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15 dead, 60 injured after goods train crashes into Kanchanjunga Express

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Jalpaiguri/Kolkata, June 17: At least 15 passengers died and 60 others were injured, after three rear coaches of the stationary Sealdah-bound Kanchanjunga Express derailed on Monday morning as a goods train collided with it in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, officials said.

train near Rangapani station, about 30 km from North Bengal's New Jalpaiguri station, the official said. In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "railway accident in West Bengal is saddening. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones."



two rear compartments of the Kanchanjunga Express were immediately thrown off the tracks under the severe impact, another bogie was seen precariously hanging mid-air with the engine of the goods train tucked underneath. Inclement weather in the region

posed an additional challenge to the rescue operations, the officials said. The accident triggered haunting memories of the Coromandel Express disaster near Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha a year ago, which killed nearly 300 people and injured over a 1,000 others.

While details are awaited, Kanchanjunga Express has reportedly been hit by a goods train. "DM, SP, doctors, ambulances and disaster teams have been rushed to the site for rescue, recovery, and medical assistance. Action on war-footing initiated," she added.

Ensure complete transparency of EVMs or abolish them: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, June 17: Raising questions on the reliability of EVMs, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday asked the Election Commission to ensure complete transparency of the machines and processes or abolish them.



Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said, "Before treating the Electronic Voting Machines as infallible, the Election Commission of India should put out data on how many Electronic Voting Machines were found faulty throughout the elections."

Ministry of Home Affairs to talk to Meiteis, Kukis in Manipur to bridge ethnic divide: Amit Shah

New Delhi, June 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) would talk to both Meitei and Kuki communities at the earliest so as to bridge the ethnic divide in Manipur.

Yogendra Yadav, Suhās Palshikar object to their names being retained in new NCERT textbooks

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, June 17: Political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhās Palshikar on Monday wrote to NCERT objecting to new textbooks carrying their names even after they had disassociated themselves from the revisions and said they would be forced to take legal recourse if these books with their names are not withdrawn immediately.

become a source of embarrassment. The revised version of the textbooks, which recently hit the market, still identifies



them as chief advisors. "Besides the earlier practice of selective deletions, the NCERT has resorted to significant additions and rewriting that are out of sync with the spirit of the original textbooks..."

our names despite our explicit refusal," the letter said. "There can be arguments and debates about someone's claims to authorship of any given work. But it is bizarre that authors and editors are forced to associate their names with a work they no longer identify as their own."

POCSO case: Former Karnataka CM Yediyurappa appears before CID

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Bengaluru, June 17: Former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday appeared before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for an inquiry in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.



denied the charge, and said "people would teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies against him." The victim's brother had filed a petition in the court last week

alleging that though the case was registered nearly three months ago, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed that Yediyurappa should be arrested and interrogated.

6 of 8 Naxalites killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur

Narayanpur, June 17: Six of the eight Naxalites killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district two days back were senior rank cadres and carried cumulative cash rewards of Rs 48 lakh, police said.

Rahul Gandhi retains Rae Bareilly, Priyanka to make electoral debut from Wayanad

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, June 17: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will retain the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh and vacate his Wayanad seat in Kerala from where his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will make her electoral debut.

clear case of dynastic politics being practised. Ruling party spokesperson Shezad Poonawala said, "It proves that the Congress is not a party but a family company."

campaigner during Lok Sabha polls and had not contested herself. Asked whether Rahul has decided to take the Leader of Opposition position in Lok Sabha, after the Congress Working Committee urged him to do so in a unanimous resolution, Kharge said that

a decision will be taken soon. "But, 'dhamki to dee hai' as president of the party" (he has given a threat as party president)," Rahul Gandhi said when asked if he has agreed to the CWC decision to take up the LoP position.



NSA Ajit Doval holds wide-ranging talks with American counterpart Jake Sullivan

New Delhi, June 17: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday held extensive talks with his American counterpart Jake Sullivan primarily focusing on implementation of the ambitious India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

quantum computing, defence innovation, space and advanced telecommunications. NSA Sullivan



also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar earlier on Monday. He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Modi. "Delighted to welcome US NSA @JakeSullivan46 in New Delhi today morning. A comprehensive discussion on a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues."

Officials fret as wild jumbo spotted gobbling plastic waste in TN's Gudalur

COIMBATORE: A viral video of an elephant consuming plastic waste along with the leftover food on the roadside at Nellakottai on the Gudalur Sultan Bathery road left activists and forest officials worried. A tourist who was driving from Kerala shot the video, and shared it on social media. Though activists had earlier spotted plastic paper, sanitary napkins, and masks in elephant dung in Maruthamalai foothills and Gudalur, this is the first evidence of an elephant consuming plastic. Consuming plastic will not harm an elephant. But if food is stale, it will cause health issues for them, a forest veterinarian said on the condition of anonymity. "Since elephants have a simple digestive system, nearly 40 to 50% of whatever they consume will not be digested and released through dung. Elephants suffer diarrhoea and other infection if they consume stale food, chutney, sambar etc that are thrown along the roadsides. A scientific study should be carried out to find out the effects when animals, especially elephants, consume plastics," he said. N Sadiq Ali, founder of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Trust (WNCT) said "The incident shows the poor handling of solid waste by Nellakottai municipality since plastic usage is banned across the district. "The collector M Aruna should order all municipalities and panchayats to clear waste on a regular basis for the welfare of wild animals. Hoardings should be placed wherever possible to raise awareness among tourists to prevent them from dumping garbage in the open." Stating that elephant consuming plastic was rare, a senior official of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) said it is difficult to find out who dumps garbage in the open as covering the roadside using CCTV cameras is a Herculean task.

Colleges fleecing; students in Tamil Nadu want transparency

CHENNAI: When S Adhithyan enrolled in a BSc Mathematics programme at a government-aided college in 2019, he was told to pay a fee of Rs 61,000 for the three-year course by the management. His father is a daily wage and his mother took a loan from a self-help group to support his studies. That is why, the family was slightly relieved when the physical classes were disrupted due to Covid-19 and the government announced that colleges should only collect 75% of the fees.

However, they were shocked when the college allegedly insisted he pay the full amount despite these directives. The management even silenced his questions by threatening to harm his academics. Frustrated over this, Adhithyan consulted some of his seniors and discovered that the government-fixed fees for his course were less than Rs 5,000. Upon graduating, Adhithyan filed a case against the institution seeking the college to return the excess fees. Adhithyan is one among many students who are robbed in daylight by some of the government-aided and government arts and science colleges in the state. In government-aided colleges, the government pays the salaries for teachers, non-teaching staff, and clerical staff, in addition to providing the land and initial infrastructure. The government also

released a fee structure for government and aided colleges in 1997. However, taking advantage of the lack of transparency in the fees fixed by the government, many government aided colleges and a few government colleges charge exorbitant fees, said students.

All government-aided colleges have two



batches—morning batch students who were admitted in government quota and self-financing students in the evening batch. Even though the government-fixed fees are around Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 for the morning batch, aided colleges, especially those with 'star status,' overcharge the students by five to six times the actual amount without any repercussions," said K Kathiravan, president of the Tamil Nadu Universities and Colleges SC/ST Teachers' Association. While the association welcomes the Tamil Puthalvan

and Pudhumai Pen schemes under which the government gives Rs 1,000 to government school students pursuing higher education, they appeal to the government to monitor the fees collection as the students from underprivileged backgrounds are unable to study in these sought-after colleges despite having good marks, added Kathiravan. Several teachers' associations have been urging the Directorate of Collegiate Education to release the government-fixed fee structure on its website and to publish a white paper on the colleges that are overcharging students. They also want the government to stop funding colleges that defy the government order and suspend the principals of these institutions. "There are 163 government-aided arts and science colleges in the state. Only 10% of the colleges adhere to the fee structure fixed by the government. For the past decade, we have been urging the government to establish a fee regulatory committee similar to the ones for engineering and medical colleges," said J Gandhiraj, president of the Association of University Teachers. Officials from the directorate of collegiate education said that they have taken action against colleges for which they have received complaints. When asked about appointing a fee regulatory committee, a top official said that the directorate would look into the demand and take necessary steps.

Karnataka: 1,419 government schools to start bilingual education

BENGALURU: Taking note of the poor performance of Kannada and other language medium schools in SSLC exams, and their dwindling numbers in the state, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) recently passed an order to start bilingual education – in English and Kannada. The department had invited applications for beginning bilingual classes from schools and received 1,800 applications, of which 1,419 government schools have been given the nod post scrutiny under certain criteria.

The Congress government, too, had promoted bilingual schools in its budget and set a target of 2,000 schools for this academic year; however, that could not be met. The highest number of government schools allowed to teach in the English language is in Kalyan Karnataka (Kalaburagi division) region, with 872 schools in seven districts, followed by Bengaluru division with 297 schools, Mysuru division with 140 schools and Dharwad division with 110 schools. The academic year 2024-25 began on May 29; however, the order was passed only on June 15. Officials cited the model code of conduct for the delay. Education Commissioner BB Cauvery told TNIE, "The academic year has just commenced and there is time till the end of the month for new admissions. Despite the official order delay, all schools are ready for these classes, as the proposals came from their side and we have approved only those that have the necessary infrastructure." She added that in terms of teachers, guest lecturers will be given priority in bilingual schools. On the high number of approvals for Kalyan Karnataka region, the Commissioner said the Akshara Avishkara scheme that aims to improve the performance of primary and high schools in the region, pushed more schools to meet the criteria. "Also, the ratio of students enrolling in government schools in this region is high, prompting conducive intervention from the state government," she said. Earlier, the department had directed to Regional Institute of English, South India, and Department of State Educational Research and Training to prepare an action plan for teacher training. A detailed report on the introduction of English medium classes in government primary schools was sought. Since 2019-20, there are 2,404 bilingual schools in the state. Officials in the department, on assurance of anonymity, also said that parents are keen to enrol their children in bilingual schools, which has increased the ratio. "At the field level, we are seeing increased interest in parents wanting their children to learn English from a young age. The department received many proposals but was rejected because of lack of infrastructure," the official said.

Lobbying intensifies in Congress for Palakkad and Chelakkara seats

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Though the Election Commission of India is yet to announce the date for byelections to seats rendered vacant following the Lok Sabha elections, lobbying is on in the Congress for the Chelakkara and Palakkad assembly berths. The Congress state leadership is yet to hold talks on the byelections, including the one likely in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency. Preliminary-level talks on byelections are expected in the state executive committee meeting on Thursday. Ramya Haridas, 38, who tasted defeat at the hands of CPM's K Radhakrishnan in the Alathur LS constituency, is a serious contender for the reserved Chelakkara seat. Though posters appeared in Chelakkara against her, the party is keen on projecting her as its candidate. However, some in the Congress feel she might prove detrimental to the ministerial prospects of another senior leader from the SC community, A P Anil Kumar, the Wandoor MLA. "If Ramya wins from Chelakkara,



she has every chance of emerging as a minister in a possible UDF cabinet after the 2026 assembly elections, as she is a woman candidate and hails from the SC community. This might hamper the prospects of Anil, the most trusted lieutenant of national general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal in Kerala," a Congress leader told TNIE. The most prominent among other hopefuls in Chelakkara is K B Sasikumar, son of

former Chelakkara MLA K K Balakrishnan. Currently KPCC secretary, Sasikumar lost to Radhakrishnan in the 2011 assembly elections. Other names include K V Dasan, a former district panchayat president, and Sivan Veetikunnu, a local panchayat leader.

In Palakkad, the onus is on Shafi Parambil, who relinquished his legislator post after his win from Vadakara, to suggest a candidate. His protégé, Youth Congress

state president Rahul Mamkootathil, is most likely to get the ticket. However, the fact that he hails from Adoor may work against Rahul. In such a case, KPCC vice-president V T Balram will contest from Palakkad. Having shone in the state assembly for two terms, Balram, 46, lost to CPM's M B Rajesh in Thrithala by 3,173 votes in the 2021 elections.

Priyanka in Wayanad?

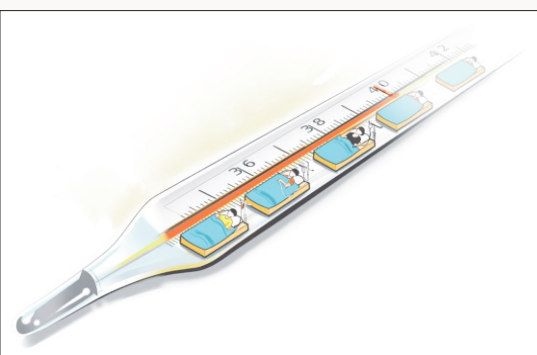
In the Wayanad LS seat, the Congress is hopeful that AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi will eventually become the candidate.

Rumours are rife that while Rahul Gandhi is keen on passing the baton to his sister, Sonia Gandhi does not want her son to lose his sheen with Priyanka entering the election. However, a vast section of state Congress leaders believe that Rahul's words that voters in Wayanad and Rae Bareilly are not going to be disappointed when he decides on one of them gives a hint that Priyanka will take the mantle from him.

Fever cases in Kerala see 65 per cent spike, cross one lakh-mark in June

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: More than 1 lakh fever cases have been reported across the state this month alone, with outpatient visits seeing a 65% rise till June 15. In total, the state has reported over 10 lakh fever cases so far this year. From 5,533 on June 1, daily OP visits by people suffering from fever rose to 9,102 on June 15, taking the total number of cases reported till mid-June to 1,06,176. Daily hospital admissions saw 9% rise, from 104 on June 1 to 198 on June 15, while 22 deaths have been reported so far this month. Cold, cough, viral fever, influenza-H1N1, dengue, leptospirosis, and diarrhoeal diseases were the common ailments for which treatment was sought. Health experts attributed the spike in viral fever to reopening of schools and sporadic

rainfall. They also expressed worries over a further spike when monsoon strengthens. The concerns come at a time when Local Self-Government Minister M B Rajesh acknowledged the shortcomings in pre-monsoon cleaning during the summer due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. The bird flu outbreak in Alappuzha has also caused worries. Dr Purushothaman Kuzhikkathukandyil of MES Medical College stressed the need for heightened surveillance following the outbreak. "Though transmission of infection from birds to humans is rare, we need to see whether or not there is any mutation. Influenza is the most prevalent viral fever reported during monsoon. However, there



could be other variants causing leptospirosis, dengue, malaria, scrub typhus, Adenovirus infection and the like," he said. Experts said the rainy season, especially when there is intermittent rain, creates an ideal

condition for spurt in fever cases. "Reopening of schools has aided in the swift spread of viral infections. Dengue cases have been on the rise. Preparing for it is the only way to control it," said Dr Althaf A, a public health expert and professor at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College. He also said the rise in hepatitis A cases during summer months will cause increased incidence during monsoon when chances of water body contamination rise. Dr T N Suresh, state president of the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA), said that the situation isn't critical yet to warrant additional fever clinics, but the situation is being closely monitored.

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It may be recalled that the Malmaruti police of Belagavi had arrested five individuals on June 9, including a fake doctor, for attempting to sell a one-month-old infant girl for Rs 1.5 lakh.

Baby sale racket: Raid on quack's farmhouse reveals buried foetuses

BELAGAVI: Police officials, in association with health and revenue departments, raided the farmhouse of a quack and carried out a search operation in Basarakod village of Kittur taluk on Sunday. During the operation, officials traced the remains of three foetuses buried on the property. It may be recalled that the Malmaruti police of Belagavi had arrested five individuals on June 9, including a fake doctor, for attempting to sell a one-month-old infant girl for Rs 1.5 lakh. The accused were identified as Mahadevi alias Priyanka Bahubali Jain from Neginhal village in Bailhongal taluk, Dr Abdul Gafar Husainsab Ladhkan, a fake doctor from Kittur, Chandan Girimalappa Subhedar from Bailhongal taluk, Pavitra Somappa Madiwalar and Praveen Manjunath Madiwalar. Rajkumar Singappa

Rathod, coordinator of the District Child Protection Unit at the Government Adoption Centre, filed a case against them. According to police sources, the one-month-old baby was born after Dr Ladhkan, who was approached by Praveen and Pavitra Madiwalar, helped in the delivery. The couple had initially approached Dr Ladhkan to carry out an abortion. However, Dr Ladhkan facilitated the delivery and kept the baby with him. He allegedly sold the baby for Rs 60,000, and later commission agents attempted to sell her for Rs 1.40 lakh. Acting on this information, police nabbed the accused, who confessed to the crime during interrogation. Ladhkan had been running a clinic in Kittur town, posing as an MBBS doctor for over 10 years. A couple of days ago, the health department seized his



clinic. Ladhkan was arrested for allegedly assisting Mahadevi Jain, a nurse from Neginahal village, sell babies to affluent families after purchasing them from the poor at

a low cost. In the wee hours of Sunday, officials from health, revenue and police departments, led by Assistant Commissioner Prabhavati Fakirpur, local tahsildar Ravindra Hadimani, District Health Officer Dr Mahesh Koni and DySP Ravi Naik raided Ladhkan's farmhouse.

Quack's aide being questioned

The action was taken in response to a complaint filed by taluk medical officer Sanjay Siddannavar, regarding illegal child abortions being done in the clinic run by Ladhkan. While searching the farmhouse, officials found foetuses which guided police to investigate not only the child trafficking angle but also an illegal abortion racket. Police have taken Rohit Kuppasagoudar, an assistant of Ladhkan in the clinic, into custody for interrogation.

NEWS BOX

Web series row: Sports school ex-principal held, quizzed

Gurgaon: The police have arrested former principal and director of Motilal Nehru Sports School (MNSS) in Rai Col Ashok Mor (retd) in the controversial case of 'Virodh', a web series that was filmed on the school's premises. The series included alleged inappropriate scenes and featured the school's logo and uniform. He was later released the same day (Thursday) after he joined the investigation. Rai station house officer (SHO) inspector Umesh Kumar said the accused was arrested and released from the police station after participating in the investigation. The investigation revealed that he had permitted the show's creators to use the MNSS premises for filming without obtaining permission from the sports department's higher authorities. Meanwhile, the sports department has removed Mor (retd) from his position as principal and director until the completion of investigations. Vice principal Moushumi Ghoshal assumed the role of acting principal and director of the school on Wednesday. The police had also arrested web series producer Manish Trehan and later released him after recording his statements. A case had also been filed against director of the series Rahul Dahiya. In the series, the school was referred to as Kamlia Nehru School. "The web series is full of nudity, abusive language and objectionable scenes. Students of this prestigious school have been shown taking alcohol in the hostel. The coaches are being shown demanding sexual favours from girl students. Immediately after the release, a letter was sent to the producers, asking them to remove the logo of the school and the uniform, but nothing was done," said the FIR lodged by school's vice-principal Ghoshal on May 27 last year. She told the cops in her complaint that a show 'Rang De Mohe' was shot in Dec 2021 by a Mumbai-based company, M/s Click On RM Private Ltd. It was released one year and four months later on the OTT platform MX Player under the new name 'Virodh'. Prior to release, the producers had sought an NOC for release, but the school administration had refused to give it without first watching the content. However, instead of showing it to the administration, the producers released it on the OTT platform, the FIR stated.

Following the vice-principal's complaint, the Rai police filed a case against Trehan, Dahiya and MX Player under Section 67 of the IT Act on June 5, 2023 and launched an investigation into the matter. Trehan, who was called in on Wednesday to participate in the investigation, alleged that Col Mor (retd) had made additional demands in exchange for issuing the NOC, the cops said.

They lost money to cons posing as relatives and colleagues

Gurgaon: At least four people were duped in the city in the last 10 days by cyber fraudsters posing as their acquaintances. No arrests have been made in the cases so far. Police said Rohit Kumar, a corporate employee from Begampur Khatola complained on Saturday that he had received a call on June 7 from an unknown number. The caller introduced himself as his brother-in-law and claimed that he would deposit Rs 45,000 in Rohit's bank account. Rohit was then asked to send the amount to a phone number given by him through UPI.

Subsequently, Rohit received two SMS indicating money deposited in his account.

"After transferring the amount when I checked the balance, I realized that no amount was credited to my account and the SMS messages I had received were sent by the fraudster, not the bank," the victim said. Cyber South police then registered a case under sections 419 (Punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the IPC.

Similarly, three other people — all employees of different private companies — from the city were duped in the last 10 days. A total of 1.4 lakh has been duped from all the four victims. "We are analyzing the call and bank transaction details linked to the fraudsters to identify and arrest the offenders," a senior cyber crime official said. We also published the following articles recently

Fraudster tricks bank manager into transferring Rs 7.95 lakhs from diamond firm's account A fraudster managed to deceive the branch manager of a private bank in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), leading him to transfer Rs 7.95 lakhs from a diamond firm's account. The impersonator, posing as C Sanghvi, requested the fund transfer for hospitalization, fooling the bank manager.

14k appear for UPSC prelims in 58 centres

Gurgaon. The UPSC civil services preliminary examination took place on Sunday at 58 centres across the district under stringent security arrangements, according to the district administration. Out of 20,061 enrolled candidates, 5,783 were absent for the first paper and 5,863 skipped the second, said additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Hitesh Meena. Candidates had varied opinions on the difficulty level, with some finding this year's papers easier compared to last year. One of the candidates said, "Both papers were easier than last time. Looks like the cut-off will be higher this time." Another candidate added, "The CSAT paper focused more on reasoning and mathematics but was manageable within the allotted time." Security measures included Section 144 being imposed, CCTV cameras and jammers at centres, and strict checks on electronic devices. Exam timings were from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Nodal officer SDM Sonu Bhatt highlighted the deployment of officials and education department supervisors to ensure the smooth conduct of the exams. We also published the following articles recently UPSC CSE Pims 2024 Tomorrow: Download Admit Card, Know Exam Day Rules! UPSC to conduct CSE Prelims 2024 tomorrow, June 16th in two shifts for General Studies Papers. Candidates must download UPSC CSE Admit Card 2024 from upsc.gov.in for offline exam at 79 centers nationwide. EET-UG 2024: SC seeks response from Centre, NTA on plea for CBI probe on alleged paper leak The Supreme Court issues notices to Centre and NTA for a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities and paper leaks in NEET-UG 2024 exam.

Two leave home to meet friend, found dead by tracks with him



Noida. Three persons were run over by a train near Behta-Hajipur station in Loni on Sunday morning. A police team found their bodies by the tracks. The three who died were Aasif (25), a resident of Baghat; Guddu Singh (20) of Sangam Vihar colony in Loni Border and Devesh Pal (25) from Dadri. Bhaskar Verma, ACP (Ankur Vihar), said the guard of a train informed the local GRP that he had seen a body by the tracks. When a team reached the spot, they found two more bodies a little ahead. The bodies were removed soon. It took the cops more than four hours to identify the bodies. "Two of them had old cellphones in their pockets. We used one of the phones to contact the mother of one of the deceased. She identified him as Guddu," he added. Guddu's mother told the cops the other person with him must be Devesh, her son-in-law. Oth Guddu and Devesh were auto-rickshaw drivers. Around 4pm, they parked their autos near their house and said they were going to meet a friend. They, however, did not disclose the name to their family members," the ACP said. The family was yet to lodge any complaint till late on Sunday evening. Police said some CCTV footage showed

the three walking by the tracks. The cops suspect it was an accident. Police sources said the three might have consumed some drugs and were sitting on the tracks when they were run over. We also published the following articles recently Rlys run speed trial on track two at Majorda speed trial run was conducted on the newly laid second track of the 4 km Majorda-Cansaulim segment of the South Western Railway (SWR) by the commissioner of railway safety (CRS) on Monday. The section is part of the Hospet-Hubli-Tinaigat-Vasco double-tracking project, with the train clocking 108kmph. Amravati Express was the first train to pass along the section. When Dharmendra said acting in Hollywood never looked worth it to him, Veteran actor Dharmendra shared his thoughts on career and fame, emphasizing the importance of being loved in India over working in Hollywood or the West. 111006759

Who were in Titan, the submersible that sank near the Titanic shipwreck? The OceanGate submersible, exploring the Titanic shipwreck, went missing with the Titan crew including Stockton Rush, Hamish Harding, Shahzada Dawood, Suleman Dawood, and Paul-Henri Nargeolet, confirmed dead after an implosion.

Cyber frauds pose as DSP, cheat ex-sarpanch of 95k, land in net

Gurgaon. Two cyber fraudsters, identified as Akeel and Khalid, have been arrested in Nuh for allegedly cheating an ex-sarpanch of Rs 95,000 by posing as a DSP Shamsher. The duo used the display picture of the DSP on WhatsApp to call the victim and asked for Rs 95,000, citing a personal emergency. After Dilbagh, former Sarpanch of Reeth village, sent the money, thinking that his police officer friend was in real need, the duo contacted him again, asking for more money, which triggered suspicion. Realising he had been cheated, Dilbagh approached the police, who caught the two men. The accused are now in remand.

Khalid belongs to Kherli village, and Akeel is from Otha village.

According to Nuh police spokesperson, Khalid called Dilbagh on WhatsApp, posing as DSP Shamsher, on June 12. Dilbagh got acquainted with DSP Shamsher a long time back but did not have his phone number. Believing that the DSP was calling him, he enquired about his well-being, and the fraudster

posing as the DSP cut the call after a brief chat. On June 13, the fraudster again called Dilbagh, asking him for money. "The caller's WhatsApp display picture had DSP Shamsher's photo in police uniform. Even on WhatsApp, DSP Shamsher's name appeared. So I believed that it was him. He suddenly asked for Rs 95,000, stating that he had a family problem and needed the amount urgently. I told my younger brother to transfer the amount to the SBI account given by the man posing as DSP," Dilbagh alleged.

On June 14, the fraudster again called Dilbagh and asked for more money, and Dilbagh realised that it could be a fraud. When Dilbagh confronted the fraudster, he switched off the phone. Dilbagh filed a complaint immediately with the police.

Police then arrested Khalid and Akeel on Friday from their homes. "The main accused, Khalid, posed as the DSP, and Akeel helped him execute the fraud. Khalid was also involved in communal violence at Nuh on July 31 last year. He pelted stones on people at Adbar

Chowk and attacked the cyber crime police station with the mob," the spokesperson said. A case has been registered under IPC sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property). We also published the following articles recently Fraudsters impersonating police officers deceive PhD student in IIT Mumbai campus A 30-year-old PhD student residing on the IIT campus was scammed by fake police officers from the non-existent 'Fort police station' in Mumbai, transferring Rs 4.2 lakhs to their account. 110882419 6 cyber frauds posing as Mumbai narcotics dept officers held for extorting Rs 20 lakh from VP of chemical firm Six members of a cyber fraud gang posing as Mumbai crime branch narcotics department officers have been arrested by Khopoli police for extorting Rs 19.89 lakhs from a Khopoli-based chemical manufacturing company's vice-president

GPS must for waste collection vans in 7 days: MCG chief

Gurgaon: MCG commissioner Narhari Singh Bangar has ordered all agencies to ensure GPS integration for all waste collection vans within seven days, linking them to GMDA's command and control centre. Non-compliance will result in non-payment and potential blacklisting, he said at a meeting with MCG officials on Sunday. Over the past two days, MCG enforcement teams seized five vehicles found illegally dumping construction and demolition (C&D) waste at Sector 29, Subhash Chowk, and Hero Honda Chowk. Additionally, MCG cleanliness teams issued fines of Rs 500 to nine individuals for littering public spaces on Sunday.

Under commissioner Bangar's direction, three special enforcement teams have been formed, tasked with monitoring and taking action against illegal dumpers around the clock. This crackdown is part of a broader effort by the MCG to address the persistent issue of illegal waste disposal. "Complaints have been filed with the local police stations to initiate legal action against the perpetrators, and the five vehicles have been impounded," said an official. Previously, the MCG terminated its contract with Ecogreen Energy due to unsatisfactory performance in garbage management. Despite repeated requests for improvement, the company failed to meet the required standards. Commissioner Bangar has now directed officials to clean up garbage hotspots across the city. "The municipal corporation is implementing micro-level planning to overhaul the cleanliness system. Officials will verify and take over all vehicles used in door-to-door collection along with assets. They will ensure every household is serviced through a ward-wise route chart to prevent open dumping, and violators will be fined," said Bangar. The MCG is intensifying efforts against illegal garbage disposal as part of a special cleanliness campaign. "Nine individuals were fined Rs 500 on Sunday for littering public spaces and were warned of potential FIRs for repeat offenses. The campaign aims to maintain cleanliness and effectively penalize violators," said the official. In an effort to accelerate the removal of C&D waste from public areas, 600 tonnes of C&D waste were collected from National Highway-8 and other locations and transported to the Basai C&D waste management plant over the weekend. We also published the following articles recently MCG ends contract with Ecogreen, 3 cos to collect waste & take it to Bandhwari MCG issued a work order to Bimalraj Outsourcing for waste collection, focusing on revenue generation through user charges in Gurgaon. Waste piles up on roads, but MCG has spent only 12% of funds so far Gurgaon's MCG struggles with solid waste crisis, utilizing only a fraction of allocated funds for sanitation.

Police protection: 'AC jackets' with ice pads and fans to beat the heat in Gurgaon

GURGAON. In a bid to bring relief to personnel deployed on the roads amid the ongoing heatwave, traffic police have introduced cooling jackets. Powered by batteries, these 'AC jackets' are equipped with fans and ice pads and can bring down the body temperature by 3-4 degrees Celsius for up to five hours, according to cops. A trial has been rolled out to assess the jackets' effectiveness. "The jackets are designed to keep the upper body cool, and the built-in fans can operate for three to five hours. They can be recharged using readily available charging points," ACP (headquarters/traffic) Sukhbir Singh said. Asked about the cost per jacket, he added, "The overall effectiveness of the jackets is still being evaluated, and we are waiting on the response from the personnel using it before working out budgeting and other factors."

"DCP (traffic) Virender Vij distributed the jackets to 13 zonal officers at his office on Thursday, kickstarting the trial. "These

officers will wear the jackets while on duty at their respective checkpoints and provide feedback, on the basis of which we will take a call before distributing the jackets to all traffic police personnel," he said. The jackets have been manufactured by Plus Advanced Technologies Ltd. "As we have recently seen in north India, heatwaves cause severe stress for outdoor workers. Each lightweight, efficient jacket features an inner vest with phase change material and an outer layer with small, battery-powered ventilation fans," said Samit Jain, the firm's managing director.

During the testing phase, the jackets received mixed feedback from traffic cops. While some found them comfortable and reported improved performance in their duties, others highlighted some issues, sources said. "These jackets are heavy. The

ice pads melt quickly, lasting only about two hours before needing to be refrozen, which is impractical as freezers aren't accessible on the roads. Moreover, cooling that is limited to the upper body may cause temperature imbalances and potential health issues," said Manphool Singh, a zonal officer who is trying out the jacket. In 2017, the Hyderabad traffic police had acquired similar jackets for their teams, but they were discontinued due to negative feedback regarding their effectiveness. Traffic police personnel had then said the jackets were cumbersome and lost their cooling properties rapidly due to condensation. Gurgaon police, however, said modifications have been made to the jackets and they plan to gather feedback from at least 50 policemen before giving them to all personnel.

This app helps cops track down cyber cons; 57 held in city & Nuh

Gurgaon. Developed by the Union home ministry, the Pratibimb app has helped Gurgaon and Nuh police arrest 57 suspected cyber fraudsters not long after they allegedly cheated people into transferring money. The app helps investigators geospatially locate the phones used by cyber cons after a person calls the national helpline 1930 to report

Name Change
I, hitherto known as KANAK LATA GUJAN RENU DEVI W/O BAIDYANATH BEHERA R/O H. NO 130, G/F, GALI NO-5, BLOCK-C, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU DEVI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Sube Singh S/o Mr. Hochand Singh is the owner of FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 106 SQ. YARDS, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 36 MI, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE - KHEDA, CHAUHANPUR, PARGANA & Tehsil DADRJI, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P. By Virtue, Sale Deed Dated 01.11.2019 as Doc No. 21194, Vol. No. 14220, Page Nos. 1-26, Dated 01.11.2019, SRO- Dadrji, till date and has lost/ misplaced his Original Sale Deed Dated 09.02.2007 as Doc No. 2525, Vol. No. 498, Page Nos. 267-274, Dated 09.02.2007. SRO- Dadrji, it was executed in favour of Mrs. Kala Devi W/o Mr. Shobha Ram, now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Home First Finance Company India Ltd. Branch: Gurgaon, Haryana. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-211, sector-3, Vistal, Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh-20110, Contact at 09958871432

Name Change
I, hitherto known as GUNJAN alias GUNJAN AGGARWAL alias GUNJAN SHUKLA D/O PREM PRAKASH SHUKLA W/O AYUSH AGGARWAL R/O 137, RASHI APTS, PLOT-3, SECTOR-7, DWARKA, DWARKA SECTOR-6, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GUNJAN AGGARWAL.

Name Change
I, No-17005866X Rank-NK Name- PREM KUMAR S/o RAM SAGAR SINGH R/o WARD NO-05, VPO- AMNI, TEH-DIST-KHAGARIA, BIHAR-851214, have changed my minor daughter's name from AKIRTI SINGH to KRITI SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi

Name Change
I, ANURAG SHARMA son of Satyadev Sharma resident of House No-386, RAJIV NAGAR, NEAR DLF AREA, SECTOR-33, Amarnagar, S.O. Faridabad, Haryana 121003, have changed my name from ANURAG to ANURAG SHARMA for all future purpose.

Lost & Found
I, Pradip Godara S/o Shri Chatar Singh R/o Flat No. 105, The Palms, South City 1, Gurgaon, Haryana have lost my Original Document i.e Allotment Letter, Builder Buyer Agreement, Unit/ech, Information Report LP No. 1821657/2024, Finder contact above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Bobby khari S/o Dharanvir khari R/o 4492 jai mata market gali no 11 ti nagar is no longer associated with his family members regardless of any conduct done by him, family is not liable for anything.

Name Change
It is for general information that I, LAKSHAY PARIHAR S/o ANIL KUMAR R/o RZP/307, P3 Block, New Roshan Purā, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine and my mother have been wrongly written as LAKSHAY and NITU in my Birth Registration Certificate No. MCDOLR06030023. And, name of my mother has been wrongly written as NITU in my CBSE 10th class Marksheet cum Certificate. The actual name of mine and my mother are LAKSHAY PARIHAR and NEETU respectively.

Name Change
It is for general information that I, ANKIT KUMAR S/o ASHOK KUMAR R/o Plot No. B 31, Deep Vihar, Uttam Nagar, DK Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of my father and my mother have been wrongly written as ASHOK KUMAR CHALUARY and BANDANA CHAU DHARY in my School Leaving Certificate. The actual name of my father and my mother are ASHOK KUMAR and BANDANA DEVI respectively.

Name Change
I, No-22052203A Rank-SEP Name-RAVAL PRAKASH BHAI RAMESH BHAI S/o RAVAL RAMESH BHAI CHHAGAN BHAI R/o VILL-MESAR, TEH-SAR, SWATI, DIST-PATAN, GUJARAT-384265, have changed my minor son's name from VIYAN BHAI to RAVAL VIYAN BHAI PRAKASH BHAI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, kawal Kishore, kawal Kishor, Kewal Kishore Alag S/o Tilak Raj R/o 3B/117, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Kewal Kishore Alagh for all future purposes

Name Change
I, ANGREGO Mother of No. NO-3202700Y Rank-HAV Name- JOGINDER R/o VPO-CHIDANA, TEH-GOHANA, DIST-SONIPAT, HARYANA-131306 have changed my name from ANGREGO to ANGREJO for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 17/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NEWS BOX

New Zealand Prime Minister's plane breaks down on way to Japan

Wellington The New Zealand defence force plane flying New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to Japan broke down on Sunday, forcing the Prime Minister to take a commercial flight, his office confirmed on Monday.

Luxon is spending four days in Japan, where he is expected to meet with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and spend time promoting New Zealand business. New Zealand media reported that the Boeing 757 broke down during a refuelling stop in Papua New Guinea, leaving the business delegation and journalists stranded in Port Moresby, while Luxon flew commercial to Japan. The New Zealand Defence Force's two 757s are more than 30 years old and their age has made them increasingly unreliable. New Zealand Defence Minister Judith Collins told radio station Newstalk ZB on Monday that the consistent flight issues were "embarrassing" and that the ministry was looking at flying Luxon and his delegation commercially from now on. New Zealand's defence force is struggling with ageing equipment and retaining sufficient personnel. The government has said it would like to spend more on defence but is also trying to reduce spending as the country faces economic headwinds.

California wildfire forces evacuation, high temperature hampers dousing efforts

UPDATED. A wildfire burning northwest of Los Angeles on Sunday has forced the evacuation of over 1,000 people from a popular outdoor recreation area and burned over 12,000 acres, authorities said.

Some 400 firefighters armed with 70 firetrucks and two bulldozers are battling the Post fire, which is just 2% contained, according to Cal Fire. It is burning south of Gorman, California, about 60 miles (96.5 km) northwest of Los Angeles. The fire, which started Saturday afternoon, is moving to the southeast, toward Pyramid Lake, Cal Fire said. Some 1,200 people have been evacuated from the Hungry Valley recreation area, which has trails for motorcycles and off-road vehicles, since the fire broke out. Two structures have been destroyed so far. Cal Fire said that efforts to contain the wildfire are being hampered by high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds, forecast to continue through Sunday night.

Water-dropping aircraft are working to halt forward progress of the fire, while firefighters are constructing perimeter fire lines in an effort to get the blaze under more control.

Indian accused in Pannun killing plot extradited to US from Czech Republic

Indian national Nikhil Gupta accused in Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun murder plot, has been extradited to the US from Czech Republic, news agency Reuters reported.

World Indian national Nikhil Gupta, who has been accused in the murder plot of Khalistani terrorist and US citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil, has been extradited to the United States from the Czech Republic, news agency Reuters reported, citing the Federal Bureau Prisons website and a source familiar with the matter.

A search on the Bureau of Prisons website by inmate name showed on Sunday (June 16) that Gupta, 52, is being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn, a federal administrative detention facility. Furthermore, a source independently confirmed to Reuters, on condition of anonymity, Gupta's extradition and his detention in Brooklyn. Last month, a Czech court rejected Nikhil Gupta's petition to avoid being sent to the US, paving the way for the Czech



justice minister to extradite him. Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic on June 30 last year, based on US allegations of his involvement in a conspiracy to commit the killing. According to US federal prosecutors, Gupta was implicated in a plot to hire a hitman to kill a US citizen, purportedly under the direction of an Indian government official. The target was identified as Pannun.

Nikhil Gupta's extradition comes ahead of US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's visit to New Delhi for the annual ICET dialogue. The matter is expected to be raised by Sullivan before his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval. India has denied its involvement in the Pannun murder plot and has constituted a probe committee to investigate the US's allegations.

Nikhil Gupta too, through his attorney, has denied the charges and has said he has been "unfairly charged".

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun holds dual citizenship of the US and Canada, and is wanted in India on terror charges. He has been designated a terrorist by the Union Home Minister under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Afghan Taliban agree to attend UN's Doha conference

The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it was not included in the first round and then refused an invitation to the second round in February.

Kabul, UPDATED Taliban authorities will attend the third round of United Nations-hosted talks on Afghanistan in the Qatari capital, a government spokesman said on Sunday, after snubbing an invitation to the previous round. The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it



was not included in the first round and then refused an invitation to the second round in February. "A delegation of the Islamic Emirate will participate in the coming Doha conference. They will represent Afghanistan there and express Afghanistan's position," Zabihullah

Mujahid told AFP. The talks in Doha are scheduled to be held on June 30 and July 1.

Mujahid told Afghan media on Sunday that a delegation — yet to be announced — would attend because the agenda of the talks appeared "beneficial to

Afghanistan". The agenda includes "topics such as aid for Afghanistan and creating opportunities for investors in Afghanistan, which are important", he said. Civil society groups that included women were invited to the February talks but the Taliban government refused to participate unless its members could be the sole representatives of Afghanistan.

It also requested to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Guterres said in a statement after the February talks the set of conditions to participate "were not acceptable", but that delegates hoped for Taliban officials to attend future meetings. Diplomatic sources told AFP there were plans to consult with civil society groups before and after the third round. The sources said the talks were due to cover finance and economic issues, as well as counternarcotics efforts. Several civil society groups have also urged the UN to prioritise issues involving women's rights at the meeting.

Netanyahu opposes Israeli military's tactical pauses to allow aid in Gaza

Benjamin Netanyahu says IDF's tactical pause plan is "unacceptable" to him. IDF says normal operations would continue in Rafah. Netanyahu's reaction highlights political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza.

Jerusalem Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized plans announced by the military on Sunday to hold daily tactical pauses in fighting along one of the main roads into Gaza to facilitate aid delivery into the Palestinian enclave. The military had announced the daily pauses from 0500 GMT until 1600 GMT in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northward. "When the prime minister heard the reports of an 11-hour humanitarian pause in the morning, he turned to his military secretary and made it clear that this was unacceptable to him," an Israeli official said. The military clarified that normal operations would continue in Rafah, the main focus of its operation in southern Gaza, where

eight soldiers were killed on Saturday. The reaction from Netanyahu underlined political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza, where international organisations have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads one of the nationalist religious parties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition,



denounced the idea of a tactical pause, saying whoever decided it was a "fool" who should lose their job.

DIVISIONS BETWEEN COALITION, ARMY

The spat was the latest in a series of clashes between members of the coalition and the military over the conduct of the war, now in its ninth month. It came a week after centrist former general Benny Gantz quit the

government, accusing Netanyahu of having no effective strategy in Gaza.

The divisions were laid bare last week in a parliamentary vote on a law on conscripting ultra-Orthodox Jews into the military, with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant voting against it in defiance of party orders, saying it was insufficient for the needs of the military. Religious parties in the coalition have strongly opposed conscription for the ultra-Orthodox, drawing widespread anger from many Israelis, which has deepened as the war has gone on.

Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi, the head of the military, said on Sunday there was a "definite need" to recruit more soldiers from the fast-growing ultra-Orthodox community.

RESERVISTS UNDER STRAIN

Despite growing international pressure for a ceasefire, an agreement to halt the fighting still appears distant, more than eight months since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas fighters on Israel triggered a ground assault on the enclave by Israeli forces. Since the attack, which killed some 1,200 Israelis and foreigners in Israeli communities, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health ministry figures, and

Xi Wishes Muizzu on His Birthday; Emphasises Importance of Strategic Ties Between China, Maldives

Male, Maldives . President Xi Jinping has emphasised the importance of China-Maldives relations and reiterated his strong support for strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership, as Beijing steps up its influence in the Indian Ocean archipelagic nation.

President Xi conveyed this message to his Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Muizzu on his 46th birthday, the president's office said here in a statement on Saturday. Interestingly, Xi also celebrated his 71st birthday on Saturday. China's Ambassador to the Maldives, Wang Lixin, paid a courtesy call on President Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, at his official residence and presented a congratulatory letter from President Xi

to his Maldivian counterpart on the occasion of his birthday, the statement said. In the letter, President Xi expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes to President Muizzu. He also emphasised the importance of China-Maldives relations and reiterated his enthusiasm for strengthening the China-Maldives Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly building a China-Maldives community with a shared future, the statement said. President Muizzu expressed gratitude to Ambassador Wang for personally delivering Xi's letter and stated that it was a tremendous pleasure to receive it. The President had also written a congratulatory message to President Xi Jinping, who celebrates

his birthday on the same day, the statement said.

The discussions between Muizzu and Wang further focused on enhancing collaboration and improving bilateral relations between the Maldives and China, it said. They also discussed future agreements and forthcoming collaborative initiatives for development. Additionally, the Chinese Ambassador stated that China is determined to assist with the Maldives' economic development and inquired about areas where the Maldivian Government requires additional assistance.

Since he assumed office in November last year, President Muizzu has taken several steps to bolster Male's ties with Beijing.

At least 14 Hajj pilgrims die from heatstroke in Mecca

World At least 14 people from Jordan have died in extreme heat during the Muslim hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, South China Morning Post, quoting officials, reported. A further 17 people are missing, the Jordanian foreign ministry said on Sunday, according to the state agency Petra. The ministry had initially confirmed the deaths of six Jordanian pilgrims who had suffered heatstroke. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry has posted a message on microblogging site Platform X stating that the Directorate of Operations and Consular Affairs, and the Consulate General of the Kingdom in Jeddah, is following up with the relevant Saudi



authorities on the procedures for burying pilgrims and transporting the bodies of those whose families wish to be transported to the Kingdom as quickly as possible.

Ambassador Dr. Sufyan Al-Qudah, expressed his sincerest condolences and sympathy to the families of the deceased pilgrims.

A search is under way for the 17 missing people. The pilgrimage began in Mecca on Friday evening in blistering heat. News of the deaths comes as pilgrims gathered atop Mount Arafat on Saturday, marking the main event of the pilgrimage, with the niece of one of the deceased telling CNN Arabic that her aunt had died on Mount Arafat and was buried in Saudi Arabia.

More than 1.8 million people are taking part in Hajj this year, according to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics, CNN reported.

The Hajj is one of the biggest religious gatherings in the world and the largest annual event in Saudi Arabia.

In A Video Message, Israel Warns Of Escalation Due To Hezbollah's Cross-Border Fire From Lebanon

Israeli military warns of heightened tensions due to Hezbollah's cross-border attacks from Lebanon, risking regional escalation

World In a video message on Sunday, the Israeli military warned that intensified cross-border fire from Lebanon's Hezbollah movement into Israel could trigger serious escalation amid the ongoing war in Gaza. Hezbollah last week unleashed its most extensive barrage yet of rockets and drones in the ongoing eight-month conflict with the Israeli military, running parallel to the Gaza war. Following the heavy exchanges over the past week, Sunday saw a marked drop in Hezbollah fire. The Israeli military said that it had carried out several air strikes against the group in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah's increasing aggression is bringing us to the brink of what could be a wider escalation, one that could have

devastating consequences for Lebanon and the entire region," Israeli military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a video statement. "Israel has a duty to defend the people of Israel. We will fulfill that duty." The US and France are working on a negotiated settlement to the hostilities along Lebanon's southern border. Hezbollah says it will not halt fire unless Israel stops its military offensive on Gaza. "Israel will take the necessary measures to protect its civilians — until security along our border with Lebanon is restored," Hagari said. Two UN officials in Lebanon warned there was a "very real" risk that a miscalculation along Lebanon's southern border could trigger a wider conflict. The Times Of Israel reported. In a statement, the UN special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the head of UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, Aroldo Lazaro, said that they were "deeply concerned" about the escalation along Lebanon's border.

Meanwhile, US officials were also

increasingly concerned that an all-out war could break out after eight months of skirmishes, since Hezbollah began attacking Israel in October in support of Hamas in Gaza. According to US media reports, a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden will arrive in Israel on Monday



to try to put a lid on the escalation. "UNACCEPTABLE TO HIM"

This escalation comes as the Israeli military announced the daily pauses in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticised plans announced by the military to hold daily tactical pauses in fighting along one of the main roads into Gaza to facilitate aid delivery into the Palestinian enclave. "When the prime minister heard the reports of an 11-hour humanitarian pause in the morning, he turned to his military secretary and made it clear that this was unacceptable to him," an Israeli official said. The military clarified that normal operations would continue in Rafah, the main focus of its operation in southern Gaza, where eight soldiers were killed on Saturday.

The reaction from the Israeli PM hints towards political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza, where international groups have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis. Israeli National Security

Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads one of the nationalist religious parties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition, denounced the idea of a tactical pause, saying whoever decided it was a "fool" who should lose their job.

Kochi Metro marks 7th anniversary on June 17; average daily ridership nears one lakh

KOCHI: The seventh anniversary of Kochi Metro, which falls on Monday, marks a significant milestone for the company, at a time when it has completed the 28km-long phase 1 corridor from Aluva to Tripunithura, covering a total of 25 stations. Work on the phase 2 corridor is expected to be completed within 18 months, once the tender is awarded by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which has offered a loan for the project. Over the years, Kochi Metro has developed itself into the lifeline of the city. Construction work on the first phase began in June 2013. The 13.4km section of the line from Aluva to Palarivattom, consisting of 11 stations, was opened to passengers on June 17, 2017, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also inaugurated the last stretch of phase 1, between SN Junction and Tripunithura on March 6 this year.

The number of daily commuters is approaching one lakh. "At present, on average of over 90,000 people travel on the metro every day. In May this year, average daily passenger ridership was 99,000 and for around 14 days the number crossed 1 lakh," a KMR official said. According to KMR reports, over 10 crore people have travelled on the metro since its inception. Of this, 3.11 crore people used the service in 2023. The tender for phase 2, from JLN Stadium to Infopark, known as Pink Line, is under review and may likely be awarded to Afcons Infrastructure Ltd, which has made the lowest bid.

Alarm bells over mushrooming mental health clinics in Kerala

KOCHI: In the post-Covid era, social media has played a huge role in raising awareness on the significance of mental health, therapy centres, virtual counselling and consultations. With the increased popularity and acceptance, the state has been witnessing a rise in the number of private mental health clinics. However, a lack of legislation to regulate and monitor the functioning of these clinics and virtual consultants has led to credibility issues, misdiagnosis of mental conditions, and delays in providing treatment, experts pointed out.

"Wrong people giving counselling to people lead to tragic events," said senior psychiatrist C J John, citing the instance of a person who attempted suicide and later consulted him. "He was suffering from depressive disorder, which required medication, and was taking advice from a former police officer. These pieces of advice did not help him, leading to the suicide attempt," Dr John said. Many unscientific practices are entering the field of psychology because of the notion that anyone can practice counselling, pointed out Dr Arun B Nair.

"We have seen some religious leaders counselling and using spirituality in this field. Unscientific interventions can even lead to the spread of malpractices, pseudoscience, and pseudo-beliefs," he said. According to experts, counselling is not everyone's cup of tea and a degree or post-graduation in psychology does not qualify anyone for the job. Rather, proper training is imperative. "Only those with some knowledge of psychiatry and neurological disorders can understand if

the individual requires medication or psychiatric and brain disorders that can come with psychiatric symptoms is important," Dr John said. Counselling requires confidentiality and technique, and importantly, the person has to adhere to training under the supervision of qualified and senior practitioners, he added. "A poorly trained person



counselling a patient may fail to diagnose the condition, or even misdiagnose, thereby delaying treatment and worsening the condition," said Dr Dhanya Chandran, head of the department of psychology at Amrita Hospital, Kochi. Sometimes, brain disorders can also be projected through psychiatric symptoms, Dr Arun said. "A counsellor needs to have the capability to understand and diagnose such issues," he pointed out. If styled counsellors charging a huge fee after giving some random advice, Dr Dhanya said. "Counsellors and therapists get huge amounts as fees. Somewhere around Rs 500 for a one-hour session. It is an income source for several people," she said.

Experts demand that registration and licensing norms similar to those issued by the Rehabilitation Council of India for rehabilitation professionals be brought in for counselling centres as well. An official with the directorate of health services (mental health) said that regulations for behavioural health science professionals are included in the Allied and Healthcare Professionals Act of 2021. "The Act directs state governments to come up with a regulatory body for professionals and it will come into force in the state once the Act is implemented at the national level," the official said. "Licensing should be made mandatory before establishing a counselling clinic. Such clinics should be registered with the local bodies," Dr John stressed. The Mental Health Care Act 2017 has made it mandatory for mental health establishments to have registration and licence. "The state has established a Mental Health Authority based on the Act. The Act has specified the qualifications required for rehabilitation professionals. But counselling is not covered under it," Dr Arun said, adding that awareness need to be spread on the qualifications. "Often, people with mental health issues approach life coaches, trainers, and mind power trainers who may be qualified or trained in psychology. They can only give motivational speeches and train people to enhance business," he said. Writing down the qualifications and degrees on a name board should be made mandatory to prevent exploitation of patients, demanded Dr John.

GMC to implement special action plan to curb stray dog menace

GUNTUR: The Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) is taking steps to address the stray dog menace by implementing a special action plan for mass anti-rabies vaccination. The civic body has become increasingly vigilant following a series of incidents where stray dogs attacked children and the elderly. The GMC's veterinary wing has identified over 20,000 stray dogs in the city, and complaints about these dogs have surged recently. The issue was brought into sharp focus after a six-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl were attacked by packs of stray

State govt contacts Haryana-based organisation to carry out sterilisation drive.



dogs in quick succession. A Rangaraju, a resident of AT Agraharam, expressed concern over the growing stray dog menace in Guntur district. "During the night, over 20 to 30 stray dogs roam the streets and chase vehicles. We are afraid to go out late at night because of these dogs," he said. Rangaraju pointed out that poor sanitation exacerbates the problem, with many dogs gathering near dumping bins where heaps of waste are left on the roadside. He urged civic officials to take immediate action to address the issue. In response to the rising complaints, the GMC has decided to ramp up the sterilisation of stray dogs in the city. GMC Commissioner Kirthi Chekuri announced that the State government has contracted the Haryana-based Sneh Welfare Society, recognised by the National Animal Welfare Organisation, to carry out the sterilisation and mass anti-rabies vaccination drive from 2023 to 2026. Under the supervision of the GMC officials committee and experts at the Animal Birth Control Centre on Etukuru Road, sterilisation surgeries will be conducted on street dogs. Following surgery, the dogs will receive necessary medical care and will be released back into their original locations once fully recovered. The chief emphasised that only trained GMC staff would be involved in capturing the dogs and called on citizens, animal welfare organisations, and dog lovers to cooperate with the officials in this effort.

Tamil Nadu: Transfer of patta is now instant after registering property sans sub-division

CHENNAI: The automatic transfer of patta ownership for properties that do not involve the creation of subdivisions is now instantaneous, thanks to the integration of registration and revenue portals. When a buyer purchases a land parcel, house or other property that does not require any change in the extent of the land, the title is updated instantly on the online patta portal upon registration. The online patta can be downloaded within a few minutes from <https://eservices.tn.gov.in> by entering details such as district, taluk, town/village, survey number, and sub-division, according to officials. Once the property is registered, the new land owner's name will appear instantly on the encumbrance certificate, which can be viewed through the registration portal at <https://nreginet.gov.in/portal/>. "Similarly, land buyers can view and download online patta instantly after registration. This transfer will only occur if the property seller has an individual patta in their name, and the extent of the property remains unchanged," Madhusudhan Reddy, Director of Survey and Settlement, said. Reddy added that currently, about 85,000 documents are registered every month at sub-registrar offices across the state, with 33,000 not requiring subdivision creation. "During the registration process, text alerts are sent to land buyers, and once registration is completed, a text alert confirming the title transfer will be sent," he said.

If the sellers do not have patta in their names, buyers have to apply for patta through e-seva centres, which will be approved within 15 days. "For patta requests requiring a survey for property subdivision, revenue officials directed to complete the exercise within 30 days," Reddy added. The revenue departments receive about three lakh applications seeking patta each month. "About two lakh applications are pending across the state. Previously, delays in issuing patta were due to a shortage of surveyors and staff. Now, with the vacancies filled, we have set deadlines for processing patta requests," Reddy said. This initiative is expected to benefit people who purchase apartments or individual houses/land parcels from approved layouts, which typically do not involve subdivision of property. The automatic land transfer initiative was launched three years ago, but it took several days for title changes to be updated as the earlier system required approval from revenue authorities. "Now, with the integration of registration and revenue portals, the scheme is fully implemented statewide," an official said.

Gender parity: Karnataka Fire & Emergency Services DGP wants women to gear up, fight fire

BENGALURU: For the first time in 82 years, the traditionally male-dominated Fire & Emergency Services Department has approached the state government to appoint women firefighters. Accordingly, the department has recommended at least 10 per cent reservation for women in the recruitment of firefighters. Currently, the role of women staffers at the Karnataka State Fire & Emergency Services Department is limited to desk work. The inclusion of female firefighters in the workforce would be a significant move in promoting gender equality within the fire service. The proposal has been made by the Director General of Police (DGP) of the Fire & Emergency Services, Kamal Pant. "Women have proved themselves in various challenging roles across different sectors, including the Armed Forces and the police department. It's time we recognise their potential in the fire services as well," Pant said. "We have proposed to the government the need to change the cadre and recruitment rules to facilitate reservation for women. The proposal is being examined and will soon be sent to the government. The selection process for men and women remains the same," the senior IPS officer said, adding, "The department maintains strict recruitment standards. Our primary concern is public safety. All recruits must be regardless of gender and must meet the standards." Another senior officer from the fire department mentioned that they plan to improve facilities and working conditions to make the environment more conducive for female staff.

Amaravati first phase to be completed in 30 months

VIJAYAWADA: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has said the construction of Amaravati Capital City will be taken up as per the master plan designed earlier. After assuming office in his chambers at the State Secretariat on Sunday, Narayana said a plan has been prepared to take up the development of Amaravati in three phases at a total cost of Rs 1 lakh crore. While funds to the tune of Rs 48,000 crore are required for the first phase, around Rs 9,000 crore payments have been made for the construction works so far, he said. "Going by my previous experience, I am expecting that the first phase of Amaravati, including Assembly and Secretariat buildings, quarters of ministers, MLAs, MLCs, officials and other staff and other



necessary infrastructure will be completed within two-and-a-half-years. However, the exact schedule for the completion of different works will be informed within a fortnight after holding review meetings with officials,"

Narayana said. Mentioning that 90% of works of residential buildings of ministers, secretaries, officials and employees were completed, he said steps will be taken soon to provide road connectivity to the buildings, besides development of other basic infrastructure. In the

latter phases, works related to the metro railway project, connecting Amaravati with the airport and others will be taken up. Asserting that a finest design was evolved to develop Amaravati as one of the five best capital cities in the World, the MAUD Minister said every development activity to be taken up in the capital will help promote economic growth of all the districts.

Bitter experience for Sri Lakshmi
When Special Chief Secretary (MA&UD) Y Sri Lakshmi went to Narayana and urged him to sign a file after he took charge, the Municipal Administration Minister rejected her plea stating that it was not the time. The senior IAS officer also reportedly got bitter experience when she met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as the latter did not accept bouquet from her.

Anna University to rope in int'l faculty, 50 per cent waiver in course fee

CHENNAI: Encouraged by its improved QS rankings this year, Anna University has decided to hire international faculty and attract more foreign students to the campus.

Anna University has been ranked among the top 10 universities in the country and the 400 best universities globally, by the London-based higher education analyst, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). As per QS World University Rankings 2025, Anna University is ranked 383rd on the list. The rankings are based on various parameters like academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, citations per faculty, international-faculty ratio, international students, international research

network, sustainability and employment outcomes.

Though the university has scored a perfect 100 in citations per faculty, which reflects the research work being carried out in the varsity, its score in international student and faculty ratio is the lowest. In the international student ratio, it has scored only 1.3. To improve its score in the parameter, Anna University has reduced fees for foreign students and is also promoting the university through various portals and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to attract foreign students. "As we are among the top 10 best universities in India as per QS ranking, more number of foreign students

will opt for our institute. This year, we are expecting almost 600 to 700 international students on the campus," said vice chancellor of the university, R Velraj. Currently, there are 80 international students



the campus. For foreign students, the varsity has introduced a 50% waiver in the course fee if the student joins any course other than BTech in computer science, IT and ECE (electronics and communication engineering) as these three

are the most in demand. The university is also trying to rope in international faculty to enhance its global outreach. "Our faculty members are working with many international faculties in various universities as part of their research collaborations. We will try to bring in some of these international faculty members for a period of one to two years to provide exposure to our students. We are already in talks with a few of them," added the vice-chancellor. The university was placed 427th last year and has climbed to 383rd position this year. In the next four years, it aims to be in the top 200 universities globally as per the QS rankings.

Udupi SSLC students to get videos of classes via email

UDUPI: In an unique initiative, apart from their usual classes, SSLC students in Udupi district will also receive their lessons via email. Launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy, through this initiative, Udupi district aims to ensure continuity of education even after class hours and on holidays. The plan was devised to make sure that the district retains its top position in SSLC ranking for the academic year 2024-25. Sources from the department told TNIE that the initiative was primarily driven by the need of some introvert students who are not so expressive and hesitate to clarify their doubts in the classroom. "Subject experts serving as teachers in various schools

across the district were handpicked by the respective block education officers (BEOs) and their video classes were recorded at a studio at the District Resource Centre near the DC's office in Rajathadri, Manipal. The videos will now be sent to the students mail ids. Students who could not understand the lessons and concepts at one go during the class hours can watch the videos at home and during holidays. This is a support system that will also help in achieving good results in the SSLC exam," an official from the education department told TNIE. Dr Ashok Kamath, vice-principal of District Institution of Education and Training, Udupi, said, "Videos of each chapter in all



core subjects and languages are being prepared. Udupi Zilla Panchayat CEO Prateek Bayal has supported this

plan, which will have a lasting impact on the students' learning ability." DDDPI K Ganapathy said mailed lessons offer as an alternative mode of learning for students as they are both flexible and comprehensive. He added that recording of videos by subject experts is on full swing. Those students who may have to skip some classes due to ill health can also make up for lost time by watching the videos. Parents have largely welcomed this initiative. Tharanath, a parent, said his daughter can access study material anytime and anywhere. "The government should come up with more innovative ideas suitable for modern day education."

Cricketers as marasis

There's self-deprecating humour, and then there's other-deprecating humour. The former may lay bare deep insecurities, but it's deemed acceptable because it hurts none; other-deprecating humour, however, can and will cause hurt and anger, especially if done in public. Marasis — Punjab's rustic comedians — indulge in other-deprecating humour; they make fun of people's facial features, body shape, handicaps.

Where does humour lie? In prose and on the stage, it's often found in exaggeration; in the world of marasis, humour lies in lampooning and deriding and mocking others, and often the frailties that they can't do anything about — such as short stature or a limp or crooked teeth.

Kamran Akmal, the former Pakistan cricketer, was in the role of a marasi when he cracked a 12 o'clock joke about Arshdeep Singh, the India and Punjab pace bowler, when India played Pakistan in the T20 World Cup in New York.

Now, we've all heard such jokes — Sikh friends have related these with relish, too. There is no one rule that fits all situations of humour, but such jokes are often alright among friends in a private sphere; but in public, and coming from a stranger, such jokes become offensive — an other-deprecating taunt likely to cause anger.

Cricketers learn to grow a thick skin, for they've heard all sorts of abuse from their opponents. Such harsh and cruel words, though, are often spoken in the heat of the moment, on the field of play. When a cricketer-analyst passes inappropriate jokes on live television, it's nothing but crass jeering, betraying a lack of sensitivity and good taste. But then, in a region — including India and Pakistan — where an amputee could be referred to as tunda, a man with a squint called bhainga to his face, and a dark-skinned person nicknamed kalu, it would be too much to expect a man like Akmal to be oversensitive. Add to it the state-sponsored hate for the minorities in Pakistani schoolbooks, and you can well believe that Akmal is a victim, too, and what he said about Arshdeep was quite inevitable. Maybe it's because we in Punjab have similar marasi/comedian culture, our own Navjot Singh Sidhu, humour king on TV, can laugh at people's appearance on reality shows. A few years ago, he had this to say about the Bangladeshi team: "Jo kangal, behal Bangladesh tha, woh khushhaal aur maalamaal..." This caused resentment in Bangladesh, as did his comment likening the team to "cockroaches" that can't fly. Sidhu's coarse humour may have raised some laughs, but such humour is clearly offensive and inappropriate. Between crass humour and extreme political correctness, there's much territory on which humour can flourish — middle ground that Akmal and Sidhu can occupy, removing their marasi hats. Giving up boorishness isn't a bad idea. When Hardik met Natasa, sparks flew; he liked her face, she liked his style, and love blossomed. It was 2018, and in 2020, they were married — cricketer Hardik Pandya and Natasa Stankovic, an actress and model from Serbia.

But in between was 2019, too, when Pandya put his foot in the mouth in a big way — in a TV interview, he boasted about his adventures with multiple women, saying this about his method of picking them up: "At a party, my parents asked me, 'Achcha tera wala (women) kaun sa hai,' so I said, 'Yeh, yeh, yeh (pointing out women)'... And they were like 'waah, proud of you beta!'... I like to watch and observe how they move" Pandya said, adding that he paid particular attention to "the backside". Pandya and KL Rahul — also part of the interview, but much more restrained — were criticised for being misogynists. It could be argued that Pandya didn't bring forth his misogyny — dislike for women; it was philogyny — love for women, instead. But it was peppered with deep contempt for them — due to their easy availability, added to his upbringing in a patriarchal society. Anyone who has covered cricket tours would testify that hundreds of young women practically throw themselves on cricketers all the time; during the IPL parties in Lalit Modi's era, stories of casual after-match trysts were legion. If the young Pandya, among others, succumbed to temptation, how much can he be blamed? As for him and Natasa, love seems to have soured; she got married to him despite his crassness. Speculation now centres round how much of his wealth would she be entitled to if they get divorced — a sordid end to love.

Sighting King Cobra and addressing the fear factor

As wars rage on in the human world, the human kings have much to learn from these 'principled' kings

ENVIRONMENTAL conservation and climate issues were consigned to oblivion by various political parties in the recent Lok Sabha elections, despite a heatwave sweeping through many parts of the country. Delhi is making headlines over its drinking water crisis. The AAP government has claimed that the Capital is facing a water shortage of 50 million gallons per day. The most polluted capital city in the world is struggling to cope with the heatwave. The weather conditions have hit poor people the hardest; they lack access to basic needs, such as food, water, health, housing and electricity, to fight or adapt to heatwaves. The impact of climate change is not the same for the rich and the poor. Societal inequalities exacerbate the effect of heatwaves on the poor, whereas the rich can afford to adapt to them. Over 80 per cent of the street vendors surveyed in Delhi reported a decline in customers amid the heatwave in April and May, and around 50 per cent experienced significant income loss, according to a report by think tank Greenpeace India and the National Hawker Federation.

While the rich contribute to climate change, it is the poor that suffer its negative effects, such as high temperatures or heatwaves. Rising temperatures cause a multitude of problems, such as health issues, water scarcity and food adulteration. Heatwave-related morbidities like dehydration, weakness, restlessness, headache, diarrhoea, skin rashes, heatstroke and sleeplessness continue to affect people, especially children, the elderly, women and those with comorbidities.

Climate change has adversely affected the adequacy, accessibility and affordability of drinking water, with an increase in demand for it in Delhi. Residents, especially those in slums, continue to grapple with water shortage. The fundamental right to access clean water is denied even as the government proclaims the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission for an assured supply of rural drinking water and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation for the universal coverage of drinking water supply in urban areas. Further, the past two months have seen a high demand for climate adaptation appliances like fans, air coolers, air conditioners and refrigerators in India. And there has been a huge surge in the consumption of electricity. Frequent incidents of fire are reported amid high temperatures and a corresponding

increase in the consumption of electricity to ward off the heat. The NCR has around 750 slum settlements, housing 3,50,000 families with a total population of 20 lakh. Poverty, sweltering heatwaves and an inadequacy of water have worsened the living conditions of slum-dwellers. With limited economic resilience, the poor are unable to adapt to the climate. The poor seek relief from the excessive heat inside their homes — which have plastic and asbestos roofs — in open spaces like



footpaths, parks and the areas under flyovers. Children, the elderly and women remain the hardest hit. The rich, on the other hand, can adapt to the heatwaves, as they have access to water and air conditioners. These unsustainable human lifestyles and the extractive and exploitative use of common property resources can create problems for the common man in India. Governments are hardly prepared to face the greater developmental challenges posed by climate change. There is an urgent need to economically empower the poor to battle climate change. Sunstroke is not treated as a natural disaster in policy forums, and there are no rehabilitation centres or livelihood support for the poor who suffer because of heatwaves. There is an urgent need to assess urban climate risks for each city for a holistic climate resilience policy in India. The urban climate risk and vulnerability assessment — in terms of the number of people vulnerable to climate-related

disasters, the damage to humans and infrastructure and the financial support needed to rebuild — is important for climate resilience. The system requires three kinds of resources to fight climate change at the city level: natural (forest and water), man-made (infrastructure) and human (technology and employment). Without them, an individual's capacity for climate resilience is highly limited. Climate resilience largely relies on the sustainable development of cities through practices like rainwater harvesting, replenishing groundwater and the conservation of urban forests, land, biodiversity, lakes, rivers and trees. Indian cities lack modern and sustainable infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure is old, and it cannot support the growing demands, for example, multimodal public transport, 24x7 water supply, sewage and solid waste management, green energy, urban housing and public hospitals and schools.

It is also imperative to improve the human capital through education, technology, health, jobs and a decline in poverty and income inequality. Inclusive development, such as social protection, acts as an insurance against climate change. The poor need financial, technical and institutional support in the form of poverty reduction programmes, social security schemes, etc, to improve their quality of life and develop climate resilience. Indian cities need to have institutional capacity to adapt to climate change. Systemic wealth and income inequalities have exacerbated the impact of climate change on the poor. The present model of economic development perpetuates inequalities and fails to reallocate and redistribute resources. Economic inequality and climate change are intricately linked to an unequal distribution of income and resources, limiting the economic resilience of the poor to fight climate change. Therefore, there is an urgent need to restructure economic and environmental governance systems to achieve inclusive development and strike a balance between ecological and economic stability to tackle climate change in India.

Biannual admissions

Implement in phases, ensure quality education

THE somewhat muted response to the announcement by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to permit admissions to higher educational institutions twice a year is on expected lines. The switch to a biannual admission process entails not only an infrastructure upgrade, but a whole series of administrative and faculty readjustments. Since it's a voluntary provision, a majority of universities are likely to adopt a wait-and-watch approach for now. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar would be hopeful that the scepticism is short-lived. There is merit in his argument that the decision will offer greater flexibility to the students and the institutions.

Students in India can now be admitted in January-February as well as in July-August, as is the case in most foreign universities. The UGC chairperson feels the policy will benefit students who missed admission due to a delay in the



announcement of board results, health issues or personal reasons. The education regulator's experiment of biannual

admission for open and distance learning and online programmes, he claims, has helped nearly five lakh students join degree programmes without waiting one full academic year. That's commendable, but what may work for online and distance education programmes may not necessarily turn out to be feasible for on-campus learning.

While one would advocate keeping an open mind on the new policy, what can't be discounted are the apprehensions regarding its potential impact on educational quality. Allowing double the intake of students without ensuring a commensurate presence of qualified teaching staff can spell chaos. Phased implementation, with an ample scope for course correction, appears to be the ideal strategy. As the UGC presses for biannual admissions, it will have to ensure that the process is not misused as a money-making opportunity. The students must not lose out.

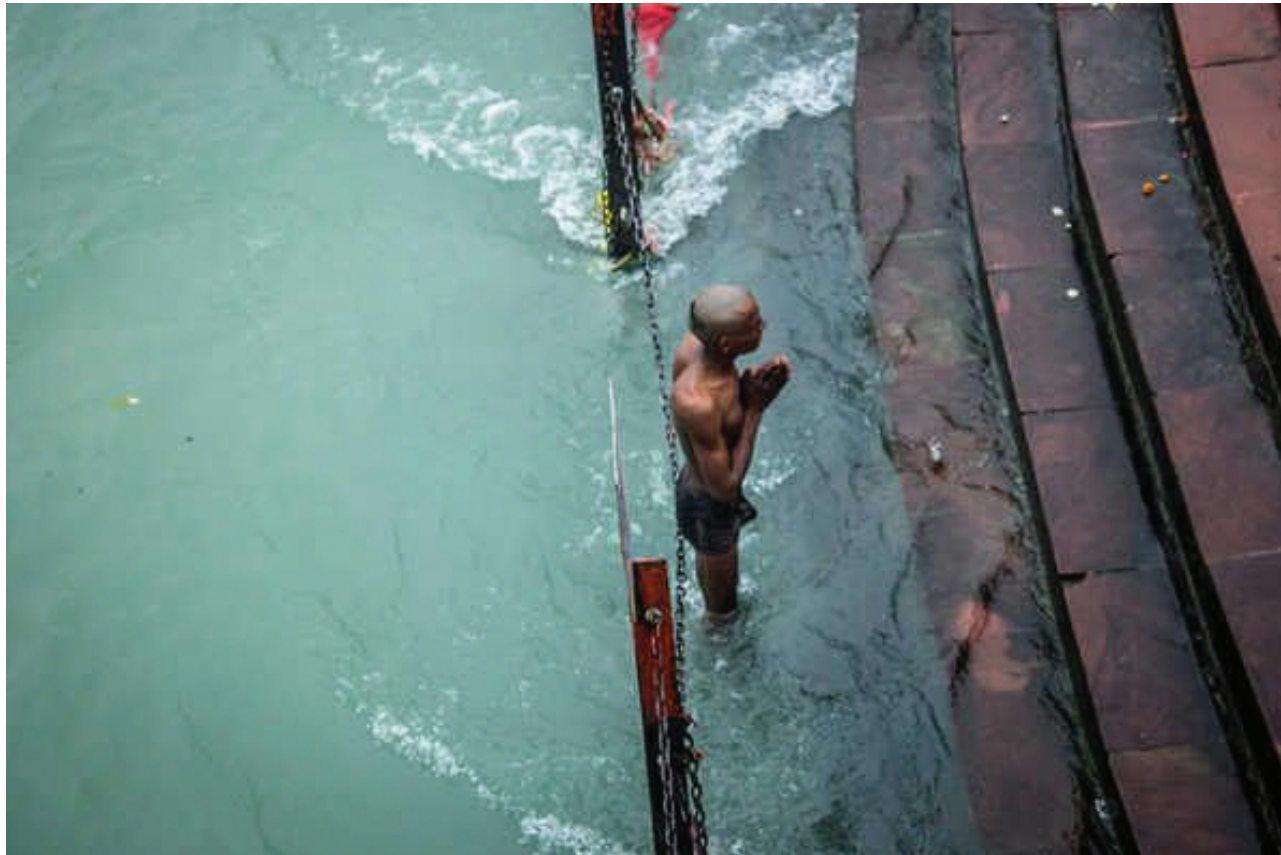
Do remember, you are mortal

Our lives will pass, and if there is a statue or a road named after that passing, it has no relevance to mortal life. Humanity does

The formidable Joseph Campbell's immense body of work covered mythology, religion and belief systems. His writings provided substantial insights into the human experience and its behaviour. He once wrote, "Every myth is psychologically symbolic. Its narratives and images are to be read, therefore, not literally, but as metaphors."

Of the many books bought by my parents when I was young was the obligatory 'Tales from Akbar and Birbal'. Akbar and his trusted courtier Birbal would thrust and parry, and in doing so created some wonderful stories and parables. Some may be fiction, some may be fantasy and some may be outright lies. Be it so. They, however, are simply delightful. In one story, Akbar packs Birbal off to search for the most beautiful child in the kingdom. Birbal returns and asks the Emperor to accompany him. Hiding behind a bush, they see a small child come out of a hut. Akbar angrily whispers in his ear, "You have brought me to see this? This must be the ugliest child in my kingdom." In moments, the child's mother appears and lovingly clasps the child to her chest. She calls him the 'most precious jewel in the world', her 'piece of the moon' and a dozen other endearments. Akbar watches and listens silently. Then Birbal says, "Now you know why he is the most beautiful child in Hinustan? It is because his mother thinks so."

This lack of or the presence of the beauty of the child may be transferred to other situations, to other places and to other people. This metaphor can become the prism to look at those that have ruled us, and to those that shall. Each turn of history has had its beautiful, as well as its ugly, children sitting at the helm of affairs. With either, it is a question of perception. My saint may be your sinner — and the other way round. The scales that decide which is which, is what we call 'humanity and civilisation'. One of the most polarising politicians of post-World War-



II England was Enoch Powell. He called for an end to migration from the Commonwealth countries to Great Britain. In 1968, Powell made his deeply disturbing 'Rivers of Blood' speech which was, supposedly, the result of the Race Relations Act introduced by the Labour Government. The Legislation would prohibit

discrimination on grounds of race in certain aspects of British life, especially by persons or councils denying non-whites places of residence. The press lashed back and The Times called it an "evil speech". Edward Heath, as leader of the Opposition, sacked Powell from his Shadow Cabinet and Powell did not hold a

political post again. However, just a year later, a Gallup poll placed Powell as the most 'admired person' in public opinion. In later years, based on various polls, Powell's popularity remained and there is a school of thought that he would have won had he contested for political leadership. While there are several other issues and standpoints involved, echoes of Powell's stance continue to the present day; for example, Nigel Farage of the UKIP considers Powell to be his political hero.

Somewhere parked at the back of my head, along with other pointless clutter, is an image of ancient Rome. I know precious little of modern Rome, far less the ancient. But this image, which has roots in Europe's broader tradition, if not in reality, appears repeatedly in art and elsewhere. In my image, a triumphant General is returning in glory. Whoever he was sent out to sort, has been sorted. The enemy, real or imagined, has been conquered. Crushed. Decimated. Rome is as triumphant as ever. The victor's chariot is drawn by the finest horses. The crowds cheer him and flower petals come as thick and fast as the arrows he fended in battle.

Standing behind the victor on the chariot is a slave. Amidst the din of adulation, he has just one task. He holds a crown over the victor's head and constantly whispers in his ear, 'Respite post te. Hominem te esse memento. Memento mori.' From Latin, this roughly translates as, 'Look after yourself. Remember you're a man. Remember you will die.' If we would like to call ourselves civilised, or wish to hold a candle to basic humanity, there is the essence of that phrase, 'Memento mori' (Remember you are mortal). Our lives will pass, and if there is a statue or a road named after that passing, it has no relevance to mortal life. Humanity does. This is valid for whichever side one is cheering for — the left, the right, the pink, the blue or, the sweet old lady, who before one steps into it, clears her dog's litter in the park.

Solah Shringar

The science behind it



'I adore wearing gems, but not because they are mine. You can't possess radiance. You can only admire it,' said Elizabeth Taylor, my favourite actor. The radiance of ornaments, jewels, pearls or gems have always been fascinating. But here in India, we don't just admire the radiance. Here it is a belief through the ages that it is wise to embellish ourselves with ornaments. Excavations revealed and cave paintings depict that during the early historical periods both men and women favoured wearing ornaments. Indian literature is replete with descriptions of women arraying themselves with ornaments while shringar rasa is a significant motif in all Indian classical dance forms. In Bhanushinger Padavali beautifying herself for a tryst with Krishna, Tagore's Radha says: Dress me with pearls and jewels Decorate my forehead with mantika My hair is spilling to the ground Bind it with garlands of champak Given that Shringar is interwoven into all Indian arts, shouldn't we pause to ask why wearing ornaments, throughout the vast and diverse India, has become

almost ritualistic? Ancient Vedic texts mention Solah Shringar with which they proclaim a woman must adorn herself. Solah Shringar or sixteen embellishments comprise the bindi, necklaces, earrings, flowers in the hair, finger rings, bangles, armbands, waistbands, ankle-bells, kajal, toe-rings, henna, perfume, sandal wood paste, the upper garment and lower garment. Though some of these have been discarded by the modern Indian woman for practical reasons, much of this list is still in vogue. The texts also claim a scientific basis to the use of Solah Shringar. Though garments are for modesty and some adornments like perfumes are to allure, the belief is many of the sixteen embellishments aid in good health and well being of the wearer. To Hindus, women are embodiments of Shakti. So traditionally, ornaments are worn to protect orifices and extremities and thus control the power that can emanate from these parts of the body. Let's trawl through some interesting hypotheses. The bindi, an ornamental dot placed on the forehead between the eyebrows signifies the mystical third eye, the invisible organ of spiritual perception and second sight.

It's worth a thought that the two eyes are regarded as the sun and the moon capable of seeing the past and the present. The symbolic third eye represents fire with the perceptive powers to see into the future. Women who get their nose pierced for the nose ring are said to experience less pain during childbirth. Some say that it prevents the woman from being hypnotized as it controls brain wavelength. Bangles are said to increase a woman's blood circulation and revert back to her cosmic energy that is passing through her body due to their circular shape. Toe rings supposedly regularize the woman's menstrual cycle. Apparently nerves in the second toe, where rings are worn, are connected to the uterus and friction with the rings help to revitalize the reproductive organ. You will notice that people wear finger rings on the fourth finger from the thumb. The belief is the nerve passing through this finger is evenly spread through brain neuron cells. Frequent metallic friction is good for the health of the wearers and helps them to handle life with ease and confidence. Necklaces like the mangalsutra are worn to control blood pressure levels and regularize blood circulation. Waistbands are not regularly used these days, but they prevent saturation of fat in the waist and maintain a woman's figure. Kajal is used purely to enhance the size and shape of the eyes. After all the eyes are called the windows of the soul and convey the feelings of the heart. Natural kajal or kohl can be easily prepared at home by collecting soot in a silver bowl balanced over a wick burning in mustard oil. Sometimes camphor is added to the oil. This mixture is applied with a silver stick to the outer rims of the eyes. When it mixes with the natural tears, it is said

to protect the eyes from the harsh sunlight and dust. It must be of dark, kohled eyes sparkling with light that the poet has said, 'My eyes are not eyes, Beloved, but arrows of light; My eyebrows are not eyebrows but swords for your destruction.' Despite assertions by traditionalists, medical science does not corroborate claims that ornaments actually keep wearers in better health. Still, cultural rituals have grown around these beliefs. People bless a new-born infant or a new bride by offering them gold jewellery or coins for good fortune. Infants are made to wear



ornaments as protection against illness. Of course, men will argue that women have never needed an excuse to wear jewels or take care of their shringar. Nevertheless, today a lot of men also wear jewellery because it brings them luck. So the next time, Men, you are impatient with your girlfriend, daughter or spouse who is taking a little longer to dress, do remember she will probably emerge with an effusion of auspicious vibes that will radiate to you too.

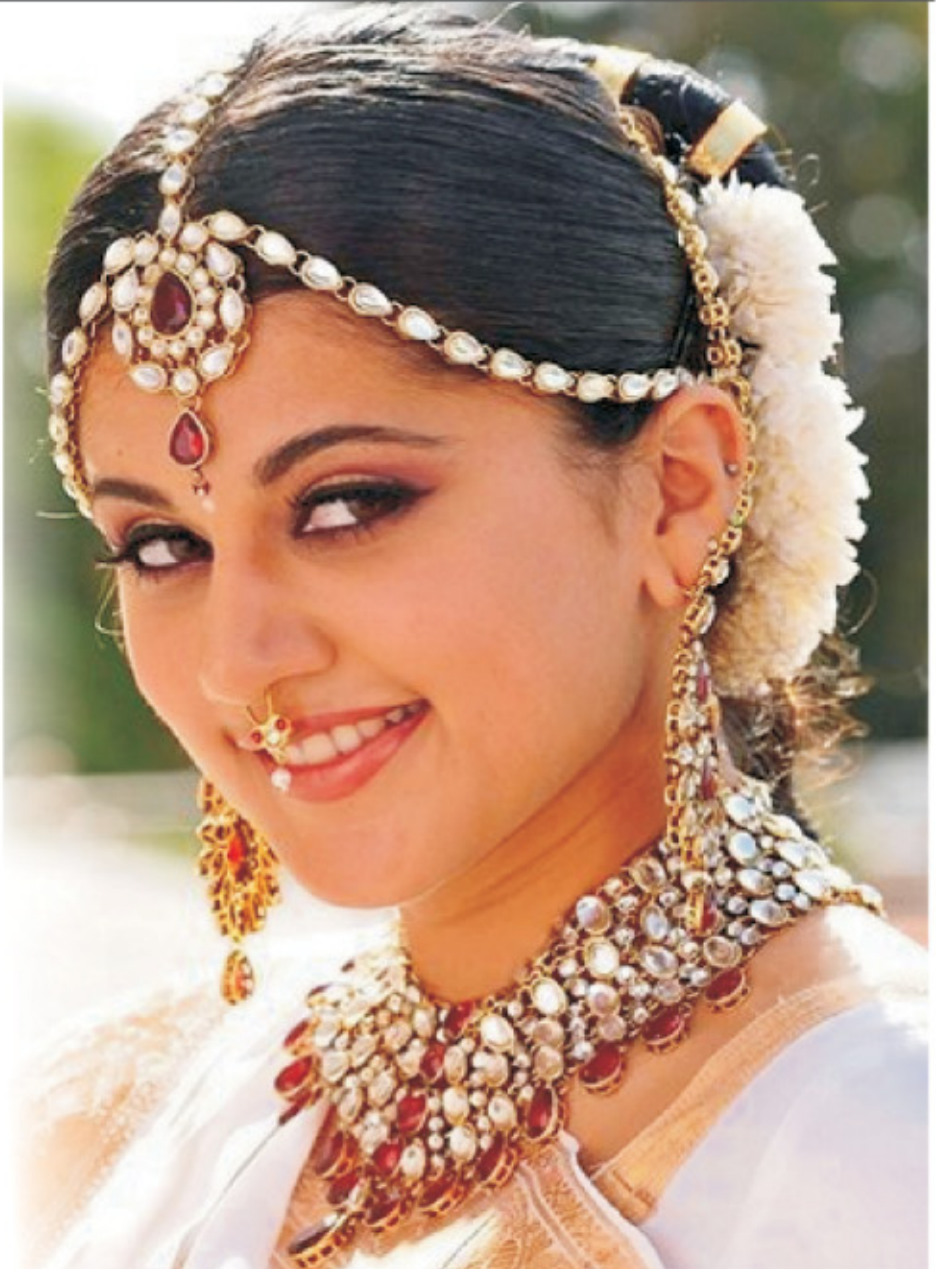
Ever fancied crystal lips?



Ever fancied crystals on your lips? Crystal lips is the new trend on the block — perfect, if you are looking to make a statement with bizarre makeup trends. However, unlike other trends, this is not easy to master. You need a lot of patience for this one. Here's how you go about it... All you need is a lip liner (a colour of your choice), white liner, loose silver/gold eye shadow, eyelash glue (you can get it online or at beauty stores) and crystals (colours of your choice). Begin the process by applying the coloured lip liner. Don't make it too dark nor, too light. Then, fill in with the white liner. Dip a brush into the loose eye shadow and apply it on your lips. Allow it to set for two or three minutes. Then apply eyelash glue all over your lips. Now, take the crystals and place it on your lips. This might take some time as you need to neatly place it. You can either place them all over, or on specific areas. You could create a different pattern, too. Allow it to dry for some time and your crystal lips are ready to go!

Decoded: Latest bridal hair and make-up trends in India

Every bride-to-be has felt like a bridezilla at some point or another. With myriad wedding concepts and themes available, zeroing in on one is difficult. And deciding on "the look" is even more stressful. Hence, prospective brides obsessively planning every single detail and expecting professional standards in all spheres is a sight not too uncommon these days. Every bride expects to look nothing less than stunning on her big day. After all, one does want to look good in those professional photo shoots which make their way to numerous social media sites. Making oneself up or visiting the local beauty parlour or salon is passe. An increasing number of brides are now hiring professional hair and makeup artists to use their magic wands - brushes or curling irons, in this case to make the magic happen. Going one step further, international hair designers and makeup artists can now be seen at high profile weddings, bringing the best in the business to Indian shores. Lisa Allen, a British make-up and hair artist based in Thailand, is one such name. Her reputation precedes her and she has been responsible for making many ecstatic brides stand out on their big days. We got in touch with Lisa to know about the latest trends in bridal hair and makeup world. **Here's what she had to share:** **Cutting edge tools** Tools like Cloud Nine and other award winning hair straighteners produce exceptional results due to their temperature controlled, mineral coated plates. The waving/micro wand is ideal for controlling unruly hair and styling fringes, short hair or tight curls. Also, The Ultimate O Pod is a must-try to create gorgeous volumes in a matter of minutes. **Innovative accessories** Accessories like hair donuts, sausages and padding are used to create the fancy intricate up-dos, Bohemian down-dos, romantic or edgy hair in a short span of time. The hair stays secured for a longer duration and with a better grip. **Bold and bright is still right** The Indian bride can heave a sigh of relief. Bold red lipstick, dramatic eyes and glitter are still in vogue in these times of the "no make-up make-up" look! This look will always be in keeping with her traditional red or fuchsia lehenga, ghaghra or sari. **Airbrushing and contouring** Bridal make-up techniques must include skin preparation before beginning the makeup, foundation techniques for a long lasting look, contouring, long-wearing lipstick application and use of airbrush make-up, eyelash extension and its importance in enhancing the look. **Braids all the way** Braids have been the biggest hair trend of 2016. Whether it's the classic halo braid or side swept fish tail braid, they have been seen everywhere from the red carpet to chic parties. Image Courtesy: Shutterstock Images



Water Shortage Feared As Snow Persistence In Himalayas Hits Record Low

Monitoring shows snow levels are almost a fifth below normal across the region this year, with the most dramatic declines in the west, where its contribution to water supply is the highest.

New Delhi: The Hindu Kush Himalaya is experiencing significantly lower snow persistence this year, raising serious concern over water security for downstream communities, according to a new report.

Leading experts from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a Nepal-based intergovernmental organisation, have urged water management officials to initiate drought management strategies and preemptive emergency water supply measures. The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region heavily depends on the cryosphere -- frozen water on the Earth's surface, including snow, permafrost, and ice from glaciers, lakes and rivers. This frozen water is a critical source of freshwater for around 240 million (24 crore) people living in the HKH region and has far-reaching benefits for around 1.65 billion (165 crore) people downstream. Snowmelt accounts for around 23 per cent of the total water flow of 12 major river basins originating in the HKH. However,

its contribution varies from river to river, representing 74 per cent of the Amu Darya's flow, 77 per cent of the Helmand's flow, and 40 per cent of the Indus' flow. Monitoring shows snow levels are almost a fifth below normal across the region this year, with the most dramatic declines in the west, where its contribution to water supply is the highest. Snow persistence dropped 17 per cent below normal in the Ganga basin and 14.6 per cent below normal in the Brahmaputra basin, said the Snow Update Report - 2024, released on Monday.

The Helmand river basin shows the most significant drop in snow persistence at 31.8 per cent below normal. Its previous lowest level was in 2018, with a 42 per cent reduction. The Indus basin has fallen to 23.3 per cent below normal, the lowest level in 22 years. The previous lowest year for this basin was 2018, with a 9.4 per cent shortfall. The Mekong basin had the smallest variation from normal, with snow persistence around 1 per



cent below normal.

We have seen a pattern of decreasing amounts and persistence of snow across the Hindu Kush Himalaya, with 13 of the past 22 years registering lower-than-normal seasonal snow persistence," said ICIMOD cryosphere specialist Sher Muhammad, who is also author of the report. "This is a wake-up call for researchers, policymakers and downstream communities. Lower snow accumulation and

fluctuating snow levels pose a serious increased risk of water shortages, particularly this year," he said. Miriam Jackson, ICIMOD's senior cryosphere specialist, said agencies must take proactive steps to address possible drought situations, especially in early summer. "Plans must be updated to accommodate water stress, and communities need to be notified of the risks." "Beyond that, it's clear that governments and people in this region need urgent support to adapt to changes in snow patterns that carbon emissions have already locked in. G20 countries need to cut emissions faster than ever before to prevent even more changes that could prove disastrous to major population centres and industries reliant on snowmelt in the mountains," she said. The experts said promoting rainwater harvesting and establishing local water committees may help mitigate the immediate impacts of below-normal snowfall on the water supply in the HKH region.

Missing for 3 days, American base jumper found dead in Himachal

New Delhi: Three days after an American citizen went missing, his body was recovered in a ravine between Kee and Tashigang in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district on Sunday, police said. Trevor Bokstaahlar (31) went missing on Thursday during his visit to the Spiti Valley, following which a search team was constituted, they said. According to the police, the team conducted searches in various areas of Kaza and recovered a motorcycle rented by the deceased near a deserted area close to Tashigang, but no further clues were found.

A day later, with the assistance of the Dogra Regiment of the Army, a drone on Friday identified a parachute stuck



in a deep ravine between Kee and Tashigang, they said. The police suspected the parachute belonged to Trevor, who was a base jumper, Superintendent of Police (SP) Lahaul and Spiti, Mayank Chaudhary said. Consequently, teams from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), trained in such rescue operations and adverse conditions, were deployed and Trevor's body was brought down, SP Chaudhary said. The information has been shared with the American Embassy, and we are in constant contact with them, the SP said, adding that the body would be handed over to them after the formalities are completed.

"Accident Saddening, Rescue Ops Underway": PM Modi On Bengal Train Collision

New Delhi: Extending his condolences to the families of the people killed in this morning's train accident in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that he has spoken to officials to take stock of the situation and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is also headed to the site. Describing the collision as saddening, the PM said he is praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. In a post on X, the Prime Minister wrote, "The railway accident in West Bengal is saddening. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. Spoke to officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue operations are



underway to assist the affected. The Railways Minister Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw Ji is on the way to the site of the mishap as well."

The Prime Minister's Office has also announced a compensation of ₹ 2 lakh each to the families of the dead and ₹ 50,000 to the injured.

Eight people - including three Railway staffers - were killed and at least 25 were injured after the Kanchanjunga Express, headed to Sealdah in Kolkata from Silchar in Assam was hit from the rear by a goods train near Rangapani station, close to New Jalpaiguri. The New Jalpaiguri railway station is a busy one and is used by passengers from all states during their journey to Darjeeling.

National Investigation Agency takes over probe of Reasi bus attack: Sources

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry has handed over the investigation into the June 9 terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), sources said. The anti-terror agency has filed a case under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the matter. The attack on the bus, which was returning to Katra from Shiv Khori temple in Reasi, killed nine people and injured 33 others.

The NIA is investigating the terror attack from every angle to see if there is a larger conspiracy behind the incident. Last week, a total of 50 suspects were detained by the Jammu

and Kashmir Police in connection with the probe into the terror attack, officials said. It came after an



extensive investigation led by the police and security forces that gave significant leads, helping in the identification and capture of those potentially involved in orchestrating the attack, a police spokesperson

said. The Jammu and Kashmir Police, meanwhile, have released a sketch of one of the three terrorists involved in the attack. They also announced a Rs 20 lakh reward for information about him.

The sketch of the terrorist was prepared based on the description given by eyewitnesses.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting in Delhi on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the recent terror attacks in the Valley. He directed stringent action against terrorism supporters in Jammu and called for comprehensive security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

DRDO To Test Shoulder-Fired Air Defence Missiles At High-Altitudes

New Delhi: Amid the large-scale requirement for shoulder-fired air defence missiles, DRDO is going to carry out trials of the indigenous shoulder-fired air defence missiles before handing them over to the Indian Army for user trials.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation has been developing Very Short Range Air Defence missiles to meet the requirements of the Indian Army and Air Force to tackle aerial targets like fast-moving drones, fighter aircraft and helicopters in border areas.

DRDO is looking to carry out high-altitude trials of the indigenous tripod-fired short-range air defence missile in mountainous regions like Ladakh or Sikkim, defence officials told



ANIL. After successful completion of the trials, the missile system will be handed over to the users for their trials and assessments, they said. The missile system has been able to lock on and take out both long-range and short-range targets.

The issues with the short-range targeting have been sorted out and the system is moving ahead progressively, the

officials said. Indian forces, with the Indian Army in the lead, have been trying to fulfil the shortages of different types of very short-range air defence missiles in their inventory.

The Indian Army is progressing in two cases worth ₹ 6,800 crore for developing Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems indigenously, amid a lack of inventory of shoulder-fired missiles to tackle aerial threats from Pakistan and China.

The current VSHORAD missiles in the Army and Air Force's inventory are all equipped with IR homing guidance systems, while the Iglal VSHORAD missile system was inducted in 1989 and was planned for de-induction in 2013.

1st Trial Train Crosses World's Tallest Railway Bridge, Chenab: Union Railway Minister

Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "1st trial train has successfully run from Sangaldan to Reasi, including crossing the Chenab Bridge."

New Delhi: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Sunday that the first trial run of the Sangaldan-Reasi train was completed, a significant milestone of crossing the world's tallest railway bridge, Chenab. Vaishnaw said, "1st trial train has successfully run from Sangaldan to Reasi, including crossing the Chenab Bridge." He also said, "All construction works for the USBRL are

nearly finished, with tunnel No.1 remaining partially incomplete."

Notably, the Chenab Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir is taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. As the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project is almost completed, Indian Railways is edging closer to connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the railway network. Chenab Bridge is a structural marvel built across a gorge of Chenab Bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir under the USBRL Project. This bridge was constructed 359 metres (around 109 feet) above the Chenab River in the Jammu and Kashmir region, and is around 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower. Earlier, the Ministry of Railways made it to the "Limca Book of Records" for "most people at a public-service event - multiple venues." The Railways Ministry organised an event on February 26, 2024, which was attended by 40,19,516 people at 2,140 venues. The event was organised for the inauguration

of road over/road under railway bridges and for laying the foundation stones of railway stations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The mammoth effort and mobilisation of Indian Railways have



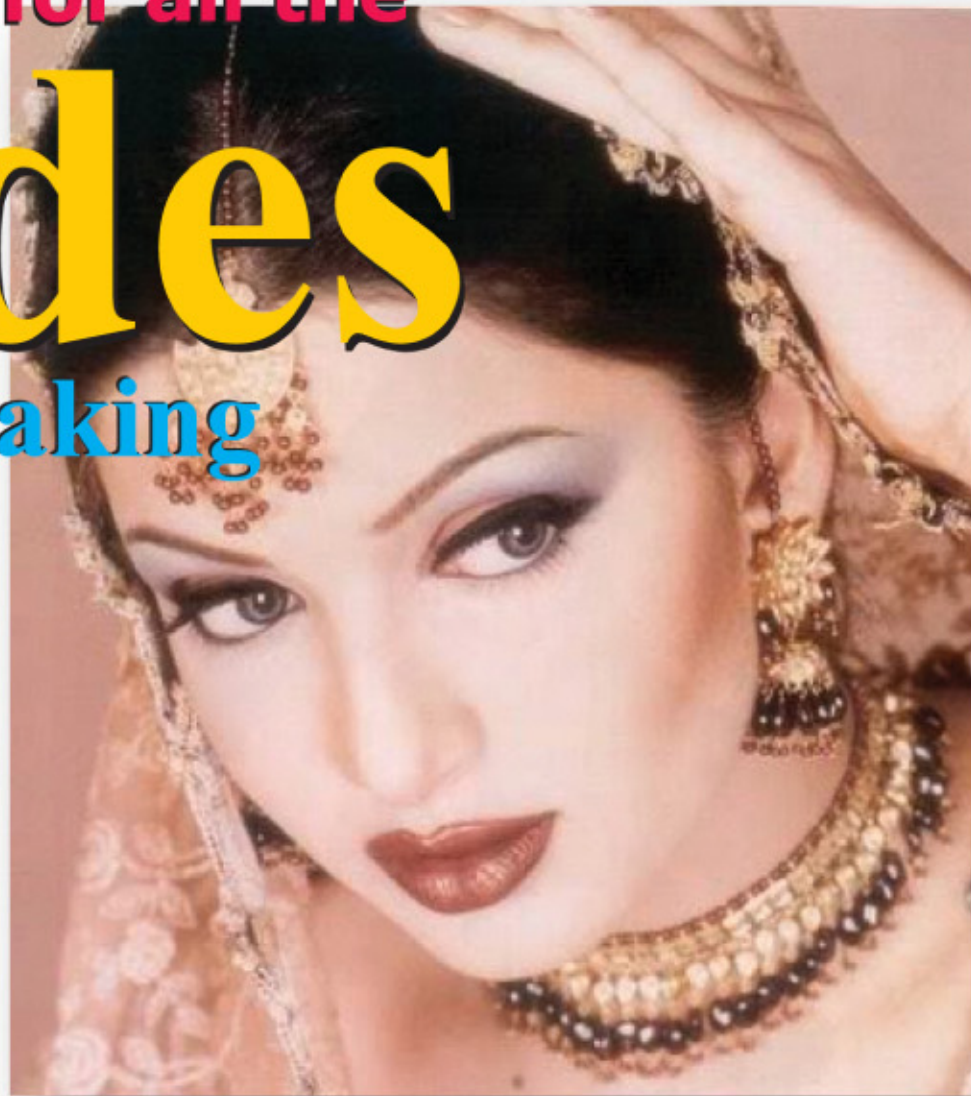
been recognised, and the same has entered the prestigious Limca Book of World Records. Meanwhile, Ashwini Vaishnaw assumed charge as Minister of Railways for the second time under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday morning in Delhi. Vaishnaw has been assigned

portfolios as Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, apart from the Railways Ministry. Earlier on Friday, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that India's first Vande Bharat sleeper trains will be on track within two months. Vaishnaw said, "The completion work of the trainset of the Vande Bharat sleeper train is in full swing and the first train will be on track within two months. All technical works are in the last phase. The trainset is manufactured by BEML Ltd at its rail unit in Bangalore. The much-awaited Vande Bharat Sleeper version will provide easy mobility to commuters and offer various comforts in the near future with global standards. The Minister said that the Vande Bharat sleeper train body is made of high-grade austenitic stainless steel and includes crash-worthy elements integrated into the crash buffers and couplers.

Beauty tips for all the Brides in the making

If you have always dreamt about getting married to your knight in shining armour, then we are pretty certain you did give some thought to how you would look on your most special day. Slipping into your most extravagant outfit ever and putting on some classy make-up for the man of your life is one of best feelings ever and the happiness of a bride goes way beyond having the perfect makeup or immaculate hairstyle. There's no doubt about the fact that you want to look best on your D-day and to help you look the most gorgeous bride ever, we got in touch with Meha Bhargava, a wedding stylist and founder/CEO, Styl.Inc Image consultancy. Here's a look at some tips shared by Meha. How to get a bridal glow on your wedding day? Here are some tips to bring the perfect glow on your face, on your big day.

1. Try opting for natural ingredients like honey and tea leaves and use the same on your face to clear and prevent any possible blemishes.



2. Taking good care of your hair is also very important. Hence, make sure you apply hair masks of various sorts and oil your hair extensively.
3. Spend some time in studying your face. Doing so will help you to understand your facial features and will help you highlight the best feature of your face.
4. Eat healthy. Drink a lot of water. Sleep well and indulge in an activity of some kind. If gymming is not your thing, practice yoga.
5. Visit a spa and salon to prepare your skin for the big day and start working on the issues that have been bothering you since before.

How to get that perfect skin? Having a perfect skin not only makes you look refreshing, it also plays a key role in making you look flawless on your wedding day. To get that enviable skin, make sure you consume healthy food, and ban caffeine and alcohol from your system. Instead, replace these with vegetables, fruits and juices which are full of antioxidants. In case your skin is relatively healthy, make sure you deep cleanse your face once in a week or use any homemade facial mask. Don't buy cosmetics that you haven't tried before.

Getting those pearly whites A beautiful smile is the best accessory a bride can wear on her D-day. You can opt for oil pulling to whiten your teeth and improve the gum health by removing toxins and dental plaque. Apart from that, you can use hydrogen peroxide and baking soda to tackle teeth stains. Banana and orange peels are also very effective in removing teeth stains.



7 deadly Skin sins



How you age is not just a matter of your genes. Your skin is pretty much a reflection of your lifestyle, which, in turn, is all about how you eat, drink and live. If you are moaning and groaning over why your skin is suddenly looking dull, lifeless, tired or just old, check if you haven't committed one or more of the seven deadly skin sins.

1. Dehydration

Are you getting enough water? Dehydration could be the reason why you look older than you are, and wrinkled. Lack of this wonderfully-replenishing lifesaver dries out your skin — your body's largest organ — and dry skin is more susceptible to wrinkling than hydrated skin. You need about 8-12 glasses or about 2-3 litres of water a day. It will help



you slow down, or even reverse, the aging process.

2. Foods high in sugar and fat

You see the effects of oxidation all around you - the rotting of fruit is the best example. When oxygen in the air comes in contact with the fruit, it slowly turns brown and eventually rots. Oxidation, while occurring naturally outside the body, is harmful if it occurs inside your body. Inside, the process

s of oxidation releases 'free radicals' that slowly damage organs, including the skin, aging it. Certain things we eat and drink, like fried or sugary foods, are oxidants. Antioxidant foods (green teas, fresh fruits and vegetables) reverse the oxidation process.

3. Caffeine

Caffeine, found in teas, coffees, cola drinks etc., cause oxidative stress and are also dehydrating. They leave you more thirsty than when you started.

4. Alcohol

Like caffeine, alcohol is the ultimate aging double whammy - it is high in sugar, which causes oxidative stress, and dehydration. Alcohol strips your skin of nourishment.

5. Smoking

Vitamin C is an excellent antioxidant, and is also known as a free radical scavenger. Smoking depletes your body's quota of Vitamin C, and adds even more free radicals, fast-tracking the aging process. Add leafy greens and citrus fruits in your diet. Quit smoking.

6. No vegetable juice

Vegetable juices are fantastic antioxidants that brim with nourishing and healing properties. In a mixie, not a juicer, blend the juice of three raw vegetables. Add about half the pulp back to the glass, some water and season to taste. Drink up daily to look younger.

7. Sleep deprivation

Sleep is when your skin repairs itself. If you are not clocking enough sleep hours, you may be aging ahead of your time. There's a reason it's call 'beauty sleep'. Now, the good news. All of the above are self-induced, lifestyle choices, old habits that can be broken. It doesn't matter how old you are, the power to look young, fresh and healthy is more in your hands than you think.

Bronzing hacks you should know

It is important to remember to use a bronzer very carefully or you'll end up looking like a caricature. The idea is to have a subtle look, so you have to choose one that depending on your skin tone. Here are some things to keep in mind...

If you notice that your powder has cracked up slightly, fret not. Simply add a few drops of facial oil to the pieces and use it as a liquid bronzer.

You can also play around with your brushes to get different bronzing effects. Use a big brush to give you a softer look and a smaller one to give you a more contoured look. If you prefer using a powder bronzer, make sure that you use a small eyeshadow brush while you're blending the bronzer. Always remember to shake your brush after each application. Most of us make the mistake of applying too much powder bronzer thanks to extra powder getting accumulated on the brush. Make it a habit to clean your make-up brushes every few days.



Tips to deal with sweaty hair after working out

Exercising every day leads to sweaty and sticky hair. When your head gets itchy, you have no choice but to wash your hair every day after working out. But that is not always a practical option. What if you are running late to work, or have a meeting to attend? Here are a few options to keep in mind, so that dealing with dirty hair becomes easy...

After working out, remove your hair from the ponytail. Brush your hair and get rid of the tangles. The next thing to do is to use a hair dryer and dry up the sweaty portions in your head.



Go for a shower. Tie up your hair so it doesn't get wet. dry shampoo is a great solution for sweaty hair. Use your fingers and apply the dry shampoo evenly to your head. This absorbs the unwanted

sweat from your head. Blow dry your hair once again so that it looks shiny.

Applying shampoo to your hair every day after working out is a bad idea, as it makes the hair dry. Instead, you could try a cleansing conditioner which could clean the sweat.

Another option, though it might sound silly, is to use a dry shampoo on your roots before heading out to get sweaty. It will avoid your head from getting sweaty.

As for hairstyle, don't tie up your hair immediately. Make a loose ponytail or clip just part of your hair. The best thing to do is to leave it open.

Global concerns grow over concerns about use of AI in news production: Reuters study

NEW DELHI Global concerns about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in news production and misinformation are growing, a report published by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism found, posing fresh challenges to newsrooms already struggling to engage audiences.

The institute's annual Digital News Report published on Monday, which this year is based on surveys of nearly 100,000 people across 47 countries, offers a picture of the hurdles news media faces in lifting revenue and sustaining business, Reuters reported. Newsrooms globally are working to address a new challenge with generative AI, as tech giants and start-ups like Google and OpenAI build tools that can offer summaries of information and siphon traffic from news websites.

But the report found that consumers are suspicious about the use of AI to create news content, particularly for sensitive subjects such as politics.

According to the survey, 52 per cent of US respondents and 63 per cent of UK respondents said they would be uncomfortable with news produced mostly with AI. The report surveyed 2,000 people in each country, noting that respondents were more comfortable with behind-the-scenes uses of AI to make journalists' work more efficient. "It was surprising to see the level of suspicion," said Nic Newman, senior research associate at the Reuters Institute and lead author of the Digital News Report. "People broadly had fears about what might happen to content reliability and trust."

Sri Lankan economy bounces back as inflation dips

COLUMBO Sri Lanka on Monday hailed data showing the economy grew far more than expected in the first quarter, as the country continued its recovery from a crippling foreign exchange crisis. The 5.3 per cent expansion in January-March marked an increase from the previous three months and was a huge improvement on the 10.7 per cent contraction in the same quarter last year. It also topped forecasts of 4.0 per cent in a survey by Bloomberg News.

Deputy finance minister Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said the government expected overall annual growth in 2024 to be about 2.2 per cent. "It is remarkable that we were able to achieve positive growth two years after facing the worst economic crisis ever," he said in a statement. Official figures showed a sharp recovery in the industrial sector, with an expansion of 11.8 per cent in the first quarter, compared with a 24.3 per cent contraction in January-March 2023.

The construction sector also showed improvement, as inflation came off a peak of 70 per cent in September 2022 to 0.9 per cent in May. Last week, the International Monetary Fund released \$336 million as part of a four-year \$2.9 billion bailout for Sri Lanka, which defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt in April 2022. The peak of the economic crisis in 2022 saw months of food, fuel and medicine shortages after the island ran out of foreign exchange to pay for imports.

The resulting civil unrest forced the ouster of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, when protesters stormed his residence. His successor Ranil Wickremesinghe has doubled taxes, withdrawn generous energy subsidies and raised prices of essentials to shore up state revenue.

India is an inviting market for those who build tech the right way: Tally MD

BENGALURU India is a hard market but if you build technology correctly it is a very open and extremely inviting market, said Tejas Goenka, Managing Director, Tally Solutions. Homegrown accounting software major Tally, which is planning to launch its new releases soon, is also growing rapidly in international markets. In an interaction with TNIE, Goenka said the company is expanding into the Middle East and Africa, among others. "The bulk of our business comes from India - about 90%, and in the coming years, we will be seeing 30-40% growth. We are bringing out new products, expanding the reach of our partners," he said.



In the international market, the firm is growing even faster and it continues to invest more in the ME. "Within the Middle East, the UAE has been a very strong market for us. If you look at the ME and Africa, the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) behaviour ends up becoming very much like India," he said. "In the last few quarters the big focus for us has been around connecting a business owner to their ecosystem, whether it is to their compliance ecosystem with the government, whether it is to banks, suppliers or customers. Over the next several quarters, we will keep making more connections," Goenka said.

Talking about competition, Goenka said, "There has always been heavy competition and local competition is very large in India. I think for us we don't really look at the competition much. We have to always exceed the expectations of customers." The company is also making use of Artificial Intelligence. Speaking about it, he said, "It is a very strict rule that we will never ever take your (customers) data. For us, the AI story that we want to create is very different from what others are doing. Others are taking data and teaching the models. We have to build an experience that allows customers to use the power of AI, multiple use cases will be there, but we have to do it such that no engineer inside Tally can ever say I have seen the data. The model should be able to learn from customers' data and it should never ever move out of the scope of the customer's system." For Tally, Saudi Arabia is an up-and-coming market and in the next release, it got native Arabic version coming out as well. Goenka wants to make sure that Tally is continuously relevant to its customers and aims to launch innovative solutions for the market.

Zomato in preliminary talks to acquire Paytm's movie, ticketing business

Zomato confirmed in a stock exchange filing that it is in talks to acquire Paytm's ticketing business, but no final decision has been made.

NEW DELHI Food delivery firm Zomato has confirmed that it is in discussions to acquire Paytm's movies and ticketing business, as per an exchange filing, putting an end to speculations. "We acknowledge that we are in discussions with Paytm for the aforementioned transaction, however, no binding decision has been taken at this stage that would warrant a board approval and subsequent disclosure in accordance with applicable

law," said Zomato in the exchange filing. The above discussion is being undertaken with an intent to further strengthen our Going-out business and is in line with our stated position of focusing only on our four key businesses currently," it further added. Paytm also confirmed the discussions regarding the potential transfer of its entertainment business in an exchange filing, stating that all discussions are preliminary and non-binding at this stage.

If the deal goes through, it will be one of the largest buyouts for Zomato. Previously, Zomato acquired Uber Eats in 2020 and took over the quick commerce platform Blinkit (formerly known as Grofers) in 2021 in an all-stock deal valued at Rs 4,447 crore. This potential acquisition fits well with Zomato's goal to expand its



"Going-out" segment, which covers dining out, events, and entertainment services. By incorporating Paytm's movie and ticketing business, Zomato plans to offer a more complete service to its users, encompassing a broader array of activities and experiences. The discussions between Zomato and Paytm are still in the early stages, and no final

decisions have been made. Both companies are assessing the potential benefits and implications of the transaction. If successful, the deal could significantly bolster Zomato's position in the entertainment and events market.

This news follows Zomato's recent efforts to streamline its operations and focus on core business areas. The company has been looking to expand its footprint in food delivery, dining out, quick commerce, and now, potentially, the entertainment sectors. Paytm, on the other hand, has been evaluating various options to optimise its business portfolio. Divesting its movie and ticketing business could allow Paytm to focus more on its core financial services and other key areas.

Budget 2024: Is tax relief on cards as government looks to boost consumption?

New Delhi The government is reportedly considering reforms to the current income tax structure, particularly targeting lower income levels, to boost consumption, reported The Indian Express. The report, quoting two government officials, suggests the budget announcement in July might prioritize tax cuts for low earners instead of increasing welfare spending. These proposed tax cuts are intended to enhance disposable income, thereby stimulating economic activity and consumption. The report highlights concerns about the steep rise in marginal income tax rates under the new tax system.

Relief likely for low-earners

The officials noted that tax cuts may be more efficient in enhancing consumption, rather than increasing welfare spending. One of the officials quoted in the report said rationalising tax slabs will lead to greater disposable income, which translates to "greater consumption, greater economic activities, more GST collection". Currently, the tax rate begins at 5% for income starting at Rs 3 lakh, but escalates sharply to 30% for

income at Rs 15 lakh. This sixfold increase in tax rate, despite only a fivefold increase in income, is deemed excessive and in need of rationalisation. Implementing these tax cuts is expected to significantly boost consumption, a crucial factor for



reviving demand and restarting the investment cycle, particularly in consumer-driven sectors. This move could also lead to increased GST collections. As the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 approaches, with a likely presentation in Parliament in late July, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to begin pre-budget discussions with industry groups around June 20, following a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on June 18.

This budget will outline the economic agenda of the Modi 3.0 government, focusing on stimulating growth without exacerbating inflation, while securing resources for coalition commitments. The overarching goal is to position India as a USD 5-trillion economy and transform it into a 'Developed India' by 2047.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecasts a 7.2 per cent growth for the Indian economy this fiscal year, driven by improving rural demand and easing inflation. Key priorities for Prime Minister Modi's third term include addressing agricultural challenges, job creation, sustaining capital expenditure, and enhancing revenue growth to maintain fiscal consolidation. The economic policies of the past decade have been positively received, with rating agency S&P upgrading India's sovereign rating outlook to positive, and a potential further upgrade in the next 1-2 years contingent upon meeting fiscal deficit targets. Despite strong tax revenues, non-tax revenue remains a challenge due to limited progress in strategic disinvestment, with the sale of Air India being a notable exception.

Why opening Family Investment Funds in GIFT City makes sense

NEW DELHI With the rising number of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), there is a growing awareness of the benefits of establishing Family Investment Funds (FIFs) in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gujarat. According to some research reports, India is projected to experience an 85% increase in millionaires, with a potential surge of \$22.5 trillion in Indian investable wealth by 2034.

This wealth expansion underscores the importance of succession planning, with experts highlighting FIFs as a crucial strategy for effective succession planning.

The concept of FIF is gradually gaining attraction and recently Azim Premji's family office received an in-principle approval to set up FIF in GIFT City.

Premji's Bengaluru-based investment arm Premji Invest and Narayana Murthy-backed Catamaran Ventures were among the first to seek approvals. So, what is a FIF and why are these HNIs ensuring their presence in GIFT City?

FIFs are self-managed pooling vehicles to manage the wealth of a family. In GIFT City, an FIF can only pool money from a single family, as per the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022. FIF can take the form of a company, LLP, or contributory trust with a minimum corpus requirement of \$10 million within three years of registration. FIF is allowed to borrow or engage in leveraging activities based on its risk management policy and can be structured as open-ended or closed-ended as needed. Unlike other investment vehicles, contributions by

Family Offices/Resident Individuals are considered Overseas Portfolio Investment (OPI). Family Investment Funds in GIFT City have a wide range of permissible investments and enjoy tax benefits, including a tax holiday on business income for up to ten years within a fifteen-year period, nil Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) for domestic companies opting for a concessional tax regime, and a 10% tax rate on dividends paid to non-residents. Is it important to set up a physical office in GIFT City? Lokesh Shah, partner with IndusLaw said, "It is mandatory to set up a physical office in GIFT City by FIFs. In order to set up FIF in GIFT City, one of the preliminary steps is to identify space and obtain a provisional letter of allotment for the office space."

Extreme heat melts diesel demand, sales drop 4 per cent in June

Fuel sales, which traditionally surge during polls, have defied the trend this year, falling month after month and the decline has now extended even after the end of the general elections.

NEW DELHI India's diesel demand slumped in June as extreme heat conditions in parts of the country curtailed travel, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Monday. Fuel sales, which traditionally surge during elections, have defied the trend this year, falling month after month. And the decline has now extended even after the end of the general elections. Petrol sales of three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, at 1.42 million tonnes in the first half of June was almost the same as 1.41 million tonnes of fuel consumed in the same period last year. Month-on-month consumption dropped 4.6 per cent. Diesel sales dropped 3.9 per cent to 3.95 million tonnes during June 1 to 15 when



compared with the year-ago period.

The demand for the nation's most consumed fuel had fallen 2.3 per cent in April and 2.7 per cent in March.

In May it fell 1.1 per cent.

Besides electioneering, the summer harvest season as also the scorching summer that increases the demand for air conditioning in cars, should have led to a rise in fuel consumption.

However, this year has defied the trend.

Petrol and diesel prices were reduced by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March, ending a nearly two-year-long hiatus in rate revision, which should have also propelled sales.

Month-on-month petrol sales fell 3.6 per cent compared to 1.47 million tonnes of consumption during May 1-15. Diesel demand was flat month-on-month against 3.54 million tonnes in the first half of May. Diesel is India's most consumed fuel, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product

consumption.

The transport sector accounts for 70 per cent of all diesel sales in the country.

It is also the predominant fuel used in agriculture sectors, including in harvesters and tractors. Consumption of petrol during June 1-15 was 4.6 per cent lower than in the first fortnight of June 2022, and 28.1 per cent more than in the Covid-marred same period of 2020.

Diesel demand slumped 10.5 per cent over June 1-15, 2022, and 14 per cent higher compared to June 1-15, 2020. Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 2.3 per cent year-on-year to 331,000 tonnes during June 1-15, 2024. But, this was 4.5 per cent lower month-on-month when compared to 346,500 tonnes in May 1-15, the data showed. Like petrol and diesel, ATF demand, too, is now firmly above pre-Covid levels. ATF consumption was 10.1 per cent more than during June 1-15, 2022, and 6.1 per cent more than in June 1-15, 2020, as per the data. Cooking gas LPG sales were up 0.1 per cent year-on-year to 1.24 million tonnes in June 1-15, 2024. LPG consumption dropped 0.9 per cent as compared to June 1-15, 2022 and was 32 per cent more than June 1-15, 2020. Month-on-month, LPG demand fell 5.2 per cent against 1.3 million tonnes consumption during May 1-15, the data added.



capabilities and making new acquisitions which have significantly strengthened their global presence, 2) Successful completion of the strategic acquisition of the Beverage Company (BevCo) in South Africa marking their entry in African region," said the brokerage firm. It further said that the firm is increasing its presence in the domestic market and looking for export opportunities and the strong heatwaves prevailing across India during the summer quarters add to their optimism. The relative strength index (RSI) of Varun Beverages stands at 71.5, indicating the stock is currently in the overbought zone. The shares are trading above all their key moving averages, including the 5-day, 10-day, 20-day, 30-day, 50-day, 100-day, 150-day, and 200-day moving averages. Varun Beverages is a major player in the beverage industry. It operates as a franchisee for PepsiCo, producing and distributing a wide range of carbonated soft drinks (CSDs) and non-carbonated beverages (NCBs). The company's product portfolio includes packaged drinking water, all under trademarks owned by PepsiCo. With such a strong performance record and promising growth prospects, Varun Beverages is a stock to watch in the coming months.

NEWS BOX

SL vs NED: Sri Lanka snap winless run as Netherlands bow out of tournament

New Delhi. Sri Lanka ended their winless run in the T20 World Cup 2024 with an 83-run win over Netherlands in St. Lucia on June 17, Monday. Charith Asalanka and Kusal Mendis scored 46 runs each as Sri Lanka posted 201 runs in their innings, becoming only the second team to post a 200-plus score in this year's tournament. Netherlands had come into the contest with a slim hope of making it to the Super 8s but their fate also depended on the Bangladesh vs Nepal clash. The Netherlands, after winning the toss and opting to bowl first, got off to the perfect start when Kingma was able to dismiss Pathum Nissanka for a duck in the very first over. The Dutch were hoping to pile on the pressure but Kamindu Mendis and Kusal Mendis steadied the ship with a 39-run stand before the former was dismissed for 17. Kusal and Dhananjaya de Silva then took the scoring rate up during their partnership. Kusal scored 46 off 29 balls before he was dismissed in the 12th over, but the platform was set. Dhananjaya and Asalanka continued the onslaught as the former scored 34 off 26 balls before heading back to the pavilion. Asalanka looked to be in fine nick as he scored 46 off 21 balls and hit 5 sixes in his knock as the Dutch bowlers struggled to stop the run flow.

Van Beek provided some respite with two wickets off consecutive deliveries to end Asalanka's stay and dismiss Shanaka for a duck. But, Angelo Mathews and skipper Wanindu Hasaranga ensured Sri Lanka had a big finish. Hasaranga hit 20 off 6 balls as the Netherlands were given a target of 202. However, they needed to win the game in quick time to stand any chance of qualifying. There was added pressure as Bangladesh were dominating Nepal with the ball after posting just 106 runs.

Michael Levitt was aggressive from the start and scored 31 off 23 balls with a couple of boundaries and 3 sixes. But wickets kept tumbling for the Netherlands as they looked to chase the target in record time. The bowlers led by Hasaranga chipped away the wickets and by the 9th over, the dreaded news came in for Dutch fans. As Sybrand Engelbrecht departed, Bangladesh in St. Vincent secured a 21-run win against Nepal and secured passage into the Super 8s and knocked out the Netherlands. The Dutch were left playing for pride but none of the batters could hold fort and were reduced to 99 for 8 in the 15th over. Captain Edwards provided some resistance with 31 runs in the end, but the innings came to an end at 118 in the 17th over. Pathirana was the pick of the bowlers with 2 wickets for 12 runs in his 3 overs. For Sri Lanka and Hasaranga, the match was the end of a wretched campaign in all respects. The team didn't perform well with bat and ball in the matches against South Africa and Bangladesh, something Mahesh Theekshana alluded to.

I cannot play in every player's place: Babar Azam says Pakistan failed as a team

New Delhi. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam claimed that the players failed as a team and that's the reason behind their flop show in the T20 World Cup. Pakistan, who were knocked out before reaching the Super 8s, got a consolation win against Ireland in Florida on June 16, Sunday. However, they were made to work hard for the win as the batting once again failed to impress.

Speaking after the win at the press conference, Babar said Pakistan's poor show isn't down to one person and claimed he cannot be playing in the place of everyone else. The Pakistan skipper said they haven't been able to apply, follow and finish things and have to accept that they failed as a team in the end.

PAK vs IRE: HIGHLIGHTS

Sir, as I have said earlier, everyone is sad. As a team, we did not play. I told you that we did not lose this because of one person. We are losing as a team. I am not saying this because of one person. You are pointing out that because of the captain, I cannot play in every player's place. There are 11 players and each of them has a role. That's why they came here to play the World Cup. I think we as a team have not been able to apply, follow and finish things. We have to settle down and accept that we didn't play well as a team," said Babar.



Will give my feedback

Famously, after losing to India, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan cricket needs a surgery. Babar was asked about this and he once again reiterated that they didn't do well as a team and he would head back and give his feedback to the board.

"As you said earlier, we have played the Asia Cup final, the World Cup final, and the semi-final as well. But we were not able to finish. But we should also see that we have achieved those things. Unfortunately, we didn't achieve it this time. We didn't qualify. We accept it as a team. We are not saying that we don't accept it. I as a captain and as a team accept that we didn't play the same cricket. We couldn't perform the same way. The expectations that we had made of the team, the way our senior players were, we didn't execute.

BAN vs NEP: Bangladesh advance to Super 8 after fending off feisty Nepal

T20 World Cup 2024: Tanzim Hasan Sakib picked up 4 wickets as Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh beat Nepal by 21 runs to make their way through to the Super 8.

New Delhi. Bangladesh went through to the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024 after beating Nepal by 21 runs on Monday, June 17 at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. After running Aiden Markram's South Africa close, Nepal tried their hearts out to secure victory against a Test playing nation in the history of the mega event, but fell short yet again. The Tigers, in the meantime, finished second in the table with 6 points and a net run rate of -0.333 thanks to wins in 3 out of 4 games.

BAN vs NEP, T20 World Cup Highlights
Bangladesh also set the record of defending the lowest score in the T20 World Cups. Against Nepal, Bangladesh did not make the



best of starts as Tanzim Hasan Tamim gave his wicket away to Sompal Kami on the very first ball of the innings. Najmul Hossain Shanto's disastrous campaign with the bat continued after Dipendra Singh Airee dismissed him. Litton Das tried to put his head down before getting out on 10. Towhid Hridoy, Bangladesh's standout batter this season, got out cheaply as well. Shakib Al

Hasan, Jaker Ali Anik and Mahmudullah Riyad got starts with knocks of 17, 12 and 13 respectively, before departing. It was Rishad Hossain's cameo of 13 off 7 and Taskin Ahmed's unbeaten 12 that helped the Tigers post 106 on the board in 19.3 overs. For Sandeep Lamichhane, it was a memorable day after he became the second-fastest to the landmark of 100 T20I wickets.

Lamichhane finished with figures of 4-1-17-2. Sompal Kami, Dipendra Singh Airee and skipper Rohit Paudel picked up 3 wickets apiece.

Tanzim Hasan rattles Nepal

Bangladesh seized the initiative right from the word go after a brilliant spell of bowling from Tanzim Hasan Sakib. The speedster leaked a boundary early, but then bowled 21 dot balls to finish with figures of 4-2-7-4. Tanzim picked up the wickets of Kusal Bhurtel, Anil Sah, Rohit Paudel and Sundeep Jora, who had replaced Karan KC in the XI. Aasif Sheikh, who played a key knock against the Proteas, scored 17 runs off 14 balls with 4 fours before Mustafizur Rahman dismissed him. From there on, Kusal Malla and Dipendra Singh Airee took Nepal forward and brought up their 50-run partnership off 53 balls. But Mustafizur separated them after dismissing Malla, who scored 27 runs off 40 balls. Bangladesh also made the record of defending the lowest score in T20 World Cups. Against Nepal, Bangladesh did not make the best of starts as Tanzim Hasan Tamim gave his wicket away to Sompal Kami in the very first ball of the innings.

BAN vs NEP: Najmul Hossain Shanto urges Bangladesh batters to buckle up in Super 8

New Delhi. Najmul Hossain Shanto said that he was delighted after Bangladesh made their way through to the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024. However, the skipper also admitted that the Tigers have not been up to the mark as far as their batting is concerned. On Monday, Bangladesh beat Nepal by 21 runs at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent after defending the lowest score (106) in the history of the mega event. Defending the modest score, they bowled Nepal out for 85 in 19.3 overs. Concerns remained with their batting as Shanto, Litton Das and Tanzim Hasan Tamim kept struggling in the top order. Shanto said that the Tigers are confident of defending low scores, but urged the batters to step up with tough matches coming up in the Super



To see West Indies at No.3 in T20I rankings a pleasing feeling: Rovman Powell

New Delhi. West Indies captain Rovman Powell said he is happy to see the side go third on the ICC T20I team rankings ahead of their clash against Afghanistan on June 18, Tuesday. The 2-time champions were in a tight spot some time ago and in need of a revival as they had missed the ODI World Cup last year and the T20 World Cup in 2022. Under Powell's captaincy, they have enjoyed a resurgence and climbed to the third spot.

Speaking ahead of their top of the table Group C clash with Afghanistan, Powell said they go have pressure playing a World Cup at home but it is all about managing it in the end. The batter was pleased to see West Indies continue their rise up the rankings after being in the bottom half when he took over and feels it is special to be in a side that is ranked top 3 in the world at the moment.

"I think pressure is always there, especially when you're at home, especially when you're playing a World Cup at home. Pressure is



always there, but it's for us as individuals to manage those pressures. And I think for me as captain, when I started this journey 12 or 14 months ago, when I took over as captain, we were at eight or nine in the ranking. "To see us at number three now in the world is a pleasing feeling. And it shows that not just myself, but the players are coming together and we're doing something right. I've never played in a West Indies team that is ranked number three in the world. So that for me is something special and hopefully, just

hopefully, we can continue to climb those rankings," said Powell at the press conference.

Good practice before Super 8

West Indies and Afghanistan have been dominant in their group and Powell feels their opponents on Tuesday have a lot of match winners in their lineup. The West Indies skipper feels that his side will have to be at the top of their game to beat them and the match will be good practice before heading into the Super 8 matches.

"Obviously, it's a top of the table clash. Afghanistan have been playing good T20 cricket and consistent T20 cricket. They have a lot of match winners. So, it's something that we have to come with our best game. As I said before, they're playing good T20 cricket. So, it's an opportunity for us to play against another world class side. Very good practice going into the Super 8 games," said Powell.

T20 World Cup 2024: Full Super 8s schedule confirmed as India start on June 20



New Delhi. The Super 8 fixtures for the T20 World Cup 2024 has been set as Bangladesh were able to beat Nepal to secure their passage from Group D. Najmul Hossain and Mustafizur Rahman got 3. Shakib Al Hasan added the finishing touches as Bangladesh won the match by 21 runs. The Netherlands, on the other hand, lost their game to Sri Lanka by 83 runs and were knocked out of the

tournament. With that, the Super 8 of the tournament was confirmed and with that, the fixtures for the next phase as well. The 8 teams to qualify are India (Group A), USA (Group A), Australia (Group B), England (Group B), Afghanistan (Group C), West Indies (Group C), South Africa (Group D) and Bangladesh (Group D). The 12 matches will take place in the West Indies, with Antigua, Barbados, St Lucia, and St Vincent serving as the hosts.

The Super 8s are set, and the full fixtures have been revealed as Bangladesh qualified after beating Nepal on June 17, Monday. India's schedule has been revealed as they start their Super 8 campaign on June 20.

Super 8: India's full fixtures
India will begin their campaign on June 20, against Afghanistan at Barbados. Then they head to Antigua to face Bangladesh, two days later before ending the Super 8 stage with a mouthwatering clash against Australia at St Lucia on June 24. All of India's matches will start at 8 PM IST.

Jonathan Trott says exposure in IPL has made a difference to Afghanistan cricket

Pakistan were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2024 in the group stage. While many blamed captain Babar Azam and the senior members of the team, the real fault possibly lied with the Pakistan Cricket Board, who sabotaged the whole campaign.

New Delhi. Head coach Jonathan Trott reckoned that taking part in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and other franchise tournaments have helped Afghanistan cricket grow big time over the years. The Afghans have had a dream run in the T20 World Cup 2024, having already made their way through to the Super 8 on the back of 3

wins in a row. Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai and Noor Ahmad were amongst the Afghan cricketers who took part in the previous edition of the IPL.

Trott said he notices changes in the players whenever they return from playing in domestic leagues around the world. Trott expressed his thoughts prior to Afghanistan's last Group C match against the West Indies on Tuesday, June 18 at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St Lucia.

"Boys take a lot of pride" "Well, I think the more exposure players have got to the IPL and different franchises where there's pressure all the time in this format of the game, I think that'll only do us well and serve us well going forward. I know that the players - and we had a lot of players at the



IPL every time they come back, I can see a little bit of a difference or a change every time they go away to franchise good and bad changes," Trott said in the pre-match press conference. T20 World Cup Coverage | Points Table | T20 World Cup 2024 Schedule

| Player Stats

"It's just about you know holding on to those good ones and you know making sure that we address things that need to be addressed. So, the guys are ready we just had a really good training session there was a lot of focus there. I know the boys take a lot of pride in representing their country. So tomorrow, we'll be on it," Trott added.

In the Super 8, Afghanistan will be up against India, Australia and Bangladesh on June 20, 22 and 24 respectively. But as of now, Rashid's men will look to stay unbeaten and finish the group stage on top of the table. They began their campaign with a 125-run over Uganda, after which they beat New Zealand by 84 runs. Thereafter, the Afghans got the better of PNG to win 3 matches in a row.



Swara Bhasker

REACTS to Kangana Ranaut Getting Slapped in Chandigarh: 'At Least She Is Alive'

Swara Bhasker weighed in on Kangana Ranaut getting slapped by a CISF constable in Chandigarh. The actress, who has worked with Kangana in Tanu Weds Manu, condemned the incident but called her out for allegedly justifying violence. Noting that she defended incidents such as Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at Oscars, Swara asked what one can say about that. "Anybody who is a reasonable person will say that whatever happened with Kangana was wrong," Swara told Connect Cine. "There is nobody who will justify the violence or an act of assault which Kangana suffered. So yes, what happened with her was wrong and shouldn't have happened. It is not right to assault anyone," she added. Swara went on to share, "Kangana just got slapped—and even that should not have happened—but at least she is alive, and has her security around. In this country, people have lost their lives, they've been lynched to death, shot dead in a train by a security personnel, in riots, security personnel have been recorded beating up people. Jo log ye saare acts ko justify kar rahe hai, woh phir aake Kangana ke case pe hume mat sikhao."

Addressing Kangana's old tweets and videos allegedly justifying violence, such as the Smitt slapping, Swara said, "The problem with the Kangana case is that she herself has used her platform to justify violence. Her past tweets resurfaced, including the one for which she was banned from Twitter, where she has almost called for a genocide... Then she had also justified Will Smit slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars, saying that if her mother or sister was abused, she would have also slapped someone. So now what do you say? What happened to her wasn't right, and the one who did that has already been suspended and punished. So there, justice has been served, but those who have been killed in the last ten years in the country, the perpetrators are roaming free." For the unversed, Kangana was slapped by a CISF guard at the Chandigarh airport on Thursday afternoon. The actress-turned-politician was travelling to New Delhi days after her Lok Sabha elections win from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi constituency. The CISF woman constable, identified as Kulwinder Kaur, has been suspended. An FIR is being registered against the CISF constable at Chandigarh Airport based on a written complaint by CISF officials. A complaint has also been filed by CISF to the local police.



Sonakshi Sinha

Wedding: Daisy Shah To Attend, Reacts To Shatrughan's 'Kids Don't Ask Permission'

Bollywood actress Daisy Shah confirmed she has been invited to Sonakshi Sinha's wedding with Zaheer Iqbal, slated to take place on June 23. The Race 3 actress revealed she knew about Sonakshi and Zaheer's wedding. She confirmed she is one of the many people who received the quirky wedding invite which eventually was leaked online and had gone viral. In a recent interview, Daisy praised the couple for the unique wedding invite and added that it is in tune with Shatrughan Sinha's viral comment that 'children these days do not ask for permission.' Speaking with Instant Bollywood, Daisy said, "Those who were aware (of Sonakshi and Zaheer's relationship), they weren't shocked. I am one of that person." She added, "I really liked it. It is not a typical wedding invite. It had a snowy background. It is very modern and fresh. Like Shatrughan Sinha ji rightly said, 'Aaj ke bachehe inform karte hai, permission nahi lete'. Their wedding invite completely justifies that statement," she said. Last week, Sonakshi's wedding invite was leaked online. The wedding invite also includes an audio QR code which features a sweet message from Sonakshi and Zaheer. "To all our hip, tech-savvy and jasoos friends and family who has managed to land on this page, hi," the note began with Sonakshi greeting the invitees. "For the last seven years that we have been together, all the joy, love, laughter and many, many adventures has led us to this very moment," Zaheer continued. "The moment where go from being each other's rumoured girlfriend and boyfriend," Sonakshi said, before Zaheer added, "To being each other's definite and official husband and wife." "Finally! This celebration will not be complete without you so drop whatever you're doing on the 23rd of June and come party with us. See you there," the couple concluded the message. While Shatrughan Sinha had said that he wasn't aware of the wedding at first, he then shared a statement in which he said that 'if Sonakshi is getting married, he will support her decision. Meanwhile, Poonam Dhillon and Honey Singh have confirmed that Sonakshi is getting married and they will be attending the ceremony.



Varun Dhawan Shares FIRST Pic of Daughter, Reveals He's Going To Spend Father's Day Working



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan shared the first picture of his daughter on the occasion of Father's Day. He said he is the happiest to be a father of a baby girl. "Happy Father's Day. My father taught me that the best way to celebrate this day is by going out there and working for your family so I'll be doing just that. Couldn't be happier to be a girl dad," Varun wrote. The Student of the Year actor also shared a picture of his dog, proudly flaunting his 'dog dad' tag. Check out the photos below: Fans took to the comments section and showered Varun Dhawan with love. "You already are the best dog dad and now you'll be the best girl dad. Happy Father's Day, hero!!" a comment read. "I melted at the first slide and then I swiped and lost it," added another. "Awwww ♥ ♥ she's the luckiest little girl, our choti princess," a third comment read. "We are so happy for ya!" a fan wrote. Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal welcomed their first child, a baby girl on June 4 at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital. Today afternoon, the couple made their first public appearance with their baby girl, as they headed home from the hospital. Following the news of their baby's arrival, it was reported that Varun and Natasha will be moving into a bigger house. Varun and Natasha were living in an apartment in Juhu that Varun had purchased back in 2017. However, recent reports suggest that the actor has decided to rent fellow actor Hrithik Roshan's lavish sea-facing house in Juhu, Mumbai.

A source told Hindustan Times, "Varun and Natasha will be shifting into this house with their daughter. It is a sea facing apartment, currently occupied by Hrithik, who in turn is moving to another apartment in the same location Juhu. VD and family will have actor Akshay Kumar and producer Sajid Nadiadwala as neighbours, who are residing in the same building."

On the work front, Varun will be seen in Baby John, backed by filmmaker Atlee.

Diljit Dosanjh BREAKS Silence On His First Love Amid Marriage Rumours: 'Mera Pehla Pyaar Toh...'



Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh opened up about his 'first love' in a recent podcast. The crew actor is very secretive about his personal life. While there are rumours doing the rounds that he is married and even has a child from the marriage, Diljit has chosen to not address the rumours. So when he was asked about his first love, Diljit tactfully picked his own name. "I love myself bro. I love myself like crazy, main apne aap nu bahut pyaar karda. Toh mujhe lagta hai pehla pyaar toh main hi hoon mera (laughs). Mera pehla pyaar main hi hoon (I love myself a lot, I believe I am my own first love)," Diljit said, in n interview with Figuring Out podcast.

When asked his take on selfless love, Diljit said, "Chalo rakhji jao fir (laughs). I believe in first loving yourself before loving others. Take care of yourself first. If you are not loved and taken care of first, how will you give that love to someone else?" In the podcast, Diljit was also asked his take on modern love vs old school love. Diljit said that love has been evolving with changing times. "There used to be Doordarshan before, it was the only channel we had. Now, there are so many channels. Similarly, food preferences have changed, conversations have changed, era has changed," he said. When asked if he also believes in a checklist for his partner, Diljit replied, "I feel we should love ourself first. When an aircraft also experiences turbulence, you are asked to help yourself before helping others. Similarly, love yourself. If a person cannot love themselves, they cannot love or respect anyone else. It is important to love yourself first. People should try and prioritise their own well-being first."

All eyes went on Diljit's love life when an unnamed friend claimed Diljit has a wife and child in a profile piece done by Indian Express for their section, Sunday Express Eye. The friend has claimed that the Punjabi singer's wife is an Indian-American and they share a son. "An intensely private person, little is known about his family but friends say his wife is an American-Indian and they have a son, and his parents live in Ludhiana," the profile piece mentioned. The report also claims that his wife and son live in the US.