales-

tinians crammed into the city. US President Joe Biden warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Ra-

Cheers of joy overnight among Rafah's Palestinians over Hamas' acceptance of the cease-fire turned to fear Tuesday. Families fled in a steady stream out of Rafah's eastern neighbourhoods on foot or in vehicles and donkey carts piled with mattresses and supplies.

Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination which for many remained uncertain.

# SC stays HC order quashing 25k jobs in West Bengal

PTI

mother.

### **NEW DELHI**

In a major relief to 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff of West Bengal, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the order of the Calcutta High Court order invalidating their appointment made by the state's School Service Commission (SSC) in the state-

run and state-aided schools. The top court, however, permitted the central probe agency, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to continue with its investigation and said it may probe even the members of the state cabinet if needed.

While granting the relief on the pleas, including the one filed by the state government, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked the CBI not to take any precipitative action like

### Mamata welcomes SC order staying **HC verdict on school jobs scam**

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court order that stayed the Calcutta High Court verdict of cancelling more than 25,000 school jobs, and said she is very happy and mentally relaxed after getting justice in the apex court.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Calcutta High Court order invalidating the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff made by the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) in state-run and state-aided schools.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoi Misra, however, permitted the CBI to continue with its investigation and probe even members of the state cabinet.

any arrest of any suspect during its ongoing investigation.

The top court, however, made it clear that the teachers and non-teaching staff of the state, whose appointments were cancelled by the high

court, will have to refund the salaries and other emoluments if it reaches the conclusion that their recruitment was illegal.

"We are of the view that an expeditious disposal of the matter will be in the interest of justice.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, GOA

In the matter of sub-section (3) of Section 13 of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and rule 17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009

In the matter of

ACEAGE GAMES AND MEDIA LLP (LLPIN: ACC-8130)

having its Registered Office at House No Office 303 Plot No. 43-44, 3rd Floor, Patto Area, Panaji, Panaji Police Station, Tiswadi, North Goa-403001, Goa, India .......Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the general public that ACEAGE GAMES AND MEDIA LLP proposes to make a petition to Registrar of Companies, GOA under section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 seeking permission to change its Registered office from the "state of "GOA" to the state of "Delhi".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver either on MCA-21 Portal on (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his / her objections supported by an affidavit stating his/her interest and grounds of oppositions to the Registrar of Companies, GOA, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Corporate Bhawan, EDC Complex, Plot No.21, Patto, Panaji-403001, Goa, India within Twenty One (21) days from the date of publications of this notice with a copy to the petitioner LLP at its Registered Office at the address mentioned below :-

"House No Office 303 Plot No. 43-44, 3rd Floor, Patto Area, Panaji, Panaji Police Station, Tiswadi, North Goa-403001, Goa, India"

For and on behalf of ACEAGE GAMES AND MEDIA LLP Sd/-

JITENDRA BANDHANIYA (Designated Partner) DIPIN: 09465943

### 'Good touch', 'bad touch' not enough, educate minors on 'virtual touch': HC

PTI

### **NEW DELHI**

eaching minors about good touch' and bad ■ touch' is not enough in today's virtual world and children must be educated on the emerging concept of virtual touch' and its potential dangers, the Delhi High Court has said.

This involves teaching them appropriate online behaviour, recognising warning signs of predatory behaviour and understanding the importance of privacy settings and online boundaries. This court is constrained

to note that in today's virtual modern world where virtual space has also become a breeding ground of alleged virtual affections between teenagers, they are not equipped to deal with the potential dangers of human trafficking for prostitution and

This court is constrained to note that in today's virtual modern world where virtual space has also become a breeding ground of alleged virtual affections between teenagers, they are not equipped to deal with the potential dangers of human trafficking for prostitution and other side of crimes which exists in the virtual world

ists in the virtual world, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said on Monday. The high court's observations came while dismissing a bail plea by a woman, Kam-

other side of crimes which ex-

lesh Devi, accused of helping her son in sexually assaulting a minor girl after kidnapping her and forcing her into prostitution. The 16-year-old was alleg-

edly kidnapped by Rajiv who befriended her on social media and kidnapped her when she came to meet him. The girl was taken to Madhya Pradesh and confined there for several days. She was allegedly sexually assaulted by the man and It was also alleged that

the girl was forced to marry a 45-year-old man in exchange for money. The teen alleged that the accused persons would bring various men to the premises where she was confined and she was forced to present herself to these men for sexual gratification.

Traditionally, efforts to protect minors from harm have focused on teaching them about 'good touch' and 'bad touch' in the physical realm. However, in today's virtual world, it is crucial to extend this education to encompass

the concept of 'virtual touch'. Minors must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate online interactions safely and recognise potential risks lurking in cyberspace, the court said.

It added that just as children are taught to exercise caution in the physical world, efforts must be made to teach them to develop critical thinking skills to assess the credibility of online contacts and safeguard their personal information.

Moreover, parents, guardians and educators play a crucial role in fostering digital literacy and promoting responsible online conduct among minors. By fostering open communication channels and providing guidance on navigating the digital landscape, adults can empower children to make informed decisions and protect themselves from online threats, the court said.

### केनरा बैंक Canara Bank हैं सिंडिकेट Syndicate

**REGIONAL OFFICE, 1st FLOOR,** MATHIAS PLAZA, 18 JUNE ROAD, PANAJI, GOA-403001

### **GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

Date: 8th May, 2024

Place: Goa

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 14.05.2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at Regional Office, 1st floor, Mathias Plaza, 18th June Road, **Panaji-403001 at 12.00 Noon on 15.05.2024** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Even after this public notice, if the following borrowers have not paid their dues, the auction will take place as mentioned above and jewellery articles pledged will be auctioned to the highest bidder/s and any shortfall to the liability with up to date interest/ other charges should be made good by the defaulted borrowers themselves. Please note that the publication is made at your cost. Interested bidder/s are requested to be present at the specified time and venue to enable to participate in the bidding activity and acceptance of highest bidding amount will be at the discretion of the Bank. The Bank reserves its rights to cancel the bidding at any level without any reason and also if found not profitable. The highest successful bidder has to pay full amount on the day of auction

Interested bidders have to submit bid amount of Rs. 0.50 lakhs by way of DD to be purchased from Canara Bank Branch Only in favour of Canara Bank, Panaji, Goa.

Branch Name	Customer Name	Account Number	Customer Address
Aldona(0335)	PRASHANT DAMODAR NAIK	180051171014	H NO 453 COTTARBHAT ALDONA BARDEZ GOA 403508
	PRASHANT DAMODAR NAIK	180051171541	H NO 453 COTTARBHAT ALDONA BARDEZ GOA 403508

For details/clarifications please contact:

PLACE: PANAJI, GOA

DATE: 06.05.2024

**CANARA BANK** ADVANCES SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, MATHIAS PLAZA, 18TH JUNE ROAD, PANAJI GOA - 403 001, CONTACT NO: 9538375141

Sd/-Authorised Officer Canera Bank

THE GOAN

### **Money Plant Vastu**

### Benefits and ideal placement

JYOTI S

haracterized by its green and shiny heartshaped leaves, a money plant is popular for its ornamental appeal and for adding aesthetic value to your home decor. In fact, most designers consider it to be an integral part of your living room Vastu and use it extensively while designing a house. The widespread use of synthetic material and pollutants has severely dented the quality of air we breathe in. This is where the benefit of the money plant comes from. A natural air purifier, money plants possess the ability to filter the air and activate the flow of positive energies in the house. Like everything else, the money plant Vastu also deserves special attention in the overall Vastu plan of a house. Their correct placement can energize your surroundings and are known to bring in wealth and prosperity. Read on to know its benefits and ideal placement of money plants in the house. A

Placement of money plants in the house

Money plant in bedroom: Consider placing

a money plant in your bedroom if it's in the North, East, South East, or South, but avoid doing so in a South West or West bedroom. This plant acts as a natural air filter, absorbing negative energy and boosting creativity and mood. It reduces stress, controls humidity, and produces oxygen.

Money plant in Money kitchen:

A small plant in bathroom: money plant Optimal for bathrooms in the kitchen if placed correctly, a lush can balance green money plant enhances negative beauty while clearing negative energies, energies. Representing the Air especially element, it counteracts bad if your water energies, thriving in kitchen's humid conditions. It absorbs direction isn't negativity, creating a ideal. Placing it positive ambiance. in the North can counterbalance any imbalance caused by the kitchen's fire activity. Following money plant

Vastu principles, it helps

harmonize the space.

#### Ideal money plant directions as per vastu

Money plant in North **direction:** This is an excellent position to place a money plant. North is ruled by the lord of wealth, Kuber as per Vastu Purusha Mandala. Thus placing a money plant in the North can bring in new avenues of growth, better opportunities in jobs and business and a constant flow of

Money plant in East **direction:** East is also a favorable direction for placing a money plant. Keeping a money plant here can help you expand your social circle and create powerful contacts with influential people.

Money plant in South

**East direction:** This is perhaps the most recommended direction by most Vastu experts while doing money plant Vastu. The logic behind this is that the South East is the direction of goddess Lakshmi– the giver of wealth and prosperity.

• Money plant in South **direction:** A money plant can be placed in the South direction. Like the south east, a money plant here should also be grown in soil instead of a water bottle. It is important to note that the vines should not be left to spread on the floor. Instead, you should use threads or climbers for the plant to grow vertically upwards.

Money plant is South West

**direction:** Both green color and plants are anti-activity in the South West. Therefore, you should avoid placing a money plant here. Doing so can cause instability in life and career and can even lead to dis cordial relationships. It can well become a reason for bad luck if placed here.

Money plant in West direction: A money plant in the West is also best avoided. However, if you have no other

#### **AMRITHA K**

Te all love taking good care of our skin - and also our hair. Most of us go to expensive salons for skin treatments, facials and massages. But are they really worth it? Well, no, if you ask us. The reason being that salon treatments involve a lot of chemicals. Even if you go for a fruit facial or a fruit clean-up, yet it contains some amount of chemical content in it. Having opted for a fruit facial or a clean-up doesn't mean that it is all natural and chemical free. So... what do we do? What about making a facial kit at home? Sounds interesting, isn't it? And, for that matter, it is not at all complicated. You can easily make a facial kit at home with minimal ingredients. And since summer isn't over yet, we have curated a summerspecial facial kit, especially for you. This facial kit can be made at home in three easy steps. And...what are they - toner, scrub and face pack. And, all of these things with just one ingredient - cucumber. So, let's begin with the fun-filled cucumber facial kit recipe, here is the step-by-step

## How to do a

# cucumber facial

### at home in three easy steps

bowl. Mix cucumber juice

and lemon well until they

toner into the bottle and

for later use.

liquid.

store it in the refrigerator

Tin: Instead of a grater,

cucumber pieces in a juicer

until it turns into a smooth

mixer and grind it well,

**How to apply:** Take a

cotton ball and dip it into

the toner. Apply the toner

on your face in a circular

reading to know

its amazing

benefits and we

assure you

that it is

worth it!

you can even put the

gel into one liquid. Pour the

Toner

Since toner is the first step in a facial process, we will begin with the ingredients required for it. **Ingredients:** 1 cucumber, 1 lemon, 1 bottle to store

the toner for later use.

**How to do:** Take a medium-sized bowl. Take a peeler and peel the outer layer of the cucumber. Cut it into small pieces and grate it with the help of a grater. Now, take a strainer and strain out the cucumber juice in the bowl. Cut the lemon into half and

motion. Avoid the eyes, ears, and mouth. Keep squeeze massaging your face with it into the toner for a few minutes, say 1-2 minutes. Let it dry for sometime and then wash it off with cold water. Pat your face dry with a towel. You must be wondering what benefit could a cucumber toner, or a scrub or face mask do to your skin? Well, it definitely does a lot of good. Keep

2 Scrub Moving on

to the next part of the cucumber facial - scrub. This is an essential part of a facial, as it removes the dead skin cells and gives you a smooth skin.

**Ingredients:** cucumber, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 lemon.

How to do: Take a small bowl and add sugar to it. Cut the lemon into half and squeeze out a few drops of lemon into the bowl. Mix lemon with sugar. Now, cut an inch of cucumber and dip it into the sugarlime mixture. Rub it on your face well. Do this activity for at least 5 minutes and rinse off your face with water. Once we are done with the scrubbing part, let's head on to the third and the crucial step of the cucumber facial face mask

3 Face mask Ingredients: 2

tablespoons cucumber juice, 1 tablespoon rosewater, 2 tablespoons multani mitti (Fuller's Earth).

**How to do:** Take a bowl and add multani mitti to it. Add cucumber juice to it. Now, add rosewater and blend well until it forms a smooth paste. Let the mixture rest for a few minutes and it is ready

for use. **How to apply:** Take a brush and apply the face pack. Avoid the eyes, ears, and mouth. Apply it to your neck too. Wait for 20 minutes till the pack dries completely. Wash off your face with cold water and pat it dry with a towel.

#### **Benefits of cucumber facial** Since cucumber is made

of 96% water, it helps to keep your skin hydrated. It helps in reducing dark

circles. It acts as an anti-tan agent.

It gives you glowing skin.

You don't need coffee

It treats blemishes.

It is very good for those who have dry skin, as it helps to lock the moisture in the skin.

#### placing a money choice but to place it here, use a blue water plant in the house: bottle to grow a money plant in the West.

**ACL injury: Return to sports after ACL tear** 

DR. MANU BORA **MUMBAI** 

money plant can

be placed in the

places. Let's

look the

effects of

house at various

he anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is the main stabilizing ligament on the inside of the knee. Its main function is to prevent the tibia (shin bone) from sliding forward and rotating on the femur (thigh bone). Tears/ ruptures of the ligament result in knee instability. What are the

### causes?

ACL tears are typically out" and returning to sport is caused by twisting or hyperextension injuries. Sports activities like pivoting or sudden deceleration when running and falls during skiing are considered noncontact causes of ACL tears. Direct trauma to the back or side of the knee during collision sports is considered a contact injury to the ACL.

### **What are the**

symptoms? ACL tears cause immediate pain and often swelling. You may feel something 'pop" inside the knee. An initial inability to bear weight on the leg may subside and walking may be possible after several minutes. The knee may feel loose or that it is going to "give

impossible. Over time, swelling will increase, and motion may be lost.

treatment for ACL tears does not lead to healing. Some patients opt out of surgery, increasing the risk of arthritis and meniscus tears due to joint instability. This treatment involves anti-inflammatory medication, physical therapy, cryotherapy, and activity

Your surgeon will perform a with X-rays. On exams, swelling and loss of motion and strength are present. Your surgeon will perform the knee ligaments and the meniscus. An MRI is helpful to confirm the diagnosis, showing the ACL tear. The type of tear (partial, complete,

■ Non-operative: Non-operative

### **How is it diagnosed?**

thorough history and physical exam maneuvers to check the stability of all avulsion from either the tibia or femur) can be defined, which may assist in surgical planning. The MRI may also show bone bruising secondary to the injury.

How is it treated? modification to decrease swelling and improve motion and strength. It's shown to simplify surgery and enhance patient outcomes. However, in surgical cases where immediate repair of meniscus and cartilage injuries is necessary, nonoperative treatment may be skipped.

### Operative

instruction.

**Operative:** management of ACL tears varies depending on the tear type. ACL repair is suitable for cases where the ligament is clearly torn off the femur or tibia. It's done through minimally-invasive arthroscopic surgery, where the ligament is sewn back into place and secured with screws or buttons, sometimes reinforced with high-strength suture. Formal reconstruction involves fixing a new ACL graft in place of the original ligament, a decision made collaboratively between you and your surgeon. Techniques, including graft choice, are typically minimally invasive and may involve taking the graft from your knee or a donor. Rehabilitation and return to daily activities depend on the chosen technique and graft, guided by your surgeon's judgment.

#### InternalBrace option The InternalBrace

procedure, which has been proven to be efficacious, can be applied in various ways throughout the knee. This augmentation helps prevent excess range of motion during the healing phase and may reduce the chances of secondary injury. In the setting of ACL reconstruction, the InternalBrace procedure helps protect against various modes of failure including creep and irreversible stretch, traumatic tearing, and slippage of the tendon-bone interface. The InternalBrace technique may also help protect small and vulnerable ACL reconstruction grafts

from these modes of failure. "In my 15 years of practice, we observed that most athletes who come to me with sports injuries have ACL tears and the main issue that bothers them is the long-drawn-out process of recovery after surgery. They worry that they may lose their form waiting to heal", stated Dr. Manu Bora. He noted, "We've operated on numerous cases, employing various techniques, and found the All Inside Internal Brace Technique for ACL surgery to offer the swiftest patient rehabilitation and return to sport. The overwhelmingly positive patient feedback, particularly regarding reduced post-operative pain since implementing this technique, has been

remarkable."

All you need to know about candidiasis infection

## to keep you awake!

**PRAVEEN KUMAR** 

the habit of gulping a cup of coffee the moment we feel drowsy. Of course, your coffee surely gives you that quick jolt of energy but the problem is that it is just a temporary high. After some time, the effect soon wanes and your alertness and focus gets diffused soon. Then you will again feel like gulping more coffee. This becomes a dangerous addiction as you keep filling your belly with coffee but its effect is

just temporary. Well, you don't need only caffeine to make you feel alert or stimulate your mind. There are other foods which can at least keep you awake during your work day. Too much caffeine can harm your health in many ways. So, read on to know about the other options.



Yoghurt

Yes, yoghurt can do the job of keeping you awake. It can also reduce fatigue. It keeps you active. Just have a cup of yoghurt when you feel like drinking coffee and you will quickly feel good enough to carry on with your work.

### Apple

This snack can make you feel alert. Eat an apple along with some peanut butter. Apple can be digested easily and peanut butter offers protein. Both of them make you feel energetic.

### Whole grains

If your diet contains whole grains, you can solve the problem of feeling drowsy during the day. These grains keep your energy

levels stable and avoid a crash.

#### Drink sufficient water and see the difference. Beans Enjoy beans as a snack or include it in your meal. They are rich in

Even fruits

instant energy like

caffeine. Fruits

contain natural

sugar which can

energise you fast.

fruits as they offer

Water

surprised but even

dehydration could

make you feel

drowsy and low.

You might be

Choose citrus

vitamin C.

can give you

proteins and also contain complex carbs. Well, beans can offer stable levels of energy.

> Eggs Eggs contain

protein and they keep your energy levels stable. Consume eggs for breakfast or lunch to avoid energy crashes.

What should you avoid while on a candida diet?

the number of avoidable

Here's a list of things you

must keep away from.

processed meat.

pistachios, etc.

ones like raisins.

condiments.

gluten.

foods weighs down the scale.

All forms of pork and

Tuna and swordfish.

Grains that contain

Nuts and seeds - the

ones that are high in mold.

Example: cashews, peanuts,

Fruit juice and fruits

high in sugar - even dried

Salad dressings and

Dairy products

Even though there are a lot of foods you can consume on this diet, unfortunately,

### ANAGHA BABU

o you frequently experience headaches, itching, fatigue, yeast infection, etc. for no apparent reason? Chances are that you're suffering from a fungal infection called Candidiasis. It's not surprising if you haven't heard of it before because, more often than not, this condition remains undiagnosed or misdiagnosed in most people. This article focuses on how you can control and prevent this infection through your diet. Candidiasis or simply Candida is a fungal infection caused due to an abnormal overgrowth of the fungus Candida albicans. Most people already have this pathogen inside their bodies but it is kept under control by certain good microbes within the body. Because of various reasons, sometimes the balance of these good microbes in the digestive tract gets disturbed. When this happens, Candida albicans makes use of the situation to spread at a rapid pace, covering a considerably huge portion of the digestive tract, which leads to the symptoms mentioned above.

### **What causes candida to**

overgrow? The most common and acknowledged causes of Candida are antibiotics! Yes, even though antibiotics are good for our body, they come with a price. This is because many a time antibiotics disrupt the balance of our immune and digestive systems as they kill even the helpful bacteria which play important roles in maintaining our bodies. This makes it easier for Candida to spread faster and release more and more toxins. Another reason for this infection is stress - typically longer periods of stress. Most people these days are victims of stressful lives, not realising that stress has the potential to alter not just the exterior but also the interior of the body, especially by suppressing the immune system badly. Yet another reason could be the consumption of a diet rich in unhealthy sugars for a long time. We consume a lot of sugar every day from different sources, but then again, sugar is what

helps Candida grow further.

What should a candida diet essentially include?

While you're on a Candida diet, you'll be working on avoiding the factors that cause it in the first place. Meaning, you must consume a diet low in sugar, which has anti-inflammatory properties and keeps the digestive tract healthy. It is not going to be easy, as eliminating a whole lot of microbes is going to take time and effort. You must

diet with probiotics, aka

good bacteria. They not just maintain the pH balance of your stomach, they fight with Candida albicans to eliminate them and prevent them from spreading further. Along with this, you can either use natural antifungals like aloe vera, cinnamon, turmeric, cloves, garlic, ginger, etc. or you can consult a doctor to get prescriptionantifungal supplements net supplement your low sugar

#### What foods should you include in a candida diet? Don't worry.

force yourself to eat tasteless food. There are lots of resources which contain proteins, non-starchy carbohydrates, probiotics, etc. Here are the foods:

You don't have to

Grains: Grains that contain a high content of fibre are essential for the proper functioning of the digestive system and to eliminate the toxins produced by Candida albicans. For example, quinoa,

millets, etc. Dairy products: Fermented dairy products like voghurt contain good bacteria that fight Candida

effectively. Ghee

allowed.

and butter are also

# try to eat organic, fresh

Vegetables: Choose vegetables that are low in starch that will deprive Candida of sugars on which they thrive. For example, broccoli, onions, eggplants, zucchini, etc.

• Oils: Just like coconut and olives, their oil is also great to fight Candida as they have antifungal properties. That said. heating your oil too much will strip it

of these antifungal

properties.

#### • Meat: Processed meat usually contains more sugars and hence, you must

meat. Same is the case with fish. You can also include eggs. • Fruits: Increase the consumption of fruits like avocados, lemons, olives

and limes which are low in sugars compared to other fruits. • Nuts: Nuts like almonds and hazelnuts and seeds like

coconut (excellent option), chia, sunflower and flax can be included in your diet. Drinks: Non-caffeinated

You don't have to miss your

sweet. Instead of sugar, you

can use xylitol or erythritol

which have lower sugar

levels. Use them in small

Oils - processed vegetable oils and refined oils. drinks and different Aaffeine, soft drinks, varieties of herbal tea can be included more in your diet. Sugars/sweeteners:

energy drinks & all alcoholic drinks are a big NO. Basically, you must

completely avoid foods that have high sugar content or use them as little as possible or find better alternatives for them.

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amounts.

### **ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE >>**

# Makeshift Manchester United thumped 4-0 by Crystal Palace

### RED DEVILS SLUMP TO RECORD 13TH PREMIER LEAGUE DEFEAT

**AGENCIES** 

#### **LONDON**

Michael Olise scored a brace of goals as Crystal Palace completed a league double over Manchester United for the first time in its history with a thumping 4-0 victory at Selhurst Park on Monday that will add to the pressure on Erik ten Hag.

A makeshift United defence that included Casemiro as centre-back was easily picked apart by Palace on several occasions as Jean-Philippe Mateta and Tyrick Mitchell were also on the scoresheet in the impressive win.

United remain in eighth place with 54 points from 35 games, two points behind Newcastle United in sixth, with their hopes of European football next season fading fast. Palace are still in 14th with 43 points from 36 match-

United had several injury absentees and were without Bruno Fernandes, the first time in his 230-game Old Trafford career he has missed a match with injury, but the ease with which they were beaten will be a huge concern for everyone at the club.

"A big disappointment. We just had an off-day and we weren't in it," midfielder Christian Eriksen told BBC. "It is what it is. We can't really change the injury things. We have to do what we can on the pitch to change it.

"Today, it didn't matter who we played. Everyone could have done better. We tried to do what we could, but we were not good enough. We'll take the blame as players."



Eberechi Eze of Crystal Palace holds off pressure from Casemiro of Manchester United during the Premier League match between Crystal Palace and Manchester United at Selhurst Park.

It is the first time in the Premier League era United have lost 13 games in a season, and the scoreline might have been

The home side took the lead inside 12 minutes as Olise collected a throw and evaded a limp challenge from Casemiro. With no United player attempting to close him down, he was able to unleash a low shot from just inside the box. It was 2-0 five minutes

before the break as Mateta breezed past United defender Jonny Evans and thrashed the ball into the net for a ninth goal in 11 games since the arrival of Glasner in February.

The striker had scored 11 goals in his previous 80 games for Palace before that.

United's makeshift de-

fence was struggling to contain the movement of their host, and when Diogo Dalot failed to deal with a ball to the back post, Mitchell had a tap-in.

Olise's second goal added more salt to the wound, and it could have been worse for the visitors as Odsonne Edouard saw his shot come back off the woodwork late on.

### Forest's 4-point deduction upheld

**AGENCIES** 

**LONDON** 

Nottingham Forest was unsuccessful in its appeal to overturn a four-point deduction in relation to its breach of the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) in the 2022-23 season, the league said on Tuesday.

Forest lodged the appeal after the deduction in March left it vulnerable to a relegation threat.

It is currently 17th with 29 points, three points above the bottom three with two matches to go.

"An independent Appeal Board has upheld the decision of a Commission to deduct four points from Nottingham Forest following an admitted breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules," the league said in a statement.

Forest had admitted to breaching its maximum loss threshold of 61 million pounds (\$76.51 million) by 34.5 million, according to the Premier League.

England's top-flight clubs are allowed to lose 105 million pounds over three seasons. However, two years of Forest's assessment period were spent in the second-tier Championship, meaning it could lose only a maximum of 61 million pounds.

Forest argued that the commission should have seen the sale of attacker Brennan Johnson after the assessment period as a "mitigating factor" and suspended some or all of the points deducted.

"Each of these grounds was rejected by the Appeal Board, which found the Independent Commission was entitled to immediately impose the sanction it did. The four-point deduction will therefore remain in place," the Premier League said.

**Gukesh, Arjun and Pragg in Warsaw** 

# Maradona's 1986 WC Golden Ball trophy goes to auction

First-ever Golden Ball set to go under the hammer

**AGENCIES** 

#### **PARIS**

Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy won for being named the best player at the 1986 World Cup will be auctioned in France in June, the Aguttes auction house said on Tuesday.

This is the first Golden Ball to go for auction and while the value is still to be confirmed, the auction house expects it to fetch millions on June 6.

Maradona, who died in 2020, won the award after leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico, scoring five goals at the finals where he captained his country and played every minute of the tournament.

That tournament is probably best remembered for



mail us at >> sports@thegoan.net

FROM THE PAST: Argentinian football star Diego Maradona hands over the honorary golden ball award he received to his wife Claudia at Les Moulineaux, France.

Maradona's two goals against England in the quarter-finals.

later dubbed as being scored

Maradona outjumped England keeper Peter Shilton as he thumped in the first goal with a raised fist, which he

by the "Hand of God". The second was an incredible mazy slalom run from his own half, when he dribbled past five English outfield players, and was voted as the

"Goal of the Century".

## Odisha FC to compete in AFC Women's Champions League

**AGENCIES** 

#### **MUMBAI**

Odisha FC, champions of the Indian Women's League [IWL], will compete in the inaugural edition of the AFC Women's Champions League this year, the All India Football Federation announced. The tournament will begin in August 2024.

Based on the number of participating teams, the competition will begin with a preliminary stage in late August. This round will be played in a centralised league format and the top clubs will progress to the group stage from here. Clubs whose Member Associ-



ing is superior will not have to play in the preliminary round and will enjoy a direct entry slot in the group stage.

Twelve teams will be split into three groups and will play a single round robin format between October 6-12, followed by which the top two

two best third-placed teams will advance to the quarterfinals. The knockouts will begin with the last-eight stage on March 22 and 23 of next year, while the semis and finals (May 21-24) will also be single-leg contests held in a centralised venue.

### Ayhika-Sutirtha, Manush-Manav pairs lose in round of 16 matches

**AGENCIES** 

### **JEDDAH**

Asian Games bronze medallists Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Miyu Nagasaki (Japan) and Kim Nayeong (South Korea) in the round of 16 match of the Saudi Smash 2024 in Jeddah on Tuesday.

### **SAUDI SMASH**

Ayhika and Sutirtha lost 3-2 (6-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-6, 11-8) to the Nagasaki-Nayeong pair in 43 minutes.

In the men's doubles event, Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar went down 3-2 (18-20, 11-4, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7) against Lubomir Pistej (Slovakia) and Chan Baldwin (Hong Kong) in the round of 16.



Sutirtha Mukherjee (left) and Ayhika Mukherjee (right) in action

Later in the day, Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade were soundly defeated 0-3 (6-11, 10-12, 4-11) by the top-seeded Chinese pair of Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha in the mixed doubles quarters.

Harmeet and Yashaswini

began their campaign with a 3-2 (11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-5) win over Chile's Nicolas Burgos and Paulina Vega before shocking 5th-seeded Spanish duo of Alvaro Robles and Maria Xiao 3-2 (11-5, 5-11, 3-11, 11-7,11-7) in the round of 16.nd of 16.

### for Superbet Rapid and blitz chess **MASTERMINDS**

### **WARSAW**

Fresh from his historic triumph at the Candidates' tournament, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins here on Wednesday.

The USD 175000 prize money event has as many as six wild cards in the first of the five events. The tour also has a bonus prize pool of USD 175000 for the top three finishers out of which a UDS 100000 is reserved for the winner.

The four players who have signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan.

All of them will take part in four out of five events out

■ A part of the Grand Chess tour, the event will see Gukesh and GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world number seven Erigaise Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tournament which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner.

■ The tournament favourite is none other than world number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway who starts as the top seed

and remaining three will be rapid and blitz.

Besides Carlsen and Arjun, the other four wild cards have been given to Wei Yi of China, Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland, Vincent Keymer of Germany and Kirill Shevchenko of Romania.

Set to play four out of five events in the tour, Gukesh looks like one of the tour favourites.

also has a World Championship match to play later this year against Ding Liren of China and he surely has his hands full.

Praggnanandhaa is a known expert in the faster version of the game and has beaten Carlsen a few times already.

If there is one opponent that creates fear for the opposition -- that's this 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa.

### Bhausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy main draw kicks off today

THE GOAN | NETWORK

### **PANAJI**

The inaugural Bhausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy kicks off on May 8, at Duler Stadium in Mapusa. This historic tournament, a tribute to Goa's Chief Minister begins with two high-stakes matches: Cortalim Villagers face off against Sesa FA the runners up of the Goa Professional league, while Sporting Clube de Goa the Pro League winners takes on the might of ISL

winners Mumbai City FC. Six Goan teams including Goa Professional League favorites Sporting Clube de Goa, Sesa FA, and Dempo SC will battle for the trophy. They will face fierce competition from

Blasters and Mumbai City FC. along with rising stars who've earned their places through qualifying rounds.

GFA President Dr Caitano Fernandes said "We are all set to host the first edition of this historic tournament. The qualifiers have been conducted to confirm the final draw and I'm looking forward to the matches."

He continued "We have six Goan teams, and 2 outstation teams in this inaugural edition. The tournament will be the biggest tournament in Goa and we have further plans to invite international teams as

well" "I wish the best of luck to all 8 of the participating teams in the 10 day tournament," con-

### Karishma features in **Indian senior team list**

**PANAJI:** Goa's Karishma Shirvoikar makes the Indian senior women's team cut that will play two friendly matches against Uzbekistan on May 31 and June 4 in Tashkent, during the upcoming FIFA women's international match window. Head coach Langam Chaoba Devi announced a probables list who will join the national team camp beginning from May 16 in Hyderabad.

### TODAY'S ACTION

> Bhausaheb Bandodkar **Memorial Trophy:** Cortalim Villagers S&SWA VS Sesa FA, Duler Stadium, 4 pm; Sporting Clube De Goa vs Mumbai City FC, Duler Stadium, 7:30 pm

#### >GFA U-13 Division II All Goa Play Off: Valpoi FC vs Raia FC, Astro Turf Fatorda, 4:30 pm; Canacona S&CC vs Goa United

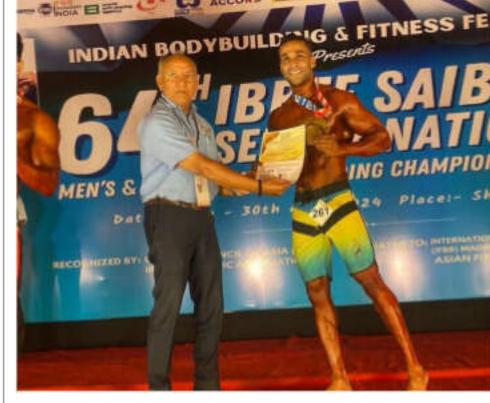
SA, Astro Turf Fatorda, 5:30 pm >GFA U-17 Divi II League: St Anthony's SC Marna vs Fr Agnel SC, Pilar, Salvador Do Mundo; Parish Youth Association, Consua vs Panchwadi United SC, Cansaulim

Ground, 4:15 pm

#### THE GOAN | NETWORK Maharashtra. **PANAJI** Goan bodybuilder Namvant

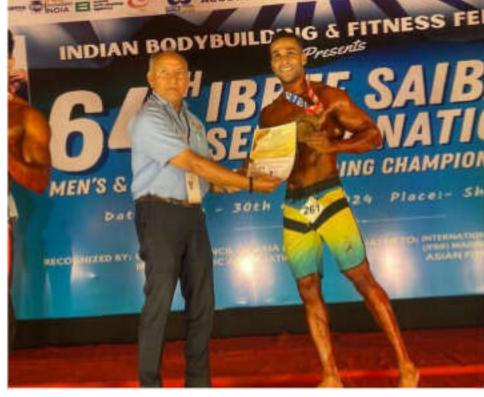
Sawant clinched the gold medal in the Men's Physique Category at the 64th IBBFF Senior National Championship, also known as Mr India 2024, held recently, in Shirdi,

This win marks a significant achievement for Sawant as he becomes the first-ever Mr India from Goa in the Men's Physique Category. Sawant's victory comes on the back of his dominant record as a 7-time undefeated BFAG Men's Physique Goa Champion.



Goan bodyduilder Namvant Sawant receiving the medal.

### Namvant wins gold at IBBFF Mr India 2024



### of which two will be classical The Chennai-based player national powerhouses Kerala cluded the president. U-13 Expo cricket: Just Cricket, Union Gymkhana,

Team Works and Sparkling Stars register wins

THE GOAN I NETWORK

**PANAJI** 

Just Cricket ,Union Gymkhana won their respective matches at SAG ground, Fatorda while Sparkling Stars Academy and Team Work Sports also registered wins at S K ground, Malkarnem in the 2nd U-13 **Exposure Cricket Tournament** organised by Sportsweek Cricket Club.

Union Gymkhana thrashed MCC Cricket Academy by a massive 125 runs.

Union Gymkhana batted first and scored a commanding 186/5 in their 20 overs.

Tejas top-scored with a brilliant 75, while Mohammed Abbas and Shahrukh Dharwadkar chipped in with valuable contributions of 12 and 15 runs respectively.

Ansh Sable from MCC Academy picked up 2 wickets but couldn't prevent a strong batting performance by Union Gymkhana. epaper.thegoan.net



In reply, MCC Academy each. were bundled out for a mere Just Cricket Academy edged 61 runs in their 20 overs. Ansh Sable remained unbeaten on 21, but it was a sorry display from the rest of the batsmen. Union Gymkhana's bowling attack shared the spoils with

Shaikh bagging 2 wickets

past Brilliant Cricket Academy by a close margin of 4 wickets.

the mainstays of their innings.

Brilliant Cricket Academy opted to bat first and posted a decent total of 130/3 on the board. Anvay Kavankar (57) Naikhil Rathod and Farhan and Sharvil Shevale (44) were

Academy was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2 wickets for just 12 runs. Just Cricket Academy

Sohum Joshi from Just Cricket

chased down the target in 20 overs, scoring 131/6. Ayat Khan played a crucial knock of 75\* to steer his team home. Mohammed chipped in with a handy 16 runs.

Swaraj More and Sharvil Shevale tried their best with the ball, picking up 3 and 2 wickets respectively, but it wasn't enough to prevent Just Cricket Academy from clinching victory. Team Work Sports Club de-

feated Sportsweek Cricket Club comfortably by 7 wickets. Sportsweek Cricket Club, electing to bat first, could only manage a paltry 65/5 in their allotted 20 overs.

Shubham top-scored with a meagre 14 runs. Meet Sawant and Swaraj Shedge were the bowling stars for Team Work Sports Club, taking 3 and 2 wickets respectively. Team Work Sports Club

chased down the target in a mere 12 overs, losing only 3 wickets in the process. Tanish Kadam's unbeaten knock of 16 ensured a smooth victory for his team. Sparkling Stars Academy

outclassed All Saints by a convincing margin of 9 wickets. All Saints, who were put in to bat first, were skittled out for a meagre 49 runs in 16.1 overs. Gatik Pyram's 17 runs was the only resistance shown by their batsmen. Shaurva Chodankar

for Sparkling Stars Academy, taking a fifer (5 wickets for 13 runs). Swapnil Nayak ably supported him with 2 wickets. In reply, Sparkling Stars Academy chased down the

emerged as the bowling hero

target in just 8 overs, losing only 1 wicket. Rehan Hubali (10\*) and Keyan Thota (11\*) ensured a quick and easy win for their team.

# Capitals remain in play-off hunt

### MCGURK, POREL AND SPINNERS KEEP RAJASTHAN ROYALS AT BAY

#### **BRIEF SCORE**

Delhi Capitals 221 for 8 (Porel 65, Fraser-McGurk 50, Ashwin 3-24) beat Rajasthan Royals 201 for 8 (Samson 86, Kuldeep 2-27, Mukesh 2-30) by 20 runs

#### **NEW DELHI**

Delhi Capitals earned a hardfought 20-run win over Rajasthan Royals to technically stay alive in the IPL play-offs race as home spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav played a key role in the team's victory in the must-win contest here Tuesday.

Yet again, it was Jake Fraser-McGurk (50) and Abhishek Porel's (65) coruscating display of power-hitting that took DC to a challenging 221 for eight.

Chasing a stiff target to secure their place in the playoffs, the Royals were going strong but once skipper Sanju Samson (86 off 46 balls) was dismissed in the 16th over, their innings lost momentum. They ended up at 201 for 8.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep (2/25 in 4 overs) and left-arm spinner Axar (1/25 in 3 overs) exhibited impressive control over line and length that did put brakes on Royals' scoring rate in the middle overs.

The two bowlers gave away just 50 runs in their combined seven overs.

After Tuesday's win, Delhi Capitals moved to fifth place with 12 points -- the same as three other teams -- but even if they win their remaining two contests, it will be difficult for them to make the knockout stage as the teams placed above them have better chances of logging 18 points. DC can have a maximum of 16 points.

Veteran off-spinner Ravi-



Kuldeep Yadav of Delhi Capitals celebrates the wicket of Donovan Ferreira of Rajasthan Royals during the 2024 Indian Premier League match in Delhi.

chandran Ashwin had jolted the Capitals with wickets in his successive overs but pacer Avesh Khan bled runs.

Samson's stroke-making was a treat to watch, even as Ios Buttler could not make the most of a dropped chance. Samson treated the seasoned pacer Ishant Sharma with utter disdain, scoring easy boundaries off him.

Buttler struggled to get going and was handed a chance when he was on 8 as Jake Fraser-McGurk dropped a high catch off Mukesh Ku-

The England batter dragged one from left-arm spinner Axar, who displayed the art of containing the batters on a small ground like Kotla.

Kuldeep too had the batters in a tight leash as the asking rate grew. Rasikh Dar cleaned up Riyan Parag after getting hit out of the park.

Samson completed his fifty with a six off Kuldeep and then launched a severe attack on Dar, who leaked 18 in runs in the 13th over of the innings.

Royals needed 91 runs from 42 balls. Debutant Shubham Dube supported his skipper well as he hit a monstrous six off Ishant after hitting a four.

Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed bowled four wides in a row before creating a chance to get rid of Samson, whose lofted shot just fell short of long-off fielder.

However, after the departure of Samson, Royals innings fell apart.

Earlier, had it not been some smart bowling by Ashwin and fellow off-spinner Riyan Parag in the middle overs, DC would have put more runs on the board. Young Australian batter Fraser-McGurk (50 off 20 balls) continued with his splendid form while Abhishek Porel contributed 65 off 36 balls. Tristan Stubbs chipped in with a useful 20ball 41 but skipper Rishabh

Pant's (15) bat did not talk

Royals pacer Trent Boult and Sandeep Singh came in with hit-the-deck approach and largely succeeded in not letting home openers swing freely.

The initial boundaries were largely well-timed drives and lofted shots in the 'V' space.

Fraser-McGurk grew restless and began to throw his bat around. The Australian gradually got his rhythm and was harsh on Avesh, who he blasted for 28 runs, plundering four fours and two sixes in the fourth over of the innings to complete his half-century in just 19 balls.

As fate would have it, Fraser-McGurk had a soft dis-

### **MATCH RUN**

- Jake Fraser-McGurk (50) and Abhishek Porel's (65) coruscating display of power-hitting that took DC to a challenging 221 for eight
- Chasing a stiff target to secure their place in the play-offs, the Royals were going strong but once skipper Sanju Samson (86 off 46 balls) was dismissed in the 16th over, their innings lost momentum. They ended up at 201 for 8
- Wrist spinner Kuldeep (2/25 in 4 overs) and leftarm spinner Axar (1/25 in 3 overs) exhibited impressive control over line and length that did put brakes on Royals' scoring rate in the middle overs

missal when he hit a full-toss from Ashwin straight to cover fielder Donovon Ferreira. Shai Hope too departed soon in a rather unfortunate fash-

Porel hit Sandeep straight, the ball touched the bowler's hand before crashing into the stumps, and caught the West Indian outside the crease.

Yuzvendra Chahal (1/48 in 4 overs) began with a slightly fullish length and was hammered for six by Porel. Parag, though, did a great

job with his off-spin as he

managed to keep the batters Ashwin returned and got rid of Axar Patel, who had just

bleed runs. In his two overs,

he conceded 42 runs.

'Fatigued' Rohit needs break to freshen

hit Parag for a maximum. Porel though kept going strong and completed his fifty while Avesh continued to

**IPL PREVIEW** 

## Inconsistent SRH take on LSG in push for play-offs spot

**MATCH STARTS 7:30PM IST** 

PTI

#### **HYDERABAD**

Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they host Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Both teams are locked in at 12 points from 11 games with SRH making the top four cut based on a slightly superior net run rate of -0.065 compared to LSG's -0.371.

The Sunrisers find themselves in a fierce competition for the top four spot with Kolkata Knight Riders (16), Rajasthan Royals (16) and Chennai Super Kings (12) stationed above them on the points ta-

The winner of the duel will take a leap in the playoff race. The Pat Cummins-led side

has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Sunrisers have lost three of their last four matches, mainly because their destructive batting lineup hasn't delivered. In their last match against

Mumbai Indians, which they lost by seven wickets, they failed to put up a good target on the board, which has been their strong suit this season. Barring Travis Head, who

has been their stand out performer, the other batters in the side have faced a recent After displaying his pow-

er-hitting ability, young opener Abhishek Sharma has breached the 30-run mark just once in the last four games.

And while SRH head coach Daniel Vettori has conceded that the openers are not expected to do the job all the



mail us at >> sports@thegoan.net

Sunrisers Hyderabad Captain Aiden Markram during a practice session.

#### **SQUADS**

>Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Nitish Reddy, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T Natarajan, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, Anmolpreet Singh, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Upendra Yadav (wk), Jhathavedh Subramanyan, Sanvir Singh, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Marco Jansen, Akash Maharaj Singh, Mayank Agarwal.

>Lucknow Super Giants: Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul (c & wk), Deepak Hooda, Ayush Badoni, Marcus Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Krunal Pandya, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohsin Khan, Shamar Joseph, Yash Thakur, Manimaran Siddharth, Prerak Mankad, Arshad Khan, Krishnappa Gowtham, Amit Mishra, Kyle Mayers, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, Naveen-ul-Haq, Devdutt Padikkal, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Mayank Yadav, Arshin Kulkarni.

time, the middle order needs kata Knight Riders, when they to step up.

Klaasen has also been unable to strike the ball consistently and Nitish Reddy too has been patchy.

The bowlers have fared better compared to their batting counterparts.

T Natarajan has been consistent with the ball while seasoned seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar also seems to have found his mojo after his incisive spell helped SRH eke out a one-run win against RR.

LSG, on the other hand, have to get over their overall lacklustre display against Kol-

not only conceded the first-ev-The flamboyant Heinrich er 200 plus score at the Ekana Stadium but also folded their innings at 137.

> It was a day when skipper KL Rahul failed to anchor the innings while the likes of Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran were unable to get the big shots when needed.

> Ayush Badoni has had a subdued run in this IPL and the uncapped Indian player would be keen to shrug off the rustiness.

> LSG's struggles with the ball have been majorly due to the lack of firepower in their pace-bowling department.

### KKR players spend night in Varanasi

Team's flight from Lucknow diverted multiple times due to bad weather

### **NEW DELHI**

Kolkata Knight Riders players had a harrowing experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather.

Following their massive 98run win over Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday, the Shrevas Iyer-led side left on Monday evening for Kolkata at 5:45pm. The team was scheduled to arrive at 7.25pm.

But the charter flight had to be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi after adverse weather conditions made it impossible to land the plane in Kolkata.

The KKR media team pro-

vided an update at 8.46pm, saying, "Due to inclement weather over Kolkata, the KKR charter flight has been diverted to Guwahati. We've just landed here." Then another update at 9.43pm said, "We've got clearance to fly back to Kolkata now, from Guwahati. Estimated arrival: 11pm." However, the ordeal was not over for the players and support staff as multiple attempts to land the flight failed, forcing the officials to divert the flight mid-air to Varanasi.

"Flight took off from Guwahati to Kolkata, was scheduled to land at 11 PM. Couldn't land once again due to bad weather, despite several attempts. Diverted mid-air to Varanasi now. Just landed here," said an update at 1:15 am.

### up ahead of T201 World Cup: Clarke PTI **MUMBAI**

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke does not read much into Rohit Sharma's string of poor scores, but suggests that the "fatigued" Indian skipper take a break to freshen up ahead of the T20I World Cup.

Rohit, being the wise judge of his own performances, will undoubtedly be disappointed, especially considering his strong start. In my view, he might be feeling a bit fatigued as well, Clarke told Star Sports.

A break to freshen up could do wonders for him, but as the Indian captain and a key player for Mumbai Indians, you're not getting a break. He's going to have to find form, Clarke continued. Rohit played as an im-



pact substitute in their match against Kolkata Knight Riders last week, raising some concerns for the Indian camp.

However, he played a full game against Sunrisers Hyderabad three days later.

Clarke said it is only a matter of time before Rohit

### **BURNOUT?**

- Rohit, who will lead India in the next month's 20-team global showpiece, has four single-digit scores in his last five outings for his franchise Mumbai Indians in the ongoing IPL
- The 37-year-old has had a busy season this year with an intense five-Test series preceding the IPL for Mumbai Indians, who are all but eliminated from the race to the playoffs this year

gets back to his usual elements as a batter.

He was in a great mood. He's happy, which is a really good sign. He doesn't seem to be struggling with his timing; it's just a matter

#### of getting out, he said. With someone like Rohit,

it's only a matter of time before he finds his form again. Hopefully, he stresses less and focuses on his game because he's too talented to keep missing out. He's at his best when he's timing the ball, rather than trying to force it, he added.

Clarke, meanwhile, also had praise in store for Rohit's deputy for the World Cup and MI skipper Hardik Pandya, who returned with 4-0-31-3 in their seven-wicket win over SRH on Monday. In the last couple of

games, he's been taking wickets with his bowling, making some adjustments along the way. For an all-rounder, success in one department boosts confidence across the board, Clarke said.

Stimac names second list of

probables for WC qualifiers

# No plans to rest Bumrah yet, informs Pollard

### **MUMBAI**

Mumbai Indians have no plans to rest ace India pacer Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the T20 World Cup even though they are out of contention for the IPL playoffs, said batting coach Kieron Pollard.

MI defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets here on Monday after Suryakumar Yadav (102 not out) struck his second IPL century to help his team chase down a target of 174 with 16 balls to spare.

The win helped MI end their four-match losing streak and record only their fourth win in 12 matches.

"I certainly haven't had any discussions about that," Pollard told media after the game when asked if there are any plans to rest Bumrah from MI's remaining two matches keeping in mind the upcoming T20 World Cup.

"I don't think that's my role and function at this point in time. But let's see what happens. We are all here to play an entire IPL. Sometimes when we think too far ahead of different things, thinking about World Cups, all these things could affect performances even from before the team was selected.

"For us and in our camp, the most important thing is finishing off the IPL and let's see what happens after that When he leaves the IPL and he goes into the Indian team, I think that's where that concession will take place." MI's last IPL game is against Lucknow Super Giants at home on May 17. The T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by USA and the West Indies, will begin on June 1.

Pollard said as a batting coach the most difficult aspect of coaching an all-round bat ter like Suryakumar is to curb his attacking instinct.

# Bangladesh stave off Zimbabwe's challenge

### **BRIEF SCORE**

Bangladesh 165 for 5 (Hridoy 57, Jaker 44, Muzarabani 3-14) beat Zimbabwe 156 for 9 (Akram 34\*, Marumani 31, Saifuddin 3-40) by nine runs

**AGENCIES** 

### **CHATTOGRAM**

Bangladesh saw off some late batting fightback from Zimbabwe tailenders Faraz Akram and Blessing Muzarabani to clinch the T20I series in the third game in Chattogram. They won by nine runs on Tuesday, with two matches left to play in Dhaka.

fifth T20I, struck an unbeaten 34 off 19 balls after the visitors had crashed to 91 for 8 chasing 166. The 54 runs he added with Wellington Masakadza was a

Akram, playing only his

new Zimbabwe record for the ninth wicket. Akram's 34 was also Zimbabwe's highest by a No. 10 batter.

Muzarabani, who took



some accurate death-overs bowling. Zimbabwe produced lower-order runs for the third game in a row, especially

when the rest sunk quickly. Bangladesh once again had Towhid Hridoy play a



doy's maiden T2oI fifty came during an 87-run fourth wicket stand with Jaker Ali, who made 44. This pair had to lift Bangladesh after they lost three wickets in the first nine

> Litton Das chose the strangest sequence of shots to get out in the fourth over. He missed two lap scoops against Muzarabani before his third

successive attempt dragged the ball onto his stumps.

It is unclear whether Litton, already showing poor form in white-ball cricket this year, will be in Bangladesh's T20 World Cup squad. This innings is unlikely to help his

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto also got out cheaply, bowled by a bit of variation from his opposite number Sikandar Raza. Shanto's lack of footwork would be concerning for the team.

Those would be long-term concerns, but when Tanzid Hasan fell in the ninth over, trying to slog Faraz Akram, it caused immediate worry. Bangladesh were hovering around a mediocre run rate, having lost their set batter.

The fourth-wicket pair struck a boundary in their first 3.3 overs before Jaker and Hridoy took on Raza for two sixes in the space of three balls. The first was a straight hit

before Hridoy hit a bigger one

into the mid-wicket stands.

### **NEW DELHI** Injured central defender

Sandesh Jhingan missed out as Indian senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday announced his second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar. The first list of probables

sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January, missed out of the list. The 26 players from the first list will begin training in the Odisha capital on May 10. The 15 players from the second list, comprising players

from Mumbai City FC and Mo-

hun Bagan SG, who contested

the ISL Cup final, will join the

was announced on Saturday.

Key defender Jhingan, who

THE SECOND LIST OF 15 PROBABLES

**>Goalkeepers:** Phurba Tempa Lachenpa, Vishal Kaith **Defenders:** Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose

>Midfielders: Anirudh Thapa, Deepak Tangri, Lalengmawia Ralte, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad >Forwards: Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh

camp on May 15.

A total of 41 players will take part in the national camp. The Blue Tigers will face Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6 before travelling away to take on Qatar on June 11 in their last two matches of Group A.

India are currently placed second in the group, with four points from four matches. The top two teams in the group will qualify for Round 3 of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and book their berth at the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027.

### **Scott Flemming** named as head coach of Indian basketball team

**AGENCIES** 

### **NEW DELHI**

The Basketball Federation of India on Tuesday announced that it has appointed Scott Flemming as the new Head Coach of the Indian Senior Men's Basketball team.

This will be his second stint in the role after previously coaching the team from 2012-2015. During his tenure, Flemming led the team to a win against top-team China in the FIBA Asia Cup 2014. He also led the team to a gold medal at the 2014 Lusofonia Games.

Federation Secretary Gen-

eral Kulvinder Singh Gill in a media release said,"With his past experience and coaching abilities, we are confident that Mr. Flemming's appointment will help improve the performance of our Indian Senior Men Basketball Team at the International level."