

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Haryana notifies streamlined recovery process for homebuyers

Sanjay Kumar Chandigarh, May 18: In a major relief to homebuyers constrained to approach the court following the failure of the authorities concerned to execute recovery warrant/certificates issued against the promoters despite the lapse of several years, the State of Haryana has come out with a notification to streamline the recovery process. The notification came after the Punjab and Haryana High Court observed it had "come across many such cases, and records were replete, where investors were constrained to approach the court for the authorities failed to execute the recovery certificates, though years have gone by".

'Those who arrived to root out corruption being jailed in scams worth thousands of crores': PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, May 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said opposition INDIA bloc can go to any extent in pursuing its "vote bank" politics, claiming that the then Congress government during the 2014 elections had handed over 123 properties spread across prime locations in Delhi to the Waqf Board for votes. In his first rally in the national capital for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Modi slammed the Congress-AAP alliance in Delhi as opportunistic, saying the world is watching how one corrupt party is covering for another corrupt party. This Congress-AAP alliance seems determined to destroy Delhi, he said, adding that its leaders are responsible for fall in political standards and breaking people's faith. Those who arrived to root out corruption are doing the rounds of jail in scams running into thousands of crores of rupees, Modi said in a swipe at Chief Minister Kejriwal. The Congress, he said, would not tire of taking credit for exposing the AAP government's scams but its Delhi

leaders were forced by the Gandhi family war memorial, Prime Minister Modi Congress had joined hands with those bank during the 2014 elections. It was agreed that they would vote for the Congress, and its government in turn handed over the country's properties to the Waqf Board, he said. These properties were spread across prime locations where a yard of land costs many lakhs of rupees, Modi said, claiming that the opportunist opposition alliance can incite violence for its appeasement politics. Prime Minister Modi blamed them (opposition) for the 2020 Delhi riots following the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and noted that many people, mostly Dalits, who were persecuted in neighbouring countries were recently granted citizenship under the law. The opposition alliance supports reservation on religious ground, restoration of Article 370 and abolition of India's nuclear bombs, he claimed.



No objection to action against grandson Prajwal Revanna if he is found guilty

Bengaluru, May 18: Breaking his silence over the sexual abuse charges levelled against JDS MP Prajwal Revanna, party Supremo H D Deve Gowda on Saturday said he has no objection to the action taken against his grandson if he is found guilty. He also said the cases against his son and JD(S) MLA H D Revanna, who is facing charges of sexual harassment and kidnap of a woman, were "created", but refrained from commenting further, as the matter was subjudice. Addressing reporters, Gowda, who turned 92 today, said, "... I don't want to comment on things that are going on in the court regarding Revanna. Prajwal Revanna has gone abroad, regarding that Kumaraswamy (Gowda's other son and state JD(S) chief) has on behalf of our family said it is the duty of the government to take action in accordance with the law of the land."

Defence Ministry on reports of model of Chinook chopper going missing

New Delhi, May 18: The defence ministry on Saturday trashed reports that a model of a Chinook chopper installed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at the 2020 edition of DefExpo went missing. Defence Ministry spokesperson A Bharat Bhushan Babu said DRDO never installed any helicopter model in Lucknow. "The news circulating about a DRDO installed Chinook Helicopter Model at Lucknow during DefExpo 2020 missing is misleading," he said in a brief statement. "Chinook is made by Boeing and DRDO has never installed any helicopter model at Lucknow anytime. DefExpo2020 was an incident-free exhibition and no product or model went missing during its conduct," Babu said. DRDO also described the reports as "misleading". "There is news circulating that DRDO had installed Chinook helicopter model at Lucknow during DefExpo 2020 and model is now missing," it said on X. "This information is misleading as DRDO has never installed any Helicopter Model at Lucknow anytime," it said. Officials said there was a model of a helicopter in a dilapidated condition at Sector 20 of the Vrindavan Yojna area in Lucknow and it was removed following a recommendation by security personnel as a helipad had to be constructed for the Prime Minister's visit to the city for an event relating to G20.

Arvind Kejriwal, others to march towards BJP HQ today, 'arrest us if you can': Delhi CM

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, May 18: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that he along with senior party leaders will march towards the BJP headquarters on Sunday at 12 pm. "The BJP has one by one sent our party leaders to jail, they have today arrested Bibhav, next they will arrest Raghav Chadha who has just come back, following they will arrest Saurabh Bhardwaj and Atishi," he claimed at a press briefing hours after his aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested in connection with the alleged assault on his party's MP Swati Maliwal. Kejriwal has continued to observe silence in the Swati Maliwal 'assault' case at CM's residence. "Tomorrow I will be going to the BJP headquarters along with senior party leaders. Arrest anyone you want to," said Kejriwal. Kejriwal, who is also the AAP national convener, however, asserted that his party could not be crushed by sending its leaders to jail. "The AAP is an idea. For as many AAP leaders you jail, the country

would produce leaders a hundred times more," he said. He claimed that the AAP's "fault" was that its government in Delhi built good schools, set up Mohalla Clinics, provided free treatment and ensured free round-the-clock power supply in the city bharo' programme by the AAP leaders to be held on Sunday at BJP headquarters at around 12 noon. The chief minister said all leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party will go to the BJP headquarters at 12 noon and ask for arrest. Addressing a press conference hours after Bibhav Kumar's arrest in the Swati Maliwal case, Kejriwal said, "It is now clear that these people are after the Aam Aadmi Party. They put Sanjay Singh in jail. Today they arrested my PA. Raghav Chadha has returned from London; some are saying they will arrest Raghav Chadha too. Then there are Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj too," Kejriwal said. "I was thinking why they want to arrest us. What did we do wrong? Our crime was that we developed government schools, government hospitals. They are not being able to do this. We made electricity available 24x7. They can't do this," Kejriwal said. With folded hands, the Delhi CM said, "Pradhan Mantri ji, stop this jail-jail game."



BJP is planning to ban RSS: Uddhav Thackeray

Mumbai, May 18: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday claimed that BJP was planning to ban its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), after winning a third term in power. Speaking at his last rally here before the campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections ended in Maharashtra, Thackeray also said that the Election Commissioner who was "acting like Modi's servant" will be removed after the INDIA alliance government comes to power. "The way they tried to use and throw the Shiv Sena, a similar game will be played by Narendra Modi in future (with RSS), and that has been stated by (BJP president) JP Nadra," he said. Thackeray was referring to Nadra's comments to a newspaper that when BJP was a small party and less capable, it needed RSS, but now the saffron party has grown, become more capable, and "runs itself". "Nadra said there was a need of RSS until now, (but) we are capable now and we don't need RSS. If they (BJP) came to power, it is a bigger danger for RSS workers because they will ban the RSS," Thackeray claimed. In the past, (then Union home minister) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had banned the RSS, he noted. "Those who call our party 'nakli' (fake) Shiv Sena will call the Sangh 'nakli'," Thackeray further said, referring to Prime Minister Modi's jibe at the Sena (UBT).

Congress seeks Election Commission's action on Modi's 'bulldozer' remark, says he is inciting people

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, May 18: The Congress on Saturday took strong objection to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charge that the party will "bulldoze the Ram temple" if elected to power, accusing him of instigating people and demanded that the Election Commission takes action on him. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said it is BJP that uses the bulldozer. "It is BJP that uses the bulldozer. We have never run a bulldozer on anyone till date. The Election Commission should take action against Modi ji and BJP for saying such things about the temple of God which is currently under construction by the trust. By saying such things, they are creating anger among the public. They are inciting the public, they are instigating them." The Prime Minister himself is giving instigative speeches, action should be taken against

him. If some small leader had done this, we would not have paid attention, but the person sitting on the post of Prime Minister is speaking such language," Kharge said in a post on X. Modi, while campaigning in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on where bulldozers should be used instead. "If SP and the Congress come to power, they will send Ram Lalla back to the tent and bulldoze the temple," he claimed. The Congress president, in his reaction, said Modi is inciting people by saying such things that are impossible as "we cannot do such things". "The people of the country know that this will never happen. After our government comes, everything will be protected. This is what our constitution says, we will work under the constitution only," he said. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the party in its manifesto has promised to "put an end to the weaponisation of laws, arbitrary searches, seizures and attachments, arbitrary and indiscriminate arrests, third-degree methods, prolonged custody, custodial deaths and bulldozer justice".



PM Modi won't debate with me as he can't answer questions on Adani links: Rahul Gandhi

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, May 18: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that Narendra Modi is refusing to have a debate with him as the prime minister cannot answer questions about his "links" with a few favoured businessmen and how he "misused" electoral bonds. Addressing a public meeting organised by the Congress in Delhi, he urged workers of his party and of the Aam Aadmi Party to work together and ensure victory for their alliance on all seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital. "It's interesting that I'll vote for AAP and Arvind Kejriwal will vote for Congress in these elections," he said. Gandhi said the first aim of everyone should be to save the Constitution from those "hell-bent on destroying it". Attacking the prime minister, the Congress leader said, "PM Modi is giving non-stop interviews to his favourite journalists but he will not have a debate

with me because he knows he cannot answer my questions." "PM Modi talks about the Congress getting tempo-loads of money from Adani-Ambani, but he doesn't dare to get it probed," he said. "I'm ready to debate with PM Modi whenever and wherever he wants, but I'm sure he won't come. The first question I would ask PM Modi is what is his relationship with Adani, next I want to ask him about electoral bonds," the former Congress chief said. Gandhi said the debate would end after these two questions only, but he also wants to ask the prime minister why did he ask the public to bang plates and flash mobile phones when people were suffering from the Covid pandemic. "He won't join a debate with me but he

speaks in his rallies only about issues I raise. When I said why he does not talk their channels round the clock. "Still, stringers and cameramen working for these media houses will vote for Congress only," he said. In his speech, the senior Congress leader also referred to his questioning by the Enforcement Directorate. "They got me interrogated by ED for 55 hours till they got tired... They snatched my house, I told them I don't want your house as the entire country is my home," he said. On those joining the BJP, Gandhi said he was fine with it. "We don't want 'darpok' (coward) leaders, we want 'Babbar Sher'. We don't want those who cower fearing CBI-ED action." Talking about Congress and INDIA bloc plans if they are able to form government, Gandhi said, "We will throw the Agniveer scheme in the dustbin, simplify GST and help small businessmen rather than big industrialists."



High Court raps 'incorrigible' Punjab Police for failure to depose in drug cases

Chandigarh, May 18: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Saturday said the State of Punjab did not need a reminder of the widespread drug menace prevalent in "this part of the country" before rapping it for its failure to ensure the presence of police officials as prosecution witnesses in such matters despite assurance by the state police chief. The Bench made it clear that the court would no longer accept apologies and assurances on future compliance by the state. Concrete steps were required to be taken to ensure accountability, including initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials if required. Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul noted that the court had repeatedly observed consistent failure on part of the prosecution witnesses to appear before the trial court to provide their testimony, particularly in cases under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Justice Kaul added the Punjab director-general of police was asked to appear before the Bench on a previous occasion following persistent irregular appearances of the police officials in drug cases. The police chief, in response, gave a categorical undertaking after appearing before the Bench that the prosecution witnesses would regularly attend the proceedings in such matters before the court concerned and get their evidence recorded promptly. "Despite this assurance, the problem persists, and obviously it has not produced the desired results. It is imperative that the State of Punjab addresses the recurring issue of prosecution witnesses' irregular appearances in cases under the NDPS Act and implement effective remedial measures, rather than repeatedly apologizing to this Court. It is made clear that this Court would no longer accept any apologies and assurances by the State of Punjab of future compliance," Justice Kaul asserted.

Karnataka urges Maharashtra to give water from Koyna dam

BELAGAVI: To tide over the worsening drought in several parts of Karnataka, the State Government has appealed to the Maharashtra government for release of water from Koyna dam to the Krishna river, Karnataka PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi has said. Speaking to the media in Belagavi on Friday, Satish said that the government is confident that Maharashtra would release water. The meagre amount of water available in the Krishna river currently would last only for the next 10 days, he said, adding that if the water was released from Maharashtra's Koyna dam, it would help people of several drought-hit areas in North Karnataka.

However, the government would utilise water from Hidkal dam to ensure a continued supply of water to all the affected areas if the situation demanded after 10 days, he said. Arrangements had been made to supply 1 tmcft of water from Hidkal dam to the Krishna river and another 1 tmcft would also be released soon, he said. Tahsildars have been asked to take immediate measures to ensure supply of drinking water in the affected areas, he added.

'Congress will win 14-17 seats in Karnataka'

Including the Belagavi and Chikkodi seats, the Congress would win 14-17 seats in Karnataka in the Lok Sabha elections, Satish said. While stating that the Congress would win more number of seats in Mumbai and Hyderabad-Karnataka regions this time, he said, the decision of the party to field the children of Cabinet ministers would certainly help the party increase its seat tally. The decision to allot the party tickets to the children of ministers was taken by the Congress high command and the BJP had no moral right to criticise it, he said.

Kerala: CSI places its faith in carbon-neutral initiatives

Among 35 schools across the state, 14 record 100% pass rate; 7 students score centum

KOTTAYAM: An ambitious environmental-protection initiative of the Church of South India's Central Kerala diocese is setting a commendable example for others to follow. The diocese is taking proactive steps to ensure carbon neutrality within its community. According to Dr Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian, bishop of the Central Kerala diocese, the goal is to achieve carbon neutrality in all 405 parishes of the church and its affiliate institutions within the next three years. "We have come up with a 15-point project for its successful implementation. Our goal is to create a sustainable environment for future generations, and we are dedicated to making a positive impact on our community and the world. With extreme weather conditions starting to affect us, it is high time to take measures to protect the environment," the bishop said. The strategy includes extensive use of solar energy, planting over one lakh saplings, improving water conservation efforts, implementing efficient waste management practices, and reducing the carbon footprints of church members.

Solar power plants will be installed on the roofs of all CSI churches and schools, and the faithful will be encouraged to do the same in their surroundings. Saplings will be distributed for planting in church



members' backyards and church campuses, with support from the government's Vegetable and Fruits Promotion Council. Additionally, rainwater wells, proper garbage disposal, and compost kitchen bins will be promoted. "We will distribute a form to each parish to track progress, which will be reviewed after a year. We have given orders for one lakh tree saplings, which will be distributed to church members. We also aim to encourage as many people as possible to transition to solar energy, taking into account the financial circumstances," he said.

The Church, according to the bishop, is also focused on educating children on the

importance of environmental conservation. Classes are ongoing to educate schoolchildren, under the aegis of the department of ecological concerns. On June 9, a total 405 students who received training will speak about the importance of environmental conservation and carbon neutrality in each parish. These students will be known as green ambassadors. The project will be officially launched on Tuesday at an event to be held at CSI Retreat Centre in Kottayam. Minister V N Vasavan will inaugurate the programme and Minister P Prasad will launch the afforestation programme. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA will inaugurate the solar project.

Orange alert issued in five TN districts for May 18, 19

CHENNAI: Several places across Tamil Nadu received widespread rains on Thursday and Friday. Mylady in Kanniyakumari district registered the highest rainfall of 7 cm in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Friday. Tiruchendur in Thoothukudi, Valparai in Coimbatore, and Nannilam in Tiruvavur received 6 cm each; Cuddalore and Kottaram in Kanniyakumari received 5 cm each; and Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi received 4 cm during the same period. Karur Paramathi received 4.5 cm of rain from 8.30 am to 7.30 on Friday. Coimbatore, Tiruchy, and Dharmapuri received 3.5 cm, 3.3 cm and 3.2 cm, respectively in the same period. The regional meteorological centre said that the Southwest monsoon is very likely to advance into the South Andaman Sea, some parts of the Southeast Bay of Bengal and Nicobar Islands around May 19. "However, the monsoon will set in the mainland around May 31. TN usually receives 35-37% of annual total rainfall during this period. The moisture level in the interior districts will increase during this period. The rain the state is



getting now is due to cyclonic circulation," said an official from the RMC. RMC's forecast said light to moderate rain at many places with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds with speed of 30-40 kmph at one or two places is likely to continue till May 21. It also added that moderate rainfall is likely in Chennai city. It also gave orange alerts to several districts over the next few days including Theni, Dindigul and Tenkasi for Saturday and Sunday. The alert also extends to Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli on Sunday. Meanwhile, heavy rain is likely over the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupattur, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi and Madurai districts on Saturday.

On Friday, the maximum temperature of various districts was below normal. Meenambakkam in Chennai registered a maximum temperature of 31.6°C, which was 6.8°C below normal; Madurai 30.8°C (6.7°C below normal); and Palayamkottai 31°C (6.3°C below normal). On Thursday, Meenambakkam registered 10.3°C below normal temperature.

Three-day synchronised elephant census in southern states from May 23

The exercise aims to understand the area, the conflict and chalk out better policies for better coordination and future planning.

BENGALURU: An elephant census in the border areas of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh will be held from May 23 to 25. While the elephant census is usually held for an entire forest patch once every five years, this time it will be held only in the border areas of the southern states. "The exercise aims to understand the area, the conflict and chalk out better policies for better coordination and future planning. This is the first time such an exercise is being carried out. It is the outcome of the inter-state coordination committee meeting held in March 2024 in Bandipur Tiger Reserve," said a senior Karnataka Forest Department official. The inter-state meeting was held after a radio-collared tusksless male (makhana) killed a man in Wayanad, Kerala. The makhana was radio-collared by Karnataka forest officials after it was captured in Hassan. In the meeting, an Interstate Coordination Committee Charter 2024 was prepared to foster collaboration for human-animal conflict mitigation. The charter was signed by chief wildlife wardens and heads of forest departments of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu on March 10, 2024.



The charter listed five sections for implementation, one of them included population estimation exercises. Earlier in 2022-23, Karnataka had taken the lead for southern states elephant estimation reports, which showed that Karnataka topped the charts, housing 6,395

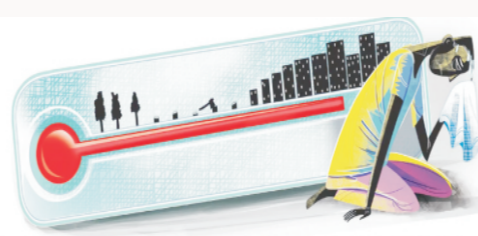
elephants. The report, Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) Population Size and Structure Estimates for Karnataka-Interim Report, August 2023, also quoted that there has been an increase in the population by 346 since 2017. "This census exercise will be limited to only the bordering areas to identify conflict areas and chalk out better solutions. On the first day (May 23), the block count will be done, the transect method will be done on May 24, and the waterhole count will be done on May 25. Radio-collared elephants will also be tracked. Only the wild ones will be tracked and assessed, not those in captivity. The all-India elephant assessment will be done later on a large scale," the official added. In Karnataka, the exercise will be done in Kolar, Bannerghatta National Park, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, MM Hills (all bordering Tamil Nadu), Bandipur Tiger Reserve (bordering Tamil Nadu and Kerala), Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (bordering Kerala), and all three divisions of Kodagu. The other forest divisions of the state are not included in this exercise.

Kerala under-reports illnesses related to heat: central expert

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Even as Kerala sweltered under a hostile summer, the state "significantly under-reported heat-related illnesses", National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) health and climate resilience lead Abhiyant Tiwari has said. In an exclusive interaction with TNIE, Tiwari said only 25% of public healthcare institutions in the state reported such incidents to central authorities. Gujarat, at 95%, leads in reporting of such cases while Telangana comes second with 83%, he said. A leading climate resilience and health consultant, Tiwari was part of the development and implementation of the first Heat Action Plan (HAP) of South Asia in 2013. "Kerala should strengthen its heat and health surveillance system," he said, on the

sidelines of a workshop on 'Impact of Extreme Heat on Kerala' organised by the Kerala Union for Working Journalists (KUWJ) in collaboration with ASAR in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. The National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCCH) – under the Ministry of health and Family Welfare – has been collecting heat-related health illness and mortality data from every state since 2018-19 to come up with policies and programmes to review the impact and to increase national level preparedness.

"I was surprised that the cases in Kerala were under-reported. Only 25% of the public sector health facilities report data to NPCCCH. Kerala, being a pioneer in the health sector, could do better. The state did a



wonderful job during the pandemic and the overall public awareness is much better compared to any other state in the country. But the state is still not at par with our expectation when it comes to heat-health surveillance," Tiwari said. The state should set an example by coming up with technical solutions. I am sure heat health is something (for which) Kerala can set an

example," he added. An effective early warning system could help reduce mortality rate due to disaster by eight times, he pointed out. "What Kerala and any other state should be doing is to come up with strategies and policies to mitigate disasters and increase preparedness. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is preparing strategic policies and new frameworks for various sectors like agriculture, fishing and many more that can be adapted by the states for better preparedness and mitigation," he said. The 15th financial commission has allocated special funds for disaster risk mitigation and the NDMA wants the states to come up with projects and policies to tap these funds, he said.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Quami Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhtimes.in
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

The two were 500 metres away from their house when a street dog began chasing them. In an attempt to shoo the dog away, the youth threw stones.

Tamil Nadu: SC youth attacked as stone thrown at dog lands in graveyard

SALEM: In a disturbing incident that highlights the continuation of caste discrimination, two engineering students hailing from an SC community were assaulted by 10 inebriated people from a dominant caste near Jalakandapuram on Wednesday evening when they were returning home from college. Police arrested one suspect on Friday. According to police, the victims, R Kamalesh and Magi K, both 18-year-old, are studying in a private engineering college at Mecheri. The two were 500 metres away from their house when a street dog began chasing them. In an attempt to shoo the dog away, the youth threw stones, which landed near a funeral site where 10 to 15 intoxicated people were present. Upon questioning the boys about their background, the people learned that both Kamalesh and Magi belonged to the SC community and assaulted them. The students

suffered injuries on their legs and neck and were admitted in Salem GH.

Karthi, Magi's father, said, "The boys are severely traumatised by the incident and are scared to come out." Magi recounted the harrowing experience to TNIE, saying, "I was beaten and subjected to humiliating remarks about my caste. One member of the mob even spat in my face and questioned what I hoped to achieve by pursuing education. I am afraid to leave my home." Jalakandapuram police registered a case under sections 143, 341, 294(b), 323, 324 506 and SC/ST Act.

Sources said A Jayavel, one of the suspects, was arrested on Friday morning. "We are investigating further and searching for others using CCTV footage. We will arrest all the 10 people responsible for this assault," Jalakandapuram police told TNIE.



NEWS BOX

8 killed, more than 20 injured as bus catches fire in Haryana

NEW DELHI. At least eight people were killed and more than 20 sustained injuries after the bus they were travelling in caught fire near Tauru in Haryana's Nuh district in the early hours of Saturday.

The bus was carrying around 60 people, all of whom were residents of Punjab and Chandigarh and were returning from Mathura-Vrindavan. The incident took place around 2 am on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway, according to police reports.

Local residents who witnessed the fire immediately took action, pursuing the bus and urging the driver to bring the vehicle to a halt. They also alerted the police and fire department about the unfolding emergency.

Despite their efforts, at least eight individuals tragically lost their lives, succumbing to the flames inside the bus. More than 20 passengers sustained injuries in the incident and were swiftly transported to nearby hospitals for medical treatment, as confirmed by the police.

Pet pit bull bites child in Noida, owner arrested

Noida. A 22-year-old Sorkha resident was arrested on Friday, days after his pet dog - believed to be a pit bull - bit an 8-year-old boy who was visiting a family next door. Police said Santosh, a Noida resident, filed a complaint at Sector 113 station on May 15. Santosh alleged that on May 14, his son Shivam was visiting his aunt's house in Sorkha village when the pet dog belonging to a neighbour attacked him. Santosh alleged that the dog was never muzzled, and attacked any person who would approach. Shivam has five bite marks on his hands, stomach and other parts of his body, the complainant said, adding that the boy was treated at a city hospital. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against Abhishek Kumar under section 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) of the IPC. Abhishek was arrested, and further investigation is underway," said additional DCP (Noida) Manish Kumar Mishra. On Friday, Abhishek's family - who live in a rented accommodation in Sorkha - said the complainant had deliberately said their pet dog was a pit bull, a breed considered by many to be aggressive. Police said they have asked the district



veterinary officer to ascertain the pet dog's breed. The additional DCP added that Abhishek could not produce the registration certificate of his pet dog when asked. Incidents of dog bites and persistent conflict between animal lovers and residents aren't uncommon in NCR, especially in densely populated areas or in apartment complexes. Often, residents demand stricter rules for keeping and walking pets outdoors, including muzzling the dog - a practice that isn't mandated by the Animal Welfare Board of India. Experts and animal rights activists say the solution isn't to ban any dog breeds, but to ensure that larger and high-energy dogs like pit bulls are not tied up and are kept in larger spaces to ensure they don't become aggressive. Last month, the Delhi high court struck down a central govt circular that banned the import, breeding and sale of 23 dog breeds that it said were considered "ferocious". The list included American pit bulls. The HC was hearing a bunch of pleas challenging the March 12 order that asked states to ban the breeds.

Farmhouse in Noida's Sector-135 raided for 'unauthorized' party; several detained for serving liquor, hookah 'illegally'

NOIDA. In a late-night raid, Noida police detained over half a dozen individuals, including two women, at a farmhouse party in Sector-135 for allegedly serving liquor and hookah without proper permissions. The police were alerted to the event through a social media post that had gone viral. A police team conducted a raid at the farmhouse located within the jurisdiction of Expressway Police Station on the night between Friday and Saturday, confiscating a significant amount of illicit alcohol and hookah. The police stated that they were alerted to a post circulating on multiple social media platforms regarding an unlawfully organized farmhouse event. "We received information from sector 135. A video had gone viral on social media that a party is being organised illegally, following which a team was sent," Additional DCP Manish Kumar Mishra said.

"When the team reached the farmhouse, they found that many outsiders were at the party, and the organizers were serving liquor. It was said that it is a launch party for a song, but on further investigating we found irregularities. We also recovered hookah and smoking material in large quantity," he said. Additional DCP Mishra further said that several people have been detained and their identities were being ascertained. "Two women and a few men have been detained and their identities are being ascertained. They have been taken to the police station, and an inquiry has been initiated. Further action will be taken accordingly," he added.

Boiler blast: Worker's body found; factory owners, 2 others booked

Gurgaon: Two days after a boiler exploded at a factory making catechu extracts at Kundli in Sonapat, the body of a worker was found on Friday. While two workers near the boiler were killed on the spot on Wednesday night, one was missing, and three others were injured and are in hospital. Sukhdev Pandit's body was discovered after an extensive search by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel on Friday afternoon.

Police have booked five people in the case — including the owners of the factory — based on a complaint filed by Sukhdev's son. No arrests have been made so far.

The incident took place at the factory, which is owned by Shree Ganesh Industries, around 11.45pm on Wednesday. The factory caved in and its tin shade was blown away. The bodies of Brajesh and Gulab Kurmi, both in their 20s, were retrieved from the rubble by Thursday morning. A total of 20 people were injured and are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Delhi and Sonapat — some of them were working at the factory when the blast happened, others were rescued from rubble of cave-ins in adjacent



buildings that were triggered by the explosion.

Nearby houses have been evacuated after the incident. The administration is yet to determine if the factory was violating any norms or how many people were on the premises at the time. A team of NDRF personnel, along with firefighters and cops, was deployed on the site late on

Thursday evening to search for Sukhdev and other victims, if any. The rescue work was halted at 9pm and resumed Friday morning.

"Sukhdev's body was found in the debris by NDRF around 2pm. An investigation is underway and we are forming teams to nab the accused," a police officer said.

In his complaint filed at Kundli police

station, Sukhdev's son Chandan Kumar accused the factory owners and its management of negligence. An FIR has been lodged against factory owners Suresh and Sushil Bansal and Akshat Gupta, contractor Sandeep, and the factory manager under sections 304 (causing death by rash or negligent act), 34 (common intention), and 427 (mischief causing damage and loss) of the IPC. Officials of the factory couldn't be reached for a comment despite attempts by TOI. Chandan told cops that the boiler was malfunctioning and despite repeated complaints about the machine as well as the risk of a gas leak, the factory owners failed to address the issue, endangering the lives of the workers. Workers were forced to work under these unsafe conditions, which led to the fatal accident, he alleged. "My father had been working at the factory for about ten years. He was told to work overtime on Wednesday night. When he refused, he was threatened with dismissal and was thus forced to work. Upon receiving the news of the explosion, I rushed to the factory, where I learnt about the casualties and my father being possibly trapped under the debris. We kept trying his phone, but it was unreachable," he said.

Death at police post: Two women arrested for abetment to suicide

Noida. Two women were arrested for abetment to suicide after a 20-year-old bakery staffer, a colleague whom one of them had accused of rape, was found hanging in a police post. Police said the women are sisters who worked at a Bistrakh bakery along with the 20-year-old. They were called in for questioning and taken into judicial remand after being produced before a court on Friday, said ACP-2 (Central Noida) Hemant Upadhyay.

They were booked hours after Yogesh Kumar was found dead in a barrack on Thursday, less than 24 hours after being taken to the Chippyana police chowki. Cops said Yogesh was called for questioning after they received a rape complaint from one of the two women held on Friday. Yogesh's family has alleged that the women were harassing him after a dispute at the bakery over their salaries. They also said cops at the chowki took a bribe of Rs 53,000 from them and demanded another Rs 4.5 lakh to hush up the rape complaint. Yogesh was detained on Wednesday, though an FIR

was not filed over the rape complaint. After his death was reported, Noida police suspended four sub-inspectors stationed at the chowki and ordered an inquiry against cops, including the SHO and ACP. "Both women accused by Yogesh's family have been sent to judicial custody for 14 days. There is evidence that Yogesh was being harassed by them. We also asked them to share any evidence related to the rape complaint. So far, they have not produced anything," Upadhyay said. On Friday, Yogesh's brother Jitendra Kumar told TOI that he was taking the body back to the family's hometown in Aligarh. Crying on the phone, Jitendra said: "Our family has fallen apart." He said Yogesh was planning to shift their elderly mother to Noida. "Ma ko yeh Noida laana chahta tha... ab isse aise dekh ke kya haalat hogi (he wanted to bring mother to Noida... how will she react once she sees him like this)," Jitendra said. He said that their mother was waiting to meet Yogesh, who had told her he will visit Aligarh soon. "Now, Ma will

never be able to meet him again," he added. On the arrests of the two women, Jitendra said they caused harm to his family with false charges. "Our father is a small farmer. We came so far from our home to earn a living. Look what has happened to us," he said. Yogesh's second brother Dharamveer, who also worked at the Bistrakh bakery, said that the women had earlier made similar allegations. The same allegations were made earlier, and a settlement was reached. This happened around a month and a half ago. But the women went and lodged a complaint at Chippyana police post. My brother was harassed and distressed. Because of this, he took the extreme step," Dharamveer said. Asked about the department inquiry against cops, a police officer said investigation is ongoing. "Evidence regarding different charges is being collected. We have to check if due process was followed. We are also going to check if there was any brutality on the part of the police."

Deadline to clear Bandhwari legacy waste set to be deferred again, to Dec 31 this time

Gurgaon. MCG has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that it will process 16.36 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of legacy waste at Bandhwari landfill site by Dec 31. The new deadline suggests an extension from the corporation's previous commitment of completing the processing by June.

According to the affidavit submitted by the corporation on May 14, sanitation agencies working at Bandhwari have already processed 9 lakh MT of legacy waste between Jan 1 and May 13. The breakdown shows that 4.9 lakh MT was processed from Jan to March, and an additional 4.19 lakh MT was processed from April 1 to May 13. The civic body has also estimated that it will receive 3.9 lakh MT of daily waste from May to Dec 31. "We have submitted to the green tribunal that we will process the remaining legacy waste by Dec 31. We have also made an assessment of daily fresh waste that we will receive in coming months. The number of days from May 14 to Dec 31 is 232, and we will have 190 days left for waste processing after deducting monsoon days and festivals," an MCG official said, adding that the waste processing would be carried out at a rate of 8,610 tonnes per day (TDP). MCG has reported to NGT that the processing of 16.36 lakh MT of legacy waste will result in 3.5 lakh MT of refuse-derived fuel (RDF), 9 lakh MT of bioisoi, 3 lakh MT of inert material and 0.73 lakh MT of construction and demolition waste. The municipal corporation's May 14 affidavit also stated, "Sincere efforts are being made for processing legacy trash, daily waste and leachate accordig to the green tribunal's directions. It is prayed that the directions may be passed to NTPC, NHAI, HAU, NCCBM to collaborate with MCG and to utilise fractions obtained by processing of legacy waste." Despite setting monthly targets for garbage processing in December last year, the municipal corporation fell short of its goals, achieving only 50.7% of waste processing in March, 46.5% in February and 19% in January.

We also published the following articles recently: Supreme Court slams authorities over failure to process municipal solid waste generated in Delhi. The Supreme Court slammed Delhi authorities for not processing 3,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily in the national capital, emphasizing the critical issue. CCP will stop picking waste from tax defaulters. The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) in Goa plans to discontinue garbage collection for residents and commercial establishments with unpaid house tax and outstanding dues or lacking a trade licence to prevent financial losses and.

Maintenance of portal hits op at RTO, no driving licence issued for 2 days

Noida. The regional transport office (RTO) has not processed or renewed driving licences since Thursday over software maintenance. Officials said the services were likely to resume by Saturday.

The RTO receives nearly 200 applications for driving licenses daily from Noida and Ghaziabad besides a significant number of applications for rectification and change in name, address and renewal of DLs. The maintenance of Sarathi portal has halted work related to driving licenses in Ghaziabad and Noida, additional regional transport officer (Ghaziabad) Rahul Srivastava said.

"In Ghaziabad, we usually receive around 100 applications for new driving licences

each day, while some individuals visit for changes in their names and addresses," the official said. Services like registration of new vehicles, however, have not been interrupted as the Vahan portal remained unaffected. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) provides two software applications --- Vahan for vehicle registration and Sarathi for driving licenses. "All activities related to driving licenses, such as application forms for learner's licenses, receiving driving licenses, renewals, issuing international driving

licenses, and name and address changes, were paused," said Siyaram Verma, assistant regional transport officer (administration) in GB Nagar.

We also published the following articles recently: Ghatkopar horror: '1,000 legal hoardings in Mumbai', BMC earns whopping Rs 100 crore from licensing. The BMC, the wealthiest civic body in India, manages 1,025 hoardings in Mumbai, generating revenue through licensing fees. It establishes contracts with advertising companies, following a rigorous process for installation.

Come June, night out at Gurgaon bar will be a bigger hit on your wallet

Gurgaon. The state's new excise policy for 2024-25 will make drinking at pubs and bars more expensive from June when it will come into effect once the model code of conduct, now in force for the general elections, is lifted.

Among key changes in the policy that will affect bar economics and almost certainly cascade to the customer's wallet are changes both in base licence fee and business hours. Under terms of the new policy, licence fee will more than double for bars that want to do business till 2am.

Bar and restaurant owners warned the new policy would be detrimental to the city's nightlife and dampen mood in the afterhours at leisure hubs that have been increasingly facing competition from Aerocity in Delhi. The new policy increases the basic annual licence fee for bars to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 16 lakh but shortens business hours allowed under it to midnight from 2am. Bars that want to stay open for business till 2am will need to pay additional Rs 20 lakh as licence fee. Effectively, for the same business hours for which they paid Rs 16 lakh in 2023-24, owners have to shell out Rs 40 lakh. The 8am window - which lets bars in

the city stay open through the night - on payment of a special licence fee remains available, but again, at double the current fee. In 2023-24, bar owners who paid Rs 36 lakh (Rs 16 lakh basic fee and Rs 20 lakh additional) for the 8am window will in this fiscal have to pay Rs 70 lakh (Rs 40 lakh till 2am and Rs 5 lakh per hour thereafter). The new policy will come into effect from June 12. Rahul Singh, founder of Beer Cafe and a member of the National Restaurant Association of India, said a significant portion of the city's population works in the corporate sector and likes to hang out at its different watering holes in the evenings and late evenings. "People come to restaurants and cafes with their families and friends to unwind after long working hours. The reduction in liquor-serving hours and the exorbitant fees for staying open past midnight is not commercially feasible for most restaurants. There are some nightclubs whose business model



operates on different parameters, and they can afford to pay high fees," said Singh.

Singh pointed out that to promote healthy drinking through low-alcohol beverages, excise duty had been reduced on bottled beers, "but it is perplexing why excise duty on draught beer has been increased, considering it is mainly consumed at restaurants and not permitted for retail vendors or at BYOB (ahata) establishments." "Delhi increased annual fee for restaurants by 10%, but Gurgaon has increased the licence fee by 25%,

which might wean away investment and will impact local employment," said Singh.

Ankur Arora of Impromptu described the new policy fees as "regressive" that "make it difficult for standalone restaurants to survive". He said it will ultimately help ahatas, which have in recent years seen a transformation as snazzy 'BYOBs', pulling in customers who would not go to an ahata. "We pay a huge licence fee, rent and taxes and comply with a number of norms, and we will have to pay a premium for operating after midnight even as ahatas can operate till early (morning)," said Arora. Another restaurant owner said reduced business hours under the regular licence would put pressure on margins because the establishment costs are high in the city. "Gurgaon has high rental and operating costs for restaurants and bars. A hike in licence fee will make this business unfeasible for standalone restaurants and smaller players," said the restaurant owner, adding big players will eventually remain in business.

NEWS BOX

Kamala Harris agrees to debate Donald Trump's vice presidential pick

Washington. Vice President Kamala Harris has accepted an invitation from CBS News to debate former President Donald Trump's vice presidential pick this summer, the Biden campaign said on Thursday, as the Republican said he might wait until his party's convention in July to announce his selection. Harris's team told the network she would debate in-studio on Tuesday, July 23, or Tuesday, August 13, and encouraged the Trump campaign to agree to one of the dates for his eventual vice presidential pick. The Trump campaign didn't immediately comment on the debate invite. Trump, in an interview with TMZ taped from New York, said there was "a pretty good chance" he would announce his vice presidential pick at the GOP convention in Milwaukee, which begins on July 15, rather than before. "I don't say anything is 100%, but you're getting pretty close," he was quoted saying. "I'll be doing it in Milwaukee. We're going to have a great time."

The announcement comes after President Joe Biden and Trump agreed to two debates this summer to be hosted by CNN on June 27 and ABC on September 10.

The debates are not expected to take place before live audiences - a key demand of the Biden campaign that contributed to its decision to ditch the debates organised by the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, which had organised every presidential and vice presidential general election debate since 1988.

US teen dies of heart attack after eating ultra-spicy chip in a challenge

World A 14-year-old boy in Massachusetts died of a heart attack after he ate a tortilla chip containing a high concentration of a chemical compound found in chilli peppers. The incident happened last September. However, the cause of the boy's death was determined only on Thursday. According to a report with CNN, the boy, identified as Harris Wolobah, was suffering from a congenital heart defect. In September last year, he attempted Paqui's ultra-spicy "One Chip Challenge" when he ingested the tortilla chip seasoned with both the Carolina Reaper pepper and the Naga Viper pepper. In a statement to CNN, the chief medical examiner's office on Thursday confirmed that Wolobah died of cardiopulmonary arrest after eating a food substance "with (a) high capsaicin concentration." A Paqui spokesperson also told the publication that the challenge was intended only for adults. "Paqui's One Chip Challenge was intended for adults only, with clear and prominent labelling highlighting that the product was not for children or anyone sensitive to spicy foods or with underlying health conditions," he said.

Capsaicin is the spicy, naturally occurring chemical in chilli peppers. The Carolina Reaper Pepper ranks just under pepper spray on the Scoville scale, which measures the pungency of peppers and chillis.

The Naga Viper is a bit less pungent, coming in at around 1.2 million heat units on the scale, which is far spicier than a jalapeno pepper, which comes in at about 5,000 heat units, the report said.

British Sikh peer faces Parliament ban for 'bullying, harassment' while drunk

London The UK Parliament's Conduct Committee on Friday released its report into the conduct of British Sikh peer Lord Kulveer Ranger and found him in breach of the Code of Conduct on bullying and harassment following a drunken incident in the House of Lords.

The 49-year-old Parliamentarian, who has apologised for his conduct, will be suspended for three weeks and also be banned from access to the bars in Parliament for a period of 12 months after the committee said it was "struck by the seriousness of the incident". The report entitled "The conduct of Lord Ranger of Northwood" goes on to detail how two complainants, both members of the Parliamentary community, were accosted with inappropriate comments and invasion of their personal space in a way they found threatening. Their report will now be tabled before the Lords to agree its findings of the sanction after the House reconvenes early next month. "We recommend that Lord Ranger of Northwood be suspended from the service of the House for three weeks," concludes the report by the cross-party Conduct Committee. "We further recommend that Lord Ranger of Northwood be denied access to bars in the House of Lords for a period of 12 months, and that in other Lords catering venues that serve both alcohol and food, he be denied service of alcohol for the same period. We invite the Commons authorities to consider whether a similar response would be appropriate with regard to the facilities administered by that House," it notes. The committee's report follows findings by the House of Lords Commissioner for Standards, Martin Jelley, who concluded Ranger had breached paragraph 19 of the Code of Conduct applying to bullying and harassment.

He, however, recommended a shorter one-week suspension taking Lord Ranger's apology and "out of character" nature of the conduct into account, which the committee felt was not sufficient given the "aggravating factors" of Ranger's alcohol intake and the power imbalance between him and the complainants. "I am deeply mortified at the descriptions of my behaviour. I must say I have little recollection of the incident but that is in no way to diminish how you both have described my actions or how they made you feel," reads Ranger's letter of "sincere" apology to the complainants, also published alongside the committee's report. "Throughout my life I have never seen it fit to behave in an aggressive or rude manner. I can only add that I have had a variety of very concerning health issues for both my children and wife during December and January that have been very stressful and taken a significant toll on my physical capacity and mental health, and may have had some bearing on my wholly uncharacteristic outburst and responses to your questions, for which again I am extremely sorry," he adds. The committee said Ranger did not appeal against either the commissioner's findings or the recommended sanction and instead wrote a further letter of apology to the Conduct Committee, enclosing two character references.

Israel makes advances in Gaza's Jabalia, Hamas attacks tanks in Rafah

Cairo Israeli forces battled Hamas fighters in the narrow alleyways of Jabalia in northern Gaza on Friday in some of the fiercest engagements since they returned to the area a week ago, while in the south militants attacked tanks massing around Rafah. Residents said Israeli armour had thrust as far as the market at the heart of Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, and that bulldozers were demolishing homes and shops in the path of the advance. "Tanks and planes are wiping out residential districts and markets, shops, restaurants, everything. It is all happening before the one-eyed world," Ayman Rajab, a resident of western Jabalia, said via a chat app. Israel had said its forces cleared Jabalia months earlier in the Gaza war, triggered by the deadly Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, but said last week it was returning to prevent Islamist militants re-grouping there. In southern Gaza bordering Egypt, thick smoke rose over Rafah, where an escalating Israeli assault has sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from what was one of the few remaining places of refuge. "People are terrified, and they're trying to get

away," Jens Laerke, UN humanitarian office spokesperson, said in Geneva, adding that most were following orders to move north towards the coast but that there were no safe routes or destinations. As the fighting raged, the US military said trucks started moving aid ashore from a temporary pier, the first to reach the besieged enclave by sea in weeks. The World Food Programme, which expects food, water, shelter and medical supplies to arrive through the floating dock, said the aid was transported to its warehouses in Deir Al Balah in central Gaza and told partners it was ready for distribution. The UN earlier reiterated that truck convoys by land -- disrupted this month by the assault on Rafah -- were still the most efficient way of getting aid in. "To stave off the horrors of famine, we must use the fastest and most obvious route to reach the people of Gaza, and for that, we need access by land now," deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said.

US aid was arriving in Cyprus for delivery to Gaza via the new pier, Washington said. Hamas demanded an end to Israel's siege and accused Washington of complicity



with an Israeli policy of "starvation and blockade". The White House said US national security adviser Jake Sullivan would visit Israel on Sunday and stress the need for a targeted offensive against Hamas militants rather than a full-scale assault on Rafah. A group of US medical workers left the Gaza Strip after getting stuck at the hospital where they were providing care, the White House said.

HUMANITARIAN FEARS The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said troops killed more than 60 militants in Jabalia in recent days and located a weapons warehouse in a "divisional-level offensive". A divisional operation would typically involve several brigades of

thousands of troops each, making it one of the biggest of the war. "The 7th Brigade's fire control centre directed dozens of airstrikes, eliminated terrorists and destroyed terrorist infrastructure," the IDF said. At least 35,303 Palestinians have now been killed, according to figures from the enclave's health ministry, while aid agencies have warned repeatedly of widespread hunger and dire shortages of fuel and medical supplies. Israel says it must capture Rafah to destroy Hamas and ensure the country's safety. In the Hamas attack on October 7, 1,200 people died in Israel and 253 were taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies. About 128 hostages are still being held in Gaza.

Israel said on Friday that its forces retrieved the bodies of three people killed at the Nova music festival in Israel on October 7 and taken into Gaza. In response, Hamas said negotiations were the only way for Israel to retrieve hostages alive: "The enemy will not get its prisoners except as lifeless corpses or through an honourable exchange deal for our people and our resistance." Talks on a ceasefire have been at an impasse.

4 Indians among 6 indicted for staging robberies in US to obtain U-visas

Washington Six individuals, including four Indian nationals, were on Friday indicted by a federal court for staging armed robberies in Chicago and the suburbs so that the victims could apply for immigration visas reserved for certain crime victims in the United States.

According to an indictment unsealed in federal court in Chicago, the four individuals Bhikhabhai Patel, Nilesh Patel, Ravinaben Patel and Rajni Kumar Patel, arranged with Parth Nayi and Kewong Young to be "victims" of the staged robberies so that they could submit applications for U non-immigrant status ("U-visa").

U-Visa is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and is helpful to law enforcement or government officials in an investigation or prosecution. The indictment alleges that the four



individuals paid Nayi thousands of dollars to participate in the scam.

During the staged robberies, individuals acting as robbers brandished what appeared to be firearms, approached the purported victims and demanded money and property, the indictment states. Afterwards, some of the purported victims submitted forms to local law enforcement to obtain certification that they were victims of a qualifying crime and had been or

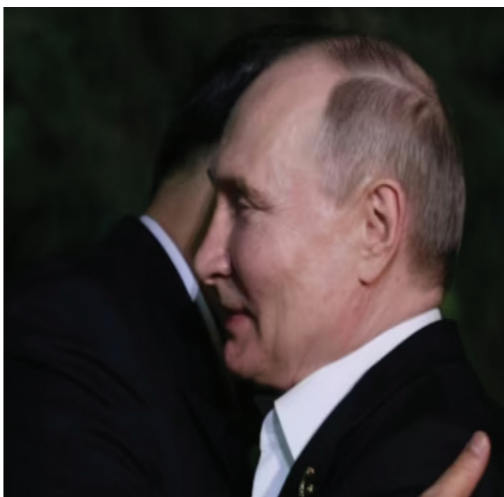
would be helpful in the investigation, the indictment states. Upon receiving certification, some of the purported victims then submitted fraudulent U-visa applications to US Citizenship and Immigration Services predicated upon their alleged status as a robbery victim, the Department of Justice said in a statement. Nayi, 26, Young, 31, Bhikhabhai Patel, 51, Nilesh Patel, 32, Ravinaben Patel, 23, and Rajnikumar Patel, 32, are charged with conspiracy to commit visa fraud.

Ravinaben Patel is also charged with an individual count of making a false statement in a visa application.

The conspiracy charge is punishable by a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison, while the false statement charge against Ravinaben Patel is punishable by up to ten years, the media release said.

Nice for them': White House jokes about Putin, Xi Jinping exchanging hug

- Speaking about Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's meeting that saw the two exchange a hug, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby joked and said, "Well, that's nice for them."



The White House said Friday that it had not seen any surprising advance in relations between China and Russia despite Vladimir Putin exchanging a hug with Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing. "Exchanging hugs? Well, that's nice for them," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told a briefing when asked about the significance of photos showing the two

known for his dry remarks from the podium. The United States has repeatedly voiced concerns about Chinese companies supplying Russia with technology for its invasion of Ukraine. But Kirby said Putin's visit did not seem to have secured any major advances in this regard and Washington had not seen Xi "rush" to assist Moscow's armed forces. "We didn't see anything coming out of this meeting that we were necessarily surprised by," he said. But he added that "I wouldn't go so far as to say we weren't concerned about this relationship and where it's going. "We're watching." Putin arrived Thursday on his first trip abroad since his March re-election, meeting Xi for talks in which the leaders framed their nations' ties as a stabilising force in a chaotic world.



to his family and friends, The New York Post reported. "I found my purpose. I am at peace," the suicide note read. Authorities said they have authenticated the handwriting as that of John Barnett's because only his fingerprints were found on the notebook. Police also said that the Boeing whistleblower was locked inside his truck alone when they found him, along with the key fob. They didn't find any sign of unusual travel patterns or communications in his phone records, and hotel surveillance video also showed Barnett leaving the place alone before reversing into a car park shortly after. No one came or went from his vehicle until he was discovered dead, Fox News reported. Additionally, police said records showed John Barnett bought the handgun legally in 2000. John Barnett was a longtime Boeing employee and worked as a quality-control manager before he retired in 2017. Later, he shared his concerns with journalists, saying he noticed discarded metal shavings near wiring for the flight controls of Boeing planes that could've cut the wiring and caused a catastrophe.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy expects Russia to intensify offensive in northeast Ukraine

Kyiv, UPDATED. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an exclusive interview with AFP on Friday he expects Russia to step up its offensive in the northeast and warned Kyiv only has a quarter of the air defences it needs to hold the front line. Russian forces, which have made only moderate advances in recent months, launched a surprise assault in Kharkiv region on May 10 that has resulted in their biggest territorial gains in a year-and-a-half. Zelenskyy said Russian troops managed to advance between five and 10 km along the northeastern border before being stopped by Ukrainian forces, but added that the region could be the "first wave" in a wider offensive. "I won't say it's a great success (for Russia) but we have to be sober and understand that they are going deeper into our territory," he said, speaking from Kyiv in his first interview with foreign media since the offensive began. Zelenskyy said the situation in Kharkiv region has been "controlled" but "not stabilised". He doubled down on pleas to allies to send more air defence and fighter jets to combat Russia's air superiority as the war grinds through its third year. "Today, we have about 25 per cent of what we need to



defend Ukraine. I'm talking about air defence," he said. Ukraine needs "120 to 130" F-16 fighter jets or other advanced aircraft to achieve air "parity" with Russia, Zelenskyy said. Kharkiv offensive Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a trip to China this week the northeastern offensive was in retaliation for Ukraine's shelling of border regions and that Moscow was trying to create a "security zone". Russian

forces have taken 278 square km between May 9 and 15, their biggest gains since the end of 2022, AFP calculated using data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW). Both countries said Russian troops are still advancing, while Moscow's defence ministry said its forces have captured 12 villages in the Kharkiv region so far. Ukraine has evacuated almost 9,000 people from the northeast border area since Russia launched the

assault. Putin said there was no intention at this stage to take Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, about 30 km from the border. More than one million people still live there. The Ukrainian governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleg Syneubov, warned, however, that Russia was gaining ground near Lukyantsi, a village around 20 km northeast of Kharkiv city. Kyiv pulled its troops back from that area this week amid heavy fire and has rushed in reinforcements. Military analysts say the northeastern offensive could aim to further stretch Ukrainian troops and resources, with Russia pressing its manpower and ammunition advantage. Ukraine army chief Oleksandr Syrsky said Russia was trying to force Ukraine to pull up even more troops from its reserves. "We realise that there will be heavy fighting ahead and the enemy is preparing for it," he said. Mobilisation law As he anticipates a widening Russian offensive, Zelenskyy acknowledged issues with staffing and "morale" within Ukraine's often outgunned and outmanned ranks. "We need to staff the reserves..."

Clay & glass bottles to replace plastic in Srisailam

KURNOOL: Implementing the ban on the use of plastic, the authorities of Srisaile Devasthanam have introduced bottles and cups made of clay, steel, and glass, instead of plastic. As many as one lakh such bottles and at least two lakh cups are made available in the temple so far and one lakh bottles of clay, steel, and copper would be brought in soon. The temple authorities are also planning to set up 60 mineral water plants in addition to 40 plants already available in the temple town. "In the town, water is supplied free to the devotees round the clock. We and forest department officials are working jointly to make Srisaile a plastic-free zone", temple executive officer (EO) D Peddiraju said. Steps are being taken to provide mineral water to the devotees in the temple premises in the same manner as is being implemented in the TTD, he said. He appealed to the devotees to cooperate with the temple staff in the implementation of the ban on the use of plastic. All the business establishments have been advised to set up 'no use plastic-save environment' boards. A special team regularly monitors the implementation of the plastic ban, keeping a watchful eye on the use of small and one-time-use plastic bags in the town. He, however, said they had already banned plastic items that were classified as category 6 (a) as per the direction of the State Endowment Department. The temple has also begun a motivation programme on the need to enforce the ban.

Honey-trap victims' accounts being used to move swindled money

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Unearthing a startling new pattern in cyber crime, the police have found that scamsters have started using honey-trapping methods to get hold of their victim's bank accounts and transfer the swindled amount through them. The new modus operandi came to the fore during a probe into the case in which Rs 3.65 lakh was swindled from a Thrissur native. Police had earlier detected that Cambodia-based financial scamsters were behind the operation, which was reported by TNIE. The police had arrested two people -- Muffliq and Vishnu -- in connection with the case. During a subsequent probe, it was found that the swindled cash was transferred through several bank accounts to throw investigators off the trail. Two bank accounts involved in the transaction were identified and during further probe, it was found that one of them was that of a Keralite. The investigation revealed that the account holder, hailing from Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram, was befriended by a female operative of the cyber crime racket. The woman, suspected to be a Keralite working in the scamming firm based out of Cambodia, sweet-talked the man and used

his bank account to transfer part of the booty to another account. An officer privy to the probe said Rs 1 lakh was deposited to the Varkala native's account by the woman, who then transferred the whole amount to a third account. "The woman

"We can come to a conclusion only after taking his statement," said an officer.

Earlier, the cyber wing had uncovered the identity of around 50 Keralites, including women, who were working for Cambodia-based operators running online financial rackets. It was also found that some of the companies were owned and operated by Chinese nationals, who employ Keralites to target fellow compatriots. Those associated with these firms mostly fell in the 20-30 age bracket and were responsible for collecting details of potential victims, procuring Indian SIM cards, and luring the gullible into investing money in fraudulent schemes. The modus operandi of the scamsters had emerged during the interrogation of 22-year-old Muffliq. He was found to have helped the Cambodia-based handlers access Indian SIM cards. Based on his statement, a mobile shop owner, Vishnu, was arrested for having provided large number of SIMs procured by fraudulent means to Muffliq.

Global link

The new modus operandi of scamsters came to the fore during probe into the case in which Rs 3.65 lakh was swindled from a Thrissur native. Police had earlier detected that Cambodia-based financial scamsters were behind the operation.



lured the man into letting her do the transaction via his bank account. He was not part of the racket and knew nothing about their operation. But as his bank account is involved in the crime, he has been arraigned as an accused," said the officer. Another account used for transactions was found to be that of a Cuddalore native. Police on Friday reached his place to record his statement. However, police sources said they cannot comment on how man's bank account was obtained to circulate the swindled cash.

Fifty years of demands later, six Irular kids receive community certificates in Tamil Nadu

TIRUPATTUR: "It gives me immense joy that my daughter, who will be joining Class 6 in the upcoming academic year, has received her ST community certificate. This will help her pursue higher education and secure dormitory facilities," said S Ambika (35), a resident of the Irular colony in Bapanapalli near Vaniyambadi. On Thursday, Collector K Tharparaj issued Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to six school students from the community, marking a milestone in the nearly 50-year struggle of the residents. For decades, the lack of the document significantly affected the 25 families, comprising 64 residents, from the colony. They were denied housing and other basic amenities by the civic bodies and it further affected their children's education. On December 18, 2023, TNIE highlighted this issue, detailing the community's long-standing difficulties on the same. Meanwhile, an official release stated, the collector issued free pattas to



nine families in Chinnapallikuppam near Ambur. Tharparaj told TNIE that these families would receive free houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or PM's Janman Scheme. He outlined the plans to organise a camp with the revenue divisional officer and tahsildar to ensure that all the Irular residents received their community certificates and government welfare benefits. Ambika said, "Now that nine families have received their pattas and another eight more were asked to submit documents for further processing, we hope the officials will provide community certificates and housing pattas to all the families in the colony."

PwD gets wheelchair, monthly pension

R Saravanan (25), a colony resident who was paralysed last year during an accident while working in a field, was provided with a wheelchair and a monthly pension under disability schemes on Friday. His mother R Eswari, who brought the issue to the collector's notice, said that the district administration assured her son of loan assistance to start a small business.

Karnataka has enough coal to operate its thermal plants

BENGALURU: The State government is stocking up on coal at thermal power plants so they run to full capacity and there are no power cuts. As on May 13, state-run thermal power stations had a stock of 8,51,275 tonnes of coal, and according to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) officials, this is sufficient for the next 15-18 days. Apart from this, 2,00,813 tonnes of coal is available at Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) which is managed by the Adani Group. "We are in a comfortable situation. We are also getting imported coal which is blended with coal generated in other Indian coal mines. A total of 28 rakes are expected to arrive in the coming days. The government wants to ensure there are no power cuts, hence all thrust is on thermal at the moment. Besides, renewable energy is not a completely reliable energy source," said an official from the energy department, not wanting to be named. The official explained that at the moment, the state is generating 967MW of solar and 610MW of wind energy. The total power generated from non-conventional sources is 1,718MW, including mini-hydro and biomass. "When there is cloud cover, like nowadays, there is zero solar generation in some places. Wind is also not constant. All organisations that run on solar energy during the day need equal or more thermal energy post sunset, like the airport. Also, hydro power generation is very limited at the moment because of the drought," the official said.



According to KPCL, hydro generation is 790MW. The total thermal generation is 2,056MW from Raichur, Ballari and Yeramarus thermal power stations. There is an additional 888MW from IPP-thermal power plants. The power generation from state sources as on May 17, is 3,825MW. "To meet net zero emission target and the Paris Agreement, there is a need to reduce coal-based power generation. But at moments like these, there is no option. It is the only reliable backup source of power."

Pocso case against lawyer: Madras HC bins 'defective' final report, orders fresh one

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has quashed the final report (chargesheet) filed in a Pocso case against a lawyer and her partner, charged with sexually assaulting her 13-year-old son, after finding out that the investigation had not touched upon the bribery charges against a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) member who allegedly influenced the probe at the instance of the woman's estranged husband (the boy's father). "This court is of the view that the final report is defective in the sense that the matter has not been investigated holistically," Justice G Jayachandran said in a recent order. The judge noted that the police probe did not take into account the report of the inquiry conducted by the district collector, that proved CWC member Selvi Baskar, an acquaintance of the lawyer's estranged husband, had reportedly been paid Rs 1.10 lakh for influencing the investigation. Disposing of two petitions, one filed by the lawyer seeking the quashing of the final report and the other by her estranged husband seeking a speedy trial, the court directed Tambaram police commissioner to appoint another investigating officer to file a fresh final report within four months. The woman's petition stated that the Pocso case was registered against her and one Arun Pandian in 2022 based on a plaint filed by her son, and claimed that he was influenced to do so by his father. She further alleged that he also bribed the CWC member, which was proved in an inquiry held by Chennai and Chengalpattu collectors.

Central intelligence dept asks Andhra Pradesh government to step up vigil for a fortnight from June 4

VIJAYAWADA: In the wake of the post-poll violence that rocked parts of the State, the Central intelligence department has reportedly asked the State government to be on high alert as it apprehends disruption of law and order in the State on the day of counting (June 4). The intelligence agencies reportedly asked the government to remain alert at least for two weeks after the counting and step up security in all problematic locations in the State. Following the post-poll violence reported at various places in the State, the Central intelligence wing reportedly collected crucial information pertaining to the law and order situation in the State and apprised the government. According to sources, personnel of the Central

intelligence department have been stationed at various places in the State for the past two months to monitor the law and order situation. In a report, the officials mentioned the clashes in Palnadu,

intelligence agency has asked the State official machinery to observe the trends that emerge after counting starts and act accordingly. After the alert was issued, Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta convened a meeting and directed all district collectors and SPs to step up vigil in their respective regions with the help of Central Armed Police Forces and by making additional deployments. The officials were instructed to identify other problematic locations immediately and keep a tab on suspected trouble-mongers to prevent untoward incidents. Jawahar Reddy warned of stringent action against errant officials if they fail to comply with the ECI and Central intelligence guidelines.



Jammalamadugu and Anantapur. The officials further reported that more than 20 Assembly constituencies and two Parliament segments are most prone to violence on the day of counting and the following few days, sources said. They added the

Pantheerankavu domestic violence case: Rahul's friend arrested, released on bail

KOZHIKODE: The special investigation team on Friday arrested Pantheerankavu domestic violence case accused's friend P Rajesh who helped him flee from the country. Rajesh, a native of Mankavu, helped the accused Rahul P Gopal leave the country by taking him to Bengaluru from Kozhikode. The probe team under the leadership of Feroke ACP Saju K Abraham produced Rajesh, who is the fourth accused in the case, at Kozhikode Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, and the court granted him bail. Rajesh was arrested under Section 212 of IPC for harbouring the offender during the subsequent investigation. Police said that Rajesh is the one who made all the arrangements for Rahul to leave the country. The police also got

evidence that Rajesh was at Rahul's home when he assaulted his wife. The police found out that Rahul contacted his sister and Rajesh on WhatsApp after reaching Germany. The police have issued a lookout notice for Rahul. Rajesh revealed to the police that Rahul had reached Germany via Singapore from Bengaluru. Rahul, who is working in Germany as an engineer, beat up his wife, who is a resident of North Paravoor in Ernakulam, and strangled her using a mobile phone charger cable on May 12. The family of the woman approached the Pantheerankavu police with a complaint of domestic violence and murder attempt. Rahul escaped to Germany after police registered a case and intensified the investigation. Police initially said that

Rahul was under their surveillance and a case will be registered after collecting his statements. However, the news of domestic violence and police inaction became a controversy. Later, Rahul went absconding since Monday night. Meanwhile, a video message of Rahul stating that he has reached abroad was released on Thursday. The father of the complainant alleged that the accused left the country due to the failure of the police officers who initially investigated the case. "The first investigators were actually helping the accused to escape and if they had lodged an FIR and arrested him then, the accused wouldn't have escaped," said Haridas, the complainant's father. Feroke ACP Saju K Abraham informed that the

procedures to locate Rahul in Germany have been started. "A Blue Corner notice was issued by Interpol on Friday following a request sent through the Ministry of External Affairs to get the information of the accused in Germany. We are awaiting their response. Once their report is received we will initiate the procedures to issue a Yellow Corner Notice to locate the accused and nab him," said Saju K Abraham, investigation officer. Meanwhile, the investigation team again issued notices to Rahul's mother and sister asking them to appear for questioning by 5 pm on Friday. Rahul's mother and sister were called for questioning, but both have informed that they are unable to do so owing to health issues, police said.

It's time to 'belong', not just 'fit in'

Bengaluru. It is not hard to notice that Karnataka is the microcosm of India. The diversity in terms of religions, castes (and sub-castes), languages and the racial mix gives the state a character which reflects that of the whole country. But such a diversity poses a challenge to make some segments 'belong' to the whole rather than merely 'fit in' to display that diversity. Throw in a hefty dose of political agenda-linked hollow narratives — as we are witnessing with the ongoing electoral process — and that very diversity threatens to be compromised. Deep fissures appear in

society. Each segment in this diverse mix seems to be merely 'fitting in' to make the whole rather than 'belong' within the society. Terms like 'minority', 'majority', 'upper caste', 'lower caste' and such — which are potential vote banks for the politicians — become words spelling division, bringing the proud "unity in diversity" tag line under a cloud. This goes against the human need to 'belong'. The 'othering' and the "us-and-them" narratives are seeded in these.

Erich Fromm, the German-American social psychologist, psychoanalyst and sociologist, in his famous work *Escape From Freedom*,

writes, "Religion and nationalism, as well as any custom and any belief, however absurd and degrading, if it only connects the individual with others, are refuges from what man most dreads: isolation."

The 19th century French novelist and playwright, Honore de Balzac, states in *The Inventor's Suffering*: "...man has a horror for aloneness. And of all kinds of aloneness, moral aloneness is the most terrible... The first thought of man, be he a leper or a prisoner, a sinner or an invalid, is to have a companion (or companions) of his fate. In order to satisfy this drive... he applies all his

strength, all his power, the energy of his whole life..." One might instantly point out that whatsoever the divisions, we do belong to some segment or the other. But belonging has various levels, mainly categorised into intimate, personal, social and public. As no human is completely isolated by society, like a marooned creature, it is assumed that the intimate and the personal side of 'belonging' is a given. It is the latter two (social and public belonging) that gain importance for groups and communities. They can't just exhibit a sense of belonging by only 'fitting in' to display a whole, they actually must get that

sense of 'belonging' to the society, the state and the nation. Brené Brown, researcher and storyteller who studied courage, vulnerability, shame and empathy, accurately explains the difference between 'fitting in' and 'belonging'. In her book, *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*, she explains, "...fitting in and belonging are not the same thing. In fact, fitting in is one of the greatest barriers to belonging. Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be in order to be accepted."

All is not bright on the BJP front

THE Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the more recently established National Stock Exchange (NSE) have spoken. The BSE's Sensex, which began teetering after the first round of the Lok Sabha elections, fell with a bang by a thousand points after the third phase! Sensex and the BSE's Nifty are fairly reliable guides to political situations. In 2014, the market was anxiously awaiting the arrival of a right-wing government. Speculators had predicted a victory for the BJP. The party's performance in the polls was even better than what the optimists had visualised. Sensex took off at a very fast clip initially and then settled down to a steadier pace till it reached astronomical heights recently when Modi declared that he was aiming for 400 Lok Sabha seats. The share market is the biggest single gambling den in my city. Of course, gambling on stocks is perfectly legal, though very risky all the same. The operators are not going to venture in without their dollop of khabar. Since their money is at stake, the gems of information that Dalal Street operators collect are more authentic than what normal rumour mills produce.

The steep drop in the prices of shares like those of Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, L&T and TCS, all market leaders, is nothing but ominous. The market feels that the Modi-Shah duo is in trouble. I suspect (kindly note that my suspicion is just that — a suspicion) that the voting trends must have been garnered from the foot soldiers serving the army of 'exit' pollsters. They have been debarred by the Election Commission of India (ECI) from publicising their findings till the last vote is punched in on the last day of the month-and-a-half-long battle. The BJP's inability to enthrone voters this time has been doing the rounds on the streets of our cities and towns. That there is no 'wave' is also apparent. The use of unfair, ungentlemanly tactics like imprisoning a leader of a national party at election time is another clear indication of the nervousness that has taken hold. Even the spectacular inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya did not help, as we now note with the benefit of hindsight.

To add what we desic call masala to the narrative, one of the first accusations Arvind Kejriwal made on being released on bail to canvas for INDIA candidates was that Narendra Modi would step down at the age of 75 in September next year and that he would be succeeded by Amit Shah as the Prime Minister. This possibility, which incidentally the common man had already predicted, ruffled the feathers of BJP bigwigs. Four of them — Shah himself, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and JP Nadda — protested vociferously. They asserted that Modi would serve his full term of five years.

By doing so, they confirmed two hypotheses that would often be debated in parlours and marketplaces and set our doubts at rest. The first was that Modi's diktat that leaders should retire at 75 applies only to his colleagues, not to him. The second, more relevant to us citizens, is that Shah is not the people's choice or even the BJP's rank and file's choice for the top job. The very mention of that possibility by a sworn enemy (Kejriwal) set the alarm bells ringing. Kejriwal is set to return to Tihar jail on June 2. Before that date, he should draw some more rabbits out of his AAP hat in order to elicit some more truths from the BJP's top brass. When Kejriwal was released on bail by the Supreme Court, a BJP leader even suggested that the honourable judges were taking sides in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. That inference was in very poor taste. The judges explained in detail why they had decided as they did. What the judges refrained from saying, but was probably on their minds, was that it was the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which was taking sides in the elections by waiting for nearly two years to arrest the leader of an up-and-coming party like AAP. The ED had issued summons to Kejriwal nine times before the arrest. It could have applied the guillotine after the third summons was dishonoured. But, no, the ED obviously had a grander design. By releasing Kejriwal for the period of the elections, the judges have righted a wrong that the ED had perpetrated and provided a level playing field for the electoral game. The decision restored the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary which, unfortunately, was under question at times of late.

This election is a litmus test of our collective wisdom

The war was a result of then Pak army chief Gen Musharraf's wish to change the status quo along the LoC.

WITH the conclusion of the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 13, the electoral fate of contestants from 379 of the 543 seats seeking election to the highest forum of Indian democracy is sealed in ballot boxes. The election, seen as transformative of the nation's political landscape, is witnessing a spirited pushback to the Modi regime from the INDIA bloc, even as the ruling dispensation led by the PM has had a clear head start in scripting its campaign theme.

The Opposition's counter narrative, focused on the defence of constitutional democracy and its concomitant values, is premised on the authoritarian impulses of a muscular state that negate the first principles of liberal democracy and accountability of power enshrined in the nation's republican charter. The unprecedented arrests across India of the ruling regime's key political adversaries, a demonstrable decline of constitutional institutions, a captive bureaucracy and a generally obsequious media, are cited in support. Ensuring a national resonance for its inspirational narrative is the principal challenge for the Opposition. Regrettably, the diminishing and debilitating tone of a cacophonous campaign on both sides seems to have drowned out the real issues, with abuse and calumny substituting for reason and contestation. The perversion of democratic discourse helmed by leaders unable to rise above themselves attests to a flailing democracy. The pursuit of power for its appellations alone, with scant regard for its ends and a cynical deriding of political idealism as a utopian dream to be argued out of consciousness, presents the electoral exercise as clothing the pursuit of personal ambitions with a semblance of democratic legitimacy. If indeed the BJP and the Opposition consider this election a watershed moment that will determine the future of the country, they must continue to focus public attention on core national issues. The INDIA bloc, speaking in multiple voices, cannot forget "the plain lesson of history, that the wants of men will only

secure recognition to the point that they are forcibly articulate..." as Harold Laski put it. The power of a clear statement is critical for the success of the Opposition's campaign. Apart from an unrelenting focus on its core campaign theme, communicated and made intelligible to each voter, the alliance

exceptional tenacity of purpose and will to prevail against the combined opposition of 26 parties. He has strategically anchored his party's campaign in an appealing sense of national glory, hope for the people in their future and emotional sensitivities, and he may well win a third consecutive term in office. But he would, in his wisdom, know that the ideas of justice, dignity and freedom outlive the seduction of power. As the leader of a nation defined by its diversity, he must accept that his primary obligation is to nurture a unifying politics to sustain national unity and bridge the myriad socio-political divides. Electoral victory must mean more than an arithmetical majority. Irrespective of who forms the government, victory must belong to those whose politics and votes sustain and strengthen a democracy founded on justice and human dignity, in which all of us can hold our heads high as empowered citizens of an enlightened nation that aspires to be the vishwaguru.

In this aspirational view of our common future, there is no scope for narrowness of mind, wilfulness or

transient responses to political exigencies at the cost of the nation's foundational principles. In this moment of test, those who stand on the side of freedom will find themselves on the right side of history. This election, seen as a historic milestone in the life of the nation, will test our collective wisdom on how we establish justice as the first virtue of social and political institutions and the basis of a just state. The election is about reinforcing the liberties of equal citizenship and ensuring that the power sought in the name of the people is used in furtherance of their inherent rights. It will define the land and its people, who alone must mediate their future, remembering that the inviolability of freedom depends on the moral courage, fearlessness and magnanimity of its defenders. This election cannot be about one's victimhood. It must instead heal the deepening fissures in our social fabric so that we can claim that Indian democracy is not a beguiling dream.



cannot shirk the critical question of an alternative leadership of the nation. The Congress, as the principal Opposition party, has advisedly chosen not to formally present its chief campaigner, Rahul Gandhi, as the prime ministerial candidate. Whatever the limitations and logic of the situation, the question of leadership will be critical to the outcome of the campaign, flawed comparisons with the past notwithstanding. As a necessary condition of revitalising itself to serve as the fulcrum of Opposition unity, the grand old party must recognise the distinction between servility and loyalty of its members. Only then can it reclaim the willing allegiance of its alienated cadres. In its internal functioning, it must listen magnanimously to 'the hidden silences'.

Evidently, self-effacing humility and generosity of heart to heal the erasure of conscience are critical attributes of leadership needed for national renewal. The PM, as the chief campaigner and torchbearer of his party's ideology, has demonstrated an

Deadly oversight

Billboard collapse calls for liability, reform



THE collapse of a massive illegal billboard following a storm in Mumbai that claimed the lives of 16 people and injured 75 — all passersby — has exposed a troubling nexus between negligence, corruption and regulatory failure. The disaster underscores the human cost of systemic oversight and dereliction of duty.

The billboard, weighing 250 tonnes and far exceeding permitted dimensions, was erected in blatant violation of civic guidelines. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had raised concerns about the hoarding two years ago, yet no substantial action was taken to address the hazard. The failure to enforce regulations or dismantle the illegal structure exemplifies the dangerous complacency and possible corruption in municipal circles. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Last June, a huge hoarding on a highway near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu collapsed, killing three workers on the spot. The police said it had been installed without

authorisation by the civic body. In 2019, a young woman died in Chennai when an illegal banner fell on her. Such

incidents point to a pattern of negligence and regulatory lapses that put lives at risk. Culpability extends beyond the advertising agency behind the billboard. The BMC, which allowed this violation to persist despite knowledge and prior warnings, bears significant responsibility. The filing of a culpable homicide case against the advertising agency owner, Bhavesh Bhande, is a necessary but insufficient step. Accountability must be comprehensive, holding all parties responsible for this preventable tragedy. The announcement of compensation by CM Eknath Shinde does not suffice to address the underlying regulatory rot. This mishap should prompt an overhaul of regulations governing outdoor advertising and other hazardous structures. Robust safety audits, stringent enforcement of guidelines and zero tolerance to violations are needed to ensure citizens' safety across the country.

Stringent laws have made prolonged detention norm

Why aren't district courts and high courts doing their job of providing legal redress in cases of personal liberty

IN the film world, we are used to the phenomenon of delayed releases. It seems to be so in the judicial world as well. Arvind Kejriwal has been released after 50 days in captivity, all during peak election campaigning. And now the Supreme Court has set at liberty Prabir Purkayastha after he has been inside a prison for about 225 days. While there is relief at the release, one must question why it takes so long, and what kind of laws keep men behind bars so easily.

Purkayastha is the head of NewsClick, an online journalistic platform known for its sharp reporting, independent views and for not being particularly respectful of the powers that be. People like him are irritants to excessively strong governments, which like media outlets to be supportive by nature or bought out otherwise. How dare he focus on the farmers' agitation, Covid failures and the like! He was charged with a rather unusual offence — of accepting funds from Chinese sources to influence the political narrative in India. A bit surprising, since one doesn't remember any pro-Chinese narrative from NewsClick. While one should be wary of China, one would have thought that would extend to preventing border incursions and curbing excessive dependence on imports. But no, Purkayastha is the problem, it seems. An associate turned approver — not pretty to wonder about that since this is happening pretty regularly now, as witnessed in the Kejriwal case. The flaw in the case was a gaping one. Purkayastha and his lawyer were not informed about the grounds for his arrest and the remand order was passed before the lawyer had received the remand application. Now this kind of non-conformity with the law is what lawyers and judges call "going to the root of the matter"; it vitiates the entire proceedings. Notice that this flaw happened on day one. Yet, and this is what should disturb us, it has taken the judicial

system more than half a year to release him.

We need to focus on why it is that invariably the accused has to travel all the way to the apex court to obtain release. Why aren't district courts and high courts doing their job of providing legal redress in cases of personal liberty? While the members of the former may not feel sufficiently protected, HC judges have as much constitutional protection for their independence as the judges of the Supreme Court have. What prevents them from stepping up to the plate, especially when the facts are stark enough? The system works well when each level of the judiciary plays its part, and an overdependence on the highest court is not healthy. Even there, we have seen the unusual phenomenon of withdrawal of personal liberty cases of prominent individuals after a noticeable change of the roster. One cannot blame our judges overmuch, however. The chief problem is the monstrous nature of the laws under which these detentions are made. These are the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Purkayastha, Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navlakha, the late Father Stan Swamy and other Bhima Koregaon accused were held under the first, and Kejriwal, Hemant Soren, K Kavitha, Manish Sisodia and other politicians under the latter. These Acts and later amendments — and here both the BJP and Congress governments are to blame — make it virtually impossible to get bail, mandating that the judge first find that the accused is prima facie innocent; this is an inversion of the time-honoured principle of presumption of innocence. This principle is the first rule of civilised societies, and any departure from it, unless justified by extreme risk to society, is an indication that the rule of law has

become a casualty to politics. There are other damaging provisions — the authorities can arrest without much cause; the normal criminal law restrictions on the police are absent; confessions obtained in custody are valid. Above all, there is the



application of this draconian statute to ordinary offences. Even the dreaded Maintenance of Internal Secudrdity Act (MISA), 1976, had an advisory board of high court judges to review detentions during the Emergency; it is noteworthy that the laws in question have no such provision in free India. The sad part of the story is that the SC has upheld the validity of these laws — lock, stock and barrel — for the State and against citizens. A blot on our judicial landscape is the judgment of Justice AM Khanwilkar in the VM Choudhary case, equalling the constitutional and

public damage that was done in that infamous judgment (ADM Jabalpur vs Shivkant Shukla, 1976) where it was held four to one (the great Justice HR Khanna dissented) that with the proclamation of the Emergency and suspension of fundamental rights, citizens were at the mercy of the State. The SC has admitted a review of the Choudhary judgment, but this is another priority case languishing without a hearing. Of cheer today, however, is the judgment of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, curbing the ED's power to arrest after the special court takes cognisance of a complaint. Purkayastha's long detention is particularly disturbing because courts worldwide are usually quick to examine cases of journalists being held in preventive custody. The judiciary and a free press are pillars of democracy, and the courts must be more vigilant in checking overbearing governments of whichever hue which threaten their members. But recent detentions have lasted long — journalist Siddique Kappan, for example. In contrast, Arnab Goswami (albeit not arrested under these laws) got double-quick release; these are not good messages to send out.

he record of the authorities in proving guilt and securing convictions under these laws is abysmal — as low as 3 per cent. This means that citizens were being held despite being innocent, and often without reasonable cause. When will our laws and courts start thinking about compensation for unjust imprisonment and deprivation of liberty? And when will we teach officers of such agencies and their political masters that they do not have immunity for mala fide and wantonly wrongful acts? Is the arm of the law sufficiently long?

5 most lucrative Careers



Read on to find out...

Translators

With globalisation, the demand for translation and language-related services has witnessed a significant increase. Making a career in this field requires specialised training and a professional orientation. Today, translators are hired not only to promote literature and cross-cultural activities, but also to help companies keep pace with globalisation.

Professionals are in high demand in BPOs and localisation companies, embassies and multinational organisations. Graduates with a Bachelor's degree in a foreign or Indian language, with basic IT training, can earn anywhere between Rs 30,000 to 40,000 per month as freshers. The IT revolution and popular use of web 2.0 technologies worldwide have further increased the employment opportunities for translators. As more and more

multinational companies look to enter the Indian market, speakers of Hindi and other Indian languages are in high demand.

Advertising professionals

Though a traditional favourite, the advertising industry has evolved to encompass mobile and digital advertising along with media like TV and print.

A passion for the field, coupled with the willingness to adapt to a dynamic

environment and ability to perform under pressure are crucial. One must also be creative and have strong people skills.

One can enter any of the varied sub-fields of advertising, media planning and buying, production, digital marketing, events and activation, channel marketing, radio, PR, outdoor and ambient media marketing, etc. Freshers can expect anything between Rs 3,00,000 to 5,00,000 a year.

Actuaries

Actuaries are risk experts. They use their mathematical skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events, juggling complex data and making sense of it to inform business decisions. Useful to many industries where a single decision can have a major financial impact, this creates a great demand for actuaries' skills throughout the financial sector. While the traditional areas of life insurance and pensions are still at the heart of the actuarial profession, general insurance, investment and risk management are seeing very strong growth, indeed general insurance is now the second most popular area for the student base.

Apart from an understanding of how businesses operate, strong technical skills are crucial to succeed in this industry. Even more important is the ability to communicate the technicalities of topics of risk and insurance to non-specialists. Professionals can work in the insurance industry, actuarial consulting firms of multinational insurance companies in their outsourcing setups and risk management and information technology. In India, there is an increase in demand for skilled actuaries as multinationals grow and expand their businesses into the country.

IT programmers developers

Application programmers create and modify computer applications. They write codes to create software applications. Familiarity with programming languages and general software is mandatory. Strong analytical and logical reasoning can be an added advantage. Freshers can earn upwards of Rs 4 lakh per annum.

Veterinarian

Veterinary medicine focuses on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and illnesses among animals. Apart from curing, it also focuses on the well-being and welfare of animals, qualifying veterinarians to fulfill a variety of roles. Apart from being compassionate towards animals, those who wish to make a career in this field must have keen interest in medicine and science, with basic English speaking skills. Knowledge of an additional local language always comes handy. Those who wish to make a career in this field must also be patient, must have an eye for detail, good observation skills and the will to work at odd hours. A number of private as well as public firms are now taking up veterinary and animal husbandry as



an entrepreneurship venture, particularly in areas of modern farming, biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology, vaccines, diagnostics, feed and value added animal products thereby opening up new avenues for veterinary graduates. Veterinarians can work as livestock development officers, posted in interiors of the country to reach out and assist the rural population. Besides this, veterinarians also have the opportunity to be placed in the defense and paramilitary services.

Cover letter Essentials

Most hiring managers these days prefer that candidates send them a cover letter while applying for a position in their organisation. Here are a few things an ideal cover letter must include.

A cover letter is a two-minute elevator pitch for someone to get interested in the product i.e. the resume. Hence, it should be appropriately packaged and presented. If this pitch fails to impress, the chance of getting the opportunity is lost. In today's world, where there are other sources of references like LinkedIn, Twitter, web blogs and where resumes are mainly sent through emails, the cover letter assumes more importance and has to stand out from a vast pool of applications. Though one should not care too much about the "rules" and should try to be memorable and nail down their competencies well to stand out, there are certain points to consider while writing a cover letter.

- Customise your letter:

Cover letters need to be made specific to the job opportunity one is



applying for; it cannot be the same for all jobs. This is the first impression a candidate can create and it has to be specific as to why she is the best candidate for the job. In a few lines, the cover letter should contain a summary of one's experience and an optimism of why the candidate thinks this opportunity is best suited for them.

- Research:

A good amount of research has to be done about the organisation one is applying to. Research should be done about the company's vision, leadership team, company's success and challenges, products and the latest news on the organisation. This helps the candidate to refer to some of these aspects as part of the cover letter to create a connection. One needs to get a good sense of the company's tone, language and culture, which are crucial elements that one should mirror while writing.

- Focus:

One should focus on what needs to be highlighted. The cover letter need not be a reposition of resume or a summary of the resume. It should focus on the skills and capabilities which have been acquired through the previous employment experiences and how it connects to the present opportunity. Focus more on quality parameters than quantity. If one is applying for a job in tech, they might talk about how the company's technology is changing people's lives and how thrilling it is to be a part of this transformation. If one is applying for a job in fashion, they can talk about how fashion has changed since the 90s and the factors influencing today's fashion trends. Everything has a hidden history. Use it to show expertise and interest.

- Be realistic: Downplay the use of adverbs like "absolutely thrilled for the opportunity" or "very excitedly applying!" Just showcase your competency and why you make the ideal fit for the position. Cut the fluff. Avoid, at all costs, describing yourself as a "team player" or a "people person"; instead, show off your skills with descriptive statements like: "I'm an expert communicator with X numbers of years' experience and with the ability to bring together diverse departments to develop a cohesive programme." It is longer, but stronger.

- Testimonials:

Finally, while you are ending the cover letter, do provide a solid testimonial which may be from your professional social account as the final pitch of why this resume matters the most. This is the resume brand with customer testimonial; choose it properly as it should be the best one for this opportunity.

Establishing a start-up of any kind isn't easy and managing it is an altogether daunting task. Here are a few tips to lead a new venture competitively.

A vital quality for successful entrepreneurs, leadership skills are important while being at the helm of a start-up. It is niche since holding the reins of a new venture entails effectively managing employees who leave the allure of big organisations to work in a different environment and take up opportunities that wouldn't usually come their way.

Shubra Bhardwaj, CEO, founder and director, Ferriswheel (an event management firm) says that styles of leadership change depending upon the size of the company and its employee base. Talking about the distinguishing features of a start-up, he says, "The driving force behind a successful start-up is thinking out-of-the-box. The environment in such a company is also homegrown and informal as opposed to a large company where employees are bound by well laid out codes of conduct."

According to Andrew Warren Smith, managing director, DDI India, the largest issue confronting start-ups is the risk of failure. "With a 90% failure rate amongst start-ups, leaders must be aware that the odds are stacked against them. Large corporates thrive by maintaining their status quo repeating successes of the past and leveraging scale to remain competitive. Hence, it is important for leaders to back their desire to succeed with innovations that can not only disrupt the status quo, but also carve a niche for the organisation."

He elaborates further saying that leadership in start-ups goes beyond merely possessing entrepreneurial and commercial skills and has to be coupled with a strong execution capability. "Entrepreneurs today must identify market opportunities and implement robust and sustainable plans that can quickly and efficiently capitalise on these factors."

BOOST EMPLOYEE MORALE

An essential quality of a good business leader is to instill a sense of confidence among his/her employees. This is especially important in start-ups where individuals are constantly trying to prove their mettle in newer ways. A little pat on their backs can surely help them go a long way.

Says Swapnil Kamat, founder, CEO and

How to run a successful Start-up



chief trainer at Work Better, an executive education and training firm, "Irrespective of the size of an organisation there are a few things that help improve employee morale. Acknowledging their contributions towards the growth of the company, appreciation of the efforts put in and updating them about the progress of the firm are some of the ways to keep them going."

"As a start-up leader, it's quite stimulating for me to be around my team whenever difficult situations arise. This brings a lot of positive energy and a sense of oneness to work. One thing that keeps me as well as my team motivated is ongoing communication -addressing work issues, discussing matters and giving honest feedback to each other," expresses Bhardwaj.

PEOPLE MANAGERS VS SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

As a start-up leader, it is important to be observant of your people, understand their aspirations and give them timely feedback all year round in order to get the most out of them. It is also important to let your employees know that subject matter experts are as important and vital to an organisation as senior ranking managers, in charge of handling teams of employees.

Secondly, a start-up leader needs to play an active part in helping each team member understand their strengths, weaknesses and what the organisation expects from them.

TO SUCCESSFULLY LEAD A

START-UP:

Be resilient and always on the lookout. Leaders of start-ups need to be passionate and ambitious, display high-levels of energy and initiative. Typically dissatisfied with the status quo, they must be competitive and reluctant to take no for an answer. They must also be good at identifying opportunities for new products, services and markets. Be confident and engaging. Such leaders convey a simple, vivid picture of the organisation's vision and goal and generate energy and enthusiasm that can invoke passion among employees to work towards a common goal. Be ready to take risks. Leaders of start-ups need to recognise risks and pursue actions that have acceptable levels of risk. They need to proactively build and align stakeholders, capabilities, and resources for getting things done quickly. They must also be flexible to adapt to change and mend the work environment accordingly. Be self-aware and receptive. Start-up leaders need to be aware of their impact on others, seek input, be receptive to feedback and take action to improve themselves based on such feedback. Have a solid vision. Your vision of the company is vital and must be backed with conviction. The ultimate test however, is instilling it among employees and encouraging them to put in their best effort towards the company.



Indian students in Kyrgyzstan asked to stay indoors after mob violence

New Delhi: India, as well as Pakistan, on Saturday advised students in Bishkek "to stay indoors" amid mob violence targeting international students erupted in Kyrgyzstan's capital city. While the Embassy of India in Kyrgyzstan said the "situation is presently calm", Pakistan's mission said a few hostels of medical universities in Bishkek, where students from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan reside, have been attacked amid the violence.

"We are in touch with our students. The situation is presently calm, but students are advised to stay indoors for the moment and get in touch with the Embassy in case of any issue. Our 24-7 contact number is 0555710041," the Indian mission in Bishkek tweeted. According to data from the Ministry of External Affairs, some 14,500 Indian students reside in Kyrgyzstan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar retweeted the Embassy post, and said, "Monitoring the welfare of Indian students in Bishkek. Situation is reportedly calm now."

In its advisory posted on social media, Pakistan's Embassy in Bishkek said that the matter escalated after videos of a fight between Kyrgyz and Egyptian students on May 13 went viral online on Friday. "A few hostels of medical universities in Bishkek and private residences of international students, including Pakistanis, have been attacked. The hostels are inhabited by students from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh," it said. "There have been reports of light injuries to a number of students from Pakistan. Despite social media posts about the alleged death and rape of Pakistani students, so far, we have not received any confirmed reports." The Embassy further said that Pakistani students have been asked to "stay indoors until the situation returns to normal", adding that the violence appeared to be directed against all foreign students, and not just Pakistanis. There are about 10,000 Pakistani students in the Central Asian nation currently. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Ambassador to



Kyrgyzstan, Hasan Zaigham said authorities were liaising with local law enforcement in Bishkek to ensure the safety of students.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also expressed "deep concerns" over the situation in Bishkek, saying he has directed

the country's envoy in Bishkek to "provide all necessary help and assistance" to the students. Also taking to social media, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party posted several videos, in which a mob was seen walking and running on a road at night. "Extremely disturbing reports coming in from Kyrgyzstan, where thousands of Pakistani students are under attack, with reports of violence and deaths," the party tweeted on Saturday and asked the Pakistan Foreign Office, the Embassy in Bishkek and the Foreign Ministry in Kyrgyzstan to "take immediate and effective measures to ensure safety of all Pakistani students". Another video doing the rounds on social media shows a corridor inside a building which has been vandalised. The footage shows broken doors and glass shards on the floor. Additional footage has emerged where a mob is seen dragging a person by the leg and then physically assaulting the individual. However, there was no official confirmation on the identity of the person being attacked.

Indian students, hiding in a Bishkek cafe, seek embassy's help

New Delhi: As a mob went on a rampage in Kyrgyzstan, attacking international students, a video went viral on X showing a group of Indian students contacting presumably an Indian Embassy employee, seeking help. In the video, the student says he, along with other youngsters, were hiding in a cafe in Bishkek. He could be heard asking the staffer about the steps being taken by the government to protect the Indian students. To this, the alleged staffer says "nothing can be done in the middle of the night."

Reportedly, there have been several incidents of mob violence against foreign students in Bishkek since last evening, the Pakistan Embassy in Kyrgyzstan said in a social media post. The Pakistani Embassy also said a few hostels of medical universities in Bishkek and private residences of international students, including Pakistanis, were attacked.

In a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said the situation was reportedly calm now, and that they were monitoring the welfare of Indian students in Bishkek. On Saturday morning, the Embassy of India in Kyrgyzstan said it was in touch with the students and also issued a helpline number.

"The situation is presently calm, but students are advised to stay indoors for the moment and get in touch with the Embassy in case of any issue. Our 24x7 contact number is 0555710041," the Indian mission in Bishkek tweeted.

Swati Maliwal's medical report after 'assault' reveals bruises on face, leg

New Delhi: A medical report of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Swati Maliwal has revealed bruises on her face and leg after she was allegedly assaulted by Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar at the Chief Minister's residence on May 13. As per the report by the Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre at AIIMS, Delhi, Maliwal sustained injuries to four parts of her body, including her left leg and below the right eye. The test was Maliwal was conducted on Thursday and the report was published the following day. According to her medico-legal certificate (MLC), the AAP MP has "bruises over proximal left leg dorsal aspect of approx size 3x2 cm and right cheek elbow below right eye of approx size 2x2 cm". It also stated that according to the "history provided by the patient" of being assaulted by Bibhav Kumar at the Chief Minister's residence, she was "slapped multiple times", and "hit her head on a sharp object after she was pushed" by the accused.

She fell on the floor and after that, she was hit multiple times by legs on her chest, abdomen and pelvis. (The patient at present is complaining of pain over thighs, pelvis, neck stiffness and headache," it added. However, the report did not state the nature of the injury. In her complaint to the Delhi Police against Bibhav Kumar, Maliwal claimed that Chief Minister's aide slapped her, beat her with sticks, hit her in the stomach, and physically assaulted her.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR against Kumar on Thursday. No formal complaint was filed when the former head of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) had first alleged on Monday that Bibhav Kumar assaulted her at the Chief Minister's official residence. A day after the charges, AAP confirmed the allegations and stated that Kejriwal has directed stern action to be taken in the matter. In the early hours of Saturday, a Delhi Police team left Kejriwal's residence after earlier on Friday, Maliwal was taken to the residence to recreate the crime scene. She was accompanied by a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), as well as Delhi Police officers.

Meanwhile, Bibhav Kumar has filed a counter-complaint against Maliwal, saying that she was "trying to falsely implicate" him in an effort to "create undue pressure". He claimed that she tried to "create a ruckus and assault" him as she "forcefully and unauthorisedly" entered the Delhi Chief Minister's residence. Asking the police to take strict action as per law, he alleged that "all of this may have been done at the behest of the BJP" as the Lok Sabha polls are ongoing. "It is therefore requested that her call records, chats and interactions with BJP leaders should also be investigated."

In 10 Years, India Adds 31,000-Km Rail Network - Equal To All Of Germany

New Delhi: Union Minister for Railways, Communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw has reeled out data to showcase transformative changes in the Indian Railways in the past 10 years of the Modi government while also highlighting its neglect during Congress-led regimes.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Ambassador event in Mumbai, the Union Minister gave a detailed account of how the Railways, seen and treated as 'milk cow' in previous regimes witnessed all-round development under the Modi government. In his detailed presentation, leaving the audience mesmerised, the Minister informed how the Railways added a huge tranche of networks and underwent wide-scale electrification and modernisation, so much so, that the developed economies are finding it tough to match steps with India. Today,



a 4 km rail track per day is being built in the country. In the last financial year alone, we built a 5,300 km rail network, which is equal to Switzerland's entire train network. In the past 10 years, 31,000 km railway track was added, which is equal to Germany's entire network," the Union Minister told the Viksit Bharat Ambassadors. Giving a low-down on the electrification and modernisation of Railways under the Modi government, Mr Vaishnaw said that 44,000 km of railway networks were

electrified in the past 10 years, as compared to 20,000 km in the past 60 years of Congress governance. "Today, we are heading towards 100 per cent electrification in the Indian Railways," he added. Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Railways despite being the biggest public carrier remained in despair because of the previous govern. "Conversion from Meter gauge to broad gauge networks should have been initiated during 1950-60s but that was taken up during NDA government," he said. The Minister also elaborated on the renovation of railway stations and the manufacturing of home-grown modern trains under the Modi government. Redevelopment of more than 300 railway stations across the country is under progress, with 120 stations alone in Maharashtra. Shivaji Maharaj railway station is one such state-of-the-art model.

"DK Shivakumar Offered Me 100 Crore To Defame PM": Karnataka BJP Leader

Hassan, Karnataka: Arrested BJP leader G Devaraje Gowda alleged on Friday that Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar offered him ? 100 crore to malign the names of former Chief Minister and JDS state President HD Kumaraswamy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters from the police vehicle after being sent to judicial custody on Friday, Devaraje Gowda claimed that Mr Shivakumar even sent him ? 5 crore as advance. "After I refused the offer, police cases were lodged against me and I was arrested. I am ready to expose him (DK Shivakumar) once I am released. The Congress government is going to collapse in Karnataka," he claimed.

Devaraje Gowda added, "I was told to make a statement that it was HD Kumaraswamy who circulated the pen drives containing sex videos (involving Kumaraswamy's nephew

Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of ex-PM HD Deve Gowda). But it was DK Shivakumar who obtained the pen drive from Karthik Gowda, who worked as a driver for Prajwal Revanna, and planned the entire episode." A team of four ministers, including N Cheluvarayaswamy, Krishna Byre Gowda, and Priyank Kharge, was formed to handle the developments relating to the sex video scandal, Devaraje Gowda claimed. "They had planned in a big way to bring disrepute to Prime Minister Modi, HD Kumaraswamy, and the BJP. They offered me ? 100 crore and sent ? 5 crore as advance to Room No. 110 at Bowling Club. A local leader from Channarayapatna, Gopalaswamy, was sent to negotiate the deal," Devaraje Gowda claimed.

"DK Shivakumar made the ? 100 crore offer to malign the name of Prime Minister Modi by linking him to the

sex scandal. Shivakumar's main objective is to finish Kumaraswamy politically," he added. "When I refused to be a part of their plans, they first fixed me in an atrocity case, but couldn't find any evidence. Later, they fixed me in a sexual harassment case. When this ploy also failed, they lodged a rape case against me. I was interrogated for four days, but they couldn't get anything," he claimed. "I have the audio recordings of Shivakumar's conversations. I will release them and the Congress government will collapse once I am out of prison," Devaraje Gowda claimed as the police vehicle drove off.

On May 6, Devaraje Gowda claimed that Shivakumar was behind the release of the pen drive containing videos of sexual assault. He also said that Prime Minister Modi was Congress' main target.

At 47.4°C, Delhi's Najafgarh hottest place in country, heatwave in other states

Delhi on Friday recorded its hottest day of the year at 47.4 degrees Celsius in Najafgarh, prompting an orange alert for heatwave conditions. Similar conditions were expected across several northern and central Indian states in the coming days.

New Delhi: Delhi on Friday recorded the hottest day of the year so far, with the mercury soaring to 47.4 degrees Celsius in the Najafgarh area. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Najafgarh was the hottest place in the country on Friday. The maximum temperature at the Safdarjung weather station, which provides a marker for the city, recorded the mercury soaring over three notches above the normal at 43.6 degrees Celsius.

As many as eight stations in Delhi breached the 45 degrees Celsius mark, leaving the residents sweltering. The weather department issued an orange alert in the national capital, saying that heatwave conditions were expected in some parts in the next two days. Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions were also likely in many pockets of Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi and a few pockets of Rajasthan. Similar weather conditions were likely in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Saurashtra, and Kutch on May 20.

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY According to the weather department, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds were expected in parts of Andhra Pradesh for four days from May 17. Parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema were also expected to receive rainfall, with gusty winds up to

speeds of 50 km per hour (kmph). Further, the weather department said the southwest monsoon will likely advance into the South Andaman Sea, parts of the southeast



Bay of Bengal and the Nicobar Islands around May 19.

CHANDIGARH, HARYANA UNDER HEATWAVE

The maximum temperature in Chandigarh on Friday reached 44.5 degrees Celsius as hot weather conditions continued unabated in Haryana and Punjab, the weather office said on Friday. The common capital of the two states was

hotter by six notches above the season's normal limits, it said. Rohtak and Sirsa in Haryana recorded identical maximums of 45.8 degrees Celsius, while heatwave also swept Hisar, Karnal and Ambala, which recorded temperatures of 45.5, 43.4 and 43.4 degrees Celsius, respectively, it said.

Bhiwani recorded a maximum temperature of 43.2 degrees Celsius, the MeT department said. In Punjab, the maximum temperature in Amritsar reached 44.3 degrees Celsius, while in Faridkot it was 43 degrees Celsius, it said. According to the weather office, the mercury settled at 44.4 degrees Celsius in Patiala and Pathankot, and 43.8 degrees Celsius in Ludhiana. Gurdaspur recorded a high of 43 degrees Celsius while Mohali registered a maximum of 43.2 degrees Celsius, it said.

RAJASTHAN'S BARMER HOTTEST SO FAR

The scorching heat continued in Rajasthan, where the highest temperature was recorded in Barmer at 46.5 degrees Celsius on Friday.

She has just been placed in a small manufacturing firm, as an associate manager-production. On her first day at the office, the first thought that strikes her is: "Is manufacturing really my cup of tea?" With labourers operating their machines around her and a production manager sitting right across her to explain the plan of operation and the schedule of production, she feels ambivalent. Not that she lacks interest, but she knows somewhere that male-dominated industries pose serious challenges for a woman's career progression. She suddenly remembers those peppy words by Marilyn Monroe: "I don't mind living in a man's world as long as I can be a woman in it."

According to research by Catalyst, an NGO focusing on expanding business opportunities for women, talent management systems are often susceptible to pro-male

biases that expectedly result in smaller and less varied employee pools. The lesser the diversity (read the lesser the females), the more stereotypical it gets. This is the reason why women may find progressing and outpacing in these industries can be riddled with hurdles.

It is not very hard to enter a male-dominated profession, but it's tougher to survive in there. Among other obstacles, many women struggle with pre-set notions that certain jobs demand skillsets that are linked to masculinity. To inject some positivity here, let's take a look at 5 ways that women can come into their own in any profession.

Self-analysis

Career development is a continuous process that starts with self-assessment. This critical first step is the foundation step for personal and professional personality development. A routine self-assessment helps keeps an individual informed about her strengths and weaknesses at varied stages of life. A comprehensive self-analysis would include doing the SWIPE test, which helps you analyse four core elements of your personality— strengths, weakness, interests, potential development and emotional quotient. Examining these four areas will help you understand your personality in distinct spheres, so you know which parts of your life need further development and which attributes play to your strengths.

Networking

According to Adam Small, CEO of Strategic Business Network, "Networking is the single most powerful marketing tactic to accelerate and sustain success for any individual or organization." It is a powerful tool if you do it the right



5 ways to succeed in a male-dominated Workplace

Rina, 23, has just completed her MBA in production management, and dreams of a corporate career.

way and with the right people in your industry. However, according to a study published in the Harvard Business Review women are often unable to exploit the power of their connections despite their sociability. For women to benefit through networking, they need to engage in interactions that include exchanges about their skills, talents, and potential development. When looking for groups to network with, give preference to those whose members are well-connected over groups that are simply large or well-publicised. Collaboration is the key.

Promote your own self

Be your own "man"! Speak for yourself. Got a new idea or a cost-saving suggestion? Put it on the table. Women have a tendency to underestimate their own performance, especially when they find themselves in a minority, but confidence is a must. So, pave that track with blazing confidence and remember that it's perfectly alright to be wrong or fail sometimes. Just don't dwell on it. Also acknowledge the fact that people around you will, whether intentionally or unknowingly, underestimate you.

There will be times when you will be your only cheerleader. Manage what you can, work hard, follow your gut, stay true at heart and be rational, and things will fall in place.

Research bears out that women who are more aggressive and assertive when the situation calls for it are more likely to be promoted.

Beware of stereotypes

"It's not done that way", "You are new in this field so you probably you don't know"... No! Do not let these kind of statements give you an inferiority complex. Be prepared to assert yourself at all times. This does not mean being rude or uncooperative, but having the confidence to stand your ground and defend your convictions. Success has traditionally been considered acceptable for women only if it's in a field that is judged as appropriate for them and is viewed as off-limits in fields that are male-dominated. You need to fight those conventions.

Find a mentor

Many women must have walked the same path as you and have figured out how to overcome the obstacles along the way. Instead of simply winging it and risking more mistakes, approach them for their guidance. Connect with one or two women you admire and seek their advice when needed. If you do not know of someone directly, use social websites to connect with people in similar fields.

Just remember that there are many successful women out there and most of them are proof that being hardworking, resolute, smart and thick-skinned in the face of critical reviews at their work; have enabled them to rise to the top, with or without familial support. Go on girl! You can be a shero too!

Tips to crack your job Interview

The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question.

Here are a few tips on how you can sail through your first job interview. The foremost issue all organizations face is that candidates do not match up to the needs of the job. Many job aspirants look at their careers from a myopic view of brands and fancy designations coupled with fat salaries. The first five years of one's professional life are formative, which is why this period should be utilized to gather profound professional experience. This is not the time to hunt for a cozy post. The most important task before preparing for a job interview is to start with a self-assessment of whether you suit the position and organization in question. Visualise yourself as a part of the organization: How confident do you feel about being there? Is the work in line with your interest and natural abilities? The inner call, backed up by research, is crucial before you choose to go for the

interview. There is a job for everyone; they just need to home in on the right place. - A lot of engineers may actually do well in creative positions than technical roles. If technical expertise is your area of interest and prowess, go for it. Evaluate which subject or activity you are best at. It shows your interest and natural inclination. If the inner call says, 'choose an alternative career,' please do so. Do not succumb to social pressure. It is better to succeed than to 'ape' and remain mediocre. - The interviewer has been entrusted with the task of hiring the best in a competitive environment. It is thus your responsibility to convince him/her of your capabilities. Data and facts always help, so converge on tangible information rather than abstract points. However, the statistics must be focused on

competencies. - Provide information on your strengths with evidence of its practical application in real life. - Talk about your extracurricular activities and the difficult choices you made in life; it shows leadership attributes and job-fit skill sets. - Talk about facts that show you make your choices and are not led by others alone. Highlight team activities you have undertaken - it shows your ability to collaborate. - Elaborate on situations that make you feel proud - it shows confidence and self-motivation. - Discuss instances when you have helped others - it is a sign of empathy. Finally, in a positive way, share instances of personal challenges that brought you where you are today - it exhibits strength of character. - Speak about your career vision. When you know how the job fits in the grand picture of your career, the interviewer is most likely to choose you because it creates certainty. This is rare because many engineering graduates are disillusioned and openly talk about being explorers. Be clear where you wish to go. Employers would not like to waste time, money and effort on individuals who are continually exploring. If that is the case, go for career advice or seek other professional help before interviews. In the case of engineers, interviewers' expectations are going to be specific. They look for thought leadership, precision in all you do, the ability to comprehend a problem and create solutions, an innovative mindset and critical thinking. As an engineer, your ability to lead a team will carry tremendous weight. Above all, one must "look and feel" like an engineer and not a casual person from nowhere. Lastly, understand that rejection has nothing to do with you personally. It is about an understanding that your abilities do not suit the job. So, gear up for the next opening.



Here's why prioritizing Work is important

The typical work day of a professional is becoming more complex and demanding by the day. The multitude and variety of tasks can become overwhelming; many employees are unable to handle the stress and face a dip in their productivity. Prioritization skills become a handy tool in such cases and allow professionals to plan their day in a manner that not only creates value, but creates the right value. Why is prioritizing of workload necessary at all? Abhijit Nimgaonkar, India capability & expertise centre head and office managing principal (Delhi), ZS, answers, "The classic situation faced by employees today is simultaneous urgent requests from multiple stakeholders. In the context of a global marketplace (different time zones), increasing compensation (higher expectations), many communication channels (request reach and immediacy), prioritising daily, weekly, monthly tasks is key to effective responsibility management. Working faster is not the solution; instead, working on the right tasks is essential."

A broad categorization of all tasks is essential to bring prioritization in motion. Srinivas Ghanagam, head HR, Freudenberg India, explains, "Being able to distinguish between 'urgent' and 'important' tasks is one of the best known ways of dealing with a flood of emails, projects and presentations, the former being less critical than the latter. The focus should, therefore, be placed on 'important' work, which is usually more strategic in nature; losing focus of the same can be the undoing of an up and coming executive." Manuel D'Souza, director - HR, Serco Global Services, tells us how such measures also allow work-life balance, "Time spent on planning activities saves sufficient time in execution. On a regular basis, prioritizing not only makes a person more efficient at daily work-related activities, but also gives them the latitude to focus on their personal goals. It helps strike the right balance to handle both, their professional and personal life." How can one's prioritization skills be honed? Rajiv Naithani, associate VP HR and L&D, GlobalLogic, gives suggestions:

- **Make a work list:** Pen down every possible thing you can do in a day;
- **Categorize urgent vs important:** See if you have any tasks that need immediate attention and if not completed soon, will have serious negative impact on business and people;
- **Evaluate value importance:** Scan the list and identify highest value-adding tasks. Determine the amount of efforts expected to be invested on each activity and set the order accordingly;
- **Be compliant and flexible:** Don't forget that change is certain and be prepared for work that will come above your set order of priorities;
- **Cut the cord:** You probably can't get to everything on your list. Focus on the priorities that you know you must and can complete for the day. Mehul Shah, MD, Collabera, describes the Pareto principle in the context of prioritization of workload, "The Pareto principle states that of the things you do during your day, only 20 per cent produce 80 per cent of your results. It emphasizes on putting more energy in prioritizing your tasks in the first hour at work and focus on the 20 per cent that matters. When the fire drills of the day begin to sap your time and something in the schedule has to slip, make sure it's not part of that 20 per cent." Prioritization also enables employees to maintain clarity on the ultimate goals of the organization. Sailesh Shetty, VP human resources & services, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, explains, "Organisations should make every employee understand the role he or she is playing in solving the issues important for the organisation. Employees should have clarity on what is expected from them; this enables them to prioritise better. When the employer engages employees every day in analysing and solving problems, they feel highly motivated." Thus, prioritisation can make a lot of difference in employee efficiency and productivity.



An INDIA alliance victory will lead to de-rating of markets: Brokerage report

NEW DELHI. If Congress-led INDIA alliance comes to power, it will lead to de-rating in markets and in specific sectors such as defence, capital goods, tourism, PSU's (including banks), drones, AMC, wires and cables, plastic pipes and EMS, said brokerage firm Prabhudas Lilladher in its 'India Strategy Report - Mandate 2024, Brace of Volatility' report on Friday.

The report comes as India completes the 4th phase of what it calls the most 'hotly contested Lok Sabha elections in its history'. It added that the narrative of NDA falling short of a majority or INDIA alliance coming to power is raising their head, at least in social media and global press. Most brokerages and opinion polls, however, still feel a win for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP. Markets have been nervous for the past couple of weeks and sustained volatility in the run-up to June 4 seems likely. Fear around a repeat of UPA victory in 2004 is making markets nervous as the unexpected event had resulted in a 15% decline in Sensex in a single day. Owing to low voter turnout, the market experienced a major correction last week with the benchmarks (BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty) plummeting 2% each. The bloodbath was more visible in the midcap and small-cap stocks.

The market, however, made a quick recovery this week as low inflation data in the US raised chances of at least two rate cuts by the Federal Reserve in 2024, a big positive for the market. Sensex gained 2.7% this week to close the Friday session at 73,917 while Nifty settled 2.3% higher at 22,466.

TechM former vice chairman Vineet Nayyar dies

BENGALURU. Former Tech Mahindra vice chairman Vineet Nayyar, 85, passed away on Thursday. A civil servant turned corporate professional; he was one of the doyens of the Indian tech industry. He worked with the World Bank and then went on to serve state-owned energy corporation GAIL as its inaugural chairman and MD. He later joined HCL Corporation as its MD and became vice chairman of HCL Technologies. Anand Mahindra, chairman of Mahindra Group, wrote on X, "Vineet was a larger than life figure in Indian business landscape. A distinguished IAS officer, who served with the World Bank, became the first Chairman of GAIL. He made a successful transition to the private sector becoming MD of HCL and the Vice Chairman of HCL Technologies."

GAIL net profit triples on gas biz turnaround

NEW DELHI. State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) on Thursday reported more than tripling of its fourth quarter net profit as its natural gas transmission and petrochemical business saw a turnaround.

Its standalone net profit of Rs 2,176.97 crore in the fourth quarter of 2023-24 - was 261% more than Rs 603.52 crore net profit in the same period last year, according to stock exchange filing by the company.

The net profit was, however, 26 per cent lower than Rs 2,842.62 crore earning in the preceding quarter of October-December. The year-on-year rise in profit was aided by a turnaround in the natural gas transmission



and petrochemicals business and an uptick in gas marketing. Against a loss of Rs 16.41 crore in the gas transmission business in January-March 2023, India's largest gas transportation and marketing firm booked a pre-tax profit of Rs 980 crore.

Stock Market Holiday on Monday, May 20: BSE Sensex, NSE Nifty To Remain Closed Due To Lok Sabha Elections

NEW DELHI. Benchmark Indian equity markets, both BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty, will remain closed on Monday, May 20, on account of Lok Sabha general elections. According to the BSE's website, equity, equity derivatives, and SLB and currency segments will remain closed on Monday. The market will now be opened on Tuesday, May 21.

This stock market holiday on May 20 is in line with the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881, which recognises the importance of citizens' participation in the electoral process. On May 20, voting in Maharashtra will be held in the Lok Sabha seats of Dhule, Dindori, Nashik, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Thane, Mumbai North, Mumbai North West, Mumbai North East, Mumbai South, Mumbai South Central, Mumbai North Central and Palghar. According to the Election Commission's announcements last week, the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra were scheduled to be held in five phases on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20. After this General Elections holiday, the next stock market holiday will be on 'Bakri Id' on June 17, 2024 (Monday). In the remaining calendar year 2024, there will be 7 more holidays after the Lok Sabha election holiday (15 holidays in total this year). The next holiday after Ram Navami is on Maharashtra Day on May 1. However, for the currency derivatives segments, there are 20 holidays in the current calendar year 2024. Apart from the Lok Sabha Elections holiday, 9 more holidays are left. The next holiday will be on Buddha Pournima on May 23 (Thursday).

'India to corner 18% of global GDP'

FM says country is poised to become the world's fastest-growing economy in the years ahead

NEW DELHI. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has projected India's share in global growth for the next five years to be at 18%. She conveyed optimism that the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will secure victory in the Lok Sabha poll 2024 on June 4.

"We are confident that PM Modi is coming back with a good majority... We are looking at an India, which is going to be dynamic, contributing 18% to the global growth," Sitharaman said while addressing the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Annual Business Summit 2024 on Friday. Currently, India's share in world GDP is around 10% in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. India is ranked third in terms of GDP in PPP terms after China (whose share in global GDP is 19%) and the US (13%). She said with a burgeoning consumer market projected to



double by 2031, coupled with an increase in consumption expenditure and a consistent uptrend in financial services spending, India is positioned to maintain its status as the world's fastest-growing economy in the years ahead. She stressed that India looks at the private sector as a partner in the development of India. Meanwhile she also said the full budget for FY25 will be announced in July 2024 when the new government will be formed. As per Sitharaman, the

opportunity provided by India's demographic dividend spans the next 30 years. India's shift towards green energy and a sustainable economy is poised to create a fresh market and global demand. Referring to a 2021 World Economic Forum report, she highlighted projections of 50 million net new economy jobs emerging in India, along with a \$1 trillion economic impact by 2030. In addition, Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, said if India

sustains the growth trend seen over the past two decades, it can rank as the world's third-largest economy by 2027-28. He highlighted that in the period starting from 2003-04, India eradicated extreme poverty, which now affects less than 3% of the population. He further added that a large part of the workforce in agriculture has to move to industrial or services economy, and that is the pathway to transformation.

BJP will win in LS poll: FM

Sitharaman conveyed optimism that the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will secure victory in the Lok Sabha poll 2024 on June 4. Currently, India's share in world GDP is around 10% in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. India is ranked third in terms of GDP in PPP terms after China

Renewables to create jobs

As per FM, the opportunity provided by India's demographic dividend spans next 30 years. India's shift towards green energy and a sustainable economy is poised to create a fresh market and global demand. Referring to a 2021 WEF report, she said projections of 50 mn net new economy jobs emerging in India

Vodafone to prioritise 4G network growth over 5G; to spend Rs 55,000 crore

NEW DELHI. Even as other telecom service providers have been rolling out 5G, Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), the country's third-largest telecom operator, is still prioritising expanding its 4G networks.

The telco on Friday announced that it will spend Rs 55,000 crore in the next three years in capex, and focus on 4G expansion. "The capex will be spent on — expansion of 4G coverage by rolling out more sites, capacity growth in 4G where sites have been deployed already. The third will be 5G where rollout must be started afresh and then there will be enterprise... Our topmost priority is expanding 4G coverage, which is the only reason why we continue to lose customers, that capex will be fairly accelerated. The rest will

happen as traffic grows," said Akshaya Moondra, Vodafone Idea CEO in its fourth quarter FY24 investor call.



The telco has been losing its subscribers to the competitors for not investing in its network and improving 4G services. As per TRAI data, Vi has lost 16.25 million subscribers in the first 11

months of FY24. However, it earlier said the subscriber depletion is not due to not launching its commercial 5G services but not having a proper 4G network. Vi is the only private telco, other than Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio that is yet to come up with commercial 5G launches.

The telco has only launched 5G networks in the country to meet Minimum Rollout Obligation to avoid penalties from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT). It has so far launched 5G in 4 circles - Maharashtra (Pune), Delhi, Chennai and Punjab to meet minimum rollout obligation. It will soon launch its 5G services in Bihar and Mumbai but not commercially.

SpiceJet gets relief from paying Rs 270 cr to Maran

NEW DELHI. Low-cost carrier SpiceJet received a major relief on Friday as a division bench of the Delhi High Court overturned its previous ruling that directed the airline to refund over Rs 270 crore to its former promoter Kalanithi Maran of the Sun Group.

A bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja allowed the appeals filed by SpiceJet and its managing director Ajay Singh challenging the single judge's July 31, 2023 order. "The appeals stand allowed. Consequently, the July 31, 2023 order (of the single judge) is set aside," the bench said. Following this development, shares of SpiceJet rose as much as 6.5% and closed 5.5% higher at Rs 63 apiece.

The bench had earlier refused to stay the single judge's order and had asked Maran and his company Kal Airways to respond to the appeal. SpiceJet and



Singh's counsel had earlier argued that the challenge was on the issue of 18% interest, which the tribunal had directed SpiceJet to pay.

On July 31, 2023, the single judge had upheld the award announced by the arbitral tribunal on July 20, 2018, in favour of Maran and his Kal Airways. It had said the court was barred from entering into the merits of an award unless there was an error that was apparent on the face of the record or an illegality that goes to the root of the matter. Singh had approached the

Following this development, shares of SpiceJet rose as much as 6.5% and closed 5.5% higher at Rs 63 apiece.

single-judge bench of the high court challenging the arbitral award.

A bench allows SpiceJet appeals A Delhi high court bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja allowed the appeals filed by SpiceJet and its managing director Ajay Singh challenging the single judge's July 31, 2023 order. Shares of SpiceJet rose as much as 6.5% and closed 5.5% higher at '63 apiece.

JSW Steel profit falls 62%, total income declines 2% in Q4FY24

Total income during the quarter also fell 2% to Rs 46,511. Operating EBITDA of the company during the quarter was Rs 6,124 crore.

NEW DELHI. JSW Steel has reported a 62% drop in consolidated net profit in the quarter ended March 2024. The consolidated net profit fell from Rs 3,446 crore in the fourth quarter of FY23 to Rs 1,322 crore in the same quarter in FY24. Total income during the quarter also fell 2% to Rs 46,511. Operating EBITDA of the company during the quarter was Rs 6,124 crore. The company in a press statement said that crude steel production during the quarter was 6.79 million tonne, and recorded the highest-ever sale of saleable steel at 6.73 million tonne. In FY24, the company, however, posted a



116% growth in net profit at Rs 8,793 crore compared to Rs 4,139 crore in FY23. The company also posted the highest ever revenue from operations

during FY24 at Rs 1.75 lakh crore. During the previous financial year (FY24), the company produced highest ever crude steel at 26.43 million tonne,

and sold highest-ever saleable steel at 24.78 million tonne.

The company's net debt to equity stood at 0.93x at the end of the March 2024 quarter, as against 1.02x at the end of Q3 FY24. Net debt as of March 31, 2024, stood at Rs 73,916 crore, lower by Rs 5,305 crore than in December 2023 quarter due to healthy cash generation, release of working capital and calibrated capex. Meanwhile, the company on Friday announced that the board has approved acquisition of Minas de Revuboe Limitada (MDR), which owns a high quality and large scale pre-development stage premium hard coking coal mine project in the Moatize Basin of Tete Province in Mozambique. It is one of the largest pre-development stage premium hard coking coal projects globally and has mineral reserves in excess of 800 million tonnes. The consideration for the acquisition has not been disclosed.



continue to be regulated by the IT Act of 2000. When asked if the consultation paper was infructuous after enacting the Telecom Act, Lahoti answered in the negative. He said the OTT consultation was initiated after the recommendation of a Parliamentary panel so this consultation will be completed. "The OTT consultation was initiated after the recommendation of a Parliamentary panel so this consultation will be completed, and we will give our recommendation... which Act it becomes a part of and which ministry, or which regulator deals with it, is a separate matter," he said. He also mentioned that TRAI is dealing with OTT communication as a subject. Open house discussion Regulatory body TRAI announced an open house discussion in next two to three months over the regulation of OTT communication apps.

NEWS BOX

IPL 2024: Will Jacks and his intent will be missed against CSK, admits RCB coach

New Delhi Assistant coach Malolan Rangarajan said that RCB will miss their star batter Will Jacks in the crucial IPL 2024 clash on Saturday against CSK at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The 25-year-old Jacks came late into the RCB playing XI, but made an impact right away. In 8 games, the English batter racked up 230 runs at an average of 32.85 and a strike-rate of 175.57. However, he won't be a part of the RCB team anymore as he has joined the England national team with the T20 World Cup preparations in mind. Jacks is also a part of the Brits for their 4-match T20I series against Pakistan, starting May 22 at the Headingley in Leeds. Will Jacks will be missed and the intent with which he played will be missed more. There's no denying how impactful he was," Rangarajan said in the pre-match press conference.

Not worried about losing wickets' The RCB coach also heaped praise on Jacks for his 41-ball hundred against GT last month at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. He also mentioned that an aggressive brand of cricket has helped RCB change their fortunes in the tournament. "Everybody speaks about the hundred he got against Gujarat, but also what you have to notice and appreciate is the brand of cricket we played last time when we were two wickets down. We aren't worried about losing wickets, we are looking to put back pressure on the opposition," Rangarajan said.

Although he did not name Jacks' replacement directly, Rangarajan hinted that Glenn Maxwell might make a return to the playing XI. "About who comes in, you don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure it out. I am not going to name him, it's not my place to say it. But we are happy that we have very good options and very experienced options out there; people who have won multiple tournaments around the globe," Rangarajan added. Currently placed seventh in the table, RCB need to beat CSK by 18 runs or chase down a target in 18.1 overs to finish in the top 4 and make their way through to the playoffs.

Nicolas Jarry stuns Tommy Paul to set up Italian Open final against Alexander Zverev

New Delhi Chilean 21st seed Nicolas Jarry outclassed American Tommy Paul 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-3 to reach the Italian Open on Friday as former champion Alexander Zverev recovered from a slow start to beat Chilean Alejandro Tabilo 1-6, 7-6(4), 6-2. Jarry produced relentless power from the baseline, hitting 13 aces and 35 winners to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final in two hours and 44 minutes. Jarry took a 5-3 lead in the opener, relying on his service before closing out the set with a brilliant ace. Paul, the 14th seed, refused to go quietly in the second, pegging back the Chilean's 4-2 lead to force a tiebreak, which the American won to take the match to a decider.

"Never easy to finish" "I think I played my best tennis. I gave it everything and went for it. I did that the whole match. It's hard to keep that level of concentration, but now I'm in the final," Jarry said. "It was hard to enjoy it. I tried anyway. The important thing is that I came back with my best tennis in the third set and was aggressive. It's never easy to finish, but I did it and it's amazing the feeling I have now," Jarry added. Jarry started the third strongly and opened a 5-2 lead, winning 13 points at the net before securing victory when a Paul backhand went wide. Earlier on Friday, Zverev, who won the title in 2017 and reached the final the following year, looked in real danger when 29th seed Tabilo raced away with the opening set.

The 26-year-old, who beat world number one Novak Djokovic in the third round, was playing in his first ATP Masters 1000 semi-final, but did not look fazed as he broke Zverev twice in the first set. Tabilo won five games in a row in taking the opener, but the second was much closer. The Chilean did force the only break point of the set, but Zverev held and went on to win the tiebreak.

German Zverev raised his game in the deciding set, breaking twice, and was never threatened again en route to his first final of the year.

Hardik Pandya deal from GT to MI: How the move flopped for all 3 parties involved

New Delhi. Hardik Pandya's IPL 2024 season started early as he was involved in a mega deal that saw him move from GT to back to MI. Mumbai was the side which groomed Hardik to be the premium all-rounder for India in white-ball cricket and it was a surprise when he was let go before the 2022 auction. Hardik was quickly taken up by the newly-formed GT at that time, and he delivered instant success in the form of the IPL 2022 title and reaching the final last year. MI were quick to make amends and got him onboard and went one step ahead to hand him the captaincy from legendary skipper Rohit Sharma. Many expected it to be a change of guard at the 5-time IPL champions, but what happened was the exact opposite. MI became the first team to be knocked out from the playoffs race, and Hardik's captaincy was criticised at different points in the campaign. The response he got from the MI fans was less than impressive, with the all-rounder being booed on multiple occasions.

The MI players would defend him multiple times, with even the likes of Sanjay Manjrekar asking the crowd to 'behave', but the support didn't seem to be coming in for the new skipper. In the end, Hardik and MI's nightmare season came to an end with another loss to LSG and holding the wooden spoon.

Hours of net batting, power hitting irrespective of formats during Andhra camp: Reddy's mantra for success

HYDERABAD. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has been a revelation for the Sunrisers Hyderabad this season. The 20-year-old from Andhra turned out to be a vital cog for the 2016 champions in their resurgence. He has played a couple of brilliant knocks to steer the team to safety after the early fall of the wickets on a few occasions. His 37-ball 64 against Punjab Kings and a quickfire 76 off just 42 balls against Rajasthan Royals helped the Pat Cummins-led side to win the matches despite being in trouble at the early stage.

Reddy might have rescued SRH with the bat when they were in trouble but he himself was in trouble and in dire need of a quick turnaround when the season started. After making his IPL debut in 2023, where he didn't get the opportunity to bat in two matches he played, his performance with the ball was below par as he leaked 54 runs from five overs he bowled across the two outings. He was fortunate that the Hyderabad franchise decided to retain him but needed to prove his worth. Knowing the situation, Reddy started working on his game at the commencement of the 2023-24 domestic season with Andhra head coach N Nirmal Kumar. The fact that he trained under Kumar for three seasons during his under-19 days worked in his favour.

"He has always been a batting all-rounder. In fact, in his first U-19 season with Andhra, he used to open the batting and bowling. I changed that the next season as I knew India U-19 team has so many specialised opening batters and bowlers. Since then, he has picked up both with the willow and ball," coach Kumar told this daily.

Reddy's last domestic season with Andhra can be termed satisfactory if not excellent as he played quite a few good innings in both the Ranji Trophy and limited-overs tournaments. Since the early days, Reddy has been a free-flowing batter but the same was not getting translated on the field. Kumar knew that and he decided to give him a free hand no matter which format he was playing. "I asked him to play his natural game irrespective of the formats. We treated him as a specialised batter when it comes to training in the nets in the last season. He used to bat for at least an hour in the nets alongside our pure batters every day. I made him face all kinds of bowlers to give him that confidence and practice," added Kumar. There were areas where Reddy needed to improve. The incoming deliveries from the left-arm spinners were troubling him. Similarly, his downswing speed of the



bat was just not proving enough for the perfect execution of the shots. Kumar, who has been working with various Andhra teams for the last 25 years, found out the flaws and decided to work on them. "He was stretching a lot while facing the left-arm spinners. The wide gap between two legs meant it was his pad which was coming first so he was getting trapped in front of the wickets. I asked him to reduce the gap between the legs. This change helped him

bring the bat first while defending. Similarly, we worked on his downswing of the bat with the trainer. To get the requisite speed, we asked him to have a backlift so as to get the speed for downswing to execute the shots perfectly. "These minor changes did wonders for Reddy as he looked like a different batter this season. In nine matches so far, he has scored 239 runs with an average of 47.80 and a strike rate of 152.22. He has scored two half-centuries hitting 12 fours and 17 sixes. Kumar credited the hard work his ward did during the camps for the success. "We focussed completely on power hitting during the camps. While others were given the practice according to the formats, instructions to him were clear. Focus on power hitting and try to be as natural as he can be irrespective of the formats," said the coach. Kumar is happy with Reddy's show so far. "He was quite eager to perform when the IPL started. We spoke on a few occasions but exchange messages quite regularly. After every match, I message him explaining what went well and what areas he needs to improve. For me, it's just the beginning as given his potential, he will only improve from here onwards," signed off the coach.

MI vs LSG: Mumbai captain Hardik Pandya banned for first match in IPL 2025

IPL 2024: Hardik Pandya has been fined Rs 30 lakhs of his match fees due to slow over rate during the match against LSG on Friday at the Wankhede Stadium.



New Delhi. MI skipper Hardik Pandya has been fined Rs 30 lakhs for maintaining a slow over-rate in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against LSG on Friday, May 17 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The other players have been fined Rs 12 lakhs or 50 percent of their match fees, whichever is lesser. Since MI's campaign in IPL 2024 is over, Hardik's ban has been carried over to next year. Regardless of the team Hardik plays for next season, his ban will stay. "Hardik

season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Pandya was fined Rs 30 lakh and banned from playing the team's next match," the release added.

Hardik Pandya's indifferent IPL 2024 After making a move from GT, Hardik did not have the best of times while playing for in IPL 2024. His team finished at the bottom of the table with 8 points and a net run rate of -0.318 thanks to wins in 4 out of 14 matches. MI finished their campaign after losing to LSG by 18 runs. Hardik faltered with the bat as he scored only 216 runs from 14 matches at an average of 18 and a strike-rate of 143.04 with a top score of 46. He accounted for 11 scalps, but at an expensive economy rate of 10.75. Hardik now has a huge task in hand as he is the vice-captain of the Indian team for the T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and United States of America (USA).

Pandya, the Mumbai Indians captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their IPL 2024 match against Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on May 17," a media release stated. "As it was his team's third offence of the

Virat Kohli misses walking on streets in India: Wish no one would bother me

Senior RCB batter and former India captain Virat Kohli said he really missed walking on the streets in India. Kohli hoped that if given a chance, he would just like to walk around and buy things from the streets with no one bothering him.



New Delhi. Senior RCB batter and former captain Virat Kohli has revealed that he has not walked on the streets in India in the last few years. Speaking ahead of their final group stage game against CSK, Kohli spoke about the banes of popularity in the country and said that he really missed walking on the streets and shopping. Speaking on Star Sports, Kohli said that whenever he would get out on the street, people would recognise him and that's why he had stopped going out altogether. Kohli, one of

the most followed athletes in the world said that given a chance, he would just like to take a walk in the West Delhi markets and roam around without people bothering him. "If I could, I would not take a car, nor a scooter, I would just walk. I have not walked once in India (in recent times), and that is something that I miss so badly. In West Delhi, our go-to market was Jwala Heri, I

would go there regularly. If I get a chance, I would just walk around without anyone bothering me. I would eat something, buy something, I don't even remember when was the last time I walked on a road in India," Virat Kohli said on Star Sports ahead of the CSK game. The superstar cricketer had recently taken a personal break and had spent time with his family in England during the final months of his wife - Anushka Sharma's pregnancy. Kohli had spoken about the experience and said that it was surreal to feel normal again with his wife and daughter away from the attention.

"We were not in the country. Just to feel normal for two months - for me, my family - it was a surreal experience. Couldn't have been more grateful to God for the opportunity to spend time with the family. It's an amazing experience to just be another person on the road and not be recognised," Kohli had said.

Hardik Pandya would be disappointed with his performance as MI captain: Boucher

MI head coach Mark Boucher has said that Hardik Pandya would be disappointed with his performance as the captain of the franchise. Boucher fears that the constant criticism affected Pandya's performance in the field.

Mumbai MI finished their season with an 18-run loss against LSG at their home Wankhede on Friday, 17 May. The loss marked a torrid season for Hardik Pandya-led MI, who finished at the bottom spot in the Indian Premier League 2024 table. MI head coach Mark Boucher commented on captain Hardik Pandya after the team's final game and said that the captain would be disappointed with himself. Speaking at the post-match press conference,

Boucher said that it was possible that the outside noise affected Hardik and could have clouded his judgement during the games. Pandya has been slammed throughout the season, not only for his performances but for his captaincy as well. The MI captain, who took over from Rohit Sharma has been booed at several stadiums by the fans, including Wankhede.

"Even Hardik would've been disappointed with his performance. From a captain's perspective, he had some excellent games. There's a lot of stuff going around him that clouds his thoughts now and again, which is also challenging for him as a leader," Boucher said at the post-match press conference. "He certainly had a lot of support within our dressing room, and guys are trying to help him out, but it is tricky to go through as a player. It is what it is, and it will undoubtedly be a learning curve for him with his leadership growth. While times are tough



now, some things will pass, and he'll be a tougher leader. So, some fantastic things are coming for Hardik Pandya as a leader," he further added. Hardik Pandya had been out injured since the ODI World Cup in 2023. Pandya had twisted his ankle against Bangladesh and did not play the majority of

Selfless KL Rahul ready to cheer for 'Sharmaji ka beta' in T20 World Cup

New Delhi. LSG captain KL Rahul signed off IPL 2024 with a win over MI on Friday, 17 May at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. This was the first time in three years that LSG failed to make it to the playoffs of the Indian Premier League 2023. The season was difficult, especially for KL Rahul, who not only failed with the bat in the IPL 2024, but also was snubbed from India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad. Rahul was asked about his plans in the near future and said that he would be cheering for Rohit Sharma from the sidelines. Rahul was at his humorous best after winning the MI encounter and said that he would be cheering for his father in law's favourite - Sharma ji ka beta. Incidentally, KL Rahul, Suniel Shetty and Rohit Sharma did an ad for the IPL 2024, where Shetty was seen pledging his allegiance to Rohit Sharma and MI earlier this season. "I'm on my father-in-law's team now. We'll both be cheering for Sharma ji ka beta in the World Cup," KL Rahul said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Rahul spoke about his team and his own form this season and said that it was disappointing to miss out on the playoffs berth. "Very disappointing. At the beginning of the season, I really felt we had a strong team and had most bases covered. A couple of injuries - happen to every team. We didn't play well enough collectively. Today was a really good performance. This is the kind of game we wanted to play more. Unfortunately, we didn't do that." Rahul said that it was a season of self discovery for him and that he would ideally have liked for things to go differently. "There's not much T20 cricket coming up now. It's been a season where I've learnt a lot about my own batting and what I need to do to get back in the team. Maybe middle-order, maybe not. We would've ideally wanted him (Pooran) to bat higher, but with how the team's lined up, we want our senior international players to bat in positions where they can absorb pressure. Didn't want our two overseas batters to bat close together," Rahul explained.

the World Cup. Pandya stayed away from the series against Australia, South Africa and then Afghanistan and did not play any matches in the Ranji Trophy as well. Boucher said that it was always going to be difficult for Pandya with such less cricket behind him in the run-up to the tournament.

"He came into the season with little cricket behind him, so it would always be reasonably tough on him. We understood that as well. His bowling got a lot better as the season went along. Unfortunately, he didn't fire with the bat this season. He showed glimpses of what he can do," Boucher said. Pandya scored 216 runs at an average of 18 and picked up 11 wickets in the season. It is expected that he will continue to captain MI next season after the mega-auction.

Sara Ali Khan

Clicks Selfies With Fans As She Arrives Back In Bombay, Video Goes Viral

Sara Ali Khan enjoys a massive fan following and is one of the most loved celebs in tinsel town. As she arrived back in Bombay today, the actress received a warm welcome by the paps at the airport. While she was heading out, she also clicked selfies with her fans. Several photos and videos of the actress went viral on social media. Sara looked effortlessly glam in a sleeveless white tee teamed with a pair of blue denims. She donned black sunglasses and donned one of her brightest smiles as the shutterbugs greeted and captured her.

Recently, Sara was spotted distributing meals among the underprivileged ones in Mumbai. She requested the paparazzi not to photograph her. The video gained popularity on social media, and her aunt Saba Ali Khan commented on the clip, showing her support. When Sara noticed the cameras, she became agitated and firmly told the photographers not to shoot her. In the viral videos, Sara was seen stating, "Please mat karo (do not record)." Many people in the comments section supported her, expressing that the paparazzi should respect her refusal and not invade her privacy. Even her aunt Saba Ali Khan stated, "I do the same every Saturday without calling paps. Don't film it. Takes away from the cause. She is trying to say the same." On the work front, Sara Ali Khan has experienced a few successes recently. The actress was featured in Murder Mubarak, directed by Homi Adajania. Sara is also being lauded for her performance in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Set in the pre-independence era, the film follows 22-year-old Usha, a college girl in Bombay, who works to help India win independence and establishes an underground radio station that fuels the Quit India Movement. She has not announced any new projects till now.



Sara noticed the cameras, she became agitated and firmly told the photographers not to shoot her. In the viral videos, Sara was seen stating, "Please mat karo (do not record)." Many people in the comments section supported her, expressing that the paparazzi should respect her refusal and not invade her privacy. Even her aunt Saba Ali Khan stated, "I do the same every Saturday without calling paps. Don't film it. Takes away from the cause. She is trying to say the same." On the work front, Sara Ali Khan has experienced a few successes recently. The actress was featured in Murder Mubarak, directed by Homi Adajania. Sara is also being lauded for her performance in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Set in the pre-independence era, the film follows 22-year-old Usha, a college girl in Bombay, who works to help India win independence and establishes an underground radio station that fuels the Quit India Movement. She has not announced any new projects till now.

Sara noticed the cameras, she became agitated and firmly told the photographers not to shoot her. In the viral videos, Sara was seen stating, "Please mat karo (do not record)." Many people in the comments section supported her, expressing that the paparazzi should respect her refusal and not invade her privacy. Even her aunt Saba Ali Khan stated, "I do the same every Saturday without calling paps. Don't film it. Takes away from the cause. She is trying to say the same." On the work front, Sara Ali Khan has experienced a few successes recently. The actress was featured in Murder Mubarak, directed by Homi Adajania. Sara is also being lauded for her performance in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Set in the pre-independence era, the film follows 22-year-old Usha, a college girl in Bombay, who works to help India win independence and establishes an underground radio station that fuels the Quit India Movement. She has not announced any new projects till now.



Shekhar Suman Says He Wants To Reconcile With Kangana Ranaut For Good: 'I Am Ready To Let Go'



Earlier this month, actor Shekhar Suman joined the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), sparking widespread interest due to Kangana Ranaut's affiliation with the same party. For those unaware, Shekhar's son, Adhyayan Suman, had a highly publicized and bitter breakup with Kangana. Since then, the families have kept their distance from one another. However, as Shekhar embarks on his political journey, he expresses a willingness to reconcile with Kangana, who recently became a BJP Lok Sabha member from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Shekhar emphasizes the importance of moving past old grievances for the greater good of the country. "I am ready to let go of the bitterness for the greater good," the actor continued, "Ideologically, we can work in tandem. We don't have to work together, but yes, there is no ill will, no rancour. Let's be more human other than just holding on to the past. Things happen in the heat of the moment and then people go about doing their jobs. We are hanging too much to the past. Let's forget it," he remarked. Shekhar believes it's time for everyone involved to let go of past grievances and unite for a greater cause, the betterment of the country. He stated, "If the need arises, then friends, enemies and people who once hated each other, do come back together for a common goal. It would be very petty on my part to hold on to any ranker now. Also, with age, there is more wisdom. What has happened has happened; it's a part of life. Life always doesn't move on with a smooth line. I can always circumvent this question by saying, 'no comments'. But, we are all grown up, mature people and we can handle problems." Shekhar Suman, recently starred in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's web series Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. Currently streaming on Netflix, Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar also stars Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmistha Segal Mehta, Farida Jalal, Fardeen Khan and Adhyayan Suman in key roles.

When Rishi Kapoor Took Dig at Amitabh Bachchan: 'He Has Never Given Due Credit to His Co-actors'



Rishi Kapoor, who died in April 2020 after battling cancer, was one of the most brutally honest celebrities in Bollywood. Apart from entertaining the audience with his versatile acting for several decades, he was known for his no-holds-barred attitude. In his memoir 'Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored', Rishi candidly spoke about his personal and professional life, from his relationship with wife Neetu Kapoor to his 'lingering issue' with Amitabh Bachchan. The actor had revealed that back in the days, a lot of actors would not prefer to work with Amitabh because "directors and writers unflinchingly reserved their strongest, pivotal roles" for him. In his book, Rishi wrote, "I must confess there is still a lingering issue I have with Amitabh Bachchan. A big disadvantage of working in an all-star movie in those days was that everybody only wanted to make action films, which automatically meant that the star who could carry off action with the most flair would get the meatiest part. That's how, with the exception of Kabhi Kabhie, which was a romantic film, none of the multi-starrers I featured in had an author-backed role for me. Directors and writers unflinchingly reserved their strongest, pivotal roles for Amitabh Bachchan. And it wasn't just me. Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna faced it too. He added, "Amitabh is undeniably a superb actor, immensely talented and, at the time, the number one star who ruled the box-office. He was an action hero, the angry young man. So roles were written for him. Although we may have been smaller stars, we were not lesser actors. Yet, the rest of us had to constantly measure up to him. We had to work hard, really exert ourselves to match up. In my time, the musical/romantic hero had no place. Amitabh was an action hero in an era of action films. As such, writers gave him the lion's share and he had the author-backed roles in almost all his films."

Amruta Khanvilkar's

London Album Is All About Coffee And Bubblewrap Waffle

Amruta Khanvilkar loves going on vacations. She often visits new places and often explores the beauty of nature. The actress also often posts pictures of her trips on Instagram. Unlike other travellers, she prefers exploring unique locations and sharing photos of her adventures. Her enthusiasm for travel shows her adventurous spirit. Currently, the Marathi actress went on a tropical vacation with her family in London. In her latest Instagram post, Amruta Khanvilkar looks stylish. She's wearing a simple white shirt with rolled-up sleeves tucked into a brown satin skirt. Completing her look are middle-parted bangs with flicks, black sunglasses, a brown sling bag, and multi-coloured sneakers, demonstrating her distinct fashion taste.



The actress shared several shots from her photoshoot of her adventures at the city's famous landmarks. In one picture, she poses gracefully in front of the Supermundane Mural, known for its heart-shaped design. Another captivating photo shows her in a stunning outfit with the London Eye in the background. Additionally, she shares a sweet selfie with her mother and strikes a pose at Trafalgar Square. Ending her series of posts is a candid solo shot, displaying her charming expressions. Amruta captured special moments with her parents. What's noteworthy is that her father, Raju Khanvilkar, is seen posing with her daughter in the photos. Throughout their stay in London, Amruta was amazed by her father's vigour and excitement, despite his age of 68 years.

Amruta Khanvilkar is best known for projects including Raazi, 24: India, Damaged, and Chandramukhi. The actor was last seen in the project titled Chacha Vidhayak Hain Humare. The actress has a slew of projects in the pipeline including The Trap (Daav Pech) and 36 Days. Directed by Joe Eshwar, The Trap (Daav Pech) stars Prasad Oak, Amruta Khanvilkar, and Shubhankar Tawde in the leading roles. Another cast of the film entails Neha Khan, Shantanu Ganesh Rode, Siddharth Salvi, Sarah Lockett, Clive Cohen, Imran Shabbano, Kuriakose Oonittan, and others in pivotal roles.

