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Will put an end to 'scams' like NEET: CM Stalin

Sanjay Kumar Chennai, June 14: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday said he would put an end to entrance test 'scams' like the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical courses and ensure unhindered access to education.

Italian PM Meloni greets PM Modi with traditional 'namaste' as he arrives at G7 venue

Simmi Kaur Babbar Chandigarh, June 14: Italy Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Group of Seven (G7) with a traditional 'namaste' upon his arrival at the venue.

bilateral agenda. We remain committed to consolidate the India-Italy strategic partnership, and bolster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean regions.

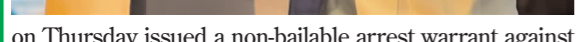
global and regional issues. The two leaders met in the southern resort town of Italy. Taking Strategic Partnership to new levels! PM @narendramodi met President @EmmanuelMacron of France on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy.

areas of defence, nuclear, space, education, climate action, digital public infrastructure, critical technologies, connectivity and culture. They also exchanged views on key global and regional issues," he wrote.



Karnataka High Court restrains CID from arresting ex-CM Yediyurappa in POCSO case

Bengaluru, June 14: Karnataka High Court on Friday restrained Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.



on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on March 14 this year.

After Kochi, IAF plane carrying bodies of Kuwait fire victims lands in Delhi

New Delhi, June 14: An IAF aircraft carrying the bodies of 14 of the 45 Indians who died in a devastating fire at a building in Kuwait landed in Delhi from Kerala's Kochi on Friday evening, a senior official said.

'I'm focussed on development, Maharashtra polls': Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

Pune, June 14: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday asserted his focus was on development and the upcoming assembly polls as he sought to sidestep questions related to an article in an RSS-linked publication that was critical of the BJP's alliance with the NCP.

'Won't tolerate malpractice, accountability in NTA will be fixed if lapses found': Pradhan

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, June 14: The government will not tolerate any malpractice or irregularities in the conduct of exams and accountability of the National Testing Agency will be fixed if lapses are found.

are found," Pradhan said in response to a question by PTI. The comments by the minister came on a day when Congress stepped up its attack on the government

Court-monitored forensic probe can safeguard the future of lakhs of young students, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge claimed the Modi government has started "covering up the NEET scam" through the Union education minister and NTA.



Sheena Bora's bones 'missing', CBI admits in Mumbai court

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Mumbai, June 14: In a bizarre development, the CBI has told a special Mumbai court that the bones and mortal remains purportedly of Mumbai executive Sheena Bora recovered by Raigad police after her murder 12 years ago, are reportedly "missing" and untraceable.

August 2015. At the court hearing on May 7, Public Prosecutor C.J. Nandode, appearing for the CBI, sought to show the bones that were recovered, for identification by Dr Khan, but despite a diligent search, they could not be located.

two marked packets containing the evidence (bones) could not be traced, and the examination of the witness (Dr Khan) would continue without showing it to her, though it was crucial for the case.

RIL's Jio gets space regulator's nod to launch satellite internet

Bengaluru, June 14: A joint venture between Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms and Luxembourg-based SES to provide gigabit fibre internet has won approval from the Indian space regulator to operate satellites there, a government executive said.

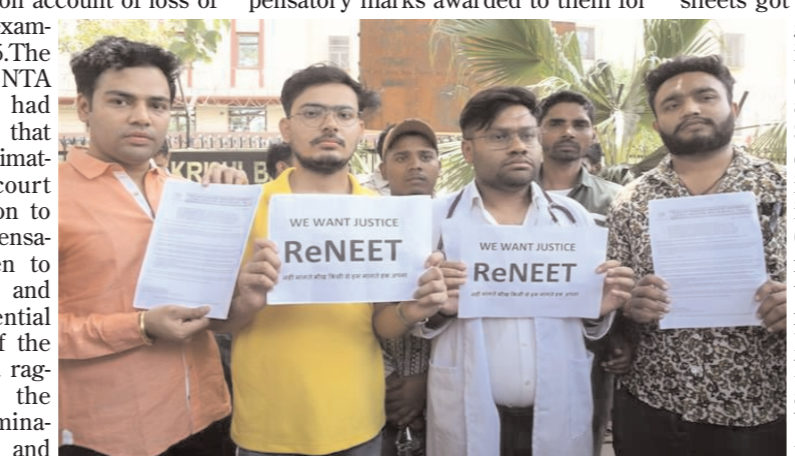
Supreme Court issues notices on NTA's plea seeking transfer of cases on NEET-UG row from high courts to it

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, June 14: The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to private parties on a plea by the National Testing Agency seeking transfer of cases pending in various high courts on the NEET-UG row to the top court to avoid multiplicity of litigation.

pertained to grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates on account of loss of time during the examination on May 5. The counsel for the NTA said the issue had been settled and that he would be intimating the high court about the decision to cancel the compensatory marks given to 1,536 candidates and the consequential June 13 order of the top court.

either take a re-test or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier. The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of cases in seven high courts and the Supreme Court.

Students protesting in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into the alleged irregularities. As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.



Was Congress planning to field murder accused Darshan as their Channapatna bypoll candidate?

Ramanagara, June 14: Karnataka BJP leader C P Yogeshwar on Friday claimed that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his brother and former MP D K Suresh had planned to field, Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who has been arrested in connection with a murder case, as Congress candidate in the upcoming Channapatna Assembly bypoll.

former MP (Suresh) was speaking about a surprise candidate. The person who is now caught in a murder case, they wanted that person as their surprise candidate, but it is not possible now. Maybe now they might look for another surprise candidate, let's see," he said.



**Infant, 2 women killed as bus rams truck near Tenkasi in TN**

**TENKASI:** Three passengers of a private bus, including a four-year-old boy, died and at least 16 others were injured as the vehicle toppled after being hit by a Kerala-based tipper truck on the Thirumangalam-Kollam National Highway in Elathur near Tenkasi on Thursday. The Elathur police identified the deceased persons as M Alagu Sundari (35) and her son M Atchaya Bala (4), residents of Sivaramapettai, and M Selvi (55), a resident of Sankarankovil. According to sources, the private bus was en route to Srivilliputhur of Virudhunagar from Tenkasi new bus stand. C Vignesh (27) of Aemanpatti was driving the bus, when it was hit by the truck, which is usually used for transporting stones from Tamil Nadu to Kerala. When both the vehicles were approaching Elathur Vilakku junction, the truck hit the bus, and the latter toppled on the road. M Muthuraj (25) of Azhagapuram was driving the truck, sources said.

While Sundari and Selvi died on the spot, Bala sustained severe injuries and was shifted to the Government District Headquarters Hospital (GHQH) in Tenkasi, where he succumbed later. Further, 16 passengers of the bus, including the driver and conductor, suffered injuries. Nine of them were admitted to GHQH as in-patients, and six others received treatment as out-patients, sources added. Meanwhile, District Collector AK Kamal Kishore rushed to the spot soon after the accident and monitored the rescue measures. It is learnt that a traffic police inspector, Mani, saved a child's life by rushing the kid to the GHQH on his vehicle.

**NIT-Calicut fines five students Rs 33 lakh over night curfew protest on campus**

**KOZHIKODE:** In a controversial decision, authorities of National Institute of Technology-Calicut (NIT-Calicut) have slapped a huge fine of Rs 33 lakh on five students who led a protest against imposition of night curfew on the campus in March. A show-cause notice was issued on Thursday to the students in order to claim the loss suffered by the institute due to students' protests. The penalty, amounting to Rs 6,61,155 per student, was imposed on Vaishakh Premkumar and Ben Thomas of the Department of electronics, Kailash Nath of the department of Computer Science and engineering, Irshad Ibrahim of the department of Mechanical Engineering, and Adarsh of the department of material science and engineering. The protest which took place on March 22 resulted in significant disruptions on the campus. The protesters prevented employees from entering the campus, and a working day was lost, according to NIT-C officials.

**NIT-C admin gives students 7-day window to respond to penalty notice**  
The NIT-C administration has given the students a seven-day window to respond to

the penalty notice, emphasising that the fines were intended to compensate for the perceived losses incurred due to the protest. "We will seek legal advice before responding to the show-cause notice issued by the registrar," Kailash Nath told TNIE. "I first received the notice on

difficulties faced by students. Instead, they are busy making the lives of students tough," he said.

The institute authorities said in the notice that they have considered the CCTV footage, photographs, media telecasts and report from the security staff and identified



Thursday morning and we were indeed surprised to see it, as none of the claims raised by the institute in the notice are true. The main gate was closed as part of the protest, but regular activities of the college were unaffected. We were only trying to talk to the director of the campus as representatives of the Students Affairs Council (SAC) as the students were facing many issues due to unwanted restrictions on the campus. The institute authorities are still not trying to understand the

the students who led the protest, locked the main entrance and restrained the employees of the institute from entering into the campus. The protest was sparked by a circular issued on March 20 by Dean Rajanikant G K which introduced new curfew regulations on the campus. According to the circular, students were required to return to their hostels by midnight, and the campus canteen was to be closed at 11pm instead of the 24-hour service provided earlier. The administration cited safety concerns and the negative impact of late-night activities on students' health and academic performance as reasons for introducing the new rules. These curbs, which had been lifted in 2020, were reinstated following complaints about students roaming the campus late at night.

The administration stressed that the unrestricted late-night access and the 24-hour canteen operations posed challenges to maintaining order on campus. The imposition of night curfew triggered unrest among the student.

**TN govt ordered to classify trans persons under special category for jobs, education**

**CHENNAI:** Asserting that denial to consider trans persons under a special category is against the orders of the Supreme Court, the Madras High Court has ordered the Tamil Nadu government to treat trans persons under a separate category while considering them for public employment and educational opportunities.

"The second respondent (Home Secretary) is directed to treat the trans persons under special category and not to treat them under female or male category in all education and employment avenues," Justice Bhavani Subbarayan said in an order passed on Wednesday. The court also asked the Home Secretary to direct all the recruiting agencies to specify transgender as a special category and prescribe separate and lower cut-off marks, age relaxation and other norms as done for other categories like caste-based ones.

The order was passed on a petition filed by a trans person, R Anushree, seeking orders to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) to consider her application under a special category of transgenders for recruitment to the posts falling under the Combined Civil Services Group-II A as per a notification of 2017. The petitioner stated that though she scored 121.5 marks in the exam, she was not called for certificate verification as she was treated as an SC (woman), for whom the cut-off mark was higher than her score. The TNPSC submitted that she could not be considered under a special category as she has marked SC and trans persons in separate columns for caste and gender in the application. However, Justice Bhavani Subbarayan ordered TNPSC to consider her for recruitment by allowing her to submit her certificates for verification for the ongoing recruitment process to Combined Civil Services Group-II A as per a 2022 notification, by placing her in the special category and giving her preference. She observed that if there was a special reservation, as directed by the Supreme Court, the petitioner would have found a way to lead a life the same as any other citizen of this country. "The denial to consider the petitioner under a special category is against the direction issued by the Supreme Court and there cannot be any reason for not doing so," she said. The judge commented that every denial of opportunity to a trans person, that too when there is only a minimal number of educationally qualified, would pull back the community to lead an 'abnormal' life. It is for the government to improve their quality of life by providing sufficient opportunities in education and employment, the judge said. The judge further stated if the trans persons are categorised only according to their caste, it would be detrimental to their development. They are to be treated as a special category, she added.

**RTA crackdown: 44 school buses seized over irregularities in essential documents**

**It should be noted that a fitness certificate is valid for one year, which expires every year on May 15.**

**HYDERABAD:** In the first two days of the school reopening, Regional Transport Authority (RTA) officials seized a total of 44 educational institutional buses (EIBs). Of these, 34 were confiscated for not obtaining the mandatory annual fitness certificate, while the rest were seized due to irregularities in other essential documents, including road tax. It should be noted that a fitness certificate is valid for one year, which expires every year on May 15. A notable case involving a bus owner fined Rs 2.68 lakh for pending taxes on a recently bought omnibus. The fine included Rs 2.43 lakh in pending taxes and Rs 25,000 as penalties. The fine was collected from Pragnya IAS Academy in Musheerabad when the bus was intercepted during an inspection drive on Wednesday. The bus was being used as a school bus without the required authorisation from the District Education Office (DEO) to run a passenger vehicle as a school vehicle. Sources in the RTA told TNIE that the owner might have been using the vehicle for dual purposes. "Had they not neglected, the tax would have

been Rs 750 per quarter for a passenger bus, compared to Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 for an EIB. Instead of paying in lakhs, the amount would have been confined to Rs 12,000 to 13,000," the source said.

"Not obtaining a fitness certificate is compromising the safety of children. It amounts to carelessness by these institutions despite repeated instructions," C Ramesh, Joint Transport Commissioner, told TNIE.

Noting that the inspections will go at least till June end, Ramesh added, "For the buses that are nearing 15 years old (the age limit for school buses), sometimes schools don't apply for the FCs." Cases against the seized buses were registered under Section 207 (detain and take action against vehicles found being driven without the necessary permits and registration) of the Central Motor Vehicles (CMV) Act 2019, with the offenders liable to pay a minimum penalty of Rs 5,000, moving up to Rs 17,000 to Rs

18,000 in the absence of essential documents such as a driving license, RC, permit, pollution certificate, tax, and insurance. As per the RTA authorities, as many as 20,829 EIB run in the state, with over 12,000 plying under the GHMC



limits. Of these, around 1,290 are in Hyderabad, around 5,610 in Medchal, and 5,733 in Rangareddy. According to officials, over 90 percent of the buses in the state (around 19,000) had secured new or renewed the FCs by Thursday evening.

In Hyderabad, 969 buses had completed the process, while 321 were yet to undergo it. Recalling that it is the same situation around this time every year, Ramesh highlighted that schools should not think that obtaining a FC is an extra effort. Meanwhile, a total of 116 (around 10 percent) of the EIBs procured the FCs in the last four days of the deadline, from June 8 to June 12. "Sometimes schools get the vehicles repaired and then apply for the FCs while there are times that they first wait for transportation charges in the fee and then apply. That is why there is a rush as the deadline nears," said the source.

**90% of buses in TG secured new FCs**

According to officials, over 90 percent of the buses in the state (around 19,000) had secured new or renewed the FCs by Thursday evening. In Hyderabad, 969 buses had completed the process, while 321 were yet to undergo it

**Kochi city master plan gets Kerala government's nod**

**KOCHI:** Kochi City's master plan, which has been on the table since 2002, received approval from the Kerala government on Thursday. After thorough legal scrutiny, the master plan was approved by the Local Self-Government Minister, among others. The new master plan provisions will be applicable from the date of issuance of the government notification. "Once the notification is issued, all building construction and development activities will be in adherence to the new master plan. With the implementation of the new master plan, the structure plan 1991 (general town planning scheme), which is applicable until now, will be revoked within the corporation area," said Mayor M Anilkumar. The master plan (2019-2040) will endeavour to



enhance the quality of urban life while proposing measures to strengthen the city's base in line with objectives outlined in the

central government's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. Additionally, 19 out of

the 21 detailed town planning (DTP) schemes applicable in the corporation area will also be cancelled. The last master plan for Kochi City was prepared in 1970. "Though there was an attempt to prepare a master plan during the tenure of former mayor Dinesh Mani, it did not materialise. After many years, the Kochi Corporation has prepared a new master plan for the city. The master plan was prepared following detailed discussions and examinations," said the mayor. Under the leadership of the master plan committee, extensive efforts were made to draft and notify the master plan. Special council meetings, discussions with various organisations, and meetings with public representatives, including MPs and MLAs, were held.

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**Pair of sheep being sold at Rs 25k-Rs 30k profiting middlemen mostly**

**Guntur: High sheep prices likely to impact Bakrid celebrations**

**GUNTUR:** High prices of sheep are likely to put a damper on Bakrid celebrations, as the prices of sheep increased drastically by around '5,000 to '7,000 this year. Eid al-Adha, also known as 'Festival of Sacrifice', will be observed in India on June 17, while it is observed a day earlier in Saudi Arabia. Last year, a pair of sheep was quoted at around Rs 20,000 during Bakrid which now ranges between Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000. The retailers opined that there has been a shortage of sheep this year compared to the last year as the transportation prices

increased due to hike in fuel rates. Due to this, the business at the Friday market in Guntur, where people come from surrounding areas to buy sheep, has been witnessing a fall in demand, as many poor and middle-class consumers are in no condition to afford such high costs and the retailers are not confident about a spike in the business. However, while the prices remain high, the shepherds aren't the major benefactors as it is the middlemen who take the big margins. Both the shepherd and the customer suffer as the sheep is

procured from the herder at around Rs 13,000 to Rs 17,000 and then sold to customers for Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000. Even the retailer makes lesser margins than the middlemen, said Abdullah, a vendor. Every year, Eid al-Adha is celebrated by Muslims with a lot of pomp and grandeur all over the world. People start their day with the morning prayers and indulge in family time with their loved ones. In many countries, animal sacrifice is a norm on this auspicious day. Charity is also done, and clothes and food are offered to the poor and the needy.





NEWS BOX

**Haryana Khel Mahakumbh will be held in July now**

**Gurgaon.** The state-level Khel Mahakumbh, to be held from June 15 to 18, has been postponed to July. The reason behind the delay is yet to be ascertained. Several sports persons were selected to participate in 24 disciplines such as archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, basketball, cycling, etc. after district-level trials over two days. Gurgaon trials witnessed 800 participants last week. Gymnastics coach Sandeep Kumar, one of the three officials overseeing the trials, said, "We received the information about the postponement Thursday morning. We have conducted the trials and sports persons have been selected. The announcement of the event being postponed happened before the venue was finalised for each discipline. We are not aware of the reason why the event has been postponed." TNN

We also published the following articles recently NTA postpones NCET 2024 exam due to 'technical reasons,' new date to be announced soon The National Testing Agency (NTA) has postponed the NCET 2024 exam scheduled for June 12 due to technical difficulties. The exam is for admission to the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in selected universities and institutions, including IITs, NITs, RIEs, and government colleges. 110953343

'Khel Khel Mein': Akshay Kumar and Taapsee Pannu starrer to hit theatres on August 15 Khel Khel Mein, a comedy drama directed by Mudassar Aziz, features an incredible cast including Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal, Pragya Jaiswal, and Fardeen Khan. The film is set to release on August 15, 2024, promising a mad world of laughter, drama, and fun. 110948664

Pawan Kalyan's shooting plans to be postponed indefinitely Actor Pawan Kalyan won 21 state assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh and 2 Lok Sabha seats, impacting the political landscape. He postponed film shoots to focus on politics, delaying projects like 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' and 'OG'

**Sanitation worker hit by cab, dies; 1 arrested**

**Gurgaon:** A 51-year-old sanitation worker was killed after she was hit by a speeding cab near Vatika Chowk on Thursday morning. The driver allegedly abandoned his vehicle and fled the spot. Sanitation workers later staged a protest on the road, demanding the driver's arrest. The driver was arrested the same day. Around 7.30am on Thursday, Saroj was deployed along with some co-workers near Vatika Chowk to clean the road. As Saroj was sweeping on the SPR, a cab coming from Golf Course Road Extension hit her. She died on the spot due to severe injuries, an officer said. A case was registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving on a public way) and 304-A (causing death due to rash or negligent act) at Badshapur police station. The driver was later identified as Md Chand, from Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh. Police managed to trace the driver and arrested him. Earlier in the day, agitated sanitation workers had blocked the road in protest. The workers also demanded that MCG deploy sanitation workers closer to their place of stay instead of assigning them work far from their homes. "Saroj was a resident of Sarai Allawardi village, and she was assigned work at Vatika Chowk, which was about 14km away. They were not provided with basic safety equipment like traffic cones and reflector jackets. We also demand compensation and employment for a family member of the victim who died on duty. Her son is unemployed, and he has three children. Saroj was taking care of his family," said Kailash Kumar Sangreliya, president of the MCG workers' union. The workers also damaged the windshield of the car. However, cops were able to pacify the protest and clear the area. We also published the following articles recently Man arrested for raping 19-year-old wife of co-worker Shaikh Mohsin, a 41-year-old Odisha native, arrested for raping colleague's wife. Survivor, new to city for work, attempted suicide after assault. Manohar Lal to babus: Work on sanitation issues, flooding New Delhi's new housing and urban affairs minister, Manohar Lal, urges officers to address urban flooding, sanitation, and water-borne diseases during the monsoon season.

**24-hr control room set up to act on garbage complaints**

**Gurgaon.** A control room has been set up to address complaints about construction and demolition waste, municipal solid waste and horticulture waste under Solid Waste Environment Exigency Programme (SWEET), which was launched in the city on Wednesday due to mounting deposits of waste on roads. The control room will be operational 24x7 to address the concerns of residents regarding waste management and can be accessed on phone calls and WhatsApp. "The control room can be accessed on 9821395367 round-the-clock. The residents can complain on WhatsApp about C&D waste on 7290088127, solid waste on 7290097521 and horticulture waste on 7290076135," Nishant Kumar Yadav, deputy commissioner, said. The deputy commissioner announced the special SWEEP campaign and also constituted teams headed by 19 officials from the MCG, district administration and GMDA to monitor the campaign. MCG's additional commissioner Balpreet Singh is heading the program while the senior officials will carry out inspections in designated areas and monitor work done by the sanitation agencies. TVSN Prasad, Haryana chief secretary and chairman of the executive committee of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), on Wed directed the establishment of a 24x7 control room with a dedicated helpline to ensure active monitoring of the waste management process. The committee has been tasked with conducting analysis of gaps in the existing infrastructure, creating a GIS-based map for waste tracking, and developing an effective grievance redressal mechanism. The decision comes in response to a Supreme Court order on May 13 and observations made by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), emphasising the urgent need for a cleaner environment in the city. The order stated that it is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

**Car hits divider, man dies & friend injured**

**Noida.** A 34-year-old man died while his friend was injured after their car hit a divider in Sector 71 on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. According to Phase 3 SHO Vijay Kumar, the deceased was identified as Kamal Dixit, who was originally from Mathras and resided in Sector 121. He worked at a private firm in the city. Around midnight on Thursday, Dixit was driving towards Elevated Road from the DS trisection along with his friend Harsh Chaturvedi. He lost control of his WagonR car while making a turn, causing the vehicle to crash into a divider at a high speed, the SHO explained.



ferrying employees of a private company ploughed through a row of grievously injured. The bus, registered with Anant Tour & Travel company, was

A passerby informed police about the incident via the 112 emergency helpline. Both Dixit and Chaturvedi were brought to a nearby hospital where Dixit died during treatment. Chaturvedi is at the hospital receiving treatment for his injuries. A crane was later used to remove

**You have the claim of Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia regarding the establishment of the people's government in Delhi**

**Why is the establishment of the people's government in Delhi pending?**

New Delhi. The population of 2.5 crores of Delhi cannot be left at the mercy of the Lieutenant Governor and judicial prisoner and departmentless unemployed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar Jail, nor can it be left at the mercy of those 58 MLAs who have stood by Kejriwal in all his mistakes and after Kejriwal went to jail, from 22 March to 10 April 2024, no alternative government and Chief Minister have made any effort to save Delhi from various problems through the arrangement. Therefore, the scorching 2.5 crore people of Delhi and the people thirsty without water and the people in darkness without electricity and the people suffering from various other problems, by deciding to form the people's government by using their own government and their own option and the elected representatives of the people for majority in the current assembly and to provide solutions to the problems of the 2.5 crore people of Delhi, the immediate effort which Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia, being a sensitive citizen for the people of Delhi, has made before you to form the people's government on the basis of the real constitutional framework of democracy, on which your not taking any decision from 10th April till today 14th June 2024 is a question mark for the office of the Lieutenant Governor. Through this memorandum of today, we request the Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena and Chief Secretary Isha Khosla ji to issue the following orders with immediate effect in the interest of 2.5 crore people of Delhi.

First of all, judicial prisoner Shri Arvind Kejriwal, who has been involved in criminal activities while holding the post of Chief Minister and who is currently imprisoned in Tihar Jail, Delhi as a judi-



cial prisoner. Therefore, as per the rules of public service, prisoner Kejriwal cannot automatically hold any post, you should have dismissed prisoner Kejriwal from the post of Chief Minister on 22 March 2024 itself, but you did not perform your duty and you have not yet dismissed prisoner Kejriwal from the post of Chief Minister even after the letters given by us, which is your wrong decision, so please dismiss prisoner Kejriwal from the post of Chief Minister with immediate effect without dissolving or suspending the current Legislative Assembly of Delhi. That Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia has been sent a claim to form the government of the people of Delhi by mail on

10th April and a handwritten claim letter on 16th April 2024. And the claim of the government of the people is that according to the constitutional structure of democracy, the government of the coun-

try, only the government of the people is a constitutional government, not the government of any political party, because democracy is written in the constitution but party system is not written anywhere in the constitution. Along with this, any public representative elected by the public is first of all a representative of the public, later he can be a worker of any party, but the representative of the public is of the public only. And in the present Delhi Assembly also, there are 66 MLAs, out of which about 30 MLAs were talked to by Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia on the mobile of the MLAs and their P.A. against the President's rule in Delhi and in favor of the government of the people. By talking on the mobile of, I have realized the strong possibility of the people's government, under which I have continuously claimed before the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and the Home Minister of the Government of India and the President of the Government of India, which I have claimed before you, which is pending before the Chief Secretary

Police are still on the lookout for the driver.

We also published the following articles recently 4 friends die in UP car crash while returning from bday bash Four friends died in a car crash near Manauta flyover on Hasanpur-Gajraula road while returning from a birthday celebration. They were involved in running a popular YouTube channel, Round2World. Bus crashes into food carts, condo wall in Noida; 1 dead A bus operated by a private company crashed into food carts and a housing society wall in Noida, resulting in the death of a momo vendor. The bus driver fled the scene, leaving behind 15-20 passengers inside. 110925925 Traffic chaos worsens on Hoshangabad Rd, gaps in divider put drivers on crash course Slow construction of road divider on Hoshangabad Road post BRTS removal turns spots accident-prone. Missing

Honorable Isha Khosla ji Lieutenant Governor's office from the above letter number date, on which this letter is being given to you today on 14 June 2024 as per the scheduled time to take a final decision for the government of the people of Delhi, on which you should dismiss the prisoner Chief Minister Kejriwal with immediate effect and provide the order letter to Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia for the government of the people of Delhi and get rid of various types of problems to the population of 2.5 crores of Delhi. That the 66 MLAs elected representatives of the people of Delhi in the current Delhi Legislative Assembly, with these MLAs I, Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia, will prove the majority of the government of the people of Delhi as the Chief Minister in the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Almost no MLA can go against the government of the people because all the MLAs are first and foremost elected representatives of the people and Delhi currently needs a historic and hardworking Chief Minister who can provide immediate solution to the people of Delhi from severe heat, severe water crisis, severe power crisis and many other types of problems, for which I, Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia, am eligible in every way. So, please do the 2.5 crore people of Delhi a favour by giving Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia an opportunity to form the government of the people of Delhi as the Chief Minister to create a new history through the government of the people of Delhi and to solve the problems of Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, Sonali W/O of No.2810302N NK Doko Jitendra Bhagwat R/O Vill-Kharosa POST-Kharosa TEH-I Ausa DIST - Latur PIN COD -413521 have changed my name from Sonali to Sonali Jitendra Doko. For all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2024 before Notary public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I Aman Bahadur Gurung S/o Bir Bahadur R/o Flat No 277, DDA SFS Flats Sector 1 Ploket 1 Dwarika, New Delhi 110075 have changed my name to Aman Bahadur for all future purposes.

**Name Change**  
I, Rizwan S/o Anis Khan R/o A-161, Buland Masjid, Shastri Park, East Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Rizwan Khan permanently.

**Name Change**  
I, Renu Prasad w/o Murali Prasad Singh R/o C-255, Gali No.6, Shiv Colony, Faridabad-121003, Haryana, have changed my name to Renu Verma permanently.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of RASHTRIYA SHIVAJI EKTA PARTY. The office of the party is located E-66, Rajiv Nagar, Begumpur, Opp. Rohini, Sector-22, Delhi-110086. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:-  
President: Karan Sharma  
General secretary: Vikas Sharma  
Treasurer: Naseem Khan  
If any one has any objection to the registration of RASHTRIYA SHIVAJI EKTA PARTY they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of the notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I hitherto known as Chinni Lal S/o Sh. Kirori Mal Rawat resident of 1264/21D, Faridabad, employed as Regional Director, at YBDC, YIL, Sector-1, RK Puram, New Delhi have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chinni Lal Rawat. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.  
Chinni Lal  
Witness No.-1  
Signature..... Name - Pawan Kumar, Mobile No.- 9568955459, Address - 1485 Janita Flats, G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi 110093, Witness No.-2  
Signature..... Name - Deepak Sharma, Mobile No.- 9871074879, Address-18, Gali No.1, Gaurav Nagar, Kirti, Suleman Nagar, Delhi 11008

**Name Change**  
I, JC-472186Y Rank-SUBJ HONY LT Name-BHUPENDRA PRATAP SINGH S/o PARAS NATH SINGH Presently residing at VILL-BHAWANI NAGAR, PO-BHAWANI NAGAR, TEH-DILLOH, DIST-AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH-229309 have changed my daughter's name from KUMARI RATNA SINGH to RATNA SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, Murari Prasad S/o Tek Narayan Singh R/O C-255, Gali No.6, Shiv Colony, Faridabad-121003, Haryana, have changed my name to Murali Prasad Singh permanently.

**Name Change**  
I, Josephine Alexander, W/O Alexander, R/O D-II-157, Kaka Nagar, NDMC, Lodhi Road, Central Delhi, Delhi-110003 have changed my name from JOSVINI to JOSEPHINE ALEXANDER for all future purpose. That JOSVIN and JOSEPHINE ALEXANDER is the name of same person.

**Name Change**  
I, GARI MUBARRAK HUSEIN W/O ABUL RAHMAN residing at SRIVASU CHAND POST-SRIVASU CHAND AFZALGARH BILNOR UP-246722 have changed my name to GARI MUBARRAK HUSSAIN for all future purposes

**Name Change**  
It is for general information that I, MOHIT KRISHNA S/O KUNDAN KUMAR R/O D-682, MADIPUR COLONY, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110063, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MOHIT in my S C CASTE CERTIFICATE. NO-SC/03/140125/15/4/2011/8931044684. The actual name of mine is MOHIT KRISHNA, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Mina Gupta W/O Sh. Sunny Gupta, R/O C-1, 2nd Floor, Arjun Nagar, Kotla Mubarakpur, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name from Mina Sarma to Mina Gupta for all future purposes.

**Name Change**  
I, Smita W/O of No.280627Z Isep Shinde pramod Bhagwan R/O Vill- Rahimatpur POST- Rahimatpur TEH - Koregaon DIST - Satara PIN COD -415511 have changed my name from Smita to Smita pramod Shinde For all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 13/06/2024 before Notary public, Delhi

**Name Change**  
I, Reshma W/O of No 2804537L, Sep Togale Ranjit Ganpati A/P- Kirti TEH- Chandgad DIST- Kolhapur MAHARASHTRA, PIN CODE - 416508 have changed my name from Reshma To Reshma Ranjit Togale for all future purposes vide affidavit dated - 13/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, ANCHAL GUPTA W/O NEERAJ GUPTA R/O WZ-252, A-BLOCK, STREET No. 8, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 have changed my name to ANCHAL GUPTA for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
I, SANJIVNI W/O OF No 2809666 N Rank - Sep Name- NAGE LAXMAN BHUSAHEB At post- SARAI TAL- KHULATABAD DIS-AURANGABAD Pin code -431101 have changed my name from SANJIVNI TO SANJIVANI LAXMAN NAGE For all future purposes vide affidavit dated 13/06/2024 Before notary public Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, SWAPNALL W/O OF No 2808908Y SEP JADHAV VAIBHAV ASHOK AT c-52 Saraswati karpe chawhll road, near Mohan Nagar, chunabhathi POST- chunabhathi TEH-Mumbai DIST-MUMBAI PIN-400 022 have changed my name from SWAPNALLI TO SWAPNALLI VAIBHAV JADHAV For all future purposes vide affidavit dated 13/06/2024 Before notary public Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, Shiv Kumar S/o Shri Radha Charan, Address- House No 60, Street No 3, Durgavihar, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan 335001 have changed my name to Shiv Kumar Gupta for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
I, Reshma W/O of No 2804537L, Sep Togale Ranjit Ganpati A/P- Kirti TEH- Chandgad DIST- Kolhapur MAHARASHTRA, PIN CODE - 416508 have changed my name from Reshma To Reshma Ranjit Togale for all future purposes vide affidavit dated - 13/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
We (1) PURAN CHAND son of Shri Amrit Lal and (2) SUNITA wife of Shri Puran Chand, both resident of RZ-12 H Block, Gali No. 1, West Sagor Pur, South West Delhi-46 declare that henceforth we have debarred our sons namely Vikash Kumar, aged about 40 yrs and Mr. Avinash Kumar aged about 29 yrs and his wife Smt. Chandni aged about 27 yrs both R/O RZ-12 H Block, Gali No. 1, West Sagor Pur, South West Delhi-46 from our above said property due to their misbehavior, using filthy language and quarrelling some nature. That any person dealing with them will do of his/her their own risks and responsibilities as we have no concern with them in any manner whatsoever.

**Name Change**  
I, ANCHAL GUPTA W/O NEERAJ GUPTA R/O WZ-252, A-BLOCK, STREET No. 8, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 have changed my name to ANCHAL GUPTA for all future purpose.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The General Public is hereby informed that my client SHYAM LAL AND MRS. VIMLA DEVI R/O 40/43, GAUTAM NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110049, I hereby inform the general public that my said clients have disowned their son, grand daughter's and their daughter-in-law Mr. Parvinder Kumar (UID No.5535 4148 5039), Mrs. Kazmi (UID No.3459 5293 5710), Khushi (UID No.8562 8118 1297) and Khushbu (UID No.4074 9488 9320)all R/O 40/43, Gautam Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110049 have severed all relations with them with immediate effect. My said clients have disowned them of all their movable and immovable properties. Any one dealing with them shall be responsible for his or her dealings with them and that my clients will not be held liable in regard to such actions/dealings.  
(Pankaj Kumar Yadav) Advocate  
Ch No.405, 4th Floor, Saket, District Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

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(Pankaj Kumar Yadav) Advocate  
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NEWS BOX

Elon Musk's shoutout to Trump at Tesla meet, says he 'calls me for no reason'

World Elon Musk has revealed former US President Donald Trump calls him up sometimes out of the blue "for no reason". Onstage at Tesla's annual shareholder meeting in Austin, Texas, Musk also said Donald Trump was a huge fan of the Cybertruck. "I don't exactly know... I have had some conversations with him, and he does call me, out of the blue, for no reason... I don't know why, but he does," Musk said. "And it's like he's very nice when he calls, and I was like electric cars, I think are pretty good for the future. America's leaders like electric cars, buy America and stuff," he joked. "I think a lot of his friends now have Teslas, and they will love it, and he's a huge fan of the Cybertruck, so I think those may be contributing factors," Musk said. Earlier, Trump had praised Elon Musk at a rally in Arizona saying he was a "big fan" of both electric vehicles and the Tesla boss.

MUSK WINS SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL FOR \$56 BILLION PAY PACKAGE

Tesla TSLA.O shareholders approved CEO Elon Musk's \$56 billion pay package, the electric vehicle maker said on Thursday, a big thumbs-up to his leadership and an incentive to keep his focus on his biggest source of wealth. The approval underscores the support that Musk enjoys from Tesla's retail investor base, many of whom are vocal fans of the mercurial billionaire. The proposal passed despite opposition from some large institutional investors and proxy firms. Onstage at the annual shareholder meeting in Austin, Texas, Musk described himself as pathologically optimistic. "If I wasn't optimistic this wouldn't exist, this factory wouldn't exist," Musk said to applause. "But I do deliver in the end. That's the important thing." He had tipped off late on Wednesday that the proposals were garnering huge support. The approval does not, however, resolve a lawsuit on the pay package in a Delaware court, which some legal experts think could stretch out for months. The judge invalidated the pay package in January, describing it as "unfathomable."

Spiraling criminal violence causes morgue to overflow, foul odors to spread in Ecuadorian city

KOLLAM: A devastating fire in the southern Mangaf district of Kuwait claimed the life of Umarudheen Shameer, a 33-year-old native of Kollam, along with 48 others, mostly Indians. The blaze, which occurred on Wednesday, left dozens more injured. Shameer, hailing from Sooranad North, had been working in Kuwait for the past seven years.

Relatives were informed of the tragedy around noon on Wednesday. According to family sources, the bodies have been moved to a local government hospital. It is suspected that Shameer died while attempting to jump from the building in a panic. The repatriation of his body is expected to take several days. Shameer had returned to Kuwait on Saturday. He was the son of Umarudheen and Sheebna and had one younger brother, Nijaz, who is in class 8. His father, known locally as Raju Mesthiri and has been working as a contractor of home construction. Shameer was married to Surumi, a PSC aspirant. The family had previously resided in Oyoor village for 15 years before

US sheriff deputies responding to distress call shot at, suspect wounded

Quito Spiraling criminal violence in one of Ecuador's most dangerous cities caused a buildup of unidentified and unclaimed bodies that exceeded the capacity of Guayaquil's main morgue, officials confirmed Thursday. The government of Guayas, the province of which Guayaquil is the capital, said Thursday afternoon in a statement that "the problem that has arisen in recent days in the morgue" has been resolved, its first acknowledgement that the problem existed in the first place. Local television and media reports had said about 200 bodies over the Forensic Medicine Service morgue's capacity had accumulated and a refrigeration unit used to store them had failed, causing nearby residents to complain of foul odours. Ecuadorian media outlets Ecuavisa and



Teleamazonas broadcast images taken with drones showing morgue workers removing bodies from a refrigerated container and spraying the container's entrance with a product the outlets said was meant to neutralize the putrid liquids seeping out of it.

Both the Forensic Medicine Service and the Ministry of Health did not respond to requests for information from The Associated Press made on Wednesday.

The government statement did not say how many bodies were involved but said a malfunctioning refrigerated unit where bodies are kept when the morgue is full had been repaired. During the past week, forensic services collected 40 bodies that were victims of violence in a city that in 2023 recorded a total of 3,762 violent deaths, according to police figures. Most of the deaths are the result of clashes between gangs fighting over territory and drug distribution routes, which has created unprecedented levels of violence in this port city of 2.72 million inhabitants.

The former head of forensic medicine at the Guayaquil morgue, Juan Montenegro, told the AP that the "bodies are stored in containers without taking into account their cooling capacity," meaning the decomposition process is accelerated and bad odors spread and putrid liquids seep untreated into pipes. "I don't understand why they haven't sent the bodies to a mass grave in a timely manner, donated them to the universities, or why they haven't handed them over to the relatives, who are on the street demanding the bodies," he said.

Biden, Volodymyr Zelenskyy sign defence deal as Ukraine nears NATO membership

Borgo Egnazia, Italy US President Joe Biden and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a 10-year bilateral security agreement on Thursday aimed at bolstering Ukraine's defence against Russian invaders and getting Ukraine closer to NATO membership. The deal, signed on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy, aims to commit future US administrations to support Ukraine, even if former President Donald Trump wins November's election, officials said. "Our goal is to strengthen Ukraine's credible defence and deterrence capabilities for the long term", Biden said at a joint news conference with Zelenskyy. He said the G7's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin is "You cannot wait us out. You cannot divide us". The group of rich nations also agreed to a \$50 billion loan for Ukraine backed by profits from frozen Russian assets.

The US-Ukraine security deal is a framework for a long-term effort to help develop Ukraine's outdated armed forces and serve as a step towards Ukraine's eventual NATO membership, according

to the text. The Ukraine president called the agreement historic, saying it is a bridge toward his country's eventual NATO membership. "This is an agreement on security and thus on the protection of human life", he said. Zelenskyy has long sought NATO membership, but the allies have stopped short of taking that step. The Western alliance regards any attack launched on one of its 32 members as an attack on all under its Article Five clause.

In the event of an armed attack or threat of such against Ukraine, top US and Ukrainian officials will meet within 24 hours to consult on a response and determine what additional defence needs are required for Ukraine, the agreement says. Under the agreement, the United States restates its support for Ukraine's defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, amid a renewed push by Russia on Ukraine's eastern front. It also outlines plans to develop Ukraine's



own defence industry and expand its military. Ukraine needs a "significant" military force and sustained investments in its defence industrial base consistent with NATO standards, the text says.

It will allow the two countries to share intelligence, hold training and military education programs and combined military exercises. With Trump leading Biden in many election polls, the future of the agreement remains unclear. Trump

has expressed scepticism of Ukraine's continued fight, saying at one point that he would end the conflict on his first day in office. Trump has also pushed for Europe to take on more of the burden of supporting Kyiv. Zelenskyy, asked about what could happen for his country if there is a change in leadership in the United States and in other allied nations, said people stood with Ukraine because they have shared values and empathise with the Ukrainian people.

He said he does not think that popular support will change.

"If the people are with us, any leader will be with us in this struggle for freedom", he said. Biden recently shifted his policy against allowing Ukraine to use American weapons for attacks inside Russia, permitting Kyiv to fire long-range US missiles against Russian targets near the embattled Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

US man threatens to 'slaughter' FBI agent over Hunter Biden gun case, charged

A 43-year-old man from Texas was charged with making threatening communications against an FBI agent over the gun case involving President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden, who was convicted, on June 11.



Washington DC A Texas man was charged on Thursday with threatening to jail or "slaughter" an FBI agent over the criminal case against President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, federal prosecutors said.

zimothy Muller, 43, was charged in a criminal complaint with making threatening communications across state lines and "influencing, impeding or retaliating" against a federal official.

It was not immediately clear if Muller, of Fort Worth, had retained an attorney in the case, which was filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Prosecutors referred to Hunter Biden only by the initials "HB" but the dates of the criminal case against him match those of the president's son. According to the criminal complaint, Muller on June 11 called an FBI agent who had been

assigned to investigate a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden. When the agent disconnected the call, Muller called again and left a threatening voice message, the complaint alleged. Biden on June 11 was convicted of lying about his illegal drug use to buy a gun. Prosecutors say Muller accused the agent of covering up crimes committed by Biden and said that if former US President Donald Trump were elected in November, the FBI agent would be jailed.

"Or, you can steal another election, and then the guns will come out, and we'll hunt you down and slaughter you like the traitorous dogs you are in your own homes in your own beds," Muller said in the message, according to the criminal complaint.

South Florida at risk of 'life-threatening' floods as torrential rain continues

Florida, US, UPDATED: More torrential downpours deluged South Florida on Thursday, adding to more than a foot (30 cm) of rain that fell on parts of the state this week and leading forecasters to issue flood watches or warnings for an area where 8 million people reside. Some areas, including portions of Broward and Miami-Dade counties, were at risk of "life-threatening flooding," as water built up on roadways and lapped up against thresholds of homes, the National Weather Service said.

A few spots have reported up to 18-to-25 inches (46-to-63.5 cm) of rain since Monday, said Bob Oravec, a forecaster with the service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. More torrential downpours deluged South Florida on Thursday, adding to more than a foot (30 cm) of rain that fell on parts of the state this week and leading forecasters to issue flood watches or warnings for an area where 8 million people reside.

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With another five inches of rain possible before Friday night, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for five South Florida Counties late on Wednesday.

Media reports and social media posts showed stalled cars and people trying to wade in streets covered in hip-deep water, or paddling in small boats and kayaks. In some areas, water has swamped lawns and pushed up to the front doors of houses and other buildings.

Parts of Interstate 95, a main north-south route along the East Coast, were closed due to flooding on Wednesday. "The problem is that there is no place for the rain to go", said Oravec. "The ground is so saturated. In some places, water is rising up from the sewers". In nearby Fort Lauderdale, Mayor Dean Trantalis declared a city-wide emergency due to flooding. He said the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission was sending boats and high-water vehicles to assist any rescues if

Trantalis urged people to stay off roadways. "It's crucial to never attempt to drive through high water", he warned in a message on the X social media platform.

Canadian man stole Tesla trade secrets, tried to sell them to government agents

Canadian national Klaus Pflugbeil stole Tesla TSLA.O electric-vehicle battery manufacturing trade secrets and conspired to sell them to undercover government agents.

Tesla's secrets to FBI agents posing as Long Island businesspeople, the department said in a statement. Neither Pflugbeil's attorney nor representatives for Tesla immediately responded to Reuters requests for comment. Shao, who was also charged but remains at



large, could not be reached for comment. With his guilty plea, Pflugbeil is now being held accountable for this unlawful conduct that jeopardised our national security",

US Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen said in a statement.

Pflugbeil, who is also a citizen of Germany, was charged in New York in March. Prosecutors said Pflugbeil and Shao built their EV battery business on trade secrets from a "leading US-based electric vehicle company".

Prosecutors did not name the company but said it acquired a Canada-based manufacturer of battery-assembly lines in 2019, which matches the description of Tesla's acquisition of Canadian company Hibar.

Thursday's statement said that Pflugbeil and Shao both worked for the Canadian company before Pflugbeil joined Shao's business in 2020. The DOJ said that the unnamed business now has locations in China, Canada, Germany and Brazil, making the same battery-assembly equipment as their previous employer.

US Supreme Court junks bid to prevent access to abortion pill mifepristone

Washington DC, The US Supreme Court rejected a bid by anti-abortion groups and doctors to restrict access to the abortion pill, handing a victory on Thursday to President Joe Biden's administration in its efforts to preserve broad access to the drug. The justices, two years after ending the recognition of a constitutional right to abortion, ruled 9-0 to overturn a lower court's decision to roll back US Food and Drug Administration steps in 2016 and 2021 that eased how the drug, called mifepristone, is prescribed and distributed. The decision was authored by conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The pill, given FDA regulatory approval in 2000, is used in more than 60 per cent of US abortions. The justices ruled that the plaintiffs, who sued in Texas in 2022, lacked the necessary legal standing to pursue the case, which required that they show they have been harmed in a way that can be traced to the FDA.

The Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, in 2022 overturned its 1973 Roe vs Wade precedent that had legalised abortion nationwide, prompting 14 states to enact measures banning or sharply restricting the procedure.

Biden, a Democrat seeking a second term in office in the November 5 US election, took aim at Republican officials behind such bans, saying they want to outlaw abortion nationwide and that Thursday's ruling "does not change the fact that the

fight for reproductive freedom continues". "It does not change the fact that the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago, and women lost a fundamental freedom. It does not change the fact that the right for a woman to get the treatment she needs is imperilled if not impossible in many states," Biden added. Kavanaugh wrote that even though the plaintiffs, led by a group called the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, do not prescribe or use mifepristone, they wanted the FDA to make it harder for other doctors to prescribe it and women to receive it. "Under Article III of the Constitution, a plaintiff's desire to make a drug less available for others does not establish standing to sue," Kavanaugh wrote, referring to the constitutional provision laying out the authority of the US government's judicial branch.

Kavanaugh rejected the argument made by the plaintiffs that the FDA's actions will force them to provide abortions, violating their consciences, because federal law already protects them. A ruling in favour of the plaintiffs could have threatened the regulatory authority of the FDA over drug safety. The plaintiffs targeted FDA regulatory actions in 2016 and 2021, including allowing for medication abortions at up to 10 weeks of pregnancy instead of seven, and for mail delivery of the drug without a woman first seeing a clinician in-person. The suit initially had

sought to reverse FDA approval of mifepristone, but that aspect was rebuffed by a lower court. Biden and other Democrats have sought to make abortion rights a central theme against Republicans in the election. Biden said he



will continue to urge Congress to codify abortion rights in federal law. Biden noted that some state abortion bans include no exceptions for rape or incest.

"Women are being turned away from emergency rooms, or forced to go to court to plead for care that their doctor recommended or to travel hundreds of miles for care," Biden said. "Doctors and nurses are being threatened with jail time, including life in prison, for providing the health care they have been trained to provide. And contraception and IVF (in vitro fertilisation) are under attack," he added. The Supreme Court by the end of June is expected to rule on the legality of Idaho's strict Republican-backed abortion ban that forbids terminating a

pregnancy even if necessary to protect the health of a pregnant woman facing a medical emergency. In the 14 states that have banned abortion with limited exceptions, medical providers cannot prescribe or dispense mifepristone under state law. Patients in those states might continue to take the legal risk of ordering the pills online from providers in other states or they might travel out-of-state to legally obtain the pills.

THE FIGHT OVER MIFEPRISTONE

Erin Hawley, a lawyer with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group representing the plaintiffs, expressed disappointment with the ruling, but said it was on a "legal technicality" and not the merits of the legal arguments.

The plaintiffs argued that the FDA acted contrary to its mandate to ensure that medications are safe when it eased restrictions on mifepristone. The plaintiffs accused the FDA of violating a federal law governing the actions of regulatory agencies. Hawley said she expected the litigation to continue given that three states - Idaho, Missouri and Kansas - already have intervened in it.

"We are very hopeful that the federal courts will have a chance to hold the FDA accountable for its unlawful actions in removing these long-standing safeguards for women," Hawley said.



## Kerala man, son killed after drunk driver's SUV rams scooter

**KOCHI:** A 46-year-old and his 11-year-old son died after an SUV driven by a drunk man crashed into their scooter in Ponnuruni, Kochi, on Wednesday night. Police confirmed that the car driver, Sujith M S, 31, of Kongad, Palakkad, was under the influence of liquor. The deceased, Denny Raphael and his son Dennison, were residents of the Highway Garden apartment in Ponnuruni. Police arrested Sujith, an employee of a car dealership in Vyttila. The accident took place around 11.30 pm when Denny and Dennison were returning home from Kadavanthra. The SUV driven by Sujith, which was moving in the same direction, rear-ended their vehicle. Denny and Dennison suffered serious injuries in the accident. People who gathered at the spot shifted the injured to a nearby hospital, where they succumbed to injuries. Sujith has been charged with culpable homicide under IPC 304. Police have also seized the SUV involved in the accident. Denny was a business man, said Theophil T V, his brother. "Denny owns a building in Kadavanthra that he has rented out. Dennison was a sixth-grader of CKC School in Ponnuruni. Doctors said both of them suffered fatal injuries," he added. Denny is survived by wife Soniya and 14-year-old daughter Denisa. The bodies were handed over to relatives after postmortem. The funeral will be held later.

### 'They had gone out to buy dinner'

Denny and Dennison had gone out to buy dinner for the family when the accident took place. At home, Soniya and Denisa were waiting expectantly when news of the accident reached them. "Denny and his son were returning after buying takeout.

## Kerala couple escapes being first victims of controversial Church circular

**The circular issued on Monday notified that those who don't abide by the final diktat regarding the offering of the Unified Holy Mass other than the one directed by the synod after July 3, will be considered ousted from the Catholic Church.**

**KOCHI:** Days of tense anticipation are over for a Cherthala man of the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese of Syro-Malabar Church whose upcoming marriage to a woman from Idukki archdiocese was shrouded in uncertainty following a recent circular issued jointly by Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil and Apostolic Administrator Bosco Puthur. The circular issued on Monday notified that those who don't abide by the final diktat regarding the offering of the Unified Holy Mass and continue to offer any type of Mass other than the one directed by the synod after July 3, will be considered as having been ousted from the Catholic Church. It said that rituals like marriage conducted by such barred priests will be considered null and void. The



couple, who would have become the first victim of the move, have been given the go-ahead and they will tie the knot on July 1 at the bridegroom's home parish. It was a dramatic few days for the man and his family, members of Nedumbrakkad St Thomas Church in Cherthala.

According to sources, the marriage was to be solemnised on July 8. "It was to be held at Cherthala St Mary's Forane Church. Even the parish hall had been booked for the subsequent reception," a source said. The decision to hold the wedding at Forane Church was taken as the bridegroom's parish church is closed down due to a court case, according to a source. "On Wednesday, the bridegroom's father arrived at Forane church and cancelled the booking," the source said. The decision was made after the home parish of the bride refused to send the 'kettukuri' (marriage certificate) to Forane church, according to those close to the

family. "The Idukki church cited the circular for denying the 'kettukuri'," they said. However, after the matter became public, church authorities and the families decided to hold the marriage on July 1. "The wedding will be held at St Thomas Church Nedumbrakkad," said the uncle of the bridegroom. Meanwhile, Idukki archdiocese said no directive on the implementation of the circular have been officially issued to parishes. "It is something that is yet to be formally decided upon and announced," the archdiocese said. According to Fr Kuriakose Mundadan, member of the Athiroopatha Samrakshana Samithi: "Even if such archaic rules are enforced, they will not prove to be a hindrance as people can simply go to the registrar's office to get married. In this time and age, when the church needs to be more people-friendly, it is coming up with rules that alienate the laity."

## Climate change taking its toll on wildlife too

**BENGALURU:** The sudden varying and rising temperatures across the country, heatwave conditions and excess rain have impacted humans and animals alike, especially those in the wild. The impact is seen not just in Karnataka, but across the country, in the form of increasing cases of conflict and death. To mitigate conflict, state governments undertook the task of drilling borewells and filling waterholes inside forests. Experts and officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) condemned this and asserted that the natural course should not be disturbed and there should be least human interference.

Taking a cue, they said this was the right time to take up a study on the impact and chalk out an action plan for the future. They also noted that it was not just the natural weather course, but various infrastructure projects undertaken over the years have worsened the situation in forests. This is also impacting the mental health of animals, which needs to be studied. "A detailed weather impact study of each landscape, along with a management plan, should be conducted. The physiological impact on animals and plants also needs to be studied. The best way to ensure safety of wildlife is to make sure that natural water bodies are not touched by construction of dams. Rivers and rivulets should be protected, as also natural vegetation as animals shift zones as the day progresses and weather changes," the MoEFCC official said.

Praveen Bhargav, trustee, Wildlife First, and former member of the National Board for Wildlife said: "Wild animals have evolved over millions of years and have survived severe climatic conditions. Scientific consensus is clear that fanciful ideas of creating more water holes, bringing tankers to fill them, constructing check-dams etc. must not be considered even where there is a heatwave. Absolutely no human intervention is necessary in Protected Areas. Corporates, too, must not rush and provide CSR funding for unscientific and ecologically damaging activities." Prof R Sukumar, noted wildlife expert and part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said lack of water also impacts forage quality, leading to starvation in animals and death, and impacts herbivores and carnivores. But varying weather conditions helps keep a check on wildlife cycle.

He added that a contingency plan and landscape protection plan are needed for better wildlife management.

Former WII Dean GS Rawat said this is the right time to regulate tourism. Provision of tankers and creation of artificial waterholes in semi-arid or dry deciduous forest patches lead to forest degradation as the balance of prey and carnivore base is affected. Animals migrate during summers and the paths they use are natural ones, and should be protected. This will address conflict management for coming harsh times.

## Six drug peddlers arrested in TN, booked under Goondas Act

**NAMAKKAL:** Six people were arrested under the Goondas Act for selling illegal drug tablets and operating a fake, unlicensed medical shop in Namakkal town. The arrests on Thursday morning followed a well-coordinated police operation. Sources revealed that police were tipped off about a gang selling drug tablets and injection drugs near a lake at Pothanur, Paramathivelur, in Namakkal. Acting on this information, Paramathi Velur police surrounded the suspects on Wednesday evening, catching them red-handed. They



confiscated 10 drug tablets, 10 injection drugs, Rs 50,000 in cash, two bikes, and six cell phones, all used in the smuggling operation. The arrested persons have been identified as M Chidambaram (27), S Pasupathi (24), G Nithesh (24), Muhammed Husain (24), R Gokulraj (20), and M Selvam (23). Upon further investigation, police discovered that Pasupathi and Chidambaram were operating an unlicensed medical shop in Paramathi Velur. They revealed that they obtained the medical supplies from a manufacturing unit in Nagpur using a fake licence certificate. All transactions were conducted online, and the drugs were shipped from the Nagpur unit. Namakkal District Superintendent of Police S Rajeshkannan told TNIE, "They acquired the tablets for '30 each and sold them for '900. They have been incarcerated under the Goondas Act and the shop has been sealed. A special team has been formed to investigate further illegal activities in the district." This significant crackdown on illegal drug operations highlights the efforts and the much-needed efforts to curb drug-related crimes.

## Karnataka education department nod for hiring 35,000 guest teachers, HMs to decide

**BENGALURU:** The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) recently approved the appointment of 35,000 guest teachers for primary government schools in the state and 10,000 for high schools. The vacancies in about 49,679 government schools in the state were pending for a long time and raised several questions on the quality of education in government schools. While the new academic year already began during the first week of June, the government hopes to fill these vacancies soon for 2024-25.

So far, according to sources in the education department, the temporary recruitment of guest teachers is in full swing. The department has assigned the Head Masters (HMs) of the schools to recruit individuals at a school level to speed up the process. The circular mentioned that the recruitment drive should prioritise hiring guest lecturers in rural areas, schools with no teachers and more so schools with high student ratios.

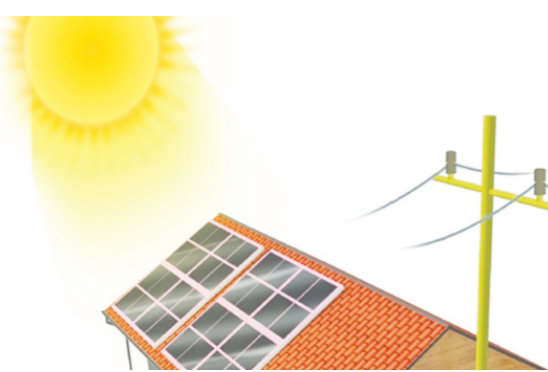
Speaking to TNIE, BB Cauvery, Education Commissioner, DSEL, said, "We've asked the HMs to focus on hiring for Science, Maths and English as students mostly find these difficult to cope with. The other reason is also that the results indicate that these are the three subjects where students underperform, and we see most failures."

She added that the vacancies for different subjects vary from taluk to taluk and the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) are made accountable for the hiring and will need to update on a timely basis. The Commissioner assured that all of the sanctioned guest teachers will be soon occupied. The HMs will hire on the basis of merits for the subjects and the honorarium for primary school teachers has been set at Rs 10,000 a month and Rs 10,500 for high schools.

## PM Surya Ghar Yojana gains traction in Nellore

**NELLORE:** Designed to promote utilisation of solar energy to further reduce electricity costs of the general public, 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana' is evoking a positive response in Nellore district. To date, as many as 3,261 residents have registered for the scheme, with 530 consumers from Nellore city enrolling online for solar panels. Residents of Nellore have shown great enthusiasm for the scheme, recognising its potential to save money and contribute to environmental conservation. The online registration process has made it convenient for households to participate, further boosting engagement. The scheme promotes the installation of solar panels on residential rooftops. By generating electricity from solar energy, households can reduce their

dependence on traditional power sources and lower their monthly electricity bills. In addition to this, the government provides subsidies and financial assistance to make solar panel installation more affordable, aligning with India's goal to increase renewable energy



production and reduce carbon emissions. In rural areas, the electricity department is conducting awareness campaigns about the benefits and process of installing rooftop solar systems. A typical 1-kilowatt system, consisting of 3-4 panels each

measuring 1 metre in width and 16 metres in height, requires around 10 square metres of roof space. The cost for such a system ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000, with a subsidy of Rs 30,000 provided.

The scheme also aims to provide 300 units of free electricity per month and an annual income of Rs 15,000 to 100 million households. This initiative encourages households to generate electricity for personal use and sell any surplus to power distribution companies. "The scheme launched by the Prime Minister is extremely beneficial for electricity consumers.

We urge all consumers to come forward and register online to take advantage of this consumer-friendly initiative. The registration process is simple and can be completed online with ease," said a senior official from Transco.

## Madras HC acquits seven death row convicts, two facing life imprisonment in 2013 doctor murder case

**CHENNAI:** The Madras High Court on Friday acquitted all the convicts, including seven who were facing death sentences in the sensational murder of neurosurgeon Dr SD Subbaiah in Chennai allegedly due to property dispute in 2013. Allowing the appeals filed by the nine convicts, the division bench of Justices MS Ramesh and Sunder Mohan on Friday set aside the judgement passed by the Additional Sessions Court- I in Chennai in 2021.

The Additional Sessions Court convicted and sentenced Ponnusamy, a school teacher, his sons Boris, Basil and William, along with Dr James Sathish Kumar, Murugan and Selva Prakash to double death sentence for the offences



including murder and criminal conspiracy while handing double life sentence to Ponnusamy's wife Mary Pushpam and Yesurajan. "In a result, all the appeals are allowed. The conviction and sentence pronounced by the First Additional Sessions Judge are set aside. The appellants

are acquitted of all the charges," the division bench said in the order. It directed the concerned authorities to release all the convicts forthwith unless they were wanted in other cases. All the nine convicts had preferred appeals before the Madras High Court challenging the trial court

verdict. Their counsels argued that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt and the trial court had not taken into account such facts. However, the prosecution contended that the charges were proven without doubt and the trial court had considered all the factors before pronouncing the verdict. Dr Subbaiah, a well-known neurosurgeon was brutally attacked with weapons when he was emerging out of a hospital at RA Puram in Chennai on September 14, 2013. He succumbed to his grievous injuries on September 23 at a private hospital. Property dispute among relatives was reported to be the motive behind the murder.

## KCR caused irreparable damage to irrigation sector: Telangana Minister Uttam

**KHAMMAM:** Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy criticised former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, stating that the latter caused irreparable economic damage to the irrigation sector in the state through poor planning. Addressing public gatherings in Kothagudem, Pinapaka, and Bhadrachalam constituencies, he explained that only 93,000 acres of new ayacattu were brought under cultivation after spending Rs 90,400 crore on the Kaleshwaram project and Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru Rangareddy Upliftment Project.

Furthermore, despite spending Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, not a single acre of new ayacut received irrigation water, he charged. The minister termed the previous BRS-led government incompetent, noting that it failed to complete any irrigation projects started by the previous administration during its 10 years in power. He assured residents that the Irrigation department is moving ahead with a plan to provide more water in less time and at a lower cost. Uttam wondered about the reasoning behind the previous

government's decision to redesign the Rajiv Sagar project, which was initially completed at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore but later increased to Rs 20,000 crore. He stated, "The current administration, formed under Indiramma's leadership, is committed to bringing Godavari river water to the erstwhile Khammam district promote agricultural growth." Despite the challenges posed by the redesign decision, the minister reasserted the government's commitment to completing the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project. He directed officials to expedite

repairs on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation canal and promised to complete both large- and small-scale irrigation projects in Khammam district for the benefit of farmers.

### 'Godavari waters to be supplied via link canal'

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that by August 15, the government will provide Godavari water to 1,20,000 acres by completing the Enkuru link canal. He along with Uttam Kumar Reddy, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Agriculture Minister Thummala

Nageswara Rao attended a photo exhibition organised at the Sitarama Head Regulatory Works at Ammagari Palli in Ashwapuram mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, on Thursday. Later, they inspected the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project Pump House-1, started the power supply and reviewed the progress of the project at Pump House-3. Irrigation engineering officers provided a detailed presentation to the ministers on the completed project works, ongoing canal works, land acquisition, required funds and the challenges.



## Time to put S&T policies back on track

IN the past 10 years, innovation was perhaps the most quoted buzzword in speeches of the Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers and science bureaucrats in India. Several awards, missions and schemes were announced to promote science-based innovation in different sectors. It is, however, surprising that all this was happening without a proper enabling environment. The grand intentions of the Modi 2.0 government to boost scientific research remained a 'work in progress' at a time when the global research landscape is fast changing with the emergence of deep tech. Little progress was made on three critical counts — science and technology (S&T) policies, funding mechanisms and research priorities — and the new government's agenda should be to prioritise them. An exercise to develop a new National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy was initiated during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Several drafts were prepared, but the policy remains on paper and is yet to be finalised. The policy was to replace the one released in 2013 by the UPA government. The first task of the new government on the science and technology front, therefore, should be to finalise the STI Policy and start its implementation in earnest. If the new dispensation finds that the draft is not good enough, it should junk it and continue with the 2013 STI policy framework. The policy goals enunciated in 2013 remain unfulfilled even after a decade. Among the key objectives of the 2013 policy was to 'position India among the top five global scientific powers by 2020' and to increase the gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to 2 per cent of the GDP. We have seen little progress on the expenditure front. India has slipped on this parameter. The GERD in 2013 was 1 per cent of the GDP. It came down to 0.66 per cent and 0.64 per cent during 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively, according to the latest available data from the Department of Science and Technology. The 2013 policy was unequivocal about the need to increase GERD and enhance public investment in scientific research, but the 2020 STI draft is vague on this count. It talks of developing a 'financial landscape of the STI ecosystem' in which departments and ministries of the central, state, and local governments as well as government and private companies will set up an STI unit with 'a minimum earmarked budget to pursue STI activities.' On the face of it, it is an outdated idea. It was first proposed in the 1980s.

The technology development roadmap suggested in the draft is equally adrift. The policy draft seeks to promote technology self-reliance and indigenisation to achieve the larger goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. For this, a two-way approach has been prescribed — indigenous development of technology as well as technology indigenisation. At the same time, it says, "international engagements will be facilitated to gain essential know-how towards creation and development of indigenous technologies."

Another grand idea of the Modi government was the National Research Foundation (NRF) as a supra-research funding agency. It was first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in 2019. The NRF is still to see the light of day even after Parliament passed a Bill for its formation in 2023. The idea of a funding agency along the lines of America's National Science Foundation was first proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister, headed by Prof CNR Rao, in 2005. As a result, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) was established in 2008 to streamline funding for scientific research. The NRF Act of 2023 repealed the SERB Act of 2008 and dissolved SERB. There has been no credible justification from the government for replacing SERB with a new body. The only intention seems to be to create a centralised body to fund and also regulate research. NRF's Governing Board will be presided over by the Prime Minister and two ministers (Science and technology and education) will be the Vice-Presidents. Even with SERB, researchers complained of bureaucratic delays, one can imagine the fate of such a heavily political governing structure for the NRF. In a large and diverse country like India, do we need a centralised funding mechanism based in New Delhi or multiple channels of funding in different sectors?

## Focus on agriculture as the fulcrum of economic growth

The need of the hour is to promote precision farming, which can give us more from less.

THE new government is expected to spell out a fresh policy to boost economic growth and improve consumption as well as investment. In the past decade, absolute power enabled the BJP-led government to formulate and push policies of its choosing swiftly without any concern over political opposition. Now, it is a different ballgame. The emphasis will be more on compromise and accommodation.

The chances are that economic growth will slow down a bit. Hence, the challenge will be to devise innovative ways to arrest the slide. It is hoped that technology will help turn the tide. The government should focus particularly on agriculture. Modi 3.0 has made a good start on this front by releasing the PM Kisan Nidhi instalment of Rs 20,000 crore to transfer Rs 6,000 each per year into the bank accounts of over nine crore farmers. But there has to be a follow-up after the sop. There has to be a new technology policy to take agriculture forward. The government can take a cue from the success story which Madhya Pradesh crafted to transform agriculture. Perhaps fittingly, former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who did a good job in his home state, will hopefully do it at the Centre too as the new Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister.

During the 10-year period till 2022-23, agriculture grew in MP by 6.1 per cent on an average annually compared to the national average of 3.9 per cent. One way in which this was done was not by putting under the plough virgin land but by more cropping. By cropping on the same land, the net sown area went up multiple times.

Other than effectively having more land, Madhya Pradesh was able to get more water. It did not build new canals but instead had concrete lining done for existing ones, besides desilting, cleaning and fixing breaches. Thus, the state was able to get a lot of canal areas without having to dig in entirely new ones. There should not necessarily be any effort by the Centre to get the states to go in for all this. There may be discord between states over groundwater drawn by irrigation tubewells that run on subsidised power. The Centre needs to persuade the states to move away from this process so that the sharp drop in groundwater levels can be curbed.

The government also needs to spur agriculture by bringing in new technology. The use of fertilisers, which helped usher in the Green Revolution, is becoming passe. New technology is needed to protect crops from pests, pathogens and weeds. Mechanisation and agronomic intervention can be promoted. Tractors have practically replaced bullocks. Now, there are new ploughs that can do deep tillage, mix pulverised soil and break hardpan layers. There is also new technology for irrigation — drip irrigation and laser land levellers which place seeds and fertilisers. What can be done can be visualised from the



fact there are pomegranates being grown in Rajasthan on arid land through drip irrigation and water-soluble liquid fertilisers. When it comes to the new technologies for which the Centre is seeking support from the states, there is an overriding concern. The country needs to preserve land, water and air so that its citizens, who now number the largest in the world, are able to grow enough to preserve themselves. They also need to be able to cope with heat and pollution. The new policies which have to be evolved must make the Centre and the states put their heads together so that biodiversity is preserved. The ever-growing number of people must be able to survive and thrive in a sustainable manner.

But the good news from academics is that if farmers follow the right practices, yields can return to normal levels after some time. What is needed are policy decisions with better and more scientific evidence instead of going back to nature as Sri Lanka attempted to do by trying to do away with fertilisers and Sikkim ventured to do as well.

The need of the hour is to promote precision farming, which can give us more from less. Geographical information system, artificial intelligence and machine learning, which can use enormous data to bring about

precision in farming, the use of sensors, drones, LEOs (low earth orbits), space technologies and cloud computing are all bursting out to provide the basis for a revolutionary epoch. Drips, hydroponics and aeroponics are available to get much more with very little exploitation of the planet's natural resources.

But what stands in the way of this is the political economy. Huge amounts of subsidy have been handed out by way of free power, free water and urea with 80-90 per cent subsidy. The subsidies may have been good in the 1960s and 1970s to meet the country's food deficit, but this has been continuing. Farmers in the northwestern region are continuing to grow the same paddy, wheat and sugarcane with state subsidy. The initiative by the government to enact new farming laws was negated by a long, revolutionary agitation. There is now an absolute need to ensure limited use of natural resources. The irrational exploitation of nature's wealth must be severely curtailed, if not stopped eventually. This is what the new government must try to do. To be able to do this, the Centre will need to have a dialogue and reach an agreement with the states. These are the new dynamics which the election outcome has handed down.

## Two good for Naidu

Andhra CM a key stakeholder in Modi govt

IT's a 'best of both worlds' situation for Chandrababu Naidu. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo has not only become the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth time, he has also emerged as a key stakeholder in the BJP-led government at the Centre. On Wednesday, he took oath as CM in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders. The alliance comprising the TDP, the BJP and the Janasena Party recorded a landslide victory in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the southern state recently, winning 21 of the 25 Lok Sabha seats and 164 of the 175 Assembly seats. Notably, the TDP alone has the majority in the Andhra House with 135 MLAs.

Naidu's enviable status in the scheme of things has led to speculation that he might press Modi to walk the talk on granting special category status (SCS) to AP. The Congress has already



upped the ante against the PM, saying that he has failed to

fulfil the promise made in this regard in Tirupati in March 2014. The basis of Andhra's demand for SCS is the loss of revenue attributed to the state's bifurcation, which led to the formation of Telangana under the AP Reorganisation Act in February 2014. Another NDA-ruled state, Bihar, is also demanding this status, with CM Nitish Kumar's cabinet having passed a resolution in November 2023. The stability of the Modi 3.0 government will hinge a lot on how far Naidu and Nitish will go for the sake of their respective states.

In contrast, things are pretty simple and straightforward for the BJP in Odisha, where tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi has taken oath as the party's first CM in that state. The saffron party ended the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal's long reign with an impressive win in the recent Assembly elections. The challenge for Majhi would be to sustain the momentum of development that Odisha witnessed when Naveen was at the helm.

## NEET fails to provide a level playing field

Merit must be measured in terms of societal good. The policy of 'one nation, one test' requires a serious review and improvement.

ISSUING notices to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Central Government on pleas seeking a fresh NEET-UG 2024 examination amid allegations of a paper leak, the Supreme Court's vacation Bench said, "Sanctity has been affected and we need answers." It has again been proven that NEET is not a neat way of testing students. There are serious allegations of paper leak and the possibility of an unfair advantage given to some candidates. Questions are being raised about the integrity of the test. Technical glitches, such as poor network connectivity, were faced by many students at a number of centres, leading to disruptions in the test.

An unusually large number of candidates have obtained high scores. As many as 67 candidates scored a perfect 720, with each scoring 99.997129 percentile. The fact that six of them were at the same centre has raised eyebrows. The grant of grace marks to around 1,560 candidates for the loss of time is also being criticised, as the NTA did not disclose details of the formula based on the Supreme Court's 2018 decision. The NTA's clarification is that candidates were compensated through grace marks. NEET is a unique system of admission. To pursue a medical course in India, one must clear this test. The idea of common tests was initiated by Murli Manohar Joshi when he was the HRD Minister in the then NDA government. It found some support in the judgment of the Supreme Court in TMA Pai Foundation vs State of Karnataka (2002). NEET was notified by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2010. But, in 2013, a three-Judge majority decision in Christian Medical College Vellore Association vs Union of India struck down NEET. The decision was widely criticised as anti-student and one that would lower the standards of medical education. As a result, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, was amended and Section 10D was inserted to empower the MCI to conduct NEET. A review petition against this judgment was allowed in 2016, and the apex court ordered the conduct of NEET from 2016 itself.

Surprisingly, the Bench did not accept the Government of

India's repeated requests to permit state governments to conduct their tests at least in 2016. Interestingly, the dissenting Judge of the 2013 judgment made NEET compulsory even prior to a full hearing by the Constitution Bench. NEET was thus imposed by the court and not the Narendra Modi government. The Justice Arun Mishra-led Bench in 2020 again upheld NEET, even in respect of minority institutions. Unfortunately, the top court considered just the legality of NEET and overlooked the real impact it would have on the ground, particularly on the underprivileged and minority institutions.

Why is NEET not really student-friendly? First, if a student falls ill or doesn't do well in the single test, he or she will not get a chance to qualify in another without losing a year. Second, it gives a student the right to select an institution of his or her choice by applying to particular institutions if multiple tests are conducted. In centralised NEET counselling, he ends up with colleges which he may not want to join.

The NEET paper leak has created problems for over 2.3 million candidates. There are translation-related errors in the question paper. NEET does not test qualities that a doctor must possess, such as compassion, empathy and passion to serve humanity. And finally, one single test is not the correct yardstick. Global best practices give weightage to marks in qualifying examinations, extracurricular activities and the statement of purpose.

But NEET is considered the best option, as our judges and the government think it promotes merit. But is there consensus on what merit really means? British sociologist Michael Dunlop Young's book *The Rise of the Meritocracy* (1958) popularised what is called 'meritocracy'. Meritocracy requires competition and equality of opportunity. Is it not a fact that the NTA and

judges believe that the multidimensional construct of merit can be adequately, if not accurately, measured?



When NEET and other such admission tests do not meet this fundamental criterion, competition cannot be termed as fair and just, and the equality of opportunity becomes illusory. There are scholars in the West who argue that common admission tests cannot measure abilities that are essential for learning, such as imagination, curiosity and motivation.

There is indeed an element of class in NEET, and the Justice AK Rajan Committee did find hard evidence of such elitism. The Justice Rajan report on the impact of NEET in Tamil Nadu substantiated arguments against a single test. A majority of the 86,342 people the panel

spoke to were opposed to NEET. The diversity in Tamil medical institutions has been affected with the introduction of NEET. The percentage of students from rural areas has dropped from 61.45 per cent to 50.81 per cent. Similarly, the percentage of candidates from government schools has gone down from 1.12 per cent to 0.6 per cent. The percentage of English-medium students — already dominating medical education — went up from 85.12 per cent to 98.01 per cent. For students from economically poorer sections, it was a decline — from 47.42 per cent to 41.05 per cent. The number of first-generation learners has also dipped. If similar committees are appointed in other states, we may get similar findings. The Tamil Nadu Assembly did pass a law against NEET in 2021, but the Governor returned it in 2022. On the resubmission of the Bill, the Governor referred it to the President, who is unlikely to give her assent. Moreover, with just one national test, commercial coaching institutes are making a lot of money. And since most of them are based in big cities, poorer students from a rural background and those who have studied in vernacular mediums remain at a disadvantage. There is also large-scale variation in the syllabus when it comes to the CBSE and state boards. If unequals are tested on the basis of one test, i.e. EET, the mandate of equality is violated.

We need to redefine our notions of merit in terms of a more inclusive and plural society. Merit cannot lead to exclusion. CJI DY Chandrachud rightly held that the transformative vision of the Constitution cannot be buried by the myths around 'merit'. Merit must be measured in terms of societal good. The policy of 'one nation, one test' requires a serious review and improvement.



Apart from ensuring that your house is protected during this season, you must also protect yourself from the rains when stepping out of your house. While there are tons of umbrellas which are available in the market during this time of the year, they normally do not provide as much protection from rainwater as that of a raincoat. If you are planning to buy a raincoat, here are a few things that you must keep in mind

**The raincoat should not be too tight:** Always opt for raincoats that are not too tight for your body. Apart from being uncomfortable, they will also restrict the blood flow in your body, which is dangerous.

**Choose breathable raincoats:** When buying a raincoat, opt for one that will



prevent sweat and won't cause an odour. Thus, choose a fabric that won't take days to dry out.

**Check for durability:** It is always advisable to choose a rainwear that will last for a long duration of time. There are many kinds of rainwear that promise durability, but just after one rain or two wear out easily.

**Colours and fabric:**

It may seem strange but colours also play an important role when choosing a raincoat. It is recommended to choose bright colours like yellow, blue, red etc. These colours are usually recommended to wear during the night, so that you can stand out. Fabrics in raincoats are also important because of their durability. Choose from fabrics such as Tyvek, coated nylons and Gore-Tex.

# What to keep in mind when choosing a Rain Coat



## How to remove common stains at home

How often have you poured something on your dress and toiled to get the stain out? Even when you run it through water or hand wash it, the stain stays put because every stain is different and must be treated differently. Here are some effective ways to get common stains out.

**Stains from drinks like coffee, tea, alcohol, fruit juices and soft drinks:** Soak the stain in cool water for 10 minutes and using either a bar of soap, liquid detergent or a paste made with washing powder and water, dab on the stain and rub. Before the paste dries, wash the dress with detergent in hot water.

**Chocolates:** Try to scrape off as much of it as you can with a blunt-edged knife. Soak in warm soapy water and if a brown stain is still visible, soak in a mix of water with sanitizer and rinse with warm water.

**Cosmetics:** Before you put the dress for wash, dab on the stain with either a prewash stain remover or a paste of washing powder with water.

**Oil:** Using a tissue, remove the excess oil. Wet the stain and apply liquid detergent directly on the stain and leave it for 15-20 minutes.

Wash with hot water. Alternatively, try putting a paper on both sides of the stain and ironing over the paper.

**Things to remember**

- Always take the stain out before you wash your dress.
- Always blot the stain, don't rub.
- The longer you leave the stain, the more difficult it is to remove.
- Nail polish stains are close to impossible to remove, so the best thing would be careful about not spilling it on your dress.



You are all set to go for your annual vacation, but there is something that you can't stop worrying about — your houseplants. How do you ensure that they remain as green and fresh during your absence? So, here's what you should follow before stepping out for your holidays:

### Keep it cool

If the plants are not watered regularly, there's a high chance of them wilting away in the scorching sun. Hence, make sure you move your plants to a cooler area. Move them out of direct sunlight as plants placed away from the sun will retain more water while you're away.

### Group them together

Since plants release moisture through the process of transpiration, group your plants together in one place to help keep the air around them moist and humid. However, remember that your flowering plants are different from other green plants or bonsais, so space them out accordingly.

### Watering options

Keep a small tray or plate of pebbles filled with

## Taking care of Your plants during vacation



water beneath each potted plant, this will help the plants stay hydrated for a long time. You can also set up your own sprinkler system by suspending small earthen pots with holes in it, slightly above the plants. Choose the pot depending on the size of each plant, fill them to the brim and leave it. It will water your plants drop-by-drop for a while.

### Involve your neighbour or friend

If nothing, then simply keep your plants at a place in your home that is accessible to your neighbour too. A balcony for instance, from where they can water the plants regularly.

And if your neighbour is kind enough, simply shift the plants to their house while you're away. Don't forget to bring back a nice gift as a gesture of gratitude!

### TIP:

Soak terracotta pots before planting. Terracotta pots may look attractive, but remember they are made out of baked clay due to which water evaporates quickly. If you want to plant directly in terracotta, be sure to soak the pot in water first, this will help the plant and the soil remain hydrated. In fact, make sure you water the pot as well from the outside, so that it helps maintain a low temperature and not get heated up.

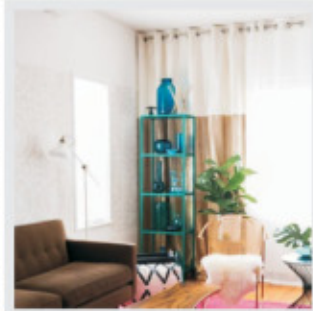
## Safe ways to live alone

It may be a little difficult living alone. After staying with family or friends, one can get used to having company all the time. Staying alone can be fun too.

Spending time with yourself and doing what you like to do during this free time is a blessing. Having said that, it is important to keep a few things in mind when you are staying alone.

Investing in a good lock for your doors and windows is a good idea. Make sure that all the latches and door knobs are in a good condition. That should be the main priority and having a good lock will make you feel safer at home.

Always have enough groceries and medication stocked up at home. The last thing you want is to go out at night and get something to eat when you are feeling hungry.



Having a stock of medicines for stomach pain, common flu, aches and burns will keep things under control if you fall ill.

Your cell phone should have enough balance at any given point of time to make emergency calls. Fuel up your car or bike and keep them in the best working condition because getting stranded alone is not a great idea after all.

Be aware and alert of your neighbour. Peeping through doors and windows is a good

habit in your case. That will make understand the movements around your apartment.

Always keep a friend informed of your whereabouts. A person close to you or a friend should have an idea of your everyday life. That will only work in your favour.

The last and the most important thing is to never ever hide your keys outside your apartment. That is the easiest thing to do and the most obvious for thieves. It's a better idea to give it to a trusted friend or a relative. Staying at home in your company can teach you a lot of things about yourself. You can finally make space for all those things you wanted to do but never had the time. Indulge in yourself and be safe.





# Kuwait Building Fire: Plane Carrying Bodies Of 45 Indians To Land In Kochi

**Kuwait Building Fire: Out of the 176 Indian workers in the housing facility, 45 have died, while 33 are hospitalised and the rest are reportedly safe.**

**New Delhi:** India will bring back the bodies of 45 of its nationals killed in a devastating fire in Kuwait City on Wednesday by a special flight which will land in Kochi on Friday morning before heading for Delhi, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait said in a statement on Thursday night.

the statement, most of the victims are from Kerala (23), followed by seven from Tamil Nadu, three each from Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, two from Odisha, and one each from Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Haryana. Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, acting on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reached Kuwait on Thursday forenoon to coordinate with the Kuwaiti government for the early repatriation of the mortal remains of the victims as well as to ensure the well-being of those injured in the tragic fire incident at a labour housing facility in the Mangaf area on Wednesday, the statement said.

Out of the 176 Indian workers in the housing facility, 45 have died, while 33 are hospitalised and the rest are reportedly safe. Immediately upon his arrival, the Minister visited five hospitals (Adan, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Jaber, Farwaniya and Jahra), where



the injured Indians are being treated, and interacted with them. According to hospital authorities, all the patients are reportedly safe and will be discharged progressively depending on their medical condition.

Kirti Vardhan Singh also called on First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who conveyed the condolences on behalf of Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Meshal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and assured full support and assistance for early repatriation of mortal remains of the victims and proper medical care and attention to all those who are hospitalised.

The Minister also called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, and Health Minister, Ahmad Abdelwahab Ahmad Al-Adawi, and both assured full support of the Kuwaiti government. The Embassy, expressing its deepest condolences to the bereaved families, said that it has been in constant touch with the local authorities, ensuring all necessary assistance to those injured and those who have been safely evacuated from the accident site.

It said it has been operating a dedicated 24x7 helpline +965-65505246 (Whatsapp and regular call) for the family members of the victims as well as those injured. Regular updates are being provided through the helpline.

## Parliament Monsoon Session from July 22 to August 9: Sources

**New Delhi:** The Monsoon Session of Parliament is set to begin on July 22, sources have said. The session is likely to continue until August 9. The government is also likely to present the full Budget for 2024-2025 during the Monsoon Session, with the Finance Ministry starting its pre-consultation Budget meetings with various ministries and stakeholders by June 17. The Session is also likely to cover the oath/affirmation of newly elected members, the election of the speaker, the President's address, and subsequent discussions.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju in a post on X said that the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will be held from June 24 to July 3. On February 1, Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Interim Budget 2024-25, highlighting the government's economic achievements during the past 10 years and how the nation has transformed into one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The Finance Minister maintained the government's focus on creating jobs through a sustained infrastructure push, in addition to prioritising groups such as farmers, youth, women, and the poorest households. Meanwhile, a special 8-day session of Parliament is slated to commence on June 24, during which, the election of the Lok Sabha speaker is likely to be held on June 26, sources told India Today. On June 24 and 25, new Members of Parliament will be taking their oaths, according to the sources.

## 2 Minors Among 6 Held For 70 Lakh Heist In Delhi

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has apprehended six people, including two minors who were involved in a robbery case of ₹ 70 lakh in Naya Bazar of Chandni Chowk the national capital. Delhi Police has apprehended six people, including two minors who were involved in a robbery case of ₹ 70 lakh in Naya Bazar of Chandni Chowk in Delhi. The heist took place at the Govind Agency in Naya Bazar in the Lahori Gate area of



Chandni Chowk on June 9. According to complainant Chaggo Mal Pande, 76, who worked as a cash collection staff at Govind Agency, he was robbed at gunpoint of approximately ₹ 23 lakh in cash. Additionally, another bag containing uncounted money was also taken, he said. An eight-member team of Delhi Police carried out searches in Mussoorie, Dehradun, and Delhi and arrested six suspects within 28 hours. Total cash amounting to ₹ 30 lakh was also recovered. Delhi Police said acting on crucial CCTV footage and technical surveillance, the police were able to trace the movements of the suspects and arrested them within 28 hours of the crime being reported. Three accused identified as Chinar Amariya (23), Paras (20), and Sharad (19) along with a juvenile were apprehended from Mussoorie and ₹ 14.3 lakh cash was recovered from them. Shares worth ₹ 1.2 lakh and one R1 bike was also seized. Rest of the three accused including Rohit (20) were apprehended from Dehradun along with ₹ 9.4 lakh cash and three phones worth ₹ 4.5 lakh, which were purchased from looted money. Two suspects are yet to be apprehended. Delhi Police team said it is conducting continuous raids to apprehend these suspects and recover the rest of the stolen money.

## After 7 Paroles In 10 Months, Rape Convict Ram Rahim Seeks Yet Another

**New Delhi:** Rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim has filed another petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court for a 21-day parole. The Dera Sacha Sauda chief was granted a 50-day parole in January - for a seventh time in just 10 months. Ram Rahim in his petition said he needed the parole to participate in a programme hosted by the Dera Sacha Sauda. After admitting his petition, the high court issued notice to the Haryana government and the Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), and sought a reply by July 2.

The high court on January 29 had raised questions over repeated paroles granted to the rape convict who is supposed to be serving 20



years in jail. After that, the high court had ordered the Haryana government to take its permission if he approaches for parole again. Responding to a petition by the SGPC, the court had also ordered the state government to give information on how many

people have been given parole in this manner. Sources have said there had been a pattern behind granting paroles to the rape convict, and it usually happened during state or local body polls. Dera followers, and particularly those of Ram Rahim Singh, are influential in Punjab's Malwa region, with their votes seen as key in deciding parliamentary and legislative elections. The Malwa region has 69 constituencies - over half of the Punjab assembly's 117 seats.

Dera followers - who number in the crores and have been relatively subdued since Ram Rahim Singh was jailed - are widely seen as voting per diktats from sect leaders.

## How Cops Busted Gang Involved In Issuing Fake Caste Certificates In Delhi

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police have busted a gang involved in issuing fake caste certificates to applicants from non-reserved categories. Four persons have been arrested, including a Tehsildar from Delhi Cantt, Department of Revenue and Government of NCT of Delhi. The police said that they received information about a gang creating and distributing fake caste certificates. To verify this, on March 13, 2024, a decoy applicant from the General Category was sent to a suspected person to obtain an OBC certificate. The decoy applicant received the certificate for a fee of ₹ 3,500, which was also uploaded on the Delhi Government's Revenue Department website.

Another decoy operation was conducted on March 20, 2024, where a second

applicant from the General Category obtained an OBC certificate for ₹ 3,000. Both payments were made online, and transaction details were recorded. Based on this information, a police team was formed to apprehend the individuals behind the racket.

On May 9, 2024, Saurabh Gupta, a 30-year-old resident of Sangam Vihar, was arrested. Data from his mobile phone revealed chats with the decoy applicants and various document snapshots. Gupta admitted to issuing the certificates through the Executive Magistrate's office in Delhi Cantt. Further investigation led to the arrest of three more individuals: Chetan Yadav, who worked at the Tehsildar's office, Waris Ali, the civilian driver of Tehsildar Narender Pal Singh, and Narender Pal Singh himself. These arrests took place on

May 14, May 22, and May 27, 2024, respectively. According to the police, Gupta disclosed that he met Chetan Yadav in January 2024. Together with Waris Ali, they devised a scheme to earn money by issuing fake certificates from the Department of Revenue.

Gupta would apply for certificates using fake documents and then share the details and application numbers with Yadav, transferring money for each case.

Yadav would forward these details to Waris Ali, who used the Digital Signature (DS) of Executive Magistrate Narender Pal Singh to approve the applications and upload the certificates on the website. The gang charged fees and split the money among themselves, including paying the Executive Magistrate.

## Importance Of Puri Jagannath Temple's Four Gates: Why It Was A Poll Issue

**New Delhi:** The 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri, one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites in India, opened all four gates on Thursday after persistent demands from devotees. This decision came shortly after the new BJP government in Odisha, led by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, approved the move in its first Cabinet meeting.

**Puri's Shree Jagannath Temple's four gates: Significance**

These gates have been part of the temple's architecture and rituals since ancient times. Each gate is associated with a specific direction and symbolism: Singha Dwara (Lion's Gate): Located in the east, it is considered the main entrance and symbolises liberation (moksha). Entering through this gate is believed to lead a devotee towards spiritual liberation. Vyagra Dwara (Tiger Gate): Positioned in the west, it symbolises righteousness (dharma). Passing

through this gate is seen as upholding moral and ethical values. Hasti Dwara (Elephant Gate): In the north, it represents prosperity and wealth. This gate is regarded as the carriage of Maha Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

Ashwa Dwara (Horse Gate): Located in the south, it symbolises desire (kama). It is said that entering through this gate requires one to overcome worldly desires and attachments.

**Why were they closed?** The gates of the temple were closed initially during the COVID-19 pandemic primarily for safety reasons and to comply with public health guidelines. This measure was part of efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus among devotees and temple staff.

Some of them were kept closed to facilitate ongoing renovation work related to the Srimandir Heritage Corridor project, a significant initiative aimed at preserving and enhancing the

temple's historical and cultural heritage. Why was the Jagannath Temple an issue during the elections? During the 24-year rule of the BJD in Odisha, one of the major controversies surrounding the temple was the missing keys to the Ratna Bhandar (inner treasury where



precious jewellery and stones are kept). The former state government led by Naveen Patnaik's BJD, was also accused of not maintaining records and inventories of the temple's treasures properly. Transparency issues and allegations of mismanagement, especially concerning the temple's valuable assets, further fueled

discontent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah also voiced concerns about the temple's sanctity and management practices under the BJD rule. They highlighted issues such as the commercialisation of the temple precincts, the demolition of traditional institutions and the closure of certain temple gates, which was perceived as compromising the temple's traditional practices and religious integrity. Controversies surrounding the temple's management and events like the Rath Yatra (chariot festival) also added to the overall public discourse and scrutiny during the elections. In their election manifesto, the BJD pledged to open the remaining gates of the Jagannath Temple once in power in the state. The newly appointed Chief Minister, Mr Manjhi, has now allotted ₹ 500 crores for the temple's management, beautification and repair.

## Army gets Nagastra-1, India's first indigenous suicide drone

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant stride towards achieving 'atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in ammunition and defence systems, the Indian Army is set to induct its first indigenous loiter munition, Nagastra-1. Developed by Solar Industries, Nagpur, the Army has placed a supply order for Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Solar Industries, to supply 480 loiter munitions. Following a successful Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) from May 20-25, EEL delivered the first batch of 120 units to the ammunition depot at Pulgaon. The Nagastra-1 excels in "kamikaze mode" by neutralising hostile threats with GPS-enabled precision strikes, boasting an accuracy of up to two metres. Weighing 9 kg, this man-portable fixed-wing electric UAV has an endurance of 30



minutes. It offers a 15 km range with man-in-loop control and extends up to 30 km in autonomous mode. Due to its electric propulsion system, Nagastra-1 provides a low acoustic signature, making it almost undetectable at altitudes over 200 metres.

The UAV is equipped with day and night surveillance cameras and carries a 1 kg high-explosive fragmenting warhead to neutralise soft-skin targets. Its unique features like abort, recover and reuse, facilitated by a parachute recovery mechanism, set it apart from similar systems globally. Designed with over 75 per cent indigenous content in collaboration with Z-Motion Autonomous Systems Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru, Nagastra-1 is a man-portable system with an all-up weight of 30 kg split across two rucksacks, including a ground control station, communication control, payload and pneumatic launcher. The success of Nagastra-1 builds on the potential of drone technology as a force multiplier in military operations, as evidenced in recent conflicts in countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Ukraine. In the Indian context, there has been a rise in drone-related incidents along its northern borders, underscoring the need for such indigenous solutions. Most industries in India lack the expertise for weaponised drones in combat applications.





# How to add Life to your Walls

Be a little creative and add more colour and vibrancy to your wall. Walls with a dash of colour and imagination can change the look of your room. And there are simple not so expensive ways to add more life to your walls. Just let your creative juices flow. And then see the change.

**Art power:** Nothing brightens up the wall like a canvas. So, if you have an artwork then display it. Choose the perfect place to showcase it so that it becomes the centre of attraction. And if you don't have the money to buy original art, don't lose heart. You can always buy a print and with a stylish frame, it can change the look.

**Colours of life:** Interestingly, fabrics add much colour to a wall. India is a country of great textile heritage. So, you can choose from the ikkats to mangalgiris for adding a completely different, vibrant look to your wall. If you have seen the Calico Textile Museum in Ahmedabad, you will definitely know the power of textile in adding a warm rich look. Learn to use saris, dupattas, rugs in adding more colour and texture to your decor.

**Stringing memory:** Memories are great to have as company in your intimate space. Dig into your album for your favourite family photos and then arrange it to bring in a sense of personal touch to your space. How about being a little different and creative? Write your favourite poem on a nice handmade paper and then frame it. You can also make a collage out of your kids' paintings and then frame it to hang on the wall.

**Shelve it:** Do you think shelves are boring? Well, you couldn't be more wrong. These days there are many colourful shelves in different shapes available in the market. Even you have an ordinary shelf, paint it in warm colours with different motifs and see the result yourself. Arrange your favourite books, DVDs and knickknacks on the shelf and see the transformation.

## Floor colours can enhance your decor



Your floor can add a lot to your room not just by way of dimensions — larger, smaller, wider, narrower — but can also add abstract emotions to it, like making it look warmer and happier. Here are tips to keep in mind when you are doing up your floors....

**Light-coloured floors** Brighten a dark room using a very light floor. This also makes it look larger. The reflected light will make the room look lighter. Pale floors can make your room look great when paired with dark furniture.

**Dark floors** Dark hardwood floors can add immense character to a large room and dark floors have the incredible ability to embrace all kinds of decor schemes. You could choose to have light-coloured furniture for a dramatic effect. With dark floors, it would be good to avoid dark walls.

**Floor skirts** Floors look larger when the skirtings are of the same colour. When the floor skirtings are of the same colours as your walls, it gives the opposite effect.

**Floor and furniture** Your floor colour should be two shades lighter than your furniture. With dark floors, use furniture that is pale. If needed, use a rug that helps to provide this contrast.

**Moods to go with floors** Beige or orangish floors that have a yellow tinge, look cozy and are warm and happy. Brown floors are earthy and sober. Dark floors have elegance and character. All white or pale floors can make your home look calm and peaceful.

## 7 things to help organise your Living area



If you have been thinking to renovate your home and get rid of the clutter for the longest time, then this is the right time to start. However, if do not want to spend a lot and still want your house to look organised, then just get rid of these seven simple things and you can change the look of your living room instantly.

**Bills, envelopes and invites:**

Most living rooms have a stack of unimportant papers lying everywhere. From various utility bills to credit card statements, and from envelopes to wedding invites, we always tend to dump all this on our coffee table or our TV cabinet in the living room. Get rid of empty envelopes and bills older than three years, and organise the rest in drawers, so that they're hidden.

**Extra cushions:**

Cushions lend a sense of style to the living room; vibrant coloured and abstract design cushions help the living area come to life. However, too much of anything is a bad idea. Do not overcrowd your living rooms with cushions, limit them to your couch or a baithak. Don't overdo it by keeping them on chairs, window seats, recliners or by simply increasing their number.

**Big-size music system and Cds:**

That big four-CD-changer home theatre system with four massive speakers covering a complete wall of your living room, might have emotional value, but it definitely adds to the clutter. Simply replace it with a sleek sound bar that would be hardly noticed but has effective sound quality, and you will notice that the room looks less cluttered.

**5.Candles:**

You definitely had a romantic evening in mind when you picked up those scented candles. However, they are now lying unattended in various corners coated with loads of dust. Get rid of those candles and buy lights that are easy to clean and can be used for a longer duration. Make sure they are all hanging lights so that the floor remains de-cluttered.

**Bean bags:**

A lot of people buy bean bags to create a relaxed sitting arrangement, however, they are rendered redundant after a while as they trigger back problems. They then just lie there in clumps, occupying a lot of space and we end up dumping things on bean bags which adds to the clutter. Make way for a smart pair of antique wooden or recliners that will occupy less space and will prove useful as well.

**Artificial plants:**

This is one of the most useless things in anybody's living room, as they do not add any charm to the room whatsoever. In fact, Feng Shui and vastu experts warn about keeping artificial plants in homes as they have some kind of negative energy. Get rid of them as they attract a lot of dust and occupy unwanted space. Invest in real plants instead.

**Miniature artifacts:**

Not many people can maintain art-house like interiors, as it needs a lot of cleaning. Miniature artifacts and handicrafts enhance the look of your living room and make it look arty. These objects makes your house look dingy and unkempt if they are not dusted and maintained from time to time. If de-cluttering your house means having a clear space, then miniature artifacts need to be got rid off. In fact, a less-cluttered house looks bigger and better.

Ever seen a garden in a bottle? Only a genie might be able to do that, right? Well, not anymore. Even you can conjure one at home now. Don't believe us? Do it yourself...

Commonly used as a form of decoration, a bottle garden is perhaps a brilliant substitute of balcony or terrace gardens for city apartments. A plastic or a glass bottle with a narrow neck is just what you require to get started. Plants are grown inside the bottle with little exposure to sunlight, and can be contained indefinitely inside the bottle. You may wonder how the plants survive without air or water. It's pure science. When the plants are initially planted in a bottle, a small quantity of water is added. The air in the bottle provides the plants with necessary oxygen and carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. Sunlight is used to convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar. Oxygen that is liberated as a byproduct, remains trapped in the bottle and is, in turn, used for respiration by the plants. The cycle continues and thus, the plants can easily survive in a self-sufficient ecosystem.

**Green therapy** Creating a bottle garden is simple. All you need to do is select a plant with a slender stem, tolerance for lower indoor light, humidity and features of visible interest like appealing leaf colour, shape etc. Get a pretty-looking bottle and you are all set.

- Put a tablespoon of coarse aquarium gravel at the bottom of the bottle. That way you'll be able to see if there is stagnant water below the soil.
- Fill the bottle up to an inch with fine potting soil just above the gravel. Let it settle down by gently adding water, but just enough to moisten the soil.
- To prevent getting water on the mouth of the bottle and to prevent over watering, use an eye dropper. Using distilled water will help limit the amount of salts going into the soil.
- Keep adding soil and water until the level of the soil is correct and all of it is moist.
- Once the stem extends beyond the top of the bottle, gradually add more soil to give the stem and roots time to adjust being covered. With such a small opening, the soil may not be able to take in enough air at times and may sour due to over-watering. Now, that might be fatal to the roots.
- If the bottle is big enough, a layer of brick pieces of about 10 mm thickness should be laid (instead of gravel) at the bottom. This will absorb accidental application of excess water. Preparing the soil.
- The soil mixture should be porous and friable. This helps in aeration of roots. In case of a bottle garden, it is not easy to loosen the soil at regular intervals. Hence porous soil is essential.
- For this, take one part red garden soil, one part crushed brick pieces and one part leaf mould. In case leaf mould is not available, ½ part of well-decomposed manure may be used in the mixture. It is not necessary to sterilise the soil mixture.
- To take care of fungus and insect infection, add a small quantity of fungicide and insecticide to the soil mixture. It is advisable that these chemicals are mixed in water and then added to the soil.
- Making the soil moist has certain advantages.

## How to make your own Bottle garden



The dust will not fly while you fill the bottle with soil. And when you plant the saplings, the soil won't crack. Selection of plants

- The plants chosen should be slow-growing because fast-growing plants need frequent pruning, which is bit difficult in case of a bottle garden.
- Herbs like sage, oregano, basil and ferns work quite well for a bottle garden as they usually adapt to the size of their environment be it a small bottle

or a big container.

- Keep the bottle near a window. But direct sunlight must be avoided, or else plants will wilt inside.

How to sow a sapling Place the selected saplings inside the bottle with the help of fork and forcep. Pour a few droplets of water and close the lid of the bottle. The plants start growing inside the closed bottle. You should not water again unless the saplings start wilting. So, what are you waiting for? Happy gardening!



### Ambuja Cements shares gain 3%. Is there further upside

**New Delhi.** Ambuja Cements has received a bullish outlook from brokerage firms following its announcement to acquire South-based Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL).

Jefferies has issued a 'buy' rating for Ambuja Cements, setting a target price of Rs 735 per share. The brokerage firm believes this acquisition will strengthen Ambuja Cements' position as a leading player in the Indian cement industry, particularly under the Adani group's ownership. Shares of Adani Group's Ambuja Cement surged by over 3% to Rs 689 in early trade on Friday to hit its 52-week high. The shares of the cement company rose on the back of the acquisition of Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL) for Rs 10,422 crore.

Morgan Stanley anticipates that this deal will enhance Ambuja's presence in the southern market, reinforcing their bullish stance on the stock.

Emkay Global Financial Services maintained its preference for Ambuja Cements, keeping its 'Buy' recommendation and setting a target price of Rs 700 per share for March 2025. Similarly, Antique Stock Broking also upheld its 'Buy' rating for Ambuja Cements, with a target price of Rs 700 per share.

The deal was signed on Thursday and includes the purchase of 100% shares of PCIL from its current owners, P Pratap Reddy and family, as per a company filing to the exchanges. "Ambuja Cement, the cement and building material company of Adani Cement and part of the diversified Adani Group, today announced the signing of a binding agreement for the acquisition of Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL) at an enterprise value of Rs. 10,422 crore. Ambuja will acquire 100% shares of PCIL from its existing promoter group, Mr. P. Pratap Reddy and family. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals," said the exchange filing. Ambuja Cements will fund this acquisition entirely through internal accruals, as per the filing.

Ajay Kapur, CEO and Whole Time Director of Ambuja Cements, called this deal a significant milestone in the company's growth. "By acquiring PCIL, Ambuja is poised to expand its market presence in south India and reinforce its position as a pan-India leader in the cement industry," said Kapur.

### Sensex, Nifty trade flat as IT stocks dip; Ambuja Cements gains 3%

**New Delhi** Benchmark stock market indices were trading flat in early trade on Friday due to a decline in information technology (IT) stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex rose 69.05 points to 76,879.95 at 10 am, while the broader NSE Nifty50 gained 31.4 points to 23,430.3. If the other broader market indices also traded in positive territory as volatility dipped. Nifty Realty was the top gainer among sectoral indices, while Nifty IT fell 0.7% after gaining yesterday. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Grasim, Shriram Finance, Adani Ports, HUL and M&M. Meanwhile, shares of Adani-backed Ambuja Cements rose 3% in early trade after it acquired Penna Cement Industries. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "In the near-term the market is likely to be range bound since there are no major triggers till the budget."

"Since the valuations are high, particularly in the broader market, any significant up move will invite selling from the FIIs. If the market trends down, DIIs and retail investors will pursue a buy on dips strategy that has worked very well in this market," he added.

"Sustained flows into mutual funds, particularly through the SIP route, and the retail investors eager to buy any dip will keep the market resilient. Investors should now take a medium to long-term view and remain invested in the market focusing on fairly valued largecaps," Vijayakumar noted.

### Hyundai Motor India recalls 1,744 units of Ioniq 5

**NEW DELHI.** Hyundai Motor India is recalling 1,744 units of its electric model Ioniq 5, due to an issue with the integrated charging control unit, as per the information available with industry body SIAM.

The company is recalling the units manufactured between July 21, 2022 and April 30, 2024, to fix the part, data on the SIAM website said.

The company is recalling the units due to a "potential issue in integrated charging control unit which may discharge 12V battery", it stated. When contacted, a Hyundai company spokesperson said: "At Hyundai Motor India, customer safety is our top priority. The Ioniq 5 recall is a proactive step to inspect and upgrade the Integrated Charging Control Unit (ICCU) in the affected vehicles at no cost to the customers."

The company's dedicated teams will be in touch with vehicle owners and guide them through the recall process, the spokesperson said.

### Markets decline in early trade after record rally

**MUMBAI.** Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Friday amid profit-taking after a record rally in the previous day and fresh foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 206.18 points to 76,604.72. The NSE Nifty dipped 61.5 points to 23,337.40. Among the 30 Sensex companies, Tech Mahindra, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Wipro and Tata Consultancy Services were the major laggards. Titan, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hindustan Unilever were among the biggest gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul quoted higher while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong traded lower. US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,033 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "In the near-term the market is likely to be range bound since there are no major triggers till the budget," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.41 per cent to USD 82.41 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark jumped 538.89 points or 0.70 to hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46 on Thursday. It later ended at a fresh record high at 76,810.90; up 204.33 points or 0.27 per cent. The Nifty rallied 75.95 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 23,398.90.

# WPI inflation spikes to 2.61% in May led by food and fuel

**Wholesale prices in India rose by 2.61% in May**

**The WPI Food Index climbed to 185.7 in May**

**Fuel and power index dropped by 2.71%**

**New Delhi.** Wholesale prices in India rose by 2.61% in May, up from 1.26% in April, marking a notable increase driven by higher costs in the food and fuel sectors, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

"The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 2.61% (Provisional) for the month of May, 2024 (over May, 2023). Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," said the press release. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which tracks the average change



in prices at the wholesale level, saw a month-on-month increase of 0.20% compared to April. The spike in prices was particularly pronounced in food items and fuel. The WPI Food Index, encompassing

essentials like cereals, vegetables, milk, and meat, climbed to 185.7 in May from 183.6 in April.

This increase led to a rise in inflation within the food category from 5.52% in April to

7.40% in May. Primary articles, including food and minerals, spiked up by 0.54% to 187.7 in May, reflecting higher prices in food articles and minerals by 1.48% and 1.08%, respectively. Meanwhile, non-food articles and crude petroleum prices showed a decline of 1.26% and 3.56% in May compared to April.

In contrast, the fuel and power index dropped by 2.71% to 150.6 in May, primarily due to a decrease in electricity prices by 11.67%. Prices of mineral oils and coal, however, remained unchanged. Manufactured products, another significant component of the WPI, recorded an increase of 0.64% to 141.7 in May from 140.8 in April.

Among the 22 groups tracked under manufactured products, 13 reported higher prices, 8 saw declines, and 1 remained steady.

Notably, sectors such as basic metals, food products, and electrical equipment saw price hikes, while fabricated metal products and chemicals experienced price reductions.

## India set to remain fastest-growing economy in Asia-Pacific: Moody's

**NEW DELHI** Ratings agency Moody's said that India is expected to remain the fastest-growing economy in the Asia-Pacific region in 2024. This projection follows the momentum built in the previous year, driven largely by domestic factors.

In its report titled 'Credit Conditions - Asia-Pacific H2 2024 Credit Outlook,' released on June 13, Moody's highlighted that Indonesia, the Philippines, and India have led the growth in the first half of 2024. These countries are anticipated to continue performing well compared to pre-COVID growth levels, thanks to increasing exports, strong local demand, and substantial government spending on infrastructure projects.

"India will remain the region's fastest-growing economy, sustaining last year's domestically driven momentum. We anticipate policy continuity after the general election, and a continued focus on infrastructure development

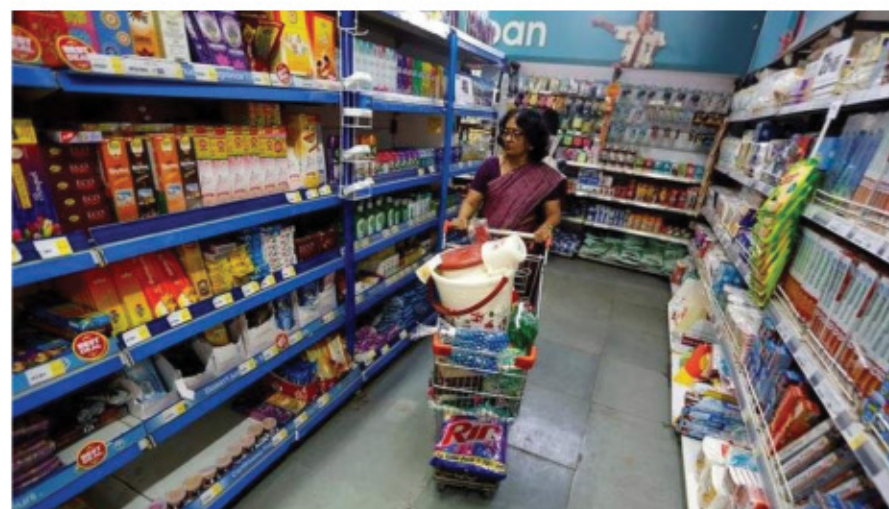
and encouragement of private sector investment," said the report. The agency also mentioned that India and ASEAN economies are likely to see stronger portfolio inflows due to robust



corporate credit metrics and attractive valuations. Last month, Moody's Ratings forecasted that the Indian economy would grow by 6.6% in the current fiscal year. It noted that strong credit demand and robust economic growth would benefit the profitability of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs). "We expect India's economy

to expand by 6.6% in the year ending March 2025 (FY25) and 6.2% the following year. This will lead to strong loan growth at NBFCs, mitigating the impact of rising funding costs on their profitability," said Moody's Ratings. Moody's FY25 GDP growth predictions for India are lower than those of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other agencies but align with Deloitte's forecast. The RBI had projected a 7% growth rate for the current fiscal year. Both the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fitch Ratings have also estimated growth at 7%, while S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley expect a 6.8% growth rate. India's focus on infrastructure development and private sector investment is expected to continue driving its economic growth, making it a key player in the Asia-Pacific region's economic landscape.

## Wholesale inflation rises for third straight month in May at 2.61%, food items costlier



**NEW DELHI.** The wholesale inflation rose for the third consecutive month in May at 2.61 per cent on account of rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables, and manufactured items. The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 1.26 per cent in the previous month.

It was (-) 3.61 per cent in May 2023. "Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Friday.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose 9.82 per cent in May, as against 7.74 per cent in April. Inflation in vegetables was 32.42 per cent in May, up from 23.60 per cent in the previous month. Onion inflation was at 58.05 per cent, while potato was 64.05 per cent.

Pulses inflation rose 21.95 per cent in May. In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.35 per cent, marginally lower than 1.38 per cent in April. In manufactured products, inflation was at 0.78 per cent, higher than (-) 0.42 per cent in April. The rise in May WPI is in contrast to the retail inflation data for the month. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy.

Retail inflation eased to 1 year low of 4.75 per cent in May, data released earlier this week showed.

The RBI earlier this month kept the interest rate unchanged for the eighth time in a row.



support for Israel during the Yom Kippur War, causing oil prices to skyrocket. The US struck a deal with Saudi Arabia and other OPEC countries to stabilise the situation, where oil would be traded exclusively in US dollars. In return, the US provided military protection and economic support. This agreement marked the birth of the petrodollar system. US-Saudi petrodollar deal in 1974, amid an oil crisis and skyrocketing prices due to OPEC sanctions, the US and Saudi Arabia struck a crucial deal. The US agreed to buy oil from Saudi Arabia and provide military aid and equipment, while the Saudis would invest their petrodollar revenue back into the US economy. This arrangement ensured a steady flow of oil to the US and financial stability for Saudi Arabia, benefiting both nations.

What happens now? With the deal's expiration, Saudi Arabia is now free to sell oil for currencies like yuan, euros, rubles, and yen, and is considering digital currencies like Bitcoin. This shift may accelerate the trend of using alternative currencies for international trade, potentially weakening the US dollar's global dominance.

## Bank of Japan to scale down huge bond-buying programme

**While the move had been widely expected, observers said the decision to defer action until next month weighed on the yen, pushing it towards 158 per dollar, from around 157.20.**

**TOKYO.** The Bank of Japan on Friday said it would trim its vast hoard of government bonds as it cautiously steps away from its long-running ultra-loose monetary policy. The central bank kept interest rates unchanged after a two-day meeting but announced plans to "reduce its purchase amount of JGBs (Japanese Government Bonds) thereafter to ensure that long-term interest rates would be formed more freely". "A detailed plan" for the reduction "during the next one to two years or so" will be decided at the next policy meeting in July, it said. While the move had been widely expected, observers said the decision to defer action until next month weighed on the yen, pushing it towards 158 per dollar, from around 157.20.

However, news that borrowing costs would not go up for now lifted the benchmark Nikkei index 0.7 percent in the afternoon,



having been flat at the break. The BoJ raised rates in March for the first time since 2007 as it seeks to normalise policy without destabilising the world's fourth-largest economy. Friday's move marks another step away from more than two decades of quantitative easing designed to banish stagnation and harmful deflation. Each month, the BoJ targets monthly government bond purchases of around six trillion yen (\$38 billion), to pump liquidity into the system and keep borrowing costs down. The scale of the BoJ's total assets is enormous -- larger than the country's gross domestic product -- and the bank holds more than

half the value of all JGBs in circulation. Cutting back on bonds has been on the cards for months. Policymaker opinion cited in the minutes of the BoJ's April meeting said the bank should indicate an intention to do so because it "needs to reduce the size of its balance sheet".

'Fragile' economic recovery Other central banks have aggressively hiked interest rates to tackle soaring inflation in recent years. But the BoJ has largely stuck to its easy-money policies -- culminating in the Japanese currency hitting a 34-year low in April that led authorities to step into forex

markets. "Reducing bond purchases is an important aspect for the Bank of Japan as it aims to normalise its monetary policy and support the yen," Wael Makarem, financial markets strategist lead at Exness, told AFP before the decision. "However, given Japan's fragile economic recovery and high public debt, the central bank may have to proceed cautiously," he said. The BoJ wants to see demand-driven inflation of two percent, fuelled by wage increases. Japanese inflation has been above the target since April 2022, but analysts question to what extent this is caused by temporary factors such as the war in Ukraine.

On Friday, the bank said factors including accommodative financial conditions were behind the gradual intensification of "a virtuous cycle from income to spending". But "there remain high uncertainties surrounding Japan's economic activity and prices", it said.

As well as calling time on its outlier negative-rate policy in March, the bank has stepped away from other unorthodox policies including its yield curve control programme, which allowed bonds to move in a tight band. "With inflation remaining somewhat sticky... a further rate hike in July or September is likely" although "the timetable for that may remain unclear."



NEWS BOX

**'I get in trouble when...': US official's banter on Pak upset at T20 World Cup**

White House official Matthew Miller was asked to comment on the USA cricket team defeating Pakistan in the T20 World Cup. In a cheeky response, Miller said he would "get into trouble" if he spoke on matters that were not his area of expertise.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller indulged in fun banter with a reporter when he was asked about the USA cricket team shocking Pakistan in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

During a press briefing, Miller was asked by a reporter to comment on the USA, an associate team, winning against Pakistan, a full-member team. In a cheeky response, the official said he would "get into trouble" if he spoke on matters that were not his area of expertise. "I often get in trouble when I try to comment on things beyond my area of expertise, and I would say Pakistan's cricket



team is certainly in that category," Miller said. Miller's response underscores the fact that cricket, despite its global following, remains relatively niche in the US. Other sports like football, basketball or baseball are a rage in the country. However, with the US hosting a major cricket tournament for the first time, the ICC is hoping to gain more followers after the USA cricket team's historic showing so far. On June 6, the USA cricket team stunned Pakistan and registered its first-ever victory at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas. The match went into a Super Over after both sides scored 159 runs.

In a game which had loads of twists and turns, it was the USA that emerged victorious over a hapless Pakistani side, who were guilty of dropping catches and misfielding at critical junctures. This is the first time that the US is hosting a major ICC cricket tournament with the West Indies as its co-host. India is leading the table in Group A, followed by the USA in second place with four points after two wins and one loss.

**Rashid Khan ecstatic after Afghanistan book Super 8 berth: Boys made it easy for me**

Rashid Khan was over the moon after Afghanistan stormed their way into the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024. On Friday, June 14, they defeated Assad Vala's Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 7 wickets in a Group C match at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. With 6 points and a net run rate of +4.230 thanks to wins in both their matches, the Afghans also went back to the top of the table. Rashid lauded Fazalhaq Farooqi and Rahmanullah Gurbaz for putting their hands up and taking Afghanistan through to the second round. Farooqi picked up 3 wickets against PNG and is sitting on top of the charts with 12 scalps to his name. Gurbaz, meanwhile, is the top run-scorer in the mega event with 167



runs at an average of 55.66. I am feeling great to qualify for the next round. It has been a great effort from the boys since game one. They know what they do and have executed beautifully, making things easy for me. It is important to have someone like him, Gurbaz who goes out and takes on the bowling or Farooqi who picks up wickets in the powerplay," Rashid said in the post-match presentation ceremony. "If the batter is attacking, then as a bowler you have to attack too, especially with pitches helping you. They have given us good starts in the last two games and today was a good opportunity for the others to spend some time in the middle," Rashid said.

**Everyone has the skill to adjust**

After fielding first, Afghanistan bowled PNG out for 95 in 19.5 overs. Thereafter, Gulbadin Naib stayed not out on 49 as they romped home with 29 balls to spare. Rashid said that domestic cricket and knowledge of the conditions in the West Indies have helped the Afghan cricketers. "We had a domestic competition before coming here and everyone are in form. That is the beauty of playing franchise cricket, as you know the conditions, some of them have played at St Lucia and know how the pitch will play which will help others.

**If David Warner opens the bowling, it would be funny: Michael Jones before AUS vs SCO**

T20 World Cup 2024: Michael Jones suggested that it would be really funny if David Warner would open the bowling for Australia during the match against Scotland. He also light-heartedly welcomed Josh Hazelwood's suggestion on going easy against Scotland.

New Delhi. Scotland's opener Michael Jones welcomed Josh Hazelwood's remarks, suggesting that Australia might go easy on them during the Group B match at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St Lucia on June 16, Sunday. Jones even joked about it and said that he would like to see David Warner opening the bowling for

Australia during the match. Speaking at the post-match press conference after Australia's win against Namibia, Hazelwood suggested that they might look to "drag it" against Scotland, if they get into a winning position, in order to affect England's team's net-run-rate. However, Australian captain Mitchell Marsh will get a one-match ban if Australia intends to manipulate the result against Scotland to knock England out of the T20 World Cup 2024.

The Scotland team seems to have been enjoying the banter between 2 arch-rivals England and Australia as they take a relaxed approach heading into the encounter. Former Australian captain Tim Paine also suggested that "the Australian team should go for a holiday and the England team should pack their bags." Jones suggested that he also enjoyed Paine's remarks, and he is looking forward to see if Scotland would benefit from this banter.

"I was watching it live actually, laughing to myself," Jones told the Press Association of Hazelwood's comments. "I watched that



interview and I watched Tim Paine when he was saying they should field half a side. I'm not particularly close to them, I don't know any of the Australian players, but it would be good if we could have a little word and sort something out," Jones added. Will David Warner open?" The rivalry between England and Australia is massive. If they want to play that way then happy days. We won't be

complaining. If they want to let David Warner open the bowling or something like that it would be pretty funny."

Scotland would need to beat Australia in order to edge past England in the Super 8 stage. England have shot up their net-run-rate above Scotland after an 8-wicket win over Oman.

Jones was eager to take on Australia and suggested that the Mitchell Marsh-led side would put up a tough fight against Scotland.

"At the end of the day our team wants the best result we can get, but on a personal level you want to challenge yourself against the best," he said. "The Australians are renowned for being extremely diligent and extremely professional. I'm absolutely certain they will come out all guns blazing like they do for every game at every tournament."

"I almost hope they do go full strength on Saturday and we can show the cricket world we're up to the challenge. I'm absolutely certain they will come out all guns blazing like they do for every game at every tournament."

**How Fazalhaq Farooqi drew strength to steer Afghanistan into T20 World Cup Super 8**

New Delhi. Afghanistan (AFG) fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi revealed his success mantra after registering match-winning figures of 3/16 in four overs against Papua New Guinea (PNG) in Match 29 of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Friday, June 14 at Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad. Notably, Afghanistan beat PNG by seven wickets to register their third consecutive win of the tournament and qualify for the Super 8 stages.

Farooqi was adjudged Player of the Match for his performance as he helped his side bundle out PNG for just 95 in 19.5 overs. Reflecting on his performance, the 23-year-old spoke about his preparations heading into the tournament and expressed disappointment for not getting a single chance to play for SRH in the Indian Premier League 2024. The right-arm seamer also revealed his bowling plans and said that he's always looking for wickets irrespective of the conditions.



"I want to congratulate people of Afghanistan for qualifying to the Super 8. I think we've played some good cricket. I was in the IPL, unfortunately I didn't get a game, so I came here and gave myself the strength to come and perform. I have two plans while bowling - just get wickets if there's any swing or seam, if there's no movement, I just bowl in the right areas and keep it simple. We just need to give our 100% and do our best (in the Super 8)," said Farooqi in the post-match

presentation. Afghanistan become second team to qualify from Group C. Afghanistan took 15.1 overs to chase down the target of 96 as Gulbadin Naib remained unbeaten on 49\* (36). Following their win, they became the second team to qualify for the Super 8 stages of the tournament from Group C after West Indies. Afghanistan's win meant the end of the road for New Zealand in the tournament.

The Kane Williamson-led side got off to a disastrous start to the event losing their first game against Afghanistan by 84 runs followed by a narrow 13-run loss against the West Indies. Meanwhile, Afghanistan will next take on West Indies in their last Group game on Monday, June 17 at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia. The Rashid Khan-led side will look to continue their winning momentum in the upcoming fixture and head into the Super 8s unbeaten.

The Indian Cricket Team arrived in Florida ahead of their last match of Group A in the T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada on Saturday, June 15 at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground. The Men in Blue have qualified for the Super 8 stages of the tournament having won three matches on the trot against Ireland, Pakistan and USA played in New York.

Having played their last game at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, India will now move to Florida before the action shifts to the West Indies for the Super 8 stage. The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) shared glimpses of their journey from New York to Florida as all the players looked rejuvenated after a day's break. In a video shared by the BCCI on their X handle, left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed expressed excitement about visiting Florida after a gap of five years and recalled India's tour to the West Indies in 2019. Further ahead in the video, Mohammed Siraj and



Yuzendra Chahal were seen getting involved in a hilarious banter regarding the Indian snack 'Samosa'. USA and Pakistan in battle for second spot in Group A

Meanwhile, India are on top in Group A with three wins from as many matches having a positive net run rate of +1.137. The Rohit Sharma-led side will look to continue their winning momentum against Canada before advancing to the Super 8s. Apart from India, the USA are the second favourites to advance to the next stage from Group A having won two out of their three matches so far.

They will be up against Ireland in their last Group game on Friday, June 14 in Florida. The Monank Patel-led side will hope to win their last fixture to seal their berth in the Super 8s as a loss will leave their fate in the hands of Pakistan. The Babar Azam-led side is on the third spot in Group A with one win from three matches. They will next face Ireland on June 16 and desperately need to win the last fixture and also have to hope for the USA's loss in their last game.

**From Cristiano Ronaldo to Luka Modric: Stars playing their last UEFA Euro 2024**

New Delhi. As the UEFA Euro 2024 beckons, European football stars like Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modric and Toni Kroos gear up for what could be their last dance in the top-tier European Championship. Top European international sides like England, France, Portugal and Spain are all set to battle it out in the upcoming UEFA Euro 2024, set to be hosted in Germany from June 15. The tournament will also see many star players extend their already massive international careers, while they battle out their experience with the young and rising names in the football structure. For starters, this UEFA Euro 2024 will mark the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo extending his phenomenal tally of playing the highest number of games in the competition in what will be his record-extending sixth European Championship. On the other hand, the likes of France will also walk into a new era with Euro 2024, under their new captain and star-forward Kylian Mbappe. Additionally, the three-time winners of the competition in Germany have further increased the hype around Euro 2024, after coach Julian Nagelsmann brought 34-year-old Toni Kroos back from retirement for the

tournament. **Luka Modric - Croatia** he Croatia skipper is one of the biggest names who is likely to take the field in this edition of the European championship for the last time, and will surely be at the centre of the sides' plans like many years and tournaments before. Luka Modric will walk into UEFA Euro 2024 as Croatia's most capped player, after his 175 appearances across all competitions, and arguably their best player since the last decade. Having already played a crucial part in leading Croatia to a runners-up finish in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, followed by a third-place finish in the 2021 World Cup, Modric will be eyeing his long-desired international title in what could be a swansong for the midfielder. The 38-year-old Real Madrid number 10 has already talked about his desire to continue with Los Blancos for at least one more year, but his international career might just meet an end in the Euro.

**Toni Kroos - Germany** Modric's Real Madrid teammate and midfielder partner Toni Kroos has set up an exciting opportunity for his last dance in the German jersey. Having already announced his

retirement from international football back in 2021, the 34-year-old's brilliant playmaking and top-notch site-piece abilities have been deemed a must-have yet again by coach Julian Nagelsmann. However, this has already been confirmed to be Kroos's last major tournament before his ultimate retirement from professional football. The iconic Los Blancos legend has already drawn curtains on his prestigious club career after clinching the 2023-2024 La Liga and the UEFA Champions League title for the sixth time, and has even confirmed that the UEFA Euro 2024 will also mark a second end to his international career. Cristiano Ronaldo - Portugal the biggest name on this list will surely be that of the five-time Ballon D'or and UEFA Euro 2016 winning Portugal superstar, Cristiano Ronaldo. At 39-years-old, Ronaldo will be walking into the European Championship for a record sixth time, and will yet again be one of Portugal's main attacking focuses. The Al Nassr forward has showcased some ageless brilliance everytime he has graced the competition, which even saw him clinch the Golden Boot winner in the 2021 edition of the competition.

**Pat Cummins clarifies controversy around Australia manipulating result vs Scotland**

Australian pacer Pat Cummins clarified the controversy around the team manipulating the result in the Scotland match. He affirmed that the Australian team's mindset and their approach won't change despite England's predicament. He also said that Josh Hazelwood's 'joke' on the easy-going approach against the Scotland team was taken out of context. Mitchell Marsh's Australian team had come under scanner with questions being raised on 'spirit of cricket' after Hazelwood's remarks. Australia will face Scotland in the Group B match on June 16, Sunday at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St Lucia. Cummins suggested that Australia will look to put a tough fight against Scotland, who have a chance to qualify for the Super 8 stage.

"When you go out and play, you're trying your best every time. And if you're not, it's probably against the spirit of cricket," the

Test and ODI captain, who handed the reins to Marsh for the T20 side, told the media. "I haven't really thought too deeply because it's never really popped up." "I was speaking to Joshy who had a bit of a joke about it the other day and it got taken a bit out of context. We'll go out there and try to play Scotland who have had a really good tournament so far so it's going to be tough."

**What Hazelwood said?**

During the post-match press conference after the game against Namibia, Hazelwood was asked if they would go easy against Scotland. The pacer had said that the team had not had any discussions about it yet, but they would not rule out the possibility of this happening, knowing England could pose a major threat in the later stage of the tournament. Cummins pointed out that



Australia would never intend to under-perform in order to knock England out of the context. "It's something you discuss as one of the quirks of the setup, but it does it change the way we play? Absolutely not."

**Will Australia manipulate result?**

Hence, Scotland would need to beat Australia in order to edge past England in the Super 8 stage. Meanwhile, captain Marsh could face a ban if Australia manipulate Scotland's result to knock England out.

"I don't think you can (go into a game not trying to win) - ever. You're playing an international game in the middle of a World Cup. You still want to try and have a good game and carry that on into the Super Eights. I've never stepped on to the field without the mindset of being aggressive, like the guys have so far." However, England's 8-wicket win over Oman has shot up their net-run-rate above Scotland.





# Anjum Fakih

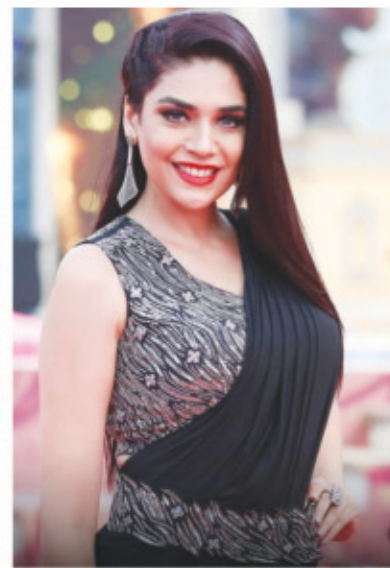
In Bigg Boss OTT 3? Kundali Bhagya Star CONFIRMED For Anil Kapoor's Show

Television actress Anjum Fakih has confirmed her participation in the upcoming season of Bigg Boss OTT. News18 Showsha has exclusively learnt that the actress, who is known for her role in Kundali Bhagya, is all set to participate in Anil Kapoor's show. A source close to the actress told us that she has signed the project and will be entering the Bigg Boss OTT 3 house on June 21. However, neither Anjum nor the Bigg Boss OTT 3 team, have issued any official statement confirming her participation as of now.

Anjum Fakih is known for playing the role of Srishti Arora Luthra in Kundali Bhagya, which also starred Shraddha Arya in the lead. However, she left the popular show in 2023 when she decided to participate in Khatron Ke Khiladi 13. Talking about her participation in the stunt-based reality show, the 33-year-old actress previously told us that Rohit Shetty's show helped her become a stronger person.

"When I used to watch Khatron Ke Khiladi in India, I used to feel all pumped up. But after I performed my first stunt, my confidence hit rock bottom. I was like, 'How will I do it?' I know that I am also weak. I may be six feet tall but I am very sensitive. But here, I have performed so many stunts already. I think I have performed the maximum number of stunts. I have become stronger now. I will walk forward with a 'Khiladi wala attitude' now. The battle scars from the stunts will be in my memories. It shows that if I can do this, I can do anything in life," she said.

Meanwhile, Bigg Boss OTT 3 will premiere on June 21, 2024. This year, the show will be hosted by Anil Kapoor. Among others, Mika Singh, Tanushree Dutta, Mithun Chakraborty's son Ushmei Chakraborty, Hema Malini's daughter Ahana Deol and Sanjay Dutt's daughter Trishala Dutt have also been reportedly approached for Bigg Boss OTT 3. Reportedly, Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah fame Bhavya Gandhi is also in talks with the makers. It is also being said that the Imlie actor Sai Ketan Rao has been finalised for the upcoming season of Bigg Boss OTT.



## Mahesh Babu Names The Film He Has Watched A 100 Times



Mahesh Babu is a very influential name in the film industry. He is someone who has starred in some of the biggest, record-breaking films in the Telugu film industry. But there is one film the actor is a huge fan of, which he has watched almost 100 times. The Guntur Kaaram actor was recently involved in a promotional event for Sudheer Babu's upcoming release titled Harom Hara. During the event, the younger actor asked him which actor had mastered the art of handling guns. To this, Mahesh Babu took the superstar and his father Krishna's name and revealed that he has watched the 1971 film Mosagallaku Mosagadu 100 times. He said, "It is undoubtedly Superstar Krishna Garu. I would have watched Mosagallaku Mosagadu for more than 100 times." He further stated, "It is my favourite among my dad's films. There is no other actor in my mind."

Released in 1971, Mosagallaku Mosagadu was made under the direction of KSR Das while Aarudra was the writer. The film starred names like Krishna, Vijaya Nirmala, Nagabhushanam, Gummadi, Kaikala Satyanarayana, M Prabhakar Reddy, Dhulipala and Jyothi Lakshmi. G Adishesagiri Rao produced the film under the banner of Padmalaya Studios while P Adinarayana Rao composed the music. The film was the first Telugu language cowboy release. It was heavily inspired by Western classics like For a Few Dollars More and The Good the Bad and the Ugly. It reportedly collected Rs 50 lakh at the box office on a budget of Rs 8 lakh. The film was also released in English dub with the title Treasure Hunt while a Tamil version was released as Mosakkaaranukku Mosakkaaran and the Hindi version was called Gunfighter Johnny. At the moment, Mahesh Babu is preparing for his upcoming project with SS Rajamouli, tentatively being called SSMB29. The film is currently under pre-production and is expected to start filming this year. It is reportedly an adventure-drama which is being written by Vijayendra Prasad while the producer is K L Narayana of Durga Arts.

## Triptii Dimri Looks Stunning As She Shares Glimpse Of Her Vacation In Italy, Fans React



Triptii Dimri enjoys a huge fan following. She is currently enjoying a vacation in Italy and shared a glimpse of her social handle. She is looking stunning in the video and fans have also reacted to it. The actress will be soon seen sharing screen space with Kartik Aaryan in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Taking to her Instagram handle, Triptii shared a video in which we can see roaming around the city and enjoying the view. Many fans called her national crush. Recently, she grabbed headlines after she was seen in Ranbir Kapoor starrer Animal. The actress is fondly called National Crush. Recently, she also announced her next with Vicky Kaushal and Ammy Virk. Well, amid this Triptii was spotted with her rumoured boyfriend, Sam Merchant in the city. The lovebirds stepped out amid heavy rains, with their friends. They were spotted sharing giggles and laughter inside a car. A video shared by Filmygyan has gone viral on social media.

Earlier this month, Triptii Dimri was spotted holidaying with her rumoured boyfriend Sam Merchant at an undisclosed location. Triptii, whose intimate scenes in Ranbir Kapoor starrer Animal became the talk of the town and skyrocketed her popularity on Instagram from 888k followers to 5.1 million followers in just a few months, has been dating Sam for a while, according to multiple unconfirmed media reports. The actress took to her Instagram story and reposted Sam's story featuring a beautiful view of sunset. In her second story, Triptii also added a blue heart emoji over the photo of the sunset. The rumours about Triptii and Sam dating began when the latter shared a selfie with the actress from a wedding they were attending. While fans still believe that they could be dating, a source had told Zoom TV in December that Triptii was single. "Triptii-Sam rumour is plain hogwash. Triptii is very much single," the insider claimed. On the work front, Triptii is all set to work with Vicky Kaushal and Ammy Virk on Karan Johar's production, Bad Newz. The film will hit the theatres in July. Apart from Bad Newz, she will be seen in Kartik Aaryan's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. The film is slated for Diwali release.

# Samantha Ruth Prabhu

## Gearing Up For Her Malayalam Debut? What We Know

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has proved her mettle in the Telugu and Tamil film industries. Counted among the top actresses in the South Indian film industry, Samantha will reportedly soon widen her horizon as an artist as she plans to enter Malayalam cinema soon. Tamil director Gautham Vasudev Menon is reportedly making a Malayalam film with Mammootty. According to reports, Gautham Menon has decided to cast Samantha as the female lead in the film. Samantha and Gautham Menon had earlier collaborated in the huge blockbuster Ye Maaya Chesave, where the actress worked with her ex-husband Naga Chaitanya for the first time. It is also interesting to note that Samantha shared screen space with Mammootty earlier this year for an ad campaign for a company offering financial services. It is also reported that Nayanthara was initially roped in for the yet untitled Malayalam film with Mammootty but she left for unknown reasons and was replaced by Samantha. Samantha is said to begin the shoot on June 15 in Chennai, while Mammootty will be joining the sets on June 20. The movie will reportedly be an action thriller.



One of Samantha's peers in the Telugu film industry, Anushka Shetty is also foraying into Malayalam cinema with Kathanaar: The Wild Sorcerer, a fantasy thriller film. Krithi Shetty is also doing a Malayalam film Ajayante Randam Moshanam. Samantha most recently

appeared in Kushi opposite Vijay Deverakonda which was a moderate success at the box office. Samantha Ruth Prabhu will next appear in the Indian adaptation of Citadel alongside Varun Dhawan. Directed by Raj and DK, Citadel: Honey Bunny features a captivating narrative that combines the intense elements of a spy action thriller with the heartwarming charm of a love story, set against the vibrant backdrop of the 90s. Additionally, Samantha will star in Bangaram, where she plays a strong character. The first glimpse of this film has made a significant impression on cinephiles.

