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Woman plots 'supari' killing of father-in-law for Rs 300 crore property

Sanjay Kumar Chandigarh, June 12: A woman allegedly plotted a contract killing of her father-in-law for Rs 300 crore property in Nagpur...

Tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi takes oath as first BJP Chief Minister of Odisha

Simmi Kaur Babbar Bhubaneswar, June 12: Four-time MLA and tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi was on Wednesday sworn in as the first BJP Chief Minister of Odisha...

Bhubaneswar." "Congratulations to Shri Mohan Charan Majhi on taking oath as CM the blessings of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, I am confident this team will usher in record development in Odisha and improve the lives of countless people..."

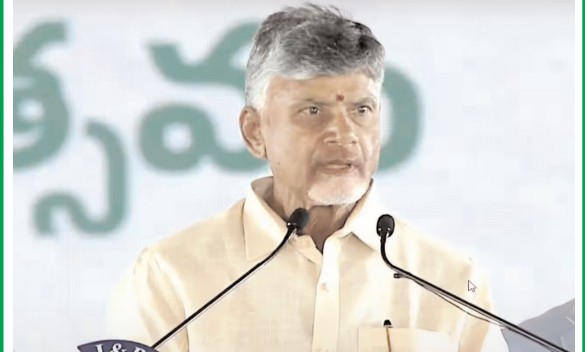
and to Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo as well as Smt. Pravati Parida on taking oath as Deputy CMs. Congratulations also to the others who took oath as Ministers. With the blessings of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, I am confident this team will usher in record development in Odisha and improve the lives of countless people..."

Krushna Chandra Patra, Prithiviraj Harichandan, Mukesh Mahaling, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and Krushna Chandra Mohapatra took oath as Cabinet ministers...



Chandrababu Naidu sworn in as Andhra Pradesh CM

Amaravati, June 12: TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for a fourth term on Wednesday at a ceremony that was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi...



Naidu on becoming the Chief Minister and also to all the others who took oath as ministers in the government," said Modi in a post on X. The TDP, Janasena and BJP government in the southern state is "fully committed to taking AP (Andhra Pradesh) to new heights of glory and fulfilling the aspirations of the state's youth..."

IAF flew 1,750 sorties involving 1,000 flying hours to support Election Commission during 2024 general election

Chandigarh, June 12: Transport aircraft and helicopters of the Indian Air Force conducted about 1,750 sorties flying over 1,000 hours in support of the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the 2024 general election...

PM Modi holds high-level review meeting on Kuwait fire tragedy

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, June 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday night took a review of the situation regarding the fire tragedy in Kuwait where several Indians are feared dead. The review meeting, held immediately after the Prime Minister returned from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha after attending the swearing-in ceremonies of respective state chief ministers...



officials said, adding that the building reportedly had nearly 200 people living in it, who are workers of the same company. In a statement, the Interior Ministry said that the death toll from the tragic fire has reached 49, the Kuwait Times newspaper reported. The ministry said that criminal evidence department personnel are currently working on identifying the victims on site and revealing the cause of the fire and added that strict measures will be taken against building owners who violate the law...

63 cases of use of unfair means but no paper leak

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 12: Sixty-three cases of students using unfair means were reported in NEET-UG out of whom 23 have been debarred for varying periods, NTA officials said Wednesday, but reiterated the sanctity of the medical entrance exam hasn't been compromised and there has been no paper leak. The result of the remaining 40 candidates who were found using unfair means have been withheld, NTA DG Subodh Kumar Singh told PTI. "A committee was constituted consisting of three eminent experts in field of examination and academics to put forward different types of cases reported such as impersonation, cheating and tampering with OMR sheet..."

of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024 has been affected and sought responses from the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) on another plea seeking holding of the examination afresh on grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices. Amid fire from protesting students and opposition parties, the Education Ministry had last week set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to 1,563 students to compensate them for loss of time due to delay in starting examination at certain centres. "The panel is yet to submit its report. Depending upon the panel's recommendations, either a retest will be conducted for nearly 1,600 students or an alternate mechanism may be devised to ensure no candidate faces any disadvantage," he said. Asked about allegations of marks inflation due to which 67 candidates have bagged top rank...

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Mumbai Police record Salman Khan's statement in connection with firing outside his house

Mumbai, June 12: Mumbai Police on Wednesday recorded statements of Bollywood star Salman Khan and his actor brother Arbaaz Khan in connection with the incident of firing outside the family's residence here in April, an official said. A four-member crime branch team visited Galaxy Apartments in Bandra where the family lives, he said. Salman's statement was recorded for nearly four hours while his brother's statement was recorded for more than two hours, the official said. Two motor-bike-borne men fired multiple rounds outside the actor's residence in the early hours of April 14. The alleged shooters, Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal, were arrested from Gujarat with police claiming that the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the incident. A total of six persons were arrested in the case. One of them, Anuj Thapan, allegedly hanged himself in police lock-up on May 1. In a separate case, Navi Mumbai Police earlier this month arrested five persons, including an alleged member of Bishnoi and Goldy Brar gangs from Haryana, in connection with a plot to attack Salman Khan.

NDA Government at Centre 'crippled', Modi will have to change his attitude: Rahul Gandhi

Nareish Malhotra Malappuram/Wayanad (Kerala), June 12: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that the BJP-NDA Government at the Centre was a "crippled" one as the Opposition dealt a fatal blow to the saffron party in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Gandhi also said that the people of the country have sent a clear message to the BJP and Narendra Modi and therefore, the Prime Minister will now have to change his attitude. "The truth is, what we have today is a crippled government (at the Centre). It has been beaten so badly by the INDIA bloc that it cannot walk straight. It is certainly not a government which is capable of leading the country," he said at a public meeting at Kalpetta in Wayanad district of the state. It was his first appearance in the state after winning the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat by a huge margin for the second consecutive time. Gandhi further said that the INDIA bloc has "completely destroyed the idea of Narendra Modi". "Today the Narendra Modi you see is completely different from the one you saw before the election," he said. He spoke along similar lines at Edavanna in Malappuram district, earlier in the day, where he said, "You will see that the government that has been formed in Delhi is a crippled government. The Opposition has dealt a fatal blow to the BJP. You will see that even Narendra Modi's attitude will have to change. He also said that there was "fundamental misunderstanding" on the part of the PM and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "They (PM and Shah) thought that just because they have political power, they have ED, CBI and the Income Tax department, they can dictate to people what is going to happen. The people of Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and all other states showed the PM that you cannot dictate to us what we want. The people of India told them that the Constitution is our voice. Do not touch the Constitution," he said. He further said that the truth was that the PM barely escaped defeat in Varanasi and the BJP was defeated in Ayodhya. "So, even the people of Ayodhya sent a message to the BJP that we do not appreciate hatred and violence," the Congress leader said at Edavanna. Later, at Kalpetta, Gandhi said that during the entire Lok Sabha poll campaign period, the media, ED, CBI and the entire Central administration were against the INDIA bloc. "The Election Commission designed the election to suit the PM's needs. The plan was a big drama where at the end, the PM's election will be held in Varanasi. The PM also violated the Model Code of Conduct by meditating at Kanyakumari towards the end of the elections when all other candidates were forbidden from campaigning. But, he had the full media coverage. After all this, he barely escaped (defeat) in Varanasi," he said. At Kalpetta and Edavanna, Gandhi said that the fight in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was for protecting the Constitution of India and in that fight, hatred has been defeated by love and affection and arrogance by humility.



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Congress questions PM Modi's 'silence' on terror attacks in J&K

New Delhi, June 12: Congress on Wednesday alleged that busy celebrating his third term in power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has forgotten to pay attention to the growing instances of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking to X, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Modi, busy replying to congratulatory messages, is not hearing the screams of the families of the devotees who were brutally killed in Jammu and Kashmir. There have been three separate terror incidents in Reasi, Kathua and Doda in last 3 days but the Prime Minister is still engrossed in celebrations". "The country is demanding answers - why are those plotting terrorist attacks not caught in the BJP government?", Gandhi asked. The Congress also issued a statement on the terror attacks and said the fact that BJP did not even bother to fight elections in Kashmir valley proved that the 'Naya Kashmir' policy was an 'abject failure'. In a string of questions directed at Modi, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera asked the PM whether it was true that the Pir Panjal Range - Rajouri and Poonch - has become a hotbed of cross-border terrorism in the past two years; as over 35 soldiers have been martyred, following terror attacks in these areas during this period. "And now terror has also spread to the neighbouring Reasi district, which was considered relatively peaceful," Khera added. He also asked Modi whether it was true that at least 19 previous major terror attacks were taken place on security installations, which included CRPF Camps, Army Camps, Air Force Station and Military Stations. "Is it not true that Modi government invited the rogue ISI to investigate the Pathankot attack in 2016?" Khera asked. "Is it not true that Modi government has endangered our national security, even as 2,262 terror attacks in J&K, in which, 363 civilians died and 596 Jawans have been martyred?" he added.

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**Tiruchy international airport's new integrated terminal begins operations with grand welcome**

**TIRUCHY:** Operations at the Tiruchy international airport's new integrated terminal building (ITB) got officially rolling with the arrival of an IndiGo flight from Chennai on Tuesday morning. A water cannon salute was accorded to the maiden flight at the terminal and airport authorities welcomed the passengers by handing over flowers and distributing sweets. Earlier, airport authorities had stated that the first arrival at the new terminal, which was inaugurated by the prime minister in January this year, would be an IndiGo flight from Singapore at 6.40 am. An hour's delay, however, led the domestic flight instead making the maiden arrival at the new terminal. A Bengaluru-bound flight from the same carrier made the first departure from the ITB.

While the maiden international flight at the terminal remained the IndiGo flight from Singapore, the first international departure was a SriLankan Airlines flight bound for Colombo, airport authorities said. Airport Director P Subramani and Deputy Commandant of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Harish Singh Nayal welcomed the passengers of the maiden flight at the terminal. S Geetha of Chennai said, "Initially, we planned to travel to Tiruchy by road. However, it was my daughter who insisted upon flying and booked tickets. We are here to attend a wedding. Prior to landing, we were informed that the flight was headed for the new terminal. Upon arrival, we were truly astonished by the building's architecture and interiors."

**Fake blood donors scam patients' families, suck money and scoot in Tamil Nadu**

**Voluntary blood donors allege that this kind of fraud is on the rise across the state, but the police fail to take any action despite multiple complaints.**

**Tamil Nadu.** On May 31, 30-year-old R Manikandan from Thanjavur was scrambling to find an AB-positive blood donor for his friend's wife who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital for cancer. After hours of efforts, a man claimed to be from Tiruchy promised to donate blood but demanded ₹3,000 for travel and other expenses. In his desperation, Manikandan transferred ₹1,000 and promised to pay the remaining later. But the man never turned up and he also blocked Manikandan's number. The patient, who was in the final stages of cancer, died the next day. This is the latest in a series of increasing incidents in which fraudsters have cheated friends and family of patients who are in a desperate situation for blood. Voluntary blood donors allege that this kind of fraud is on the rise across the state, but the police fail to take any action despite multiple complaints.

According to sources, the fraudsters contact the family of the patient in need of blood with an offer to donate blood and then demand 'conveyance' for their travel. They source the contact numbers of attendants from Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms when a request is posted. Once the family transfers the money, they disappear. In

light of such scams increasing by the day, the organisations involved in blood donation have demanded legal action against such fraudsters. Hospitals usually ask blood as a replacement for the units they used from the blood bank and the voluntary blood donation programme



guidelines state that small tokens of appreciation like refreshments and reimbursement of travel costs are compatible with voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation. "But in these cases, the fraudsters are not turning up for donations and are cheating money off desperate attendants who seek help in medical emergencies," said Srivatsav Vema, a member of the Platelet Club. "Even in 2022, a complaint was filed with the cybercrime wing of the police, and

they requested a written complaint, a bank statement, and online money transfer records. Everything was submitted, but no action was taken," he said. Srivatsav and other voluntary blood donors urged the government to enact a separate blood donation law to curb such cases. In another incident, a social worker shared her recent experience on how a person used an emergency situation to dupe a family. On May 23, a 13-year-old girl who was diagnosed with blood cancer needed AB positive blood. Her family was searching for a suitable blood donor and shared the request on WhatsApp groups. They received a call from a person who said he can donate blood, and requested money for travel expenditure. After the money was transferred, he again sought additional funds.

The next morning, he again called the child's mother and requested to transfer another Rs 1,000 and the mother did so, said Deborah Anbarasi, a social worker at the Government Institute of Child Health, Egmore. The child was vomiting blood the next day and the mother was agitated and restless, so she immediately transferred the money without thinking about anything. Then the man switched off the phone and disappeared. The family then found a donor within their family and the need was met," added Deborah Anbarasi.

**Four years on, railway restores 140 pairs of express trains to passenger category**

**CHENNAI:** Nearly four years after being converted into express trains, the Southern Railway has decided to revert 140 pairs of trains to ordinary second-class passenger category. The decision, slated to take effect from July 1, is expected to bring relief to passengers, particularly daily commuters outside Chennai. Consequently, the minimum fare for these trains, reduced from Rs 30 to Rs 10 in March this year without official notification 50 days before the polling of the first phase of the Lok Sabha election, will now be permanent. The passenger trains running in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry were converted into express trains in March 2020 after the Covid-19 lockdown. Marking the changes, the railways renumbered the express special trains, applying the criteria used for numbering regular second class



passenger trains, and duly notified the changes. However, passenger trains running for more than 200 km, such as Tirupati-Puducherry, Villupuram-Madurai, and others which were converted into express trains, will continue to operate as express trains as usual. After the Covid-19 lockdown, all passenger trains were converted into express trains, resulting in a 50% increase in fare. Consequently, passengers had to pay a minimum of Rs 35 to Rs 45 per ticket instead of Rs 10. The railways decision will ensure the ticket fare remains low in all express specials permanently, including in routes like Chennai Egmore - Puducherry, Chennai Beach - Tiruvannamalai MEMU, Katpadi - Salem, Villupuram - Tiruchy, Coimbatore - Pollachi, Mannargudi-Mayiladuthurai, Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, Nagapattinam-Velankanni and others. A Giri, former member of the Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC), Trichy division, said, "The railways' decision now provides clarity, as the downgrade from express to passenger class weeks before the election was not a temporary measure. The railways should restore all other facilities to passengers that were available before the Covid-19 lockdown." R Pandiaraja, a ZRUCC member from the Southern Railway, remarked, "The railways should refrain from providing verbal directives regarding policy decisions, as these have led to huge confusion among staff and passengers."

**Breaking shackles: Inspiring journey of two sisters rescued from bonded labour**

**According to officials, the demolition work was undertaken without consulting the central agency.**

**HYDERABAD :** As the students after a long summer vacation return to school to begin a new academic year from June 12 onwards to gear up for another year of learning and growing, the day also marks World Day Against Child Labour, a sobering reminder of the plight of many children trapped in bonded labour. This story highlights the experiences of two sisters from Mahbubnagar District, Santhula Anusha and Santhula Nandini, who were rescued from a life of bonded labour. In a conversation with CE, the two girls share their harrowing story of being forced into labour as children until they were rescued by members of the National Adivasi Solidarity Council.

Nandini recalls, "I was very young when I was taken to work. My parents took me there because a person promised us a house if we went with them. For almost seven months, they paid us regularly, but then they stopped. They only gave us food like rice and tomatoes and kept us in a shed without electricity. The shed was overcrowded, housing 13 families, making it very difficult to live. When any of us got sick, we received no medical

care. We were forbidden to leave, even when we asked to move to another village. Eventually, my parents left my sister and me with our grandmother because the situation became unbearable." She continues, "We were made to break stones, regardless of our age or gender. We worked from morning until evening and received no medical attention if we got hurt. We even had to work in the houses of those who took charge of us. We were rescued when someone informed the police, but we were threatened with death if we tried to leave. After five years, we were finally freed, and now we are happily studying."

Anusha shares her experience, "They lured us with promises of a house and necessities and made my parents sign a paper. We ended up doing all kinds of labour, including household work. My parents were distressed by our suffering. I started studying in the 5th standard and

have now completed the 10th grade. It feels great to be studying and building my identity. We were just kids when we were forced into labour. Many other children were also rescued along with us. Now, we



are well-fed and happy. I am the first in my family to pursue education. My parents and other family members were all labourers before." Chitha Krishna, the Rehabilitation Coordinator at the National Adivasi Solidarity Council, explains their efforts to rescue and educate these children. "In 2013, a person

from Mahabubnagar lured families to Kolar district in Karnataka State with promises of good facilities. For seven months, they were treated well, but then the torture began. These families, uneducated and unaware, signed papers that falsely stated they had taken loans and needed to repay them. They were physically abused and forced to work from early morning. One person even lost his hand but was still made to work. We were informed about these conditions and managed to rescue them in a dramatic turn of events." "In 2018, they settled in Motinagar, Mahbubnagar. Nandini and Anusha were taken to Hyderabad and given proper education. We have also taken care of all the children who were bonded labourers. These girls, once 10-11 years old, are now 16 and have passed their 10th examinations," Krishna concludes.

**A vocational school's 'umbrella term' for growth and rehabilitation**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM :** The students of Navajyoti BUDS Rehabilitation Centre, a vocational school in Chittazha, Maruthoor, are busy making umbrellas this rainy season. To develop their skills and follow their dreams, these students with disabilities receive support from the Karakulam grama panchayat and the Nedumangad block Panchayat. Although officially capped at 35 years, the age limit at BUDS is more of a guideline than a rule, ensuring that no one is turned away from here. The centre currently supports 28 students, all of whom are uniquely talented. Among the young learners is 16-year-old Swagath. His teacher, Ambikapathi or fondly known as Ambika, was excited to show one of his creations, a uniquely imagined rose. A shop near the

school that is set up with the support of the Nedumangad Block Panchayat, sells a variety of handmade goods made by the students and the parents. From cloth bags and paper pens to candles, cloth mats, file boards, jewellery and brooms, all of the products made by the students here are beautiful and useful. Their newest product, umbrellas, has become a favourite among their customers. Since the schools reopened, umbrellas have been in great demand. These carefully crafted pieces are made by students who were trained by teachers arranged by the grama panchayat. In their workspace, students sit in groups and make umbrellas while having fun chats. With needles and twine in hand, they sew together the colourful fabrics to make umbrellas. One of the school's star students is Sreelekshmi,



an all-rounder who has been with the school since it was founded nine years ago. Having previously attended Shalom Special School where Ambika was her teacher, she joined Navajyoti when Ambika decided to run this school. Manoj Kumar, a 27-year-old dancer is another student of the school. Not only does he dance but also teaches other students too, thereby making an earning. Being a person

with disability himself, Manoj knows how to connect with the students and bring out the best in them. Vimal, 25, another talented dancer, performed his favourite folk dance that he regularly performs in competitions, bringing home prizes. Supporting the students are five staff members, along with visiting physiotherapists and speech therapists who come four days a week. Their goal is to equip the students with the skills necessary to earn a living independently. The panchayat organises training sessions for both students and parents in various crafts. "I want them all to be able to earn for themselves. I strive for that," said Ambika. "Their transportation is a hurdle, as the school van cannot accommodate all 28 students at once. So, the students arrive in two batches."

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**Although the party appears to have zeroed in on the new TPCC chief candidate, it is still weighing its options.**

**Cabinet rejig only after appointment of new TPCC chief?**

**HYDERABAD :** If the Congress grapevine is to be believed, aspirants for a berth in the state Cabinet may have to wait till after a new Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief is appointed before the much-talked-about expansion takes place. The chatter in Congress corridors is that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would go ahead with the Cabinet expansion after the new TPCC chief takes office. It was earlier speculated that the Cabinet expansion will take place soon after the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls was lifted. Given the fact that the Congress high command held wide consultations at the time of Revanth Reddy's appointment as TPCC president, a similar exercise is expected this time around too. However, there has been no movement in this direction yet,

suggesting that finalisation of the TPCC chief may take a few more days. Revanth's tenure as TPCC president ends on July 7 and he has publicly said that he was no longer interested in continuing in the post as he wants to focus on governance being the chief minister. Although the party appears to have zeroed in on the new TPCC chief candidate, it is still weighing its options. Currently, TPCC working president B Mahesh Kumar Goud appears to be the front-runner for the job, but sources said that Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Panchayat Raj Minister Dansari Anasuya and Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar are also vying for the post. Meanwhile, recalling that the appointments pertaining to nominated posts for 37 corporations were made a day before



the enforcement of the MCC and no announcement has been made so far, Gandhi Bhavan sources said that the delay has caused much angst among the aspirants. The Congress leaked

other aspirants for the posts continued lobbying with the party high command. **Implement RERA Act strictly:** CM Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has advised the Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Tribunal to ensure strict implementation of the RERA Act. On being appointed the tribunal chairman, Justice A Rajasekhara Reddy, along with members Palle Pradeep Kumar Reddy and Chitra Ramachandran met the CM here on Tuesday. During the meeting, the CM asked the tribunal members to ensure the strict implementation of the RERA Act. Meanwhile, IAS officers belonging to 2023 batch allotted to Telangana cadre, who are undergoing training at the MCRHRD, met the CM at the Secretariat.







NEWS BOX

Polish 'spiderman' tries to scale 30-storey building in Argentina, arrested

World A Polish daredevil known as the Silesian Spider Man has been arrested as he was trying to climb a 30-storey building in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires using just his bare hands. Thrill-seeker Macin Banot, wearing Argentina's football jersey, was intercepted by firefighters after scaling 25 floors of the Globant building while a crowd gathered below.

After someone inside the building dialled the emergency line, over 30 firefighters, ambulances, and police rushed to the scene. Back on the ground, the 36-year-old climber was arrested and might be ordered to pay for the rescue effort, an official was cited by news agency AFP in its report. Banot, who has over 302K followers on his Instagram page, has a long history of urban climbing.

Earlier, in a similar incident in 2019, Banot was arrested after he scaled a 557-foot-tall Marriott hotel in Warsaw without any safety. According to the Daily Mail, previously he had scaled the UK's 500-foot Humber Bridge to raise funds for a girl suffering from glioma. He even climbed to Romania's 1,000-foot chimney, Barcelona's 380-foot Melia Sky, and Silesia's factory chimneys.

Hamas proposes 'amendments' to Gaza truce deal, Israel calls it 'rejection'

World Palestinian militant group Hamas has submitted its response to the US-backed proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, seeking "amendments" to the deal. The response, received by mediators Qatar and Egypt, falls short of an outright acceptance but keeps negotiations alive for a halt to the eight-month war. Israel, however, views the response as tantamount to a rejection, while Hamas officials believe they have reiterated longstanding demands not met by the current plan. Meanwhile, an Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon killed a senior field commander of Hezbollah, identified as Abu Taleb, and three fighters for the militant group, reported Reuters citing security sources.

Here are the latest developments in the Israel-Hamas war: Hamas officials have expressed wariness over whether Israel would implement the terms of the proposed ceasefire deal, particularly provisions for a permanent end to fighting and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in exchange for the release of all hostages held by the militants. The proposal, announced by US President Joe Biden last month, calls for a three-phased plan that would begin with an initial six-week truce and the release of some hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Israeli forces would withdraw from populated areas, and Palestinian civilians would be allowed to return to their homes. The second phase would bring a permanent end to hostilities, the release of all remaining hostages, and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. The third phase would initiate a major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued to urge Hamas to accept the proposal, citing the UN Security Council's vote in favour of the plan as evidence of international support. "Everyone's vote is in, except for one vote, and that's Hamas," Blinken said in Tel Aviv. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given conflicting signals over the ceasefire deal, saying Israel will not stop until Hamas is destroyed, despite the US stating that Israel has accepted the proposal.

Pope again uses 'homophobic' slur, opposes gay men's entry in seminary: Report

Italian media had attributed to the pope the use of the word "frocaggine", a vulgar Italian term roughly translating as "faggotness", on May 20 during a closed-door meeting with Italian bishops.

Rome The pope has again used a highly disparaging word against gay people for which he had already apologised last month, ANSA news agency said on Tuesday. Italian media had attributed to the pope the use of the word "frocaggine", a vulgar Italian term roughly translating as "faggotness", on May 20 during a closed-door meeting with Italian bishops.

According to ANSA, Francis repeated the term on Tuesday as he met Roman priests, saying "there is an air of faggotness in the Vatican," and it was better



that young men with a homosexual tendency not be allowed to enter the seminary. Asked about the latest report, the Vatican's press office made reference to a statement it had issued regarding Tuesday's meeting with the priests, in which the pope reiterated the need to welcome gay people into the Church and the need for caution regarding them becoming seminarians.

After the initial report of his use of the word, Corriere della Sera newspaper quoted unnamed bishops who were in the room as suggesting that the pope, as an Argentine, might not have realised that the Italian term he used was offensive.

Francis, who is 87, had been credited with making substantial overtures towards the LGBT community during his 11-year papacy. Some observers of the Vatican say his recent missteps undermine his authority and raise questions about his convictions and the reform path he has in mind for the Church.

US to send Ukraine another Patriot missile system amid call for air defences

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy late last month asked for additional U.S.-made Patriot systems

The decision comes as defense leaders from US, Europe prep for monthly meeting on Ukraine's security needs

Ukraine's need for air defense will be a topic at the meeting

Washington The United States will send Ukraine another Patriot missile system, two U.S. officials said Tuesday, answering Kyiv's desperate calls for more air defenses as it battles an intense Russian assault on the northeastern Kharkiv region.

The officials said President Joe Biden has approved the move. It would be the second Patriot system that the U.S. has given to Ukraine, although the Pentagon has routinely provided an undisclosed number of missiles for the system. Other

allies, including Germany, also have provided air defense systems as well as munitions for them. The two U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been publicly announced. The decision was first reported by The New York Times. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late last month pleaded for additional U.S.-made Patriot systems, arguing that they will help his forces fight the close to 3,000 bombs that he said Russia launches into the country every month. Speaking in Madrid, Zelenskyy said Ukraine still urgently needs another seven of the systems to fend off Russian strikes against the power grid and civilian areas, as well as military targets, with devastating glide bombs that wreak wide destruction.



He said Ukraine needs two of the systems to protect Kharkiv, where Russia launched a cross-border offensive on May 10 that still has Ukrainian troops reeling. "If we had these modern Patriot systems, (Russian) airplanes wouldn't be able to fly close enough to drop the (glide)

bombs on the civilian population and the military," Zelenskyy told a news conference in the Spanish capital.

The decision comes as defense leaders from the U.S., Europe and other nations prepare for their monthly meeting on Ukraine's security needs. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will host the meeting in Brussels on Thursday.

The U.S. has routinely pressed for allies to provide air defense systems to Ukraine, but many are reluctant to give up the high-tech systems — particularly countries in eastern Europe that also feel threatened by Russia. The U.S. also is wary of giving too many away, since they are used all over the world to protect U.S. forces and allies. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder told reporters on Monday that Ukraine's need for air defense will be a topic at the meeting.

Maldives President calls 1st India visit 'a success', bats for stronger ties

World President of the Maldives Mohamed Muizzu has hailed his first official visit to India as a major success, saying that he hoped it leads to stronger bilateral relations between the two nations.

"God willing, the strong ties between the two nations will result in increased prosperity for the Maldives and Maldivians alike," Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, told a state-run broadcaster after his visit to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Council of Ministers. Muizzu, who was invited by PM Modi, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to hold high-level meetings with the Prime Minister, President Droupadi Murmu, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. "This trip has been a success for the Maldives and for the region too," he said. Accompanied by a high-level government delegation,



President Muizzu met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. They discussed various issues and attended a banquet together, where Muizzu was seated beside PM Modi. In his meeting with President Murmu, the Maldivian leader expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality and acknowledged India's continuous assistance to the Maldives. External

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also met with Muizzu, expressing hope for closer cooperation between the two nations in the future. Muizzu's visit follows a recent visit by the Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer to India as the two nations walk a diplomatic tightrope after relations nosedived last year when the newly sworn-in President demanded the withdrawal of all Indian military personnel operating three aviation platforms from his country. A massive row had erupted over derogatory remarks made by Maldivian ministers about PM Modi on social media, resulting in a Boycott Maldives call in India that put a dent in the coffers of the island nation, where the tourism sector is its "lifeblood". Muizzu's visit is being viewed as a significant step in reviving relations between India and the Maldives.

2 US men jailed for trying to sell Iranian oil to China in violation of sanctions

Washington Two Texas men convicted by a U.S. jury in November of trying to sell Iranian petroleum in violation of sanctions imposed by Washington and of conspiracy to commit money laundering were sentenced on Tuesday to 45 months in prison, the Justice Department said. Zhenyu Wang, 43, a Chinese citizen, and Daniel Ray Lane, 42, of McKinney, Texas, schemed with co-conspirators to evade U.S. economic sanctions against Iran from July 2019 to February 2020 by facilitating the purchase of sanctioned oil from Iran, masking its origins and then selling it to a refinery in China, the department said in a statement. Lane was president of privately held Stack Royalties, a Texas-based company that sells oil and gas mineral rights to investment funds and private equity groups. Lane's attorney, Paul Hetzmecker, told Reuters late last year that the case was based on undercover government agents who offered Lane "millions of dollars in profits" if he took part in the scheme, after initially rebuffing their approaches. The



attorney had called the case "an outrageous example of government overreach." The pair were charged, along with three others, in 2020 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. At least two co-conspirators have since pleaded guilty, court records showed.

China is the world's only major importer of Iranian oil despite sanctions that former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally reimposed on Tehran's petroleum exports in 2018 after withdrawing the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers.

Chinese 'dissident' naval officer enters Taiwan by speedboat

Beijing/Taipei A Chinese ex-navy captain, claiming to be a defector, caught Taiwan's navy off-guard by driving his speedboat directly to a pier outside the capital Taipei on Sunday.

The intrusion by a mainland Chinese man amid high-security measures in the midst of recurring tensions with China came in for strong criticism from Taiwan's top politicians. China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

The man, identified as Ruan, 60, was spotted 11 km off the coast of Tamsui in New Taipei. After entering the Tamsui River, which leads to downtown Taipei, the boat hit a ferry at the pier, according to the coastguard, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Tuesday.

Ruan, who claimed to be a former Chinese navy captain, said he left Ningde port in China's coastal city of Fuzhou a day earlier. However, Taiwan's coastguard said no food or drink was found on the boat and the man did not appear to have a tan.

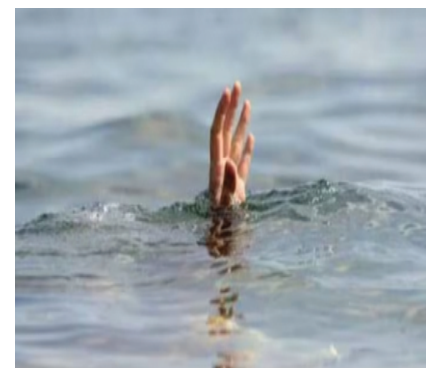
According to the coastguard, the man said he was persecuted by mainland authorities for "making improper statements" and that he wished to flee to Taiwan. He was being charged with violation of various Taiwanese laws including breaching the



immigration act. The possibility the Chinese speedboat incursion was a grey zone tactic by Beijing cannot be ruled out, Taiwan's Defence Minister Wellington Koo said on Tuesday. Following this, the defence ministry would strengthen measures to prevent sudden vessel intrusions from China, Taiwan News reported. Taipei mayor Hou You-yi called it a serious security lapse, especially considering the pier is less than 10 minutes from Taipei by boat. "National border security cannot afford any lapses. This incident indicates that the coastguard and the first-line security reporting mechanisms were not effectively managed," he said. China has intensified military drills involving its army, navy, air force and rocket force around Taiwan after Lai Ching-te, a pro-independence leader of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the Presidential election last month.

49 dead, 140 missing after migrant boat sinks off Yemen's coast: UN

The boat was carrying about 260 Somalis and Ethiopians from the northern coast of Somalia on the 320-kilometer (200-mile) journey across the Gulf of Aden when it sank Monday off of Yemen's southern coast.



Cairo, A boat carrying migrants sank off the coast of Yemen, killing at least 49 people and leaving another 140 missing, the UN agency said Tuesday. The boat was carrying about 260 Somalis and Ethiopians from the northern coast of Somalia on the 320-kilometer (200-mile) journey across the Gulf of Aden when it sank Monday off of Yemen's southern coast, the International Organization for Migration said in a statement. Yemen is a major route for migrants from East Africa and the Horn of Africa trying to reach Gulf countries for work. Despite a nearly decade-long civil war in Yemen, the number of arriving migrants has tripled in recent years, from about 27,000 in 2021 to more than 90,000 last year, the IOM said last month. About 380,000 migrants are

currently in Yemen, according to the agency. To reach Yemen, migrants are taken by smugglers on often dangerous, overcrowded boats across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden. In April, at least 62 people died in two shipwrecks off the coast of Djibouti as they tried to reach Yemen. The IOM said at least 1,860 people have died or disappeared along the route, including 480 who drowned.

Monday's sinking "is another reminder of the urgent need to work together to address urgent migration challenges and ensure the safety and security of migrants along migration routes," said IOM spokesperson Mohammedali Abunajela.



## Telangana govt ensures timely school uniforms via women SHGs

**HYDERABAD :** To ensure uniforms are provided on the first day of reopening of schools, the state government entrusted their stitching to women self-help groups. The government, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, has also increased the honorarium from Rs 50 to Rs 75 per uniform, taking inflation into account.

The state government recognised that delays in distributing school uniforms in state-run schools had become an annual issue due to supply shortages and high demand. Previously, only a limited number of tailors were tasked with stitching the uniforms. When this issue was brought to the attention of the CM, he assigned the task to women self-help groups through Women and Child Welfare and Panchayat Raj Minister Dansari Anasuya. The minister, also known as Seethakka, ensured timely delivery of the required uniforms.

It is said that this allocation of stitching school uniforms to women SHGs would be the first of its kind in the country. This not only aims to provide uniforms on time but also promote women empowerment. With 64 lakh women members in SHGs in 18,000 village organisations, the state government issued a work order for 15,30,603 uniforms. Nearly 90% of the uniforms were ready by Tuesday and will be distributed when the students return to school. The state government has set aside a sum of ₹50 crore for the stitching of uniforms.

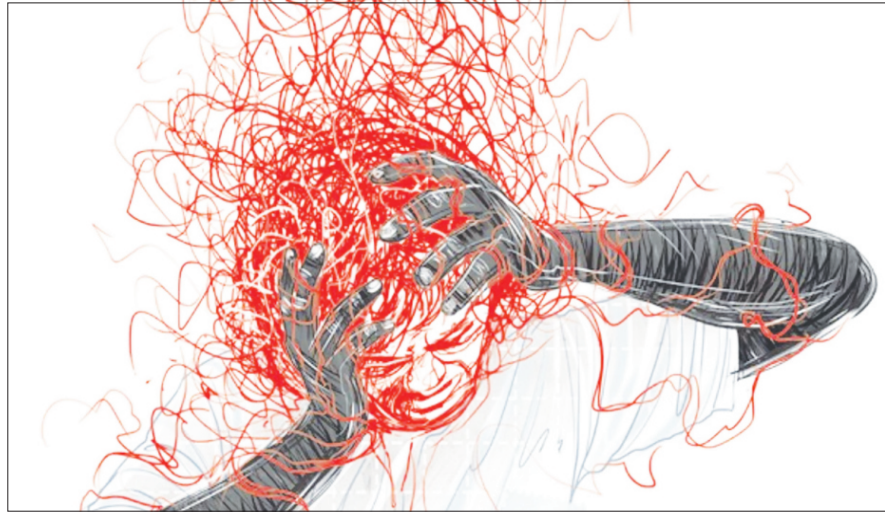
## Stalin vows to root out drug menace in Tamil Nadu

### Promises to kick-start massive movement soon, urges depts to take coordinated action

**CHENNAI:** Chief Minister MK Stalin said the prevalence of narcotic substances is not just a law and order issue but also a social issue and a massive movement will be launched to eliminate it in the state. Stalin said this while reviewing the progress made in the ongoing welfare and developmental schemes in various districts.

Collectors of 14 districts participated in the meeting chaired by the chief minister at the secretariat. In the coming days, the CM is likely to hold discussions with the collectors of the rest of the districts also. Interacting with the collectors, Stalin said though the state government has contained the prevalence of narcotic substances to a large extent, it is not sufficient.

The menace has to be eliminated totally. He urged the collectors, superintendents of police, officials of health and municipal administration departments to take coordinated action to end the menace. They should pay exclusive attention to the areas where the prevalence of narcotic substances is identified. The CM also said the difficulties faced by the people in



getting certificates, and patta transfer certificates have come to the notice of the government and that the collectors should pay special attention to this. Stalin also advised the collectors to desilt lakes, ponds, and other ter resources ahead of the rainy season. During his interaction, the chief minister enquired about the progress made in building houses for those who lost their houses during Cyclone Michaung and the status of the scheme to build houses under various housing schemes.

Tiruvallur District Collector T Prabhushankar said ₹4 lakh has been allocated to 1,360 persons who lost their houses in the cyclone and works are on to build the houses. Besides, loans are being provided to the families who have lost their businesses.

Kancheepuram District Collector Kalaiselvi Mohan said compensation for crop damages has been disbursed to farmers and the building of houses for those who have lost them is under way. New

certificates have been issued to those who have lost their originals. Chengalpattu District Collector S Arunraj said construction of most of the houses has already been over and people who were affected by the cyclone are being given loans, and special camps were held to issue certificates to students who have lost them. Cuddalore District Collector A Arun Thamburaj said 11,455 houses are to be built for his district and of them, works of 1,245 houses are yet to commence. Nagapattinam District Collector Johny Tom Varghese said 6,000 houses are to be built in the district their progress is being reviewed every week. Mayiladuthurai District Collector AP Mahabharathi said 33,000 houses have been allotted for the district and 5,000 have been completed. Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin, Chennai Corporation Commissioner J Radhakrishnan, and senior officials took part in the meeting.

## Facelift of government hospitals may be a big burden to new Andhra government

**VIJAYAWADA:** The moment after taking oath, the TDP-led NDA government besides shouldering the responsibility of developing Andhra Pradesh, is likely to be burdened with numerous challenges in the healthcare sector. Though the government hospitals have seen a significant facelift in the past five years under YSRC governance, the doctors have pointed out certain negligence in developing the health sector in the State. According to the sources, the centuries-old government hospitals, which lack proper operation theatres, equipment and beds, will likely force the new government to plunge into a debt crisis due to its over-dependence on private hospitals for Aarogyasri services. The doctors of government hospitals have criticised that though the previous government had appointed super speciality doctors, the lack of proper surgical equipment and materials in their respective departments is haunting the sector. Apart from these, the issues such as unpaid PRC arrears for the government doctors, and appointment of kin of doctors, who died during Covid-19, under compassionate grounds are yet to be fulfilled. It is to be noted that the State government also did not enhance the stipends for house surgeons, junior doctors and super speciality PGs since January.

Speaking to TNIE, Andhra Pradesh Government Doctors Association State President Dr D Jayadheer emphasised the need to develop 11 government Teaching Hospitals (medical colleges), particularly their super speciality wings. He highlighted the need for state-of-the-art facilities in major hospitals in Visakhapatnam and Tirupati like in Vijayawada. Jayadheer also pointed out that while private hospitals have special wards for schemes like Aarogyasri and EHS, government hospitals do not meet these standards. He plans to discuss necessary precautions for the development of the health sector in Andhra Pradesh with the government and private hospitals doctors and present a detailed report to the new government within ten days.

Meanwhile, the Chandrababu Naidu's government would face significant challenges in continuing the Aarogyasri scheme. This programme, which provides free medical treatment to the poor, was the brainchild of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. It was renamed NTR Aarogyasri during Chandrababu's regime and later renamed as Dr YSR Aarogyasri by former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The number of beneficiaries has reached lakhs, as the procedures covered have expanded to more than three thousand. Recently, the AP Super Speciality Hospitals Association halted services protesting against unpaid dues, potentially amounting to Rs 1,600 crore.

## Child labour: Legislation sought to recognise all under 18 as children

**CHENNAI:** On World Day Against Child Labour, Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch (TNCRW) and Campaign against Child Labour - Tamil Nadu (CACL-TN) have appealed to the union government to enact legislative reforms, ensuring that all individuals under the age of 18 are uniformly recognised as children across all laws to prevent their employment as labourers. Activists have called for the repeal of the Child and Adolescent Labour Act 1986 and its amendments, including the 2016 Amendment Act. "The Act and its amendments permit children to be employed in family enterprises and certain forms of work, and differentiate between children and adolescents, thus allowing adolescent labour. However, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) clearly defines every person under 18 as a child," their statement said. They urged the government to enact comprehensive legislation that criminalises all forms of child labour up to 18 years of age and includes a holistic reintegration plan from the victim's perspective, aiming to reintegrate every child into academic or vocational learning.

The activists noted that CACL, in consultation with various stakeholders, has already drafted an alternative law - The Child Labour System (Abolition, Prevention, and Rehabilitation) Bill - which was submitted in Parliament in 2017 and should be considered. "While Indian government has acceded to the UNCRC, acknowledging every person under 18 as a child, a constitutional amendment is necessary to implement this uniformly, as different laws currently have varying criteria. For example, the Right to Education Act considers children as persons only up to the age of 14 years. Following a constitutional amendment, all related laws should be revised for consistency," said A Devaneyan of TNCRW. Additionally, they called for adequate financial and human resources to meet the sustainable development goals target of ending all forms of child labour by 2025. They have written to MPs from Tamil Nadu, urging them to highlight these issues in Parliament. They plan to meet MPs in person to discuss the cause until July 30.



## Minor's joyride in Hyderabad ends in crash, parents charged

**HYDERABAD :** Less than a month after a Porsche car driven by a minor hit a two-wheeler and claimed two lives in Pune, the Hyderabad city traffic police are on high alert regarding underage driving. Even so, a 14-year-old managed to take his family's Baleno out for a drive and rammed into a few parked bikes near the Golden temple at Manikonda on Monday evening. At least four bikes were damaged and a mother-son duo sustained minor injuries in the accident, the police said. On Monday evening, the minor reportedly took the keys of the blue Baleno without telling his parents, and drove from his house in Nekkampur to Puppalguda. He was driving the automatic car back to his house, when the minor seemed to have lost control over the speeding car and rammed a bike near the temple, the police said. While the locals rushed to rescue the two injured persons, the car came to a halt. "As some locals tried to stop the car, the minor panicked and oversped, causing it to ram into the parked bikes," said Narsingi Station House Officer Hari Krishna Reddy. The boy then reportedly tried to run away leaving the vehicle behind. He was later traced and found at his residence in Nekkampur. The Narsingi police have registered a case against the minor and his parents and served notices to them under IPC Sections 337 and 229 and under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicle Act. While the father is facing a case for allowing the minor to drive without a licence, the mother is the registered owner of the vehicle, the police said. "As of now, the vehicle has been seized," the police added. Meanwhile, the police have been taking efforts to curb underage driving. "Only a few days ago, we held a review meeting on this issue and are planning to conduct special counselling.

## TDP's return leads to sharp surge in land prices in and around Amaravati

**VIJAYAWADA:** The return of TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu has instilled fresh hope in the realty sector. First signs have been observed in the estranged capital city of Amaravati, Vijayawada and Guntur as land rates have surged by at least 40-50%. Additionally, the allied sectors such as construction are hopeful of doing good business in the next five years. There is speculation that land rates in all the 29 capital villages, Mangalagiri, Tadepalli, Guntur and Vijayawada cities are expected to double in the coming days.

Chief Secretary Neerab Kumar Prasad, APCRDA commissioner Vivek Yadav and other officials' unexpected visit to Amaravati have also given a renewed hope to the stakeholders. In the first three months, CRDA is expected to complete pending works pertaining to seed access roads, MLA quarters, AIS officers' quarters, secretariat towers, the



high court building, housing projects for judges, a water treatment plant, and other necessary infrastructure. Realtors in the capital region are expressing their happiness over the capital construction and opined that the sharp rise in land rates reflects the interest of investors in Amaravati and confidence in Naidu. The real estate business in two districts suffered under the YSRC regime. Prices of lands declined to a maximum of 70% soon after former chief minister YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy announced the three-capital proposal. Meanwhile, a few sellers have postponed their plans to sell their land, but some others are waiting to see if there is any further upward movement in the price in case Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes a positive statement during Naidu's swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday. A builder in Tadepalli, who had built a gated community and incurred huge losses with Jagan's announcement of three capitals, hiked the price per sq.ft to Rs 5,000 from Rs 4,000 per following the election results. "We are confident that Naidu will kick-start his dream project of building the world class capital 'Amaravati'. The land rates in all the 29 villages under the capital Amaravati witnessed a sudden surge. We are planning other projects in Tadepalli and Kunchanapalli villages," he said.

## THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

**M:** Fresh cracks have appeared on the yet-to-be-opened glass bridge at Akkulam in Thiruvananthapuram, raising questions over its quality and safety. The damage spotted on the viewing deck of the 52-m-long bridge on Tuesday, just a month after one of its panels developed a crack, threatens to shatter Kerala Tourism's dreams of promoting the state as a global adventure tourism hub.

The bridge, standing at a height of 75 feet, was built for Rs 1.2 crore using private investment. The Vattiyoorkavu Youth Brigade Entrepreneur Cooperative Society (VYBECOS) is responsible for implementing the project. The panels were

bought from Saint Gobain, a global glass manufacturing firm. Each panel is three-layered, is 36mm thick and weighs around 1 tonne. Vattiyoorkavu MLA V K Prasanth, the chief promoter of VYBECOS, told TNIE that safety assessment of the panels is under way by the company that supplied them.

**Matter will be taken up with tourism min: MLA** "We have asked the firm to give a report on the safety of the panels. I am not aware of the new cracks. We will look into it," Prasanth said.

Kazhakkootam MLA and former tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran said the matter will be taken up with Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas. "All



adventure tourism infrastructure should be 100% safe. The same should apply to the glass bridge. Without getting safety clearance, it will not be opened to the public. At present, assembly sessions are on and the matter will be discussed with the tourism minister tomorrow (Wednesday)," Kadakampally said. Last month, crack had appeared on one of the panels, sparking a row. Alleging vandalism, VYBECOS had lodged a complaint with Sreekaryam police. The police, however, ruled out

vandalism and sent the cracked panel for forensic analysis. The National Institute of Technology, Calicut, had also inspected the bridge and given safety clearance. The Sreekaryam police on Tuesday said the forensic wing had submitted its report on the reasons behind the crack that appeared last month in court. "We are yet to get a copy of the report," the official said. In a statement two days ago, Riyas had said the government's focus was on developing world-class infrastructure to "make Kerala the finest destination for thrill-seekers and adventure lovers." The state had tremendous potential to emerge as a global adventure and eco-tourism hub, he had said.

## Ayahs are also human beings, don't force them to work 24 hours: Kerala Administrative Tribunal

**KOCHI :** "At the old age home, I hardly get any sleep as we have to be at the service of the inmates round the clock. Working 24 hours for six days continuously is strenuous and I have developed health issues because of sleeplessness," says Shylaja (name changed), a caregiver at an old age home under the social justice department. The caregivers are able to avail a weekly off only if they work round the clock for six days, she says. "My day starts at 5.30am. I have to prepare breakfast and tea for the inmates. After that, I have to help them brush their teeth, bathe, and change clothes. I have to

feed some of the ailing inmates. Some need help with primary needs. Though there is a private room to rest in at night, I hardly get time to sleep. I love taking care of the elderly, but I also need rest. The 24-hour duty is exhausting. I hardly get time to visit my children and spend time with them," Shylaja says. Expressing anguish over the plight of the caregivers (ayahs), the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) has directed the state government to rationalise their duty hours, limiting the work pattern to eight hours a day and 48 hours a week. "The government cannot deny the ayahs just and

humane working conditions. The government should recognise the fact that they are also human beings having every right as declared under Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said the KAT bench comprising Justice P V Asha, judicial member, and Pradeep Kumar, administrative member. KAT directed the government to take all steps to implement the shift system within four months. The tribunal stepped in following a plea filed by five ayahs working at the Old Age Home for Physically Handicapped, Thodupuzha, Home for Mentally Deficient Children

(HMDC), Kozhikode, Home for Physically Handicapped, Pratheekshabhavan (Custodial Care Home), Kozhikode, and Asha Bhavan (Women), Ernakulam, challenging the directive to them to work for 24 hours a day and six days a week.

The KAT bench declared that compelling ayahs to perform duties for 24 hours a day continuously for six days a week without a break is "arbitrary and unconstitutional". "While protecting the marginalised people, the government has to consider the fact that the ayahs also have personal responsibilities and they also have

the right to exercise their fundamental rights.

The ayahs are compelled to work throughout the day on six days in a week, just because the management manual enumerates the duties of ayahs and authorises the superintendent of the respective institutions to fix the duties and duty hours," it said. Counsel for the petitioners, Aruna A, pointed out that while other last-grade servants, who got advised from the same PSC rank list, are working only for eight hours, the ayahs are made to work for 24 hours a day.



## Let's make India a knowledge powerhouse by 2047

THE clarion call for Atmanirbharta is for India to become a knowledge hub, discard the colonial mindset and move from a 'labour arbitrage' economy to a 'knowledge arbitrage' economy. Our destination is a 'knowledge powerhouse'.

For this, we have the potential, the size and the demographic dividend, and now the growing economic muscle. With the prospect of a sustained 8 per cent GDP growth and the new-wave boost to 6G, chip design and chip manufacturing, new fuel, hydrogen and bio, wind and solar energy, a clutch of unicorns and startups — all have the potential to carve out a wave of environment-friendly and indigenous products. While 6G and chips will be strategic tools that would lead the digital revolution, it is also time to move away from just being a technology follower. It is time to rise to our potential and lead. We have to be a technology provider.

Corporates, both public and private, will need to invest with a mission-mode mindset. The greatest spinoff will be security, national and citizen; both add to make Comprehensive National Power.

Before that, a reality check. There are some critical sectors in the transition journey. As per the Global Knowledge Index report (2023) of the UNDP, our ranking among 133 countries in some critical areas is (the US's corresponding ranking is in brackets): Pre-university education, 96th (ninth); technical and vocational education and training, 119th (second); higher education, 106th (fourth); research & development and innovation, 54th (fifth); information and communication technology or ICT, 83rd (second). Innovation and development are the key. Innovation is a process of one idea building on another, resulting in a novel product, process or service, which is commercialised and put to practical use. Development is one step at a time in the realm of science and technology, striving to instil in future generations an innovative spirit. For this, there is a need to shed the 'rote' model to that of 'inquiry and innovation', which challenges the standard rote answer. Yes, 50+40 makes 90, but when a child says that the total is less than a hundred, he/she has given you an acceptable answer and more. Rote learning is the antithesis of innovation. The Garden City of Bengaluru is our Silicon Valley, nay Colony. We labour, others do a markup, aggregate our work, and we pay for the finished product. It was good for starters; it was good to showcase our skill to the world. It got a boost with Y2K; that era is well past its shelf life. Bengaluru is changing, but ever so slowly. It needs to hasten its pace and be one of a dozen knowledge hubs (Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and many others) as we journey to 2047. Bengaluru needs to upgrade itself as the 'Chip Net Integration Capital' and lead the way to be the next-wave Silicon Hub. Constraints notwithstanding, we need to build a comprehensive and rewarding innovation system to harness the talent of our GenNext. We have it in abundance at every level. We need to find ways to tap it. Untapped genius is a national loss. GenNext awaits opportunities to be tapped. For when they get them, not just India, entire humanity will benefit. GenNext, wherever it may be, outside India or on MNC campuses within, has untiringly and repeatedly proven that its contribution is world-class. Don't rein it in; loosen the reins and empower it. Get rid of rote learning. How to think is more important than being told what to think. For the Knowledge Powerhouse Mission, five initiatives are essential. First, raise the quality of education. The National Education Policy (NEP) is a start, but its implementation is slow and it does not have the mechanism to learn and adapt. 'One size fits all' is not workable. NEP as a scaffolding is fine. That's it. It will enable pan-India student and labour mobility. Beyond that, states need to innovate to suit their needs and then execute plans. Second, reduce the bureaucratic control over science and technology to facilitate an environment of easy funding that challenges the status quo, encourages creativity and rewards innovation. Third, improve law enforcement to check IPR (intellectual property rights) pilferage and theft.

## Our republic's future hinges on democratic education

The cultivation of the faculty of critical thinking is immensely important for democratic education.

AS a teacher/educator, I have always felt that there is something more to democracy than the ritualisation of periodic elections. Of course, these elections are important and we must reflect on the ever-changing nature of power equations, the formation of new political alliances and the questions relating to ideology, politics and governance. But then, amid this intense debate on whether Narendra Modi's popularity has somewhat eroded or whether Rahul Gandhi is emerging as a new icon in Indian politics, I experience the absence of what I would regard as the most important concern: Are our youngsters — the new generation that will shape the destiny of India — getting the kind of education that truly empowers them and makes them capable of sustaining, nurturing and living with the fundamental spirit of democracy? In order to find a meaningful answer to this important question, let me identify three fundamental features of democratic education, and then enquire whether the prevalent practice of education is in tune with this spirit. First, the capacity to engage in a meaningful dialogue is a distinctive feature of democratic education. After all, democracy is not the assertion of a monologue — even the monologue of our 'supreme leader'. Democracy is not the cult of majoritarianism, even if the mathematics of numbers tends to sanctify it. Instead, democracy means the acknowledgement of diverse, plural, subaltern and even conflicting perspectives. In other words, it requires the cultivated skill that sharpens the faculty of mindful observation, promotes the delicate art of listening, and encourages the elasticity of consciousness needed for expanding one's mental horizon, or becoming empathic to others. Although this sort of dialogue does not necessarily guarantee a consensus, it means humility, or the courage to change and amend one's position, if one is convinced by counter arguments. In fact, authoritarian masters all over the world demand 'certainty' or 'homogeneity'; they are afraid of differences, plurality and ambiguities. The subtlety of dialogic education, it has to be realised, is an antithesis of all sorts of authoritarianism. Second, the cultivation of the faculty of critical thinking is immensely important for democratic education. And critical thinking is not merely about solving a mathematics riddle or a physics numerical; it is essentially about the ability to pose new questions, see beyond the 'taken-for-granted' world, celebrate what Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire would have regarded as a 'problem-posing education', and interrogate, say, the normalisation of patriarchy, caste hierarchy, religious bigotry and heightened economic inequality. The question is whether we are really prepared to accept the spirit of critical pedagogy in our classrooms in order to create intellectually alert, active and awakened citizens



— not merely a set of 'toppers' or 'products' with fancy salary packages. Third, it is impossible to sow the seeds of active and participatory democracy without encouraging the kind of education that nurtures the ethic of care. As hyper-competitiveness is becoming the order of the day, we tend to worship aggressive, self-possessive and narcissistic warriors — not compassionate citizens filled with the ethic of love, compassion and egalitarian/democratic living. It is sad that even the educational arena has begun to look like a battlefield — 'exam warriors' running neurotically after mythical 'success'. Can we learn a couple of lessons from the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr and American feminist pedagogue bell hooks, and initiate a movement to save education from the virus of the recklessly aggressive culture that keeps reproducing patriarchy, casteism and racism? These three ideals indicate that a truly libertarian/democratic education ought to free itself from the discourses of neoliberal market fundamentalism as well as religious fundamentalism implicit in the ideology of hyper-nationalism. If we equate education solely with the acquisition of a set of technical skills the market demands; or, for that matter, if we think that the primary objective of education is to manufacture a brigade of hyper-masculine 'nationalists' intoxicated with the zeal to eradicate the cleverly constructed 'enemies' of the nation, we will end up negating the very purpose of a life-affirming and emancipatory education.

Well, these days, political pundits are continually debating and reflecting on the implications of the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — the dialectic of the 'NDA vs INDIA' politics. But then, these debates miss what really matters — the realisation that unless the new generation evolves as truly alert and awakened citizens with the vibrancy of democratic education, the future of the republic will be in danger. In fact, if there is democratic education, the new generation will not remain content merely with the ritualistic act of casting their votes and choosing the 'lesser evil' every five years; nor will they transform their representatives into their 'masters'. Instead, they will remain perpetually alert and active; and succeed in making their 'representatives' accountable. Yes, they will refuse to be just passive spectators of the dramaturgical performances of the political bosses; they will not be hypnotised by the propaganda machinery; they will come to the street and ask them many difficult questions — can India really become a vishwaguru, particularly when its rank on the Global Hunger Index is 111 out of 125 countries? Is the set of 'fundamental rights' our Constitution prescribes in tune with our lived experiences, and that too at a time when India's score on the World Press Freedom Index is far from satisfactory? Is there reason to be proud of the prevalent political culture when the latest report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms reveals that 251 of the 543 newly elected Lok Sabha MPs have criminal cases registered against them?

## PM's team

Coalition considerations influence choices

AT the helm of a genuine coalition government for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers, which has been formed after taking several factors into consideration — experience, youth, caste matrix, upcoming Assembly polls and representation of the BJP's partners in the NDA. The PM's team includes 30 Cabinet ministers, four of whom are from Bihar. This is no surprise as the BJP has three important allies in that state — CM Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). Two allies in southern states, Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party and HD Kumaraswamy's Janata Dal (Secular), have also got one Cabinet berth each.

Among the first-timers are three former chief ministers — Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana) and



Kumaraswamy (Karnataka); Suresh Gopi, the BJP's first

Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, has also made the grade. Over 40 ministers are from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is significant in the light of the poll reversals suffered by the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, where the Samajwadi Party made major gains on the back of its outreach to the 'PDA' — Pichhra (backward), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities). Maharashtra and Haryana, which go to the polls later this year, have a noticeable presence in the Council of Ministers. The induction of former Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu as a Minister of State shows that the BJP is keen on staging a revival in Punjab after its disastrous performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls. The party contested all 13 seats but drew a blank, with Bittu losing from Ludhiana. It is apparent that the BJP is looking to groom this relatively young leader with an eye on the 2027 Assembly elections. All in all, the BJP has performed a delicate balancing act.

## How Modi 3.0 looks from South Asia

The region will hope the PM will move towards rapprochement with Pakistan and revival of SAARC

IN 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi first took up office as the head of a National Democratic Alliance government in which the BJP had a majority of its own, South Asia saw promise in dealing with a strong leader in Delhi for the first time since 1989. Against the background of growing Chinese influence in the region, Modi's invitation to the SAARC leaders, including then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was hailed as a grand gesture of goodwill. South Asia saw in it a sign of new beginnings. Five years later, when Modi invited another group of leaders from the neighbourhood and beyond for the inauguration of his second innings, he had already stamped India and the region with his strongman style of leadership. He was at the peak of his political power, having achieved an even bigger victory on the nationalist wave following India's strike inside Pakistan after the Pulwama attack. And to the dismay of many smaller South Asian nations, Modi had dumped SAARC. On Sunday, as the leaders of five South Asian nations — Pakistan and Afghanistan were not invited — and two Indian Ocean countries, Mauritius and Seychelles, assembled at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt at Modi's invitation to watch him being sworn in for a third term, they came fully aware that much had changed since he first took up office. In their own countries, China's influence has grown deeper roots, and their politics have undergone massive churns. And this time, it was almost as if a politically weak Modi needed their presence to bolster the signals being sent out from June 4 that nothing has changed in Delhi. They would, of course, have sized up the new arrangement for themselves, of what has changed and what remains.

But for the diverse people of a region that has seen — and seen off — its share of strongmen and who have held India's pluralism and its secular democracy in admiration, Modi's democratic downsizing is an inspiring moment. There was concern at the erosion of these values in India over the last 10 years and for the fallout on their own polities. They have greeted India's 2024 verdict with relief. Especially in countries

struggling with the authoritarian creep of their own leaders, it has restored faith in India's democracy. Across South Asia, there is admiration for the Indian voter.

In Bangladesh, where five-time PM Sheikh Hasina won a fourth successive term in January in a controversial election marred by an Opposition boycott and a crackdown on dissent, Mahfuz Anam, the editor of The Daily Star, noted, somewhat wistfully, that in "Bangladesh... voters aspire for the same power".

In Sri Lanka, voters had used the ballot to send the authoritarian Mahinda Rajapaksa packing in 2015, only to bring him and his brother Gotabaya back in 2019. After helplessly watching them preside over the country's economic meltdown, Sri Lankans came out on the streets in 2022, and, in a dramatic show of people's power, unseated the Rajapaksa family. But they believe their efforts to bring about real change have been thwarted by the country's entrenched political elite, who have clawed back into positions of power after small rearrangements among themselves.

The Daily FT said the Sri Lankan people could "take heart from the election results in India, where voters have pushed back against powerful forces using the power of the ballot". It pointed to the communal malaise in its own polity and said, "the Mahinda/Gotabaya Rajapaksa brand of politics which brought Sinhala Buddhist supremacy to the fore and demonised ethnic and religious minorities is a replica of what the Modi government has been practising in India since taking power in 2014". In Pakistan, where the struggle for democracy is ranged not so much against politicians as the powerful army, Modi's seemingly unstoppable rise as a Hindu majoritarian leader was seen as mirroring Pakistan's own descent into the Mullah-military alliance. "Tum bilkul hum jaise nikley," a line from Pakistani poet Fahmida Riaz's eponymous poem, was often used to describe India's embrace of Hinduism in the last 10 years. In a country still smouldering from the two-year-long internecine competition among political elites for the army's patronage and an election in February that

resolved none of its problems, there is now surprise, if not admiration, that India's democracy is in the safe hands of its voters. Writing in Dawn, columnist Mahir Ali noted that "Indian voters have now indicated that they resent [the religious fundamentalism] formula in the Hindu context, particularly when it fails to deliver the



promised levels of employment and levelling up." Nepal has had its own concerns about Hindutva, on aggressive display along its border in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Columnist Namrata Sharma, writing before the election in Rising Nepal, observed the 'unease' in the former Hindu kingdom at how a third-term BJP government in Delhi might impact Nepal's own hard-won secular republic with a Constitution that took several years to frame. She also flagged the presence of RSS leaders from India at protest demonstrations for a return to a Hindu monarchy. After the Mohamed Muizzu government came to power in the Maldives against a background of resentment against New Delhi and 'India Out' protests, it has been hard for Indians to understand how a small country can stand up to the region's biggest country, that too, a generous one. But even Muizzu's openly Delhi-friendly predecessor, Ibrahim Solih, struggled to explain to voters in this

Islamic republic the bigoted shenanigans of a hate-mongering functionary of India's ruling party or the commandeering of locals by the Indian Embassy in Male for a yoga day event.

At a time when India is trying to push back on China's large footprint in these countries and in countries such as Seychelles and Mauritius in the wider Indian Ocean region, the BJP's willingness to throw under the bus its 'Neighbourhood First' diplomacy for its electoral gains has not helped. The blockading of Nepal just before the Bihar election of 2016, Amit Shah's description of Bangladesh migrants as 'termites' in 2018, the PM's 'bheekh ka katora' jibes at Pakistan's economic woes and the gratuitous raking up of India's Katchatheevu agreement in this poll campaign speak of a reckless disregard in the top BJP leadership for how India is perceived by the people of the neighbourhood. Why has Shehbaz Sharif not congratulated Modi yet, some Indians ask, in response to why Modi left out the Pakistan Prime Minister for his inauguration. After Modi's taunts, Sharif would be risking the little credibility he has left from his tainted election victory to risk any outreach to the new government. India will need to make the first public move, but can a weak Modi do what a strong Modi could not, after signed hands in 2015? Still, South Asia will hope that Modi 3.0 will move towards a rapprochement with Pakistan and a revival of SAARC. After all, it was an NDA coalition government that made the big peace move in 1998 and 2003, which was taken forward by another coalition, this time the UPA, in 2004. South Asia will also hope that Modi 3.0 finds it less easy to denigrate neighbours, or use his social media clout to boss over them, or swing secret deals with their unpopular leaders for Delhi's favourite businessmen. It will hope for an Indian foreign policy that understands the people of the neighbourhood and their aspirations better.



## 5 reasons why you should visit

# Kerala

## during the Monsoon

During the rains, god's own country transforms into a veritable paradise with lush greenery gracing its backwaters and hills, cloudy sunsets, cool breeze and the cheerful fervour of an array of festivals. Intermittent showers heighten the romance of the season. It might not be the best time to hit the beaches, but here are five reasons why Kerala in the monsoon will leave you singing in the rain.

### Snake boat races

The months between July and September are water sports season, with the backwaters around Alappuzha playing host to a series of snake boat races. The most famous of the lot is the Nehru Trophy Boat Race, generally held on the second Saturday of August every year. The regatta takes place on the Punnamada Lake, and features ceremonial processions and magnificent floats. Its star attraction is the synchronised rowing of traditional 30-metre-long snake-boats or chudan valloms, which have a raised prow resembling a snake.

### The Onam sadya feast

This ten-day harvest festival celebrates the homecoming of the mythical king Mahabali, but it's also a good excuse to feast on some of Kerala's most lip-smacking vegetarian fare. Traditionally served on palm leaves, the nine-course banquet is held on the last or tenth day. It's best savoured at a local home, but you don't manage to get an invite then most local restaurants also offer these meals. The preceding days are filled with costume parades, boat races and shopping discounts.

### Great hotel deals

Sandwiched between Kerala's sweltering summers and its peak tourist season (November to March), the monsoon is a great time to snag deals at otherwise expensive hotels and resorts. If you've ever fantasised

about an indulgent houseboat trawl through the backwaters, then this is the time to get the best bargains. To avail the best discounts, make sure you plan your visit before the end of September, after which tariffs being climbing up again.

### Ayurvedic therapies

Kerala is home to several excellent spas and wellness resorts, and there's no better time to pamper yourself than the monsoon season. According to Ayurveda, the cool, pleasant weather is ideal for rejuvenation. Sign up for a week-long retreat at top-notch stays such as the Kairali Ayurvedic Healing Village Health Resort in Palakkad or Somatheeram Ayurvedic Health Resort in Kovalam with relaxing oil-based therapies, massages, yoga and a balanced diet that'll cleanse your mind, body and soul.

### Wayanad's natural splendour

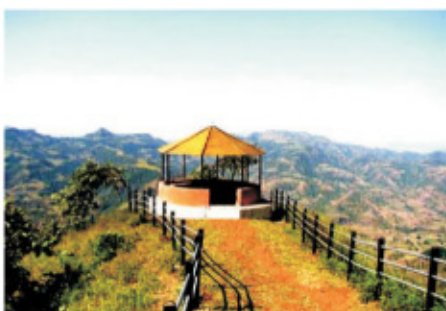
With virescent hills carpeted with plantations, rainforests and tumbling waterfalls, Wayanad is a photographer's delight. After you've had your fill of its misty coffee, tea and spice plantations, head to the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary that hosts numerous migrating birds in this period. Wayanad's tourism department also holds an annual monsoon carnival in July with village excursions, rain treks as well as local sports such as mud football and archery.



## 5 hill stations in

# Maharashtra

## to get away to



### Panchgani

Deriving its name from the surrounding five hills that envelop it, Panchgani offers a window to the past. Located just about 38 metres below Mahabaleshwar, at an altitude of 1334 metres, the approach to this beautiful hill station is replete with lovely views of the Krishna River to one side, and the plains on the other. A quintessentially residential area, it exudes a charm that harks to a time gone by. Whether in the old colonial architecture, the Parsi homes, and century-old boarding lodges. The best vantage point to take in the world below can be found at Table Land, a flat mountain peak overlooking the plains. To mix things up, head to the local bazaar where business moves along at an unhurried pace, setting a leisurely tone for your time spent here.

### Keechakadara

As accounted in the Mahabharata, this is the place where Bheema killed Keechaka, the villain and threw him into the valley below. Taking its name from the incident, Keechakadara is also often referred to as Chikhaldara. Aside from its mythological roots, there's more to this beautiful hill station. Situated at an altitude of 1118 metres in the Vidarbha region, this is the only hill resort in the area, and has the added attraction of being the only coffee-growing area in Maharashtra. This is even a great place for wild life enthusiasts to do some spotting as panthers, bears, sambar, wild boar, and wild dogs thrive here and it is

neighboured by the famous Melghat Tiger Project which has 82 tigers. Hurricane Point, Prospect Point, and Devi Point are all great vantage points to take in the views, and this is also a good starting point for excursions to Gavilgad and Narnala Fort.

### Bhandardara

Also cradled within the Sahyadri Hills, Bhandardara, with its soaring mountain ranges, plunging waterfalls and carpet of green, attracts tourists all through the year. For a short hour-long journey, this hill station offers city dwellers a drastically contrasting landscape and stunning surroundings. Bright



green paddy fields and clear blue skies punctuated with a labyrinth of gurgling streams, provide all the essential ingredients for a weekend away from the maddening crowds. There's enough to keep you busy through the days. Built in 1910, Wilson Dam stands 150-metres-high and has a beautiful garden at the base. of Wilson Dam there is a garden endowed with thick greenery, streams and gigantic trees, the silently serene Arthur lake which mirrors the beauty of its surroundings in its blue waters, Mount Kalsubai, which is Maharashtra's highest peak at 1646 metres and draws in serious trekkers to its summit, the Agasti Risha Ashram which has been mentioned in the Ramayan and the ancient Ratangad Fort which offers panoramic views from its ramparts.

### Matheran

Discovered back in 1850 by Hugh Malet, collector for the Thane district, Matheran sits atop the Sahyadris Mountain range and is another hot weekend getaway for city slickers. This gorgeous and quaint hill station is best accessed via the slow-moving toy train which chugs along over a leisurely two-hour-long journey from the valley below. Sprawled across a lush green, undulating hilltop, Matheran sits at a height of about 800 metres with drastic, steep cliffs offering the most stunning views of the plains below. Make your way up to Hart Point at night, and take in the dreamy, twinkling lights of Mumbai far below, meander through the winding ways and feast your eyes on the British-Parsi architecture of the local homes, walk up to Charlotte Lake, and do a spot of shopping in the market where you'll find lots of leather goodies, hats and ofcourse the famous sweet-sticky chikki best eaten hot and fresh.

### Mahabaleshwar

Translating to mean 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there's lots you can do here to keep entertained. All parts of the hill station are

**Through the length of its state, Maharashtra encompasses a landscape ranging from the steeply rising Western Ghats, all the way down to the seashore of the Arabian Sea. Cradled within is carpeted green mountain walls, are the most stunning hill stations, each with a charm that's all their own. Take a break from the frenzied pace of the city and get away to these oases of calm.**

accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you're feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor's residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.



# On Delhi Water Crisis, Supreme Court Wants To Know Waste Control Measures

**The Supreme Court had ordered Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of water - approx. 28.3 litres of water flow per second - to reach Delhi's Hathnikund barrage.**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has asked the Delhi government to list action taken to control the wastage of water as the national capital faces a water crisis. The Delhi government - which had moved the top

court seeking directions to Haryana to release its share of water - has been told to file an affidavit by Thursday. The BJP has accused the AAP of "lying" and fomenting the crisis by mishandling resources and demanded answers from its two most prominent faces - Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj. The AAP, meanwhile, has counter-attacked by alleging the BJP government in Haryana continues to not release the city's share of water despite claiming to do so, and has also fired shots at the Lt Governor. On Tuesday Atishi, once again accused the Haryana government of deliberately and illegally halting the water supply to the national capital. Citing an affidavit submitted by the Haryana government to the court, she said, "The Haryana government has been lying about releasing adequate water. Their affidavit presents data on actual discharge of water... which has exposed their lie." She also slammed Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK



Saxena for blaming Delhi's AAP government for non-maintenance of water canals and theft of water supply. Tuesday's episode of the 'water war' broke after Mr Saxena's social media post, which said he had spoken to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and received assurances his government had released

water - in quantities required by law - to Delhi. "... water is being provided to Delhi as per allocated share...", he wrote, saying Haryana had done so "despite the state's own constraints..." That prompted the Delhi BJP unit - with one eye on next year's Assembly election and a chance at a revival in the city after abysmal results in the last two - to attack the AAP. On Monday Mr Saxena met Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj and promised to speak to the Haryana government. He also ticked off the AAP for playing "blame games" at this time. For now, the court has ordered Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of water - approx. 28.3 litres of water flow per second - to reach Delhi's Hathnikund barrage. However, the route requires the Haryana government's cooperation, which the AAP claims is lacking. The Supreme Court last week directed the Haryana government to allow the water through "without hindrance so people of Delhi get drinking water".

## Atishi says will take action against tanker mafia amid Delhi water crisis

**New Delhi:** Amid the water crisis in Delhi, the AAP government has taken cognisance of India Today's sting operation on the tanker mafia, exposing the corrupt water trade. Delhi Water Minister Atishi has said that she will be writing a letter to the Police Commissioner and will ask him to take action against the rampant tanker mafia. As Delhi is reeling under water crisis, India Today's undercover team reached Sangam Vihar, where they met a tanker mafia operator named Ritesh. Under the pretext of building a house, India Today's team placed a demand for water. In response, Ritesh asked for the address and said how much water was needed. In the beginning, Ritesh



quoted Rs 2100 but then reduced it to Rs 1500 per tanker. A tanker contains 12,000 litres of water. He also mentioned that the delivery would cost extra money, thus making a tanker worth Rs 3000. After Ritesh, India Today's team met another operator named Mohan. The team recorded a tanker leaving on a hidden camera. Mohan said that he could provide a tanker with a capacity of 4500 litres, which is priced at Rs 2200. He told India Today's team that the groundwater is dropping, and they are having difficulty filling the tankers. When asked how deep they have to drill to get water, Mohan said around 650 feet. In Delhi, tanker mafias are violating several rules as they are extracting water from illegal borewells. India Today's team found such illegal tube wells in the Yamuna Khadar area of Wazirabad, Delhi, where tankers were being filled openly.

## Jawan killed, 6 injured in separate terror attacks in J&K, encounter underway

**New Delhi:** The typically peaceful Jammu and Kashmir provinces of Doda and Kathua were struck by two separate terror attacks on Tuesday, resulting in the death of a CRPF jawan while six security personnel were injured, officials said. In Doda district, terrorists attacked a joint checkpost of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles and police on the Baderwah-Pathankot road late on Tuesday night, leading to a fierce gunfight. Jaish-e-Mohammed-linked terror group, the Kashmir Tigers, claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist attack in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village occurred on Tuesday evening, injuring a civilian. During a subsequent search operation, two terrorists were killed, and efforts were being made to flush out the other hold-up terrorist who is believed to have infiltrated from across the border.

**Here are the latest developments in the incidents:**

Five troopers of Rashtriya Rifles and a special police officer (SPO) were injured in the exchange of fire after terrorists attacked the Army post in Doda. The injured personnel were hospitalised, and reinforcements were deployed to intensify the operation against the terrorists. In Kathua district, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan, Kabir Dass, was critically injured when a terrorist opened fire in Saida Sukhal village around 3 am.

The soldier was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

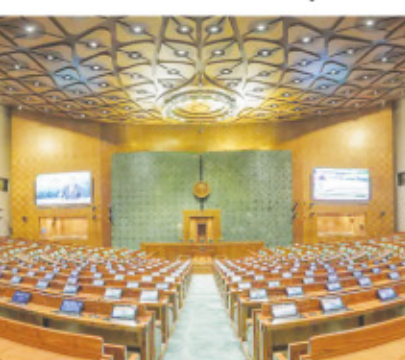
According to officials, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire to break the security cordon in Saida Sukhal. A senior police officer said, "Two terrorists, who appeared to have freshly infiltrated (from across the border), surfaced in the village around 8 pm." Senior police officers, led by the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), are at the scene of the encounter in Kathua, and the area has been cordoned off for a house-to-house search with the assistance of the CRPF.

## First Parliament Session After Lok Sabha Polls From June 24 To July 3

**New Delhi:** The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 for oath or affirmation of the newly elected members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday. The first three days of the session will see the newly elected leaders taking oath or making affirmation of their membership of the Lok Sabha and electing the Speaker of the House. President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting

of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on June 27 and is likely to outline the new government's

roadmap for the next five years. "First session of 18th Lok Sabha is being summoned from 24/6/24 to 3/7/24 for oath/affirmation of newly elected



members, election of Speaker, President's address and discussion thereon," Mr Rijiju said in a post on

X. He said the 264th Session of Rajya Sabha will also commence on June 27 and conclude on July 3. Prime Minister Modi is expected to introduce his council of ministers to Parliament after the President's address on June 27. The debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address is expected to see an aggressive opposition trying to corner the NDA government on various issues. The prime minister will respond to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in both the Houses of Parliament.

## Norway Envoy Shares Yoga Pics, Calls It India's "Greatest Gift" To World

**New Delhi:** Agreeing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that yoga unites millions of people across the globe, Norwegian Ambassador to India May-Elin Stener has termed it as one of India's greatest gifts to the world. Her remark came in response to PM

Modi's online post on the 10th International Day of Yoga, which is set to be marked across the globe on June 21. She also shared her video and pictures of performing yoga. PM Modi noted on X that yoga has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries and united people around the world. "In ten days from now, the world will mark the 10th International Day of Yoga, celebrating a timeless practice that celebrates oneness and harmony. Yoga has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries, uniting millions across the globe in the pursuit

of holistic well-being," his post read. In response to his post, May-Elin Stener in a post on X, "Agree PM @narendramodi, #yoga is one of India's greatest gifts to the world! Here I am, aiming to master the headstand I started #yogalife when posted @NorwayUN & gives chance to go level up! Are you with me? It's #internationallyogaday, so let's do #yoga challenge!"

On Tuesday, PM Modi called upon people to reiterate their commitment to making yoga an integral part of their lives. He also shared a set of videos showing various 'Asanas' on X, describing their benefits. In a series of posts on X, he stated, "As Yoga Day approaches, I am sharing a set of videos that will offer guidance on various Asanas and their benefits. I hope this inspires you all to practice Yoga

regularly." As we approach this year's Yoga Day, it is essential to reiterate our commitment to making Yoga an integral part of our lives and also encouraging others to make it a part of theirs. Yoga offers a sanctuary of calm, enabling us to navigate life's challenges with calm and fortitude," PM Modi posted on X.

The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated worldwide annually on June 21 since 2015, after PM Modi's proposal to dedicate a day to celebrating the ancient Indian fitness routine was formally accepted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. In his 2014 address to the UNGA, PM Modi proposed June 21 as the date for marking International Yoga Day as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has a special significance in many parts of the world.

## Telangana Snooping Chargesheet: 1,200 Phones Tapped, No BRS Leader Named

**No leader of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, which was in power in Telangana at the time, has been named in the chargesheet.**

**Hyderabad:** Over 1,200 phones were tapped and the accused, some of them top police officers, tried to destroy evidence by damaging storage devices, Hyderabad police has said in its chargesheet in the Telangana phone tapping case that has raised a political storm. No leader of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, which was in power in Telangana at the time, has been named in the chargesheet. The accused include Deputy Superintendent of Police

D Praneeth Rao, Additional Superintendents Bhujanga Rao and Tirupathanna, former Deputy Commissioner of Police (task force) Radha Kishan Rao and two fugitives -- former Special Intelligence Branch chief Prabhakar Rao and Sravan Kumar, senior employee in a local media organisation.

The phone tapping case came to light after the Congress government led by A Revanth Reddy took charge last year and sparked a massive row when investigators found that the phones of several high-profile people, including Opposition leaders and celebrities, were tapped during the earlier regime of BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao. In explosive revelations during questioning, P Radha kishan Rao, a former Deputy Commissioner of Police, told police that

devices of media bigwigs and politicians (including those from BRS) were hacked and monitored. This was allegedly done by a team formed before the November



election to keep tabs on KCR's political rivals. Mr Rao said real estate businesspersons were also snooped upon. Among those tracked was current Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Congress leader N Uttam Kumar Reddy earlier told NDTV that the alleged snooping happened with the knowledge of the BRS leadership. "It is only a matter of time before they (BRS) leaders come under the ambit of the investigation," Mr Reddy said.

With the filing of the chargesheet, Hyderabad police may now secure a red corner notice for fugitives Prabhakar Rao and Sravan Kumar. According to the chargesheet, police have invoked Section 166 of IPC -- disobedience by a public servant -- besides the earlier sections relating to conspiracy, evidence tampering, violations of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, cyberterrorism, and charges under Information Technology Act.

The case in this connection was registered on March 10, so the Hyderabad cops have met the requirement to file the chargesheet within 90 days.

## Sent hoax email to Delhi airport for 'fun', 13-year-old held

**NEW DELHI:** A 13-year-old boy was apprehended for allegedly sending a bomb threat email targeting a flight scheduled from Delhi to Toronto on June 4. The boy allegedly sent the email "just for fun" to test if the authorities could trace him. The email had triggered a full-scale security response at the Delhi airport. The aircraft, carrying 301 passengers and 16 crew members, was evacuated and taken to the isolation bay for security checks. "The email was eventually determined to be a hoax," said deputy commissioner of police (airport) Usha Rangnani.

A team, led by inspector Vijender Rana, the station house officer of IGI Airport police station, was formed to investigate the incident. Despite initial challenges, relentless investigation and technical efforts led the team to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh and the boy was apprehended.

The boy confessed to his actions and revealed that he had got the idea from a news report about a bomb hoax at the Mumbai airport. He claimed that he wanted to see whether police could track him if he sent the email anonymously. He also admitted to



creating a fake email ID on his mobile phone and using his mother's mobile internet via Wi-Fi to send the hoax email. He had deleted the email ID immediately after sending the mail. Two mobile phones, believed to be linked to the transmission of the hoax email, were seized by police. The boy was presented before the juvenile justice board and later released to his parents as per the board's order.

Delhi Police has urged citizens to refrain from making hoax calls or emails for amusement, highlighting the serious consequences and potential imprisonment such actions can lead to. Earlier this month, there was a bomb scare at IGI Airport for a flight bound from Varanasi to Delhi. A woman caller informed Delhi International Airport Limited's security staff that her husband, who was arriving from Varanasi to Delhi on an IndiGo flight, was carrying a bomb in his handbag. Nothing suspicious was eventually found. In another incident on May 28, a note reading "bomb blast at 5.30" was found in an aircraft's lavatory and created chaos at IGI, leading to the evacuation of all 176 passengers through emergency exits.



# The historic village of Masouleh

The village of Masouleh is located in Gilan Province in Iran, perched high on a densely forested mountainside about 60 km inland from the Caspian Sea. Forever covered in fog, which barely leaves the village, Masouleh is an incredible spectacle—a series of cottages built on a slope, such that each house's courtyard is another house's rooftop. The village is located about 1,050 m above sea level, but the range of elevation varies by over a hundred metres in the village. Because of this, houses are constructed

in stepped terraces and are interconnected. The terrace of each house functions as the courtyard of the house above. In some cases, public streets are laid out along interconnected roofs. Due to its unique layout, Masouleh does not permit any motor vehicles to enter as the small streets and many stairs make it impossible for vehicles to operate in the village. Masouleh's peculiar architecture can be compared, to some extent, to the Libyan village of Ghadames, where interconnected rooftops create a network of passageways. The village buildings are mostly two storeys and made of adobe, rods and bole. Between these houses are narrow, meandering steps that lead to the upper level of the city. Given that these old houses are mostly made

out of clay and wood, it is truly amazing that the roofs can also serve as sidewalks and walkways. Moreover, they are constantly exposed to wear and tear of the weather, such as deluges of rain and heaps of snow. Due to its high location, the climate of Masouleh is different from the rest of Iran, which is hot and dry. Here, warm, moist air blowing southwest from the Caspian is

blocked by the Alborz Mountains, creating heavy precipitation and fog on the seaward side of the mountains. The abundant rainfall has spawned dense forests and gushing rivers in the area.

The first village of Masouleh was established more than a thousand years ago, around 6 km northwest of the current village and is called Old Masouleh.

Masouleh had once been the 'Silk Road of the Gilan' region and people from far and near gathered here for business to sell and buy merchandise;

however, as of late, there are fewer signs of the young and old selling dream dolls and colourful socks in the alleys of Masouleh as people have migrated from this once trade centre due to unemployment and lack of income. As of recent, Masouleh is developing into a popular tourist destination.



## Tibetan monastery tour in Arunachal Pradesh

There are many Tibetan monasteries in Arunachal Pradesh, which was once a part of Tibet. The people are Indian now, but they still have Tibetan roots in terms of how they worship, how they dress, what they eat etc. Since people are prohibited to practice Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet, places like Tawang and Bomdila are perfect to learn about the religion. Unlike some Buddhist areas in the world, here they don't have to send a boy from their family to be a monk at the monastery. It's all by choice of the boys themselves. The monasteries also serve as schools for children where they learn the local language, English and Tibetan. The best time to visit these monasteries is between October and April. There are three main monasteries—Tawang, Bomdila and Urgelling—and a couple of smaller ones that you can visit in Arunachal Pradesh.

### Tawang Monastery

Established in 1860, this is the largest monastery in India and the second largest in Asia, after the Lhasa Potala 'palace' which is in Old Tibet, China. It's also

called Golden Namgye Lhatse and was founded as per the wish of the 5th Dalai Lama. It preserves two ancient scripts, Kangyur and Tengyur. The gompa is situated at an altitude of 10000 feet and is 'the must see' place in all of Arunachal Pradesh.

### Bomdila Monastery

Also known as Gentse Gaden Rabgyel Ling, the absolutely stunning gompa is the largest in Bomdila. Mahayana Buddhism is practiced here by people, who are called Monpa. It was built in 1965 and blessed by HH Dalai Lama 14th. During festivals, one can see amazing mandalas made from sand. After the festivities, monks mess up



the detailed design as a symbol of their belief in the impermanence of life. It's located at 8500 feet above sea level, and is a replica of a monastery in South Tibet. You have to pass Bomdila to visit Tawang, so you can stop here on your way up or on your way back home.

### Urgelling Monastery

This is the birthplace of His Holiness Dalai Lama 6th. It's just 5 km south of Tawang, so you can visit it on the same day you see Tawang Monastery. This is as old as the 15th century. In the 1700s, it was ransacked and many things were stolen. It's now a very simple and small monastery, and not often visited. They believe that the leaves of the tree planted by the Dalai Lama 6th can cure illness when kept in hot water.

### Tsun Gon Thog Jee Choeling

Tsun Gon Thog Jee Choeling is actually a nunnery. You can warm up with a cup of hot tea and chat with the nuns. It's very interesting to see how female 'monks' or nuns live. The woman who greeted us, Sonar, was the sweetest girl I have ever met. While we were there, the nuns sat outside and had a lively debate.

### Thegse Sang-ngag Chockhorling Monastery of Mon-yul Kid-mo Jong

The gompa is located near Tawang in Khin-

me, which is derived from Monpa word that means 'listening to the dogs bark'. The monastery was earlier covered in forest and people could hear the hunting dogs bark. Once they met a guru while hunting who taught them not to kill and they thereafter made a monastery there in 1480. You can visit the gompa and the walk up to there is stunning. The gompa is a part of Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism, where monks can marry and have long hair.

These are the main monasteries that must be visited while in Arunachal Pradesh, but there is more you can do to get acquainted with the culture of the state. Other than trying food, you can meet locals and learn more about the culture. Besides, visit craft centres to see men at work making and painting sculptures of Buddha for monasteries. Some also make masks that are worn by monks during festivals, and you can even buy these as souvenirs. Also, see the women weaving clothes and painting Tibetan artwork.

Rather than just walking around the monastery, try to interact. The monks seem happy to talk with you, and the teachers and people in charge will even give you a tour if you ask. They'll probably offer you tea or hot water as well. Take time to listen to some of the students being taught in classes, and talk with the kids about what they are learning. There is a monk called Sange Lama in Bomdila that can read future. Furthermore, there is a new monastery being built where foreigners and Indian tourists will be able to learn about Tibetan Buddhism.





## Will Modi 3.0 boost foreign investments in equities? Phillip Capital explains

**New Delhi.** Domestic brokerage firms remain optimistic about the Indian economy and anticipate a strong inflow of foreign institutional investments (FIIs) into Indian equities following the inauguration of Narendra Modi's third term as Prime Minister.

Along with his cabinet of 71 ministers, PM Modi's administration is expected to maintain stable and non-populist governance, suggested the brokerage firm.

Phillip Capital highlighted that the distribution of cabinet seats signifies continuity and equitable treatment of allies, which it views positively. The upcoming full budget in July will further clarify the possibilities and scope of each ministry, the brokerage said, adding that it expects a blend of social initiatives and continuity in capital expenditure and previously established policies and reforms. Key ministries such as Defence, Home Affairs, Road Transport, Finance, and External Affairs will retain the same BJP leadership as in the previous term. Other significant ministries, including Agriculture, Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Health, Family Welfare, and Chemicals & Fertilizers, are also under BJP control. "In the third term of this coalition, with well-experienced faces helming the key ministries, we see likelihood of incrementally positive/strong FII flows along with buoyant domestic flow," Phillip Capital said. "As a result, we retain our medium to long-term positive stance on Indian macro and equities," the brokerage added.

## Gold, silver price : Yellow metal records dip, silver trades higher on MCX

**New Delhi** After retailing on the lower side yesterday, precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the lower side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a hike on Wednesday, June 12.

Gold futures, maturing on August 5, 2024, stood at Rs 71,594 per 10 grams, after recording a marginal dip of Rs 14 or 0.02 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 71,490. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on July 5, 2024, witnessed a hike of Rs 417 or 0.47 per cent and were retailing at Rs 89,414 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 88,663. Indian gold prices have traded at a discount to international prices for five straight weeks, reflecting tepid demand in the second largest bullion consumer, while the Perth Mint's gold product sales in May fell 30% on a monthly basis.



The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

**GOLD, SILVER RATE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET** Spot gold is trading a little over \$2,300 per ounce, up about 12% year-to-date and only about 6% shy of the record high it hit last month.

India's gold imports in 2024 are expected to fall by nearly a fifth, as record high prices have pushed retail consumers to exchange old jewellery for new items instead of buying afresh.

## General insurers can offer less than 1 yr tenure policies

**NEW DELHI.** General insurance companies can now offer insurance policies for a tenure of less than a year, and they cannot reject claims for want of documents, according to a circular issued by the insurance regulator - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) - on Tuesday. The circular is part of larger insurance sector reforms - one of the key agendas of the new government's 100-day plan. According to the master circular, customers can be offered insurance policies which are less than one year, annual and more than one year. Most general insurance policies - motor, fire, house, travel, etc - come with the tenure of a year or more. The circular says that no claim



can be rejected for want of documents, and that all required documents should be called at the time of underwriting the proposal. The customer may be asked to submit only those documents that are directly related to the claim settlement.

The new rules enumerated in the circular are customer-centric, and protect the rights of customers. For example, the circular says retail customers can cancel the policy anytime by informing the insurer, but the insurer can cancel the policy only on grounds of established fraud. The insurer will have to refund proportionate premium for the unexpired policy period on cancellation. The circular prescribes strict timelines for settlement of claims including turnaround time for appointment of surveyors and submission of their reports.

# Salaried taxpayer Avoid these common errors during ITR filing

**ITR FY2023-24 (AY2024-25): By being mindful of these common errors, taxpayers can ensure a smoother and more efficient tax filing process.**

**New Delhi.** With the tax filing deadline of July 31 approaching, salaried taxpayers must be vigilant when filing their Income Tax Returns (ITR). Although filing ITR is generally straightforward, even minor errors can trigger notices from the tax authorities and potentially result in fines. Some common errors include incorrect personal details, using the wrong tax forms, and not cross-verifying with Form 26AS. Many taxpayers also fail to report income from other sources or exempted income, provide incomplete bank details, or forget to e-verify their ITR. Below are some of the common mistakes taxpayers

should avoid at all costs:

### Incorrect filing of tax forms

Use the correct ITR form to report all taxable and tax-exempt income sources. For instance, salaried individuals with a gross income below Rs 50 lakh and no capital gains should use ITR 1. Filing the wrong form can lead to errors and penalties, and the return may be deemed defective.

### Not checking Form 26AS

It may be noted that Form 26AS provides a comprehensive view of your income, TDS, self-assessed tax paid, and advance tax paid. Cross-verify this information with your employer's Form 16. Inaccuracies can result in less refund or more tax payable. Failure to report income from other sources

Income from other sources, such as interest from savings accounts or dividends, must be reported under Section 56 of the Income Tax Act. Neglecting to report



these earnings can lead to issues with the IT department.

### Not mentioning exempted income

Even exempted income must be reported. For example, capital gains from the sale of a house that are reinvested to buy another house are exempt under Section 54 but should still be disclosed in the ITR. Incomplete and inaccurate bank details

Accurate bank details, including name,

IFSC code, and account number, are essential for processing refunds. Many refunds are delayed due to incorrect bank information. Pre-validate your bank account to ensure smooth processing.

### Failure to e-verify ITR

Verifying your ITR within 30 days of filing is mandatory. Without verification, the IT department will not process your return, and it

will be considered invalid. Failure to respond to notices regarding verification can lead to penalties for non-filing. By being mindful of these common errors, you can ensure a smoother and more efficient tax filing process. Prepare your documents early and double-check all information to avoid last-minute stress and potential issues with the Income Tax Department

## Nifty hits record high, Sensex surges over 500 points

**New Delhi** Benchmark stock market indices opened Wednesday's trading session on a positive note, backed by gains in financial and IT stocks. The NSE Nifty hit a fresh record high of 23,441.95 after gaining 170 points, while the S&P BSE surged over 500 points as investors remained optimistic about India's economic growth under Modi 3.0. The S&P BSE Sensex rose 524.83 points to 76,981.42 at 11:00 am, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 160.15 points to trade at 23,425. Other broader market indices also gained during the session as volatility dipped further.

Among sectoral indices, high-weightage Nifty Bank, Nifty IT and Nifty Financials were up nearly 0.8%, while Nifty Media was the top gainer.

The top gainers on the Nifty50 were Coal India, BPCL, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance and LTIM. On the other hand,

the top losers were Britannia, Titan, Asian Paints, HUL and Nestle India.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "A subdued



to weak opening is on the cards for local markets owing to bearishness in several Asian indices. Domestic investors would be cautious ahead of the CPI inflation and IIP data to be announced post market hours today, and hence stock-specific activity could continue." Also, the May US inflation data and rate-setting decision would be

keenly watched by global investors, as any increase in the number could prompt the Federal Reserve to delay its rate cut decision," he added. Meanwhile, Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said, "The 32% decline in India VIX during the last 5 days indicates that the days of heightened volatility are over and the market has entered a consolidation phase. From now on the focus will be on fundamentals and news flows." "There is a recent trend of investors/speculators chasing momentum stocks with low floating stock and excessive valuations. This is a risky trade which investors should avoid," he noted. "The focus of investors should be on fairly valued quality growth stocks. Here, financials come on top. This segment has the potential to give decent returns in the medium to long term. IT stocks also have valuation comfort."

## Tata Motors looks for 20% PV market share by 2030

**NEW DELHI:** Buoyed by success of Nexon and Punch, Tata Motors has set an ambitious target to achieve 18-20% share in the Indian passenger vehicle (PV) market. To achieve the desired result, the auto major will be expanding its portfolio by launching a slew of new products across different powertrains.

"We will target for 18%-20% market share with our endowments. We will grow faster than the industry leveraging new nameplates and powertrain shifts," the company said to investors in a presentation released on Tuesday.

Tata Motors, which competes aggressively with Korean carmaker Hyundai (HMIL) for the second spot in the Indian car market, had a market share of little less than 14% in the financial year 2024. Hyundai had a market share of more than 14% while market leader Maruti Suzuki was leading with about 42% share. Total domestic PV sales in India was 4.2 million in FY24. Given that Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Mahindra & Mahindra also have aggressive expansion plans with committed investments amounting to billions of dollars, it would be a challenging task for Tata Motors to increase its market share by 4-6% in about 6 years.

Tata is pinning hope on new launches in the mid-size SUV segment - Curvv and Sierra - and a powertrain shift towards CNG and electric



vehicles (EVS) to improve its market share to 16% by FY27. It believes additional launches and continuing powertrain shift to take its market share to 18-20% in another 2-3 years.

Currently, Tata Motors' product portfolio occupies six sub-segments which represent 53% of the total industry volume. Tata said it will increase this to 80% with new nameplates.

In the EV space where Tata Motors has maintained a 70% plus market share, the company has plans to incur a capital expenditure between Rs 16,000 crore and 18,000 crore till FY30. The company, which currently sells four electric car models, aims to launch six more by March 2026.

It would be launching Curvv.ev and Harrier.ev in FY25 and Sierra.ev and Avinya in FY26. Tata Motors also has plans to increase the number of electric car dealerships to 50 cities within the next 24 months. Tata Motors also informed that its Indian operations are now net debt-free and British subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) is expected to achieve the same status by FY25. The company aims to increase its profit margins on passenger cars by 2% in the coming years.

## Over 15.4 million developers in India build on GitHub, to surpass US by 2027

**BENGALURU.** Microsoft-owned developer platform GitHub has onboarded an additional 2.2 million developers in India, bringing the total number of Indian developers to 15.4 million. The developer community in India on GitHub is projected to surpass that of the United States, which currently stands at 21 million, by 2027. The addition of 2.2 million developers this year follows last year's growth, where GitHub added 3.5 million developers, increasing India's developer base to 13.2 million. The momentum is palpable, with the Indian developer base now having grown threefold from 5.8 million in 2021. "About 200,000 computer science graduates are coming out of engineering degrees, and that creates a convergence. India could be the leader, not only in software but also in AI. Children and adults alike will learn to code in their native language, leading to a prolonged groundswell of developers," said GitHub CEO Thomas Dohmke.

During the December quarter of last year, developers in India owned over 36.9 million repositories on GitHub, compared to 27.4 million repositories during the corresponding period last year. Over 3.8 lakh developers from India made over 9.7 million contributions to open-source last year. In comparison, in 2022, over 3.2 lakh developers from India made over 8.1 million contributions to open source.

From reaping the benefits of AI pair programming to accelerating the next era of software development, GitHub is improving developers' productivity. Last year, GitHub surpassed \$1 billion in annual recurring revenue. Recently, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said GitHub revenue accelerated to over 40% year-over-year, driven by the growth and adoption of the GitHub AI developer tool Copilot. GitHub Copilot has 1.8 million paid subscribers and has been embraced by over 50,000 firms globally, including Autodesk, Dell, and Goldman Sachs. In India, GitHub counts Cognizant, Infosys,

MakeMyTrip, and Paytm among its top customers. Among its recent AI features, Copilot Enterprise, tailors Copilot to a company's codebase and allows developers to converse with it in natural language. Dohmke grew up in Berlin in a suburb called Marzahn on the East side of the wall, before it fell. "The complexity of software systems has increased compared to the early '90s. There wasn't much software back then, but today you can't imagine a world without software," he said. When asked about how GitHub, along with GenAI, could be the ultimate litmus test in understanding developer proficiency, Dohmke said that in many interviews, instead of asking the developer to write code, interviewers ask them to use a copilot to write the same piece of code. "This shows their prompting and reasoning skills. It provides good insights into whether the developer not only understands how to work with models, but also how they're validating the code that was written."

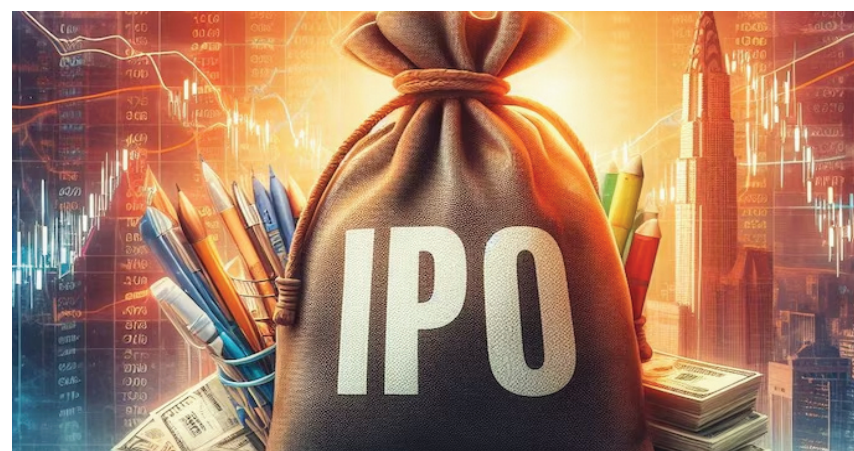
## Modi 3.0 paves the way for next IPO wave. Check details

**Over the next two months, more than two dozen companies are slated to go public, collectively aiming to raise over Rs 30,000 crore**

**New Delhi** With the BJP-led NDA government securing a third term, India's primary market is gearing up for an IPO surge.

Over the next two months, more than two dozen companies are slated to go public, collectively aiming to raise over Rs 30,000 crore, The Economic Times reported. The anticipation of stable governance and consistent policies under PM Modi's leadership has rekindled investor confidence, according to most market experts and brokerages. The ET report highlighted that bankers have reported strong investor enthusiasm for new shares, even as broader equity indices hit fresh highs and many stocks trade at elevated valuations.

### Upcoming IPOs in focus



Upcoming IPOs include Afcons Infrastructure, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Allied Blenders and Distillers, Asirvad Microfinance, Stanley Lifestyles, Waaree Energies, Premier Energies, Shiva Pharmachem, Bansal Wire Industries, One MobiKwik Systems, and CJ Darcl Logistics, among others.

As per primedatabase.com, a total of 18 companies have already received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to collectively raise over Rs 20,000 crore, with another 37 firms having filed draft red herring prospectuses (DRHP) to raise more than Rs 50,000 crore, awaiting

regulatory nod.

Marking the beginning of this wave, online travel platform Ixigo's IPO, the first since the general election, was fully subscribed within hours of opening on Monday, driven by strong demand from retail investors. The Rs 740 crore public offer will close on Wednesday. These upcoming IPOs could see strong demand from all categories of investors as markets are confident about policy continuity under the BJP-led NDA government. Experts feel that companies are cashing in on the Modi 3.0 optimism, predicting that the public issues will see strong subscription. In addition, India's

third-largest Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) producer, Allied Blenders and Distillers, plans to enter the capital market in the second half of this month to raise about Rs 1,500 crore. Meanwhile, generic drugmaker Emcure Pharmaceuticals is eyeing a Rs 2,200-2,300 crore IPO by the end of this month, having received Sebi approval earlier this week. Shapoorji Pallonji Group's flagship infrastructure engineering and construction company, Afcons Infrastructure, is set to launch its maiden public issue next month to raise Rs 7,000 crore, pending Sebi approval. Ola Electric's Rs 7,250 crore IPO is also expected soon, marking the first IPO by an electric vehicle startup in India.

Photovoltaic solar panel maker Waaree Energies is likely to go public in the coming weeks with a fresh issue worth Rs 3,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 3.2 million shares from existing investors. Additionally, Premier Energies, India's second-largest integrated solar cell and solar module maker, plans to roll out its public issue soon, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 1,500 crore and an OFS of up to 28.2 million shares. So far, in 2024, around 30 companies have raised Rs 27,780 crore through IPOs, compared to Rs 49,500 crore raised by 57 companies in the previous calendar year.



## NEWS BOX

**WI vs NZ: Rovman Powell wants West Indies to take advantage of 'undercooked' New Zealand**

**WI vs NZ: West Indies said it's the right time for them to face New Zealand since the Kiwis will be low on confidence after losing to Afghanistan by 84 runs.**

**New Delhi.** Rovman Powell reckoned that West Indies have a great chance of beating New Zealand when the teams meet in the T20 World Cup 2024 Group C match at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. The Kiwis are currently languishing at the bottom of the table with a net run rate of -4.200 after losing to Rashid Khan's Afghanistan by 84 runs in their first group match. After being asked to chase down a competitive target of 160, the Black Caps were bowled out for 75 in 15.2 overs. Barring Glenn Phillips and Matt Henry, none of their batters got into double digits. Powell said that New Zealand are under pressure, and it's the right time for the hosts to take advantage of their vulnerability.



"Focusing on what we have to do"

"Definitely, if there's a good time to play New Zealand, I think it's now. As you said, they're a little bit undercooked. The pressure is really on them, because this game decides whether they go on: yes or no. Having said that, we're not focusing on New Zealand; we're focusing on what we have to do," Powell said in the pre-match press conference. The 30-year-old Powell also hinted that a high-scoring match may not be on the cards because of the weather.

"With the rain around, that can play a part in the scores. If the groundsmen don't have sufficient time to produce good wickets, that's also a problem with the rain around. You don't get enough time to sun. Hopefully tomorrow is a very good day in terms of the weather," Powell added. West Indies started with wins over Papua New Guinea and Uganda, and are one win away from securing their berth in the playoffs. They are placed second in Group C with 4 points and a net run rate of +3.574.

## Pakistan not worried about calculations: Haris Rauf on Super 8 chances in T20 World Cup

**New Delhi.** Haris Rauf said that Pakistan are not worried about calculations regarding their chances of qualifying for the Super 8 in the T20 World Cup 2024. On Tuesday, Pakistan beat Canada by 7 wickets at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York and kept alive their hopes of making their way through to the next round. After losing to the United States and India, Babar Azam's men returned to winning ways.

After opting to field first, Pakistan restricted Canada to 106 for 7 in 20 overs. Thereafter, they chased down the target with 16 balls left in their innings. Pakistan's fate is not in their own hands anymore as India and the USA are strong contenders to advance to the Super 8. However, Rauf said that the Men in Green are only focussed on their own matches rather than external factors. "No, no, nothing like that going on in our mind. We're focusing only on our match and how to play.



If we win our match, then we will accept whatever happens," Rauf said in the post-match press conference.

**T20 World Cup: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule**

"Yes, you know that winning is so important. You have to set a tone in any tournament, we won the match, our focus is on our games, and hopefully we win the next match. And then whatever happens, if we qualify, then God willing, we will qualify and we will play good cricket in the future," Rauf said.

**'Nothing bigger than taking wickets for Pakistan'** Rauf had a decent day in the office after he finished with figures of 4-0-26-2. He also became the second Pakistani after Shadab Khan to pick up 100 wickets in the Men's T20Is. Rauf also became the fastest pacer to the 100-wicket landmark in the shortest format. "I don't have any goal. I can do 200-300 wickets, but I don't think there is anything bigger than taking even one wicket for Pakistan," Rauf added.

# T20 World Cup, USA vs India: It's mini India vs India, says Balaji on 'emotional clash'

**T20 World Cup: Former India fast bowler Laxmipathy Balaji called the upcoming clash between India and USA in the T20 World Cup 2024 a 'mini India vs India' battle.**



**New Delhi.** Former India fast bowler Laxmipathy Balaji expressed his excitement ahead of India's third game of the T20 World Cup 2024 against co-hosts USA. Notably, India will take on high-flying USA on Wednesday, June 12 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. The USA are in top form heading into the fixture having beaten Canada in their opening game by chasing down their highest ever target of 195. They further stunned Pakistan in their second game, handing them a crushing defeat in the super over after a tied match. Ahead of their next fixture against India, Balaji spoke about the importance of the match for the USA as they will be

watched by 1.4 billion people in India. Hence, they will be charged to put up a spectacular performance against the Men in Blue. USA vs IND: Preview "For the USA, it's going to be the biggest match because 1.4 billion people will be witnessing this game. So that is a brand they want to show on the

field. They will try their best, put up a good show on that particular game," Balaji said while speaking on Star Sports. Further speaking ahead, Balaji termed the upcoming fixture a 'mini India vs India' clash as the USA team is full of several Indian players. The former fast bowler also mentioned the

fact that it will be an emotional game for the USA team as they take inspiration from several India stars.

"Yes, we are talking about migrants. It is a mini India vs India. So that kind of clash we can expect. I met a couple of USA cricketers, and they all followed a lot of cricketers from India. They take inspiration from all the Indian stars, so it is going to be emotional also for them. Some of them have played under 19 for India and now representing USA, it's emotional," Balaji added.

**T20 World Cup: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule**

Notably, USA's left-arm seamer Saurabh Netravalkar has become a huge overnight star in India after his super over heroics against Pakistan. The left-arm seamer has become a national sensation for his diverse CV, having played for India in the U-19 World Cup 2010. He later left the country and now works as a software engineer in Oracle. The 32-year-old is also a UKule player, which is evident from his Instagram profile. The Mumbai-born cricketer will face his toughest challenge against his nation of birth and will hope to replicate his heroics against the Men in Blue.

## Canada will respect India, but anything can happen: Aaron Johnson coy on last game

Canada batter Aaron Johnson said that they would respect India in their final group game but remained coy on their chances of winning the match against the former champions. Canada lost to Pakistan on June 11, Tuesday, but Johnson emerged as the star of the show with his aggressive batting on the slow New York wicket. Canada already secured a win in the group, when they defeated Ireland. Their final game will be against India on 15 June in Florida, as both teams shift their base from New York. During the press conference after the Pakistan game, Johnson said that anyone can win on the given day but said he has immense respect for the players in the Indian team. However, the batter said Canada will also need to be respecting themselves as well. "Again, as I say it's a ball. The ball is very round the moment you walk on the field, anyone can win. Yes, you have to have respect for these guys. They have been doing it for years. There are some of them, like someone like Babar today, he's a legend. I'm pretty sure he will be a legend of the



game, right? And going up, hopefully we get to play against Kohli, Rohit, all of these guys, the list goes on and on. And you have to respect them, but at the end of the day, you have to know that you're a professional cricketer also. And if they did it, you can do it also. So, it's about respecting them, but also respecting yourself," said Johnson.

### My best knock in international cricket

Johnson played fearless cricket against Pakistan as he scored 52 off 44 balls and hit 4 boundaries and as many sixes against the star-studded bowling lineup of the men in green. The Canada batter hailed it as the best knock of his international career and expressed his happiness in getting a good score for Canada. "I think it's my best innings so far in international cricket. And growing up, you know that Pakistan, one thing they have is quality fast bowling attack, right? And to be able to get a decent total on the board for my team, I think that's up there with the top, probably top two best innings for me," said Johnson. Johnson's knock helped Canada get to 106 for 7 in their 20 overs. However, Pakistan chased the score down in 17.3 overs and win by 7 wickets.

## Team Kohli beats Team Rohit in fun fielding session before USA vs IND

**New Delhi.** The Indian team had a fun fielding drill session ahead of the clash against hosts USA in the T20 World Cup 2024. The USA and India will face off each other in a Group A match for the very first time at the Nassau County Cricket International Stadium, New York on June 12, Wednesday. The BCCI posted a special video on their official website ahead of the much-anticipated clash. The players were divided into 3 different teams and were engaged in a fun fielding drill practice, which targeted at them acing run-outs on the field. India's fielding coach T Dilip led the fielding practice session at the Big Apple. Rohit Sharma, Mohammad Siraj, Axar Patel, Rishabh Pant and Kuldeep Yadav were in one team for the fielding drill. Ravindra Jadeja, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh were the other team. Virat Kohli,



Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal and Shivam Dube formed the third team. USA vs IND: Preview Each team had 5 members, and they got 15 balls each to take down 6 targets. The fielding coach was amping up the energy within the team and motivating the players to hit the bulls-eye. Kohli was spot-on with his

throw and so was Suryakumar. Jaiswal's hit followed by that of Dube sealed the win for Kohli's team.

### India gears up for USA challenge

The players not only looked agile during the practice session, but also bonded really well during the fun session. India stand at the top position in the Group A stage as they have won both their encounters so far. After a comfortable 8-wicket win against Ireland on June 5, Wednesday, India scripted a thriller win by 6 runs against their arch-rivals, Pakistan on June 9, Sunday. A win against the USA will ensure India advance into the Super 8 stage of the tournament. However, the resurgent USA team would look to give a good fight, having won their last 2 encounters, including the Super Over thriller victory against Pakistan.

## India coach Igor Stimac rues controversial Qatar goal: Shouldn't happen in today's game

**New Delhi.** India coach Igor Stimac deemed Qatar's controversial equaliser in the FIFA World Cup Qualifier round 2 match as an injustice to his side as they were eliminated on June 11, Tuesday. India had taken the lead in the 37th minute of the game through Lallianzuala Chhangte, but things changed for Stimac's side in the second half. Qatar equalised in the 73rd minute from a Yousef Aymen strike. However, the ball which ultimately led to Aymen's goal had gone beyond the line before being rolled into the net, much to the frustration of India goalkeeper and skipper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. Qatar would then win the match in the 85th minute as India exited after Kuwait's win against Afghanistan. The referee was slammed by the fans for the call and now Stimac has revealed his feelings about the call. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Stimac said Qatar were lucky to win on the night as they came back thanks to an irregular goal. The Croat said that such incidents shouldn't be happening in the sport at this day and age.

Stimac said he felt sad for his players as their dream was killed due to an error in judgement. "Qatar were lucky tonight,

especially because they came back from 0-1 with an irregular goal. I can confirm that now because I have seen the replay. The whole ball was out of play and the goal was given. It shouldn't be happening in today's football because that goal changed everything in this game. It could've happened to Qatar today and I would say the same. I'm not looking for an excuse. I feel



sad that when you have 23 boys working really hard and living the dream, to achieve something, and that dream is killed because we didn't stop such things from happening," said Stimac.

"It's kind of an injustice to my boys tonight because we were very close to winning this game and qualifying for the third round, but it didn't happen. Congratulations to Qatar. I would say that both countries can be proud of their future because all the players showed enormous quality today. They played open football and it was obvious that both teams enjoyed the game. Many people will say that Qatar played with their reserve team. But our team is also not too old compared to Qatar," added Stimac.

My boys were fantastic

Stimac was proud of the performance of India and said he had nothing to complain about them.

"I would say that there is nothing to complain about my boys' display today. They were fantastic. All Indian fans can be proud of their team today. We controlled the game for a major part, with a high press against a good Qatari team.

You could say that the chances India had were better than Qatar's," said Stimac. The India coach, however, said his team needed to be more clinical in front of the goal.

## Vastly experienced' Ravindra Jadeja is going to win games for India: Paras Mhambrey

**T20 World Cup 2024: Paras Mhambrey said that Ravindra Jadeja has the experience and skills to make a comeback and win matches for the Indian team.**

**New Delhi** Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey has backed Ravindra Jadeja to come good later in the T20 World Cup 2024. Jadeja, who has played international cricket for 15 years, hasn't had the best of outings as an all-rounder in both games thus far in the multi-nation event. He is yet to pick up a wicket in the tournament, having rolled his arms over for 3 overs against Ireland and Pakistan.

Moreover, he bagged a golden duck against Pakistan after Mohammad Amir accounted for his wicket. Mhambrey said that conversations with head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour will help Jadeja find his form. Mhambrey spoke about Jadeja before India's Group A clash against the United States on Wednesday. "I think it's a team game, right? It's going to be 11 guys. You really don't

expect all of them coming into form. It's going to be performed every game that will happen. For me, I personally feel whatever conversations Rahul and Vicky are having around, I've been pretty happy with it. And you expect a one-off game out there. But it's a long tournament," Mhambrey said in the pre-match press conference.

"The team will back you"

Mhambrey said that Jadeja has the experience and skills to stage a strong comeback. The coach also showed his support for Shivam Dube, who faced a lot of flak for not performing to expectations, especially in the match against Pakistan in New York where he dropped a simple catch and struggled with the bat.



"I think one just someone like Jadeja, who's so vastly experienced, he just needs a game out there to just get his root around and feel around. And we know that the skills that he has and the experience, he's going to go ahead and he's going to win your games. So that confidence we have in not only Jadeja, but honestly with

someone like Dube and others as well," he said. "You can have one odd game and people will have conversations saying you are given a game, and you're going to have one bad game. That's fine, but the team will back you. And that's what is important in a tournament like this," M h a m b r e y added. India are

currently sitting pretty on top of the table with 4 points and a net run rate of +1.455 thanks to wins in both their matches. If they win their next game, they will be the third team after South Africa and Australia to make their way through to the playoffs.





# Sonakshi Sinha

## Zaheer Iqbal Relationship Timeline: From Salman Khan's Party To PDA In Andamans

Actor Sonakshi Sinha is tying the knot with her boyfriend, actor Zaheer Iqbal, on June 23 in Mumbai, as reported by India Today. The couple has kept their romance fairly low-key, but their frequent outings and adorable social media posts have given us all the feels. The guest list is said to include close friends, family, and reportedly, the entire cast of her last screen outing, Heeramandi. The wedding invitation, styled like a magazine cover, teases, "the rumours are true." Guests are requested to dress to the nines for the big event at Bastian in Mumbai. Looks like it's going to be a star-studded affair! As Bollywood gears up for another big wedding, here's looking at Sonakshi and Zaheer's dating timeline.

### First meeting

Word on the street is that Zaheer and Sonakshi first clicked at a bash hosted by none other than Bollywood's bhaijaan, Salman Khan. From buds to lovebirds, their relationship bloomed into something truly magical. Making their grand entrance as a couple at Aayush Sharma and Arpita Khan's Eid bash in 2023 had heads turning.

### Early spotting

A picture of Sonakshi riding a bike went viral on social media. She could be seen riding a Royal Enfield bike in it. Only rumoured to be dating him, Sonakshi also joined him for the wedding celebration of filmmaker Dinesh Vijan's sister Pooja Vijan. After this, they made an appearance together at the wedding reception party of filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's niece, Heeramandi star, Sharmin Segal. Sonakshi celebrated her boyfriend Zaheer's birthday in December 2023 by sharing a sweet video. The clip captured some precious moments between the couple and with this, Sonakshi made the official with Zaheer. Alongside the video, Sonakshi penned a heartfelt note, saying, "The cray to my Z(ee)... this is quite self explanatory. Happy birthday to my very own personal psycho." Recently, during an episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, which featured the ladies from Heeramandi as guests, Kapil Sharma had asked Sonakshi about her marriage plans, mentioning Alia Bhatt and Kiara Advani recently tied the knot.



## How Hit Man Stars Glen Powell And Adria Arjona Planned Their Steamy Sex Scenes



While it may look very creative, sensual and beautifully done on the screen to us, sex scenes in films aren't always easy to shoot. Though one may assume that it might have been shot like any other scene with a set of instructions given to the actors, the reality is slightly different. In fact, the sex scenes require a lot more coordination, creativity and planning for their seamless execution. Actors Glen Powell and Adria Arjona recently shared some interesting behind-the-scenes details of their work, especially regarding their physically intimate scenes, for the film Hit Man. While preparing for these scenes can be a complex process for most actors, Powell and Arjona took a unique approach to it. According to Variety, the duo and their director used Pinterest to help plan the steamy bits of the film. To execute their intimate scenes, Arjona proposed the idea of creating a Pinterest board for Powell and the film's director. On this board, they could share images from their favourite movies and art to get a sense of each other's tastes. "Everyone finds different things sensual," Arjona explained. "It was interesting to see both of our perspectives, hone in and start molding it from that sense. It sparked conversations that you wouldn't normally have, because we were in the process of creating it." Even Glen Powell found this approach beneficial too. "So often, sex scenes feel almost divorced from the movie, like a marketing play or it feels icky. In this movie, those scenes are crucial in the changing and seizing of identity. You have to see a guy who sees the world in such a binary, stale place checking logic at the door and becoming a whole new person. This romantic relationship is really expediting it. It's the catalyst for everything," he told Variety. "It was beautiful and intentional. It didn't feel like we were just doing sex scenes just to do sex scenes; it came from a creative place," added Adria Arjona.

## When Joey King's Weight Loss Left Kissing Booth Co-Star Taylor Zakhar Perez 'Worried'



Actress Joey King is renowned for her strict fitness regime, disciplined food habits and regular workouts. The Kissing Booth star takes her preparation for films to the next level. This was evident in her recent miniseries, We Were the Lucky Ones. Joey had to undergo significant weight loss for her role as a "very, very, very thin Jewish woman." While this transformation was just a part of the show, Joey's friend and former co-star Taylor Zakhar Perez expressed concern about her well-being. The Kissing Booth co-stars recently appeared on Variety's Actors on Actors, where they engaged in candid conversation, teasing each other and sharing interesting details. They also discussed their most recent roles, including King's portrayal of a young Jewish woman against the backdrop of World War II in the Hulu miniseries.

### When Joey King's Major Weight Loss Left Taylor Zakhar Perez Worried

During their conversation, Joey King recalled the time she was shooting for We Were the Lucky Ones in Romania, and Zakhar Perez came to meet her, making her feel very happy. "You visited me in Romania, where we were filming 'We Were the Lucky Ones' for seven months.

I was so appreciative. I missed you so much, and I was so happy you came," she said.

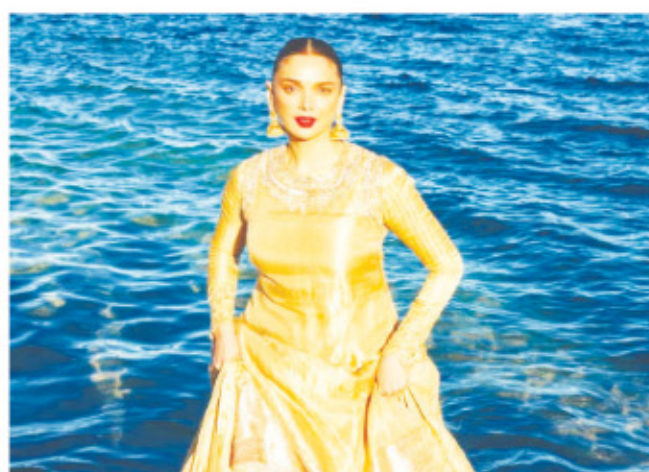
Joining in, the Red, White & Royal Blue star shared how he got worried after seeing her lose so much weight. "When I showed up, I was like, 'Jo, are you OK? Because you've lost a lot of weight,'" he recounted. Explaining her reasons, King said that her character of Halina Kurc had such a demand—someone who has limited resources and is going through the Holocaust.

I got very, very, very thin for that show because my character is a Jewish woman passing as an Aryan woman. But at the beginning of the war, they're living off rations. And then the access to food is so limited... We're not actually going through the Holocaust; we're portraying a family that is. At the end of the day, we should feel uncomfortable when doing these scenes that require such heavy emotion..." she explained.

# Aditi Rao Hydari's

## Golden Anarkali Ensemble Is Perfect Wedding Wear

Aditi Rao Hydari never fails to strike a chord with fashion lovers. The actress is frequently seen experimenting with her vibrant and striking ethnic styles. Aditi dresses in everything, including lehengas, sarees, and suit sets, and her Instagram handle is the proof. Therefore, we were not surprised by her recent photos. The diva looked flawless in a golden Anarkali ensemble that oozed Bibbojaan vibes. The outfit features a full-sleeved kurta with stunning gold intricate sequin zari hand embroidery adorning the neck and borders. She paired it with a matching tissue skirt, which gives it a complete royal look. Aditi's breathtaking attire is from the wardrobes of renowned fashion designer Manish Malhotra, showcasing his signature elegance and craftsmanship. The impeccable styling was done by celebrity fashion stylist Sanam Ratansi. In terms of accessories, she kept it minimal so that the whole focus stayed on her royal outfit. She chose a pair of big golden statement jhumka earrings that added an extra touch of elegance and tradition to her stunning appearance. Her makeup was done by makeup artist Elton J. Fernandez. It includes pink eyeshadow, mascara-coated lashes, contoured cheekbones, blushed cheeks, a luminous highlighter, and a shade of bright red lipstick. While she completed her look with a neatly parted middle bun and added gajra to it. Adding a touch of ethnicity, she added a little black bindi on her forehead. On Saturday, Aditi took to Instagram and uploaded the series of stunning pictures and wrote, "Bibbojaan is worth it! My first appearance in Cannes was on #lategram, channelling beauty vibes from my Amma and my Rekha ma. In gold, Malli poo (flowers), and a bottu (bindi)." Take a look at the photos: Well, a few days back, the actress shared another couple of photos from her photoshoot session. In the photos, Aditi is seen in a vibrant suit from the closet of designer Mayyur Girotra's collection. The ensemble includes a kurta, trousers and a dupatta. The violet silk flared kurta has a deep U-neckline and full sleeves. She teamed the kurta with light orange floral work straight trousers. The dupatta was also a standout feature of this outfit, with intricate zari and thread work in yellow, orange, and pink tones.



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