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Fourth FIR registered against former MP Prajwal Revanna for sexual harassment

Sanjay Kumar Bengaluru, June 25: Another FIR has been registered against former MP Prajwal Revanna on charges of sexual harassment, stalking and criminal intimidation, police sources said on Tuesday. Along with him, three others, including former BJP MLA from Hassan Preetham Gowda has also been named in the FIR for allegedly sharing images captured by Prajwal during sexual harassment of the victim on a video call, they said. With the fresh FIR, this is the fourth case registered against Prajwal. "A fresh case has been registered by the SIT against Prajwal and three others. Former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda has also been named in the FIR," a police source confirmed. The case has been registered under Sections 355 A (sexual harassment), 354 B

(assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 354 D (stalking), 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and 66 E (punishment for violation of privacy) of the IT Act, according to the police sources. Meanwhile, Prajwal is currently in police custody. The 33-year-old grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda had failed in his bid to retain the Hassan parliamentary constituency in the recent polls. SIT officials arrested Prajwal soon after he landed at Bengaluru Airport from Germany on May 31. He had left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to Lok Sabha the polls. A 'Blue Corner Notice' seeking information on his whereabouts had earlier been issued by the Interpol, following a request by SIT via CBI.

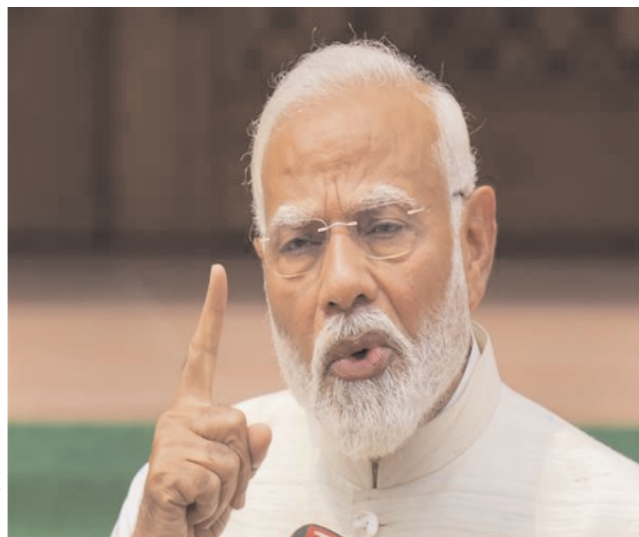
PM Modi leads BJP's offensive to counter Opposition's Constitution narrative on 1975 Emergency anniversary

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday flagged the dark days of Emergency to attack opposition Congress as anti-Constitution with the BJP top brass launching a nationwide offensive on the issue and demanding an apology from their political rivals. "Today is a day to pay homage to all those great men and women who resisted the Emergency. The #DarkDays Of Emergency remind us of how the Congress Party subverted basic freedoms and trampled over the Constitution of India which every Indian respects greatly," Modi said, adding that a party that suspended all freedoms had no right to speak of the Constitution. The prime minister said, "Just to cling on to power, the then Congress Government disregarded every democratic principle and made the nation into a jail. Any person who disagreed with the Congress was tortured and harassed. Socially regressive policies were unleashed to target the weakest sections." Attacking the Congress leaders who have been accusing the government of

undermining the Constitution, the PM said "Those who imposed the Emergency have no right to profess their love for our Constitution. These are the same people who have imposed Article 356 on innumerable occasions, got a Bill to destroy press freedom, destroyed federalism and violated every aspect of the Constitution." He said the mindset which led to the imposition of the Emergency is very much alive among the same Party which imposed it. "They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but the people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time and again," the PM said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Congress has a long history of killing democracy and repeatedly attacking it. "The Emergency imposed by Congress on this day in 1975 is the biggest example of this. The arrogant, autocratic Congress government had suspended all kinds of civil rights in the country for 21 months for

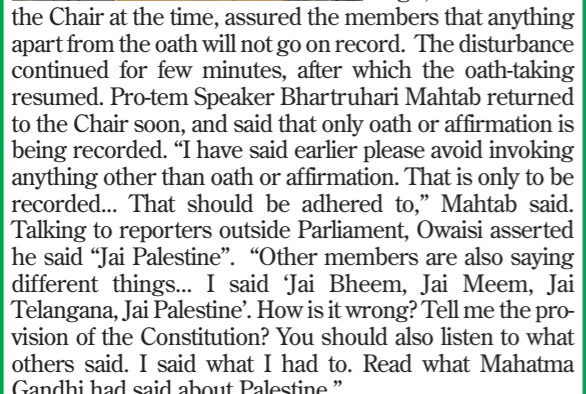
the sake of power of one family. "During this period, they had imposed censorship farmers, youth and women who protested from Parliament to the streets against the Emergency." BJP president J P Nadda said on 'X' that those who claim to be the guardians of Indian democracy today had spared no efforts to suppress the voices raised in the defence of constitutional values. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Emergency, imposed by the then-prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1975 before she lifted it in 1977 and called for elections, is a black chapter in Indian democracy which cannot be forgotten. Later in the day, BJP president J P Nadda will address an event at party headquarters titled "dark days of democracy." In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, speaking to the media for the first time since

BJP's poor show in Lok Sabha elections, asked the Congress to apologise to the country for the excesses of the Emergency.



Owaisi mentions conflict-hit West Asian region Palestine in Lok Sabha

New Delhi, June 25: AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi Tuesday hailed a conflict-hit West Asian region after taking oath as Lok Sabha member, triggering an uproar from the treasury benches that led to the Chair striking it off record. Owaisi, who has been elected from the Hyderabad seat for his fifth term, took oath in Urdu. He also recited a prayer before taking oath. After his oath, he hailed his state Telangana, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, apart from raising the AIMIM's slogan for Muslim. Owaisi also hailed a West Asian region that is presently facing conflict and has been in focus. This was objected to by some members of the treasury benches, leading to an uproar after he finished his oath. Kadha Mohan Singh, who was in the Chair at the time, assured the members that anything apart from the oath will not go on record. The disturbance continued for few minutes, after which the oath-taking resumed. Pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab returned to the Chair soon, and said that only oath or affirmation is being recorded. "I have said earlier please avoid invoking anything other than oath or affirmation. That is only to be recorded... That should be adhered to," Mahtab said. Talking to reporters outside Parliament, Owaisi asserted he said "Jai Palestine". "Other members are also saying different things... I said 'Jai Bheem, Jai Meem, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine'. How is it wrong? Tell me the provision of the Constitution? You should also listen to what others said. I said what I had to. Read what Mahatma Gandhi had said about Palestine."



TRAI tells mobile firms to enhance apps, web portals to curb spam calls, messages New Delhi, June 25: In a bid to curb spam calls and messages, the government has issued fresh directions to mobile services providers. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mandated mobile services providers to enhance their mobile apps and web portals to make them more user-friendly for registration of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) complaints. The TRAI has mandated mobile services providers to ensure that options for UCC complaint registration and preference management are easily accessible on their mobile applications and websites. "Also, essential details for the registration of complaints should be automatically populated, if users grant permission to access their call logs and other relevant data," said the telecom regulatory body.

"Dead" man turns up alive at his own funeral in Telangana

Hyderabad, June 25: In a case of mistaken identity of a dead person, a man turned up alive at his "funeral" in Vikarabad district of Telangana where his family and relatives were making arrangements for burial after being informed about his death. The incident took place in Navandgi village in Basheerabad mandal of Vikarabad district, an official of Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Tuesday. The man, P Yellappa, (40), a daily wage labourer was presumed dead after his family members were informed about his death when a body was found with a mobile phone on it. The GRP personnel found the body of an unidentified person on the tracks at the Vikarabad railway station on the night of June 22, with the head crushed and beyond recognition, the official said. One mobile phone was found near the body and police officials called up the family members from the phone, who informed that it belonged to Yellappa. Yellappa's wife and his family members reached the government hospital in Vikarabad on June 23 and "identified" the body to be that of Yellappa, the official said. After an autopsy, the family members were handed over the body and they took it to their village. As the family and relatives were making arrangements for the burial, some villagers informed them in the afternoon that they had seen Yellappa alive in Tandur town of the district.

NEET-UG probe: Printing press to exam centres, paper custody chain under CBI radar

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, June 24: Separate teams of the CBI on Monday reached Patna and Godhra for investigating alleged irregularities in the conduct of NEET-UG 2024. Officials of the Economic Offences Unit of the Bihar police, who had been investigating the paper leak case till now, said the CBI would question those involved in the process of printing of question papers and their transportation to different centres nationwide. "The chain of custody, right from the printing of question papers to transportation and security till the papers arrive at the centres, is very important in this case. We have questioned officials of SBI and Blue Dart courier service. Senior bureaucrats might also be questioned by the CBI," an official of the EOU said. The Bihar police have so far

arrested 19 persons in the case. "The accused will be interrogated by the CBI and might be taken to Delhi," the official said. The evidence collected by the EOU in the last one month — pieces of a burnt question paper, mobile phones of those

where the first FIR regarding irregularities in the exam was registered on May 4. A disproportionate assets case will be registered against accused Sikander Prasad Yaduvendu, a junior engineer in Danapur Town Council. He is one of the prime suspects in the case. In Gujarat's Panchmahal district, a case was registered on May 8 against certain individuals for allegedly trying to help 27 candidates clear NEET in lieu of Rs 10 lakh each. The Gujarat police have so far arrested five persons, including the principal and teacher of a school in Godhra. The Rajasthan police were also probing a case wherein a 20-year-old student allegedly paid a proxy candidate to appear in the exam on her behalf in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. Officials, meanwhile said the CBI would utilise data collected during its probe into previous scams to establish nexus in the paper leak.



Congress chief Kharage calls for restoration of true democracy, criticises PM Modi's statement on 1975 Emergency

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 25 : In a sharp critique of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Tuesday accused the ruling administration of undermining democracy and the Constitution over the past decade. Kharage's response came to PM Modi's statement recalling the Emergency declared by the then Congress prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1975 to suppress civil liberties, citing Article 352 of the Indian Constitution on June 25. "The mindset which led to the imposition of the Emergency is very much alive among the same party which imposed it. They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but the people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time

and again," PM Modi wrote a post on X. "Those who imposed the Emergency have no right to profess their love for our Constitution. These are the same people who have imposed Article 356 on innumerable occasions, got a Bill to destroy

as an "undeclared Emergency", including the misuse of investigative agencies against opposition leaders, toppling elected governments, and passing significant laws without proper consensus. Kharage questioned the democratic values of the Modi government, pointing out the suspension of 146 opposition MPs and passing of critical laws such as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, without adequate parliamentary debate. He criticised the imposition of controversial agricultural laws, which led to prolonged protests. The Congress president further lambasted the BJP government for hasty decisions like demonetisation and the abrupt lockdown during the pandemic, citing a lack of cooperation and transparency. He also condemned the unilateral relocation of statues of national icons like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Gandhi from the Parliament premises.



Mirzapur-style shootout shocks locals as violence erupts in Bareilly over land dispute

Chandigarh, June 25: Scenes similar to the popular web series 'Mirzapur' unfolded on the streets of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday morning as violence broke out between two groups over a land dispute. This isn't Mirzapur Season 3 shooting. But actual crime scene from Bareilly, UP. Two groups of Aditya Upadhyay & Rajeev Rana open fire at each other. JCB set on fire. The main accused have been identified as Rajiv Rana and Aditya Upadhyay. According to the police, the dispute started as a verbal argument between the two over a piece of land near Upadhyay's marble shop. However, the situation rapidly escalated when one of the accused, accompanied by 40-50 associates, set two JCB machines parked near the disputed land on fire. Following this, firing began between the two parties. Police force, along with a fire brigade, promptly arrived at the scene and managed to douse the flames. Unfortunately, by the time authorities reached the place, both parties had fled the area. Raids were conducted to arrest the accused.

Om Birla vs K Suresh—How lack of consensus on Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker led to a contest for Speaker's post

Naresh Malhotra Chandigarh, June 25 : The conclusion to the election of the Lok Sabha Speaker scheduled on Wednesday may be long forgone but opposition INDIA bloc putting up Congress candidate K Suresh (though TMC says it was "not consulted") against the ruling NDA's Om Birla is not just an indication of times to come in the 18th Lok Sabha but also the "deepening trust deficit" between the BJP-led government and opposition parties. Notably, this is the first time in the country's Parliamentary history that the opposition has set up a contest for the key constitutional post, normally it is by consensus. Both sides are accusing each other of not following "Parliamentary conventions and traditions". Why this has happened is because as per Congress leaders the BJP "did not fulfil" its assurance of supporting INDIA alliance's claim to the post of the Deputy Speaker.

However, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he spoke to that there was no such commitment. "However, the opposition was assured



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on multiple occasions, each time getting an assurance that the opposition would support the BJP-led NDA candidate. The bottom line is while the Opposition claims it was assured of the post of Deputy Speaker, government sources say that consultations would be held on the post of the Deputy Speaker," they add. What it means Birla is expected to win, however, the contest proves "deepening trust deficit between the treasury and opposition benches," according to political observers. "That's the message that has gone out

with the opposition setting up the contest. Every time, the Speaker is elected by consensus and then things move forward. The Opposition has the right to the post of the Deputy Speaker. Unlike 2014 and 2019, this time it is the BJP plus NDA allies who have the majority. Perhaps the message that the government wants to send is that nothing has changed since when the BJP was in complete control. The opposition wants to show it will not take things lying down," they add. Notably, there was no Deputy Speaker in the previous Lok Sabha. Sources say given the nature of the government (which is coalition this time) the BJP has the option of putting up an ally for the post. What to expect Setting the tone and tenor for the first session of the newly elected 18th Lok Sabha, INDIA bloc on Monday also protested over the appointment of seven-term MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as pro tem Speaker of the House and decided to

withdraw its members from the panel of chairpersons. The first agenda of the new House is to elect the Speaker of Lok Sabha. However, before that the President swears in the pro tem Speaker, who is normally the senior-most member of the House, who then administers the oath or the affirmation to the newly elected members. Then the elected representatives become the members of the new Parliament and elect the Speaker from amongst themselves. As per convention, the post of Deputy Speaker is given to a member of opposition. As the head of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker is the custodian of the House, maintains order in the House, can adjourn/suspend proceedings in case of absence of decorum etc. Importantly the Speaker is also the final authority regarding rules and procedures and for a party which may not be having a majority on its own, he or she also holds the key to its stability with final say in

issues/disputes related to disqualification and situations like a vote of no confidence against the government. Experts say the Speaker's role becomes important when it comes to proving majority on the floor of the House or in case the anti-defection law comes into play, which is the reason that the BJP will try and keep the Deputy Speaker post with the NDA or let it remain vacant. For a party with a comfortable majority (like BJP in the past two tenures), the Speaker's post has been mostly ceremonial. Take for example the classic case of the fall of BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 13-month government in 1999 by just one vote. Cutting the long story short, Giridhar Gamang, who had just become the Congress chief minister in Odisha, was allowed to vote in the confidence motion against the government by the Speaker who left the decision to the "conscious" of the voter.

Kallakurichi hooch tragedy: AIADMK MLAs evicted en masse after disrupting TN Assembly proceedings

CHENNAI. The AIADMK MLAs were, on Tuesday, evicted en masse from the State Assembly after they insisted on a discussion during the question hour and raised slogans. As soon as the question started at 9.30 a.m., Leader of the Opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami and his party colleagues stood up and demanded a discussion on the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy.

Assembly Speaker M Appavu said the AIADMK MLAs could raise this issue after the question hour is over. However, the AIADMK MLAs were on their feet demanding a discussion on the hooch tragedy immediately. They also squatted around the podium of the Speaker and started raising slogans. The Speaker said whatever they said would not go on record. As his appeals to the AIADMK MLAs failed, the Speaker called in the Marshals of the House to evict the AIADMK MLAs. Later, Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru moved a resolution for suspending those AIADMK MLAs who disrupted the House proceedings for the rest of the session. However, Chief Minister MK Stalin recommended that they could be barred from participating in the proceedings of the House only for the rest of the day. The Speaker accepted that.

The CM said the AIADMK MLAs could not digest the sweeping victory of the DMK-led alliance in the Lok Sabha elections and so are trying to divert the attention of the people by disrupting the House proceedings. Later, Palaniswami told reporters that the Speaker did not allow them to raise the hooch tragedy as the number of deaths are going up. Palaniswami and his party colleagues are meeting Governor RN Ravi to submit a representation to him seeking a CBI inquiry into the hooch tragedy.

Odisha government admits helplessness in controlling soaring prices of essential commodities

BHUBANESWAR. As soaring prices of essential commodities cripple the common man, the state government on Monday virtually expressed its helplessness to come to the rescue of consumers by stating that price regulation is beyond its control.

Taking a review of the prevailing prices of essential commodities for the second consecutive day on Monday, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krishna Chandra Patra said the government has no control over prices as Odisha is dependent on other states for the items.

The minister told mediapersons that Odisha largely depends on Assam and West Bengal to meet its potato requirement while Maharashtra is the major source market for onions. The state is now sourcing onion from Andhra Pradesh where price is ruling high.

Patra attributed the spiralling prices of potato in the state to rising cost of the tuber at source markets. He said the department is contemplating to go for market intervention through central agency National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) to stabilise prices of potato and onion. However, general secretary of Kuberpuri Byabasayee Sangha, Shakti Shankar Mishra gave a completely different picture. He said the wholesale price of potato in West Bengal is Rs 1,800 per quintal but Odisha traders are buying the tuber at Rs 2,100 to Rs 2,200 per quintal. The retail price of potato should be ideally Rs 26 per kg but it is now selling at Rs 35 a kg. The minister said onions are now procured from Nashik in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh at Rs 2,900 per quintal, traders are selling the commodity at Rs 40 a kg which include the transportation cost of Rs 4 per kg and their profit margin. The actual retail price across



the state is Rs 45 per kg. On the other hand, Mishra said onion is coming from

Ahmednagar, Aurangabad and Nashik where the wholesale rate is Rs 2,500-Rs 3,000 per quintal depending on the quality of products. The wholesale price of onion in Odisha is Rs 32-Rs 34 per kg.

General secretary of Odisha Byabasayee Mahasangha, Sudhakar Panda said, "Government officials always try to mislead the ministers who blindly believe them without verifying facts. None of the governments has ever trusted the traders who are always seen with suspicion. Traders or trading associations are never consulted on how to deal with the rising prices of essential commodities." Panda said there is a steep rise of Rs 600-Rs 700 on a quintal of rice when Odisha is a rice surplus state. The price of rice has jumped from Rs 3,000-Rs 3,100 to Rs 3,700-Rs 3,800 per quintal. Similarly, wheat and its products have witnessed a price rise of Rs 200 per quintal, be it atta, maida or suji. Edible oil has also increased by Rs 5 to Rs 15 per litre.

Three murders in two days: Chennai, Tambaram police on high alert

CHENNAI. Three murders were reported in different parts of the city and its suburbs in the past two days. A village administrative officer on Sunday informed Maduravoyal police about a suspicious cremation of one A Vijay (30) at a crematorium near Porur toll gate. Preliminary investigation revealed that Vijay was allegedly murdered by his father Asaimani and younger brother Ajay, who were fed up with the 30-year-old's frequent drunken brawls. Both of them and four more persons were arrested in connection with the murder. A knife and a wooden log were also seized from them. Meanwhile, Peerankarai police of Tambaram on

Sunday night received an alert that one Vignesh (25) was found dead with cut injuries. Police said an alleged fallout between two rival groups led to the murder. Police have arrested Suriya, Amos and Kumar in the case. On Monday morning, police officers attached to Manimangalam station in Tambaram Commissionerate received information that a beheaded body was found. Probe revealed that S Dhayalan (60) was allegedly murdered by his brother-in-law's son Parthiban due to a feud over the distribution of assets. Parthiban's father and Dhayalan's wife Selvi are siblings and the family recently had a disagreement over distribution of their father's assets.

Health issues prompt possible zoo relocation for tiger captured in Wayanad

KALPETTA: The forest department, which successfully trapped the tiger terrorising Kenichira in Wayanad late on Sunday, is facing a new dilemma. Specifically, it is the big cat's health that has the forest officials worried. An examination has revealed that the tiger - identified as Tholpetty 7 - is facing significant health challenges. Notably, two of its teeth are broken, which severely impedes the tiger's ability to hunt and survive in the wild. In light of this, the forest officials has concluded that releasing the tiger back into its natural habitat would be impractical and also potentially harmful to its well-being. Discussions are now under way on the possibility of relocating the tiger from its current holding at the Iruulam forest department centre to a suitable zoo, given its compromised dental health. Forest officials highlighted the importance of ensuring the tiger's long-term welfare while also addressing public safety concerns. Meanwhile, efforts



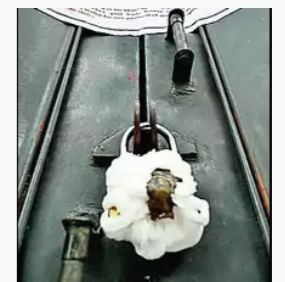
are being made to reassure local residents and address their concerns related to wildlife. Authorities are expected to continue monitoring the situation closely, with a focus on conservation efforts as well as the well-being of affected communities. As discussions progress, additional measures may be implemented to mitigate similar incidents and support sustainable coexistence between wildlife

Two of its teeth are broken, severely impeding its ability to hunt, survive in the wild.

and human populations in the region. The 10-year-old tiger was trapped in one of the specialised cages installed by the department officials in Kenichira in Wayanad's Poothadi panchayat around 11.05pm on Sunday. The chief wildlife warden had issued an order to tranquilise and capture the tiger, but the need did not arise. The order to capture the tiger was issued after it killed four cows in Kenichira over three days, sparking protests by local residents. Earlier on Sunday, residents of Kenichira had blocked the Beenachi-Panamaram road with the carcass of one of the cows that the tiger killed, to protest against repeated wildlife attacks.

Seal factories that don't have BU, fire NOC: AMC chief

Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad municipal commissioner M Thennarasan on Monday met officials from AMC's estate and town development department and expressed dissatisfaction with their performance. He ordered officials to start sealing factories and industrial units in eastern Ahmedabad operating without building use (BU) permission. Sources said that officials cited staff shortage and other excuses, but the commissioner reiterated that the department has sufficient staff to seal such factories. Sources in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said the meeting follows state urban development department's four-page letter to all municipal corporations holding them responsible for buildings operating without BU permissions and fire NOCs. The meeting was attended by the deputy municipal commissioner and other senior officers.



The sources added that the civic body does not act against irregularities despite being aware of them unless it is rebuked by state govt or the high court. During a suo motu petition on pollution in Sabarmati, the court had reprimanded AMC and only then had the civic body started disconnecting illegal sewer connections in eastern areas. Following the gaming zone fire in Rajkot, Ahmedabad civic body has begun a clampdown on factories and buildings operating without necessary permissions. We also published the following articles recently: 4 more Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation plots sold for Rs 60 crore; Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation conducted an online auction for six plots, selling four for Rs 60.34 crore. Notably, a plot in Isanpur fetched a higher rate than one in Motera. Vizag civic body issues showcase notice to YSRCP over construction of party offices without permission. The GVMC has issued notices to YSRCP for constructing district offices in Visakhapatnam and Anapalli without permissions. Construction is completed, with the Visakhapatnam office inaugurated. Notices were issued under APMC Act, 1955. No buffer zones around factories despite fires; residential areas at risk. Residential townships in Mumbai Metropolitan Region face safety risks from hazardous industrial units. Experts advocate for buffer zones between industries and residential areas. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde plans to address safety concerns.

Metro 3: Train trials completed, testing of electrical systems on

Mumbai. The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways has completed trials for the rolling stock or train set that will be deployed for commercial services on the underground Metro 3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz). Trials are currently underway for the Phase 1 stretch between Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Aarey. "This is a significant milestone as oscillation trials for the Metro rakes have been concluded. RDSO will now send its report of this segment of trials to the railway board and the commissioner of metro rail safety," said a senior MMRCL official, adding: "Testing of other electrical systems and integrated testing of the rolling stock with signalling is in progress. After completion of testing, the commissioner of metro rail safety will be invited." These trials, which commenced June 8, were undertaken at a maximum speed limit of 95kmph with both empty and loaded rakes. Oscillation trials for Metro systems test the dynamic performance and stability of the train at different speeds. The key aspects tested during



these trials include determining ride comfort by evaluating the vibrations and accelerations experienced inside the train to ensure passenger comfort. The dynamic stability is also checked to assess the train's stability to avoid

derailments, particularly at high speeds and during curves. Analysis of how the train interacts with the track, including the forces exerted on the rails and the potential for rail wear or damage, is also undertaken. — Manthan K Mehta

We also published the following articles recently
RDSO completes rolling stock trials for Mumbai metro line 3RDSO and MMRCL completed trials for the rolling stock on Metro Line 3, ensuring safe and efficient operation of the metro system. First full train trial run on world's highest rail bridge successful Indian Railways conducted the first full train trial run on the world's highest railway bridge over Chenab river in J&K, part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project. AstraZeneca's breast cancer drug fails in late-stage trial test. Breast cancer drug Truqap, in trial by AstraZeneca, failed to meet main goal in CAPITello-290 trial for metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

Andhra's Bapatla district shuts down beaches after multiple drownings

GUNTUR. Following the two tragic incidents in which as many as six people drowned at Vodarevu beach in Bapatla district in the past week, as a precautionary measure, the police temporarily shut down three beaches in the district. Last week, over 20 people washed away in the sea due to heavy tides in two separate incidents. While police rescued 14 people, six persons, including four youth from West Godavari district and two from Mangalagiri, drowned and died. Following this, the police closed both Suryalanka, Ramapuram and Vodarevu beaches and imposed a ban on entering into the sea until further notice. Speaking to TNIE, Bapatla SP Vakul Jindal said that due to some geological reasons, the sea is more aggressive and sand pits are forming due to heavy tides. "As a result, even though tourists are not venturing into deep waters, they are getting caught in these sand pits and are drowning. As police cannot be present everywhere and rescue everyone, the ban is enforced as a preventive measure," he said.

He also informed that the police are roping in resort managements at both beaches to appoint skilled swimmers and prevent tourists from venturing into sea until the precautionary measures are in place. "Cautionary boards are



being set up and safe spots for tourists to venture into sea will be marked with red ropes, skilled divers and outpost police will be set up in the next four to five days, and until then the ban will be in force", he added. With a 76-km long coastline, Suryalanka, Ramapuram and Vodarevu beaches are the most attractive tourist spots in Bapatla district. Two years back, due to an increase in drowning cases, the police and district administration appointed 10 skilled divers, outpost police personnel, and set up three watchtowers, and a first-aid centre at Suryalanka beach.

Latin Archdiocese alleges fake email in Vizhinjam port expansion hearing

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The Latin Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram and affiliated organisations have raised serious concerns over procedural lapses by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in conducting the public hearing on the Vizhinjam International Seaport expansion held on June 19. They discovered that the email address (ceetvm.kspcb@gmail.com) provided for submitting opinions and concerns regarding the project expansion was fake. The public hearing on the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) draft for the second and third phases of the port expansion took place at an auditorium in Venganoor. According to representatives from the Church, individuals who opted to send their opinions via email felt deceived. "This appears to be a deliberate attempt to undermine the public hearing process, which is a legal requirement for obtaining clearance. By publishing a fake email address, they have

deprived citizens of their right to express their views and concerns about the project.

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 Gurcharan Singh Babbar
 Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
 Website : www.sikhimes.in
 Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com
 RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465
Legal Advisors:
 Advocate Mohd. Sajid
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NEWS BOX

Squatters to be cleared from green belts and footpaths on MG Road

Gurgaon: GMDA has planned a drive to raze illegal shops from the greenbelt alongside MG Road. This comes after repeated complaints from residents of Beverly Park 1 and 2. The team led by district town planner RS Bath, along with residents of the condominiums, examined the encroachment on this stretch on Monday. The vendors and makeshift shops on the greenbelts and footpaths result in traffic and parking chaos. The authority has assured the residents a drive will be conducted to clear the encroached areas soon. Further, as per directions issued by GMDA, the enforcement wing will be seen on ground to identify govt land and free it from encroachment.

Bath said, "The team found many unauthorised vendors and temporary shops operating without permission from the authority concerned. The menace is obstructing traffic flow and causing snarls and illegal parking." Another official said that the authority is also surveying spots where govt land, that is ROW (right of way) and green belts and infrastructure projects are hampered due to encroachments. These spots are along SPR, Sector 4/7, Sector 50 and Golf Course Extension road, along with some stretches in the new sectors. We also published the following articles recently: port tourism illegalities along beach belt; Khaunte Tourism minister urges reporting of illegalities in tourism sector by calling toll-free number 1364; Road stretch on Dhakuria bridge subsidies, KMDA fills up spot; Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority conducted soil strengthening work on Dhakuria bridge after a stretch subsidised. The bridge, around 60 years old, has a history of rat infestation. Body of terrorist recovered in anti-infiltration operation along LoC in Uri sector; Security forces recovered the body of a terrorist in an ongoing anti-infiltration operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

After singe, the pinch: Heat burns a hole in pocket as veggie prices soar

Noida. A summer with temperatures higher than 40 degrees Celsius for over a month and barely any pre-monsoon showers affected crop yields across states, leading to a spike in the cost of vegetables being sold at markets in Delhi-NCR. At Indira Market in Sector 27, 1kg of onion was being sold for Rs 50 on Monday, a 25% increase from Rs 40 a week before. The rate of tomatoes was up 67% -- from Rs 30/kg to Rs 50/kg. And potatoes cost Rs 40 per kg, a hike of Rs 10 from the last week. The cost of carrots, typically a winter vegetable, doubled from Rs 40 to Rs 80 per kg.

And coriander, the rate of which also doubled, was up to Rs 200 per kg. Shopkeepers said that they were no longer giving green chillies (Rs 100 per kg) and coriander complementary with other vegetables to customers. Rajesh Kumar, a vendor in Sector 27, said that wholesale costs of procuring vegetables has increased. "Naturally, retail prices will also increase that way," he said. The only vegetable that saw its rate per kg fall in a week was pointed gourd -- which went from Rs 80 to Rs 60 -- due to arrival of fresh stocks.

Rajinder, a resident of Sector 168 who was shopping at the market on Monday, said she is concerned about the prices hitting her family's monthly budget. "Govt should keep a check as it directly affects our pockets," the 60-year-old said.

Rates were similar at the Sector 12 market.

Rahul Kumar, a vendor, said he sources vegetables from the Ghazipur Mandi. "Even ginger and garlic prices have increased. Last week, ginger was Rs 200 per kg. Now, it's Rs 240. Garlic prices rose from Rs 160 to Rs 200 per kg. We have stopped giving complementary dhaniya and mirchi to customers," he said.

Mohammad Javed, a wholesale trader at Noida Phool Mandi, said prices of vegetables were higher because of how weather affected crops. "High temperatures inhibit vegetable growth, reducing their size and yield. There was no rainfall, so crops in parts of UP like Bulandshahr and Amroha, and Karnal in Haryana were affected, leading to price hike," Javed said. Sanjay Kumar, secretary of Noida Phool Mandi, pointed out that the cost of vegetables grown in the states affected most by the heatwave rose more than those sourced from other regions of the country.

Man shoots at 16-year-old daughter over love affair

Noida. A 16-year-old girl sustained bullet injuries after her father allegedly fired at her in Greater Noida's Dankaura area on Sunday. A case has been registered against the man, who is now on the run.

A senior officer at Dankaur police station said, "The girl's father, Rahees Khan, came to the police station on Sunday and revealed that the previous night he reached home to find out that his daughter was missing. He claimed that she had gone to a house in the neighbourhood. When Khan reached there with his brother, there were five other people at the house. One of them fired a bullet at Khan, and it accidentally hit his daughter, who is now being treated at a hospital in Delhi," said a senior officer at Dankaur police station.

A case under Section 307 (attempt to murder), along with other sections of the Indian Penal Code, was registered against five named accused.

Later, when a police team reached the village and inquired, it was found out that on Saturday, Khan had an argument with his daughter over her affair with one of the named accused. "The minor had an affair with one of their relatives, and her father opposed it. On Saturday night, the two had an argument, following which he fired at his daughter. He then went to the police station to implicate the relative and his family for the injuries to his daughter," Ashok Kumar, ADCP, Greater Noida, said. We also published the following articles recently: Arshad Warsi and his daughter steal the spotlight as the father-daughter duo get clobbered at the airport; Arshad Warsi spotted at Mumbai airport with daughter; excited for Jolly L.L.B 3 with Akshay Kumar.

59-year-old man abuses girl, her mom breaks his nose; A woman punched a 59-year-old man in Enath near Adoor after he sexually assaulted her daughter, a Plus One student.

Onion & tomato at 50 a kilo, potato at ?40, veggie prices see sharp rise after heatwave

Gurgaon. The prolonged spell of heat and little to no pre-monsoon rainfall affected crop yields in large parts of north India, leading to a surge in prices of vegetables across Delhi-NCR. The prices of tomatoes and green vegetables have shot up over the past few weeks as supply was lower than expected, wholesale traders said on Monday. At Khandsa market, the wholesale price of potatoes was Rs 20-25 per kg on Monday, almost double of Rs 12-20 weeks earlier. The kitchen staple was being sold for Rs 40-50 to customers on Monday. Rates of onions and tomatoes also saw a hike of Rs 20-30 per kg. Customers were buying these vegetables at Rs 50-60/kg.

The cost of other commonly used vegetables were high too -- capsicum was Rs 180 per kg (from Rs 50), garlic was Rs 180 per kg (from Rs 90), cucumber was Rs 60/kg (from Rs 30-40) and beans was Rs 120/kg (from Rs 80).

Vendors said they had stopped giving complementary coriander and green chillies as their rates had shot up. Coriander was being sold for Rs 300/kg,



triple of that from Rs 100 a few weeks ago. Green chillies cost Rs 160 per kg on Monday. Raju, a vendor near Sector 10A, said lack of rainfall and extreme heat affected crop production. "Prices have gone up Rs 10-20 per kg. Despite selling without a high margin of profit,

customers are buying less," he said. Residents, too, were rethinking their grocery budgets. Kapil Raghav, who works in Sector 44, said he remembers buying a kilogram of tomatoes for Rs 20 weeks before. "Now, they cost Rs 50. Even other vegetables

like ladyfinger, round gourd and sponge gourd are priced at Rs 60 per kg. These were earlier around Rs 40/kg. Every week, it seems like prices are higher. It's becoming difficult to manage the household budget," he said.

Krishan Kumar Yadav, a resident of Sector 15, said vegetable rates usually go up during the monsoon. "But monsoon hasn't even begun. It will be very difficult to manage if prices keep increasing," he added. Basant Kumar Yadav, secretary and executive officer of the Gurgaon market committee, said extreme heat impacts crop yields, causing a supply shortfall.

We are seeing reduced yields across the board. The upcoming rainy season will support the next cycle of crops, which may lead to some dip in prices. But excessive rainfall or flooding of farms could adversely impact standing crops, further widening the gap between demand and supply," he warned.

Makeover for key stretch linking Dwarka away, IMT Manesar soon

Gurgaon. An arterial stretch connecting Dwarka Expressway to Manesar is set for a major revamp. GMDA officials said the six-lane main carriageway as well as service roads on both sides of the 5.3km master road passing through sectors 84-91 will be redeveloped under the project.

The metropolitan authority approved the Rs 77.7 crore project last Jan. "We will be undertaking a comprehensive upgrade of this crucial stretch to enhance the commuting experience. The proposed redevelopment will follow the model of the ongoing Rampura-Pataudi Road project. We have issued a tender and are making efforts to complete the process within the next 3-4 months. We are hoping to start work on the ground after the monsoon," a senior GMDA official said. The road begins at the CPR interchange of Dwarka Expressway and connects it to IMT Manesar passing through sectors 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90 and 91. Originally constructed in 2010-2011 by the

Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), the road has deteriorated significantly with damaged surfaces and gaping potholes. With the opening of Dwarka Expressway, the traffic load on this stretch has increased manifold. According to GMDA, this road is used by around 28,000 vehicles daily. The key road provides direct connectivity from these sectors to Dwarka Expressway and further to NH-8, Sohna Road and the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). The 5.3 km-long stretch is dotted with several residential societies, commercial space, shopping complexes, and schools. While many projects are already occupied, others are either in the construction phase or proposed.

Additionally, Gurugram University, located in Sector 87's Kankrola village along this road, was inaugurated earlier this year. The entire campus is expected to be operational by the end of the year, which is expected to add to traffic on the stretch. Under the project, the main

carriageways will be strengthened and upgraded and service roads will be built on both sides. Similarly, surface drains will be constructed to ensure proper drainage and prevent waterlogging, the GMDA official said. "Dedicated cycle tracks and footpaths will be developed to promote sustainable transportation and pedestrian safety. Green belts will also be developed along the stretch. Besides, road safety furniture and streetlights will be installed to improve safety and visibility for all road users," the official added.

Residents have for years been demanding that this road be redeveloped due to its deteriorating condition and increasing traffic load. "The current state of the road makes commuting very difficult, as there are numerous potholes and rough patches. This project will improve connectivity to Manesar industrial areas and Gurugram University," said Vivek Prakash, a resident of New Town Heights in Sector 86.

Where did fuel go? At Bandhwari, a fresh question

Gurgaon: A controversy has erupted over legacy waste processing at the Bandhwari landfill after an MCG probe found that a private firm tasked with processing four lakh tonnes of waste allegedly submitted fraudulent documents claiming it transported refuse-derived fuel (RDF) to cement industries in Madhya Pradesh. Two cement companies informed the corporation they hadn't received any RDF from the firm, sparking concerns over violations of environmental norms regarding disposal of the waste byproduct. RDF is produced from municipal solid waste, which includes biodegradable material as well as plastic. Non-combustible materials such as glass and metals are removed, and the residual material is shredded and incinerated to generate electricity. The municipal corporation or agencies processing waste are supposed to send it to cement or waste-to-energy plants for use as fuel. Letters accessed by TOI revealed that two cement companies located in MP's Jabalpur and Singrauli informed MCG that they have not received any RDF from the agency. According to sources, MCG is planning to float another tender for legacy waste processing at Bandhwari, and the private firm is aiming to again land the contract. The agency, Patheya, was deployed for legacy waste processing at Bandhwari in 2022-23 and finished the task early last year. After it told MCG that RDF was being sent to MP, the corporation constituted a committee in July last year for physical verification of the claims.

Of the three cement companies the committee visited for inspection in MP, two denied having received RDF as claimed by the private agency. The companies also stated they haven't issued any certificates stating this either, the committee said in a confidential report filed in Sept last year.

Contractor chosen, Chilla Elevated Rd funds await nod

Noida. A week after financial bids were opened, a contractor has been selected for the construction of the 5.5km, six-lane Chilla Elevated Road, which will connect Mayur Vihar in Delhi to the Mahamaya Flyover on the Noida Expressway. MG Contractors emerged as the lowest bidder, quoting 7% below the bid cost of Rs 680 crore.

"MG Contractors quoted Rs 625 crore, RWA opposes plan to set up animal shelter in residential area

Noida: A delegation of residents' welfare association (RWA) met the additional chief executive officer (ACEO) of Noida on Friday to oppose the authority's plan to set up an animal shelter in Sector 117. The sector, home to over 2,000 people, lacks a community park. Residents have been urging the authority to convert a vacant plot next to a community centre into a children's park. However, the plot is now earmarked for an animal shelter, which is expected to accommodate stray dogs, cats, cows, and buffaloes. "We met Sanjay Khatri, the ACEO of Noida Authority, regarding shifting the proposed animal centre and hospital from the vicinity of residential areas in Sector 117. It's disturbing to learn that the vacant plot of land on which we have been demanding a children's park for several years has been proposed for an animal shelter by the Authority," said Kosinder Yadav, RWA president of Sector 117. Harsh Mohan Jakhmola, RWA secretary of Sector 117, said that residents are worried about foul smells and spread of diseases from cattle, dogs, buffaloes, and cats at the animal centre. Another resident, Bareshwar Singh, added, "We are not against the animal centre but are strongly against the proposed location near the residential area."

initiative of the Noida Authority and the Public Works Department (PWD). Construction began in Jan 2019 and was initially scheduled for completion by July 2022. Since then, construction cost has risen to over Rs 900 crore, with the Noida Authority and PWD each covering 50% of the total cost.

In April last year, officials made a new arrangement where UPSBCL was

recently Dacoits strike at PWD contractors house; Dacoits in Ulaibettu, Mangaluru, robbed a PWD contractor's house, injuring Padmanabha Kotiyann and stealing valuables. An investigation is ongoing to arrest the suspects. 111175911

Labourer's death: Owner and contractor booked for negligence; A worker died and three others sustained injuries

<p>Name Change I, Indra Jit Maurya s/o Jagdish Maurya R/o G-5, Gali No. 5, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Inder Jeet Maurya for all future purposes</p>	<p>Name Change I, Ram Janam s/o bhola prasad sharma r/o 1519 nehru colony fardabad haryana have change my name to RAM JANAM SHARMA permanently.</p>	<p>Name Change I, KANCHAN daughter of JC-829713P Rank-SUB Name-BRUEJESH SINGH KUSHWAH R/o VPO-LAHROLI, TEH-BHIND, DIST-BHIND, MADHYA PRADESH-477001 have changed my name from KANCHAN and KANCHAN KUMARI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 25/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>Name Change I, KANCHAN daughter of JC-829713P Rank-SUB Name-BRUEJESH SINGH KUSHWAH R/o VPO-LAHROLI, TEH-BHIND, DIST-BHIND, MADHYA PRADESH-477001 have changed my name from KANCHAN and KANCHAN KUMARI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 25/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>
<p>Name Change I, Anita Acharya W/o Jaideep Singh R/o D-292, Second Floor, Divya Marg, Defence Colony, Delhi-110024 have changed my name from Anita Acharya to Acharya Anita therefore my name should be known as Acharya Anita for all purposes in future.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, KHUSHI VERMA D/O JATIN KUMAR VERMA, R/o H. No. C-17, Sector-27, Noida District, Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P.-201301, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as KHUSHI and JATIN VERMA in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are KHUSHI VERMA and JATIN KUMAR VERMA, respectively which may be amended accordingly.</p>	<p>Name Change I, SANJEET KUMAR SRIVASTAVA S/O B L SRIVASTAVA R/O A-73, Jawahar Park, Devli Road, Khanpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed the name of my minor son NAVYA SRIVASTAVA aged 17 Years and he shall hereafter be known as SAMBHAV SRIVASTAVA.</p>	<p>Name Change It is for general information that I, DANISH KHAN S/O SHAKIL KHAN, R/o 14/16 142/1, Street No- 4, Near Masjid, Milan Vihar, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SURESH in my minor daughter RUBY aged 17 years in his 10th class and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is BENAMI, which may be amended accordingly.</p>
<p>Name Change I, Vineet Kumar Gupta S/o Subhash Chand Gupta R/o C-892A, Block-C, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Vineet Gupta For All Future purposes</p>	<p>Name Change I, Tejvir Singh Kadian S/o Tejpal Singh Kadian R/o House No-22, Block-C, Sector-11, Faridabad, Haryana-121006, Have Changed My Name To Tejvir Kadian For All Future Purpose.</p>	<p>Name Change I, Aanya Aggarwal D/O Rahul Aggarwal R/o 21, second floor, sector 25 DLF phase 2, Gurgaon Haryana 122002 have changed my name to amaira Aggarwal for all future purposes.</p>	<p>Name Change I, Hitherto known as Mala Sonkala D/o Ramesh Kumar Sonkala R/o J-362, Second Floor, Sujay Singh Park, Delhi-110003 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Maya Sonkala.</p>
<p>Name Change I, NEELAM wife of JC-768605M Rank-SUB Name-BHAWANI DASS R/O VILLAGE - SAMLAH, POST OFFICE - BHATWARA, DISTT - BILASPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH-174028 have changed my name from NEELAM to NEELAM KUMARI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 25/06/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>Name Change I, SHASHI SWAMI spouse of GS-193785N Rank- PNR Name: VIJAY KUMAR, presently residing at VII & Post Jeelo, Teh-Naem ka thana Dist- Sikar, State- Rajasthan, PIN-332711 have changed my name from SASHI SWAMI to SHASHI SWAMI for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 20.06.24 before sub divisional magistrate Naem ka thana Sikar, Rajasthan.</p>	<p>Name Change I, hitherto known as ANISHA RANI D/O AMAN SINGH W/O RHUL SINGH R/O RZC-193/B, JEEVAN PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, DK MOHAN GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANISHA SINGH.</p>	<p>Name Change I, NABEEL S/O SHAHID AHMED residing at H NO-133, GALI LAJE, TEHWAR KHAN, NAYA BANS, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to NABEEL AHMED all future purposes</p>

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	06-A, B - C - 2024-25-W-V		
Name of work with its location	A. CTR(S)-1.454 Km in the section of SSE P.Way/TKD under ADEN/TKD		
B. Construction of 2 Nos. of relay huts in connection with Replacement of signaling gears with electronic interlocking at Hazrat Nizamuddin under ADEN/HZM2.	Similar nature of work:- Construction of building/Quarters.		
C. Construction and Extension of Foot Over Bridge 6.10m wide for two-wheeler movement at Inderpuri Halt under Sr DEN/V/DLI.	Similar nature of work:- Fabrication, supply, assembly, erection and launching/regarding of girders through girder, plat girders, FOBs etc. in running track.		
Approx. Cost of work	A. Rs. 4016663.39	B. Rs. 12619425.72	
Earnest Money Deposit	C. Rs. 25996300.18		
Completion period of Work	A. 06 Months	B. 06 Months	C. 06 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 16.07.2024 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 16.07.2024.		
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in		
No. 128-W/280/OET/2024-25/W-V/NT-06A, B & C - 2024-25 Date: 24.06.2024 1894/2024			

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Indu w/o Mr. Narendra is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 160 sq. yds., Out of Khaska No. 1056, Situated in the Village Barolia, Pargana & Tehsil Dadr, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh. By Virtue, Gift Deed dated 18.03.2024 as Doc no. 2882, Book No. 1, Vol no. 12806, Page no. 167-184, SR-1 Noida. In the chain document below mentioned document not available i.e. SMC of Late Mr. Dhaniram Chauhan died on 18.02.2020 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Kalkaji Delhi. 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 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

NEWS BOX

US 'shocked' by video of wounded Palestinian tied to Israeli military jeep

World The US State Department on Monday said a video of a wounded Palestinian man strapped on a military jeep by Israeli forces was "shocking" and urged a swift investigation to hold those responsible to account.

At a State Department news briefing, a reporter asked, "Isn't that basically the army using Palestinians as human shields?" State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller responded, "I will say we saw that video. It was shocking. The practice was absolutely unacceptable. Humans should never be used as human shields." "The IDF should swiftly investigate what happened, hold people accountable," Miller said, using an acronym for the Israel Defense Forces.

On Saturday, Israeli army forces tied a wounded Palestinian man to the hood of a military jeep during an arrest raid in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, the Israeli military said. The video circulating on social media and verified by Reuters showed a Palestinian resident of Jenin, Mujahed Azmi, on a military jeep that passed between two ambulances. The Israeli military in a statement said Israeli forces were fired at and exchanged fire, wounding a suspect and apprehending him.

Soldiers then violated military protocol, the statement said. The military said the "conduct of the forces in the video of the incident does not conform to the values" of the Israeli military and the incident will be investigated and dealt with. The military said the man was transferred to medics for treatment. "I saw the statement they made out that the actions were inconsistent with the orders those soldiers received and that is being investigated, and the people involved will be dealt with accordingly. That is absolutely appropriate," Miller said. Violence in the West Bank, already on the rise before the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza began in October, has escalated since then with frequent army raids on militant groups, rampages by Jewish settlers in Palestinian villages and deadly Palestinian street attacks.

Many stranded after heavy rain, avalanches in Chile mountain towns

World Dozens of people were stranded after avalanches blanketed mountain towns east of Chile's capital Santiago and blocked roads, according to authorities.

Heavy rain and snowstorms from the last few days have left large piles of snow throughout the province of Maipo, in central Chile. Two small towns in the Cajon del Maipo mountain range have been cut off as well as a ski center, due to road closures caused by snow slides, police and provincial government authorities said.

"We are doing everything possible to reach them and take them to a safe area," said Alejandra Cortes, a federal government delegate to Cordillera province.

She added that in the next few days, authorities will attempt to set off a controlled avalanche to clear snow if it does not occur naturally first. At Lagunillas Ski Center, 33 people were trapped, including eight children, Lieutenant Colonel Bernardo Leiva of Chile's national police said. "No people were injured (at the ski resort), and food has been brought to them," he said.

A second avalanche blocked an access road in the mountains, leaving nine people trapped in the town of Banos Morales and 20 stuck in Lo Valdes, according to Cortes' office. Both towns are awaiting snow plows to clear roads, where 10 meters (33 feet) of snow built up after the avalanche.

Two US judges block parts of Biden's student loan repayment plan for millions



UPDATED Two federal judges in Kansas and Missouri on Monday, at the urging of several Republican-led states, blocked President Joe Biden's administration from further implementing a new student debt relief plan that lowers payments US District Judge Daniel Crabtree in Wichita, Kansas, blocked, opens new tab the US Department of Education from implementing parts of a student loan repayment plan not already in effect that cuts borrowers' monthly payments and provides a faster path to have debts forgiven. He ruled shortly before US District Judge John Ross in St Louis, Missouri, issued a preliminary injunction, opens new tab barring the department from granting further loan forgiveness under the administration's Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan. The SAVE plan provides more generous terms than past income-based repayment plans, lowering monthly payments for eligible borrowers and allowing those whose original principal balances were \$12,000 or less to have their debt forgiven after 10 years. Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey, a Republican who helped lead the litigation, hailed Ross' decision. "Congress never gave Biden the authority to saddle working Americans with half-a-trillion dollars in other people's debt," he wrote on social media platform X. The Education Department and the White House had no immediate comment. Biden, a Democrat, announced the SAVE Plan in 2022, alongside a broader \$430 billion program that would have fulfilled a campaign promise by cancelling up to \$20,000 in debt for up to 43 million Americans. It was ultimately blocked by the conservative-majority US Supreme Court in June 2023. The SAVE Plan was slated to fully take effect on July 1, though parts of it already been implemented, with 414,000 borrowers by mid-May having been granted \$5.5 billion in debt relief, according to the Education Department. The White House has said that over 20 million borrowers could benefit from the SAVE Plan. The administration in May said that 8 million are already enrolled, including 4.6 million whose monthly payments have been reduced to \$0. Eleven states challenged the plan in a lawsuit in Kansas. Crabtree had recently dismissed eight of the states' claims, but allowed South Carolina, Texas and Alaska to push forward. Seven other states sued in Missouri.

Louisiana sued for requiring to display list of religious precepts in classrooms

Louisiana became the only US state requiring displays of the Ten Commandments when Governor Jeff Landry, a Republican, signed the law on June 19.

Louisiana was sued on Monday (local time) over a new law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms in the state. The complaint said displaying the Ten Commandments violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution, and "simply cannot be reconciled with the fundamental religious-freedom principles that animated the founding of our nation". Nine families, including several clergy, with children in public schools filed the lawsuit in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana federal court, seeking an injunction against the law. Louisiana became the only US state requiring displays of the Ten Commandments when

Governor Jeff Landry, a Republican, signed the law on June 19. The law is also part of a broader push by conservative groups to make expressions of faith a more prominent part in society. Some hope that such laws, when challenged in court, could eventually receive a friendly welcome at the US Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority. That court in 1980 declared unconstitutional a Kentucky law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools. But in 2022, the court sided with a high school football coach in Washington state who said he had a constitutional right to pray with his players at the 50-yard line after games. Landry's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In signing the Louisiana law, Landry said displaying the Ten Commandments would help expand faith in public schools. "If you want to respect the rule of law, you've got to start from the



original law-giver, which was Moses," he said. The plaintiffs said the law violates the First Amendment's prohibition against state establishment of religion. They also said the law violates the First Amendment's free exercise clause by pressuring parents and children to accept the state's favoured religious message. "It is our children's right" to decide what views to accept, plaintiff Darcy Roake, a minister in the Unitarian Universalist

Church whose husband is Jewish and also a plaintiff, said on a conference call with reporters. In the Christian and Jewish faiths, God revealed the Ten Commandments to the Hebrew prophet Moses. Louisiana's law requires an easy-to-read, poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in all classrooms, from kindergarten through public colleges.

It also requires a statement that the Ten Commandments had been "a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries". Such a statement could suggest that the Ten Commandments have historical, as well as religious, value. The lawsuit was assigned to US District Judge John deGravelles, who was appointed to the bench by Democratic President Barack Obama.

UK Opposition leader's 'many Diwalis gone' barb over free trade deal with India

World The UK's Opposition Labour Party leader David Lammy on Monday criticised the ruling Conservatives and appeared to take a jibe at former Prime Minister Boris Johnson for failing to close the long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. "Many Diwalis have come and gone without a trade deal and too many businesses have been left waiting," Lammy, who is the Labour Party's shadow foreign secretary, said in his address at the India Global Forum (IGF). His comment was in reference to the missed Diwali 2022 deadline set by Boris Johnson for the FTA. David Lammy also described India as a "priority" for the Labour Party and an economic, technological and cultural "superpower". "With Labour, the days of Boris Johnson reciting that old verse from Rudyard Kipling in Asia are over. If I recite a poem in India, it will be Tagore...because with a superpower like India, the areas of cooperation and the areas for learning are limitless," the Labour Party leader said. David Lammy also had a message for Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Trade Minister Piyush Goyal,



saying that his Labour Party is "ready to go" strike up a deal if his side wins the July 4 general elections. "Let's finally get our free trade deal done and move on," Lammy said, adding he will be in Delhi before the end of July. David Lammy also criticised the governing Conservatives for having "overpromised and under delivered" on ties with India. He also put forth his ambitions of the FTA being a "floor not a ceiling" of the partnership he aspires to with his "friend" Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. India and the UK have completed 13 rounds of FTA negotiations since talks began in January 2022 to enhance the estimated Great British Pound 38.1 billion a year trading relationship. The 14th round of discussions opened on January 10. During his speech, David Lammy

also drew parallels with the shared democratic values in both India and the UK as he congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his record third term. "I deeply believe that India's democratic elections, with almost a billion voters, are the most important statement, the most important validation, not only of the democratic ideal but of democratic practice in today's world. This is something that binds us together," Lammy said. The UK Labour Party leader also flagged climate change as one of the key areas of collaboration, saying the UK stood in solidarity with India through the soaring temperatures in the country that has led to multiple deaths. "There can be no energy transition without an Indian energy partner. India is the indispensable partner, not only to Britain but the whole developed world," he noted. Guyanese-heritage also recalled his Indian connection, saying his "great-grandmother was Indian from Calcutta" who went to the Caribbean as an "indentured labourer". His reminiscence followed his praises of the British Indians for their "extraordinary contribution" and without whom, Lammy said.

Biden condemns violence during pro-Palestine stir outside US synagogue: Un-American

Los Angeles. Opponents of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza staged a protest that evolved into brawling and one arrest outside a Los Angeles synagogue over the weekend in violence condemned by President Joe Biden and the city's mayor, who called for more police patrols. Fighting between pro-Palestinian demonstrators and counterprotesters erupted on Sunday outside the Adas Torah synagogue in the heavily Jewish Pico-Robertson neighbourhood and police were called in to break it up. "I'm appalled by the scenes outside of Adas Torah synagogue in Los Angeles," Biden said in a post on social media site X. "Intimidating Jewish congregants is dangerous,



unconscionable, antisemitic and un-American." In a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the violence was "abhorrent" and that blocking access to a place of worship was unacceptable. Bass said she asked the Los Angeles Police Department to provide additional patrols in Pico-Robertson and outside houses of worship citywide. Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, who represents the area, called the violence antisemitic and said it was particularly concerning that it happened "in front of a synagogue in the heart of LA's Jewish community." "Everyone has the right to protest, and everyone also has the right to be safe from fear and violence," Yaroslavsky said in a statement. The Israel-Hamas war erupted in response to the October 7, 2023 assault by Hamas-led terrorists who killed 1,200 people and took 250 people hostage in southern Israel. The war has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. It has sparked a humanitarian crisis and displaced most of the territory's 2.3 million population.

US to send \$150 million in military aid to Ukraine to combat Russia's strikes

Washington The US is expected to announce on Tuesday that it will be sending an additional \$150 million (approx Rs 12.52 crore) in critically needed munitions to Ukraine, as Russia accuses Ukraine of using US-provided munitions to strike inside Russia or Russian-held territory, according to two US officials. On Monday, Russia summoned the American ambassador to protest what it says was the use of US-made advanced missiles in a Ukrainian attack on Crimea on June 23 that reportedly killed four people and wounded more than 150. Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014 in a move that most of the world rejected as unlawful, had

long been declared a fair target for Ukraine by its Western allies. However, the Pentagon said last week that Ukraine's military is also now allowed to use longer-range missiles provided by the US to strike targets inside Russia if it is acting in self-defence. Since the outset of the war, the US had maintained a policy of not allowing Ukraine to use the weapons it provided to hit targets on Russian soil for fear of further escalating the conflict. The continued flow of US munitions, which will be drawn from existing stockpiles, is intended to help Ukrainian forces repel intensified Russian attacks. The upcoming shipment is expected to include munitions for the High Mobility

Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS. That system is capable of firing longer-range missiles from the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, which Russia has said would prompt retaliation and risk escalating the conflict. One of the US officials said they could not verify whether this aid package included ATACMS munitions, but said the aid did not include cluster munitions. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details that had not yet been made public. The package also includes anti-armor weapons, small arms and grenades and the highly sought-after 155 mm and 105 mm artillery rounds, among other support.

Russia blames US for Ukrainian strike on Crimea, promises retaliation

Moscow The Kremlin on Monday squarely blamed the United States for an attack on Crimea with US-supplied ATACMS missiles that killed at least four people and injured 151, and Moscow formally warned the US ambassador that retaliation would follow. The war in Ukraine has deepened a crisis in relations between Russia and the West, and Russian officials have said the conflict is entering the most dangerous escalation to date. But directly blaming the United States for an attack on Crimea - which Russia unilaterally annexed in 2014, although most of the world considers it part of Ukraine - is a step further. You should ask my colleagues in Europe, and above all in Washington, the press secretaries, why their governments are killing Russian children," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters. At least two children were killed in the attack on Sevastopol on Sunday, according to Russian officials. People were shown running from a beach near Sevastopol and some of the injured being carried off on sun loungers. Kyiv did not comment on the attack but denies targeting civilians. Russia said the United

States had supplied the weapons, while the US military had aimed them and provided data. Russia's Foreign Ministry summoned US Ambassador Lynne Tracy and told her Washington was "waging a hybrid war against Russia and has actually become a party to the conflict". "Retaliatory measures will definitely follow," it said. Tracy said Washington regretted any loss to civilian life, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters, adding that Washington provided weapons to Ukraine, so it could defend its sovereign territory, including Crimea. Pentagon spokesperson Major Charlie Dietz said that "Ukraine makes its own targeting decisions and conducts its own military operations." US official later said that Ukraine was not targeting civilians. It seemed that the Russians were able to intercept an ATACMS missile that was targeting a missile launcher, and the ATACMS exploded with shrapnel raining down on the beach, the American official added. President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly warned of the risk of a much broader war involving the world's biggest nuclear powers, though he has said Russia does not want a



conflict with the US-led NATO alliance. RUSSIAN RETALIATORY MEASURES US President Joe Biden has ruled out sending US troops to fight in Ukraine and said shortly after the 2022 full-scale Russian invasion that a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia would mean World War Three. Putin presents the Ukraine war as part of a wider struggle with the U.S., which he says ignored Moscow's interests after the Soviet Union's 1991 break-up, then plotted to split Russia apart and seize its natural resources. Leaders of the West and Ukraine have cast the war as an imperial-style land-grab. The West denies wanting to destroy Russia, which in turn denies intending to invade any NATO member

state. After the United States allowed Ukraine to direct some US weapons into Russia, the Kremlin sent signals that it viewed this as a serious escalation. Putin has ordered drills to practise deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, suggested Russia could station conventional missiles within striking distance of the United States and its allies, and sealed a mutual defence pact with North Korea. Washington still prohibits Kyiv from striking recognised Russian territory with ATACMS, which have a range of up to 186 miles (300 km), and other long-range U.S. weapons. Putin said on Thursday that Russia might supply weapons to North Korea in what he suggested would be a like-for-like response to the Western arming of Ukraine. Asked what the Russian answer would be to the attack in Crimea, Peskov recalled Putin's words on June 6 about wider placement of conventional weapons. "Of course, the involvement of the United States in the fighting, as a result of which peaceful Russians are dying, cannot but have consequences," Peskov said.

Illegal constructions hinder BMC's efforts to prevent monsoon drainage mishaps

Mumbai. School students will soon have to undergo training on road safety. The state has directed education officers to coordinate with school management and conduct road safety training for students and teachers. A circular issued by the state on June 21, states that with every household having at least one car, it is important to instill road safety among students, who can then influence other members of the family. Brainstorming sessions and seminars on road safety and control, along with training camps, will have to be held by schools. The decision comes a month after a 17-year-old student from Pune killed two software engineers while driving a Porsche car. Schools will have to coordinate with the Road Safety Patrol (RSP) and Civil Defence (CD) and undertake sessions on road



safety and first aid. According to the circular, teaching students about road safety will help reduce accidents. Early this year, the school education minister spoke about making road safety education mandatory for school students from this academic year. The plan was to teach the subject on Saturdays, covering both theoretical and practical aspects of road safety, including safe driving and wearing helmets. We also published the following articles recently: Motorists flag safety risks due to road works; Motorists in Nagpur raise concerns about inadequate safety measures on road projects.

Telangana exploring ways to stop auction of mines

The state government is planning to urge the Centre to allocate these mines to public sector units and not private companies.



HYDERABAD. After the Union minister of mines wrote a letter, asking it to auction at least six mines by June 30, the state government is exploring ways to stop the auction process. The state government is reportedly taking the matter seriously as there is a risk of Telangana losing rights over valuable mineral wealth due to the "mistakes made by the previous government". The state government is planning to urge the Centre to allocate these mines to public sector units and not private companies. Official sources said that the previous BRS government gave green signal to auction of mines in Telangana and that is the reason the Centre is forcing the state government to auction mines. It may be mentioned here that recently the Ministry of mines wrote a letter to the state government to auction at least six out of the 11 notified mines by June 30. "The previous government took a decision to allocate all the mines and mineral wealth in the state to private companies. Eight years ago, related files were prepared to hand over limestone and iron ore mines to private companies. In 2018,

and the auction process should continue, sources added. If the six mines are not auctioned by the June 30 deadline, the Centre may auction these mines as per Sections 10B and 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, (MMDR Act). "The Union government is controlling Telangana mines only because of a wrong decision taken by the previous state government," sources said. "With the ulterior motive of handing over these mines to private companies, the previous government sought permission from the Centre to auction. But now the BRS leaders are politicising the issue," they added.

the state government took a decision to auction three limestone mines in the state. As a part of that, plans have been made for auctioning of the limestone mines located in Pasupulabodu, Saidulnana and Sultanpur of Suryapet district, which are notified by the Centre. On September 16, 2020, the then chief secretary wrote a letter to the Union ministry, giving consent for the auction," sources said. Responding to that letter, on December 12, 2021, the Union government gave permission to auction and lease these limestone mines. The letter also clarified that since the state government has agreed, no prior permission from the Centre is required

1.76L fail to qualify for school scholarships

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board on Monday announced the results of its primary school and secondary school scholarship exams held on April 28. Of the 2.29 lakh primary school students who took the exam, 72,171 qualified. Of the 51,000 students who took the secondary exam, 31,731 qualified. Thus, of the 2.80 lakh students who took the two exams, 1.04 lakh scored qualifying marks — 35% or 70 marks out of 200 — and 1.76 lakh students failed to. The board conducts exams to pick students for primary school and secondary school scholarships. The online form submission process was conducted from March 1-11. Some 2.57 lakh primary school students and 64,000 secondary school students had registered online for the exams. Students of Class 6 and Class 9 were eligible for the primary and secondary school scholarships respectively. They also needed to have scored at least 50% the previous year. In the primary school exam, 23,000 students scored more than 100 marks,



3,255 scored over 130 marks, 438 over 150, 103 over 160 marks and six more than 175. In the secondary exam, 16,000 scored over 100 marks, 4,215 over 130, 1,206 over 150, 473 over 160, and 57 over 175.

We also published the following articles recently: Karnataka's move to start English medium classes at Govt primary schools face opposition; The Kannada Development Authority disapproves of the state government's decision to introduce English as a medium of instruction in primary schools. They urge the government to reconsider the move for the sake of promoting the Kannada language. Scholarship delayed, BPES student ends life in Jhansi; A 19-year-old first-year female student of Bundelkhand University was found hanging near her home in Jhansi. She was depressed over delays in receiving a government scholarship for her BPES course at the university. ICSE, ISC improvement exams 2024 from July 1: Check timetable, exam pattern, marking scheme, and more; CISCE releases timetable for Class 10 (ICSE) and Class 12 (ISC) Improvement Exams 2024 for students aiming to enhance scores in specific subjects.

Painter gets 9L for letting frauds use his a/c, arrested

Mumbai. Central Cyber police have arrested a 35-year-old man part of an investment scam who received Rs 8.9 lakh of the Rs 36 lakh siphoned from a woman banker's account. Accused Surendra Surve, a painter by profession, is merely a beneficiary, as cybercriminals misused his



KYC to open two bank accounts using which they duped many others, said Mausami Patil, the investigating officer. A 29-year-old female banker seeking investment opportunities was lured into joining a stock group on WhatsApp where the scammer initially demonstrated substantial profits from her minimal

investment, gaining her confidence. Subsequently, the fraudsters persuaded her to invest more in upper circuit stocks for higher returns. When she attempted to transfer the funds to her account, she was unable to do so. Upon contacting the accused, she was told to deposit Rs 50 lakh. This is when she realised she was cheated and lost Rs 36 lakh. We also published the following articles recently: Alert bankers prevent Rs 120 crore cyber fraud, seven arrested; A gang arrested for siphoning Rs 120 crore from AKTU bank account by posing as officials. Recovery of Rs 119 crore achieved with the assistance of DCP East Prabal Pratap Singh. Fraudulent transfers made to accounts in Jankipuram and Vidhan Sabha Marg branches; Alia Bhatt reveals she found out she was pregnant when she was on a set, says Raha makes her and Ranbir Kapoor wake up in the morning; Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are parents to baby girl Raha Kapoor, born in Nov 2022. Alia's first reaction to pregnancy revealed. She dedicated her book to Raha. Alia and Ranbir to star in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love and War' with Vicky Kaushal. Alia wraps up 'Jigra' with Vedang Raina as her brother. 'Jee Le Zaraa' update shared.

59-year-old man abuses girl, her mom breaks his nose; A woman punched a 59-year-old man who allegedly sexually assaulted her daughter at Enath near Adoor. The incident occurred at Nellimukal Junction when the Plus One student was returning home from school.

Dantewada to adopt Kattakkada's water conservation model

The Kattakkada model of water conservation is going places, literally. Now, Dantewada in Chhattisgarh is gearing up to replicate the model. BJP MLA from Dantewada Chaitram Atami announced during his visit to Kattakkada to study 'Vattatha Uravakay Jalasamrudhi', a participatory groundwater management programme.

The 10-member delegation from Chhattisgarh led by Atami visited different project sites of the Jalasamrudhi programme. Kattakkada MLA I B Sathesh, the brain behind the Jalasamrudhi project, received the delegation. On Sunday, the team began its journey from Vettubalikonam pond in Pallichal panchayat. Later, the team visited the quarry-based water recharging site in the same panchayat, check dams at Anappad-Malayam canal in Vilavooral panchayat, temporary check dams at Anappad in Malayinkeezhu, the farm pond at Maranalloor, check dam on the Neyyar river, lift irrigation project at Nanjalloor as well as the Payippad pond. In the afternoon, the team visited the Jordan-model organic farm at Vilapilli panchayat, groundwater recharging facility at Kulathummal Higher Secondary School, fish farming spot at Mailadi pond, the Perumkulam pond in Maranalloor panchayat, check dams at Ilanjimoodu and various project sites of the irrigation department. On Monday, the team visited St Xavier's School at Peyad, Kurishumuttam farmland at Vilavooral, Girls' HSS and coconut nursery at Malayinkeezhu. The team was assisted by A Nizamudeen, the MGNREGS state mission director and Jalasamrudhi coordinator, as well as Ajayaghosh, the Nemom block development officer. Atami later said he would emulate the project in his constituency. After its field visits, the team was accorded a reception at the Nemom block panchayat office, where the members interacted with panchayat president S K Preeja and other people's representatives. Atami also invited Preeja and her colleagues to visit Dantewada.

D-DAD centres in Kerala free 232 children from digital addiction

KOCHI. Asha (name changed), a teenager from Kochi, used to spend countless hours on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Her parents trusted her completely and never monitored her internet usage. It wasn't until her academic performance and social interactions began to suffer that they realised the severity of the situation. Upon consulting a psychiatrist, they discovered that Asha was struggling with digital addiction as well as physical discomfort like eye strain due to excessive screen time. A few months on, Asha has now recovered from digital addiction, thanks to the Digital De-Addiction Centre (D-DAD) in Kochi operated by state police, which changed her life for good through counselling and other interventions. Asha's case, though concerning, is not as serious as that of many of her peers, who got involved in crimes and even ended their life due to excess internet usage. The Kerala Police established D-DAD centres one-and-a-half years ago, in response to the rising concerns over digital addiction among children. They have



successfully counselled and rehabilitated 232 children, helping them return to a balanced life. The centres employ psychologists, counsellors, and are equipped with child-friendly tools. Their approach includes interactive education, device-free retreats, and scientifically supported diversion techniques. Six D-DAD centres are operational, one each in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Kannur. Currently, 86 children are receiving counselling from experts at these centres. According to officials,

parents of children from the age of 10 have approached D-DAD centres seeking help. KOCHI: Asha (name changed), a teenager from Kochi, used to spend countless hours on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Her parents trusted her completely and never monitored her internet usage. It wasn't until her academic performance and social interactions began to suffer that they realised the severity of the situation. Upon consulting a psychiatrist, they discovered that Asha was struggling with digital addiction as well as physical discomfort like eye strain due to excessive screen time. A few months on, Asha has now recovered from digital addiction, thanks to the Digital De-Addiction Centre (D-DAD) in Kochi operated by state police, which changed her life for good through counselling and other interventions. Asha's case, though concerning, is not as serious as that of many of her peers, who got involved in crimes and even ended their life due to excess internet usage.

'Inaccessible' new terminal at Tiruchy international airport adds to passengers' woes

TIRUCHY. The integrated terminal building (ITB) at the international airport here, which was commissioned into use on June 11, still lacks proper access due to non-availability of city buses or battery-operated vehicles. As a result, passengers are forced to walk one kilometre from the entry point to ITB and vice-versa. Earlier, airport director P Subramani had assured arrangements would be made to operate a city bus for the convenience of passengers to reach the terminal buildings. Subsequently, talks were held with TNSTC officials in the city. However, no progress has been attained in that front, complain passengers. A Venkatraman, who arrived at the Tiruchy airport from Chennai, had no option but to walk one kilometre from the terminal building to the main road to board a bus to Namakkal on Sunday. "This is my first time travelling to Tiruchy. When I enquired about a cab, the driver demanded Rs 700 to reach the central bus stand. So, I waited for an auto. Since no auto arrived, I started walking," he said. "It would be better if they operate either a bus or battery-operated vehicles, similar to those at the railway junction," he added. Rajkumar, another passenger, has appealed to airport authorities to arrange a TNSTC shuttle bus service between the main road and the terminal building. Another

visitor Mohan Pillai, in a social media post, sought an auto service. "Tiruchy is a small town and all domestic flight passengers are from nearby areas. Not everyone wants to take a taxi to the airport," he said. However, P Kalyan, a native of Perambalur who accompanied his



cousin bound for Singapore, told TNIE that auto drivers charge Rs 250 to Rs 300 just to shuttle passengers between the one-km stretch. He suggested that the fare would likely be more affordable if the airport authorities operated battery-operated cars instead. An auto driver who did not wish to be named told TNIE that they are compelled to charge high fares as airport officials collect Rs 80 as an access fee for each trip.

Tamil Nadu to declare heat waves as state-specific disaster soon

CHENNAI: Revenue Minister KKSSR Ramachandran on Monday announced that heat wave would be declared as a state-specific disaster soon to enable the state government to take preventive steps for the condition as per the rules of the State Disaster Response Fund and offer relief assistance to those who get affected. Replying to the discussion on demands for grants for the revenue department, the minister said due to climate change, Tamil Nadu faced extreme heat and heat waves in April and during the first two weeks of May. The state has taken steps to help the people cope with the heat conditions by establishing water kiosks and creating separate units in government hospitals to treat people affected by heat waves. Official sources said a notification for declaring heat waves as a disaster will be issued soon as per the

guidelines of the Government of India. Only when heat waves are declared as a state-specific disaster, the Tamil Nadu government can provide relief assistance to those affected by them. During summer, funds can also be allocated to the health department from the SDRF for providing ORS at hospitals and setting up water pandals. "59% TN people exposed to over 35°C weather. Some states, which have declared heat waves as state-specific disaster, have issued norms for relief assistance for heat waves, sunstroke and sunburn. The relief assistance includes solatium to the families of persons who died due to heat waves and those who suffered injuries, and gratia for loss of eyesight due to heat, etc. Recently, the State Planning Commission submitted a report to the state government titled "Beating the Heat: Tamil Nadu Heat



Mitigation Strategy". The report said Madurai, Chennai and Thoothukudi are the districts most affected by

extreme heat, which has increased between 2003 and 2023, with night temperatures almost on a par with daytime temperatures. The report pointed out that nearly 59% of state's population is exposed to temperatures above 35°C and there is an urgent need to build heat resilience in the state as climate change-driven heat is only expected to intensify. As per India Meteorological Department, heat waves generally occur over plains of northwest India, Central, East and north Peninsular India from March to June. It covers Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Sometimes it occurs over TN and Kerala too. So, most states are prone to heat waves, IMD said.

Swiss-led peace talks a flop as Russia left out

DID the Swiss-mediated Burgenstock peace conference collapse because the organisers did not study how delicate peace negotiations are conducted? Did the conference fail because Russia was not invited? In the past, the 1993 Oslo Accords temporarily halted Israel-Palestinian wars. Similarly, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement brought peace between Britain and the Irish Republican Army. The Oslo process was started in 1992-93 by Terje Larsen, a Norwegian sociologist, and Yossi Beilin, a member of Israel's Labour Party government that had come to power in 1992. This had the backing of Israeli leaders and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat. Since the Israeli law banned contacts with the PLO, Larsen and Beilin set up a secret backchannel between two Israeli professors and three PLO leaders, including Ahmed Qurei. Their first meeting was held during January 1993 at the residence of then Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. The US Department of State archive says "strict secrecy allowed the negotiators to discuss scenarios and potential concessions without incurring domestic political costs." In May 1993, Israel decided to elevate the talks to the official level and sent then Director General of Foreign Ministry Uri Savir. In August that year, the Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators initiated the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP) in Oslo. The formal signing ceremony was held at the White House in September, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Arafat 'shook hands'.

Although permanent peace remained elusive, the Oslo Accords were an important milestone in West Asian peace, like the 1978 Camp David Accords, brokered by US President Jimmy Carter, between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, bringing peace between Egypt and Israel. Together with the DOP, the agreement also included 'Letters of Mutual Recognition', through which the PLO recognised the existence of Israel for the first time. Israel also recognised the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Besides, Israel committed itself to withdrawing from parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and acknowledged the Palestinian right to self-rule in those territories under a Palestinian Authority.

Similarly, Senator George Mitchell, who was designated as a 'Special Envoy' by then US President Bill Clinton, had to toil between September 1996 and April 1998 to bring in peace in Northern Ireland, ending 30 years of violence. He had to overcome hostility from the 'unionists', who wanted Northern Ireland to remain with Britain, as they felt that President Clinton had imposed mediation efforts to their detriment.

It is said that they also opposed secret talks in a foreign place away from Belfast, as they wanted to avoid the possibility of being politically ambushed away from their home base. Mitchell's tactic was his infinite patience to listen to the opposing parties whose hostility to each other was so intense that there "was very little inclination to listen to the other side, let alone compromise with them," as he told an interviewer later. The cardinal principle in all such negotiations is the secrecy of proposals put across by contending sides so that no embarrassment is caused to either of them by sending wrong signals to their constituents. The organisers should have studied an old CIA document (1992), 'Analytic Support for Peace Talks', released by its think tank, Centre for the Study of Intelligence, as a guide to sensitive peace negotiations.

True, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis was quoted as saying by the media at the UN that several secret plans were being considered to bring peace in Ukraine. He was also quoted by TASS in January telling the Davos conference that Russia should be invited.

The exam system needs urgent course correction

The practice of appointing members to recruitment commissions based on political connections must be ended.

THE Ministry of Education has cancelled the 2024 UGC-NET (University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test) in view of a paper leak. The case is now under the purview of the CBI, which will conduct further investigation. The ministry has also handed over the case of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the 2024 NEET-UG (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate) to the CBI. The NEET medical entrance exam is also under the scrutiny of the Supreme Court. In this year's NEET (UG), a record-breaking 23 lakh candidates had got themselves registered.

Meanwhile, Subodh Kumar Singh has been removed from the post of Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA) amid the controversy over the NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams. In another significant development, the government has postponed the NEET-PG. These cases of question paper leak are not isolated, but rather part of a long history of incidents. The IIT-JEE of 1997 and the All India Pre Medical Test of 2011 witnessed this menace. The phenomenon is seen in many states, regardless of which political party is in power. There is a high incidence of paper leak in India. As a result, numerous examinations have to be cancelled. According to media reports, over the past seven years, more than 70 examination papers have been illicitly disclosed in various states, resulting in adverse consequences for the professional prospects of over 1.7 crore individuals. Instances of leaked exam papers and answer keys are frequently shared on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook.

The NTA need not be scrapped; only the examination system needs to be revamped. Each year, over 10 lakh candidates participate in the Civil Services examinations, yet the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) manages to conduct a secure examination. However, when it comes to online exams, there is a potential risk of leak due to the use of technology. The likelihood of the threat intensifying is certain to rise amid the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Given these circumstances, AI is poised to become a significant menace. If the website of the Home Ministry can be compromised, it is reasonable to question why these exams cannot be similarly vulnerable to hacking. Every exam that is scrapped not only wastes the time and money of millions of students, but also consumes taxpayers' money. The NTA is exceeding its brief by repeatedly employing a trial-and-error approach in conducting these examinations. The agency was established in 2017. However, even after seven years, the scourge of paper leak persists. The NTA must take lessons from the UPSC.



The practice of appointing members to recruitment commissions based on political connections must be ended. Additionally, the examination commission should possess its own printing press or alternatively, the digital copy should be directly transmitted through a code lock system — 15 minutes prior to the examination — to the designated examination centre. The document ought to be printed and distributed among the candidates. By employing this approach, the cost of question papers will undoubtedly be slightly higher compared to press printing, but they will be secure and impervious to leaks. It is imperative that the punishment for the paper mafia is administered promptly within a specified timeframe in a fast-track court, ideally within a month of the arrests. If any coaching institute is found to be involved, appropriate action should be taken against the individuals responsible and the institute should be shut down. The participation of external agencies facilitates unethical practices. From the initial creation of paper sets to their delivery to the examination centre, a large number of individuals are involved in the process. As a result, each person has a clearly defined responsibility within the hierarchy. Question papers undergo multiple stages involving drafting, printing and transportation before reaching the examination centres. It is imperative to prohibit the use of mobile phones by

all persons involved. The majority of the examination centres are privately owned institutions, and a significant number of them do not meet the required standards. Examinations ought to be exclusively administered at government-approved facilities, with papers subject to constant surveillance and monitoring via CCTV cameras. The leak of question papers for public examinations has a significant impact on public trust, besides causing a substantial financial burden on the state exchequer. The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, also known as the anti-paper leak law, has come into effect. But the notification of the Central Government regarding the Act contains a lacunae that require an urgent resolution. The new legislation mandates a minimum prison sentence of three years; it should be increased to a minimum of 10 years. The severity of the punishment should align with the seriousness of the offence. There is no provision for conducting investigations within a specified time-frame. In addition to imposing an additional prison sentence for failure to pay a fine for an offence under the Act, the provision for confiscation of the offender's property should also be included. The candidate who engages in exploiting unfair methods should be disqualified from appearing in any subsequent examination.

Delhi-Dhaka rapport

Neighbours boost ties under Chinese, US gaze

IN her second trip to India within a fortnight, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held wide-ranging talks with PM Narendra Modi, underlining the commitment of both nations to bolster their ties. This was the first bilateral state visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new BJP-led NDA government. The agreements signed by New Delhi and Dhaka covered a lot of ground — maritime cooperation and blue economy, railway connectivity, space sector, digital partnership, healthcare and defence production. Describing India as Bangladesh's major neighbour and a trusted friend, she recalled the contribution of the government and the people of India to her country's liberation in 1971. Beyond the historical legacy, Modi and Hasina have developed a good rapport over the past decade. This has helped bilateral relations go from strength to strength. In November last year, when Hasina was under pressure not only



from the Bangladeshi Opposition but also the US ahead of the national elections, PM Modi joined her in virtually inaugurating three infrastructure projects. This had given a major fillip to Hasina's poll campaign. A key takeaway from last week's interaction was India's decision to send a technical team to Bangladesh for a mega project to conserve the Teesta river. China, which spares no effort in wooing or coercing India's neighbours, has been eyeing the estimated \$1-billion project amid New Delhi's reservations. Hasina's bonhomie with India will be put to the test next month, when she is expected to travel to China. India, meanwhile, is in no mood to walk a tightrope. In a fresh assertion of its independent foreign policy, New Delhi is engaging closely with Dhaka even though the US has been critical of the Hasina-led Awami League government over alleged human rights violations and electoral irregularities.

No light at the end of the N-tunnel

ICAN and SIPRI reports paint a grim picture on the global nuclear front

THE apocalyptic nuclear weapons and a parlous global security framework were in focus this month, with two major reports being released on the same day (June 17) — one by the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and the second by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). Their findings are both distressing and bleak. The ICAN report reveals that the nine nuclear-weapon-capable nations (the US, UK, Russia, China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea) collectively spent \$91 billion last year in modernising and increasing their respective arsenals. Assuaging a deep-seated strategic insecurity syndrome apropos of the adversarial 'other' is the common thread for all nine nations. Predictably, the top three spenders are the US with \$51.5 billion, which is more than half of the global nuclear weapon-related spending in 2023, followed by China (\$11.8 billion) and Russia (\$8.3 billion). ICAN Director Melissa Parke noted that the nuclear powers collectively spent \$2,898 per second last year on these weapons and that these funds exceed what the World Food Programme estimates as necessary to end world hunger. She added that "a million trees could be planted for each minute of spending on nuclear weapons". The reference to the number of trees that could be planted is particularly relevant in the context of the irreversible global warming and climate change exigency that the world responds to in an effete and indifferent manner. India, which is reeling under a scorching summer and a dangerously low people-tree ratio, is among the most affected among large nations (in terms of total area and demography). This geo-physical trend may soon prove to be the most serious threat to human security globally. The recent heatwave-related deaths during the Hajj pilgrimage are illustrative.

The SIPRI Yearbook 2024 is a comprehensive volume that provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade as well as armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to



control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The nuclear chapter of almost 100 pages is a valuable summary of recent developments and trends in the nuclear domain over the last year. Authors Hans Kristensen and Matt Korda are to be commended for their due diligence in furrowing a tenaciously opaque domain, where facts, information, disinformation and political rhetoric abound.

The key findings of the SIPRI nuclear survey are that the number and types of nuclear weapons in development have increased, as all nine nations deepen their reliance on nuclear deterrence to safeguard what they perceive as their core national interest. The most recent example is that of the Russia-Ukraine war, where Moscow has rattled its nuclear sabre to warn the US-led NATO about redlines, and in response, both NATO and the US have stated that they will enhance their nuclear readiness

across the board. The SIPRI nuclear overview indicates that in early 2024, the nuclear nine (N9) "possessed approximately 12,121 nuclear weapons, of which 9,585 were considered to be potentially operationally available. An estimated 3,904 of these warheads were deployed with operational forces, including about 2,100 that were kept in a state of high operational alert — about 100 more than the previous year." While the US and Russia still account for 88 per cent of the total global arsenal, an instructive statistic has been highlighted by SIPRI in relation to China, whose nuclear arsenal "has increased significantly from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 by January 2024, with expectations of continued growth". It adds that China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear arsenal over the next decade and "some projections suggest that China could potentially deploy at least as

many intercontinental ballistic missiles as either Russia or the US in that period".

While China may be pitting itself against the US, a visible increase in the deployment of Chinese nukes (from the current 24) would have significant implications for South Asian strategic stability that would be of grave import to New Delhi. During the Cold War, the nuclear missile contest was played out between the US and its allies (UK and France) and the then USSR from 1945 to 1991. After the 'scare' of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, both sides warily moved towards a degree of credible, robust nuclear deterrence that was predicated on arms control agreements and MAD (mutually assured destruction). This geopolitical, steady-state plateau had an ironic anomaly, wherein a deep techno-strategic insecurity was assuaged by accepting MAD — and the acronym captures the apocalyptic sardonicism.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the world has been getting divided into two competing nuclear weapon clusters: the US-led military alliance (with the UK and France) versus the Russia-China dyad having North Korea as a junior partner. The other three members of N9 — India, Pakistan and Israel — have not formally joined either cluster, though their geopolitical orientation is self-evident.

The bleakness referred to at the outset stems from the fact that since 2022, the world has drifted from reasonably robust deterrence to one of fragile fecklessness. The earlier strategic communication among the major powers and well-entrenched arms control and restraint agreements have steadily frayed. The US is going through an intense domestic socio-political chum with the possibility of a second Trump presidency. Russia remains determined to prosecute its war in Ukraine, come what may, while Chinese belligerence over its territorial claims continues to be brittle. This is a bleak augury. The ICAN and SIPRI reports illuminate this arid landscape in an objective manner but underscore the grim reality that there is no light at the end of this tunnel.

Here are some simple tips to keep the negativity at bay. If you are employed, chances are you often spend more time at office than home. And so, it's very important that you are happy and relaxed when at work. But that's easier said than done. A tyrant boss, backstabbing colleagues, poor pay packages, office politics, unequal distribution of work, favouritism — there are countless reasons to put one off work. Job stress can take a huge toll on your mental and physical health. Changing jobs constantly is not a solution, especially in today's economic scenario. So, here's how to make the most of what you have.

8 Ways to stay happy at Work

Eat out

Forget home-cooked food and that boring canteen fare. It's a great idea to step out for lunch with your colleagues. It will help you bond with them. If you hate going out, order take-away. And if you are the kind who always eats out, get a home-cooked dish sometimes. Good food will uplift your mood.

Be optimistic

Whatever the nature and number of problems you face at work, they're not going to disappear at the snap of your fingers. You need to be optimistic that the situation will improve slowly and steadily. Do not fall prey to negative thinking. If you find it tough to be optimistic, fake it. With time, your fake positivity will turn real. All you need is a little practice.

Change your attitude

Even if you hate your job, make the most of it. Analyse how you can improve yourself — make fewer mistakes and increase your efficiency. Whenever you leave a job, you should know that it has enhanced your skills, even if it is in a minor way.

Be friendly with colleagues

A friendly atmosphere makes a huge difference. If you're aloof, chances are you will feel left out at some point of time. We're not asking you to go shopping with them and share details of your personal life, but be cordial.

Take a chill pill

Slogging for 12 to 16 hours a day will leave anyone grumpy, stressed out and unable to concentrate. So, small 15-minute breaks are a must in between. Take a nap, read jokes or play games online, listen to music or chat with a friend. If napping and playing games online are prohibited, listen to some good

music to pep up your mood.

Be grateful

Typing furiously on the keyboard, slamming the phone, and pushing the drawers of the cabinet forcefully may help you vent anger, but think about how lucky you are. In the current market scenario, there are many unemployed people who would love to be in your shoes.

Be assertive

Nobody likes to be bullied and harassed at work. If your detractors are under the impression that you can't speak up for yourself, it encourages them to trouble you even more. So, stand up for yourself.

Ask for feedback

It's important to ask for a feedback from your boss. Good communication will give you a clear idea of what's expected of you.



A good boss is like having a good neighbour. If you are not lucky enough to have such a boss, then it can be incredibly damaging to your health and quality of life.



Bad bosses damage health quality of life

According to health experts, abusive bosses who humiliate, insult employees and isolate them from co-workers not only harm company's growth but also affect performance and overall life of co-workers.

Psychiatrist, Dr Manish Jain, says, "There are three types of personality groups which generally a boss falls into. In the first category are those, who mistrust co-workers, the second one has those who wants assigned work to be done anyhow and the third ones are those who are insecure and anxious about how they and their co-workers work." He added saying that such personality trait are harmful for company as well as the employees. Workplace stress increases the risk of heart disease and stroke, increases risk of insomnia, depression and anxiety, weakens immune defence and can cause chronic muscle pains and migraines. Another doctor Manoj Jain said, "Problems in professional life affect brain activity. It causes stress and affects quality of life. Professional issues looms all the time and managing family and spending time with them gets difficult. Irritation, high blood pressure and diabetes occurs in such cases."



Recently, a survey conducted by Assocham also revealed that 69% of corporate employees who quit their jobs complained about the indifferent attitude of their bosses or immediate supervisor while remaining move to a new position in the same company. Survey also found that around 42% of employees have been a victim of workplace bullying and almost 56% are bullied by their boss. About 82% of respondents said that a good work environment was often much more important than their current pay level. Workers are quitting their jobs and even switching to another career because they're fed-up with their current boss, adds the survey.

Meanwhile, human resource professionals believe that they are careful in selecting employees and managers but predicting personality trait is a difficult task. Prateek Balbhadra, a human resource professional said, "Employee selection is a critical decision of HR professional as they have huge impact on the retention and turnover of the organisation. But, understanding personality of employees sometimes gets difficult and once the mistake is done it cannot be undone."

Teach kids budgeting

One of the biggest task for any parent is to teach their kids to use money right. This requires the parents to teach this idea right from an early age. Both spending and saving habits can be taught right from an early age.

The first step is by showing them how you prepare the home budget and taking them to banks. You can also ask your child to help you find and read the unit price numbers at the grocery store in order to find the best bargains. This way, they are active participants in the home budget.

You can also give them a budget and ask them to come up with a grocery shopping list. While shopping, hand them a calculator to see how close you are to your budget as you add more items to the shopping cart.

Buy a piggy bank for younger children so they have somewhere to keep their money temporarily. Make them use this to come up with a budget to suit their needs.



NEET scam targeted 700 students, aimed for Rs 300 crore: Paper leak mafia

New Delhi: Amid the NEET paper leak scam, India Today's special investigation team tracked down a key member of the network, who explained the intricate layers of the operation. Bijender Gupta was involved in multiple paper leak cases in the past, and was arrested twice but managed to evade the police. A video of him from March predicting that the NEET-UG paper would be leaked has gone viral. Gupta was involved in the 2023 Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) exam paper leak case, the Bihar Public Service Commission and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission paper leaks. With 24 years in the paper leak network, Bijender Gupta claims networking is all that matters in this business.

He also said that the NEET-UG paper leak targeted 700 students, and the racket aimed for Rs 200-300 crore. In the sting by India Today, Bijender Gupta explained how boxes are broken during transportation and blacklisted companies manage to get

tenders. He knows key NEET accused Sanjeev Mukhiya, who is on the run, and recently arrested Vishal Chaurasia. Gupta bluntly summed up the operations. "Jail jayenge, phir bail, aur phir shuru hoga khel (There's jail followed by bail, and the game goes on)," Bijender Gupta said in the sting.

On being asked if he got calls following his video predicting the NEET-UG paper would be leaked went viral, Gupta said no one had his number. "All the noise happens when something goes wrong. NEET paper has happened. The investigation by the Economic Offences Unit is in the right direction. NTA cannot comprehend this," Bijender Gupta said in the sting. He also explained how boxes containing the question papers are broken during transportation, claiming blacklisted firms also get tenders. Gupta said that breakage happens when logistics companies transport the question papers to different test centres. "Multiple methods are



adopted for the leaking. For example, connecting with government strongmen and printing press, among others," Bijender Gupta said in the India Today sting. His insights reveal an established network, wherein even blacklisted companies manipulate tender processes to continue their operations.

Gupta was also asked how he succeeded in leaking papers. "Have you heard of India's biggest paper leak mafia, Bedi Ram's? It happened in Jaunpur when I was his

assistant. There was a competent student, and we helped him get a job and in the process went to jail," he said. Bedi Ram is now an MLA in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur.

SANJEEV MUKHIYA: THE MASTERMIND

Even as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigates the NEET-UG paper leak, and Sanjeev Mukhiya remains at large, Bijender Gupta shared detailed insights into the key accused's gang in the India Today sting operation. Gupta said that Sanjeev Mukhiya, who earlier served for a decade in the paper leak, initially used to wear a Bluetooth set on his ear and write exams. "Sanjeev Mukhiya has nearly Rs 30 crore debts, but he never moved away (from the racket)," he added. Gupta also spoke about how Sanjeev Mukhiya's son, Shiv, who is already jailed for the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPS) teacher recruitment exam paper leak, was involved

in the NEET-UG scam. "There's jail, then bail, and the game goes on. How long can one be kept behind bars?" Bijender Gupta said. He reiterated that the EOU is going right about their probe, saying that the judiciary is on a different level as it operates on evidence. "Police are also tied by the rules of law," Gupta said.

Sanjeev Mukhiya's son had allegedly accommodated around 25 candidates at a boys' hostel, associated with the Learn Play School in Patna on May 4, a day before the NEET-UG exam. Bijender Gupta also claimed Sanjeev Mukhiya wouldn't be caught by the police.

HOW NEET-UG PAPER WAS LEAKED

On being asked how the NEET-UG question paper reached 700 students, Bijender Gupta said that it's a wide network of teams and the leak happened during distribution. "There were 300 kids in Delhi and Patna and in some other places as well. Teams were sent to 3-4 places. The paper leak happened from there," he explained.

Delhi Man Gets 20 Years In Jail For Sexually Assaulting Boy

New Delhi: A Delhi Court has sentenced a man to a 20-year jail term under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for sexually assaulting a boy. The court has granted a compensation of ₹20 Lakh for the rehabilitation of the victim, who is now a college-going boy. He was a minor of 16 years when he was sodomized by the convict in 2021. An FIR was lodged by the father of the victim at Rajouri Garden police station.

Special judge (POCSO) Preeti Pareva sentenced the convict Mahendra to a rigorous jail term of 20 years and imposed a fine of ₹52,000 under sections 6 and 12 of POCSO and sections of IPC. Additionally, the man was also convicted under Section 66 E (punishment for violation of privacy) under the Information and Technology (IT) Act. While sentencing the convicts, the court said, "The purpose of the criminal justice system is not only to attain catharsis by handing down proportionate punishment to the offender but also to rehabilitate the victim, who is scarred physically and mentally, forever.

"If we fail to do so, we are indicating our duty towards the victim, whose psychological well-being has been denied and may have longer repercussions," it added. His case was lodged on 11 February 2021 by the father of the victim boy who alleged that his son was sodomized by the Convict and he also took pictures of the victim. On the basis of this complaint, a case under sections of POCSO, IPC and IT Act was registered.

Opinion: NEET Controversy Mirrors Himachal Pradesh's Past Paper Leak Scandals

New Delhi: After questions being raised over various institutions conducting examinations across the country, selection processes are under scrutiny. Conducting entrance or recruitment exams for a large number of candidates using new scientific processes in the computer age is itself challenging. Until the allegations against NTA regarding NEET exams are proven or deserving students get selected, not only will there be a delay, but the mental state of children will be so adversely impacted that it is impossible to fathom. Whether entrance exams or recruitment exams, if there are any allegations, there must definitely be a thorough investigation and the governments must fix responsibility. Otherwise, the courage of professional paper leakers will keep rising. It is a different matter that the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has admitted that there were irregularities in the NEET recruitment. Admitting the truth was also his duty.

However, no official system has the right to play with the lives of lakhs of children. In fact, whenever any kind of entrance exam is conducted and the number of candidates runs into lakhs, every agency adopts a different method of conducting the exam. UGC has a different pattern and NTA has a different one, while at the state level, selection agencies conduct exams differently. Similarly, the exam process of State Selection Commissions or UPSC is also different.

When everyone adopts new methods, flaws are natural to occur. It is these flaws that paper leakers are exploiting.

It has been observed that the officers responsible for conducting the exams often portray most of the processes as confidential. These are limited to a few individuals, lacking transparency. This is where the possibility of irregularity arises.

In Himachal Pradesh too, there was an MBBS exam scam in Himachal Pradesh University in the year 2006. NEET-like processes did not exist then. Although the paper leak was exposed in 2006, who knows since when doctors recruited through cheating have been practicing at big hospitals. It is an irony that the former accused could not be caught due to lack of evidence. It is also important to know that scams come to light only when they are caught.

Opposition fields Congress leader K Suresh as Lok Sabha Speaker candidate

New Delhi: Accusing the ruling National Democratic Alliance of not following the convention of giving the Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker's position to the Opposition, the INDIA bloc on Tuesday fielded Congress leader K Suresh as its candidate for the Speaker's position against Om Birla. Congress leader KC Venugopal and DMK's TR Baalu walked out of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office, refusing to endorse NDA candidate Birla without being offered the Deputy Speaker's position. Venugopal said the BJP refused to give a



commitment to offer the Deputy Speaker's post to the opposition. Union ministers Amit Shah and JP Nadda besides Singh, tried to persuade opposition leaders to endorse the NDA nominee but in vain.

Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Lalan Singh accused the Congress of putting up conditions, adding the ruling alliance was willing to discuss their demand when the election for Deputy Speaker takes place. Sources said over 10 sets of nominations were filed in support of Birla's candidature, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Shah, Singh and Nadda, and BJP allies like TDP, JD(U), JD(S) and LJP (R). Three sets of nominations were filed in support of Suresh, a Dalit leader and eight-term MP.

Water Shortage May Spark Social Unrest In India, Detrimental For Its...: Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's Ratings today said India's growing water shortage can disrupt farm and industry sectors and is detrimental to the credit health of the sovereign as rising food inflation and decline in income may spark social unrest.

It said decreases in water supply can disrupt agricultural production and industrial operations, resulting in inflation in food prices and hence can be detrimental to credit health of sectors that heavily consume water, such as coal power generators and steel-makers. India's fast economic growth, accompanied by rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, will reduce water availability in the world's most populous country, it said. Also, the water stress is worsening because of an acceleration of climate change, which is causing increasingly intense and frequent extreme climate events such as droughts, heat waves and floods. India is facing a growing water shortage as water consumption increases amid rapid economic growth



and increasingly frequent natural disasters due to climate change, Moody's said in a report on environmental risk facing India. "This is detrimental to the credit health of the sovereign, as well as sectors that heavily consume water, such as coal power generators and steel-makers. In the long term, investment in water management can mitigate risks from potential water shortages," Moody's Ratings said in the report. The report comes amid a growing water crisis faced by residents in some parts of the national capital, which has led to

protests and political conflict. Delhi Water Minister Atishi, who began her hunger strike on June 21 over the issue, was hospitalised on Tuesday morning after her health deteriorated.

"Decreases in water supply can disrupt agricultural production and industrial operations, resulting in inflation in food prices and declines in income for affected businesses and communities, while sparking social unrest. This in turn can exacerbate volatility in India's growth and undermine the economy's ability to withstand shocks," Moody's said.

Quoting Ministry of Water Resources data, Moody's said India's average annual water availability per capita is likely to drop to 1,367 cubic meters by 2031 from an already-low 1,486 cubic meters in 2021. A level below 1,700 cubic meters indicates water stress, with 1,000 cubic meters being the threshold for water scarcity, according to the ministry.

Ayodhya Ram Temple roof leaking after heavy rain, no drainage of water: Priest

New Delhi: Water was leaking from the roof of the sanctum sanctorum at the Ram temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya after the first heavy showers since it was opened to the public, its chief priest Acharya Satyendra Das said on Monday. Alleging negligence in the construction of the temple, Das claimed that there was also no arrangement for the drainage of rainwater from the temple premises after the showers on Saturday night and urged the temple authorities to take necessary corrective measures. After the senior officials were informed about the incident of water leaking from the roof, the chairman of the temple construction committee, Nripendra Mishra, reached the temple and gave instructions to repair the roof and make them waterproof, temple trust sources said. Speaking separately to reporters about the progress of temple construction, Mishra said that work on the first floor was on and will be finished by



July this year, and expressed the hope that the construction of the temple will be completed by December. Acharya Satyendra Das told reporters there was heavy leakage from the roof of the temple's sanctum sanctorum in the first heavy showers that occurred at midnight on Saturday. Rainwater was leaking from the roof directly above the place where the priest sits in front of Ram Lalla's idol and where people come for VIP darshan, he said. "It is very surprising that engineers from all over the country are building the Ram temple. The temple was inaugurated

on January 22. But, no one knew that if it rains, the roof would leak. It is surprising that the roof of a world-famous temple is leaking. Why did this happen?"

"Such an incident is happening in the presence of such big engine, which is very wrong," he said. Meanwhile, rains on Saturday night caused severe waterlogging on the Rampath road and its adjoining lanes here. While sewer water entered houses in the area, the Rampath road and other newly constructed roads in Ayodhya caved in at some places. There was waterlogging from Jalwanpura to Hanumangarhi Bhaktipath and from Tedhi Bazaar to the inner areas, locals said. Reacting to the sewer water entering houses in the lanes of Rampath during the rain, Ayodhya Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi said, "I have started damage control since morning. I have deployed several teams of the municipality to remove water from the houses." However, attempts to seek the

response of top officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) did not fructify. Meanwhile, the Congress accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of indulging in corruption in the temple construction and building of civic facilities in the temple town. "Be it the coffin of the martyrs or the temple of God, all these have become opportunities for corruption for the BJP. Even the symbols of faith and purity in the country are just opportunities of loot for them," Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai alleged in a statement on Monday. "It has become clear from the statement of chief priest Satyendra Das that water is leaking in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple built at a cost of crores due to the first rain and there is no proper drainage system," he said. Rai said, "Not only this, the mask of the BJP, which was beating the drum of development of Ayodhya, has come off with the road collapsing at many places on the Rampath built at a cost of Rs 624 crore."

Support peace, stability: US after India, Bangladesh commit to free Indo-Pacific

New Delhi: Matthew Miller, spokesperson for the United States Department of State, on Monday said the US does support peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Miller's remarks came during a press briefing after he was asked if India and Bangladesh's commitment to a free, inclusive Indo-Pacific region mirrors the US' interest in promoting a similar vision for the Indo-Pacific region. "So, I don't want to speak to that specific commitment because I haven't read the statement or engaged with my colleagues here," Miller initially said.

But obviously, we do support peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. That has been a hallmark of our engagement in that region," he added.

On June 23, India and Bangladesh reiterated their



commitment to a free, open, inclusive, secure, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. The two nations pledged to co-lead the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and cooperate to mitigate disaster risks. A joint statement was issued following the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during the latter's two-day State visit to India. "Recognizing the contribution of our partnership to peace, security and stability in the region, we reiterate our commitment to a free, open, inclusive, secure, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region," the joint statement released by India and Bangladesh read. "Based on our converging visions for the Indo-Pacific region and recognizing the vulnerability of the region to adverse impacts of climate change, we will co-lead the 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Management' pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), and cooperate to mitigate disaster risks, build disaster resilient infrastructure, and contribute to the sustenance of our shared maritime region," it added. The two nations pledged to work together on global platforms to promote their common interests, particularly those of the Global South.



7 Relationship tips you can give your Child

As parents, advising kids on important matters of life is integral. While most parents have plenty of career advice for kids, not many sit them down for a sensible chat on relationships.

Parents in our country still find it difficult to discuss love with their children. If you are one of them, help is at hand. Here are seven basic relationship tips that every parent should give their children...

Learn to initiate

Gone are the days when you would endlessly wait for the other person to understand your feelings and take the first step in the relationship. Times have changed and how! We all live in such a fast-paced world that feelings change every now and then. So tell your kids to not wait for the other person to make the first move. If they like someone, it's completely fine to walk up to them and express their emotions.

Give your best

Always tell your children to never stop trying—be it their career or relationships, everything deserves their best efforts. No matter how the partner behaves, make sure your son/daughter gives his/her best to the relationship. This will either make

the relationship work, if not, it will save them the regret of not having worked hard towards it.

Trust your intuition

As parents, you know that your intuition can never go wrong. Similarly, tell your kids to believe in their gut instincts. It will help them take the right decisions. Also, it's your duty to set aside crucial 'reflection time' when your child is getting into a relationship. Obviously, you don't want to use the 'I told you so' line on them!

Never lose your individuality

Be it among friends, family or their partner, ensure your son/daughter never gives up on his/her individuality. Teach them to respect themselves, only then will other people do the same. Respecting their desires and needs when it comes to relationships will only help them become better.

Break-ups are not fatal

Tell them that break-ups are not the end of the world and they will survive this, too. It might seem unbearable in the beginning, but talk to your child of ways to get over his/her ex. Everyone is allowed to make a few mistakes while on their way to find their perfect match. Remind them that the best is yet to come.

Compromise should always be a two-sided affair

No one is inferior than

their partner in a relationship — make them understand this mantra. Compromises, adjustments and responsibilities should be shared, and this way, they will know that the other person is always there for them in need.

Never settle for mediocrity

Teach them to be in a relationship not because it's the only option available, but because it's wonderful. Settling for mediocre relationships will only make them look down upon pure love and happiness. As parents, show them how you and your husband have retained the passion and spark in yours!



Are you diapering your baby correctly?



appalled) at how quickly you'll exhaust your diaper supplies. Also, check if a specific brand suits your baby's delicate skin. At times, certain materials used in diapers may cause a rash or simply not be comfortable enough for your baby. Try out a few brands before you settle down with a particular brand.

- Don't let your baby's incessant crying get to you. Be calm while changing the diaper because the more you fumble, the more your baby will get aggravated. It's okay to be slow and steady — your baby will stop crying the moment it is clean and dry.

- Allow your baby to go diaperless for a few hours daily. This is because skin needs to breathe and constantly putting on a diaper will cause your baby's bottom to turn red and cause a rash.

- It is also important to ensure that the diaper fits snugly. Too tight and your baby will wail due to discomfort and too loose and you will have a poop disaster on your hands. Use your fingers to check the snugness around your baby's waist.



Life is never the same after a baby. Sleepless nights, bouts of crying, colic and dirty nappies are just some of the things that new parents go through. While most parents use cloth nappies in the first few weeks of their baby's life, the real trick starts when they start using diapers

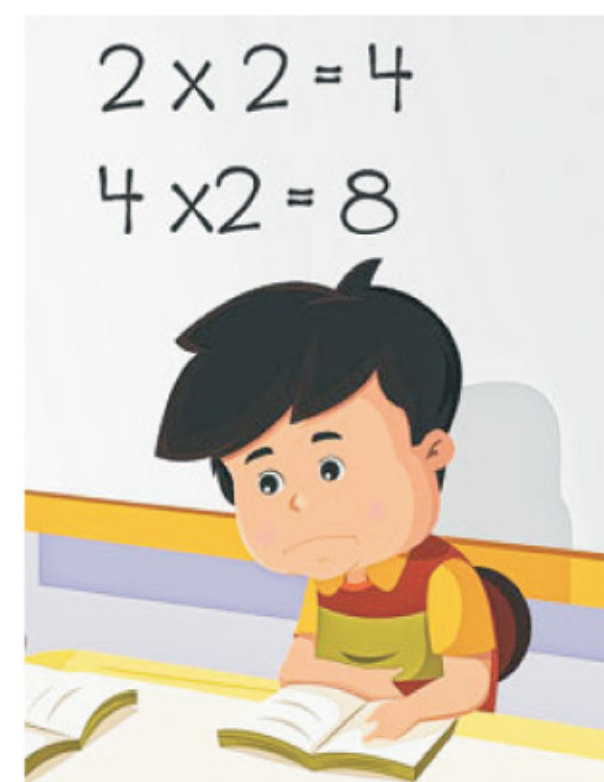
The most common mistake made (by both moms and dads!) while changing a diaper is putting it on backwards or off centre. But worry not. Once you know the technique, you'll be able to change diapers within seconds.

- The first thing to do is to get yourself organised. Keep all your paraphernalia together — baby powder, wet wipes, tissues, napkin, diaper rash cream and, of course, the diapers — in a small bag. This way, when the need arises, you won't go scrambling all over the house looking for things.

- Always keep plenty of stock handy — you'll be amazed (and

Tutoring can relieve math anxiety in kids

A one-on-one math tutoring programme can relieve anxiety about doing math problems in your kids, says a study by Indian-origin researchers.



expertise. The study included 46 children in third grade. Before receiving tutoring, each child took a test that assessed his or her level of math anxiety.

The brain scans of the children with high levels of math anxiety showed activation in the brain's fear circuits and so-called "fear centre", or amygdala, before tutoring. Children then participated in an intensive, eight-week tutoring programme consisting of 22 lessons involving addition and subtraction problems. Tutors gave the lessons to each child individually. All of the children performed better on addition and subtraction problems after tutoring.

The children who started the study with high levels of math anxiety had reduced anxiety after tutoring, while those in the low-math-anxiety group had no change in their anxiety levels.

After tutoring, the fear circuits and amygdala were no longer activated in children who had begun the study with high math anxiety, confirming that tutoring ameliorated the anxiety itself, rather than providing the kids with a coping mechanism that relies on other brain circuits.

"It is reassuring that we could actually help these children reduce anxiety by mere exposure to problems," the study's lead author Kaustubh Supekar from Stanford University noted.

"The most exciting aspect of our findings is that cognitive tutoring not only improves performance, but is also anxiety-reducing," said the study's senior author Vinod Menon professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine in California, US.

"It was surprising that we could, in fact, get remediation of math anxiety," Menon noted.

Even if they are good at math, many children feel anxious about doing math problems.

For some, the anxiety persists throughout life, discouraging them from pursuing advanced math and science classes as well as careers that rely on mathematical

Wipro identifies five areas for revitalising co

NEW DELHI: Information technology firm Wipro has identified five strategic areas to 'revitalize' the company, the newly appointed CEO and MD Srinivas Pallia said in his letter to stakeholders in the annual report of the company. These areas include accelerating large deal momentum by working closely with clients and partners, focusing on AI-powered industry specific offerings and consultation-led business solutions as well as building talent at scale around industry solutions with an AI-first approach.

The MD and CEO also said the company will also be strengthening relationships with large clients and partners, and invest early on the next set of accounts that have the potential to grow into large accounts. The last focus area for the company would be to drive client centricity and delivery excellence with execution rigor and speed. The IT giant Wipro has been going through a rough patch with its net profit continuously falling since FY22. The company posted Rs 11,135.40 crore in FY24 compared to Rs 11,372 crore in the previous year. In FY22, the company had posted a net profit of Rs 12,238 crore. The Bengaluru-based company saw its FY24 fourth quarter profit falling by 7.8% to Rs 2,834.6 crore. Revenue in the quarter fell 4.2% to Rs 22,208 crore.

Pallia further said that the company is at the threshold of a significant technological transformation, with clients across industries eager to harness the power of AI to reshape their businesses. He said that Wipro's AI strategy is unlocking significant business value for its clients and for the company. He said that Wipro's AI strategy is unlocking significant business value for its clients and for the company.

Current account swings to 5.7 bn surplus in Q4FY24

NEW DELHI: Driven by a sharper fall in imports and a marginal fall in exports helped the economy narrow trade deficit, which along with robust services exports helped it report a current account surplus of \$5.7 billion or 0.6% of GDP in the fourth quarter of the fiscal 2024—first time in 10 quarters, compared to a deficit of \$1.3 billion or 0.2% in the year-ago quarter, according to the latest RBI data. In the December 2023 quarter, the current account deficit stood at 8.7 billion or 1% of GDP, show the latest data. The current account logged a surplus in the March quarter largely due to higher services, the Reserve Bank said on Monday. The current account surplus stood at \$5.7 billion in the fourth reporting quarter as against a deficit of \$8.7 billion or 1 percent of GDP in the preceding quarter.

For the full year, the deficit narrowed sharply to \$23.2 billion, or 0.7% of GDP, this is lowest in seven years, as against \$67 billion or 2% of GDP in FY23, the central bank said. The 0.6% surplus in the March quarter marks a significant improvement from the year-ago period, where the country had a current account deficit of \$1.3 billion or 0.2% of GDP. During the March quarter, net outgo on the primary income account, primarily reflecting payments of investment income, increased to \$14.8 billion from \$12.6 billion a year ago, the RBI said. Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances, amounted to \$32 billion, an increase of 11.9% on-year, it added. In the financial account, net foreign direct investment flows were \$2 billion compared to \$6.4 billion a year ago, said the central bank. Foreign portfolio investment saw a net inflow of \$11.4 billion as against a net outflow of \$1.7 billion on-year. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings to amounted to \$2.6 billion in Q4 of 2023-24 as compared with \$1.7 billion a year ago, the RBI said. Non-resident deposits saw a higher net inflow of \$5.4 billion, which was only \$3.6 billion a year ago. Commenting on the numbers, Aditi Nayar, chief economist at Ica Ratings, told TNE that the current account turned in a welcome surplus after a gap of 10 quarters, with the same size of \$5.7 billion.

Carmakers offer discount to boost demand

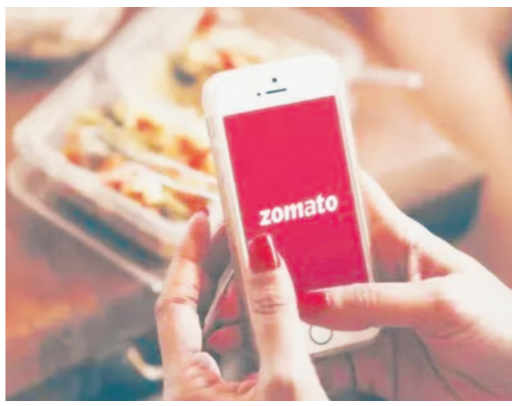
NEW DELHI: When one Sunil Kapoor had approached a car dealer last year for a hatchback, he received a quote of Rs 7 lakh, which exceeded his budget by about Rs 50,000. Fast forward to last week, he received quote for the same car but with a steep discount of Rs 60,000. Facing a slowdown in fresh demand after two years of blockbuster sales, carmakers have taken the route of massive discounts and attractive offers to lure buyers. Passenger vehicle sales meanwhile slumped to 3,03,358 units—down 0.96% over last year (3,06,305 units) and down 9.48% compared to April 2024 (3,35,123 units). Excepts of a few SUVs which continue to command a waiting period, every product including some best selling models, available in the market carries some form of reward. Add to it, many carmakers have either gone for steep price cut or launched new variants to attract buyers interest.

For example, Tata Motors last week said it is giving benefits up to Rs 1 lakh (depending on model and variant) for customers who have booked and await delivery of Nexon SUV. Nexon comes at a starting price of Rs 7.99 lakh and goes up to Rs 15.5 lakh for top variant. Mahindra & Mahindra launched new AX5 select variant of XUV 700 model. The variant is up to Rs 1.4 lakh more affordable than the corresponding AX5 variants and comes with top-end specs like dual 10.25-inch screens, a panoramic sunroof, and dual front airbags.

Maruti Suzuki is offering attracting cash discounts on most hatchbacks and few SUVs, maximum of which can be availed on low-selling Jimny. To revive the hatchback segment, MSIL had launched the new Dream limited editions of its three most affordable cars, Alto K10, S-Presso and Celerio. All three will be similarly priced at Rs 4.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

'Zomato growing faster than Swiggy': Zomato Shares Gain As Brokerages Remain Bullish

Zomato share price gained over 2 per cent in early trade on Tuesday as brokerages maintained their bullish view on the stock after its rival Swiggy's performance improved in 2023, showing increased traction in the food delivery and quick commerce sector. Foreign brokerage CLSA said listed company Zomato Ltd is growing faster than Swiggy on key parameters, as retained its 'Buy' rating on the stock with a target of Rs 248 apiece. CLSA, which has been increasing its price targets for Zomato since May 2023 (Rs 80 then), said Swiggy's overall gross order value (GOV) including food delivery and quick-commerce grew 26 per cent YoY in FY24, which lagged Zomato's corresponding growth of 36 per cent during the same period. CLSA said Swiggy's overall revenue growth of 24 per cent YoY in FY24 was also lower than Zomato's adjusted revenue growth of 55.9 per cent YoY. Besides, while



Swiggy's trading losses got reduced to \$158 million in FY24, Zomato reported a positive Ebitda of \$5 million for the same period.

CLSA said Swiggy's core food delivery GOV grew double digits in FY24 but Zomato's growth was higher at 22 per cent YoY. "If we assume a 10 per cent/20 per cent GOV growth for Swiggy's food delivery GOV, it would be 74 per cent/80

per cent of Zomato's food delivery delivery partners against Zomato's 4,18,000. Also, Swiggy Instamart had 487 active dark stores compared to 526 for Blinkit. Investment risks in Zomato includes subdued urban consumer sentiment hindering growth, high competitive intensity, and regulatory strictness. Significant consumer adoption of the ONDC network could have some negative impact on take rates, which is also a key risk, it said.

CLSA values Blinkit at a 30 per cent discount to its 67 times PE multiple used for DMart. It believes, given profitability for DMart is much higher and the business model is more stable, such a discount for Blinkit is valid.

"For our target price's other half, we base our DCF on 25 years of explicit forecasts to better model the growth opportunity for consumption in India, as we believe low penetration levels, rising incomes and a young population offer a long runway for

sales growth. We discount our cashflow assumptions at a WACC of 14.4 per cent and use a 4 per cent terminal growth rate beyond our explicit forecasts," CLSA said. According to Emkay Global Financial Services, Zomato's higher growth has been aided by the superior performance of its Quick Commerce.

After turning EBITDA positive in March 2023, Swiggy's food delivery profitability improved on account of operating leverage with additional revenue streams, whereas overall losses narrowed to \$261 million in 2023 from \$531 million in CY22. "Swiggy's performance reflects the continued traction of Food Delivery and rise of Quick Commerce," said Dipeshkumar Mehta, Senior Research Analyst at Emkay Global Financial Services. Zomato share price has rallied over 10 per cent in the last one month, while the stock has jumped more than 63 per cent year-to-date (YTD). Zomato shares have delivered multibagger returns of over 172 per cent in one year.

Prosus marks 493 mn loss in Byju's, writes off stake

BENGALURU: Investment firm Prosus on Monday said it has written off its 9.6% stake in Byju's. In its FY24 annual report, the Naspers-owned firm said a fair value loss of \$493 million was recognised in other comprehensive income in the current year. In a statement, Prosus said, "We impaired Byju's mark down to zero at the end of FY24. The fair value written down was \$493 mn for FY24. We have written down Byju's because we have inadequate information on Byju's financial health, liabilities, and future outlook."

"The investment firm has invested over \$500 million in the edtech firm, and this write off comes at a time when the edtech firm has been struggling with various challenges including the ongoing legal troubles. Recently, in a note financial firm HSBC assigned

zero value to Prosus' 9.6% stake in Byju's. It said, "We assign zero value to Byju's stake amid multiple legal cases and funding crunch." It added in the note, "Previously, we valued around 10% stake in Byju's by applying an 80% discount to the last publicly disclosed valuation." The edtech firm was once valued at \$22 billion, and in November last year, Prosus had marked down the firm's valuation to less than \$3 billion. In January this year, US-based asset manager BlackRock slashed Byju's valuation to \$1 billion as of October 2023.

Investors including Prosus and General Atlantic, holders of over 60% of the cap table, recently voted in favour of change in leadership of the company and they filed an oppression and mismanagement suit against Byju

Raveendran and management in the NCLT Bengaluru branch.

Last week, Byju's filed a petition with the Karnataka HC challenging the NCLT order as it prohibits the firm from proceeding with its second rights issue. On June 12, the NCLT had directed Byju's to maintain status quo in its shareholding. Earlier this month, the ad hoc group of term loan lenders of Byju's Alpha Inc. said certain holders of the term loans and GLAS Trust Company LLC (as administrative agent and collateral agent of the term loans) had filed plea pursuant to Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code to initiate involuntary Chapter 11 proceedings against Epic!, Neuron Fuel (DBA Tynker), and Tangible Play (DBA Osmo), the three US-based guarantors of the term loans in the US Bankruptcy Court.

Sellers on Flipkart, MakeMyTrip, Amazon to benefit from lower TCS

NEW DELHI: Suppliers, who sell their goods and services through platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, MakeMy Trip and Yatra, will benefit from the cut in TCS (tax collected at source) rate from 1% to 0.5% in terms of having more working capital to operate their businesses. However, only those businesses which are not very profitable or are in their initial phase will get the advantage, say experts.

The announcement to cut TCS was made in the 53rd GST Council meeting last Saturday. "Purpose behind levying TCS is to track flow of money to raise tax base. This is levied at early-stage transaction on sale of goods, services, or certain high-value transactions and can be claimed as a credit by taxpayers. Loss-making businesses and start-ups will get relief of having more cash in hand," said Asish Philip, Partner at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan.



Philip advocated for more cut in TCS to achieve objective of helping working capital challenges. He said it could be reduced to 0.1% or two tier approach will help in ease of doing business. Experts say notified services provided by restaurants, app-based cab platforms like Ola and Uber, exempt from TCS, won't be impacted. "Multiple items of mass

consumption are chargeable to 5% GST like packaged tea and coffee (non-instant), edible oils (vegetable, mustard), packaged and branded rice/wheat flour/other cereals, sugar and jaggery, milk, cream, yoghurt, packed paneer, sanitary napkins, handloom products like sarees, bedsheets, other textile, and printed books/children's colouring books will feel respite," said Rajat Mohan, executive director-GST, MOORE Singhi.

He said implementation of the proposal doesn't introduce new complexities in reporting and compliance for e-commerce operators and suppliers. As per Smita Singh, Partner, S&A Law Offices, this is a rate cut, so compliance is not going to change much. Karthik Mani, Partner, Indirect Tax, BDO India, said, "Suppliers should ensure.

EU Regulators Accuse Apple Of Breaching New Digital Competition Rules

NEW DELHI: European Union regulators on Monday levelled the first charges against giant phone maker Apple under new digital competition rules. The EU accuses Apple of preventing users from switching to cheaper alternatives outside its app store. The European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, cited the initial results of its preliminary investigation and said that Apple's restrictions on developers using its mobile app store violate the group's Digital Markets Act.

The Digital Competition Manual (DMA), provides for heavy financial penalties to deter major technology companies from targeting digital markets. It was implemented in March. Under this, the European Commission has launched a preliminary round of investigation against iPhone maker Apple. A separate investigation is already underway against Apple over whether it is taking sufficient steps to allow users to easily switch web browsers. The other cases under DMA involve Google and Meta. The European Commission said that the rules of the iPhone App Store prevent app developers from freely directing consumers to alternative channels for offerings and content. Apple will now have to respond to these findings of the European Commission. The Commission will take a final decision on this matter by March 2025. If found guilty of violating competition rules, the American company may have to pay a fine of up to 10 percent of its global revenue, which will be equivalent to billions of euros.

The Commission has maintained pressure on Apple and has also started a new investigation into the terms of the contract being given by it to app developers. In this case, Apple Inc said that in the last several months it has made many changes to comply with the new rules in response to the feedback received from developers and the European Commission. The company said in a statement, "We are confident that our plan complies with this law and estimate that more than 99 percent of developers will pay the same or less fees to Apple under our new business terms." As per the report of ABC News, app makers such as Spotify had complained for years about Apple's requirement that subscriptions only be bought through iOS apps. The American company, Apple, takes a commission of up to 30 percent. These complaints resulted in European regulators slapping Apple with a \$2 billion (Rs 166 billion) fine for favouring its music platforms over Spotify and other rivals.

Stocks To Watch: Maruti Suzuki, RBL Bank, Indigo, IREDA, AU SFB, Shree Cement, And Others

Stocks to watch: Shares of firms like Maruti Suzuki, RBL Bank, Indigo, IREDA, AU SFB, Shree Cement, and others will be in focus on Tuesday's trade.

NEW DELHI: Domestic markets started the week on a positive note even as global cues were mixed. In today's trade, shares of Happiest Minds, IREDA, Maruti Suzuki, RBL Bank, and Shree Cement among others will be in focus due to various news developments. Happiest Minds: According to reports, IT firm promoter and executive chairman Ashok Soota has initiated a block deal to sell a 6 per cent stake in the company, aiming to raise Rs 754 crore. The floor price for the



sale is set at Rs 826 per share. Indigo: IndiGo has announced the launch of additional daily non-stop flights between Mumbai and Jeddah from August 15, 2024. The airline plans to double its weekly flights to 14 on this route. AU Small Finance Bank: The Board of AU Small Finance Bank will convene on June 27, 2024, to discuss raising funds through the issuance of equity shares via private placement, QIP, preferential allotment, or other alternative

modes. Muthoot Capital Services: Muthoot Capital Services has received board approval to register as a corporate agent with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Borosil: Borosil has begun its Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) after board approval, fixing the floor price at Rs 331.75 per share. The company aims to raise up to Rs 250 crore through this route. Swan Energy: Swan Energy is set

to acquire a 49 per cent equity stake in Triumph Offshore Private Ltd (TOPL) from Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) for Rs 440 crore. This acquisition involves 26,21,50,000 equity shares of Rs 10 each, approved during a recent Board of Directors meeting. Amara Raja: Amara Raja's subsidiary, Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Private Ltd, has signed a technical licensing agreement with GIB EnergyX Slovakia s.r.o., a subsidiary of Gotion High-Tech Co Ltd. RBL Bank: RBL Bank's board will meet on June 27, 2024, to consider proposals for raising funds through a QIP and issuing debt securities in one or more tranches on a private placement basis.

IREDA: State-owned IREDA sanctioned Rs 37,354 crore loan and disbursed Rs 25,089 crore in FY24, the company's CMD PK Das said. Shree Cement: India's third largest cement manufacturer Shree Cement announced achieving installed power capacity of 1,000 MW with the commissioning of a 19.5 MW solar power plant at its Andhra Pradesh unit.

NEWS BOX

'Emmy, Oscar?' Gulbadin Naib faking injury to waste time in AFG vs BAN sparks debate

New Delhi. Gulbadin Naib's antics after a 'supposed' hamstring injury while fielding at slips during a pivotal moment in the Bangladesh clash has sparked a debate in the commentary box with Simon Doull slamming the Afghanistan all-rounder. The moment happened right before another rain break during the clash at St. Vincent on June 25, with the game on a knife-edge. Bangladesh were 81 for 7 and 2 runs behind on the DLS score. Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott had sent in a message to the players to slow things down a bit and this promptly caused Naib to fall to the ground by catching his hamstring. This would even make Rashid Khan unhappy as he kept asking the all-rounder what had happened. As the covers came on, Naib was seen helped off the field. You can see the full video below: Doull was very vocal with his frustration at seeing the antics from Naib and called it unacceptable. "The coach sends a message out to say slow it down. Slow it down and the first slip just dives on the ground needlessly. That is unacceptable. Gone off anyway, I get that might have gone off anyway for the rain," said Doull.

Even Litton Das saw the funny side of it as he was seen talking to Mohammad Nabi about it. Once the video was played again, the commentary box burst into laughter with Pommie Mbengwa saying, "Oscar, Emmy?" and Doull claiming "match fee gone."

Naib wouldn't come back on to the field when the game restarted with Najibullah coming on but would return to the field shortly after. He would even come on to bowl the 15th over.

Meme fest on as Afghanistan knockout Australia for T20 World Cup semi-final spot

New Delhi. Social media platforms are getting flooded with memes after Afghanistan clinched an emphatic and close-call win over Bangladesh in their crucial T20 World Cup Super 8 clash on June 25, which saw the Rashid Khan-led side secure their first-ever semi-final spot in a senior men's ICC tournament. Afghanistan's victory by 8 runs via DLS method at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, Saint Vincent also meant that the side knocked out the heavyweights Australia from the semi-final race. Having already beaten the T20I cricket giants like New Zealand and Australia in what has been a dream T20 World Cup run for the side, Rashid's Afghanistan made sure to extend that in a certain style after this win. Having won the toss and opting to bat first, Afghanistan had a risky start after managing to post a total of only 115 runs on the board, but some brilliant bowling by the likes of their skipper Rashid in his 4/23 spell saw the side get their most important win of the tournament. One of the key highlights of the game was Gulbadin Naib controversially going down on the ground due to a likely cramp, just a few seconds before a rain delay. This was quickly picked up by the netizens in their humorous and congratulatory meme-fest, while India fans also lauded Afghanistan for knocking out their long-term rivals, Australia. Taking immense pride and confidence from this win, Afghanistan will now gear up for their ever-crucial semi-final against an unbeaten South Africa in their T20 World Cup semi-final clash on June 27 at the Brian Lara Cricket stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad.

Rohit Sharma ne kya fainti lagayi hai Mitchell Starc ki' - Shoab Akhtar lauds India captain's knock in win over Australia

NEW DELHI. Former Pakistani fast bowler Shoab Akhtar has heaped praise on Rohit Sharma's awe-inspiring batting following India's victory over Australia in the 'Super 8s' match of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Monday.

In a video posted on his 'X' handle, Akhtar highlighted the transformation in India's mindset from disappointment to determination after their defeat against Australia in the ODI World Cup final last year. The depression that India had after losing the last World Cup final, the one they deserved to win... that depression has now turned into obsession that we have to beat Australia here. Then Rohit Sharma did what he should have done, played with such intent. Rohit ne kya fainti lagayi hai Mitchell Starc ki (Rohit completely annihilated Starc). My heart wanted Rohit Sharma to score 150 today," Akhtar passionately said in the India's 24-run victory was anchored by Rohit's brilliant knock, scoring 92 runs off just 41 balls. His aggressive approach set the tone for India's innings, allowing them to post a formidable total of 205 for 5s. Despite early setbacks, including the quick dismissals of Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant, Sharma's stay at the crease ensured India remained on course for a big total. Batting second, Australia struggled to keep up with the required run rate, managing 181 for 7. Travis Head's valiant effort with the bat, scoring 76 runs, wasn't enough to overcome India's disciplined bowling attack led by Jasprit Bumrah. The Rohit Sharma-led side will take on England in the second semi-final in Guyana on Thursday.

AFG vs BAN: Afghanistan storm into historic semi-final after thriller vs Bangladesh

- ➔ **Afghanistan beat Bangladesh by 8 runs (DLS)**
- ➔ **Rashid Khan picked up 4 wickets**
- ➔ **Australia failed to qualify for the semis**



New Delhi. Afghanistan stormed into the semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2024 after beating Bangladesh by 8 runs (DLS) in their Super 8 clash on Tuesday, June 25 at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. Their victory meant that Australia, who won the tournament back in 2021, failed to go through to the next round after back-to-back losses at the hands of India and the Afghans. Rain played hide and seek throughout the second innings, but Afghanistan held their nerves.

Afghanistan finished second in the table with 4 points and a net run rate of -0.267 thanks to wins in 2 out of 3 games. After their 47-run defeat to India, Rashid Khan's men looked

down and out, but they rose like a phoenix from the ashes. They will now face Aiden Markram's South Africa in the first semi-final on June 27 at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad.

Rishad Hossain stars for Bangladesh
After opting to bat first, Afghanistan hardly got off the blocks as they were restricted to 115 for 5 in 20 overs. Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran put on 59 runs for the opening wicket, but could not step on the gas. Rishad Hossain separated the duo after

getting rid of Ibrahim, who made a painstaking 29-ball 18. Gurbaz, who is known for his big shots, scored 43 runs at an underwhelming strike-rate of 78.18. The Afghan middle-order batters struggled as none of Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib and Karim Janat got going. In the end, it was an unbeaten 19-run knock off 10 balls from skipper Rashid Khan that injected some momentum into the Afghanistan innings. Rashid hit 3 sixes in his cameo, 2 of which came off Tanzim Hasan Sakib in the 20th over. Rishad was the pick of the bowlers

for Bangladesh after he finished with figures of 4-0-26-3. The leg-spinner also broke Shakib Al Hasan's record for most wickets by a Bangladeshi spinner in a single edition of the T20 World Cup. Taskin Ahmed, who replaced Mahedi Hasan, and Mustafizur Rahman accounted for one scalp apiece. Litton's knock goes in vain just before the start of Bangladesh's run-chase, rain halted proceedings. After play resumed, the Tigers showed intent, although they lost the early wickets of Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib. With their score at 31 for 3 in 3.3 overs, rain arrived for the second time, but no overs were lost. Soumya Sarkar and Towhid Hridoy played their shots and scored 10 and 14 runs respectively, before they got out to Rashid. While the Tigers kept losing wickets at regular intervals, Litton Das held one end up, but Bangladesh's quest to chase the target in 12.1 overs kept becoming tough. Mahmudullah became Rashid's third victim. After 12.1 overs, the Tigers were officially knocked out. Litton fought valiantly to stay not out on 54 runs off 49 balls with the help of 5 fours and a six. However, his knock went in vain as Bangladesh were bowled out for 105 in 17.5 overs while defending a revised target of 114 in 19 overs.

T20 World Cup semi-final: Afghanistan face South Africa, India up against England



New Delhi. Afghanistan will lock horns with South Africa in their semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Wednesday, June 26 (Thursday, June 27 in India). In the other semis, Rohit Sharma's India will be

up against South Africa at the Providence Stadium in Guyana. On Tuesday, the Afghans added a new chapter to their history books after securing their maiden semi-final berth in the history of the

T20 World Cup 2024: Afghanistan will face South Africa in the semi-final after beating Bangladesh by 8 runs (DLS) in their last Super 8 match. India, on the other hand, will be up against Jos Buttler's England.

tournament. They defeated Bangladesh by 8 runs (DLS) at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent in their last and final Super 8 clash.

Earlier, India beat Australia by 24 runs on Monday at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St Lucia and confirmed their berth in the top 4. The Men in Blue will also look to avenge their 10-wicket defeat to England in the semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2024 at the Adelaide Oval.

Rashid Khan reveals how Afghanistan proved Brian Lara's semifinal prediction right

New Delhi. Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan has revealed how the team was able to fulfill their promise to Brian Lara after the West Indies legend predicted that they would make it to the semi-finals. Afghanistan made it to the semi-finals for the first time in the World Cup on June 25, Tuesday, as they defeated Bangladesh in a thriller at St. Vincent. Afghanistan had secured big wins in the tournament against New Zealand and Australia, and they knocked out the Aussies to make it to the final four stage after win at St. Vincent. Lara had predicted ahead of the tournament that Afghanistan would be in the final four and Rashid was happy to make the West Indies legend proud. Rashid then went on to talk about Lara, who was the only person who had picked them as potential semi-finalists. The Afghan star revealed that at a



Anyone know what happened last time? England pokes fun at India ahead of semi-final

New Delhi. England cricket poked fun at India after the T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final between both teams was confirmed on June 24, Monday. India defeated Australia to top Group 1 and seal their spot in the final four at St. Lucia after Rohit Sharma hit 92 to help India post 205 runs in their 20 overs. While Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh gave India a scare, they were able to bounce back in the second half of the Australia chase. India won the match by 24 runs in the end to face England in the semi-final in Guyana. The defending champions were made to work hard to make it to the semi-finals. Firstly, in the group stages, they needed a favour from Australia as they edged past Scotland to make it to the

Super 8s. After a commanding performance against West Indies,



England lost to South Africa and needed a big win against the USA to qualify. That is what they got in the end, as Jos Buttler put the USA bowlers to the sword. England would then put out a tweet after

the match was made official, asking what had happened the last time when both teams met in a T20 World Cup semi-final. What happened the last time India faced England in T20 World Cup?

Indian fans would want to quickly forget the last time India faced England in the T20 World Cup. It was the 2nd semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2022 and India had posted a target of 169 runs for the Jos Buttler and Co.

Hardik Pandya hit 63 and Virat Kohli got 50 but England would end up ruining the day. Alex Hales and Jos Buttler would take apart the Indian bowling lineup as England won the match by 10 wickets as they put on 170 runs in just 16 overs.

welcome party he had a word with Lara and told him they would prove him right. "I think the only guy who put us in the semifinal was Brian Lara. I think we proved that right. That's what we have discussed before the competition in a welcome party. I told him we won't let you down. We would make it, prove it that you are right. So I think that's something everyone is so proud and are proud of this team," said Rashid.

Belief came after New Zealand win. Rashid said that the semi-final qualification feels like a dream for the team and the belief came in after their win against New Zealand. "Well, it's something like a dream for us as a team. Being in the semi-finals, I think, it's all about the way we have started the thing, uh, the tournament. And, uh, the belief came while we beat New Zealand. So it's unbelievable.

T20 World Cup: Australia knocked out in Super 8 as Afghanistan into first-ever semis

- ➔ **Afghanistan beat Bangladesh by 8 runs via DLS**
- ➔ **Australia could only get 2 points in the Super 8 stage**
- ➔ **Australia were left to rue the mistakes they made in Super 8 stage**

New Delhi. Australia has been knocked out in the Super 8 stages of the T20 World Cup 2024 following Afghanistan's historic win against Bangladesh at St. Vincent to qualify for the semi-finals for the first time. Australia had their backs against the wall after their loss to India, as they had just 2 points in their bag following the 3 games. India had defeated Australia by 24 runs as Afghanistan just needed to beat Bangladesh to secure their qualification. Rashid Khan and Co. would end up sealing the deal with an 8-run win to qualify to the next phase as the Aussies were forced to pack their bags and head

home. What happened in the AFG vs BAN match?

Afghanistan won the toss and chose to bat first against Bangladesh at St. Vincent. Despite having their most successful opening pair, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, Afghanistan struggled initially. The duo managed to score 54 runs in the first 9 overs, but Bangladesh tightened their grip after Zadran's dismissal. Gurbaz attempted to accelerate the innings, but regular wickets hindered Afghanistan's progress. Rishad Hossain was particularly effective, taking 3 wickets for 26 runs in his 4 overs. Afghanistan's score plummeted from 84 for 2 to 93 for 5. However, a late surge by Rashid Khan, who scored 19 runs off 10 balls with 3 sixes, helped Afghanistan reach a competitive total. Bangladesh's chase got off to a good start as Litton got them going but wickets started to fall at the other end. It was Naveen, who got a double-strike, to give Afghanistan the upper hand at first before a rain break happened. Litton kept on attacking from the other end as it seemed that Bangladesh had an outside chance of making



it to the semi-finals themselves. However, Rashid returned and picked up 4 wickets in his spell to break the back of the chase before another rain break occurred. Litton looked to take the game close but Naveen returned to dismiss Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur

Rahman to seal the win in the end. Where it went wrong for Australia? Australia had come into the Super 8s in strong form and had won their first match of Group 1 against Bangladesh. However, poor fielding and some questionable tactics.



Neha Sharma

Turns Up The Heat In A Crop Top, Hot Video Goes Viral

Neha Sharma surely knows how to raise temperatures! The actress, known for her impeccable fashion sense, recently made heads turn in her latest social media post. She looked stunning in a classic white crop top and blue jeans combo. She captioned her post, "Ain't no Monday blues here." The actress smiled for the camera and played with her hair to shun away her Monday blues. Neha looked ravishing in her video and left her friends gasping for breath. Check out the hot video here:

Neha Sharma remains grapevine's darling because of her strong and on-point social media and paparazzi game. Her appearances outside gyms and airports with her sister Aisha Sharma frequently catch the attention of the shutterbugs and needless to say, go viral on social media within minutes. Apart from her social media posts and sartorial sensibilities, the actor often makes headlines for her strong opinions on the film industry.



And in a recent interaction with News18 Showsha, Neha makes a bold statement on how an actor is sometimes forced to play de-glam roles to be taken seriously. Known for her glamorous avatars on and off-screen, Neha too has sometimes been seen shunning the sheen and taking on parts that go against her image. "No offense to anyone but I feel that to be taken seriously in this industry, you need to de-glam yourself. If you look a certain way, they'll call you a bad actor. I think it's just a stereotype," she states. According to Neha, actors like her often resort to a 'ploy' like this so as to change the perception that they've in the industry. "And if you aren't a very good looking person, people start seeing the acting and performance in your eyes and suddenly, the little nuances in your act are appreciated a lot more. This has become a ploy for all actors including me to de-glam so that we're taken a bit more seriously," she adds.

'It's Really Relaxing': Mouli Ganguly On Working With Husband Mazhar Sayed



Mouli Ganguly is currently playing the role of Ira in the Hindi serial, Janani - Al Ki Kahani. The actress recently opened up about playing the lead role along with her husband, actor Mazhar Sayed in the show after two decades. She calls it refreshing. The duo is playing the role of a scientist couple in the show. Talking about her previous work, Mouli Ganguly said, "In Kaahin Kissii Roz, we were not opposite each other, so this experience is completely new and exciting." The show is airing on Danga TV. Mazhar and Mouli are playing a couple on screen that is expected to add new dynamism to their professional and personal lives. Mouli expressed her happiness to IANS and she is enjoying the time on sets with her husband. The chemistry between the two on and off-screen has added authenticity to their characters, making the show even more appealing to the audience. Working with a life partner can be a unique experience, and for Mouli and Mazhar, it is nothing less than a joy. "It's really relaxing because coming together, going home together, and getting to spend time together is so much fun. Otherwise, we usually share each other's set stories. This time, it's the same story," she said in an interview. Mouli Ganguly is known for her works in serials like Saakshi, Aathvaan Vachhan and Laagi Tujhe Lagan. She was also seen in films like Kissebaaz, Raincoat, 68 Pages and others.

The couple appeared in the dance reality show Nach Baliye 4. It showed their strong partnership and chemistry. Mazhar and Mouli got married in the year 2010. Mazhar plays the role of Virat Sharma in this show. It also stars Prapti Shukla, Nitin Guleria, Sumit Kaul, Priyank Tataria and Aashika Bhatia. It is produced by MAJ Productions.

Mouli Ganguly has previously appeared in television shows like Baal Shiv-Mahadev Ki Andekhi Gatha, Jamai Raja, Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki, Aasman Se Aage and Mano Ya Naa Mano 2. She started her film career with the Bengali serial Baksho Rahashya. She shot to fame with Ekta Kapoor's serial Kaahin Kissii Roz. She also played the titular role in Saakshi.

Ishq Vishk Rebound Box Office Day 3: Rohit Saraf, Jibraan Khan's Film Earns Close Rs 4 Crores



Ishq Vishk Rebound, directed by Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari and part of the Ishq Vishk franchise, is having a slow start at the box office. According to Sacnilk.com, the film earned Rs 1 crore net on its opening day in India. On Sunday, i.e day 3, the movie minted over Rs 1.40 crores. With this, the film's total earnings stand at Rs 3.55 Crores. According to a report in Sacnilk, Ishq Vishk Rebound had an overall 17.69% Hindi Occupancy on Sunday, June 23, 2024. While the morning shows had 7.66% attendance, afternoon shows had 22.36%, evening shows had 25.40% and night shows had around 15.35%. News18 Showsha's review of the film read, "The disappointing camera work bogs down the film's viewing experience. But fortunately, the actors manage to hold our hands until the end. Ishq Vishk Rebound is out and out Rohit Saraf's film. He is the narrator of the film. His character, Raghav, often breaks the fourth wall to talk to the audience and share his thoughts. The approach is heavily inspired from Phoebe Waller-Bridge's Emmy-award winning show Fleabag. In India, Kader Khan had done it in the 1980s with Ghar Ho Toh Aisa." Hrithik Roshan's cousin Pashmina has made her acting debut in the film. At the trailer launch, producer Ramesh Taurani had revealed she had auditioned for the role and had not revealed her background until her family name popped up when she was signing the contract. In an interview with News18, Dharmadhikari said that though the role was tough to cast, when he found Pashmina, he knew she was a perfect fit. Pashmina was my only choice to play Samiya, nobody else came close. In that list of shortlisted names, there was only one name when it came to Samiya," the filmmaker said. "I think Pashmina's character was the toughest to cast, she plays a different character. Once you see the film you will understand."

Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan Wish 'Lifetime Of Laughter And Joy' To Sonakshi Sinha-Zaheer Iqbal

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal married in an intimate ceremony on June 23. The couple has been trending since they shared the first photos. Wishes have been pouring in from all corners. Alia Bhatt to Athiya Shetty, everyone has showered love on the newlywed. Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan also extended their wishes and shared the couple's photo on social media. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kareena shared the photo and wrote, "Congratulations you two @aslisona @iazahaerhero. Wishing you both a lifetime of laughter and joy. Saif and Kareena." Alia shared the photos on her Instagram story and wrote, "Congratulations! Sonakshi and Zaheer! You two look so full of love and joy!! Big, big hug and welcome to the club." She also tagged Sonakshi and Zaheer in the photo. Sonakshi Sinha has made her first appearance post-wedding with Zaheer Iqbal, stunning in a beautiful traditional red silk saree. She accessorized with a striking beaded green and gold necklace, matching drop earrings, and red bangles. Her hair bun was adorned with a garland of jasmine tied around it. Sporting winged eyeliner and a bluish pink lip colour, Sonakshi beamed with joy on her special day.

She also sported sindoor and held Zaheer close. The groom complemented her look in a white kurta and jacket. They happily posed as man and wife for the paps at the wedding reception. Sharing photos from their low-key wedding ceremony, the newlyweds wrote on Instagram, "On this very day, seven years back (23.06.2017) in each others eyes, we saw love in its purest form and decided to hold on to it. Today that love has guided us through all the challenges and triumphs... leading up to this moment... where with the blessings of both our families and both our gods... we are now man and wife. Here's to love, hope and all things beautiful with each other, from now until forever. Sonakshi ?? Zaheer 23.06.2024." Sonakshi and Zaheer dated for seven years before taking their relationship to the next level. While they got hitched in an intimate ceremony, the couple hosted a grand reception for their friends from the film industry.

