

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

The Sikh Times National Daily

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

Kangana Ranaut shares video of PM Modi with Giorgia Meloni

Sanjay Kumar Mumbai, June 15: Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who recently won the Lok Sabha seat from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, shared the video of Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni taking a selfie with PM Modi as the two leaders met for bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G7 Outreach Summit in Apulia, Italy. Kangana, on Saturday, took to her social media to share a video, as she wrote: "One of the most endearing qualities of Modi ji is that he makes women feel that he is rooting for them and wants them to rise [followed by a heart emoji] no wonder PM Meloni thinks that Modi ji is team Meloni." In the video, Meloni can be heard saying: "Hello from the Melodi team." The video was shared by Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni on her

X handle where she is seen greeting in the video, capturing both leaders together. PM Modi travelled to Italy's Apulia region to participate in the G7 Outreach Summit earlier this week upon the invitation of the Italian Prime Minister. This was PM Modi's first overseas visit after assuming office for the third consecutive term. Also, this is not the first time Meloni shared a selfie with PM Modi. Last December, during the COP28 summit in Dubai, she shared the selfie, tagging it as 'Good friends at COP28'. PM Modi re-shared Meloni's video on his X, and wrote: "Long live India-Italy friendship!" Meanwhile, Kangana is currently spending some quality family time. The actor recently took to her Instagram stories to wish her cousin Varun on his wedding.

NEET-UG row: Fresh plea in Supreme Court seeks scrapping of exam

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 15: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 exam and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test held on May 5. The petition, filed by 20 students who had appeared for the medical entrance exam, has also sought a direction to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others to conduct the test afresh. While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024, the apex court on Friday had sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam. The fresh plea stated that in view of "rampant irregularities and fraudulent practices", re-examination would only help in short-listing deserving students to get admission in medical institutions. "Because the sanctity of the

examination is questionable in view of the confirmed cases of leakage of question paper, with respect to which FIRs have been lodged and several persons have been arrested, as per the media reports," the

plea, drawn by advocate Dheeraj Singh, said. It said the result declared by the NTA disclosed that 67 candidates have scored the maximum possible marks 720 out of 720. A closer analysis would also reveal an extraordinary significant increase of more than 400 per cent in the number of students scoring 620-720 marks, the plea stated. "The

aforsaid material irregularities are required to be investigated thoroughly by CBI or by any other independent agency or committee under the supervision of this court so as to do justice to the large number of meritorious students whose claims have been defeated by systemic failure to ensure conduct of fair examination," it said. The plea has sought a direction to a court-appointed committee or any other independent agency to conduct "post-exam analysis including academic background check, forensic analysis and investigate all such candidates who have scored 620 and above", under the supervision of the court. It has also sought directions to the NTA and others to take effective steps to ensure transparency and fairness in the examination process and to address the concerns pertaining to alleged fraudulent practices, leakage of question papers, impersonation, unfair means etc in NEET-UG in the future. The Centre and the NTA



Nitish Kumar brought shame to Bihar when he touched PM Modi's feet: Prashant Kishor

Bhagalpur, June 15: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor charged Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with having "touched the feet" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure his own continuance in power. Kishor, who has been running the 'Jan Suraa' campaign, was addressing a public meeting in Bhagalpur on Friday. "People ask me why I am now criticising Nitish Kumar, having worked with him in the past. He was a different man back then. His conscience had not been put up for sale," said Kishor, who had managed the JD (U) president's election campaign in 2015 and formally joined the party two years later. "The leader of a state is the pride of its people. But Nitish Kumar brought shame to Bihar when he touched the feet of Modi," he alleged, referring to the NDA meeting in Delhi last week. Kumar's JD (U) won 12 seats in Lok Sabha polls to emerge as the second largest ally of the BJP, which failed to get a majority on its own. "There is so much talk about Nitish Kumar playing a key role in Modi's return to power. But how is the Bihar CM leveraging his position? He is not using his clout to ensure benefits for the state. He is touching feet to ensure that he remains in power, with BJP support, even after 2025 assembly polls," Kishor said. Notably, Kishor had first shot into fame in 2014 for handling the spectacularly successful Lok Sabha poll campaign of Modi.

8 Naxalites, STF jawan killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur Narayanpur, June 15: Eight Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said. Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said. A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to Naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said. The gunfight broke out in the morning in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon — was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a senior police official in Raipur said. The operation involving the personnel of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and STF, along with the 53rd battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 135th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), was launched on June 12 in the forests of Kutul, Farsebada and Kodtameta villages, he said. The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, and it lasted for a long time, he said.

44 units of blood collected at camp held by I-T, CGST depts

Jalandhar, June 14: On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day today, the Income Tax and Central GST departments organised a blood donation camp at the Central Revenue Building in Model Town. The event brought together employees, volunteers and citizens dedicated to saving lives through blood donation. The camp saw a significant number of donors who stepped forward to contribute to this noble cause. A total of 44 units of blood were collected, making a vital contribution to the local blood bank's reserves and helping save many lives. World Blood Donor Day, observed annually on June 14, highlights the critical need for safe blood and blood products. It also serves as a platform to express gratitude to voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood. The camp was chaired by Komal Jogpal, Principal Commissioner, Income Tax-1, Jalandhar, and Kumar Gaurav, Commissioner, Central GST, Jalandhar. The camp also saw active participation from Arjun Meena, Additional Commissioner, Central GST, Jalandhar, Dharmendra Poonia, Joint Director of Income Tax, and Raman Dhamatia, Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, along with the officials and employees of Jalandhar.

Will appear before CID on June 17 for inquiry in connection with POCSO case: Yediyurappa

Navdeep Singh Sahni Bengaluru, June 15: Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, facing a POCSO charge, returned to Bengaluru on Saturday and said he will appear before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on June 17 for questioning. The former CM returned a day after the Karnataka High Court had restrained the CID from arresting him in connection with the POCSO case. It also directed the veteran BJP leader to appear before CID, which is probing the case, on June 17. Addressing reporters here, Yediyurappa said, "I had gone to Delhi for a pre-scheduled programme. I had informed in advance in writing that I will appear for an inquiry on June 17. The High Court has given an order restraining CID (from arresting). I'm appearing for an inquiry on Monday. Unnecessarily some tried to create confusion, I don't want to blame anyone, everyone knows the fact. "... people will teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies," he said. A court here on Thursday had

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. The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track

harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February two years ago, at his residence in Dollars Colony here. Yediyurappa, who has denied the charge, said he would fight the case legally. He has filed two separate petitions in the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing the FIR. The victim's mother, who had levelled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a private hospital here last month, due to lung cancer. Earlier this week, the victim's brother had moved the court alleging that though the case was registered on March 14, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed the court for a direction to the police to arrest Yediyurappa and interrogate him. After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.



Bhupinder Hooda: With fee hike, BJP wants to deprive poor of education

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Chandigarh, June 15: Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda today stated that the ruling BJP government is ruining the education system of Haryana as part of a conspiracy to deprive SC, OBC and poor people of education. Reacting to the vacant posts in educational institutions and the fee hike, Hooda said that in the name of the New Education Policy, the fee in Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) was increased five times. "The BJP wants to close the doors of the university for the children of the poor, Dalit and backward families. Therefore, students are being openly looted in the name of fee hikes. This decision should be rolled back at the earliest. The BJP is hell-bent on ruining the Congress' policy which made Haryana a hub of education," the former Chief Minister

alleged. Hooda said the entire focus of this government is on extorting money from students when the government should focus on the recruitment of

teachers. "Due to the lack of recruitment of teachers, 4,618 posts out of 7,986 sanctioned posts of professors are lying vacant in 182 government colleges of the state," he said. "Overall, about 50,000 posts are lying vacant in the Education Department, which are part of the two lakh sanctioned government posts lying vacant. The BJP government is filling the posts through contract or Skill Corporation and these posts are being abolished without permanent recruitment," he added. The Leader of Opposition said people employed through contract and Skill Corporation are being exploited by paying them low salaries with no job security. He added that transparency and reservation for poor, backward and other classes is being abolished through this process.



Agriculture and farmers' welfare government's top priority

New Delhi, June 15: Newly appointed Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said that agriculture and farmers are the top priority of the Centre as serving the farmers is an act of worship. In his inaugural press conference, Chouhan underscored the pivotal role of agriculture in India's socio-economic fabric, labelling it as the largest job-creating sector in the country. He said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was committed to the welfare of farmers and on June 18, Modi's first programme after taking over as Prime Minister for the third term is being organised in Varanasi where he will disburse the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi into the bank accounts of nearly nine crore beneficiary farmers. Chouhan revealed that his first four days in office were dedicated to comprehensive reviews of all departments under both the Agriculture and Rural Development ministries. He said he would tackle the pertinent issues affecting these sectors, outlining plans for an ambitious 100-day agenda aligned with Prime Minister's directives.

'Absolutely not, won't take those who left us': Uddhav Thackeray

Naresh Malhotra Mumbai, June 15: Maharashtra ex-chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, who faced a major political crisis in his party when the Shiv Sena split in 2022, categorically stated that the doors are closed for all his former party colleagues who left his faction and joined his rival Eknath Shinde's camp. This statement by Thackeray came after Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) performed well in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls in the state. "Absolutely not. Those who left me will not be taken back," Uddhav Thackeray said when he was asked whether he would be taking back those leaders who had left his faction. When Sharad Pawar was asked the same question, he said, "There is no question of taking them back." Responding to whether he will be accepting new leaders into his party, Uddhav Thackeray said, "We will move forward with all those people who

stayed with us, and struggled with us. If some people want to join us, we will see..." Buoyed by the Lok Sabha poll results, Uddhav Thackeray also announced that the MVA will contest the upcoming Assembly elections in the state together. "When three parties come together, it means everyone is together and everyone will fight together," he said. In response to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "vote jihad" claim at the Opposition parties, Thackeray said, "What vote jihad they are talking about? PM Modi himself said that Muslims are his friends and often come to his place for food." All people from all castes and all sections voted for us," he asserted. In a dig at the Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray questioned who would be their Chief Minister. "Who will be the

CM face of Mahayuti (BJP, Shivsena and NCP)? What face is left of them? Their condition is serious," he

narratives false? What about Modi guarantee?... Were all these false?" Continuing with his attack on PM Modi, he said, "He had to lose vote share not only due to farmers issues but other factors were involved as well." Speaking about the caste census promised by the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, who was also in the joint press conference, said, "This is necessary for our country." On the Maratha reservations issue, Pawar said, "The government should stick to the GR that it had released on this issue." Pawar also took a dig at the Prime Minister by thanking him for holding roadshows and rallies at places where his party coincidentally won. "Wherever the Prime Minister's roadshow and rally took place, we won. That is why I consider it my duty to thank the Prime Minister," he said.



10 dead as tempo traveller with 26 people falls into Alaknanda river

Chandigarh, June 15: At least ten people were killed and 13 others injured after a tempo traveller skidded off the road and fell into the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand on Saturday, said officials. A tempo traveller, with about 17 passengers on board, fell into a deep gorge near Badrinath Highway in Rudrapurayag. Locals, police and State Disaster Response Force are currently engaged in rescue operations, officials said. Garhwal Inspector General of Police KS Nagnyal said that the victims of the accident were tourists on the way to visit Chopta. Nagnyal said 26 people were in the vehicle and most of

them were residents of Delhi. Ten people died in the accident, the IG said. President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. In a post on X in Hindi, Murmu said, "The news of the death of several people in a road accident in Rudrapurayag, Uttarakhand is sad. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured." Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over the accident and directed officials to provide necessary treatment to the injured. In a post on X, the chief minister said that the local administration and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team are engaged in relief and rescue operations, and that the injured have been admitted to the nearest medical centre. Dhami added that the seriously injured are being sent to AIIMS, Rishikesh by air.



Two minors raped, 2 brutally beaten to death in Telangana

PEDDAPALLI: In a chilling incident, a migrant worker from Bihar was arrested for allegedly raping a six-year-old girl and strangulating her to death in Katnapalli village of Sultanabad mandal on Thursday night. The accused has been identified as Vinod Majji alias Raj Kumar. According to sources, the girl's parents and Vinod were working in a rice mill. As usual, they slept in a small shelter provided by the rice mill owner. Around 10.30 pm, Vinod, lifted the girl from her mother's lap and carried her to a nearby bushy area where he raped and throttled her to death. After some time, the parents noticed their daughter was missing and began searching for her along with their coworkers. They found her dead near the rice mill and alerted the police, who then arrived at the scene. Meanwhile, villagers exerted pressure on the police, staging a protest along with the parents on Friday.

They demanded that the accused be hunted down and killed in an "encounter" to ensure justice. The protesters blocked the Rajiv Rahadari (state highway) and to avoid any untoward incidents, the police deployed additional forces from nearby police stations in Kalvasirampur and Julapalli.

Women protesters alleged negligence on the part of the rice mill owner, claiming he did not provide proper shelter for the families and workers. They pointed out that this was not an isolated case, as other rice mill owners in Sultanabad, a hub with over 100 rice mills, were also negligent. "If the rice mill owner had provided proper shelter and security, this would not have happened," they lamented.

UGC biannual admission plan ambitious, implementation difficult: Experts

CHENNAI: The decision of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) to allow Indian universities to open admissions twice a year has evoked mixed reactions from the academicians in the state, with many of them expressing concerns about its smooth implementation. The academicians have said implementation will be cumbersome if adequate measures are not taken to overhaul the administrative wings in the universities.

"Majority of the universities in the state are reeling under manpower shortage and conducting admissions once a year itself is a tedious task. In such a scenario, without ensuring proper infrastructure in the universities, urging them to conduct admissions twice a year will be too much to ask for," said a faculty of Tamil Nadu Central University. He further added the central universities and many other universities follow the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) to admit students which is conducted in May. The UGC is yet to make it clear whether it will conduct CUET twice a year.

A retired professor from University of Madras Ramu Manivannan said the initiative is ambitious, but the implementation will be complex. He explained be it a state or a central university, the majority of them are grappling with shortage of faculty and administrative staff, lack of laboratories, classrooms. In such conditions handling

two batches simultaneously will definitely be difficult, he said. "To ensure smooth and transparent processing of applications, evaluation, release of rank list and enrolment of students during an admission cycle, teaching and non-teaching staff in the universities have to be on their toes for at least a month. Before bringing in a dual admission cycle, we need to bring in technological solutions to streamline the admission process," said Manivannan. He



pointed out due to staff shortage, many universities are unable to conduct semester examinations on time and eventually publication of results is delayed.

A former vice chancellor, who preferred anonymity, said the proposed system is contradictory to the Centre's plan of promoting the Indian values-based education system. "On one hand, the Centre framed National Education Policy (NEP) and they are aggressively implementing it as they were against the British form of education system. Now

they want to imitate the western universities by allowing admissions twice a year. This is just so confusing," he said. The UGC has announced that higher educational institutions can admit students in January/ February and July/ August from the next academic year. Students are happy as the new flexible system will benefit them if they miss an admission cycle. However, academicians said the new system will not help many except the students passing the supplementary examination. "Apart from benefiting a few supplementary students, the biannual admission will serve no purpose until and unless a strong infrastructure is in place in Indian universities and ecosystem developed to attract foreign students," said K Karunakaran, a faculty of Government Arts and Science College in Chennai. From benefiting a few supplementary students, the biannual admission will serve no purpose until and unless a strong infrastructure is in place in Indian universities and ecosystem developed to attract foreign students," said K Karunakaran, a faculty of Government Arts and Science College in Chennai.

G Thiruvassagam, former president of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), said the new system is students-centric, but there is a need to bring in uniformity in examinations and admissions as well. "Apart from private universities, it will be really difficult for other universities to conduct entrance tests, annual exams and placements twice a year," he added.

TN Agriculture Minister Panneerselvam announces Rs 78.67 cr kuruvai package

In a statement here, he said the Mettur dam could not be opened due to the delayed monsoon and lesser storage.

HYDERABAD: Capturing nature and preserving it for a lifetime is a unique experience. When this work gains recognition, the moments become even more memorable. One such photographer who has achieved global appreciation is Hyderabad-based Andhekar Sathish Lal, who was honoured by The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain in the Natural History genre. CE spoke to him about this prestigious award and the remarkable photos he has captured.

Sathish shares, "The award, known as ARPS (Associate — The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain), has a history spanning over 170 years and is under the patronage of the Royal Family. It is the second-highest award presented to photographers. This competition is incredibly tough, requiring participants to go through several interviews, present layouts, and submit 15 images for evaluation by a panel of six judges. They assess the photos based on technical quality, storytelling, and content. We also have to explain our choice of subjects. My subject was Olive Ridley Turtles, which are on the endangered list. I have been documenting these turtles for the past 10 years along the coast of Odisha, Ganjam. There is a season called 'Arribada,' when these turtles come in large numbers to mate and lay eggs. Climate changes and beach erosion sometimes affect their arrival."

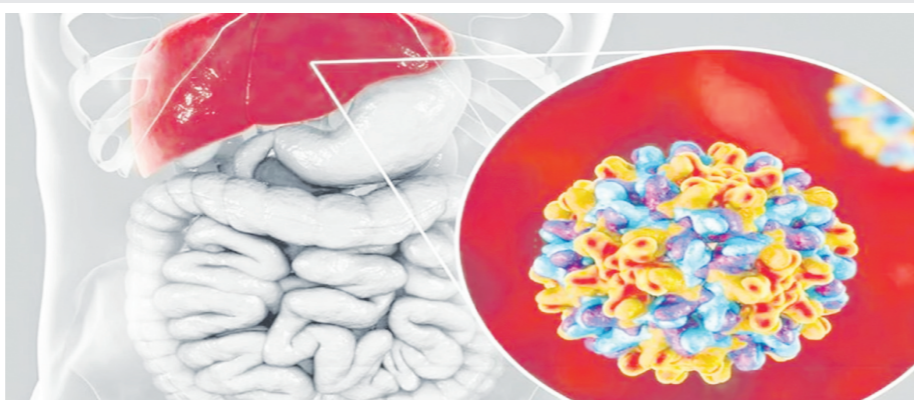
Regarding his enrollment in ARPS, he says, "Nominees come from different countries, with thousands of applicants each year. The competition has 4-5 genres, and I applied in the Natural History category."

On receiving the honour of standing second globally, he adds, "This is an international recognition, the second highest for photographers worldwide." Focusing on turtles and getting awarded for his work, Sathish recalls, "Since childhood, I have been fascinated by turtles. Our zoological park had a turtle about 150 years old. As a kid, I visited the zoo with my parents just to see it. Hearing about 'Arribada' as a photographer, where lakhs of turtles move around on the beach, captivated me. I also engage in environmental activities. Learning about the turtles' migration to one place inspired me to make it my subject. These turtles are among the largest animals being smuggled. Documenting them became a mission, not for awards, but for awareness." On his other works, he shares, "For over 13 years, I have been documenting Indian tribes, capturing around 120 tribes across 22 states."

Hospitals in Kerala grappling with hepatitis B vaccine shortage; experts cry foul

Newborns being administered vaccine at government hospitals; fraternity fears supply might dwindle

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Hospitals in the state are facing a hepatitis B vaccine shortage that could potentially place the lives of newborns at risk. Though the shortage is acute in private hospitals, some government hospitals have also been affected. Currently, newborns are administered the vaccine at government hospitals, but the medical fraternity fears this supply could also dwindle in the absence of immediate intervention. The scarcity has already affected adult vaccinations, crucial for health workers and travellers. Experts, however, believe that this is a manufactured shortage aimed at inflating vaccine prices. The hepatitis B, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) and oral polio vaccines are administered within the first 24 hours of a newborn's life. The hepatitis vaccine is primarily aimed at preventing infection from the mother to the baby. With a relatively high prevalence of hepatitis B and serious liver infections among the population, vaccination at birth is considered important. "It is an artificially created supply issue. If there is a shortage in



private hospitals, then the price at which the government procures the vaccine can also be increased. A shortage helps increase the cost of emergency purchases," a source said. He blamed the Kerala Medical Services Corporation (KMSCL) for not making enough purchases, considering the demand. "The purchase intent is prepared by calculating the number of births from the data procured through Asha workers. The government cannot handle the situation if

there is a shortage in the private sector. When there is a shortage, prices get revised across the sector," he added.

The vaccine component is manufactured for the supply of combination vaccines such as the pentavalent vaccine, which is costlier. The standalone hepatitis B vaccine has a lower margin. The vaccine costs around Rs 50-100 in private. A host of companies, including the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech, supply vaccines to government hospitals. "The

shortage of hepatitis B vaccines is a serious issue that requires the immediate attention of the government. We share the concern that the stock will completely dry up in the coming days," said Dr Purushothaman Kuzhikkathukandiyil, professor of paediatrics at Alappuram MES Medical College. Some government hospitals have already placed restrictions on adult vaccination, according to doctors. "The vaccine is not available for purchase in private. We do get people referred from the private sector. But we have put in place some restrictions as there is a concern about the stock," a government doctor said. The vaccination is key for those going abroad for studies, medical students, health workers, etc. A KMSCL official said that the shortage has not come to his notice and the standalone hepatitis B vaccine is neither part of the essential drug list nor the vaccination schedule. However, the health department started providing the standalone hepatitis B vaccination a couple of years ago considering its benefits in preventing infection among newborns.

Kerala: Elevated highway landing to be built at the end of Aroor-Kumbalam bridge

KOCHI: Ending confusion, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has finally decided to construct the landing of the state's longest elevated highway at the end of the Kumbalam bridge, on the Alappuzha side, which will facilitate motorists' travel seamlessly, avoiding the busy Aroor Junction. However, there will be just three exit ramps, leading to the service roads below, on the entire 12.75-km-long six-lane stretch. The same will come up at Aroor, near 'Our Lady of Mercy Hospital' at Chandir and Kuthiyathodu. Earlier, there were suggestions to set up the elevated highway at Aroor Junction or a little ahead near the office of a media house. "The landing will be constructed before the Aroor Junction signal, at the end of the Aroor-Kumbalam bridge.



The service roads there will have a width of 5.5 m to 7 m to facilitate two-way traffic below," said a senior NHAI official.

The motorists, though, need to pay a separate toll, in addition to the fees being levied at Kumbalam toll plaza, for travel through the

elevated highway, which is 24 m wide. "The toll plaza will come up near Moham Hospital, Eramalloor," the official added. Meanwhile, the construction works, which began in April 2023, are progressing at a fast pace. "Nearly 23 per cent of the construction

activities have been completed and we are on course to meet the deadline of January 2026," he pointed out. The construction of nearly 120 out of the total 374 pillars have been completed and the installation of pier cap beams is progressing.

'Make service roads near schools walkable' Meanwhile, Aroor panchayat president Rakhi Antony has complained to the district collector about the shabby condition of service roads that makes it difficult for students to walk to the schools. "The slush during construction is being dumped on the service roads.

This has affected students of seven out of 10 schools in the panchayat as they can't even walk to school. They should remove the slush near schools," Rakhi said.

THE SIKH TIMES

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

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

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

The injured duo was admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur.

Odisha: Road crashes claim six lives in four districts

BERHAMPUR/ANGUL: At least seven persons were killed and as many suffered injuries in different road mishaps in Ganjam, Rayagada, Kandhamal and Angul districts in the last 24 hours. In Ganjam, a 45-year-old man died and two persons were critically injured after a speeding truck rammed into a roadside tea stall in Dharakote area on Friday. The deceased, Mahendra Bisoyi of Bahadaguda village, was the owner of the tea stall. Sources said after Bisoyi opened his stall at Bahadaguda chowk in the morning, several people gathered at the shop to have tea.

All of a sudden, a truck en route to Shergarh from Aska rammed into the shop. While Bisoyi was crushed to death instantly, two of his customers suffered grievous injuries. The injured duo was admitted to MKCG Medical



College and Hospital at Berhampur. The truck driver abandoned his vehicle and fled after the mishap. In Kandhamal district, one Kailash Patnaik (60) died and three persons suffered injuries when a wooden plank-laden pickup van met with an accident at Karlenga ghat

under Baliguda forest division during the wee hours on Friday. Sources said Kailash was reportedly smuggling around 200 wooden planks in his van from Gumupadar village. While alighting the ghat road, Kailash lost control and the van fell into a ditch around 20 feet below.

Kailash was crushed to death while three labourers travelling in the van were thrown off to a distance. Locals informed Belaghar police who rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to Baliguda sub-divisional hospital. Forest officials also seized the wooden planks.

Similarly, two persons were killed and another sustained injuries after a mango-laden pickup van fell from Kanakata ghat along Ganjam-Gajapati border. Police identified the deceased as van driver Sushant Sahu (46) and Kureshu Badatya (36), both residents of

Khariaguda village. Sources said the van was en route to Berhampur when the mishap took place at Kanakata ghat. Another injured travelling in the van has been admitted to MKCG MCH, n Rayagada, two persons were killed after a truck hit them on NH-326 near Bhakurguda village within Chandili police limits. The deceased are Surendra Mahanandia (29) and Manisha Begrai (28). The duo was returning from Bissamcuttack to Rayagada town when the mishap took place. The driver and cleaner of the truck have been detained by police for questioning. In Angul, a 35-year-old woman died and another person was injured after a truck hit their motorcycle on NH-55 near Turang village within Nalco police limits on the day. The deceased is Bharati saho. Nalco IIC Pradeep Amanta said Bharati and her relative were going to Banarpal on a motorcycle in the morning. When they reached Nalco gate number 2, a truck hit their bike from behind. Bharati was killed on the spot while the injured person was rushed to hospital.

NEWS BOX

Driver of bus that crashed into condo wall & killed momo vendor arrested

Noida. Police have arrested the driver of a bus that ploughed through a row of food carts before crashing into the boundary wall of a housing society in Sector 118 on June 11. A momo vendor died while his brother was grievously injured in the incident. Additional DCP (Noida) Manish Mishra said the driver, Rohit Kumar (32), was arrested near a Sector 113 temple on Friday.

"Kumar fled the crash site and since then was changing his location frequently to evade arrest. He was booked under IPC sections 279 (rash driving), 304A (death due to negligence), 338 (causing grievous injury) and 427 (mischief causing damage)," the officer said.

Police are still ascertaining the chain of events that led to the crash. The bus, registered with Anant Tour & Travel company, was ferrying employees of an electrical appliances factory in Greater Noida's Xu-2 area and was on its way to Sorkha and Parthala villages to drop them off when the driver apparently lost control while negotiating a turn and crashed into the carts outside Shriram Apartments.

We also published the following articles recently

Bus crashes into food carts, condo wall in Noida; 1 dead, 1 injured, 10 injured. A bus, registered under Awana Tours and Travels, crashed into food carts and a housing society wall in Noida, resulting in the death of a momo vendor. The driver fled the scene, leaving behind chaos and injuries, as per DCP Vidyasagar Mishra.

Naive driver crashes SUV into couple, woman dies. A 23-year-old in Vadodra, Dhruva Kanojiya, crashed an SUV into a couple, killing a 40-year-old woman. The incident occurred in Sama, leading to the woman's death and her husband's critical injuries, who was taken to SSG Hospital. A crash: No relief for Pune teen driver, his observation home remand extended till June 25. Juvenile Justice Board extended observation home remand of 17-year-old boy, son of builder Vishal Agrawal, involved in a fatal car crash under alcohol influence that killed IT engineers in Pune until June 25.

Sugar, BP levels going up? It may be the heat, say doctors

Noida/ Ghaziabad. Prolonged heatwave is resulting in at least a 20% rise in instability of patients with existing conditions, such as diabetes, long-term conditions, and TB, doctors said. Increases in blood pressure and overall deterioration of health have been seen among several patients. Overall, OPDs at city hospitals have reported a rise of nearly 20% heat related cases since May.

Excessive increase in temperature is the underlying reason for the situation, said medical professionals. "We have seen patients with existing health conditions such as chronic illness, cancer, and diabetes coming with high blood pressure. Especially in rural areas, where there is a lack of electricity. Though every year we see existing patients suffering from the heat, this year there has been a sharp rise of at least 15-20% problems among these cases," said Santaram Verma, doctor of the medicine department at Ghaziabad's MMG hospital.

"Patients of diabetes end up in severe dehydration as diabetes itself causes polyuria (excessive urination). Patients mainly on SGLT 2, inhibitors used to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes, see frequent episodes of dehydration. High temperature & high humidity causes more blood flow to the skin. It causes the heart to beat faster while circulating twice as much blood per minute than on a normal day. It leads to raised blood pressure, especially in patients who have hypertension. Patients on medications such as diuretics, medicines that help move extra fluid and salt out of the body, have seen severe dehydration due to fluid loss," said Dr Ajay Agarwal, director of Fortis Hospital, Noida.

e further added, "Heat stroke has resulted in approximately a 20% increase in the number of such patients in OPD. Due to dehydration, cardiac patients have several issues such as tachycardia and raised BP. Increased pressures on the heart on a longer basis can result in changes of rhythm & patients might end up with arrhythmia. Any patient facing such problems should immediately consult a doctor as there would be a need to change medications that may aggravate ongoing illnesses."

"This year, the cases of heat-related illness have increased from the past. Importantly, patients with existing conditions are reporting anxiety, hypertension, and high blood pressure. A lot of patients are also skipping medicines. We can say heatwave is an underlying reason for the situation," said Sr Preeti, assistant professor of general medicine, GIMS.

MotoGP Indian co newly registered, no prior experience

Noida. The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has submitted an inquiry report to the state government, highlighting financial irregularities by Fairstreet Sports, the company that partnered with MotoGP franchisee Dorna to bring the premier racing event to India last year. The report, submitted on June 10, concludes that Fairstreet Sports is guilty of not clearing vendor liabilities. Prepared by a three-member team of senior officers, the report also points out that Fairstreet Sports is an unlisted, newly registered company with no prior experience in organising such events. MotoGP Bharat was held in September last year at Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.

overt body Invest UP and YEIDA were the prime sponsors of the event and disbursed a total payment of Rs 18 crore to Fairstreet. After the event, allegations had surfaced about the company failing to settle outstanding payments to several service providers. YEIDA was subsequently directed by Invest UP to investigate the matter. "Fairstreet Sport, an unlisted private company with an authorised share capital of Rs 10 lakh and total paid-up capital of Rs 1.27 lakh, was formed/registered on May 12, 2022. The company had a contract with Dorna, the licence holder company conducting MotoGP, to organise the event. Despite having no prior experience in organising MotoGP, Fairstreet Sport signed a contract with Invest UP to organise this event."

6 suspects held in 48 hrs after series of Noida encounters

Noida. Police nabbed six criminal suspects within 48 hours after a series of encounters in which five of them suffered gunshot injuries, according to officials. Among those held is a Delhi-based robber who has over two dozen criminal cases registered against him at various police stations in the NCR, the officials said. The first of the three encounters took place on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday during a routine police check at Sector-96 junction.

"The police signalled three individuals who were on a motorcycle to stop for inquiry. The suspects attempted to flee towards the Hajipur underpass. A chase ensued, during which the suspects fired at the police near Sikka Mall on the service road," a police spokesperson said. "In the retaliatory action by the police, two suspects, Arun (a native of Kheria Tappal, Hathras) and Gaurav (from Meet Nagar in Delhi), were shot in the legs and apprehended while the third suspect, who fled the spot, was nabbed later during a combing operation," the official said. The police recovered Rs 1 lakh cash, a motorcycle without number



plate and two illegal firearms along with some ammunition from the trio.

The second gunfight occurred late Thursday night, when Phase-1 police station personnel were conducting checks near the Gol Chakkar Chowki on the road leading to Sector-15A. "Accused Rishabh Dayal, a resident of Mayur Vihar, fired at the police but was shot in the leg in the ensuing gunfight and apprehended. His extensive criminal

history includes multiple cases of robbery, theft, and possession of illegal arms across Noida and Ghaziabad," the official said. A .315 bore country-made pistol with one live cartridge, three mobile phones were seized from his possession and his scooter impounded.

The third gunfight took place near Roza Yakubpur in Bisrakh police station area in the early hours of Friday, when during a routine check, the local police

signalled two individuals on a motorcycle to stop for inquiry. The police seized two .315 bore country-made pistols with ammunition, Rs 18,850 cash from the duo and impounded their motorcycle. PTI

We also published the following articles recently: Two police constables injured in encounter with wanted criminals in Madhubani. Two police constables were injured during a confrontation with three wanted criminals in Bihar's Madhubani district on Friday evening. 110813724

Finnish far-right extremist suspected of stabbing child: Police. A 33-year-old Finnish man with a background in far-right extremism stabbed and severely wounded a 12-year-old in Finland. The motive of the attack is under investigation, and both children were Finnish nationals of foreign background.

Delhi Police develop app to meet new criminal law requirements. Delhi Police is developing an app for Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita requirements, effective from July 1. The app aids in recording crime scenes, preserving evidence, and submitting to courts.

2 held with 2.5k banned e-cigs, 4kg cannabis

Noida. Police arrested two people on Friday for allegedly trafficking cannabis and e-cigarettes. The duo were arrested from Sector 18 while attempting to smuggle the contraband in an electric auto. A total of 2,480 e-cigarettes and 4kg of cannabis were seized from their possession, police officials said.

The accused were identified as Ravi Kumar from Gurgaon and Shahnawaz from Govindpuri, Delhi.

According to DCP (crime) Shakti Avasthy, a joint team comprising the crime response team (CRT) and officers from the Sector 20 police station intercepted the two accused near the multilevel parking located in Sector 18. "The closed body e-aucorickshaw was also impounded by the police the two suspects were arrested under charges of Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act," the DCP said, adding that the illegal goods were smuggled into Noida from Gurgaon. According to the DCP, the accused revealed during interrogation that they were provided the consignment by a third accused — Jitendra Walia, a resident of Gurugram. "The banned e-cigarettes were to be sold in retail to students in Delhi-NCR," he said.

Due to their high demand, the accused would inflate the prices and sell each of these at Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500.

The accused were produced in court on Friday and sent to judicial custody. Meanwhile, Walia is currently absconding and teams have been deployed to nab him, the officer added. We also published the following articles recently: Three held in Noida with 800

kg cannabis sourced from Odisha. Noida Police seized 800 kgs of cannabis worth Rs 4 crore, arresting three individuals. The cannabis was hidden in a truck with 2,000 liters of pesticide, intercepted at Sector 62 roundabout by the CRT and Sector 58 team. Famous handlooms you never knew were from Odisha. Odisha, known for its rich handloom traditions, showcases exceptional craftsmanship by weavers creating intricate patterns and designs reflecting the region's heritage. Sikh man brutally attacked in Kaithal district; accused arrested by police. Kaithal SP Upasana informed that Sunil and Ishu, close friends from Shergarh and Singhal villages, were arrested for brutally beating Sukhwinder, mistaking him for a Khalistani. The accused had no enmity with the victim, and their crime was captured on CCTV cameras.

Court dismisses realtor's plea seeking injunction against protesting residents

Gurgaon. A city court has dismissed a real estate company's plea seeking an injunction against residents of a condominium who had put up banners to protest construction quality and other infrastructure problems. BPTP, the developer of Park Serene, had filed a defamation case against 25 residents of the society early May, arguing that residents' protests were harming its reputation and leading to financial losses. On May 22, the developer moved a pre-trial injunction plea to stop the protests.

Residents who protested in March argued the banners were put up in public interest to bring to attention construction deficiencies at the gated society in Sector 37D. They told the court the developer was using litigation to suppress their attempt at creating public awareness.

The court of civil judge (junior division) Kimmi Singla found "no exceptional circumstances warranting an injunction" and emphasised the importance of upholding freedom of speech.

In the May 31 order dismissing the plea, the judge also referred to the Supreme Court's

ruling earlier this year in *Bloomberg Television Production Services India vs Zee Entertainment Enterprises* (2024). The top court, which was hearing an appeal on March 22, struck down a Delhi court's order directing Bloomberg to take down an article on an investigation against Zee. SC observed in its ruling that courts should weigh the effect of injunctions on constitutionally protected rights such as free speech.

Referring to the SC judgment, civil judge Singla said: "As per the said verdict, interim injunction in case of defamation suits should be granted sparingly and in exceptional cases."

The judge observed that in this case, the plaintiff is a "builder who wields immense economic power and through the present litigation, is attempting to prevent the public from knowing about or participating in important affairs that are in their interest". The order noted that most banners put up by Park Serene residents were about facilities and infrastructure provided by BPTP.

"... whether the same would constitute defamation is a matter of trial, thereby this court is of the considered view that any injunction granted in favour of the plaintiff would restrain the defendant from raising their concerns... Accordingly, the application at hand stands dismissed," it ruled. The court will take up the defamation case next on Nov 26. On Friday, Park Serene residents welcomed the court's order. The quality of construction and operations of the maintenance agency are not up to standard. Such legal cases against us are mental harassment. We are grateful to the court for recognising our right to express legitimate concerns and for defending our freedom of speech," Satyaveer Sangwan, a resident, said. Anand Sharma, RWA president of the 45-acre township, said, "The developer frequently uses the society's club for their sales and investment meetings, bringing in external visitors. We have repeatedly voiced our concerns."

Many trees chopped at erstwhile Daewoo Motors factory; forest dept catches timber truck, probes

Noida. The forest department has filed a police complaint against a private contractor and a truck driver for what it suspects is large-scale felling of trees on a sprawling compound that once housed the factory of South Korean automobile maker Daewoo Motors.

Divisional forest officer Pramod Srivastav said the factory premises in Surajpur, currently owned by Delhi-based realty firm Shakuntalam Landcraft, is closed for over a decade now. On Monday, a forest department team and police reached the site and seized a truckload of timber that was being taken out of the compound, he said. "We have submitted a complaint against the truck driver and Shakuntalam's contractor under the Tree Protection Act, 1976, Section 4/10 and Transit Law Section 3/28. We are trying to get in touch with company officials to find out if the trees were being chopped with their permission or not," Srivastav said. Upendra, a workers' union leader, said several employees of Daewoo Motors have been agitating outside the factory premises for over a decade over unpaid salary dues. "On Monday, when we went inside the factory premises to our union's office, we saw some people felling trees and packing them off in trucks. We tried to stop those trucks but some bouncers, employed by the current



owner, stopped us so we called the police and forest department. By the time they reached the site, two trucks loaded with timber had left the campus," he said. Forest officials said the factory premises has approximately 1 lakh trees, including native species like neem, peepal, and sheesham. Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad, who was also present at

the spot, said he has requested the forest department to undertake a tree census to ascertain the number of trees chopped. "An estimated 1,000 trees have been chopped off," he said. According to sources, the plot was initially allotted to DCM Toyota in 1980 and later handed over to Daewoo Motors in 1990. The plot was bought by Pan India in 2008, but lost

it in a case in 2016. The building and plant & machinery were sold as scrap in 2018. Thereafter, as many as 10 auctions of this plot failed, and then it was finally acquired by Shakuntalam Landcraft. We also published the following articles recently: Leopard in Rashtrapati Bhavan during Modi 3.0 swearing-in? This is what forest department said. PM Narendra Modi took oath for his third term at Rashtrapati Bhavan. A viral video showed a mysterious animal at the event. Mysterious animal at Rashtrapati Bhavan: This is what forest department reveals. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, a mysterious animal appeared, sparking intense speculation. The event, attended by 8,000 guests including foreign leaders and film stars, saw a video go viral showing the unidentified creature in the background.

Submit report in 2 weeks: HC on Siolim trees. The high court of Bombay has asked the state to submit the investigation papers of the first offence report in the Siolim heritage tree cutting case within two weeks, as confirmed by Advocate general Devidas Pangam, who stated that the investigation has been completed by the range forest officer.

NEWS BOX

Crews rescue 28 people trapped upside down high on Oregon amusement park ride in US

PORTLAND. Emergency crews in Oregon rescued 28 people Friday after they were stuck for about half an hour dangling upside down high on a ride at a century-old amusement park.

Portland Fire and Rescue said on the social platform X that firefighters worked with engineers at Oaks Park to manually lower the ride, but crews had been preparing to conduct a high-angle ropes rescue if necessary. All riders were being evacuated and medically evaluated, and there were no reports of injuries. One rider with a pre-existing medical condition was taken to a hospital for further evaluation as a precaution, Oaks Amusement Park said in a statement posted on social media. Medics released all other passengers. The ride, called AtmosFEAR, operates like a pendulum, with the capacity to swing riders completely upside down.

Chris Ryan and his wife, from nearby Gresham, were at the park for his birthday. He told The Associated Press in a Facebook message that they had just been planning to ride AtmosFEAR when they saw it was stuck and heard people saying, "Oh my God, they are upside down."

They decided to walk away because of "how scary the situation was," he said. They eventually got on the Ferris wheel and heard a loudspeaker announcement that the park was closed and that people should evacuate.

When the ride stopped, park staff immediately called 911 and emergency responders arrived about 25 minutes later, the park statement said. Park maintenance workers were able to return the ride to its unloading position minutes after first responders arrived. Portland Fire said about 30 people were on board. The amusement park statement said there were 28 riders. The ride has been in operation since 2021 and has not had any prior incidents, the park said. It will remain closed until further notice. The park said it would work with the ride's manufacturer and state inspectors to determine the cause of the stoppage. "We wish to express our deepest appreciation to the first responders and our staff for taking prompt action, leading to a positive outcome today, and to the rest of the park guests who swiftly followed directions to vacate the park to make way for the emergency responders to attend to the situation," it said.

Oaks Park first opened in 1905. Its website says it offers a "uniquely Portland blend of modern thrills and turn-of-the-century charm on a midway that has delighted generations of Northwesterers."

World leaders join Ukraine summit in test of Kyiv's diplomatic clout

LUCERNE. World leaders gather in Switzerland on Saturday for a summit aimed at pressuring Russia to end its war in Ukraine, but the absence of powerful allies of Moscow such as China will blunt its potential impact. Dozens of allies of Ukraine will take part in the summit, but China is staying away after Russia was frozen out of proceedings on the grounds it had dismissed the event as a waste of time and had no interest in attending. Without China, hopes of isolating Moscow have faded, while recent military reverses have put Kyiv on the back foot. The war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas has also diverted attention from Ukraine.

The talks are expected to focus on broader concerns triggered by the war, such as food and nuclear security and freedom of navigation, and a draft of the final declaration identifies Russia as the aggressor in the conflict, sources said. "The summit risks showing the limits of Ukrainian diplomacy," said Richard Gowan, UN Director at the International Crisis Group. "Nonetheless, it is also a chance for Ukraine to remind the world that it is defending the principles of the UN Charter." Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday Russia would end the war in Ukraine only if Kyiv agreed to drop its NATO ambitions and hand over the entirety of four provinces claimed by Moscow - demands Kyiv swiftly rejected as tantamount to surrender.

Putin's conditions apparently reflected Moscow's growing confidence that its forces have the upper hand in the war. Moscow casts what it calls its special military operation in Ukraine as part of a broader struggle with the West, which it says wants to bring Russia to its knees. Kyiv and the West reject this and accuse Russia of waging an illegal war of conquest.

Switzerland, which took on the summit at the behest of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, wants to pave the way for a future peace process that includes Russia. But geopolitical splits over the deadliest European conflict since World War Two have dogged the event, and Zelenskyy has even accused Beijing of helping Moscow undermine the gathering, an accusation China's foreign ministry denied.

Dutch roll' during Southwest Airlines flight causes structural damage to plane

world. A Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 Max experienced a "Dutch roll" during a flight from Phoenix to Oakland, California, on May 25, causing damage to the plane's structure, according to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The incident occurred while the aircraft was cruising at an altitude of 34,000 feet but the airlines did not report the roll or the damage to the NTSB until June 7. "Following the event, SWA performed maintenance on the airplane and discovered damage to structural components," the safety board said. The extent and severity of the damage are not yet clear but a Southwest spokesperson confirmed the airline's participation in the investigation. What is a Dutch roll? A Dutch roll is an aerodynamic phenomenon characterised by a combination of yaw and rolling motions, causing the plane to sway rhythmically. Pilots are trained to recover from Dutch rolls, and modern aircraft are equipped with yaw dampers to correct the condition by adjusting the rudder.

What structural damage did it cause to the plane? According to a preliminary report by the Federal Aviation Administration, damage was found in a unit that controls backup power to the rudder after the Southwest plane landed. The damage was described as "substantial." The NTSB has downloaded data from the Boeing 737 Max 8 to help determine the duration and severity of the incident.

South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected as President after alliance deal

The African National Congress lost its majority for the first time in an election on May 29 and spent two weeks in talks with other parties that went down to the wire on Friday morning as the new parliament was convening in Cape Town.

Cape Town,UPDATED. The African National Congress and its largest rival, the white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance, agreed on Friday to work together in South Africa's new government of national unity, a step change after 30 years of ANC rule. Once unthinkable, the accord allowed President Cyril Ramaphosa to win a second term in office. He was re-elected

by lawmakers with 283 votes. The deal between two sharply antagonistic parties is the most momentous political shift in South Africa since Nelson Mandela led the ANC to victory in the 1994 election that marked the end of apartheid. It will once again be a privilege and pleasure to serve this great nation ... (as) president," the 71-year-old leader said in a speech to parliament, describing the coming government as an era of hope and inclusivity. "That a number of parties that had opposed each other... have decided to work together to deliver this result has given a new birth, a new era to our country," he said. The ANC lost its majority for the first time in an election on May 29 and spent two weeks in talks with other parties that went down to the wire on Friday morning as the new parliament was convening in Cape Town.

"Today is a historic day for our country," DA leader John Steenhuisen said.

"And I think it is the start of a new chapter ... of us putting our country, ... its interests and its future first." The National Assembly had earlier elected a DA



lawmaker as deputy speaker, after choosing an ANC politician as speaker - the first concrete instance of power sharing between the two parties.

long seen as unbeatable in national elections, the ANC lost support in recent years as voters wearied of persistently high levels of poverty, inequality and crime, rolling power cuts and corruption in party ranks.

The DA's entry into national government is a watershed moment for a country still processing the legacy of the racist colonial and apartheid regimes.

The party wants to scrap some of the ANC's Black empowerment programmes, saying they have not worked and have

mostly benefited a politically-connected elite. It says good governance and a strong economy would benefit all South Africans. For that reason, some ANC politicians have expressed hostility to the presence of the DA in the government. The hard-left Economic Freedom Fighters, which captured nearly 10% of the vote, meanwhile accused it of representing the interests of the privileged white minority - a charge the DA strongly disputes. "We do not agree to this marriage of convenience to consolidate the white monopoly power over the economy and the means of production," EFF leader Julius Malema said in a speech in parliament after Ramaphosa's election. We refuse to sell out.

Others took a less dismal view of the new racial dynamics. "The ANC was also failing. They need a partner so they can rise again. DA is mostly white people so if they came together we can have more power and maybe a lot can change, even jobs could be created," Bongani Msibi, 38, a street vendor in Soweto.

Family of 6, including 3 children, shot dead at home in south Mexico

This incident is a latest in a string of mass killings in Mexico. Two warring militia groups, likely backed by drug cartels, are battling for control of the town. Chiapas and Guanajuato, both hit by bloody gang turf battles, border Guatemala.

A family of six, including three children, were killed Friday by gunmen in the southern Mexico border state of Chiapas in a town marred by militia violence. Julio Pérez, the mayor of the Chiapas town of Pantelho, said the killings happened there Friday, and called it "a massacre." Two warring militia groups suspected of being backed by drug cartels have been battling for control of the town.

It was the latest in a string of mass killings in which hitmen have wiped out entire families in Mexico. On Sunday, gunmen burst into a home in the north-central state of Guanajuato and killed four women and two



children. Both Chiapas, which shares a border with Guatemala, and Guanajuato have been hit by bloody gang turf battles in recent years.

Local media reported that the gunmen entered the home in the city of Leon in Guanajuato looking for a male member of the family. When they found out he had already fled, they killed the women and children. The Guanajuato killings have drawn special attention because surveillance camera footage showed

five National Guard officers entering the home five minutes before the killings took place. They left the home carrying a large black plastic bag just before the killers arrived. On Friday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said five officers of the quasi-military National Guard had been detained for breaches of military discipline, and were in the custody of the Defense Department, but he refused to give more details on the case.

New China rules allow detention of foreigners in South China Sea

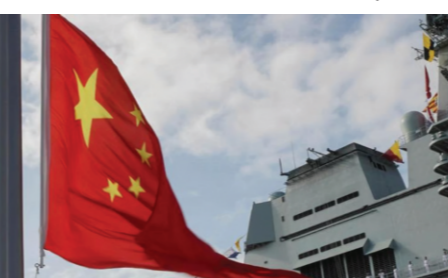
SHANGHAI. New Chinese coast guard rules took effect Saturday, under which it can detain foreigners for trespassing in the disputed South China Sea, where neighbours and the G7 have accused Beijing of intimidation and coercion.

Beijing claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis. China deploys coast guard and other boats to patrol the waters and has turned several reefs into militarised artificial islands. Chinese and Philippine vessels have had a series of confrontations in disputed areas. From Saturday, China's coast guard can detain foreigners "suspected of violating management of border entry and exit", according to the new regulations published online.

Detention is allowed up to 60 days in "complicated cases", they say.

"Foreign ships that have illegally entered China's territorial waters and the

adjacent waters may be detained." Manila has accused the Chinese coast guard of "barbaric and inhumane behaviour" against Philippine vessels, and President Ferdinand Marcos said last month called the new rules a "very



worrisome" escalation. China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannon against Philippine boats multiple times in the contested waters. There have also been collisions that injured Filipino troops. Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner told reporters on Friday that authorities in Manila were "discussing a number of steps to be undertaken in order for us to protect

our fishermen." Philippine fishermen were told "not to be afraid, but just to go ahead with their normal activities to fish there in our Exclusive Economic Zone", Brawner said. The Group of Seven bloc on Friday criticised what it called "dangerous" incursions by China in the waterway. We oppose China's militarisation, and coercive and intimidation activities in the South China Sea," read a G7 statement at the end of a summit on Friday.

G7 criticism

The South China Sea is a vital waterway, where Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also have overlapping claims in some parts. Most recently, however, confrontations between China and the Philippines have raised fears of a wider conflict over the sea that could involve the United States and other allies. Trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes through the South China Sea annually, and huge unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under its seabed, though estimates vary greatly.

PM meets Zelenskyy at G7, assures support for peaceful solution to Ukraine conflict

Bari,UPDATED. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conveyed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a meeting that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution to the Ukraine conflict and that the way to peace is through "dialogue and diplomacy".

The upcoming Swiss peace conference for Ukraine also figured in the Modi-Zelenskyy talks held on the margins of the G7 summit in Italy's Apulia and the Ukrainian president thanked the prime minister for sending a high-level delegation to the conclave over the weekend in Switzerland. During the meeting, Modi told Zelenskyy that India believes in a "human-centric" approach to find a solution to the conflict in Ukraine. "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. In a post on X, the Ukrainian president said he and Modi talked about the Peace Summit and issues on its agenda and that he thanked the Indian prime minister for sending a high-level delegation to it.

Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the

Ministry of External Affairs will lead the Indian delegation at the Peace Summit, officials said. Modi described the meeting with the Ukrainian president as "very productive" and said India is eager to "further cement" bilateral relations with Ukraine.

"Had a very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine," Modi said on X.

"Regarding the ongoing hostilities, reiterated that India believes in a human-centric approach and believes that the way to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy," he said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi and Zelenskyy exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine and the upcoming Peace Summit in Switzerland. "The prime minister conveyed that India continues to encourage peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, and reiterated that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution," it said.

It said Modi thanked President Zelenskyy for his warm wishes on his assuming office for the third term. "We discussed the development of bilateral relations and trade, in particular in the context of the

Black Sea export corridor functioning," Zelenskyy said on X. "We explored the possibility of exchanging experience in the use of new technologies in agriculture," he said.

"We also talked about the Global Peace Summit and issues on its agenda. I thank Prime Minister Modi for sending a high-level delegation to the Summit," the Ukrainian president said. Switzerland is hosting several global leaders on June 15 and 16 in an attempt to chart a roadmap for bringing peace to Ukraine. The Indian delegation at the summit is expected to be headed by a senior diplomat. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal the two leaders reviewed bilateral relationship and exchanged views on situation in Ukraine. In a post on X, the Ukrainian president said he and Modi talked about the Peace Summit and issues on its agenda and that he thanked the Indian prime minister for sending a high-level delegation to it. Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs will lead the Indian delegation at the Peace Summit, officials said. Modi described the meeting with the Ukrainian president as "very productive" and said India is eager to "further cement" bilateral relations with Ukraine. "Had a

very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine," Modi said on X.

"Regarding the ongoing hostilities, reiterated that India believes in a human-centric approach and believes that the way to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy," he said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi and Zelenskyy exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine and the upcoming Peace Summit in Switzerland. "The prime minister conveyed that India continues to encourage peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, and reiterated that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution," it said. It said Modi thanked President Zelenskyy for his warm wishes on his assuming office for the third term. "We discussed the development of bilateral relations and trade, in particular in the context of the Black Sea export corridor functioning," Zelenskyy said on X. "We explored the possibility of exchanging experience in the use of new technologies in agriculture," he said. "We also talked about the Global Peace Summit and issues on its agenda."

Hyderabad police caution people against cash transfer fraud

HYDERABAD: Jubilee Hills police recently nabbed one Narra Sandeep Kumar for deceiving individuals by promising to transfer cash. The modus operandi adopted by Sandeep Kumar was new, but effective, police said. The fraudster, a resident of Santhosh Nagar, Saidabad, reportedly approached unsuspecting victims at the SBI ATM on Road No. 45. Stating that he needed to deposit money, he convinced his victims to hand over cash. Sandeep Kumar then employed a sophisticated trick: Using a fake Paytm app, he sent messages to victims, making it appear as though he had transferred the money they had given in cash to him, to their accounts. Convinced by fake transaction notifications, the victims went on their way. Raju, one of the duped individuals, lost Rs 35,000, while another victim, Srinu, was conned out of Rs 12,000. The victims realised they had been swindled when the promised transfers were never reflected in their accounts. They lodged complaints with the local police, who launched an investigation into the matter. The diligence of the police paid off when they found Sandeep Kumar conducting reconnaissance in another area, possibly targeting his next victim. Following his arrest, Sandeep Kumar was charged with fraud under relevant Sections of the law. He was arrested and sent to judicial remand. The police warned the public to be vigilant and verify any financial transactions, especially when dealing with unknown individuals, to avoid falling prey to similar scams.

Leopard that strayed into TN school caught in overnight operation

TIRUPATHUR: A leopard that strayed into a school campus here on June 14, triggering panic among locals, and later traumatised five occupants of two cars after it entered a car shed, was finally caught in an overnight operation, a senior forest official said on Saturday. A team of forest department comprising veterinarians, who arrived from Hosur, tranquilised the big cat which was found under a car, in the wee hours on Saturday. We have successfully caught the straying leopard and also rescued the five people stranded in their car the official said. It was very terrifying spending 6-7 hours inside the car. "We were apprehensive that the animal might attack us if we stepped out," said Asgar Khan, among the five rescued by the forest and police officials. Khan, along with his brother and a friend had parked his car when the watchman at the shed warned him that a leopard had entered the car shed. Immediately we locked the gate at the entrance of the shed so that the animal did not escape and locked ourselves in a car, he told reporters. "The watchman who was attacked by the leopard was taken inside another car by a driver and the duo too remained fastened in the car," Khan said. Throughout the tense moments inside the car, Tirupathur district collector K Tharparaj, accompanied by Superintendent of Police Albert John and forest department officials, assured the five persons that help was around and urged them to remain safe

inside their vehicles. "We were constantly in touch on WhatsApp video calls with the officials. They dropped a ladder from the roof and encouraged us to come out of the shed," he said. Initially, they were hesitant to step out as they were apprehensive that the big cat might attack them. But after the officials reassured them, they came out of their vehicles, climbed the ladder and made good to safety. I saw the leopard's eyes gleam, as I climbed the ladder and I thought that it might pounce on me. But I escaped to safety," Khan, who appeared

and captured it. According to the official, a parent who had come to the school to pick up his child noticed the leopard on the campus of the school located near the collectorate at about 4 pm and he immediately informed the authorities. Police and forest department personnel rushed to the school and ensured the children returned home safely. "Initially, it was planned to catch the animal with the help of nets but this was dropped after the leopard was noticed under a thicket on the campus. The forest department team is closely monitoring its movement and has decided to tranquilise it," he added. Tirupathur district collector K Tharparaj, accompanied by Superintendent of Police Albert John and forest department staff rushed to the school and coordinated the operation and ensured the safety of the people. A man who was injured in the attack by the leopard has been admitted to a hospital for treatment. As frantic efforts were made to catch the animal, the leopard fled and took shelter in a car parking lot located close to the school. There were eight cars parked in the shed. Three people were stranded in a car and two others in another car. They could not step out for nearly eight hours fearing that the animal would attack them. Three teams from the department with Vets and experts tranquilised the leopard and safely released him in a forest area, said Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Supriya Sahu.



perturbed over the strange company of the leopard, said. Three teams from the forest department comprising 50 personnel besides senior officials and police cordoned off the car shed, located about two km from a private school campus where the big cat made its first appearance. The team spread rope nets around the shed after confirming the presence of the animal, to prevent it from escaping. A team of veterinarians who arrived from Hosur shot tranquiliser at the leopard early today

Veggie prices soar due to dip in supply, rise in transport cost

TIRUCHY: The prices of vegetables like beans, drumstick, potato, tomato, shallots, ginger, carrot and broad beans have shot up by at least 15-40 per cent in the last two weeks in the district, due to adverse weather conditions, dip in supply and rise in transportation costs. Prices of some vegetables, except brinjal, have almost doubled in retail markets. For example, beans which retailed at Rs 60 per kg a month ago now sells at Rs 140-Rs 150 per kg. In wholesale markets, like Gandhi Market, the green vegetable sells at Rs 120 per kg. Similarly, carrots are priced at Rs 60-Rs 70 per kg in the wholesale market but are selling at Rs 80 per kg in retail outlets. The prices of other vegetables like drumsticks, shallots, broad beans, beetroot, ginger and coriander leaves have hit triple digits. "Heavy rain has affected vegetable production and arrivals at Gandhi Market has come down drastically. On average, the market receives 150 trucks of vegetables every day. This has dwindled by 20-30%," AMP Abdul Hakkim, president, Tiruchy



Gandhi Market Anaithu Vyabarigal Pothu Nala Sangam, told TNIE. Transport charges and wastage have also increased the cost of some vegetables, especially in retail shops. "Usually price of vegetables sees an uptick in summer as demand rises but supply remains stagnant. Whether the vehicle comes with 10 or 100 sacks of vegetables, the transport cost remains the same. This results in increase in price of some vegetables in retail stores," said Tiruchy Gandhi Market Retail Traders Association president MK Jaishankar. "Many vegetables do not look fresh when they arrive. Wastage is high, resulting in price rise," he added. "I came to the market to buy vegetables for at least a week on Fridays. But due to high prices, I could not buy vegetables for even three days. Vegetable prices are higher this week than previous two weeks," said G Sumathi, a resident of ARK Nagar. When contacted, an official from Tiruchy horticulture department told TNIE, "Vegetable prices have been on the rise for the past two weeks due to short supply and adverse weather conditions. Now the price is getting normal. Vegetable prices are 10 per cent lower in Uzharav Santhai compared to Gandhi Market."

Student migration from Kerala nearly doubled to 2.5 lakh in five years

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Student migration from Kerala has nearly doubled in five years, from 1.29 lakh in 2018 to 2.50 lakh in 2023, showed the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023 released by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. The KMS 2023 put the total number of emigrants from Kerala at 2.2 million. This was 2.1 million in the KMS 2018. Nine districts witnessed a considerable decline in the number of people moving abroad compared to 2018, indicating that international migration has reached saturation. A further decline was reversed by the significant rise in student migration. The number of student migrants rose from 1,29,763 in 2018 to about 2,50,000 in 2023. Underlining a significant shift in emigration demographics, the report said there was an increase in the number of people leaving at a very young age, as early as 17 years. Students constituted 11.3% of total emigrants, indicating that a growing number of younger individuals are choosing to migrate, particularly for educational opportunities, the survey said. Rs 2.16L crore inward remittances recorded in 2023, shows survey according to KMS 2023, inward remittances to the state came in at Rs 2,16,893 crores in 2023, a 154.9% increase from Rs 85,092 crores in 2018. Average annual remittance per emigrant household rose to Rs 2,23,729 from Rs 96,185. In 2023, Kollam surpassed Malappuram in terms of household remittances. It received 17.8% of the share compared with Malappuram's 16.2%. For the first time, the KMS 2023 estimated an outward remittance of Rs 43,378 crore which is about 20% of the inward remittance. Two out of five households in the state had non-resident Keralites, the report said. The global Malayali diaspora is estimated to be 5 million strong. Nearly 3,77,647 emigrants were from Malappuram. State wide, Muslims accounted for 41.9% of emigrants, followed by the Hindus (35.2%) and Christians (2.3%). Much of the emigration was to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries with UAE the preferred destination. Still, the number of those moving to GCC countries dipped from 89.2% in 2018 to 80.5% in 2023. A significant rise was recorded in emigration to non-GCC countries, from 10.8% in 2018 to 19.5%. This was attributed to the student migrants' preference for non-GCC countries. The proportion of female expatriates increased from 15.8% in 2018 to 19.1% in 2023. Female migration has further seen a shift from GCC countries to Europe and other Western nations as destination countries, accounting for 40.5%.

14 perish to sunstroke in Sundargarh over three weeks

ROURKELA: As the prolonged heat wave continues across Rourkela and rest of Sundargarh district, at least 46 persons have reportedly fallen to suspected heatstroke over the past three weeks. On Friday, the environment engineering department of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) logged the maximum temperature at 41.3 degree Celsius and minimum at 29.9 degree C with atmospheric humidity reading 64 per cent. The automatic weather station of the IMD at Sundargarh district headquarter town, about 100 km from Rourkela, recorded the maximum and minimum temperature at 41.6 degree and 26.3 degree C on the day. While the scorching heat has crippled daily life, there was no respite as the hot and humid conditions continue to heap miseries even on people who stayed indoors. The district emergency office (DEO) said it has received allegations of 46 heatstroke deaths from across Sundargarh over the past three weeks. It confirmed that 14 deaths have been confirmed to have been caused by heat-related illness (HRI) after autopsy while eight casualties were attributed to other reasons. Viscera of 18 bodies were sent for further scientific examination after autopsy was inconclusive to ascertain the exact reasons for deaths. Postmortem reports of four deceased were pending and families of two suspected heatstroke victims cremated the bodies without going for autopsy, sources added. The menacing face of heatwave came to fore on May 30 when in less than seven hours, the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) recorded death of 10 persons suffering from HRI. Over the next 48 hours, the death toll from suspected heatstroke rose to 20 with fresh casualties from the RGH along with Hi-Tech Medical College & Hospital (HTMCH) and JP Hospital.

Remunerate people who are ready to collect, hand over waste, suggests Kerala HC

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court on Friday suggested the local self-government department (LSGD) initiate a pilot project under which people collecting and handing over plastic waste are given remuneration. The suggestion was made by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas and Justice Gopinath P while considering a suo motu case into waste management in the state particularly in Kochi following the fire at Brahmapuram waste treatment plant last year. As part of the hearing, LSGD additional chief secretary Sarada Muraleedharan and Kochi Corporation secretary Chelsasini V were present online and offline, respectively. The court observed that while travelling across the state, it is commonly seen that plastic bottles and waste are

littered everywhere. Similarly, during the recent flooding in Kochi, plastic was seen floating in water bodies. While discussing the issue, the court suggested LSGD consider a pilot project whereby people can hand over

and handed over to private agencies. The agencies later segregate plastic waste and sell it to plastic recyclers. Instead, if segregation takes place at the house itself, civic bodies can find revenue from it. At the start of the hearing, the government pleader submitted that as per the High Court's direction, topics of waste management and cleanliness have been added to the educational curriculum. To this, the court observed that teachers should be first sensitised about the issue. The court also went through data submitted by LSGD regarding plastic collection booths installed in various districts of the state. The court observed that Malappuram and Kannur did well by installing a large number of booths.



plastic waste for which they get paid. Sarada Muraleedharan welcomed the suggestion and submitted that such an initiative would help reduce the plastic waste issue to a large extent. She submitted that currently, unsegregated waste is collected

Jagatsinghpur: Fewer donors, heatwave hit blood bank reserves

JAGATSINGHPUR: An acute shortage of blood has hit Jagatsinghpur district forcing people to travel to Cuttack in search of treatment during critical procedures. The blood bank at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) is facing a crisis of sorts as patients are being redirected to other places. Its monthly requirement stands at 250 units, amounting to nearly 2,500 units annually. However, there is a shortage at the blood bank. A pregnant woman who was advised c-section at the DHH had to be referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack due to blood shortage. Her family eventually chose to admit her to a private hospital, sources said. Several factors have contributed to the

crisis, including the long stint of the general election, heatwave and non-availability of air-conditioned (AC) mobile vehicles for transporting blood from donation camps to the DHH bank. A major hurdle is regular donors such as college students are unavailable since educational institutions are closed for summer vacation. Besides, the prolonged hot conditions have prevented donors to travel to blood donation camps whose number dropped due to the election process. Many youths alleged that political leaders and influential persons organise donation camps for their

vested interests which is why they have stayed away from such camps. The absence of AC mobile vehicles has also hindered the department's efforts to

shortage. Health experts and doctors suggest the Health department should focus on conducting more blood donation camps in rural areas, accompanied by awareness programmes as these areas have healthier and fitter donors. Medical superintendent of Jagatsinghpur DHH Saroj Kumar Jena acknowledged the situation, citing heatwave as the reason no blood donation camps could be conducted since February. The lack of AC mobile vehicles has also impacted blood transportation. Steps are being taken to conduct blood donation camps in rural areas to address the situation, he added.



collect blood from donation camps as there is no proper means to transport to the DHH. Additionally, people from remote areas are reluctant to travel to the DHH blood bank due to distance and travel expenses, exacerbating the

Hyderabad water board unveils monsoon action plan

HYDERABAD: In preparation for emergencies during the ongoing monsoon, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has rolled out a "Monsoon Action Plan 2024". Water Board managing director C Sudharshan Reddy told reporters on Friday. He disclosed that the HMWSSB's Command Control Room is now operational 24x7, with staff working in three shifts to address sewerage complaints and monitor rain-related situations. Citizens can reach the customer care centre

at 155313 for assistance. Additionally, HMWSSB authorities will work in coordination with the GHMC control room to monitor rainfall and relay information to ensure public safety. Meanwhile, the "Dial UR MD, HMWSSB" programme is set to resume on June 15. The programme allows customers to voice their concerns directly to the managing director between 4 pm and 5:30 pm. Customers can use their "CAN" numbers to call 040-23442881, 23442882, or 23442883. To mitigate inconvenience, the

HMWSSB is collaborating with GHMC and the Police department. Three HMWSSB staff members will be assigned to monitor rain situations and address grievances promptly. Sixteen Emergency Response Teams (ERT), each comprising five members, are deployed across various divisions to work continuously in three shifts. The board has equipped all O&M Divisions with 225 additional mini airtech cleaning machines and large suction cum jetting machines. These will operate extra hours,

including night shifts, particularly in 125 identified hotspots. Regular inspections of water-logging points will be conducted by senior officials, with close monitoring of contaminated water complaints for swift resolution. **Water levels at projects** Regarding water levels, the Godavari (Yellampalli) is currently at 139.49 metres, holding 4.5 tmcft of water. If levels drop to 138.30 metres (3.7 tmcft), emergency pumping will commence next week using three installed pump motors. Trial runs are

already in progress. The Krishna water level stands at 504 metres, with water being pumped via emergency motors. The HMWSSB has identified approximately 38,000 families reliant on water tankers. Inspections revealed that 18,000 of these households lack rain water harvesting structures. Residents are advised to construct RWHS pits, with technical support available from the Water Board. Failure to comply will result in the cessation of water tanker deliveries.

The PM has his work cut out

THE Modi 2.0 government adopted a no-holds-barred stand against individuals who were perceived to be a security threat. The new government led by Narendra Modi may have to revisit this policy in the light of the victory of some separatists in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The election of imprisoned Khalistani activist Amritpal Singh from Khadoor Sahib and Indira Gandhi assassin Beant Singh's son Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa from Faridkot should make the government sit up and take notice. The Surjit Singh Barnala-led Akali government, which worked in close association with the ruling Congress at the Centre in the 1980s, had got the Sikh masses to reject Khalistan. In the early 1990s, Jat Sikh farmers assisted the government in curbing terrorism. Without their active help, terrorism could not have been wiped out.

The allegations made by Canada regarding the murder of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the US claim about an India-sponsored plot to eliminate Gurbachan Singh Pannun, a US national spearheading the Khalistan demand in the West, must have influenced the people who voted in favour of Amritpal and Sarabjeet.

So, in a manner of speaking, the Modi-Shah policy of stern action against anti-nationals may become the trigger for a recurrence of the troubles Punjab faced in the 1980s. Policymakers should keep such factors in mind before taking hard decisions.

The defeat of moderate leaders like Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in Kashmir and the victory of a hardliner like Engineer Rashid are signs that the Modi-Shah duo needs to ponder over. The swift and decisive action they took in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir to abrogate Article 370 had the approbation of the BJP's core supporters in the Hindi heartland and even beyond, but the fallout is becoming alarmingly clear in the aftermath of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Muslim voters of Kashmir are turning away from their own mainstream political parties and opting for the more defiant opponents of the Modi regime. This is another cause for concern.

The election of two Khalistani Sikhs and a radical Kashmiri Muslim to the Lok Sabha underlines the need to consult sage and moderate voices like Gurbachan Jagat and Amarjit Singh Dulat, the latter for dealing with Kashmiri malcontents. Should the elected MPs be allowed to enter and speak in Parliament and vent their feelings instead of silently inciting their co-religionists against the Indian state? Whatever steps the government had taken or planned against these rabble-rousers have not worked. Their respective communities have to be won over to our side.

Parakala Prabhakar is a thinker who describes matters in befitting words. He doubts if Modi can be convinced to adopt softer policies. Prabhakar reminds us that a wolf that wears sheep's clothing will continue to be a wolf. In the constitution of his Cabinet and distribution of portfolios, Modi has already shown that he is the sole decision-maker. He continues to rule in the same manner as before. Modi should be told that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is only creating more terrorists by killing Hamas fighters and bombing hospitals and civilian localities in Gaza. We had that experience in Punjab during our struggle with Khalistani terrorists. Listing and then eliminating culprits only resulted in their replacement, sometimes by two men for the one lost. The only way to end terrorism is to deprive the terrorists of the oxygen that is provided by their own co-religionists in the shape of logistical support or even tacit approval of their madness. It is only when the community is won over that you can hope for closure. The experience of the police in Northern Ireland was exactly the same as ours in Punjab. Of course, the figures of civilians and security personnel killed in the war against terrorists were five times larger in Punjab. When I pointed this out to the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, he, in turn, was kind enough to point out to me that Punjab's population was five times that of Northern Ireland. If the entry of three anti-government MPs into the Lok Sabha is a matter of concern, the re-election of Mahua Moitra from West Bengal will ensure that the proceedings in Parliament will be lively. Smriti Irani will not be around, but Kangana Ranaut could be her replacement. If Mahua and Kangana get into a verbal duel in Parliament, I would hate to miss it.

Spate of terror attacks unlikely to derail electoral process in J&K

The BJP's success in fostering alternative politics is something that the Congress could not achieve, highlighting a fundamental shift in the region's political dynamics.

THE fresh spate of terror attacks in the Jammu region marks a concerning trend. Historically, such attacks were primarily concentrated in the Kashmir valley. This shift to the Jammu side of Pir Panjal suggests a strategic change in tactics. The terror strikes in Reasi, Doda and Kathua appear calculated to send out a political message and create chaos. Their timing, coinciding with the installation of the new government at the Centre, is aimed at undermining the government's narrative of achieving stability and normalcy in the region. The intention seems to be to disrupt the democratic process, as the Election Commission of India has begun the process of allotting symbols to parties and preparing for the Assembly elections. While such actions are meant to foster fear and uncertainty, the fact is that the recent Lok Sabha elections did not witness violence in J&K and saw the highest turnout in 35 years at 58.46 per cent.

The 2024 General Election in J&K was historic as it marked the first major electoral process in the region since August 2019, when the Government of India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted J&K special status. The elections were historic for two reasons. One, the most notable outcome was the dismantling of the longstanding perception that participating in polls was an act of betrayal, often referred to as 'gaddari'. This stigma had long discouraged many from voting, as they feared social ostracism or being labelled as traitors to the so-called cause of Kashmiri autonomy. This shift reflects a growing acceptance of democratic norms and a desire for political engagement among the populace. Two, the participation of young voters was another critical aspect of this election. For the first time in many years, there was a substantial turnout of young people.

This election was also historic because it managed to satisfy diverse political aspirations in one way or another. Despite being relatively new to the political scene in Kashmir, the BJP managed to make inroads. The party's success lies in its ability to challenge the entrenched political dominance of two prominent families — the Abdullahs and the Muftis. Although the perceived BJP proxies — Sajad Ghani Lone and Altaf Bukhari — did not win, the mere fact that the traditional political strongholds were shaken is a significant achievement for the saffron party. One of the most profound impacts of this election is the emergence of alternative politics in

politics. Rashid is a two-time former MLA from north Kashmir's Langate Assembly segment. In his earlier avatar, he was considered a close confidante of slain Hurriyat leader and People's Conference founder Abdul Ghani Lone, Sajad's father. Rashid broke away and made a significant impact by winning the 2008 and 2014 Assembly elections. Rashid's victory dismantled the political legacy that Sajad and his father had established since 1967. His release from jail could further enhance the BJP's position by fostering alternative political voices.



Rashid's release, provided that he is able to counter the charges against him, will be a critical moment in Kashmir's political evolution. It could signify the end of

the dominance of traditional political parties, particularly the National Conference (NC). Rashid's ideology, often considered a deviation from the mainstream, could be re-evaluated in a more pragmatic light, given the evolving political dynamics in the Valley. The political scenario in Kashmir has evolved significantly over the past five years. The fact that even the Jamaat-e-Islami — traditionally seen as a separatist organisation — had expressed its willingness to contest elections underscores the changing dynamics in the Valley. Rashid, along with many others, appears willing to work within a transformed environment, acknowledging the evolving political realities and the necessity for a more inclusive and democratic approach.

The possibility of the government considering Rashid's release stems from the failure of the BJP's perceived proxies to create a substantial alternative. Rashid's release could further bolster the BJP's efforts to establish a new political paradigm in the Valley.

The election also brought to light a significant shift in public sentiment towards the right to vote. For several years, Kashmiris were deprived of this fundamental right. The boycott of elections in the past only served to reinforce the dominance of traditional political parties. This time, however, the high turnout demonstrated a collective determination to reclaim democratic rights and participate in the electoral process. Whether the BJP, the NC or the People's Democratic Party won or lost, the true winner of this election was democracy. This poll was a testament to the people's desire for change and a better future.

The BJP's success in fostering alternative politics is something that the Congress could never achieve, highlighting a fundamental shift in the region's political landscape. As the UT looks forward to the Assembly polls, the General Election has not only restored the democratic process but also laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and representative political environment in Kashmir. The terror attacks in the Jammu region are intended to delay the elections and create a sense of unrest. However, such attempts are unlikely to succeed, given the clear signal that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fully committed to democracy.

Kuwait tragedy

Workers' wellbeing should be Delhi's priority

THE death of 49 people, mostly Indians, in a fire that engulfed a building housing foreign workers in Mangaf, Kuwait, has turned the spotlight on the conditions under which these employees live and work not only in this Gulf nation but the region as a whole. Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, who visited the site, has blamed the greed of real-estate owners for such incidents, even as an investigation has been launched to pinpoint the lapses and fix accountability. India's immediate focus is on the identification of the bodies and bringing back the mortal remains of the victims, besides granting ex gratia relief to the families of the deceased. At the same time, New Delhi needs to be actively involved in the probe to ensure that those responsible for the tragedy are dealt with strictly.

Those under scrutiny include the companies that hire foreign workers and the realtors who provide accommodation, besides travel agents who facilitate recruitment. According to reports, India's embassy in



Kuwait received over 16,000 complaints from Indian citizens working there between March 2021 and

December 2023. Most of them pertained to delays in the payment of salaries, below-par accommodation and harassment by employers. Alarmingly, over 1,400 Indians, mostly migrant workers, died in Kuwait in 2022 and 2023, according to information shared by the Ministry of External Affairs in Parliament earlier this year. All this suggests that the Indian authorities have been lax in addressing the workers' concerns.

India is the world leader in terms of remittance receipts, with a total of \$125 billion being sent by Indians living across the globe to their families back home last year. Gulf Cooperation Council countries are among the biggest sources of India's remittance inflow. New Delhi must press these nations to crack down on unscrupulous employers who compromise the safety and wellbeing of

workers.

Draw lessons from Kuwait blaze to protect workers

It is wrong to assume that labour-exporting countries cannot work together as they are competing with each other.

A building with about 200 foreign workers, mainly from India — with Kerala and Tamil Nadu accounting for the majority — caught fire in the early hours of June 12 in Kuwait. According to a report from Kuwait, the fire broke out around 3.15 am. As the building lacked arrangements for fire-fighting, including a fire alarm, the blaze spread and some residents even tried to jump from the building. At least one person died in such a fatal jump. The fire was reportedly caused by a cooking gas cylinder that was being used by a security guard. The fire department was alerted at 4.30 am and fire extinguishers were promptly sent. The Kuwaiti Home Ministry got a report of the fire by 6 am. The Kuwait Government has expressed condolences over the loss of 49 lives. Some senior officials of the municipality have been suspended for failing to ensure adherence to safety norms for buildings. While we spontaneously think of the plight of the bereaved families and of the injured, we should apply our minds to the lessons to be learnt and the measures required to prevent recurrence of such a tragedy. Let me share a few thoughts based on my professional association with the West Asian region starting from 1976, when I went to Teheran. Our embassies need a better set-up to look after the nine million of our compatriots there. Kuwait has around one million Indians, accounting for 30 per cent of the expatriate population and about 21 per cent of the total population. The embassy website says that the labour section works from 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday to Thursday. Obviously, barring the security guard, no official will be available to attend to emergencies when the labour section is closed. In this context, we need to raise a few questions. When did the Indian embassy get information about the fire incident? When did the Indian media get to know of the fire? Hours after it occurred. Why? When I was in Doha (1992-97), we had cases of maids running away from home seeking shelter in the embassy. We had arranged for an official, preferably speaking the mother tongue of the maid, to come to the embassy within half an hour. This arrangement was good 24x7.



In the present case, I rang up the helpline number of the embassy a couple of times. It was busy. Obviously, there should have been more than one number.

In this context, there is a good deal we in India can learn from the Philippines. When a Philippine citizen arrives in a West Asian country to work as a caregiver or maid, she is received at the airport by embassy officials. She is briefed about the country and how she can get in touch with the embassy in need. She goes to the employer after a day or two. The embassy invariably has labour attachés holding a law degree. There is no communication or coordination among the labour-exporting countries. Two years ago, I visited the region. I asked the first secretary

in charge of consular work and labour welfare whether he attended a conference that the International Labour Organisation had recently organised in the city on the problems of migrant labour. He replied that he had not heard about the conference. I asked him whether he met his counterparts from manpower-exporting countries to exchange views. The answer was in the negative.

The set-up in the Central Government, too, needs a reform. For a long time, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) handled the matter. Later, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in 2004. It was dissolved in 2016 and the MEA resumed charge. There is only one Joint Secretary who is the Protector General of

Emigrants, an office that was earlier with the Ministry of Labour. The MEA organises well-choreographed annual Pravasi Day functions where the affluent members of the diaspora are feted and lauded. Has there been any conference on the problems facing the ABC (ayah, bearer, cook) part of the diaspora? India is the leading country in South Asia and the leading voice of the Global South. What initiative has New Delhi taken to address the problems of the migrant labour globally? The idea that labour-exporting countries cannot work together as they are competing is wrong.

In the run-up to the 2022 Football World Cup in Qatar, many foreign workers died, mainly due to unsafe working conditions. I do not recall any in-depth investigation by the Indian media.

The Guardian of the UK investigated and concluded that 6,500 migrant workers from South Asia had died, with India accounting for a good part thereof. We have not heard that India officially took up this matter with Qatar.

There is apathy in the government and the media. What can be done to remove that apathy? Any French citizen abroad can vote in the French elections. Let us extend this facility to Indian citizens abroad. If the workers in the Gulf can vote, we might expect our politicians, and consequently, the bureaucracy to take more interest in their welfare. It might be argued that the Gulf monarchies would resent such a move. I doubt it. The matter deserves to be examined immediately. The Central Government responded with alacrity once it came to know of the Kuwait tragedy. The Prime Minister chaired an emergency meeting. He sent Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh to Kuwait to oversee assistance to Indians injured in the mishap.

In the big evacuation of 1990-91 to bring back 176,000 Indians from Kuwait and Iraq, no minister had to visit Kuwait, except then External Affairs Minister IK Gujral, who oversaw the entire operation. He went there only once and did not interfere with the work of the Ambassador.



5 things you should learn from your First job

So it's your first job and you have to make sure that you create the right impression and yet stick to your deadlines.

10 tips for email Etiquette

The digital age has made communication much easier and more hassle-free, what with several apps available for mobile phone chat. However, people often forget that they have to use a different, more formal tone for official email correspondence, and end up peppering their emails with too many emojis and abbreviations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you're sending out a work email.

1. INTRODUCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT: Always introduce yourself if you are writing to someone you don't know or haven't corresponded with previously. If you've got the sender's address from a mutual friend, mention that in your email. Introducing yourself is especially important if you're sending out a survey or questionnaire to people whose addresses you have got from a database.

2. ALWAYS RUN A SPELL-CHECK: It's important to run a spell-check for official correspondence, especially if you're sending an email from your phone. You don't want the auto-correct feature to backfire on an official email, after all. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are correct as well.

3. USE THE REPLY-ALL FEATURE SPARINGLY: Only use the reply-all feature for an email that really needs it. If the reply is meant for only one person, just reply to him/her. And don't use it to reply to a sender's greetings for the festive

season — you could find yourself being blamed for starting an unnecessary email thread.

4. USE BCC FOR GENERIC MAILS: Use the Bcc field for when you are sending out mails to a very large number of people who may not all know each other. It's also a way to ensure that all your contacts' addresses are not out there for people unknown to them to access.

5. RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS YOU SEND: Send heavy files via file-hosting services so that you don't

EMAIL ETIQUETTE



clog the recipient's inbox. You could also zip files or resize pictures. If you know you're sending an email to someone who accesses his/her inbox on the phone, don't send several attachments with it.

6. DON'T OVER-ABBREVIATE: Don't use too many abbreviations or in your email, like FYI, PFA, PDF or FYR. It may confuse the recipient, who may also get the impression that you don't have the time to type out a proper email. If you must use them, restrict it only to the subject line.

7. FORMATTING FUNDAS: Do not use all caps and bold fonts as this will give the recipient the impression that you are shouting at him/her. The same goes for

underlining in the middle of a lot of text. Don't use fancy fonts or multiple font colours either.

8. WATCH YOUR TONE: Always be careful about how your email sounds. It may be an official email, but it should not sound too abrupt. You shouldn't sound over-friendly either, especially if this is the first time you are corresponding with the recipient. Moreover, don't send out an email if you're upset. Save it as a draft and re-read it when you're calmer.

9. FIX YOUR FORWARDS: Make it a point to clean up forwards before you, in turn, forward them to other people. Not only does this make the email look cleaner, but it also ensures that you don't give away anyone else's email addresses.

10. CHECK WHO YOU'RE SENDING AN EMAIL TO: Always check the To field of an unsent email before you send it. You don't want the wrong email being sent to the wrong person. What every official email should contain

Subject line: This is the first thing that recipients will see in their inboxes and it will determine whether they will read it or not. It should be clear and direct.

Salutation: Always start an email by greeting the recipient by using the word 'dear' followed by his/her name. If you aren't on a first-name basis with the recipient, use a title and a surname.

Concise body: Get straight to the point. If you have more than one issue to address, start with the most important, and list the rest point-by-point.

Sign off: Always sign off on your emails. Phrases like 'Yours sincerely' and 'yours faithfully' are acceptable for formal emails. 'Best regards' or 'kind regards' work in most other situations.

and while you are busy maintaining a balance between creating the right impression, sticking to deadlines, you also have to see that you learn various things from your job which doesn't really come under your job responsibilities. From how to crack the meeting to how to talk to break the ice with the seniors here is a list of things that you learn both knowingly and unknowingly on your first job.

Sticking to deadlines

So while you were in college or school deadlines were something that you were quite flexible with. But things change when you step out in the world and get into the work zone. From bringing out a story

within a deadline or cracking a deal within a deadline, this word matters the most in the work zone and should be given utmost priority.

Work-home balance isn't a myth

So while you may think that balancing your work responsibilities and home chores is a total myth, in reality it isn't. While, initially it may all seem very surreal to manage all, gradually you will get used to it and then managing both becomes quite easy.

Every penny counts

Gone are the days when you can buy a dress or shoe or cosmetics without thinking much about the cost. When you start working you get to know the real value of hard earned money.

So in a sense your first job teaches you where to be a spendthrift and where to be a true-blue stingy.

Being a smart worker

Well, it is good you are a hard worker, but amidst deadlines one has to be a smart worker and make sure that he/she finishes work in time and with less errors.

Socialize right and smart

Certainly, there are many who are glued to social media, but when you get into a work pace and add people from your work space one has to be doubly sure to see what kind of messages and pictures they are sharing on social media. The reason being that a lot of employers these days goes through our social pages and decides whether to hire or not.

5 essential skills today's employers want

Apart from relevant, organisations are now looking at hiring graduates with people skills and an aptitude for leadership.

In a competitive job market, a degree that highlights your core competencies and skills is not enough to get you a job. Employers are now looking for candidates with not only the right attitude, but also the right aptitude while hiring. Here are some of the essential skills that fresh graduates will need to cultivate to secure a job:

Communication skills: The most significant step towards getting through the interview process is to polish your communication skills, both written and verbal.

This is the best way to stand out in the crowded candidate market and it also aids in building a strong professional network.

Aptitude for leadership: It is not just the academic record and domain expertise that matter these days, but also your proficiency to be a leader that companies look out for. Not everyone can master this skill; however, one can work on building their inherent leadership qualities by taking initiatives and responsibility.

Being a people's person and a team player: Good interpersonal skills are a key to securing your dream job. Having this skill

reflects that you are sociable and can work harmoniously with others. Interviewers will most likely test your ability of being a team player through questions relating to real-life scenarios. Some interviewers give a lot of importance to the extra-curricular abilities of the interviewee - excellence in sports, participation in student organization activities, community assistance roles with NGOs, etc - to judge the individual's ability to work in teams and inspire innovative ideas.

Problem solving and analytical skills: Impromptu thinking and problem solving skills are the qualities that prospective employers look for in candidates. So it is essential to build on these capabilities and flaunt them when you present yourself in the job market as this will help you gain bonus points.

Open to learning and being proactive:

It is vital for a candidate to come across as independent and not someone who needs to be pushed for a task to be completed. In addition to this, out-of-the-box thinking and innovative ideas can get you the competitive corporate advantage. Interviewers will also try to gauge if a candidate is open to maintaining a continuous learning curve to re-skill themselves in a dynamic workplace and stay ahead. Interviewers are impressed not with how much you know, but with how well you can convince the opposite person to think and accept your point of view. By demonstrating the right qualities and by marketing yourself efficiently, you can certainly land your first big career break!



Amazon India Workers Take Oath To Finish Task Before Toilet Break: Report

Workers at some Amazon warehouses in India are asked to pledge not to take breaks, including for water or toilet visits, until they achieve specific targets, the report said.

New Delhi: Amazon India finds itself under scrutiny after allegations of harsh working conditions and stringent productivity demands surfaced from workers at its warehouses in Haryana's industrial hub of

Manesar. Recently, a 24-year-old worker revealed to The Indian Express that employees in one of Amazon's warehouses are routinely asked to pledge not to take breaks, including for water or toilet visits, until they achieve specific targets. These targets often involve unloading packages from large trucks, a physically demanding task exacerbated by the scorching temperatures of up to 50°C during the ongoing heatwave. The worker, earning a monthly salary of ₹10,088 for ten-hour shifts over five days a week, described the pressure to perform without adequate rest breaks. "Even if we work continuously, we struggle to unload more than four trucks a day," he told Express, reflecting the impracticality of the imposed targets.

The situation is particularly dire for female workers, who face additional challenges due to the lack of adequate facilities and the physical toll of the job. Reports indicate that some departments have no designated



restroom facilities, forcing employees to use makeshift solutions that are neither sanitary nor adequate for their needs. In response to these allegations, an Amazon India

spokesperson stated that the company takes the safety and well-being of its employees seriously. They mentioned the presence of heat index monitoring devices and cooling

measures in their facilities, asserting that employees are provided with adequate water, hydration breaks, and rest opportunities.

The issue isn't confined to India alone. Amazon has faced similar allegations internationally, with authorities in the US citing safety violations and ergonomic hazards in several warehouses. Earlier this year, the company fired a warehouse worker in US after he posted a video on TikTok about having to pick up heavy boxes.

Three female marketing managers in Seattle have also filed a proposed class action accusing Amazon of widespread sex discrimination and that the tech giant has retaliated against them, including by firing one and forcing another to quit. The workers in an amended complaint claim Amazon's illegal conduct only escalated in the weeks after they initially filed the lawsuit in November last year alleging violations of federal and Washington state laws.

"Matka Phod" Protests By Congress Amid Water Crisis In Delhi

New Delhi: Amid a water crisis in the national capital, the Delhi Congress held 'matka phod' protests across the city on Saturday with its members smashing earthen pots to the ground. The protests began around 10 am in all 280 blocks in Delhi. Carrying earthen pots on their heads and Congress flags, the protesters raised slogans against the Delhi government and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Later, they threw the pots on the



ground. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav, who also joined the protests, demanded a special session of the assembly to discuss the issue. He had alleged on Friday that the Delhi government had not taken effective steps to address the water shortage in the city due to which, people had to run after water tankers. Water Minister Atishi had said on Friday that water production in Delhi was decreasing continuously as less water was reaching the Yamuna river here. The AAP government has been accusing BJP-ruled Haryana of not releasing Delhi's share of water.

Sharing data, she had said water production on June 6 was 1,002 million gallons per day (MGD) and it declined to 993 MGD the next day and 990 MGD on June 8. It was 978 MGD on June 9 and 958 MGD the next day. On June 11, 12 and 13, water production was 919 MGD, 951 MGD and 939 MGD, respectively, the minister had said.

Drunk Soldier Urinates On Train Berth, Wets Woman Sitting Below

New Delhi: A woman has alleged that an army personnel urinated in his train berth and it fell on her while she was sleeping. The incident happened on the Gondwana Express which was travelling from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station to Chhattisgarh's Durg. In the B-9 coach of the train, an allegedly drunk soldier, occupying berth number 24, urinated on the seat. The urine fell on a woman seated below on berth number 23, who was accompanied by her 7-year-old child. The woman, a resident of Chhattisgarh, immediately informed her husband, Himachal Singh, who then lodged a complaint with the Railway Helpline. Despite the prompt complaint, the response from the Railway Protection Force



(RPF) was inadequate. At Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, RPF personnel attended to the complaint, took photographs, and left without taking any action. When the train reached Jhansi, a combined team of RPF, Government Railway Police (GRP), and MCAO personnel boarded the train, promising further action at Lalitpur. However, the train continued its journey without any action being taken against the soldier.

The RPF officer in charge, Sanjay Arya, acknowledged the incident, confirming that the soldier was indeed intoxicated and his pants were wet. However, Mr Arya defended the lack of action by stating that the female complainant could not be located on seat number 23 in the B-9 coach when the RPF reached. Consequently, the soldier was not removed.

RSS denies rift with BJP after Mohan Bhagwat's 'true sevak' remark: Sources

New Delhi: The RSS on Friday rejected rumours of differences with the BJP after its chief Mohan Bhagwat said a true 'sevak' was never arrogant in his first remarks after the party fell short of a majority in the Lok Sabha elections. RSS sources told news agency PTI. RSS sources said there "was no rift" between the Sangh and the BJP, its ideological mentor, amid assertions by a section of people, including Opposition leaders, that Bhagwat's remarks were aimed at the saffron party's leadership or Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They added that such comments were speculative and taken out of context. At an event in Nagpur on Monday, Bhagwat said, A true 'sevak' maintains dignity. He follows the decorum while working. He does not have the arrogance to say 'I did this work'. Only that person can be called a true 'sevak'.

In response, RSS sources said, "There



was not much difference in his (Bhagwat) speech from what he had given after the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Any address is bound to make a reference to an event as important as national elections. "But it was misinterpreted and taken out of context to create confusion. His 'arrogance' remark was never directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi or any BJP leader," they added. RSS sources also disassociated from its national executive member Indresh Kumar's swipe at the BJP over its poll performance, with a functionary

saying that it was his personal opinion and did not reflect the organisation's official stand. At an event near Jaipur on Thursday, Kumar said, "The party (BJP) which did the 'bhakti' (of Lord Ram) but became arrogant was stopped at 241, but it was made the biggest party," adding, "and those who had no faith in Ram, they together were stopped at 234", referring to the number of seats the Opposition INDIA bloc won. As a row erupted over his remarks, Kumar on Friday said the country was happy with the BJP's poll performance and Narendra Modi becoming prime minister for the third consecutive term. "At this moment, the latest news is that those who were against Lord Ram are out of power and those who were devotees of Lord Ram are in power," he told PTI. "Under PM Modi's leadership, the country will progress," he asserted.

Probe Agency Raids Kerala-Based Ponzi Company That Duped Depositors Of 1,500 Crore

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it raided multiple locations in various states as part of a money laundering investigation against a Kerala-based company that allegedly duped depositors to the tune of ₹1,500 crore through a ponzi scheme. The searches were launched on June 11 on the premises of the promoters of HighRich Online Group in Kerala, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. The money laundering case stems from multiple FIRs filed by the Kerala Police.

The searches have led to the freezing of around ₹32 crore of proceeds of crime in various bank accounts of the company, promoters and their family members, seizure of about ₹70 lakh in cash, jewellery and four four-wheeled

vehicles, the central agency said in a statement. The search also led to tracing of immovable properties worth ₹15 crore with promoters and various leaders of HighRich Online group which have been acquired out of the proceeds of crime. "Searches have also revealed that the company and its promoters and leaders were involved in trading in cryptocurrency on few exchanges and sold their own so-called crypto coin named HR Crypto Coin," it said. The crypto coin, the agency claimed, was sold in exchange for Indian rupee and USDT (a type of crypto currency) and it was also a part of ponzi scheme where people were lured to invest their money for which they got 15 per cent interest per year. When the customer introduced a new customer, they got 30 per cent

direct referral income, it said. The agency said the company was selling the memberships in the form of digital IDs which consisted of the user credentials (user name and password) of the individual investors to access the website -- www.highrich.net. "The members would further sell the memberships/digital ids to other people to earn commission," the ED said. It was found that the company would give incentives to these individuals when they refer new members to join the marketing scheme which is nothing but sharing of the commission received on joining of new members, the agency said.

There is no real underlying business of sale of goods and this is the typical modus operandi of a Ponzi scheme, it said.

Why Has Physics Wallah CEO Approached Supreme Court For Probe Into NEET

Alakh Pandey's petition claims the alleged arbitrary awarding of grace marks to over 1,500 candidates by the NTA. He has requested the Supreme Court to establish an expert panel to scrutinise the examination.

New Delhi: Alakh Pandey, founder of the prominent EdTech firm Physics Wallah, has petitioned the Supreme Court to address the issues surrounding the NEET-UG 2024 examination. This national-level entrance test, conducted by the

National Testing Agency (NTA) and crucial for admissions into MBBS and other medical courses, has been embroiled in controversy over alleged irregularities. Mr Pandey's petition claims the alleged arbitrary awarding of grace marks to over 1,500 candidates by the NTA. He has requested the Supreme Court to establish an expert panel to scrutinise the examination process and its results. The NEET-UG 2024, held on May 5 across 4,750 centres, saw participation from approximately 24 lakh candidates. While results were anticipated on June 14, they were announced early on June 4, allegedly due to expedited answer sheet evaluations. Controversy erupted following allegations of question paper leaks and the granting of grace marks, leading to widespread protests and legal challenges in seven high courts and the Supreme Court. The unprecedented performance, with 67 students scoring a perfect 720 - including six from a single



centre in Haryana's Faridabad - has raised suspicions of irregularities.

On June 10, students gathered in Delhi, demanding a thorough investigation into these allegations. It is believed that the contentious grace marks may have contributed to the unusually high number of top scorers. The NEET-UG examination, overseen by the NTA, is a gateway for medical admissions in both government and private institutions across India. However, the integrity of this year's process has been called into question, prompting protests and legal scrutiny. In response to the uproar, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

assured aspirants and parents that there is no substantial evidence of a paper leak. He said that the allegations are under investigation by competent authorities.

"There's no evidence of any paper leak yet. There are allegations and competent authorities are looking into them. Certain allegations and loose information are coming in. Let us wait for the probe by the authorities concerned. Let's wait till July 8 for the Supreme Court's judgment. There's nothing to hide..." Mr Pradhan told NDTV. The minister reassured students, noting that the Supreme Court has already delivered a judgment on the issue. He announced that all 1,563 affected students would have the opportunity to reappear for the exam, especially those from the six centres where time constraints were reported. Despite these measures, questions remain about the NTA's response before the Supreme Court's intervention.

North India reels under heatwave, rain likely in south, Northeast till June 19

New Delhi: Several parts of north and central India continued to batter in stifling heat with no relief likely till June 19 while rainfall was predicted to lash swathes of southern, western, eastern and northeastern India for five days beginning Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. In Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the IMD issued orange and red alerts for the next five days as the maximum temperatures hovered in the range of 44-46 degrees Celsius. This temperature range was also seen in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Chandigarh. According to the weather department, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions were very likely in most parts of Uttar Pradesh, parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi between June 15 and 19, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand on June 15. Isolated heatwave conditions were also predicted in parts of West Bengal and Bihar on June 15 and in Uttarakhand on June 16. Heatwave conditions were likely in some pockets of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu division between June 15 and 17, northeast Madhya Pradesh on June 15 and June 16 and north Chhattisgarh on June 15, the IMD said. On the other hand, the Met Department predicted isolated extremely heavy rainfall in Meghalaya from June 15 to 19, in Assam between June 17 and 19, while scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) was predicted in parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha during the next five days.

Isolated heavy rainfall was very likely over Odisha between June 17 and 19 and east Bihar on June 18 and 19, the IMD said. Fairly widespread to widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) was likely in Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada, according to the IMD. The weather office predicted isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during the next five days. Isolated heavy rainfall was possible in Marathwada on June 16 and 17, Konkan, Goa, Kerala and Mahe from June 17 to 19. North coastal Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka on June 17 and Madhya Maharashtra on June 18 and 19, the Met Department said. Meanwhile, conditions were favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, parts of West Bengal and parts of Bihar during the next four to five days, the IMD said.



Tips for Restarting your Career after a long sabbatical

Sabbaticals are still viewed with scepticism and fear, though their purpose is to either take some time off to rest and relax or have a chance to step back from work and focus on personal enrichment and professional development. Whether the sabbatical is for a few weeks or a year, employees aim to return to work with more focus and energy. Here are some effective tips to kick-start your second innings.

- Stay informed: Industry keeps evolving. Taking a sabbatical increases your chances of getting cut off from happenings in the industry. In case you aim to get started from where you left off in your professional journey, ensure your foundation is solid and can withstand unexpected changes. Come back with updated knowledge and skills.
- The value of networking: There is unanimous agreement among researchers that building and nurturing relationships with current and former people in the industry provides a strong medium to building a vibrant career and acts like a cushion for unplanned things.
- Speak up: After a break, some people do experience a natural reticence while speaking in

group sessions and team meetings. It's okay to keep quiet but withholding a helpful comment or pertinent questions won't do any good.

- Reasons to decide if it is time to hang on or move on: In a study on women returners by PWC, three in five professional women returning to the workforce are likely to experience an immediate earnings reduction of up to a third or likely to move into lower skilled or lower paid roles. Though it might be tempting to quit an unsatisfying job, there are several reasons to pause before submitting a resignation. One of the crucial reasons would be having higher self-confidence or having a better bargaining position as a job seeker if you are presently employed elsewhere.
- Exploring Opportunities: A gap in the resume does not look good, but trying to cover it up makes it worse. Align your social and professional networks with your resume as recruiters often check your digital footprint. Ensure your resume is created as per the trending format and is updated. Face the interview with the right attitude. Have a legit reason explaining your decision to go on a sabbatical and rejoining the work now.

Tips to win office Politics

Let's face it office politics is everywhere and no one can escape for its vicious clutches. But that doesn't mean that you can't fight it or stand up against it. One has to deal these things calmly and diplomatically. So here are few tips that will help you stand against these office politics and still be loved by all.

1. Acceptance: A war is half won when you accept and acknowledge it. If you are being involved or dragged in office politics, firstly accept and acknowledge it. Then start analyzing who are the root cause for them and how can they be dealt with. Be aware that after this point too, you have a chance to either face it and fight against it or simply leave it.



Be it the need for power, position, money or simply greed, office politics can crop in any form and can create havoc in your life if not dealt well.

2. Don't take sides: We fall in major problems when we start taking sides. It's good to have opinions but never under any circumstances take sides as it will ruin everything. When you find yourself caught in a situation like this then focus on your business objectives and don't take side with either of them. Place them on a common communication platform and ensure open communications among all parties so that no one can claim that they didn't utter those words.

3. Don't get personal: There will be times when a colleague messes up with your happiness and you just want to give them a piece of your mind. Do not do that. This will not only make you look bad in front of your boss's eyes but will also make space for more rivalry. People tend to remember about the insults and arguments meted against them even though for you it was just a matter that you chose not to give enough importance.
4. No angry mails: Before

sending any correspondences via email think through it a hundred times. Though in anger you might feel you are doing the right thing but to never known when the same mail might be used against you to demean you or make you the bad person in front of all. Same goes for social media posts too. Be extremely careful.

5. Know the real culprit: Know who the trouble maker is and always maintain a safe distance from that person and if you can make peace with that person nothing better than that.

How to deal with frenemies at work

A frenemy is one of the most dangerous workplace friends you can come across," says US-based executive coach and corporate author Ellen Lubin-Sherman. This is the kind of colleague who pretends to be your well-meaning friend but doesn't miss a chance to back-stab you. According to Donna Flagg, the author of *Surviving Dreaded Conversations*, frenemies range from harmless ones to workplace bullies who revel in mind games. "However, once they are put in place, they are less likely to repeat their behaviour," she says. Dealing with an office frenemy is like walking on tightrope. You can't sever ties with the colleague in question, especially if you work in the same team, neither can you afford to have heated arguments for the sake of professional appearance.

KNOW YOUR OFFICE FRENEMIES
THE SURFER
 This frenemy uses charm to get her work done by transferring her own responsibilities onto colleagues. Tip: Chalk out your



personal duties and deadlines to avoid being taken advantage of.

THE IDEATHIEF
 This is the person who seconds your original ideas at brainstorming sessions, and passes them off as his own. Tip: When you find someone taking credit for your idea, verbally discuss it with the colleague. If it doesn't work, talk to your boss after informing the person about it.

THE EAGER UPSTART
 This ambitious young newbie

doesn't stop raving about your productivity and work ethics, but has a hidden agenda - to take over your position through scheming. Tip: Don't get swayed by the compliments. Remind your subordinate that your take on her performance counts.

THE PESSIMIST
 He/she thrives on negativity. She draws you into conversations about how everything about your workplace is terrible. Tip: When you find yourself being pulled into complaint mode, focus on the

positive steps you can take to resolve problems.

Dos & don'ts
 Treat your colleague cautiously if you continue to have major problems. When handed joint projects, draw clear lines of separation of labour. Write down the facts of your complaint before bringing the matter to your boss. Leave out any personal opinions in the note. If it reads like something your boss should be aware of, then state your case as objectively as possible. Don't retaliate. If you find that a colleague has bad-mouthed you or taken credit for your ideas, don't respond immediately even though you might be tempted to. Don't shut down lines of communication, especially via email. Having a record of your correspondence will prevent your frenemy from faking facts. Don't overreact.

Let minor matters slide. If the issue is significant, ask your colleague about it directly to avoid any misunderstandings. Don't complain at the outset of your tiff. Give your colleague the benefit of the doubt until the matter escalates.

Govt Cuts Windfall Tax On Crude Petroleum To Rs 3,250/tonne

New Delhi. The government has reduced windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 3,250 per tonne from Rs 5,200, with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of a Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel, or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from June 15, an official notification said. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. On June 1, the government cut the windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 5,200 per metric ton from 5,700 rupees.

On May 16, the windfall tax on petroleum to Rs 5,700 per metric ton from 8,400 rupees.

Sensex, Nifty At All-Time High As Inflation Cools This Week

New Delhi. Indian stock markets closed at an all-time high in the last week. This is the second consecutive week when Indian frontline indices Sensex and Nifty made a new all-time high of 77,145 and 23,490 respectively.

In the last week that ended on June 14, Sensex closed at 76,992, up 299 points or 0.39 per cent, and Nifty settled at 23,465, up 175 or 0.75 per cent. Data released by the government on Wednesday showed that the retail inflation rate has fallen to 4.75 per cent in May, which was 4.83 per cent in April. During the week, Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have invested Rs 2,030 crore and domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have invested Rs 6,293 crore. Smallcap and midcap shares have attracted more investors than largecap during this period. BSE Smallcap Index rallied 5 per cent and BSE Midcap Index surged 4.4 per cent during the week. In smallcap, EIH Associated Hotels, Reliance Power, PTC Industries, Avantel, HCC, GTL Infrastructure, Wardwizard Innovation and Mobility, Honda India Power Products, Home First Finance Company India, Paras Defense and Space Technology, and Asian Granito India gained more than 25 per cent.

In midcap, Endurance Technologies, LIC Housing Finance, Scheffler India, Oil India, Max Healthcare Institute, Samvardhan Motherson International, Honeywell Automation, Oracle Financial Services Software, and New India Assurance were top gainers. Among the sector indices, the Capital Goods Index surged 6.4 per cent, the Realty Index rallied 5.4 per cent, the Telecom Index shot up by 4 per cent and the Oil and Gas Index gained 3.5 per cent.

Windfall tax on crude petroleum slashed to Rs 3,250/tonne

New Delhi. The government has reduced windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 3,250 per tonne from Rs 5,200, with effect from Saturday. The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).

SAED on export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from June 15, an official notification said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

May trade deficit widens to seven-month high at USD 23.78 billion

NEW DELHI. The country's goods exports grew 9.1% to \$38.13 billion in May, with double-digit growth witnessed in several sectors including engineering goods, electronics, drugs and pharmaceutical products, the government data showed on Friday. Ports surged by 7.7% to \$9.99 billion, electronic goods by 22.97% to \$2.97 billion, and drugs and pharmaceuticals exports saw YoY growth of 10.45% to \$2.30 billion. Crude oil imports grew by 28% to \$20 billion in May. On the other hand, gold imports declined slightly to \$3.33 billion in May this year from \$3.69 billion in the corresponding month of FY24. For the period of April-May this fiscal year, exports increased by 5.1% to reach \$73.12 billion, while imports rose by 8.89% to \$116 billion, as per the data. Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said that India's higher economic growth compared to the global average is driving up domestic demand for imports and reducing the exportable surplus, which is a contributing factor to the widening trade gap. He added that widening trade deficit is not a concern considering foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign exchange inflows. He also highlighted the impressive growth in devices exports.



imports. It's a positive trend that will continue," Barthwal said. As per official data, petroleum products exports grew by 15.75% year-on-year (YoY) to \$6.78 billion in May 2024, engineering goods surged by 7.39% to \$9.99 billion, electronic goods by 22.97% to \$2.97 billion, and drugs and pharmaceuticals exports saw YoY growth of 10.45% to \$2.30 billion. Crude oil imports grew by 28% to \$20 billion in May. On the other hand, gold imports declined slightly to \$3.33 billion in May this year from \$3.69 billion in the corresponding month of FY24. For the period of April-May this fiscal year, exports increased by 5.1% to reach \$73.12 billion, while imports rose by 8.89% to \$116 billion, as per the data. Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said that India's higher economic growth compared to the global average is driving up domestic demand for imports and reducing the exportable surplus, which is a contributing factor to the widening trade gap. He added that widening trade deficit is not a concern considering foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign exchange inflows. He also highlighted the impressive growth in devices exports.

Conversion Error Fallout: Elon Musk's X Tells Former Staff to Pay Back Severance

X has contacted several former employees, including some who were dismissed over 18 months ago, claiming they were overpaid due to a currency conversion error.

New Delhi. Elon Musk's social media platform X is demanding repayment from at least six former Australian employees, asserting that they were accidentally overpaid. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, X is threatening legal action to recover these overpayments.

According to the report, X has contacted several former employees, including some who were dismissed over 18 months ago, claiming they were overpaid

due to a currency conversion error.

Also Read: Elon Musk To Get Back His Big, \$44.9 Billion Tesla Pay Package, Shareholders Give Approval

Since Musk's acquisition, the platform has laid off around 80 percent of its workforce. It appears that a mistake was made in calculating severance pay for these employees, and now X is reportedly pressuring them to return the excess payments or face potential legal consequences. The overpayments in severance pay to these former employees range up to \$70,000. At least six of these individuals have received legal notices from X, urging them to return the overpaid amounts.

Emails reviewed by The Sydney Morning Herald show that X's Asia Pacific human resources department acknowledged the "conversion error" and requested that the



former employees repay the excess amounts to the company.

The email stated, "It has come to our attention that you received a significant overpayment in error in January 2023. We would be grateful if you could arrange the

repayment to us [using the account details below] at your earliest convenience." Reason Of Overpayment As per the report, the overpayment issue reportedly stems from the valuation and currency conversion of employee shares. When Musk acquired Twitter in 2022, Twitter shares were valued at \$54.20 each (approximately AUD 82). The error occurred when X converted the share entitlements into Australian dollars, allegedly using a conversion rate that was 2.5 times the correct value.

This mistake led the company to overpay severance amounts to the laid-off employees, with individual overpayments ranging from \$1,500 to \$70,000.

Sebi Cancels Registration Of Grovalue Financial Services For Violating Market Norms

NEW DELHI Markets regulator Sebi on Friday cancelled the certificate of registration of Grovalue Financial Services for flouting regulatory norms. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) inspected the matters of Grovalue Financial Services, a Sebi-registered research analyst, from April 2021 to August 2022.

The inspection was carried out to verify whether the books of accounts and records were being maintained or whether the provisions of the Sebi's Research Analysts norms were being complied with by the notice.

"The noticee (Grovalue Financial Services) has contravened with the provisions of the Research Analyst regulations and failed to abide by the conditions of his certificate of

registration," Sebi's Chief General Manager G Ramar said in the order. The regulator also observed that the non-



cooperation shown during the inspection and the non-appearance and lack of response to the notices issued by Sebi show the lackadaisical attitude of the noticee, which is concerning of

an intermediary responsible for analysing investment decisions of investors. As per the Sebi SCORES portal, Grovalue Financial Services had received complaints from April 2021 to August 2022. However, the firm failed to resolve some of these complaints within 30 days.

Under the Sebi rules, the regulator mandates that all Sebi-registered intermediaries are to take immediate action in the resolution of complaints within 30 days and file an Action Taken Report (ATR) with the markets watchdog. Non-filing of ATR under SCORES within 30 days for a grievance will be treated as a failure to constitute non-redressal of investor grievance.

Harsh, unsafe working conditions in Amazon warehouses, complain workers

NEW DELHI The working conditions for workers in Amazon warehouses are more or less the same in India as it is said to be in developed countries. It has been quite some time that Amazon workers in US have been complaining about the harsh working conditions in Amazon warehouses. Lately, the sad plight of the workers at Amazon warehouse in Haryana's Manesar has come to the limelight with reports suggesting that the workers were subject to stand for long hours without even a fan and forced to pack 240 articles in an hour and so on. The workers complained that work at the Manesar warehouse is physically demanding and continuous standing often leads to dizziness and exhaustion, and injuries are common. The workers reportedly said that break times are tightly monitored and even a simple trip to the washroom incurs penalties. A 24-year-old worker recently revealed to The Indian Express that employees in Manesar warehouses are routinely asked to pledge not to take breaks, including for water or toilet visits, until they achieve specific targets. These targets often involve unloading packages from large

trucks, a physically demanding task exacerbated by the scorching temperatures of up to 50°C during the ongoing heatwave. Amazon India, according to NDTV, responded to the allegations with its spokesperson claiming that the company takes the



safety and well-being of its employees seriously. They mentioned the presence of heat index monitoring devices and cooling measures in their facilities, asserting that employees are provided with adequate water, hydration breaks, and rest opportunities.

However, a report published by The Guardian in March 2023 reveals that the regulatory agency in the US—Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Osha), issued citations

against Amazon at six warehouses in December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023 over unsafe working conditions, ergonomic hazards and failure to properly report injuries.

According to the report, In 2021, Amazon warehouses had a rate of 7.7 injuries per 100 workers, compared with 4.0 injuries for every 100 workers at all other warehouses. Amazon's serious injury rate was 6.8 per 100 workers, compared with 3.3 for every 100 workers at all other warehouses. Recent Osha citations also include recordkeeping violations at six warehouses, with Amazon failing to properly record worker injuries and illnesses, the report further added.

Further, in a report published in April 2024, The Guardian said that facing an insurgent campaign which threatened to unleash a wave of unionization across its vast workforce, Amazon stands accused of reaching for dirty tricks. Workers who tried to organize inside its warehouses claim the technology giant orchestrated an illegal counteroffensive, using scare tactics and spreading misconceptions.

Tesla driver tells police he was using 'self-drive' system when his car hit a parked police vehicle

DETROIT. A Tesla apparently operating on one of the company's automated driving systems crashed into a parked police vehicle Thursday near Los Angeles, narrowly missing an officer who was managing traffic at another crash.

The Tesla driver told police in Fullerton, California, that he engaged the vehicle's "self-drive" system and used his cell phone, according to a police statement.

The collision appears to be another in a long list of crashes in which Teslas using a partially automated driving system hit firefighters or police cars parked on roads with flashing lights activated. In the Fullerton case, the officer also had put out flares, authorities said.

Police said they have not confirmed whether he was using Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" or Autopilot systems. A message was left early Friday seeking comment from Tesla. Neither "Full Self-Driving" nor Autopilot can drive themselves, and Tesla tells owners that they must be ready to intervene at all times. "Full Self-Driving," which is being tested on public roads by volunteer Tesla owners, can take on most driving functions, even on city streets, the company says. Autopilot is supposed to keep vehicles from hitting objects in front of them, and keep them centered in their lanes.

Fullerton police said the officer saw the Tesla coming, and he and a police dispatcher who was riding with him were able to quickly move to the side of the road. "A potential disaster was averted," police said in the statement. The Tesla driver stayed at the scene of the crash, which happened near an intersection at 12:04 a.m. Thursday. The driver is cooperating with police. Officers were investigating a fatal crash at the time the Tesla hit the police car, authorities said. "While there are no laws against the 'self-drive' mode, all rules and laws of the road still apply to the driver while controlling the vehicle," the statement said.

NHTSA began investigating Autopilot crashes into emergency vehicles in 2021, but closed the probe in April after Tesla agreed to recall the software and boost its driver monitoring functions. Later NHTSA began investigating whether the company's recall actually worked.

Fraud-Free Online Shopping: Check Best Practices For Secure Transactions

NEW DELHI. Online shopping offers an unparalleled level of convenience and efficiency, allowing consumers to browse and purchase products from the comfort of their homes at any time. This ease of access eliminates the need to visit physical stores, saving valuable time and effort. Additionally, the wide variety of products available online often surpasses what is found in brick-and-mortar shops, providing shoppers with an extensive range of choices.

However, despite these benefits, a significant concern for online shoppers is the risk of scams and fraud. Cybercriminals frequently target e-commerce platforms, attempting to exploit vulnerabilities to steal personal and financial information.

Therefore, consumers need to remain vigilant and adopt robust security practices, such as using secure payment methods and regularly monitoring their financial statements, to protect themselves from these risks. Online marketplace OLX has advised users to take into account the following measures to safeguard themselves against scams and fraudulent activities.

1. Shop from trusted websites

Stick to well-known and reputable websites

when making an online purchase. Major retailers and brands invest in robust security measures to protect their customers' information. Look for HTTPS encryption in the website URL, indicated by a padlock icon in the address bar.

2. Set unique passwords for online accounts

One of the common ways to fall for scams or fraud is via password breaches. If you are setting up the same password for all accounts, and if a scammer cracks one password, all your accounts can get cracked. To protect yourself, set unique and strong passwords for each online account you have. It is advisable to change your password from time to time to prevent password leaks. If remembering multiple passwords becomes challenging, you can also use a password manager.

3. Make purchases as a guest

It is quite common for e-commerce stores to encourage you to open an account to make a purchase. This makes your future purchases easy and more convenient but can pose risks related to data breaches as your personal information is stored. To this, consider checking out as a guest whenever possible, especially for non-frequent online purchases. This ensures



that your data is not saved permanently.

4. Never share your OTP and other personal information

Never share your OTP (One-Time Password) received via SMS or email with anyone, including customer service representatives. OTPs are meant for your use only and sharing them can lead to unauthorised access to your accounts and potential fraud.

5. Say no to free or public Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is very easy to hack and using it can expose you to scams and frauds. Your details such as name, address, and even financial information can be easily stolen via public or free Wi-Fi due to lack of encryption. Sometimes, access to free

Wi-Fi can be set up by fraudsters to lure you towards scams. To protect yourself, always use your data, Wi-Fi, or Wi-Fi from a trusted source only.

6. Be wary of phishing attempts

Phishing scams involve fraudulent emails or websites designed to trick you into revealing sensitive information like login credentials or credit card details. Be cautious of unexpected emails asking you to click on links or provide personal information. Verify the sender's email address and avoid clicking on suspicious links.

7. Check seller reviews and ratings

If you're purchasing from a third-party seller on a marketplace or auction site, take the time to read reviews and ratings from other customers. Pay attention to any negative feedback regarding product quality, shipping times, or fraudulent behaviour. Choose sellers with a high rating and positive reviews to minimise the risk of scams. By following these seven tips, OLX suggested that you can reduce the risk of encountering online shopping scams and fraud. You should stay informed and vigilant while enjoying the convenience and benefits of online shopping safely.

NEWS BOX

Mark Wood hopes Mitchell Marsh's team will play the 'Australian way' vs Scotland

New Delhi. England fast bowler Mark Wood has hoped that Mitchell Marsh's Australia will play the 'Australian way' in their final group-stage match in the T20 World Cup 2024 against Scotland. Wood's comments come ahead of his team's match against Namibia in the tournament. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Wood hoped that Australia would beat Scotland, which would help England's chances of qualifying for the Super 8 stage. The T20 World Cup 2024 saw a mini-controversy earlier this week, when Josh Hazlewood said that Australia losing to Scotland would help the team in the latter stages of the tournament, as the by-product of the loss will result in England getting knocked out of the tournament. England's chances dangle by the thread at the moment, as they not only have to beat Namibia in their final game but also have to depend on Australia not intentionally going soft against Scotland. Asked about Hazlewood's



comments, Wood said that it was just some classic England vs Australia banter and hoped that Mitchell Marsh's side would play the game with all honesty. "I think that's part of being England and Australia, isn't it? I think actually I saw it more as a respect thing, if I'm honest, that he was saying that England have done well against Australia in the recent past and thinks we're a big threat and a big team so I have no problem with it," Wood said at the pre-match press conference. "I'm absolutely confident they'll play the game the hardest, that's the Australian way, that they'll play hard but fair and try and get the win," he further added.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AUSTRALIA LOSE WILLINGLY

Australia are going to be the king-maker in Group B as they play Scotland in their final group-stage game. In case Australia lose to Scotland, the latter will qualify with 7 points to their name (highest in Group B), and in case Australia win, Scotland will tie with England on points - 5. England have the superior NRR at the moment and would qualify for the Super 8 stages. Australia fast-bowler Josh Hazlewood was asked about the NRR calculations after the team's win against Namibia. Hazlewood cheekily mentioned that Australia would love for England to get knocked out from the T20 World Cup, as it would serve the team's best interests.

Aiden Markram wants South Africa to learn after narrow win vs Nepal: Not near our best

Aiden Markram said that South Africa were far from their best when they faced Nepal in a thrilling Group D encounter in the T20 World Cup. On Saturday, the Proteas beat Rohit Paudel's team by 1 run at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. After being asked to bat first, South Africa scored 115 for the loss of 7 wickets on the back of Reeza Hendricks' 43-run knock in challenging conditions.

Nepal were in the hunt for the most part of the run-chase before falling short. Tabraiz Shamsi finished with figures of 4-0-19-4 and helped his team snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. After the game, Markram said that his team will be looking to get better after somehow getting over the finish line against Nepal. South Africa vs Nepal,



T20 World Cup Highlights

"Very grateful to have got the win, we were not near our best tonight. Reflecting back on the game over the next few days, there will be a lot of learnings for us. We have a good pace attack and you want to back that. I thought if we got the ball in the right areas, it would be challenging for the batters. In hindsight, we should have picked another spinner," Markram said in the post-match presentation ceremony. Markram also had words of praise for Nepal, who fell short of securing their maiden win over a Test-playing nation in the history of the T20 World Cup.

"First and foremost, the way [Nepal] bowled it made it really tough for us. They put us under a lot of pressure. And maybe there was not enough conviction in our plans," Markram added. With the win, South Africa finished on top of the table in their group with 8 points and a net run rate of +0.470 thanks to wins in all 4 of their matches.

T20 World Cup: Tabraiz Shamsi stars as South Africa edge past resilient Nepal

T20 World Cup 2024: Aiden Markram's South Africa survived a huge scare after beating Nepal by 1 run in St Vincent to finish with wins in all matches in the group stage.



South Africa vs Nepal, T20 World Cup Highlights

New Delhi. South Africa survived a huge scare after beating Nepal by 1 run in a T20 World Cup 2024 Group D match. On Saturday, June 15 at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent, the Proteas snatched victory from the jaws of defeat after a roller-coaster ride. With their fourth win in the group stage, Aiden Markram and Co. finished on top of the table.

Nepal, in the meantime, would not be able to make their way through to the Super 8 despite their whole-hearted efforts. It also means that Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh and Scott Edwards' Netherlands will be competing for the other spot from their group. Sri Lanka were earlier knocked

out after Shanto's Tigers beat the Dutch. After being put in to bat first, the Proteas huffed and puffed their way to scoring 115 against Nepal. Barring Reeza Hendricks, most of the South African batters struggled to get going. Hendricks scored 43 runs off 49

balls with 5 fours and a six before Dipendra Singh Airee accounted for his wicket. Airee made life tough for the opposition batters with figures of 4-0-21-3. It was Tristan Stubbs' unbeaten 27 off 18 that helped South Africa post 115 for 7 on the board. Kushal Bhurtel also had a dream day after he had figures of 4-0-19-4. Sandeep

Lamichhane, who played his first game in the ongoing tournament, could not make a breakthrough, but bowled at an economy rate of 4.50.

T20 World Cup Coverage | Points Table | T20 World Cup 2024 Schedule | Player Stats

Shamsi saves the day for South Africa

Bhurtel and Aasif Sheikh laid the platform for Nepal in their run-chase with a partnership of 35 runs. Aasif was stupendous after he scored 42 runs off 49 balls with the help of 4 fours and 1 six. Rohit Paudel got out cheaply, but Aasif and Anil Sah put on 50 runs for the third wicket to put Nepal in a position of command. With Nepal needing 30 runs off 38 balls, they looked in cruise control. But then, Tabraiz Shamsi stepped up for the Proteas big time and got four crucial wickets to finish with figures of 4-0-19-4.

Nepal dragged the game to the last over where they were left with 8 runs to get. Gulshan Jha smacked Otneil Baartman for a four, but the boundary was not enough for Nepal. Jha failed to complete a single in the last ball and was run out at the non-striker's end as South Africa won by the barest of margins.

One hell of an opportunity: Michael Leask as Scotland eye Super 8 spot

New Delhi. Scotland batter Michael Leask looked confident ahead of their must-win encounter against Australia as he described it as a "one hell of an opportunity." Scotland would look to script history as they stand a chance to qualify for the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup 2024. Australia, who have already advanced to the next stage, will face Scotland at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, St Lucia on June 16, Sunday. If Scotland manage to beat Australia, they will make it to Super 8. Their win would also mean that the defending champions England will also be knocked out of the tournament.

The Group B will witness England up against the already eliminated Namibia on June 15. A win for England will keep them afloat in the tournament. However, after England's emphatic win against Oman, they boosted their net-run-rate to +3.081, which is superior to Scotland's +2.164. If England win, they will equal Scotland's points tally of 5. If Scotland lose, England will make it to the next stage, owing to a better net-run-rate. Leask realised the

importance of the crunch game against Australia and was eager to take on one of the best teams of the tournament.

"It's a must-win game, always has been. I



think we knew coming into this game it would be. We expect England to play well in the group, and that's exactly what they've done. Look, England had two tough games to play and they've played the first one very well. We always knew this

was going to be a must-win game for us and look, it's a hell of an opportunity for us to go and play really good cricket and take on one of the best in the world," Leask said. Scotland have been brilliant in the tournament so far. After their washout game against England, they went on to defeat Oman as well as Namibia.

It would be a tough way." Leask felt that it would be a huge moment if Scotland make it to the Super 8 stage. He exuded confidence and said that Scotland would bring their best game against the 2021 T20 World Cup champions.

"I think it'd be an incredibly proud moment for Scottish cricket if we did progress to the Super 8s. And look, let's not beat around the bush. It would be the tough way. We know we're going to have to beat Australia. So, I think that would make it extra special for us, knowing that we've played an incredibly good game of cricket, taking on the best in the world, beat the best in the world to progress. And I think come, we're going to have to bring our A game and take them on," Leask added.

Germany boss Julian Nagelsmann happy with 'first step,' wary of Hungary threat

New Delhi. Germany boss Julian Nagelsmann said he was happy to see his side take the first step after their thumping win over Scotland in Euros 2024 on June 14, but was also wary of the threat possessed by Hungary in their next game in the group stage. Germany got off to the best possible start as they hammered Scotland 5-1. Speaking after the win, Nagelsmann said he was hoping that his side can build on the win and was very happy with the performance.

The German boss said his side made no mistakes in the first 20 minutes and they were dominant and very aggressive. Even though today was only the first step, it was a very good one. We can build on this and we're very happy," he said after Germany's triumphant start to the campaign in Munich. Even though today was only the first step, it was a very good one. We can build on this and we're very happy," he said



after Germany's triumphant start to the campaign in Munich. It's great that we scored several goals, it gives everyone a good feeling," he said. "In the first 20 minutes we were extremely good, we were very dominant and very aggressive, we made no mistakes." Hungary is an unpleasant opponent

Germany will next play Hungary on 19 June in their next game and Nagelsmann hailed them as an 'unpleasant opponent.'

"Hungary is an unpleasant opponent, difficult to prepare for, they sometimes have a wild build-up and are difficult to tackle. A very unpleasant team," said Nagelsmann.

Nagelsmann also praised Jamal Musiala for his performance on the day. The youngster had a big impact on the game, as he scored a goal as well. The German boss said that you don't need to tell Musiala what to do as he just goes out and does it. When you see Jamal, you don't tell him what to do, he can just do it. He played an exceptionally good game today. He had an enormous influence," said Nagelsmann.

Nagelsmann also said that his side cannot afford to slow down now after the win and should look for another 3 points to ensure they get out of the group. "I am far from being a warning voice. It makes little sense to slow down too much now," said Nagelsmann.



"Yeah, absolutely. And congratulations to Team USA. They've done amazingly well when you talk about globalisation of the game. This is it USA qualifying for Super Eights. They deserve to be there. They had beaten Pakistan in the round match. So they are there. And for Pakistan was the plan EK 601 to Dubai and then to the respective cities. And then we see what happens from there onwards," Akram said in a video posted by the ICC on their social media handle.

Pakistan's poor performance in T20 World Cup

Pakistan's only win so far in the tournament has been against Canada. They will also face Ireland in the Group A match on June 16, Sunday at Lauderhill in Florida. However, the flashflood warnings and the rainy weather conditions might not let the game happen. The former Pakistan players have come down heavily on captain Babar Azam, for his own form as well as the team's overall performance. This is the earliest Pakistan have ever been knocked out of a T20 World Cup, having played just 3 games before their fate was sealed.

Will Australia make major changes for Scotland clash Vice-captain Matthew Wade reacts

Matthew Wade has hinted that Australia could make a few changes to their lineup for the game against Scotland on June 16. Wade feels they could give the chance to players who could be important in the remainder of the campaign.

Australia vice-captain Matthew Wade has said that they could make a few changes to their lineup for the clash against Scotland on June 16, Sunday. The Aussies have already booked their spot in the Super 8s, but the match still has a lot of importance in the context of Group B. Both Scotland and England are chasing the final spot in the

group to the Super 8s. A lot of discussion has been about Australia's team lineup for the game, with Josh Hazlewood having hinted earlier they could try to help Scotland and knockout England. Wade, while talking at the press conference, said that there could be a few changes, with players like Cameron Green and Ashton Agar potentially getting a chance before the Super 8s stage.

"Potentially. No, I'm not sure on the 11 whether or not some guys will have a rest. We haven't been in this position before, so I'm sure it'll be spoken about to maybe get some games into the guys that potentially might play down the road Green and Agar those guys may play a role as the tournament goes on so yeah, I'm sure to be spoken about whether or not the guys pull the trigger and



go for it, I'm not sure, but we'll wait and see tomorrow I suppose," said Wade. T20 World Cup Coverage | Points Table | T20 World Cup 2024 Schedule | Player Stats

Australia playing the way we want to play Wade said that the team is enjoying their run so

far and claimed that they're focussed on the process. The Aussie vice-captain said it has been pleasing to see the team playing the way they want. "Yeah, we're having a good time. We're like, this environment now is, we're not a result driven team, we're more about the process and going away, going about it the way that we want to play in big tournaments and that's what we're doing, that's the pleasing thing. Yeah, the results are great and it's good to have a few wins, but more pleasing that we're going out, we're executing, we're playing the way that we want to play. Whether or not, you know, we'll be on the other side of it at some stage, I'm sure. And it's more about reflecting on what we're doing and how we're going about it rather than the Xs and O's, I suppose," said Wade.



Shilpa Shetty

and Raj Kundra In Fresh Trouble, Accused of CHEATING Trader In Gold Scheme

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra have landed in fresh trouble. The couple has now been accused of cheating a trader in a gold scheme. As reported by NDTV, bullion trader Prithviraj Saremal Kothari has moved to the Mumbai Sessions Court demanding action against Shilpa and Raj. Reportedly, Kothari has alleged that Shilpa and Raj orchestrated a scheme under their company and asked traders to invest in it, promising lucrative returns on gold investments. The scheme was named 'Satyug Gold' and allegedly assured investors of gold delivery at a fixed rate irrespective of market fluctuations. Kothari claimed that he invested in the scene but did not receive the promised gold upon reaching the maturity date on April 2, 2019. He further claimed that he invested over Rs 90 lakh in the scheme. Kothari also submitted a cover letter signed by Shilpa Shetty and an invoice issued by Satyug Gold Private Limited in court to support his allegations. The court has now ordered Mumbai police officials to investigate the case. This is not the first time that Shilpa and Raj have landed in legal trouble. In April this year, ED seized Raj Kundra's properties worth Rs 97.79 crore. The attached properties include a residential flat in Mumbai's Juhu, in the name of his wife Shilpa Shetty. Another property is a residential bungalow in Pune and Equity shares in the name of Raj Kundra, the ED said.

The agency said in a statement that the Mumbai zonal office of ED provisionally attached immovable and movable properties of Kundra under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. It was alleged that Kundra along with others collected huge amounts of funds in the form of bitcoins (worth Rs 6,600 crore in 2017) from the "gullible public with the false promises of 10 per cent per month return in the form of bitcoins".

Later, the couple issued a statement via their lawyer and argued that they were ready to cooperate with the concerned authorities. They hoped for "fair investigation" and stated that they had full faith in the Indian judiciary system. In 2021, Raj Kundra was also arrested in connection to the alleged creation and uploading of pornographic films on mobile applications. He was granted bail after almost two months.



Natasa Shares Shocking Cryptic Post Amid Hardik Pandya Split Rumours: 'I Can't Wait Until Morals...'



Cricketer Hardik Pandya's wife, Natasa Stankovic, has once again shared a shocking cryptic post on her Instagram story amid the ongoing rumours about their alleged separation. Natasa on Thursday took to her social media account to share a quote by acclaimed Hollywood actor Denzel Washington. "With so many things coming back in style, I can't wait until moral, respect and intelligence become a trend again," read the quote shared by Natasa on her Instagram story. Natasa on Wednesday shared some "happy moments" with son Agastya Pandya on her official Instagram account. The actress shared a series of photos and videos of her candid moments with her son. In the first picture, Agastya can be seen holding her mom close as they take a nap together. Another photo shows Natasa taking a mirror selfie in the elevator. She also posted a video of her son doing push-ups, while another video showed her doing dance workout in the gym. Sharing the post, Natasa wrote, "Some happy moments." On the other hand, Hardik Pandya debuted his new haircut as he gave a glimpse of the same on his Instagram story. Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Pandya's divorce rumours have been making headlines for a long time now. The couple has not issued any official statement regarding the same as of now.

Last week, Natasa posted a selfie on her Instagram, showing her enjoying a cup of black tea. She can be seen donning a white shirt with a blue scarf, as she smiled for the camera. She wrote, "Hi (with a white heart emoji)". In the second slide, one can see Natasa holding a cup of black tea. She wrote, "Drinking (black tea emoji) while in the car wearing full white clothes (with smile emojis and folded hands emojis)." She also asked her followers, "Will I spill the tea?" Former Bigg Boss contestant and dancer Natasa Stankovic has been married to cricketer Hardik Pandya since May 31, 2020. The couple renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023.

Newlyweds Millie Bobby Brown And Jake Bongiovi Coffee Run Is Packed With PDA



Love is in the air for the newly wedded couple Millie Bobby Brown and Jake Bongiovi. The duo recently got spotted for the first time nearly three weeks after getting married. As Millie and Jake went out for a coffee, their pictures made it to the Internet, creating a stir among fans. The romantic snapshots showcased the married couple taking a stroll in New York City and sharing a steamy kiss in between laughs. The Stranger Things star and the model were dressed in a sporty style for their casual day out. While Brown effortlessly rocked a deep V-neck white tank top with yellow shorts and white gym shoes, her husband Jake Bongiovi complemented her well in a white T-shirt and blue shorts. He elevated his look with a baseball hat in the shades of green and white and also wore a pair of white gym shoes.

In case you missed it, Millie and Jake said 'I do' to each other just a few weeks ago. Reports suggest the lovebirds exchanged wedding vows in an intimate ceremony attended by close friends and family members. According to The Sun, the couple opted for a low-key yet romantic celebration. A source close to the couple, during an interaction with the portal, revealed, "It was a very low-key, romantic affair with their closest family with them as they said their vows." That's not all. Millie and Jake are planning to host a star-studded ceremony later this year.

The beginning of Millie and Jake's relationship can be traced back to 2021 when the couple made it Instagram official through a wholesome post. Subsequently, they were seen making appearances at various events together including the BAFTA Film Awards and the premiere of Millie's show on Netflix. It was in 2023 when Millie referred to Jake as her "partner for life." This was followed by a dreamy proposal from her husband a few months later. The Stranger Things star broke the news of her engagement on Instagram with the caption, "I've loved you three summers now, honey, I want 'em all."

Farida Jalal

Reveals Akshay Kumar Reads Dialogues Off White Board On Set: 'Pehle Aisa Nahi Tha'

Akshay Kumar, a highly successful Bollywood superstar, is renowned for his strong work ethic. Many of his close associates have commented on his punctuality and ability to work swiftly on set. In order to maintain such efficiency, he follows certain practices. Recently, veteran actor Farida Jalal unveiled one of these methods, mentioning that Akshay reads his lines from a whiteboard placed behind the camera during shoots. Farida Jalal, who has worked alongside Akshay in multiple films, confirmed actor Bhumi Pednekar's statement about Akshay's unique approach to dialogues. She mentioned that this wasn't always the case, indicating a shift in his working style over time, "Pehle aisa nahi tha (he was not like that before)," she stated.

he actress further revealed, "I have done so many films with him. Elaan, Aflatoon, Dil To Pagal Hai, he was not like that at all.



Ab ho gaya, he's done so many films, won so many awards, he has (learnt and said) so many dialogues. Ab hota hai (it happens), give him that much, otherwise he is so perfect. How he does it? It is a talent that you don't come to know that he is reading out his dialogues. Hats off to him, I won't be able to do it. I would never be able to read the dialogues and act at the same time, but he manages and does it well. Give it to the man, very good, kya baat hai (that's great)." Akshay Kumar's co-star Bhumi Pednekar, who shared the screen with him in 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' and 'Raksha Bandhan', previously shed light on Akshay's unique method of using cue cards for his dialogue delivery. Bhumi emphasized that Akshay's ability to seamlessly incorporate this practice into his acting was a testament to his skill and considered it an art form. She clarified that although Akshay does memorize his lines in advance, he utilizes cue cards during

filming. According to Bhumi, Akshay explained that this helps him stay present in the moment, revealing an interesting aspect of his acting process.

At 75, Farida Jalal's illustrious career boasts iconic roles as a mother figure to Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan. She portrayed Shah Rukh Khan's mother in beloved classics such as Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and Kuch Hota Hai, endearing herself to audiences with her heartfelt performances.

Her on-screen magic wasn't limited to just one Khan; Farida also shared memorable moments with Salman Khan in films like Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai and Dulhan Hum Le Jayenge. Her performances alongside these leading men have left an indelible mark on Bollywood, showcasing her versatility and timeless talent.

