

Supreme Court junks PIL seeking court-monitored probe into Hathras stampede

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, July 12: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking a court-monitored probe into the death of 121 people following a stampede at a religious congregation in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh even as it termed such incidents as "very disturbing". "Everything does not have to come in a PIL under Article 32... You file it in the high court. The idea of all this is to make a sort of big deal about incidents which take place. "Of course, these are disturbing incidents... High courts are robust courts... they are meant to deal with these kinds of matters," a three-judge Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud told petitioner Vishal Tiwari. Highlighting that the issue of non-availability of proper medical facilities to deal with such incidents was a pan India

concern, Tiwari said his petition should be heard by the Supreme Court. However, the Bench – which included Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra – dismissed the PIL with liberty to move the Allahabad High Court. Petitioner Tiwari, an advocate, had demanded appointment of a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge to probe the stampede and suggest guidelines to avoid such incidents at public gatherings in future. He had sought a direction to the State of Uttar Pradesh to submit a status report and initiate legal action against those who acted negligently. He has also sought a direction to states to submit the status of medical facilities available from the block/Tehsil to the district level to deal with incidents of stampede.

Controversial IAS officer Puja Khedkar may be terminated if found guilty

New Delhi, July 12: Probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is at the centre of a controversy over alleged misuse of power and privileges, may be terminated from service if found guilty, official sources said on Friday. They said all documents presented by her to secure her candidature in the civil services examination and then for selection in the service will be re-examined by a single-member committee constituted by the Centre on Thursday. "The officer may be terminated from the service if found guilty. She may face criminal charges also in case she is found to have misrepresented a fact or done any sort of manipulation in documents relied upon for her selection," a source said. Khedkar, a 2023 batch IAS officer, is under proba-



tion and currently posted in her home cadre Maharashtra. The 34-year-old officer is in the eye of storm over for allegedly misusing the disability and OBC quota to secure a position in the IAS. The single-member probe committee of Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been asked to submit its report within two weeks, the sources said. In the meantime, Khedkar had on Thursday assumed her new role as assistant collector at Washim District Collectorate in the Vidarbha region after being transferred from Pune where she allegedly bullied everyone around and also placed a red beacon atop her private Audi (a luxury sedan) car. Khedkar has been under intense scrutiny for allegedly manipulating benefits under the physical disabilities category and OBC quota to secure her position in the IAS. The controversial officer was shunted out to Washim after Pune district collector Suhas Diwase wrote to state additional chief secretary Nitin Gadre requesting him to consider giving a posting to Khedkar in another district to avoid "administrative complications". Diwase had sought action against Khedkar for her behaviour, including alleged aggressive treatment of junior staff, illegal occupation of the ante-chamber of additional collector Ajay More, and violations pertaining to sporting a red beacon on the Audi and flashing it during the day, among others.

Congress sounds poll bugle with 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' drive

Chandigarh, July 12: The Haryana Congress today sounded the poll bugle with the release of 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign, where a chargesheet against the BJP government was unveiled, posing 15 questions. Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and former Union Minister Birender Singh shared the stage along with state party president Udai Bhan and MPs Deepender Hooda, Satpal Bhramachari, and Varun Chaudhary. MLAs were also present on the occasion. Hooda dismissed reports of differences between him and Birender. Leaders held placards in the shape of zeros, symbolizing the zero achievements of the BJP government. Sirsa MP and former Union Minister Kumari Selja, along with party general secretary Randeep Surjewala, were absent from the event. Hooda said all Congress programmes thus far – such as 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and 'Ghar Ghar Congress' – had received public support. "In this series, 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' marks a new beginning. Through this, we aim not only to highlight the failures of the BJP government and the Congress' announcements, but also to gather public suggestions for the manifesto," he said.

Rahul Gandhi asks people not to be nasty towards Smriti Irani

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, July 12: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged people to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards former Union minister Smriti Irani or any other leader. His remarks come amid some people taking digs at Irani after she vacated her official bungalow following her defeat in the Lok Sabha polls to Congress' Kishori Lal Sharma in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi. "Winning and losing happen in life. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter," Gandhi said on X. "Humiliating and insulting people is a sign of weakness, not strength," he

former Congress president said. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt. Smriti Irani or any other

leader for that matter. The BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya hit back at Gandhi, accusing him of putting out a disingenuous message after "unleashing" Congress leaders like "a pack of wolves" on her. Malviya said on X, "This is the most disingenuous message, ever. After unleashing Congress leaders, like a pack of wolves, on the woman who defeated him in Amethi and smashed his arrogance to smithereens, this is rich. All this gibberish doesn't take away from the fact that Smt Smriti Irani forced Balaji Buddha to abandon Amethi." Irani vacated her official bungalow at 28 Tughlak Crescent in Lutyens' Delhi, weeks after she was defeated by Sharma, a close aide of the Gandhi family, from Amethi parliamentary seat

with a margin of over 1.6 lakh votes. The former women and child development minister was dubbed a giant slayer in 2019 after she defeated Rahul Gandhi from the seat.

with a margin of over 1.6 lakh votes. The former women and child development minister was dubbed a giant slayer in 2019 after she defeated Rahul Gandhi from the seat.

National PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' loses vote of confidence in Parliament

Kathmandu, July 12: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Friday lost a vote of confidence in Parliament after the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) withdrew its support to his government.

Prachanda, 69, received 63 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR). There were 194 votes against the motion. At least 138 votes are needed to win the vote of confidence. Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

deal with the largest party in the House – Nepali Congress. Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba has already endorsed

the new government.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Prachanda has survived four trust votes since he assumed the post on December 25, 2022. Former prime minister K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing

Oli as the next prime minister. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a

Two ADW school teachers suspended for sexual harassment in Chennai

CHENNAI. Two graduate teachers working at an Adi Dravidar Welfare (ADW) higher secondary school in Sevvapet, Tiruvallur district, have been suspended following allegations of sexual harassment by students at the school.

According to sources, the district administration received information that two teachers were behaving inappropriately with the students. Based on the orders of the collector, the district child protection officer, accompanied by counsellors, visited the



school and privately inquired with the students, some of whom confirmed the allegations.

Following this, the district child protection officer submitted a report to the collector which was also forwarded to the Adi Dravidar Welfare Directorate for taking disciplinary action against the teachers. Subsequently, the teachers were suspended. The police have also filed a case based on the report and arrested the teachers under the PoCSO Act.

Meanwhile, some current and former students staged a protest on Thursday, claiming that the teachers are innocent and have been wrongly accused.

25 Killed, 39 Injured In 24 Hours In Lightning Incidents In Bihar

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed officials to provide 2.4 lakh compensation to each of the families of the victims.

Patna. As many as 25 people lost their lives and 39 others were injured in lightning strikes across several districts of Bihar in the last 24 hours. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday expressed condolences and directed officials to provide 2.4 lakh compensation to each of the families of the victims. He also urged people to stay indoors during the rain and thunderstorms.

Out of the 25 people who lost their lives, five died in Madhubani, four in Aurangabad, three in Supaul, three in Nalanda, two each in Lakhisarai and Patna, and one each in Begusarai, Jamui, Gopalganj, Rohtas, Samastipur and Purnea. According to the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, 50 people have died due to lightning strikes in July alone. However, the unofficial figure may be more than that.

The Authority has urged caution in the next few days as heavy rains, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes occurred in several districts of Bihar on Thursday and are expected to



continue for the next two days.

The Meteorological Department has forecast moderate to heavy rain with thunderstorms and lightning in many areas, including Patna, on Friday, and issued an 'Orange Alert' for Kishanganj and Araria districts.

On Thursday, 22 students in Barka Gaon Village, under Tarari police station, were injured when lightning struck a palm tree near their classrooms. They were admitted to Sadar Hospital Arrah.

In other districts, 17 more people sustained burn injuries due to lightning strikes. The met

department recorded 112.2 mm of rainfall in the Bahadurganj block in Kishanganj District.

Patna received 52.8 mm of rain on Thursday.

Apart from this, 102.0 mm of rain was recorded in Triveni block, 55.4 mm in Gaunaha and 42.6 mm in Lauriya in West Champaran District, 76.4 mm in Sahibpur Kamal of Begusarai, 60.2 mm in Narpatganj of Araria, 60.2 mm in Siwan, 54.2 mm in Narpatganj of Supaul, 43.2 mm in Sanjhauji of Rohtas and 42.8 mm in Suryagarh of Lakhisarai.

Trainee IAS Officer Puja Khedkar To Be Sacked If Guilty. Centre Starts Probe

New Delhi/Mumbai. Trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is in the eye of a storm over alleged misuse of power and claims that she made in her UPSC candidature, has landed in more trouble with the central government launching a probe against her.

Ms Khedkar had courted controversy over using a siren on her private Audi and raising demands for a separate house and car - privileges not available to junior officers. But the 2023-batch IAS officer now faces far more serious charges that raise questions about her selection process in the civil services. Manoj Dwivedi, additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), has started the investigation against her, which will be completed in two weeks. She may be dismissed if she's found guilty, sources said. She may also face criminal action if the allegations of hiding facts and misrepresentation are found to be true, they added. When confronted by the media, she has remained tight-lipped on the charges against her, maintaining she was "not authorised" to speak about the matter. Ms Khedkar, who was posted as an assistant collector in Pune, was transferred to Washim after the Pune Collector raised a complaint with the Chief Secretary of the state government.

Elephant herd on rampage, Odisha's Mayurbhanj residents demand action

Residents blame the Forest department for failing to implement effective measures to drive the elephants back, leading to continuous disturbances.



BARIPADA: Forest personnel of Karanji division in Mayurbhanj district are struggling to drive away a herd of 27 elephants from Jharkhand that has been causing problems for the local population for over a month. The elephants have been ravaging property in Dudhiani range and surrounding villages since their arrival on June 8.

Forest department officials and security personnel, along with the residents, are spending sleepless nights as the herd shows

no signs of returning to its natural habitat. Residents blame the Forest department for failing to implement effective measures to drive the elephants back, leading to continuous disturbances. Affected

residents demanded the department to take action to drive the herd and pay them proper compensation. They reported that some houses were partially damaged by the elephants. Although officials have been

notified and instructed victims to upload photos of the damage and other documents via the 'Anukampa' app, the compensation provided by the government has been insufficient, they said. The residents also urged the department to adequately address their losses.

More than 20 villages in and around the Dudhiani range have been living in fear since June 8, when the herd crossed the Baitarani river from Keonjhar and began causing havoc.

DFO Subrat Patra told TNIE on Thursday that the 27 elephants are currently roaming in the Dari forest under the Dudhiani range. He confirmed that three houses were partly damaged. "A special team of at least 10 staff members, along with 12 security personnel from the Dudhiani range, regularly monitor the herd's movements and work in shifts. To prevent further incidents and ensure the safety of residents, the forest department has coordinated with the power supply department to prioritise making the locality dark at night, aiding in tracking the herd's movements," he added.



CHENNAI. Display units, interlocking systems, computers, dataloggers and other materials used for the maintenance of the railway network's signal and telecommunication (S&T) wing, worth a few lakhs, were gutted in a fire at the Perambur Carriage and Wagon Workshop on Thursday. No one was injured. The fire that allegedly broke out at 4am was brought under control by 10am with the help of four fire trucks.

Residents spotted fumes coming from the workshop and alerted railway officials around 6am.

According to officials, the materials were stored in a room at the workshop. "The cause of the accident is yet to be determined. An internal committee has been formed to investigate the incident," said a senior railway official. The stockyard has a limited staff for maintaining records and are deployed only for day duty, leaving the yard unattended during night hours. Railway staff from the division and workshop visit the yard only when there is a need to shift equipment for maintenance.

First mothership docks at Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, offloads cargo

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. MV San Fernando, the inaugural mothership carrying 1,930 containers from China, arrived at Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram (VIST) on Thursday morning.

In a symbolic gesture, four tug boats offered a water salute to the 300-m-long and 48-m-wide vessel. They then guided it towards the berth and assisted in the mooring process. Swiftly, port authorities commenced unloading the containers using large cranes, aiming to complete the task by Friday. The ship is scheduled to depart for Colombo after the official reception, on the same day.

As many as 1,900 cargoes will be offloaded at the port. These cargoes are expected to reach the ports of Mumbai and Kolkata with the help of two feeder ships, Marin Azur and

Seaspan Santos. "The cargoes are meant for various clients in other parts of the country. Only the customs officers at the ports where it is taken out of the port premises will be inspecting those," said an officer. The ship's arrival sparked jubilation both on-site and on social media. People gathered around the port created a festive mood by waving national flags and beating drums. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his Facebook post said the dream has been fulfilled.

Port Minister VN Vasavan, Civil Supplies Minister G R Anil and officials of Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL) and Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd were present at the berth. San Fernando departed from China's Xiamen port on July 2, and reached VIST after a voyage of eight days. The ship has 22 crew members,

including five Indians. Prajeesh, a resident of Palakkad, is part of the crew. The port authorities plan to conduct trials using cargo ships before the actual commissioning scheduled for September/October. During the trial phase, India's first semi-automated container port will demonstrate its capabilities by unloading the containers. The port has eight ship-to-shore cranes.

Cong wants port named after Chandy

The Congress has demanded that the state government name the Vizhinjam International Seaport after late CM Oommen Chandy. Though the state government has decided not to invite the leader of Opposition for the reception programme on Friday, the Opposition, in a tactical move, has decided to participate in the programme.

Orissa High Court asks CMC to address waterlogging in Cuttack

CUTTACK. The Orissa High Court has directed the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) to come up with remedial measures for areas in the city where waterlogging continues for three to five hours following rains even after the dewatering pumps are made operational in time and run in full capacity. The special bench constituted for civic problems in Cuttack issued the direction on Wednesday while hearing the problem of waterlogging in Cuttack.

In an affidavit, the CMC submitted that due to the topography of Cuttack city, which lies between and below the river-bed level of Mahanadi and Kathjodi, in low-lying areas discharge of water from drains into the rivers takes time. In certain areas,

dewatering from the drains takes up to two to three hours and in the more vulnerable locations it takes up to five hours.

Hence, even if the pumps run at full capacity, water level will not go down immediately until the drains have discharged water that is already flowing through them. It will take two to three hours in some and about four to five hours in other low-lying locations for the water level to go down after the rain has stopped, the affidavit said.

Taking the affidavit on record, the bench of Justice SK Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh directed the CMC to file an affidavit stating the identified areas where such waterlogging is taking place and the remedial measures being taken for

redressal. The bench fixed July 27 for further consideration of the waterlogging issue. The court was also informed that control room numbers have been provided to enable the authorities to respond to the waterlogging situations immediately.

Due publicity has been given of such facility so that the same can be utilised by the citizens in distress on account of waterlogging in their areas, Commissioner CMC Bijay Kumar Dash, who was present in court, assured.

Accordingly, the bench directed, "A responsible officer shall be kept in charge of such control room/call centre and the record shall be maintained as to the number of calls received and redressed by taking necessary measures."

Truck seized for illegal ferrying of cattle in Chengalpattu

CHENNAI. A customised truck illegally carrying 45 cattle heads, mostly buffaloes including young calves, was seized in Chengalpattu and the animals were sent to a Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board-recognised shelter.

Chengalpattu police told that information was received about a truck illegally transporting cattle from a shanty in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. "We intercepted the truck near Acharapakkam in Madurantakam on Wednesday evening. The animals were rescued and an FIR has been filed." The case has been filed for many violations, including under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Activists said that this was just one of the many trucks that are allegedly picking up cows and buffaloes from different

shanties in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and supplying them to illegal slaughter houses in Kerala. Cattle from the state also are illegally transported in these trucks, they alleged.

The complainant was Raghuram Sharma, president (South India), Gau Raksha Dal. "We helped police seize about 80 such cattle trucks across Tamil Nadu in the recent past. Chennai is the main gateway for this thriving illegal business," he said. TNIE had recently published a detailed article on how these trucks were modified to carry the maximum number of cattle and the inhuman practices adopted such as rubbing cow green chillies in eyes to keep them alive.

In Tamil Nadu, animal slaughtering is allowed on 'fit-for-slaughter' certificates.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhtimes.in
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

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



constructed by the irrigation department in 1999. It's in a dilapidated condition now, with gaps appearing at one end. The hand railings have corroded. It's slippery during the rainy season, and a small mistake can land a vehicle in

Danger lurks as two & three-wheeler users usurp pedestrian bridge at Tripunithura in Kochi

KOCHI. It was conceived and constructed as a pedestrian facility nearly 25 years ago. But the narrow Perikkal-Chamakkara bridge, providing easy access to Eroor region, in Tripunithura, is now being illegally used by two- and three-wheeler users, at a grave risk to their lives.

What is more scary is that vehicles ferrying schoolchildren also take the bridge, which allows them to save least 5km to a prominent school. "The bridge was

NEWS BOX

53 FIRs against parents of underage drivers as police begin crackdown

Noida. Amidst outrage over a 17-year-old boy at the wheel of a Porsche running over two bike riders in Pune, police in the city and Ghaziabad have registered 53 FIRs in four days against parents or guardians of minors caught driving near schools, malls and coaching centres. Ghaziabad police said on Wednesday around 25 teams have been deployed across the city as part of their crackdown on underage driving. They registered 48 FIRs from July 6 to July 8. On Tuesday, 24 FIRs were registered, mostly in Kavi Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Kotwali and Indirapuram. Monday saw 22 FIRs, and two on Sunday.

Noida police registered five FIRs against the vehicles' owners and seized nine vehicles driven by minors. Ghaziabad police commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra said FIRs have been registered under BNS Section 125 (endangering life or personal safety of others) and Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Section 199A of the MV Act says that the guardian of a minor or the owner of the vehicle will be punished if road norms are violated by a minor. This law is punishable with a fine of Rs 25,000, three years in jail, or both. The vehicle's registration can be cancelled for 12 months as well, and the minor cannot get a licence till 25 years of age. Conviction under Section 125 of BNS is punishable with imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both. No arrests have been made so far, but police will submit a charge sheet and then take further action.

Mishra said that some of the underage drivers told cops they were running errands for their family, or they were on their way to school or coaching classes. "We will ask education institutions and coaching centres to take action against those students who come on bikes or cars," Mishra said. In Noida, DCP (traffic) Anil Kumar Yadav said police got a directive from Lucknow to address the problem of underage driving. "We are conducting enforcement drives outside schools and academic institutions in Noida and Greater Noida. It will go on till July 20," Yadav said.

Underage driving isn't uncommon in Indian cities. Last month, the son of a prominent realtor in Pune ran over two youngsters while driving his father's Porsche at 150 kmph. He was suspected to have been inebriated at the time.

Will this stem the rot? Waste pickup fee out of pvt hands, MCG to collect it now

Gurgaon. The city's primary waste collection model is set to undergo a significant overhaul, with MCG planning to take control of user charge collection from waste collectors and agencies. The corporation plans to either integrate user charges for primary waste collection with property tax bills, allowing direct payment to MCG, or engage banks in each ward to collect user charges from residents. These directions were given by Haryana chief secretary TVSN Prasad during a meeting held recently in the city. Prasad also directed MCG officials to identify unemployed youth and ragpickers and assist them in securing bank financing for electric vehicles, which would then be used in door-to-door waste collection. Once the loan is repaid, vehicle ownership can be transferred to them, he said.

Each HCS officer assigned under Solid Waste Environment Exigency Programme (SWEET) will be responsible for providing and initiating the loan process for 50 such vehicles, he said. According to sources, the decision was made in a bid to reduce reliance on private agencies and concessionaires like Ecogreen. "The chief secretary expressed disappointment at our doorstep waste collection model, since the rights to collect user charges are given to the concessionaire or vendor collecting waste. So, he directed to change this and gave recommendations to either link it with property tax bills or ask banks in each ward for collection," said a senior MCG official privy to the matter. Under the existing system, the private agency or concessionaire authorised to collect waste from households directly collects user charges from the residents and uses them as operational costs for primary waste collection. MCG had drafted solid waste management byelaws in March this year, but they have not been notified yet.

Teen stabs another to death after spat over friendship with girl

Gurgaon. A 15-year-old boy was apprehended from Rewari on Thursday afternoon for allegedly murdering a 16-year-old catering worker from Jharsa on Wednesday over the latter's friendship with a girl. "We received an alert around 10.20pm on Wednesday about a youth lying injured in a lane at Sector 40. The police team that rushed to the spot found the youth with stab injuries on his neck and abdomen and shifted him to the civil hospital where he was declared dead," police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar said. "I saw an injured young man lying on the street in front of my house. When I went closer, I saw that he was bleeding from injuries on his neck and a deep cut on his stomach. I suspected someone had attacked him and alerted the police," said Sector 40 resident Shakti Singh, who filed a police complaint.

A murder case was registered under Section 103 (1) of the BNS. Police contacted the victim, Nikhil's family, and found he had left home with a friend around 9.30pm on Wednesday. After checking the footage from CCTV cameras between Jharsa and the crime scene, cops zeroed in on the apprehended juvenile — a student of class 11. He was produced before the juvenile court for judicial remand on Thursday.

According to police, the juvenile told them that he also lives in Jharsa and the victim was his friend on Instagram. "The victim got in touch with a girl on Instagram over a year back and chatted with her frequently. Recently, the juvenile also got in touch with the same girl on Instagram and discovered that she talked to the victim. As the juvenile liked the girl, he decided to kill the victim."

Guesthouses & PGs in residential areas: 6 units sealed in DLF 2

Gurgaon. The department of town and country planning (DTCP) sealed six commercial units operating in residential areas of M block in DLF-2 on Thursday after they could not furnish satisfactory responses to showcase notices. The establishments included PG accommodations and guesthouses.

Manish Yadav, district town planner (enforcement), said, "These commercial activities were being carried out without required permissions. Offenders were issued showcase notices for violating norms, but they failed to provide satisfactory replies and did not shut down, prompting the department to take action." He added that legal action will be taken against anyone attempting to restart operations. This move is part of DTCP's ongoing drive to clear encroachments and reclaim

govt-owned land in the city. Recently, the department issued notices to over 1,000 such property owners. Under the non-nuisance rules of the Haryana Urban Development Act, commercial activities on residential properties in licensed colonies are illegal. Certain commercial activities, such as medical clinics and lawyers' offices are allowed only with departmental permission. In such cases, up to 25% of the ground floor area of a residential property can be used for commercial purposes. Last week, the enforcement wing, with police assistance, sealed four properties in DLF-1. These actions were in response to complaints about unauthorized alterations and occupancy certificate violations on residential plots.

We also published the following articles recently:

Sub-branch of Munak Canal breaks, flooding

residential areas in north Delhi. Breach in Munak Canal's sub-branch causes flooding in north Delhi. Repair work in progress to restore normalcy. Stay updated on the situation and repair efforts. Telangana govt announces residential plot, govt job to cricketer Mohammed Siraj. Telangana CM rewards Mohammed Siraj with a residential plot and government job for his T20 World Cup success. Siraj, the Indian pacer, received accolades from CM Revanth Reddy during his visit to Hyderabad. 111611286

Indore child deaths: No FIR, ashram gets showcase notice. Learn about the ongoing investigation into child deaths at Shri Yugpurush Dham ashram in Indore. The ashram management is facing scrutiny for not disclosing information about the deaths. Stay updated on this developing story.



Saini bets on public outreach, hands out 5k property certs

Gurgaon. Continuing BJP govt's public outreach before the assembly polls, CM Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday distributed property certificates to 5,000 people who had been deprived of ownership rights for years in Manesar. The people were granted the certificates under the 'Chief Minister Urban Ownership Scheme', which grants ownership rights at collector rates to traders who have been operating on rent or lease on govt property for more than 20 years.

Speaking at the event, the CM said: "In urban areas, people had properties but not ownership rights. Many property dispute cases have been pending in court for a long time, creating an atmosphere of fear among people that they might be deprived of their properties. If someone wanted to sell their property, they couldn't, nor could they get a loan on it. Current govt has resolved this issue, freeing the public from this fear." Fulfilling the promise made in BJP's 2019 election manifesto, govt has benefited 5,000

people by granting them ownership rights, the CM added. He also mentioned that nearly two lakh citizens across the state have benefited from properties located within Lal Dora areas, for which there was no record of ownership in revenue records. Nayab Singh described property as a means of employment and respect for traders, acknowledging the years of effort required to establish a business. "Every trader dreams of owning their own shop, and this dream is now being fulfilled. From now on, any trader who has been operating on rent on govt property for more than 20 years will be able to own the property at collector rates," he said. The CM also said govt has undertaken various initiatives over the past 10 years for the welfare of the underprivileged. Singh further assured the audience that govt is working to further accelerate the pace of development in the state. We also published the following articles recently:

Kriti Sanon buys a property in Alibaug: Buying land on my own has

Minor held for murder in Gurgaon's first BNS case, strangled 9-year-old girl

GURGAON: A 16-year-old boy allegedly strangled to death a nine-year-old girl, his neighbour in a housing society, on Monday morning when she walked in on him trying to steal from the flat. He set her body on fire by lighting pieces of camphor and cloth he found lying around after he killed her, apparently to destroy evidence.

Name Change

I, SONIYA W/O PURAN LAL ARORA residing at H NO 2120 SECTOR 12, SONIPAT, HARYANA 131001 have changed my name to SONIYA ARORA permanently

Name Change

I, BRIJESH S/O SAILEK CHAND residing at H NO-237 PATTAPUR-GANJ DELHI-110091 have changed my name to BRIJESH KUMAR permanently

Name Change

I, Pranav S/o Gagan Sabharwal R/o 98-B, Second Floor, ILC Flats, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Pranav Sabharwal for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, KUMARI RUPAM Verma W/O Anoop Kumar Verma R/o S-146/150/Adarsh Basti, Mohanpur, Pur South, West Delhi-110066 have changed my name from KUMARI RUPAM Verma to KUMARI RUPAM Verma for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, ANIL KUMAR JUNEJA son of Sh. NARINDER NATH JUNEJA R/o 43, BLOCK-A, MEERA BAGH, NEAR ST. MARKS SCHOOL, PASCHIM VIHAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI J-110087, have changed my name from ANIL JUNEJA to ANIL KUMAR JUNEJA for all future purpose.

Name Change

I, Rakesh Singh S/o Sher Singh R/House No-102-A, Maruti Vihar, Chakarpur, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002, Have Changed My Name to Rakesh Yadav For All Future Purpose.

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

I, Rakesh S/o Nand Lal R/o 326, Shiv Mandir, Block-32, Near Block-H, Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all future purposes

Name Change

NEWS BOX

65 people, including seven Indians believed to be missing as landslide sweeps away two buses in Nepal

KATHMANDU. Twenty-four people were onboard the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said. Three of the passengers on the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to escape after jumping out of the vehicle.

According to the latest information, police have said that there were seven Indian nationals among the passengers on the bus, myRepublica reported. Yadav said that the rescue workers have started clearing the landslide debris. Expressing grief over the disappearance of the bus in the Trishuli River, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has issued directives for immediate search and rescue operations. "I am deeply saddened by the loss of nearly five dozen passengers and the loss of property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country when a bus was washed away by a landslide on the Narayangadh-Muglif road section. I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search and effectively rescue the passengers," Prachanda posted on X.

The prime minister also expressed grief over the loss of



life and property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country. He urged citizens to take necessary precautions. Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel are heading towards the incident sites for rescue operations. Superintendent of Police Bhawesh Rimal said. Debris from landslides at various places has obstructed traffic on the Narayanghat-Muglif road section. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, at least 11 people died in landslides and floods triggered by incessant rain in Kaski district on Thursday.

More than 1,800 people have lost their lives in a decade due to monsoon disasters. During this period, about 400 people went missing and more than 1,500 people were injured in the disaster.

Determined to run in re-election, will defeat Trump: Biden

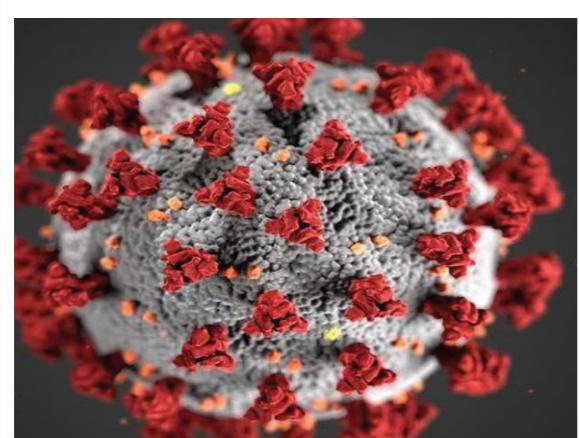
WASHINGTON. US President Joe Biden on Thursday said he is "determined" and "fit" to seek his re-election against his Republican rival Donald Trump and a "stupid mistake" by him will not change his course as he has work to finish. Responding to questions during a press conference at the conclusion of the NATO Summit, Biden said that no poll or person is telling him that he can't win reelection currently. That is the only way he would consider ending his presidential bid.

"I'm determined on running," he said.

"The fact is that the consideration is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him (Trump) once and I will beat him again. Secondly.. The idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual and I might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later in a campaign," Biden said.

"So there's a long way to go in this campaign and so I'm just going to keep moving, keep moving," he said. And because look, I got more work to do. We've got more work to finish. We made so much progress. Think about where we are economically relative to the rest of the world. Name me a world leader who wouldn't want to trade places with our economy. We created over 800,000 manufacturing jobs, so things are moving. We've got more to go," the president said. "Working class people still need help. Corporate greed is still at large. Corporate profits have doubled since the pandemic. They're coming down and so I'm optimistic about where things are going," he asserted.

Covid still kills 1,700 a week: WHO



GENEVA. COVID-19 is still killing around 1,700 people a week around the world, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as it urged at-risk populations to keep up with their vaccinations against the disease. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sounded a warning on declining vaccine coverage. Despite the continued death toll, "data show that vaccine coverage has declined among health workers and people over 60, which are two of the most at-risk groups," the UN health agency's chief told a press conference. WHO recommends that people in the highest-risk groups receive a COVID-19 vaccine within 12 months of their last dose. More than seven million Covid deaths have been reported to the WHO, though the true toll of the pandemic is thought to be far higher. Covid-19 also shredded economies and crippled health systems. Tedros declared an end to COVID-19 as an international public health emergency in May 2023, more than three years after the virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019.

The WHO has urged governments to maintain virus surveillance and sequencing and to ensure access to affordable and reliable tests, treatments and vaccines.

Biden calls Kamala Harris 'Vice President Trump' at high-stake news conference

Washington DC US President Joe Biden mixed up the name of his vice president, Kamala Harris, and his Republican rival Donald Trump on Thursday as more of the 81-year-old incumbent's Democratic colleagues call on him to end his re-election bid. Biden faces growing doubts from donors, supporters and fellow Democrats, who fear he no longer has the ability to beat former President Trump in the November 5 election, or to lead the country for another four-year term. "Look, I wouldn't have picked Vice President Trump to be vice president if she was not qualified to be president. So start there," Biden said as he responded to a question from Reuters about his confidence in Harris. That came a few hours after Biden mistakenly referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy as "President Putin." "Ladies and gentlemen, President Putin," Biden said at the NATO summit in Washington, drawing gasps from those in the room before correcting himself. NATO members are wrapping up a summit in Washington where they

extended support to Ukraine to combat the invasion that Russian President Vladimir Putin launched in February 2022. Biden's campaign has been on the ropes for two weeks, since his poor debate performance against Trump, 78. So far, 13 of the 213 Democrats in the House and one of the Senate's 51 Democrats have appealed publicly to the president to withdraw from the race. More could make their concerns public if he fares poorly. Biden coughed frequently and occasionally garbled his responses at the outset of the news conference, but his responses grew steadier as he fielded questions from reporters. Biden overcame a childhood stutter and has frequently mangled names and misspoken throughout his political career.

'PACE MYSELF'

He said he needed to "pace myself" a little more and complained that his aides sometimes overscheduled him. "I'm catching hell from my wife," he said. The news conference gave Biden an opportunity to tout his successes on the



world stage and criticize Trump. Biden argued Trump would weaken NATO and drive up prices for US consumers by imposing steep tariffs on imported goods. He took credit for bringing Sweden and Finland into the NATO alliance, and said he brought together 50 nations to support Ukraine. "I think I'm the best qualified person to do the job. To make sure that Ukraine does not fall," he said.

United Auto Workers union officials met on Thursday to discuss their concerns with his candidacy, three sources familiar with the matter said, after endorsing Biden in January. The 400,000-member union has

US paused bomb shipment to Israel to signal concerns over Rafah invasion, official says

WASHINGTON. The U.S. paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that Israel was approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah against the wishes of the U.S., a senior administration official said Tuesday. The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter, with the focus of U.S. concern being the larger explosives and how they could be used in a dense urban setting. More than 1 million civilians are sheltering in Rafah after evacuating other parts of Gaza amid Israel's war on Hamas, which came after the militant group's deadly attack on Israel on Oct. 7. The U.S. has historically provided enormous amounts of military aid for Israel. That has only accelerated in the aftermath of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 in Israel and led to about 250 being taken captive by militants. The pausing of the aid shipment is the most striking manifestation of the growing daylight between Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government

and the administration of President Joe Biden, which has called on Israel to do far more to protect the lives of innocent civilians in Gaza. Biden's administration in April began reviewing future transfers of military assistance as Netanyahu's government appeared to move closer toward an invasion of Rafah, despite months of opposition from the White House. The official said the decision to pause the shipment was made last week and no final decision had been made yet on whether to proceed with the shipment at a later date. U.S. officials had declined for days to comment on the halted transfer, word of which came as Biden on Tuesday described U.S. support for Israel as "ironclad, even when we disagree." Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to square the arms buildup with Biden's rhetoric in support of Israel, saying only, "Two things could be true." Israeli troops on Tuesday seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing in what the White House described as a limited operation that stopped short of the full-on Israeli invasion of the city that Biden has repeatedly warned against on humanitarian grounds, most recently in a Monday call with Netanyahu. Israel has ordered the

evacuation of 100,000 Palestinians from the city. Israeli forces have also carried out what it describes as "targeted strikes" on the eastern part of Rafah and captured the Rafah crossing, a critical conduit for the flow of humanitarian aid along the Gaza-Egypt border. Privately, concern has mounted inside the White House about what's unfolding in Rafah, but publicly administration officials have stressed that they did not think the operations had defied Biden's warnings against a wide-scale operation in the city.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Israel described the operation along the Gaza-Egypt border in eastern Rafah as "an operation of limited scale and duration" aimed at cutting off Hamas' arms smuggling, but also said the U.S. would monitor the fighting. Just last month, Congress passed a \$95 billion national security bill that included funding for Ukraine, Israel and other allies. The package included more than \$14 billion in military aid for Israel, though the stalled transfer was not related to that measure. The State Department is separately considering whether to approve the continued transfer of Joint Direct Attack Munition kits.

We have nothing': Palestinians return to utter destruction in Gaza City after Israeli withdrawal

GAZA: Palestinians returned to breathtaking scenes of destruction in the Gaza City district of Shijaiyah after Israeli troops withdrew, ending a two-week offensive there. Civil defense workers said Thursday that so far, they had found the bodies of 60 people in the rubble. Families who fled the assault ventured back into Shijaiyah to see the condition of their homes or salvage whatever they could. Nearly every building was flattened to rubble, block after block, leaving giant piles of concrete and twisted rebar. Here and there, grey gutted concrete frames still stood a few stories high. The ever-present buzzing sound of Israeli military drones hung in the hot summer air as people on bicycles or horse-drawn carts made their way over



dirt paths where the streets had apparently been bulldozed away. Sharif Abu Shanab found his family's four-story building collapsed. "I can't enter it. I can't take anything out of it, not even a can of tuna. We have nothing, no food or drink," he said. Since fleeing the district, his family sleeps in the streets, he said. "Where do we go and to whom? ... We have no

home or anything," he said in despair. "There's only one solution, hit us with a nuclear bomb and relieve us of this life." The Israeli military has invaded Shijaiyah several times in the nine-month war against Palestinians in Gaza. Its latest assault began in late June, when it said it was pursuing militants who had regrouped in the district. The assault sent some 80,000 people fleeing Shijaiyah, most into nearby areas, and it is not known how many people remained in the district during the fighting. The Israeli military said in a statement Wednesday evening that its operations in Shijaiyah had ended. It said its troops had killed dozens of militants and destroyed eight tunnels in the area.

UAE deports Abu Dhabi college student who shouted 'Free Palestine' slogan

A New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) student has been deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after he shouted "Free Palestine" at a graduation ceremony.

Amman, Jordan. A student of the New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) was deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after he shouted "Free Palestine!" slogan during a graduation ceremony which was conducted in May. The student, while wearing a traditional Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, shouted pro-Palestine slogans as he crossed the stage to receive his diploma while graduating from the campus, news agency Associated Press reported. The NYUAD reportedly stated that while it maintains academic authority on campus, it has no control over local laws and immigration actions. Jacqueline Hennecke, an NYU Abu Dhabi alumna who graduated in May, told the AP that

balance between its diplomatic recognition of Israel and the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. Despite offering aid to Palestinians, the UAE has seen no large-scale protests due to its strict control over speech and political activities. Several students said that activities supporting the Israel-Hamas conflict have been prohibited on the campus, and they have experienced repression at cultural events in the country's capital. Additionally, those wearing the keffiyeh have been prevented from entering these events.

"I think the government and the laws of the country don't necessarily align with wanting to create an environment that appeals to the West as well, if we're talking about freedom of speech and so on," said one student as quoted by AP. The NYUAD reportedly stated that while it maintains academic authority on campus, it has no control over local laws and immigration actions. Jacqueline Hennecke, an NYU Abu Dhabi alumna who graduated in May, told the AP that

the university sent an email prior to graduation banning all "cultural attire" at the commencement—including scarves. The student who disregarded the order and yelled "Free Palestine" on stage ultimately found himself in police custody prior to his deportation, according to the American Association of University Professors, which supports free speech and academic freedom efforts. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) alleged that NYUAD has failed to protect students and staff

from detention and deportation, particularly those from non-Western countries. This is not the first controversy for NYUAD, which has previously faced criticism for labour violations and visa denials for faculty. The UAE, a close ally of the US, continues to maintain diplomatic ties with Israel, including daily flights and consular services, while closely monitoring pro-Palestinian activities.

The war began October 7 with Hamas' attack on Israel that killed some 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage. The Israeli offensive has killed over 38,000 Palestinians in Gaza, local health officials say, without delineating between civilians and combatants. Hundreds more have been killed in Israeli raids in the occupied West Bank. During a recent comedy festival in Abu Dhabi, security guards confiscated keffiyehs from attendees, though one audience member did shout "Free Palestine" during a performance by American comedian Dave Chappelle, who referred to the situation in Gaza as a "genocid".

Democratic Senator publicly asks Biden to quit amid calls to end White House race

World Support for US President Joe Biden for the presidential race in the forthcoming elections has further dwindled after a Democratic Senator publicly asked the 81-year-old to step aside following his poor performance in the debate with former President and Republican pick Donald Trump on June 28. Peter Welch publicly asked Joe Biden to withdraw from the presidential race in an op-ed published in The Washington Post. He said Democrats cannot "unsee" the US President's "disastrous debate performance".

"We cannot ignore or dismiss the valid questions raised since that night. For the good of the country, I'm calling on President Biden to withdraw from the race," Welch wrote. The Senator further urged Joe Biden to reassess whether he is the best pick to beat former President and Republican candidate Donald Trump, adding that mounting concerns and talks about the 81-year-old's age, health and abilities have shifted focus from Trump's flaws. "Trump is a felon. He is a pathological liar. He is a menace. And he is sure to be emboldened by his activist Supreme Court, which granted him near total immunity. But the national conversation is focused on President Biden's age and capacity. Only he can change it," Peter Welch wrote in the op-ed. Peter Welch is among a host of other Democratic heavyweights who have cast doubts on Biden's ability to run as President again. Former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Hollywood actor George Clooney have joined the calls. In an interview with news channel MSNBC, Pelosi stressed that Joe Biden has a "decision" to make because "time is running short". "It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run. We're all encouraging him to make that decision because time is running short," she said.

Clooney, on the other hand, Democrat who hosted a star-studded fundraiser for the US President last month, also dropped his backing for Joe Biden with a strong opinion piece in the New York Times, saying he "loved" him, but he cannot win the "fight against time". "None of us can. It's devastating to say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fundraiser was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010. He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate," the actor wrote in the op-ed. Despite increasing pressure to quit the presidential race, Joe Biden has stayed firm on his decision to stay in. On Monday, in a strong letter to his fellow Democrats, he reiterated that he wasn't going to back out, adding that he would not be seeking re-election if he wasn't sure he was "the best man to defeat Donald Trump in 2024". Furthermore, in a recent interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News,

Odisha CM assures no recurrence of Puri incident, acknowledges Opposition's concerns

BHUBANESWAR. Responding to the letter of the leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said that he was also deeply anguished by the unfortunate incident when Lord Balabhadra slipped on charamala during Adapa pahandi on July 9.

Majhi said soon after he came to know about the incident, he directed deputy chief minister Pravita Parida and Law minister Prithiviraj Harichandan to rush to Puri. "Besides, I had also directed everybody to ensure that such incidents do not recur," he said.



Stating that Lord Jagannath is not only the symbol of Odia Asmita, the chief minister said that he is the Lord of the entire Jagat (Universe).

The rituals and system of worship of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra is rare in the world, he stated.

Your advice is accepted with honour, says Majhi to Naveen Acknowledging that the incident during the Adapa pahandi has saddened devotees around the world, Majhi said, "It is also natural for you to be disturbed over it. I am also deeply saddened over such an incident," he said.

The chief minister said he has taken the letter of the Opposition leader with all seriousness. "We all will complete the Gundicha Yatra and services of the deities properly. Your advise is always accepted with honour," he added.

BJP accuses Karnataka government of diverting SC/ST welfare funds for Congress guarantees

BENGALURU. Following the National Commission for Scheduled Castes issuing a notice to the Karnataka government, regarding the alleged diversion of funds meant for SC/ST welfare to the Congress' five guarantees on Tuesday, BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Thursday accused the Congress government of doing injustice to the Dalit community.

"The government has transferred the SCSP/TSP grants earmarked for Dalits to fund its guarantees, and on the other hand, looted money in the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (MVSTDC)," Vijayendra alleged, addressing reporters.

He said the BJP has been taking these issues seriously and is fighting outside the Assembly, and will also do it in the upcoming session as well. "Siddaramaiah has transferred over Rs 12,000 crore of the money earmarked for Dalits to fund the guarantees, twice, which amounts to a total of Rs 24,500 crore. The government should reply to the letter from the National Commission for SCs," he charged.



He further said the diversion of the money is an unforgivable crime and the BJP will continue to fight against it inside and outside the Assembly. "Siddaramaiah puts himself on the back by claiming to be the leader of the AHINDA communities and saviour of Dalits," he taunted.

Shame on Commission, says DCM
Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar alleged that despite the Karnataka government bringing a law to allocate funds meant for SC/STs proportionate to their population, the National Commission for SCs issued notice to the Chief Secretary. "There is nothing wrong in using SCSP and TSP grants for guarantee schemes," he claimed, adding that after Andhra Pradesh, in the whole country, Karnataka is only the next state

that has brought a separate law to use grants for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. "The National Commission should have given notice to the Centre. Our government is disbursing this grant to SCs. Shame on the National Commission for issuing this notice," he said.

Police probe sexual assault allegations, organ theft at Gudalur mental health centre

NILGIRIS. Nilakottai police on Thursday questioned Augustine, the managing trustee of Love Shore, a care centre for people with mental health issues at Kunthaladi that was sealed recently for violations, his wife Gracy and a nurse Elizabeth. Sources said police are also inquiring allegations that some women inmates were sexually assaulted and that organs were stolen from some others. Based on a complaint from the VAO of Nelliyalam Shammugam that Augustine had buried 10 people within 200 metres from the centre without informing anybody, Nilakottai police registered a CSR and Devala DSP Saravanan questioned Augustine and others on Thursday.

Nilakottai inspector Selvakumari told TNIE the inquiry has not been completed and no case registered yet. The bodies are likely to be exhumed on Friday to

find if they were inmates. Sources said the centre has been functioning for 23 years but did not renew licence for the last 18 years. This came to light during an inspection on Tuesday following which the centre was sealed and 13 inmates were shifted to Coimbatore.

Sources in Nilgiris district administration said no relative contacted officials or visited the inmates in Coimbatore. The officials said all 13 inmates are destitutes from Kerala. Augustine used to run chips manufacturing company two decades ago.

He completed Siddha course in Kerala, and started Love Shore and a similar centre in Kerala. "The inmates were not properly treated for their illness. The centre was registered as a trust in 1999 with four members, including Augustine," said an official from the differently abled department.

VIJAYAWADA. With the annual Dasara festival just months away, officials from various departments, including police, fire department, revenue, intelligence, Octopus, and endowments, conducted a security audit at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam (SDMSD) atop Indrakeeladri on Thursday.

The Durga temple in Vijayawada, the second-largest in the State after the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirumala, sees over 25,000 daily visitors, a number that rises to 40,000 during special occasions and rituals. During the nine-day Dasara festival,

SL navy arrests 13 Pudukkai fishers for 'poaching', seizes three trawlers

With the recent arrests, the island nation's navy has so far apprehended 252 Indian fishermen and seized 35 of their trawlers this year, it also stated.

PUDUKKOTTAI. A total of 13 fishermen from Jagathapattinam and Kottaiapattinam fishing hamlets of the district who put out to sea on Wednesday morning were arrested by the Sri Lankan navy in the early hours of Thursday on charges of poaching.

According to the Coastal Security Group (CSG), all the 13 fishermen ventured into the sea from Jagathapattinam in three mechanised vessels. While they were fishing near Neduntheevu of the island nation early on Thursday, the Sri Lankan navy apprehended them, accusing them of poaching. The navy also seized their trawlers along with their catch and nets, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan navy on their website stated that they apprehended the 13 fishermen while poaching in the waters off Delft Island. The fishermen along with their trawlers were taken to



the Kankesanthurai harbour and they will be handed over to the Maitladi fisheries inspector for legal proceedings, the website added.

With the recent arrests, the island nation's navy has so far apprehended 252 Indian fishermen and seized 35 of their trawlers this year, it also stated. CM urges Jaishankar to get fishermen released

Chennai: CM MK Stalin has written a letter to Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, urging him to take immediate action to secure

the release of the 13 fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka. Stalin said SL authorities have at present detained a total of 173 boats and 80 fishermen. This has affected the livelihood of the fishermen and caused immense distress to their families. Stalin called for a coordinated effort from the Ministry of External Affairs to address this issue.

PMK, AMMK urge govt to end frequent arrests

Chennai: PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss and AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran have urged the union and state governments to take immediate action and prevent the arrests of Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy. In a statement, Anbumani said this is the second such incident in July. Within a month of resuming activities after the fishing ban, a total of 74 fishermen have been arrested.

Security audit conducted at Durga temple ahead of fest in Andhra



security, according to the Endowments

Department officials. They noted that the security audit is a regular process aimed at upgrading security standards at temples.

Officials conducted an extensive inspection of various areas, including queue lines inside the temple, Mallikarjuna Maha Mandapam building, the main entrance, ghat road, Kanaka Durga Nagar, bathing ghats, tonsuring hall, kitchen, prasadam counters, annadanam hall, and other key locations. Intelligence department officials assessed the duties performed by the

Search operation continues for minor girl in Andhra Pradesh

KURNOOL. Nandyal police on Thursday deployed teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to trace the eight-year-old girl who was allegedly raped, murdered and dumped into the backwaters of the River Krishna near Muchumari Lift Irrigation water pump house in Pagidyal mandal.

The girl's father had filed a missing case on Sunday. During the search operation, led by Nandyal district SP K Raghavender Reddy, the police took into custody three minor boys, aged between 11 and 15, who had been moving suspiciously in the village. They confessed to the police about the crime, following which State Disaster Response (SDRF) personnel were deployed to trace the girl in the backwaters of the River Krishna on Wednesday.

On Thursday, district Collector G Raja Kumari arrived at the spot and instructed the police to trace the girl's body as soon as possible by deploying additional force.

Kumari told mediapersons that the accused and the victim studied in a local school. While the victim was in Class V, one of the accused was in Class VI and the other two were Class X students. Meanwhile, a number of villagers gathered at the canal and demanded strict action against the accused. It has been learnt that the accused tied the stones to the girl's body before dumping it in the water.

Responding to a post seeking a mechanism to prevent such crimes, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said on X, "This crime has left us all deeply disturbed and alarmed, forcing us to reflect on where we are headed as a society. I agree that institutional-level mechanisms to sensitise and protect children are now necessary, and we have initiated the revamping of the curriculum from KG to PG in that direction. I would also urge parents to ensure they aren't on the wrong path. This issue is of grave concern, and I assure every parent that it will be dealt with strictly, swiftly and holistically.

Ten Tamil Nadu tribal students secure admission in NIT, top institutes

She lives with her elder brother and his wife who work as agricultural labourers in Chinna Illupur. Rohini is the first in their family to pursue a professional degree.

TIRUCHY/CHENNAI. Six tribal students from schools run by the Tamil Nadu tribal welfare department and four from private institutions have secured admissions in premier institutions such as the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchy (NIT-T), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and National Law University (NLU), this year.

Even as only three of the six rounds of Joint Seat Allocation (JSA) counselling have been completed so far, five tribal students from Tiruchy district — one from a government school and four others from private institutions — have already secured seats at NIT-T. The lot includes four girls. Sources from the institution said it is for the first time that these many

students from tribal communities in Tiruchy have got into the institution during the first three rounds of counselling.

Among them is M Rohini (18), a student from the government tribal residential higher secondary school in Pachamalai Hills of Chinna Illupur. Securing 73.8% in the JEE Mains examination, she was ranked 6,910 in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. She has been allotted a seat in the Chemical Engineering department. Hailing from the Malayali tribal community, Rohini's parents are agricultural daily-wage labourers in Kerala. She lives with her elder brother and his wife who work as agricultural labourers in Chinna Illupur. Rohini is the first in their family to pursue a professional degree.

Frequent tests were conducted based on previous year's question papers, apart from special classes. While I was able to write the JEE Mains examination well, the Advanced examination was

quite challenging. However, I am happy that I got into a reputed institution and hope to do well," said Rohini.

2 tribal students to pursue B.Design course at NIFT

The other tribal students from Tiruchy who got admitted to NIT-T are K Kavini from Kailasapuram (Bachelor of Architecture) with a rank of 302; PN Rithika from Mutharasanallur (Computer Science Engineering) with a rank of 2,538; G Dhanya Preetha from Poolangudi (Production Engineering) with a rank of 7,106; and Dhanush Rajakumar Bangaru from Kailasapuram (Production Engineering) with a rank of 8,872.

A Ajai from Eklaya Model Residential School (EMRS) in M Palada of The Nilgiris has been admitted to the National Law University in Tiruchy. K Meena and S Durga, from EMRS in Puliampatti of Tiruvannamalai district will pursue Bachelor of Design course at NIFT.

Kerala in grip of epidemics, 144 deaths reported in 2024

KOCHI. A surge of epidemic outbreaks have lashed Kerala leaving the authorities in a tizzy on how to tackle the health emergency. From amoebic meningoencephalitis in the northern districts to cholera in Thiruvananthapuram, West Nile and avian flu in Alappuzha and the increasing dengue, fever and leptospirosis cases, the state has reported 144 deaths due to the diseases so far this year.

Since the onset of monsoon, there has been a significant increase in the number of dengue, fever and leptospirosis cases in the state. In the first 11 days of July, 1,357 dengue and 124 leptospirosis cases were reported, resulting in seven deaths.

An outbreak of cholera in Thiruvananthapuram has triggered concerns, with one suspected death and six confirmed cases reported in the past few days. Several others with symptoms are undergoing treatment. The state reported several cases of Hepatitis A earlier this year. The poor quality of water, according to experts, has led to the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases, mainly in Malappuram and Ernakulam districts. "Over a period, drinking water quality has been compromised in the state, and it has resulted in multiple outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases — Hepatitis A and cholera. However, these can be controlled by ensuring safe drinking water. The public and the system have a stake in this," said Dr Anish T S, a professor with the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College, Manjeri. According to epidemiologist and health expert V Ramankutty, environmental degradation has a role in the occurrence of these diseases.

private security agency Agile and Special Force police at the temple. Durga temple executive officer (EO) KS Rama Rao said an expert team from all relevant departments thoroughly inspected the temple premises, focusing on security and other vital installations to ensure the safety of devotees and protect the religious site from any untoward incidents. "A final report on security enhancement will be submitted to the Endowments Commissioner for necessary action. Officials also recorded their observations, which will guide us on security improvements," said the EO.

No let-up in Beijing's coercive tactics in South China Sea

From the window of my hotel room overlooking Manila Bay, I can see Filipino fishing boats in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), which the Chinese consider a part of the South China Sea (SCS) under their 10-Dash Line claim. Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) vessels routinely intrude into the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (PEEZ). A new Chinese law authorising the impounding of encroaching vessels for 60 days without a trial has not been promulgated, though a 2021 law authorises the CCG to open fire at foreign vessels. These measures constitute coercion to prevent the Filipino Coast Guard from replenishing its outpost in Sierra Madre. A US landing ship tank grounded 200 miles from its shores in 1999 to declare sovereignty over the Second Thomas Shoal after the Chinese occupied the Mischief Reef and later seized the Scarborough Shoal in 2012. In 2016, the Philippines won an Arbitration Court award that rejected China's claim under the 10-Dash Line, but Beijing has scoffed at the ruling. India is fishing in troubled waters with the sale of BrahMos missiles and by offering support to the Philippines.

The Filipino strategy is to underline that the SCS is not China's alone, like Beijing insisting that the Indian Ocean is not India's only. It is considering a new law on sovereignty to augment deterrence and pushback. But balancing economic relations with China with territorial sovereignty is vital. The WPS, like the rest of the SCS, is rich in oil, gas, minerals and fish. The June 17 incident — at least eight others have been witnessed since 2022 — involved ramming, water-cannelling and boarding of Filipino vessels by CCG sailors brandishing swords, spears and pick-axes. Eight Filipino sailors were injured, including Jeffrey Facundo, who lost his thumb. Manila newspapers are agog with hair-raising headlines about the incident, with The Manila Times carrying Facundo's picture minus his thumb on the front page. Since June 18, it has been carrying articles with provocative headlines: 'Philippines is under attack'; 'Chinese treachery requires a recalibrated response'; 'courage in the face of intimidation'; 'prospects of a Chinese sea invasion'. The killing of one Filipino is a red line to invoke the 1951 Mutual Defence Treaty (MDT) with the US. But confusion prevails over the interpretation of the incident. On June 27, President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr said the Philippines 'must do more' than protest, having already lodged 100 protests and an equal number of demarches. 'It is not an armed attack, no gunshots were fired,' he said. The Chinese tactics of medieval assaults with lethal instruments are reminiscent of the Galwan clash in eastern Ladakh in June 2020.

While Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin tried to defuse tensions, calling it a misunderstanding and an accident, Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro described it as an aggressive use of force. At the East-West Centre International Media Conference in Manila (June 24-28), which I attended, Filipino Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said, 'No country can claim the entire SCS,' adding that a bilateral consultative mechanism on the SCS was due in July to evolve confidence-building measures as the code of conduct deliberations were inordinately delayed. US Ambassador to the Philippines Mary Carlson, speaking after Manalo, said the US had urged China to cease harassing Philippine vessels in its EEZ and resolve disputes by international law, adding, 'We see our partners being bullied in their backyards.' Meanwhile, US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell called the destabilising action in the SCS 'worrying'. On June 28, NSA Jake Sullivan shared concerns about China's dangerous and escalatory actions with his Filipino counterpart Eduardo Ano, reaffirming US commitment to Philippine security. India noted on June 27:

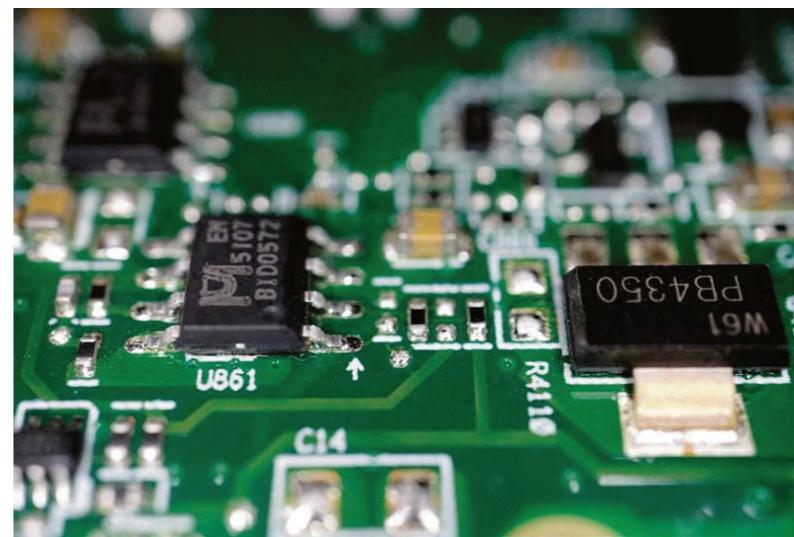
Of the \$50 billion the US has committed for the semiconductor sector, \$11 billion will be spent on R&D. We see no such focus in India.

SOON after taking over as the Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, HD Kumaraswamy made a statement while addressing workers of his party, Janata Dal (Secular), in Bengaluru. Referring to subsidies being granted to Indian and foreign semiconductor companies, he said, 'One company has invested \$2.75 billion. The state and Central governments are giving a subsidy of 70 per cent to the company. How many jobs will they create? 5,000. For the 5,000 jobs that they will create, the subsidy that will be given by the state and the Centre is \$2 billion. It means for every job they are creating we are providing them a subsidy of Rs 3.2 crore.' The statement embarrassed the Central Government because the subsidy-driven semiconductor programme, euphemistically called the Production-Linked Incentive, is a pet scheme of the Prime Minister. Kumaraswamy retracted his statement the next day. Subsidies, however, are an important element of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), which was launched in 2021. Speaking on the same subject, Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S Krishnan mentioned last week that Rs 70,000 crore out of the planned Rs 76,000-crore financial incentive allotted for the development of the semiconductor industry had already been committed. While the Central Government provides a subsidy of 50 per cent to companies starting operations in the 'semiconductor ecosystem', some states are offering top-up subsidies. This way, almost 75 per cent of the cost of setting up a unit under the ISM is subsidised. The Indian initiative, according to Krishnan, is 'one of the most generous' globally. Kumaraswamy mentioned the same figures, but he looked at them from the prism of job creation, which he felt was not commensurate with the investment required. He perhaps ignored the fact that the employment generation criterion is not a factor in semiconductor manufacturing because it is highly automated. The ISM was launched to boost semiconductor manufacturing when the world suffered a short supply of different types of chips due to disruption in manufacturing in Taiwan, Taipei and China during the Covid-19 pandemic. The disruption hit the manufacturing of cars, computers, mobile phones and a range of consumer goods globally. Everyone realised that dependence on one source for supplies was dangerous. That's when the US and

Europe launched programmes to diversify the semiconductor supply chains. The ISM, too, was a response to the situation. Semiconductor chips go into everything — from computers and cars to missiles and battle tanks. They are a key driver of the global economy, much like oil. All of us consume them in some way or the other, and continued dependence on one or two sources of their supply is not sustainable. This makes semiconductor manufacturing a strategic

in government investment for the semiconductor sector and has taken a long-term view with well-defined goals and landmarks. According to Dr Rahul Sud, a US-based semiconductor industry veteran, India would require billions of dollars of investment if it wishes to make a dent in the chip industry, which will be a trillion-dollar industry by 2030. The investment should be focused on achieving leadership in a niche area. The third phase of the China Integrated Circuit Fund, announced recently, envisages government investment worth \$47 billion to boost manufacturing in identified segments like flash memory and dynamic random-access memory. The current market for these two types of memory chips is worth \$200 billion and is projected to be \$500 billion in a few years. In contrast, the subsidies under the ISM have gone to companies in the segments which are considered the low-end of the chip market — outsourced semiconductor assembly and test or OSAT and not in high-end silicon fabs. A semiconductor fab manufactures high-end chips, while OSAT vendors are engaged in post-fabrication work. They cut the manufactured wafers into chips, package them and do the testing. All this work too needs a certain level of sophistication and investment, but it is not in the same league as the cutting-edge fabs. The same goes for

companies like Tata Electronics, which has collaborated with Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation of Taiwan to make chips for power management, display drivers, etc. This work is at the bottom of the semiconductor chain. There is no denying that India should have a stake in the semiconductor industry, given the economic, strategic, geopolitical and foreign exchange compulsions. However, we need a clear set of goals and vision, and the pathway to achieve them. The emphasis should be on leveraging India's advantage of having a skilled workforce in chip design, promoting microelectronics education and research and developing an industrial base. Of the \$50 billion the US has committed for the semiconductor sector, as much as \$11 billion will be spent on R&D. We see no such focus in India. On the other hand, the overall R&D kitty appears to be dwindling. The government also needs to build political consensus, like in space and atomic energy programmes, because the investments required are long-term and need continuity.



area. The challenge with semiconductor manufacturing is manifold — it is knowledge-driven, meaning it requires fundamental research; it is technology-driven, needs highly sophisticated machines for production and a special environment to operate them; and it is hugely capital-intensive. On top of that, chip manufacturing requires massive amounts of water and electricity. The daily water requirement of a mid-sized fab (as a chip manufacturing unit is called) could be as much as the whole year's supply for a town or a small city. The water should be ultrapure — way beyond the drinking water's purity and quality. This industry is a power guzzler too. Environmental issues, therefore, are as important as fundamental research, technology and investment when it comes to chip manufacturing. The IT secretary wants more funds from the Finance Ministry for the ISM as the Rs 76,000 crore allotted has been almost exhausted. At this stage, we don't know how much more subsidies are necessary and for how long, and for what purpose in terms of any defined outcome after five or 10 years. The US, for instance, has committed \$50 billion

SC ensures equality

Upholds maintenance rights for Muslim women



The Supreme Court on Wednesday affirmed that Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih underscored the principle that maintenance is not a form of charity but a fundamental right of all married women, irrespective of their religion. The ruling comes in response to an appeal by Mohd Abdul Samad, who challenged the Telangana High Court's decision to uphold a family court's maintenance order. Samad argued that a divorced Muslim woman should seek maintenance solely under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. However, the SC dismissed his appeal, asserting that Section 125 is a secular provision applicable to all women.

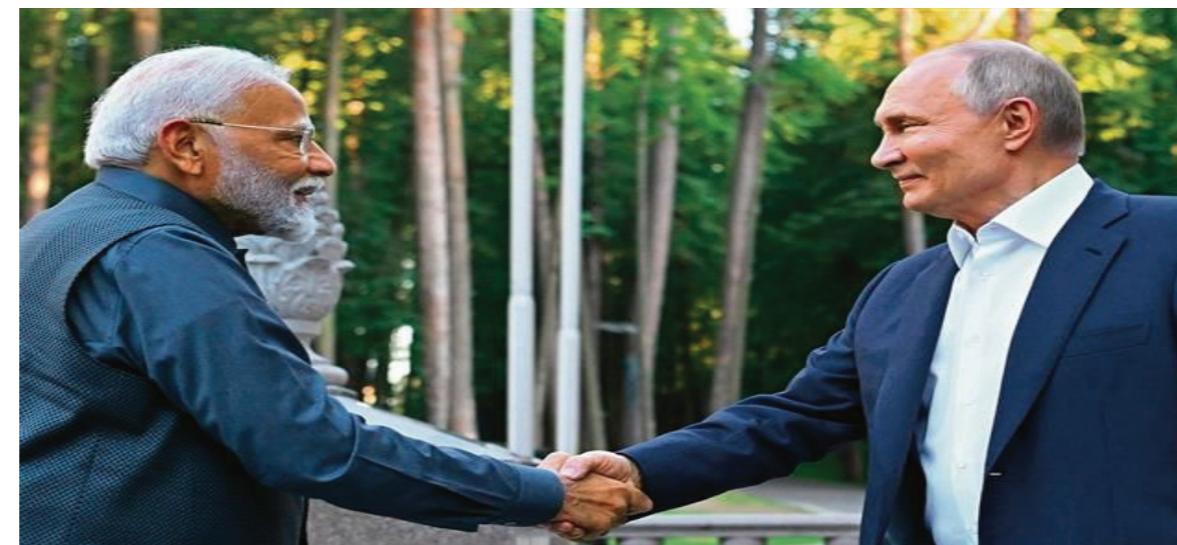
This verdict is reminiscent of the historic Shah Bano

case, where the apex court ruled in favour of a divorced Muslim woman's right to maintenance under Section 125. Despite the subsequent enactment of the 1986

Act, which initially sought to limit this right, the court's recent decision reinforces the enduring applicability of Section 125. The evolution of the Act and subsequent judicial precedents have progressively expanded the maintenance rights of divorced Muslim women. The 2001 Danial Latifi case upheld the Act but extended maintenance rights beyond the iddat period until remarriage. The latest ruling aligns with these developments, ensuring that Muslim women are not deprived of their entitlements. By affirming that maintenance is a right for all married women, the court has taken a significant step towards gender justice and equality in India. This ruling not only upholds constitutional principles but also strengthens the social and economic security of Muslim women, setting a precedent for future cases.

India asserts its strategic autonomy

Delhi has realised that its interests are better served when its ties with Moscow are growing



reliable, all-weather friend) and their relationship was a household word in India. It had remained resilient in the backdrop of the prevailing complex, challenging and uncertain geopolitical situation. The PM said a solution to the Ukraine war could not be found on the battlefield; it pained him that innocent children were murdered (a reference to a lethal strike on a children's hospital in Kyiv on July 8). A peaceful solution needed to be found through diplomatic negotiations and India would provide every assistance for this purpose, he added. PM Modi is the first world leader who has told Putin in unambiguous terms in Moscow that Russia's war against Ukraine should be brought to an end.

On the bilateral side, the thrust of the visit was on strengthening food and energy security, expanding trade, investments, connectivity and seeking nuclear, space and defence technologies to boost the indigenous

defence industry. The two leaders set a target of achieving balanced and sustainable trade of \$100 billion by 2030, eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers and commencing negotiations for a free trade agreement on goods. They also agreed to promote the bilateral settlement system using national currencies and find acceptable solutions for insurance and re-insurance of goods. They decided to expedite the construction of units 3-6 of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant and joint manufacturing of the nuclear power plant components. They also agreed to enhance the partnership in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including the human space flight programme, satellite navigation, planetary exploration and rocket engine development. The visit of PM Modi was an assertion of India's strategic autonomy and a calculated signal to the major powers that India is a global power

— it can't be pressured and has multiple options to pursue its interests. At a time when the US gathered its NATO allies in Washington to put pressure on Russia, the trip showed the world that Russia was not isolated and genuinely enjoyed the friendship of not only countries opposed to the US (such as China, Iran and North Korea) but also strategic and non-aligned ones such as India. By carefully balancing his meetings, Modi conveyed to Washington that he had played an important role by telling Putin to end the Ukraine war quickly. Despite a façade of a 'no limits partnership', the China-Russia relationship recently witnessed quiet rivalry as President Putin visited North Korea and Vietnam to enlist the support of these countries, whom Beijing considers its close allies. President Xi returned the favour by paying state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan last week when he went to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana. Russia considers these countries as belonging to its sphere of influence. Putin used PM Modi's visit to Moscow to signal to China that Russia had other friends and was not dependent on Beijing.

The PM's visit sent a clear message to Washington that India would not tolerate needless poking in its internal affairs and could use the Russia option as required. It also signalled to Beijing that it would have to pay a price for its rigid attitude on the withdrawal of troops from the remaining occupied Indian territories. Russia was by no means in Beijing's orbit and would use the India card to deal with China's overbearing attitude. President Putin has invited PM Modi to visit Russia again in October for the BRICS Summit. India and Russia can work together to reduce China's domination of BRICS and SCO and provide other options to the countries of the Global South. Modi has invited Putin to visit India next year for the India-Russia Annual Summit. India has realised that its burgeoning relationship with the US is at best transactional and its interests are better served when its ties with Russia are growing.



Keep kitchen clutter under control

The kitchen is one of the most utilised places in your home. Moreover, it's the place where you prepare all your meals and hence you should make sure it's both clean and clutter-free! Here's how to keep the kitchen looking great without too much fuss.

Here's how to keep the kitchen looking great without too much fuss.

Make proper use of your counter space

To avoid having your countertops look cluttered, make sure everything that is not kitchen-essential is moved out of that room. Instead of just putting bananas on the counter, find a great banana hook or three-tiered platter that you can display fruit on without taking up added countertop area.

Keep things at the right place

Don't just drop your keys, wallet and cell phone on the counter when you come home from a long day. Hang an organizer shelf on one wall and store those items there until you need them again.

Utilize technology

Posting coupons all over the fridge is a great way to ensure you'll see them every day, but it doesn't make for a streamlined look. Invest in an inexpensive coupon box or plastic envelope and refer to it when you are making your grocery list.

Avoid piling up

Don't allow dishes to pile up in the sink, put them straight into the

dishwasher or hand wash the items you've used and put them on a drying rack or hand dry them immediately. If you have company, of course, wait until the party's over to get to the dirty work.

Hide unnecessary items

Though accessories like spice racks and utensil caddies are designed to be part of your kitchen decor these days, try to limit the number of accessories and small appliances (such as coffeemakers, automatic can openers, juicers, etc.) that sit out on your counter. Keep these items in cabinets or your pantry and pull them out only when you need them.



Ideas to maintain indoor potted plants

- Don't over or under water them. Most plants don't want to have their roots submerged in a damp swamp.
- Indoor plants like a constant temperature, so keep them in an area that does not become too cold or too hot.
- They don't like draughts or any sudden moves and they like some feeding because they have no access to nutrients beyond their pot or container.
- Many indoor plants will like a moist environment, in other words, humid air.
- You'll find there are indoor plants suitable for the bathroom, ones that are almost indestructible and some that are pure delights — flowering or fruiting plants that are easy to tempt into dazzling displays a few times a year.
- If you're growing a foliage species that is cleaned and pampered by a rainy climate, you can mimic that situation by a simple applied mist.
- For wonderful impact in a bright and sunny room, try something with flowers or berries.
- Oh, and you can forget air fresheners — indoor plants will purify the air.

Use old scrap for chic interiors

There's more you can do with your interiors; use old scrap to make pretty home decor items. ashok kumar mudetiya tells you how...

We have moved into an era where all people can think is about going green. Recycling is passe. The trend that has made a buzz now is upcycling, that is, reusing vintage products such that you can make it into something of a higher value.

Basically, it is about using products for a little more time before there is place in the landfill so it can be discarded.

Though greentailing is not all that hyped up in India as it is abroad, it sure has grabbed many an eyeball. Gone are the days, when all that youth could think of is draining their brains. A lot of our youngsters are making a business out of recycling and well, what's better when you can both make money and tell mother nature that you care.

Upcycling, like mentioned earlier, is quite a rage in the West, especially when it comes to home decor. But fret not! For all of you who like trying out and customising goods at home, here are some fun ideas for you to try out yourself at home:



1. Bind your old hard cover books together (side by side), such that it looks like a plank. You can use this as a book shelf and place them on your wall. This is a funky way of upcycling.

2. To get that rustic look, you can use cane sieves (the ones with which your moms and mom-in-laws sieve rice in) to make it into a photo-frame. How? Well, just paint them in funky ways, give them different strokes with different hues and you can paste your photographs on them before placing them on the wall. You could also make a photo wall, by placing many sieves in different angles

(like if you place one horizontally, place the other vertically and otherwise).

3. Use your old coasters as a wall hanging. Use colourful ribbons or threads to tie up the coasters after they're painted in your style, and then place them on your wall. You could do the same with your tea sieves, by painting them up and hanging them on the wall.

4. Radhika Khaitan, who is an upcycler herself, says you can use old baked beans tins, or beer bottle tins in many ways. Clean the tins up and paint it to use it as a flower vase. She also says that you can stack many a newspaper together, glue them up together and cut them such that they make pretty coaster.

5. Take small boxes, glue up your favourite magazine articles on them, and also sequence the edges to use it as a showpiece for your desk.

Another upcycler, Suren Vikhash U says, "You can use tetra pack containers to make pen stands by cutting them partially in the middle. This is a good and easy way to upcycle." 7. Use your old cartons and boxes, paint them or cover them up with colourful paper, place sequins on them, and use the end-product as a magazine or newspaper holder. These are just some simple methods you can use to make your home decor look both classy and eco-friendly. Well, there are a lot more ways to do the same and customise your home decor according to your personal style. After all, your home should reflect your personality and what better way to do up your interiors your way.



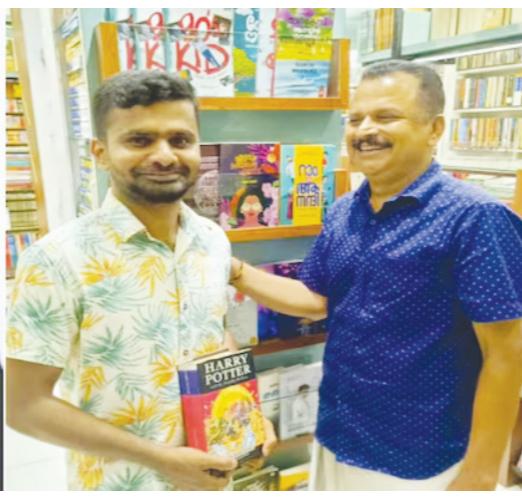
The Indian book thief who made JK Rowling happy and here's why

Reese Thomas was in class 9 and couldn't afford Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. A Potterhead, Thomas stole the book from a Kerala store in 2007. Seventeen years later, Thomas, now a writer himself, went to the shop and returned the book. This is how Harry Potter author JK Rowling reacted to the entire incident.

New Delhi: In June 2007, Reese Thomas, a 14-year-old, had read all the six books of the Harry Potter series and finally, the seventh and the last book, The Deathly Hallows, was out. Reese was desperate to read it but didn't have the money to buy it. He came from a family of modest means and didn't want to ask his parents for money. He knew he was a Muggle, without Harry Potter's magical powers, and decided to steal the book. Seventeen years later, in 2024, Harry Potter writer JK Rowling would be more than happy to find out about it. But Rowling also cautioned people that her praise for Thomas was no endorsement of book theft. Luck had favoured Reese Thomas in 2007. The moment he stole the book and left the shop in Kerala, he was able to take the bus that was just in front of the shop and leave. "I know I'll be accused of encouraging book stealing by sharing this, so please don't steal books, book stealing is bad. Anyway, this is the loveliest thing and made me really



happy," JK Rowling wrote on X. Reese Thomas did not know how to do better then, but now he went to Muvattupuzha New College Book Stall and corrected what he had done when he was in class 9, a student of Guardian Angel School, Manoor. The shop



owner, Devdas, was asked if he wanted to buy the book, or if he wanted its price. He brought the book and returned it to Reese as a gift. Reese had grown up in a Catholic family and was worried about shoplifting. But his friends pushed him and asked him to see how

far a Potterhead would go. Pottermania and peer pressure both made Reese steal the book. Years before, I did something, and it's reached all the world now. Most importantly, it reached her, the one and only J. K. Rowling, author of the masterpiece Harry Potter, knows my story now. This made my day. The exact person I really wished to read to was her. In tears, I could read her words saying she is happy now. I had read her life, her books, the admiration finally reached the exact place.

I don't know exactly what more to say now, this was completely unexpected and yeah, that's it for the moment," Reese wrote. The book lover is also an assistant director in the Malayalam film industry now.

Reese's book, '90's Kid' is now on the same bookshelves as his favourite Harry Potter books when he went to return The Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows copy and apologise to the shop owner. His life came full circle.

Supreme Court Pauses Blackout Order Against Karnataka TV Channel

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has paused a Karnataka High Court order stopping the broadcast of a private TV channel on the grounds of lack of proper license. The 'Power TV' channel had made elaborate coverage telecast of the alleged sex scandal involving suspended JDS leader Prajwal Revanna and his brother Suraj Revanna. A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud termed the blackout action "sheer political vendetta" and said the intention was to completely black out their voice. The more we hear you the more we are convinced this is political vendetta...the idea was to completely blank out his voice. The state is duty bound to protect his freedom of speech and expression," the Chief Justice said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta protested the CJI's remark and said it is not borne out of record as the February 9 show cause notice related to the channel subletting its uplink and downlinking license. The Supreme Court will take up the case again on Monday, restrained the Power TV channel from broadcasting activity till July 9 after it was found that their license had expired in 2021.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar had passed the interim order after IPS officer BR Ravikanth Gowda and ex-MLC HM Ramesh Gowda filed separate petitions claiming that the channel was airing programmes even after their license had expired.

The Information and Broadcast ministry too informed the court that proceedings have been initiated against the company that runs the channel.

Ola CEO Calls For 70-Hour Work Week, Doctor Warns Of Premature Death Risk

New Delhi: After Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal backed Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's 70-hour work-week advice, a top neurologist today warned that it could increase the risk of several serious diseases and even premature death. Narayana Murthy had, in 2023, said that if India wants to compete with developed economies that have made remarkable progress in recent decades, youngsters should work for 70 hours a week. In a recent podcast, Bhavish reignited the debate on the 70-hour work week, saying that he is "fully in sync" with his advice.



Working long hours is associated with increased risk of multiple serious diseases and even premature death," said Sudhir Kumar, from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, in a post on social media platform X.com. Citing several scientific studies the doctor said that "working 55 or more hours per week is associated with a 35 per cent higher risk of a stroke and a 17 per cent higher risk of dying from ischemic heart disease, compared to working 35-40 hours a week". Further, working for more than 55 hours a week kills more than 80,000 people every year, he said. Long working hours also raise the risk of being overweight, prediabetes, and Type 2 diabetes - a precursor to many diseases and early death.

People working 60 or more hours a week are more likely to have moderate to severe depressive symptoms than those working 40 hours a week," he said. "CEOs are inclined to recommend long working hours for their employees to improve their company's profits and their own net worth," the neurologist said. He added that in the case "where employees fall sick, they can be easily substituted". "It is in your best interest to choose an organisation that cares for employees and recommends reasonable working hours - to ensure a better work-life balance," he said.

"How Can State Block...": Supreme Court To Haryana On Shambhu Border Crossing

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has asked tough questions of the Haryana government after a High Court order this week directing the re-opening of the Shambhu border crossing, which has been locked down since February to block farmers protesting the centre's agricultural policies from marching on Delhi.

How can the state block a highway? It has a duty to regulate traffic... we are saying 'keep the border open, but also control it,' the top court said Friday afternoon in oral observations on the matter. In a humorous but telling moment, the two-judge bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan asked the state's lawyer if he travelled by road, and specifically the highway.

I think you travel by road..." Justice Kant asked, to which the lawyer replied,

"Yes."

So you (too) must be facing trouble..." the judge shot back. The state had appealed a section of the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order, which directed a judicial inquiry into the death of farmer Shubhkaran Singh, 22. Mr Singh - one of thousands who had marched to Shambhu (on the Punjab-Haryana border) after talks broke down, and were met with fortifications of barbed wire, shipping containers, and cement barricades - was allegedly shot dead. The war zone-like blockades set up by the state stopped the army of farmers but also halted all traffic on the highway, which is one of the key roads leading into the national capital. The High Court on Wednesday directed the highway to be re-opened within a week "on an experimental basis", noting the number of farmers camped at the site

had dwindled to a few hundred. "Both states shall endeavour to ensure the highway at Shambhu border is restored..." Both states were also directed to take "effective steps to enforce law and order" at Shambhu and along the highway, "... if protesters do not remain within limits set down by the state".

Faced with the High Court's order, the Haryana government then moved the Supreme Court, and was promptly asked, "Why does the state want to challenge the order?" The Supreme Court also reminded the ruling BJP that "farmers are citizens", and suggested authorities, should they face mass protests in the future, ensure a measure of consideration.

Give them food and good medical facilities. They will come, raise slogans and go back..."

63 Missing As Landslide Sweeps Two Buses Into Trishuli River In Nepal; Kathmandu-Bharatpur Flights

New Delhi: In a tragic incident early this morning, a massive landslide on the Madan-Ashri Highway swept two buses carrying an estimated 63 passengers into the Trishuli River. The disaster occurred in the central region of Nepal, around 3:30 am amid heavy rainfall in the region. As per the officials, the landslide swept the vehicle named Angel bus was enroute to Rautahat's Gaur from Kathmandu had 24 people onboard. The other one named Ganpati Deluxe was carrying 41 passengers.

Following the incident, all flights from Kathmandu to Chitwan's Bharatpur has been cancelled for the day as the weather remains grim, reported ANI.

Three passengers of the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to escape by jumping from the vehicle before it was swept away by a massive landslide in central



conduct rescue operations. The landslide has also caused debris to obstruct traffic on the Narayanghat-Mugling road section, further complicating rescue efforts.

Indrajeet Yadav, the Chief District Officer of Chitwan, told ANI, "As per

the preliminary information both the buses were carrying a total of 63 people including the bus drivers. The landslide swept the buses at around 3:30 am. We are at the incident site and a search operation is underway. Incessant rain is hampering our efforts to search for the missing buses," Yadav confirmed to ANI. Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' expressed his deep regrets over the landslide. In a post on 'X' he wrote, "I am deeply saddened by the loss of nearly five dozen passengers and the loss of property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country when a bus was washed away by a landslide on the Narayanghat-Mugling road section." He had informed all government agencies, including the home administration, to do an extensive search and rescue the passengers.

India refuses to back UN resolution demanding end to Russia's Ukraine offensive

New Delhi: India has refused to back a resolution in the UN General Assembly that urged Russia to immediately end its aggression against Ukraine and urgently withdraw its forces and other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, news agency PTI reported.

The 193-member UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on Thursday with 99 votes in favour, nine against and 60 abstentions, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Those voting against the resolution included Belarus, Cuba, North Korea, Russia and Syria. The resolution calling for Russia to end its offensive in Ukraine came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Moscow and met Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the talks, PM Modi flagged the aftermath of the Ukraine war, including the deaths of children in the over two-year-long conflict.

The UN resolution titled 'Safety and security of nuclear facilities of Ukraine, including the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant' demanded that Russia "immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders". It also demanded that Russia urgently withdraw its military and other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and immediately hand it over to Ukraine to ensure the facility's safety and security. It called for the "immediate cessation of the attacks" by Russia against Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure, which increases the risk of a nuclear accident in the war-torn country. The draft resolution was introduced by Ukraine and was sponsored by over 50 member states, including France, Germany and the US. Before the vote on the resolution, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative Dmitry Polyanskiy said the UN General Assembly had "unfortunately" adopted many documents that were non-consensual, politicised and did not reflect reality. Make no mistake: votes in favour of today's draft will be regarded by Kyiv, Washington, Brussels and London as evidence of support for their policy of further escalating the Ukrainian conflict to the detriment of steps taken by a sensible part of the international community to find a peaceful, sustainable and long-term solution to the conflict," he said.

Delhi University junks proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students after row

The Delhi University has junked a Faculty of Law proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students in undergraduate courses after a row erupted over reports that the proposal was set to get approval by the university administration.

New Delhi: Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh has clarified that LLB students will not be taught 'Manusmriti', an ancient Hindu legal text, after a controversy erupted over reports that a proposal to teach the manuscript

undergraduate courses was placed for approval. In a video statement, Singh said the Faculty of Law on Thursday suggested changes in the paper titled 'Jurisprudence' and their suggestions included readings on 'Manusmriti', which the university rejected.

A proposal by the Faculty of Law was submitted to Delhi University administration. They had suggested changes in the paper titled 'Jurisprudence'. One of the changes in the proposal was to include readings on Manusmriti. Delhi University has rejected both the suggested readings and the amendments proposed by the faculty. Students will not be taught (about 'Manusmriti')," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Meanwhile, a proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to DU's LLB students is slated to be discussed in a meeting of its Academic Council on Friday. Anju Wali Tikoo, the dean of the Faculty of Law, said, "It is part of understanding our Indian scholars. The meaning that is



being construed that it is against women's empowerment and their education is wrong and that it is against marginalised castes is incorrect. The topic is themed as 'analytical positivism'. If we don't understand what our ancient scriptures said and what they meant, then how can we analyse and develop an understanding of studying the course?" she said. "The recommendations were given by the DU committee. This topic has not come all of a sudden. There were consultations of scholars, including a retired judge of a high court. There was a standing council meeting on June 25. I was a part of that

meeting and no one opposed it then. Suddenly some people have woken up," she added.

CONGRESS VS BJP OVER 'MANUSMRITI' ROW

The Congress hit out at the BJP over the 'Manusmriti' proposal and said the manuscript was "unconstitutional". The party's Scheduled Caste department also called for protests against the proposed move at the state and district levels.

The Congress's student wing, National Students' Union of India (NSUI), will also stage protests in universities across the country over the issue. The party alleged that the proposal was a backdoor attempt to replace the Constitution with 'Manusmriti'. It will soon discuss with other constituents of the INDIA bloc and raise the issue at the national level. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging it was "all part of salami tactics" to "assault the Constitution" by fulfilling "RSS's decades-long attempt".

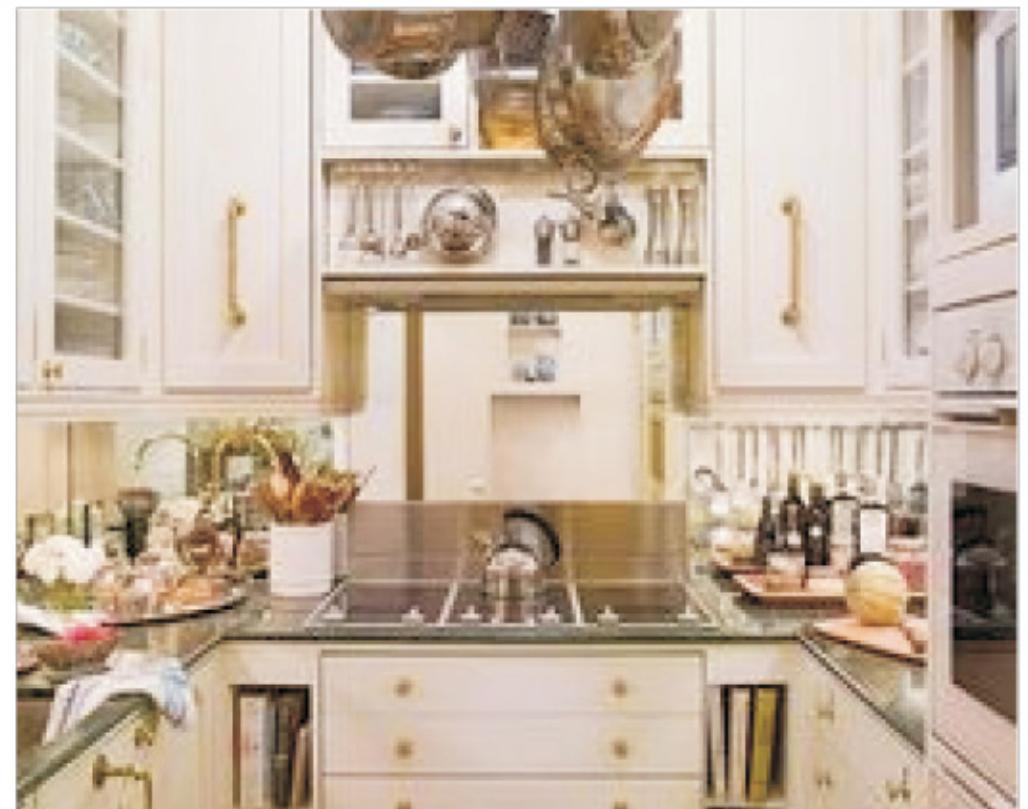
Make your kitchen Look bigger



The size of kitchens in the city are shrinking with time. What used to be the most important area in the house has now been limited to only utilitarian purposes. However, when it comes to doing up your kitchen, you can work wonders with limited space at hand. Small kitchens can be difficult to work in, specially for individuals who want everything to be accessible and neat. They can be made to look big with a few adjustments.

"There is no fixed dimension for a kitchen. When it comes to individual houses we can do anything and everything according to the customers need. But apartments have limited space. Putting an accessory in a small kitchen will not help save space. Open shelves make better sense because of the ease of access. It helps in utilising 100 per cent of the space in the kitchen. Modifying a kitchen with open shelves increases the space. You not only have more storage space, the room looks a lot bigger," says S Selvapathy, chief executive, Master Design Kraft Modular Kitchen.

Wood work plays a significant role in kitchen fittings. The right kind of wood for your kitchen depends mostly on weather and climate. P Aravindan, designer, Amphaa Projects, talks about three types of wood. He says, "Rubber wood, a light-coloured tropical hardwood is obtained from the rubber tree. It is commonly known as an environmentally friendly wood.



Kitchen design can be tricky but some smart adjustments can make your kitchen appear bigger and spacious.

Plywood, is a sheet material manufactured from thin layers of wood and membrane wood is manufactured using optimum quality wood. Moisture resistant plywood is widely used in Chennai kitchens."

You have to choose your colours wisely if you wish to give a spacious look to a small kitchen. "Choosing light colours like white, cream or soft beige for your kitchen will reflect light and make the space feel bigger. The wall colour should be in contrast with the cabinets and the floor colour. You can also go for pop-colours. Just choose a color that is equally light, like pale yellow, sky blue, or blush. This will make the space to open and airy, not dark and congested," he adds.

Good lighting helps by allowing you to make the best use of the space you have. "My husband and I wanted to make our kitchen space look big and bright. We painted the walls in light blue colour and opted for open shelves instead of upper cabinets which makes our kitchen look spacious. We also installed cabinet lights which makes it bright," says Swetha Reddy, a housewife from the city.



Decor trends: Pad it up

Living alone has its perks and when it comes to decor, sky is the limit.

A bachelor's life has its own perks and privileges. One can be free in his or her way without making compromises or any responsibility. When you think of a bachelor's home, there are some striking features that come instantly to your mind. An unkempt living room, a messy bedroom and a completely unorganised kitchen. However, these are mostly movie and sitcom clichés which mould our perception of

bachelor pads. It will be surprising to some to know what can be done with minimum effort when it comes to designing a perfect bachelor pad.



Nancy Satish, of Designworks, says bachelors are for two types of people, the ones who are waiting to get married and others who live in cities on a temporary basis for work or other engagements. "The necessities of these bachelors will vary. The centre of any

bachelor pad is the entertainment centre. Be it the television, music system, Playstation or Xbox, all the other decor elements complement these accessories," she says. "The kitchen elements are minimal and utilitarian. Even the living room has furniture like bean bags, lounge chairs and La-Z-boys."

The living room is the sanctum sanctorum for a bachelor pad. They have get-togethers at their place quite often and they ensure that they have necessary pieces of furniture to have a blast. Gautam Dhiman, an advertising professional, handpicked all his living room furniture. He says, "I want my friends to relax and feel free when they come over. Each and every piece of my living room furniture is directed towards my entertainment unit. Brightly coloured, no-fuss chairs are my first choice to adorn the living space instead of bulky couches. I have made a small dining space with four chairs and a small glass table and hung a bulb over it. Bean bags are a must for any bachelor pad and today you have a lot of options at hand."

Designer Harish Mehta believes that simplicity is what defines a bachelor's home. He says, "You don't see huge pieces of furniture in a bachelor's abode. It is all about utility and space saving. Today, one has many options in light-weight and trendy furniture. I personally suggest bachelors to opt for cane furniture for their living room. It not only provides a classic look but is also sturdy enough to survive the weekend parties. Even a well-placed mattress with lots of brightly coloured cushions can do the trick. For bachelors, it is important that they keep the maintenance part in mind before going in for any kind of decor element." He maintains that there is no definition for a bachelor's pad design. He adds, "This is the most important aspect of doing up a bachelor's space. The ideas are unique and completely out-of-the box with no limitations of elements and designs."



Go eclectic for unique décor

You can bring an exotic feel to your home with an eclectic style of interior decor.

Give your home an exotic feel by combining various styles, time periods, colours, textures and patterns. This decor style, called eclectic, is for people who love something about different decor styles. It is a combination of both old and new styles and allows for a great deal of flexibility. An eclectic home has many elements but they all share a commonality, whether it's tonality, line, shape or pattern. Eclectic style grants you the freedom of mixing and matching different decor styles and creating your own unique decor. There is only one major rule for this style the decor should look consistent and harmonious.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

This style undeniably requires skill, basic knowledge of design principles and a vision. Contrast is an important characteristic of an eclectic style. Accessories could also be a point of contrast. Follow the concept of closeness in seating pieces.

To tie together a variety of decorative styles, it is important to give parts of the interior a timeless treatment. For windows, however, choose treatments that defy time, such as straight-hanging drapery. Roman shades are easy to live with. It's not always important to match the knick-knacks you pick up with the theme of your home, as long as you introduce just a few pieces. But if possible, match them with the decor.

COLOUR AND CHARACTER

Colour is a crucial point for this design theme. Add character to your eclectic decor by mixing the wood finishes or fabric patterns. Otherwise, create a unique feature by purchasing ready-made drapes and adding a band of custom fabric to the top or bottom.

Spaces decorated in an eclectic style can easily change according to mood, inspiration and

budget. Blend a mix of styles. Don't overwhelm small rooms with an abundance of upholstery. Select furnishings with slender lines. Remember, pale and neutral colours have a low impact on the decor.

An eclectic style can combine smooth shiny tiles with deep rich wood. Go for uniquely-designed items, customised range of furniture or display accessories.

Don't be hesitant to mix patterns, textures and colours. Experiment with silks, wood, glass and different textures to highlight design elements unique lighting is a must. Opt for LEDs for concealed lighting.

CONTRASTS

Contrast is key to an eclectic style. Sometimes the lesser pieces have in common, the more they set each other off. However, it is important to pick your contrasts carefully as too many contrasts create chaos.

Though you are provided with the freedom to dare with this style, the principles concerning form, scale, composition and proportion are to be kept in mind while designing under this style. Contrasts in textures offer interesting visuals. Green plants add a fascinating backdrop to smooth ceramic pots, figurines or sculptures. Bamboo blinds will add a soothing texture to a multifaceted room with an eclectic ensemble of furniture and accessories.

DISTINCT STYLE

The house you stay in is an extension of you and should echo your taste while keeping the rules of the decor style in which it is done up. Most handicraft stores have an interesting array of things that will fit right into your home. When you buy an object, think of all the ways in which you can use it besides its original purpose. You will be surprised to discover the possibilities. Let your style reflect in everything you bring into your home. It's a sure-shot way to make your decor unique.



Wipro shares jump 5% to hit 52-week week high. Here's why

NEW DELHI Shares of IT services major Wipro jumped 5% in early trade to hit a 52-week high. Wipro shares were up 4.91% at Rs 560.60 at around 12:35 pm. The rally in Wipro shares came amid a broader rally in information technology (IT) stocks, following better-than-expected Q1 results of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Shares of several IT companies gained on the back of TCS' Q1 performance as the performance has boosted investor confidence regarding results of other IT firms. Wipro is set to announce its Q1 results on July 19 and it seems investors are betting on the company to put up a good show. In the previous quarter (Q4FY24), Wipro's profit fell nearly 8% year-on-year to Rs 2,835 crore. The company's revenue from operations also experienced a 4% year-on-year decline to Rs 22,208 crore. Brokerage firm Emkay Global expects the company to post a 4.1% year-on-year rise in net profit despite a fall in revenue. Most other brokerages had shared a tepid outlook for Q1 results of IT companies. But the performance of TCS seems to have given confidence to investors, emboldened further by the stellar rally on Wall Street. Another reason why IT stocks gained sharply today is due to a decline in inflation in the US by 0.1% in June. This has triggered hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in September.

Sensex, Nifty hit record highs. What's driving the rally on Dalal Street

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices hit fresh record highs on Friday, with the S&P BSE Sensex rising over 900 points and the NSE Nifty50 jumping nearly 250 points. The Sensex hit a lifetime high of 80,893 during intraday trade and the 50-share Nifty hit a new record high of 24,592.20. Both the benchmark indices had started the day on a positive note, backed by gains in Information Technology (IT) stocks. The biggest factor behind today's rally on Dalal Street is gains in IT stocks, driven by better-than-expected Q1 results posted by Tata Consultancy Services. Shares of TCS jumped sharply in early trade and were up 4% at Rs 4,080 on the BSE. TCS posted a 9% year-on-year net profit in the April-June quarter, giving a boost to most other IT stocks.

Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCLTech and LITIM were also among the top gainers, leading to the Nifty IT index rising over 2%. Not just TCS Q1 results, but a record high run on Wall Street also provided a boost to domestic IT stocks. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The positive global cue is the decline in inflation in the US by 0.1% in June triggering hopes of a rate cut by the Fed in September for which the market indicates a 90% probability." "The positive domestic cue is the better than expected numbers from TCS and positive management commentary which can lift most IT stocks," he added.

TCS shares rally over 3% as Q1 results beat estimates. Buy or sell

NEW DELHI. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has impressed investors and analysts with its June quarter results, which exceeded expectations despite challenging conditions. The company reported strong revenue growth, solid margins despite wage hikes, and



an increase in headcount after six consecutive quarters of decline or stagnation. TCS shares were up 3.58% at Rs 4,063.15 at around 10:44 am. Analysts remain optimistic about India's largest IT services company, citing positive management commentary on the recovery in the BFSI sector and stabilization in the retail vertical. Although order wins were muted, TCS remains a 'Buy' recommendation from several stock analysts. Nuvama Institutional Equities maintains a positive outlook on TCS, suggesting a target price of Rs 4,800.

"We maintain that the earnings downgrade cycle for the sector is behind and reckon the strong deal wins of the last few quarters, shall gradually convert into revenue in coming quarters, even as US macro becomes favourable (read our recent report here)," Nuvama analysts said. "We see TCS as a perfect large-cap proxy to play this upcycle, with its strong deal wins and robust margin performance," Nuvama Institutional Equities said while suggesting a target of Rs 4,800, "the brokerage added. Motilal Oswal Financial Services highlighted that growth was driven by the BSNL deal ramp-up, but noted weaknesses in key markets such as communications and retail. It noted that the 4% decline in the communications vertical is concerning, as spending cuts in the sector were thought to have bottomed out after a weak FY24.

MOFSL suggests that a more meaningful turnaround in this vertical may only be seen once network rollout capex trickles down to services spending, which could be gradual even in the event of rate cuts.

Karan Adani calls Vizhinjam's mothership arrival a 'glorious achievement'

India formally welcomed its first cargo ship at the newly built semi-automated transhipment port in Vizhinjam, Kerala, boosting the nation's maritime logistics industry.

NEW DELHI Adani Ports Managing Director Karan Adani applauded Kerala's Vizhinjam Port for welcoming its first mothership, calling it a "glorious achievement in Indian maritime history". The mothership now lying in our harbour is a symbol of a new glorious achievement in Indian maritime history," said Adani during the port's inauguration ceremony. "Privileged to have been given



this opportunity to use our expertise to transform this part of India," he added. India formally welcomed its first cargo ship at the newly built semi-automated transhipment port in Vizhinjam, Kerala, boosting the nation's maritime logistics industry. The first mothership, 'San Fernando', reached Vizhinjam International Seaport on July 11 and was given a water salute by four tugs, which

piloted it to the dock. The event saw the presence of several key figures. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Union Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal were there to greet the ship. Other notable attendees included Kerala Assembly Speaker A N Shamseer, state Ports Minister V N Vasavan, and his cabinet colleagues K N Balagopal, V Sivankutty, K Rajan, and G R Anil, as

well as UDF MLA M Vincent and APSEZ Managing Director Karan Adani. The port is being constructed under a public-private partnership model, with a total investment of around Rs 8,867 crore. The state government and the Central government have allocated investments of Rs 5,595 crore and Rs 818 crore, respectively, to build India's largest deep-water transhipment port. Equipped with modern equipment and advanced automation and IT systems, Vizhinjam will become India's first semi-automated port, expected to be fully operational by September or October 2024.

The construction of the Vizhinjam port began in 2016 and was initially scheduled to be commissioned in 2019. However, delays occurred due to issues with land acquisition. The project was allotted to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) on December 5, 2015, after the Government of Kerala and Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Ltd. (AVPPL) agreed to a concession agreement on August 17,

Multibagger stock rises 54% in five days, will it continue bullish run

NEW DELHI. Shares of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) have surged 54% in just five sessions, pushing this multibagger stock to a new record high on Thursday. Closing at Rs 418.75 on July 4, RVNL shares surged to Rs 643.95 in early trading today. This gain shows that there are more people buying this stock than selling it, as indicated by a relative strength index (RSI) of 84.4. Both long-term and short-term investors are optimistic about RVNL shares. The stock is trading higher than its 5-day, 10-day, 20-day, 30-day, 50-day, 100-day, 150-day, and 200-day moving averages. RVNL shares reached a record high of Rs 643.95 today, increasing by 5.47% on the BSE. The stock's positive sentiment is partly driven by reports that the Ministry of Railways plans to manufacture an additional 10,000 non-AC coaches in 2024-25 and 2025-26. This move aims to meet growing demand and improve passenger comfort. According to reports, the Ministry will roll out 4,485 non-AC coaches in the current financial year (2024-25) and another 5,444 in 2025-26. A total of 30.53 lakh RVNL shares were traded on Thursday, leading to the highest turnover of Rs 189.78 crore. RVNL's market cap rose to Rs 1.28 lakh crore on the BSE. With a one-year beta of 1.4, RVNL has shown high volatility over the past year. The stock had fallen to a 52-week low of Rs 117.35 on July 13, 2023. Despite this, analysts remain mostly optimistic about its future.

Mandar Bhojane, Equity Research Analyst at Choice Broking, noted, "If the price breaks above Rs 600, it suggests potential for further upward movement, with projected targets at Rs 700 and Rs 800. A significant support level is near Rs 460. The overall trend for RVNL is bullish, reinforced by various technical indicators." Shiju Koothupulakkal, Technical Research Analyst at Prabhudas Lilladher, said, "Once a breach above Rs 619 is confirmed, we can expect targets of Rs 655 and Rs 680 in the coming days. A decisive breach below Rs 502-507 would weaken the trend." Riyank Arora, a technical analyst at Mehta Equities, advised setting a stop loss at Rs 500. He mentioned, "Given the price structure, the upside potential seems limited to the Rs 650-675 range. As the stock trends upward, it is advisable to maintain a strict stop-loss at Rs 500."

RVNL is an execution arm of Indian Railways, working on behalf of the ministry for assigned projects. It handles the full cycle of project development from concept to commissioning, including design, estimate preparation, contract awards, and project management.

Raymond shares surge 5% after steep fall in previous session. Here's why

NEW DELHI. Shares of Raymond Ltd saw a rise of 5% on Friday after seeing a sharp 40% drop the day before. This surge came as investors showed renewed interest in the company's future plans, particularly the demerger of its businesses. Raymond's shares had a significant fall on Thursday, the day it went ex-lifestyle business. This means the company separated its lifestyle business from the rest, and shareholders who held Raymond shares by July 11 would be eligible for shares in the new Raymond Lifestyle entity when it lists on stock exchanges within the next two months. Raymond shares bounced back, climbing 4.76% to reach a high of Rs 2,145 on the BSE. The recovery began from the Rs 1,800 level, where the stock had dropped post-demerger. Anand Rathi, a brokerage firm, suggested that investors could place a stop loss at Rs 1,800 with an upside target of Rs 2,400. Current investors in Raymond will receive four shares of Raymond Lifestyle for every five shares of Raymond they hold. This demerger is part of a broader strategy to unlock value for shareholders. After the

lifestyle business, Raymond plans to separate its real estate business, a process expected to take 15-18 months.



Once the demerger process is complete, Raymond will primarily focus on its engineering business. The share exchange ratio for the real estate business is set at 1:1. Systematix Institutional Equities, a brokerage firm, has been positive about Raymond for some time. The stock price exceeded their target, mainly because the market started recognising the potential of Raymond's non-lifestyle segments - real estate and engineering. These areas had been undervalued but gained attention following the demerger announcements. Systematix increased its estimates for Raymond's real estate

and engineering businesses, noting new projects and a focus on aerospace and defence. They value the lifestyle business at Rs 2,293, considering branded textiles, apparel, and B2B businesses. They also ascribed a value of Rs 1,076 to the real estate business.

Antique Stock Broking noted that Raymond's real estate business is performing well, particularly with the Pokhran Road project in Thane. They expect Raymond Realty to maintain a 25% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in sales bookings, with an EBITDA margin over 30%. InCred Equities highlighted the engineering division's potential, especially after acquiring Maini Precision Products (MPPL) for Rs 6,820 crore. This acquisition will split MPPL into two subsidiaries, focusing on aerospace and defence (A&D) and other engineering segments. Raymond aims to double its A&D business, which currently generates Rs 270 crore in revenue, within 3-4 years, driven by the aircraft components segment. The company targets to maintain an EBITDA margin of 25-26%.

Trade, immigration: Pillars of Indo-Canada relations amidst challenges

BENGALURU. Despite political and logistical challenges, trade and immigration remain vital aspects of the relationship between Canada and India as the former continue to rely on immigration to meet its needs for skilled workers, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM), healthcare, and trade occupations. Cosmina Morariu, Partner in Fragomen Canada office, has said. Themed around 'Navigating policy and compliance in a dynamic immigration framework,' the Fragomen India Symposium 2024 was held on Thursday during which senior delegates from India, Canada, U.S.A., and other countries stressed policy frameworks, bilateral relationships, and the strategic approaches for global mobility adopted by the foreign

countries to improve the settlement experience for immigrants. The international students, particularly those attending private colleges, face multiple challenges like the approval letters being issued without offering meaningful post-graduation opportunities which lead graduates to low-skill jobs, rather than positions aligned with their education. Addressing the multiple challenges, Cosmina said that the Canadian government has initiated public consultations to gather input on immigration levels and to address such issues. "Temporary residents converting to permanent residents are additionally seen as part of a broader strategy, and the government is carefully managing the balance between various immigration streams," she highlighted. He further added that the Canada's immigration policy is designed to attract talent from around the world, offering flexibility in work permit categories and pathways from temporary to permanent residency. This approach includes concessions for students such as allowing them to work during their studies. Despite the high cost of living, Canada remains an attractive destination due to its stability, quality of life, and comprehensive immigration programs, Cosmina said and mentioned that the current administration emphasises sustainable growth, ensuring that newcomers are adequately supported with infrastructure, including hospitals, community centres, and educational systems.

Manufacturing sector seeks major reforms from FM

Industry experts said the share of the sector in GDP has to go up if India has to achieve its target of becoming a \$10 trillion economy in the coming years.

NEW DELHI. As the Union budget FY25 is approaching, manufacturing sector is seeking major reforms from finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. There are expectations from the government to rationalise tax structure, give emphasis on R&D and introduce schemes such as PLI to improve competitiveness in the domestic as well as global market. The kickstart to boost the manufacturing sector has happened. The government is not only looking at foreign investment but is taking steps to ensure investment by Indian investors. There needs to be certain things on the



ground to attract and support investment," Blue Star MD B Thiagarajan told TNIE. He said the government should look at introducing PLI schemes for sectors where cost of capital is high. The other important area is to see how India can boost its R&D capabilities without which it is highly unlikely for the country to become globally competitive. "Domestic value addition has to go up. Capital cost has to come down and private players have to chip in to promote innovation. R&D investment as a percentage of total GDP is just 0.65%. In developed nations, it is 2.5%. Then there is a need to look at the ease of doing business. Logistics cost here is high as we don't have a robust container and shipping infrastructure. If this single thing is answered, margins for the industry can go up 2-3%," said Thiagarajan. Kunal Chaudhary, Tax Partner, EY India, said budget 2024-25 can introduce or enhance policy measures

aimed at creating a more favourable business environment for manufacturers. "A few policy measures may include reintroduction of reduced corporate tax for manufacturing units, rationalisation of duty structures for components/ parts to promote domestic backward integration and value addition in India, specific budget allocation for grants or subsidies to promote design/R&D activities in manufacturing sector, policy measures like public procurement orders, phased manufacturing programmes (PMP), new PLI schemes for import-dependent sectors, and incentives for adopting green manufacturing practices and technologies," added Chaudhary. Industry experts said the share of the sector in GDP has to go up if India has to achieve its target of becoming a \$10 trillion economy in the coming years. While the services sector's contribution to GDP has risen from 45% to 55%, the share of manufacturing has remained stagnant at 15% in 2017 and 17% in 2022.

NEWS BOX

Paris Olympics 2024: Kapil Dev backs golfer Aditi Ashok to win medal for India

New Delhi. India's leading golfer Aditi Ashok can go one step further and win a medal at the Paris Olympics provided her form does not betray her in pressure situations, feels legendary cricketer and newly appointed Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) president Kapil Dev. Aditi won hearts by finishing fourth at the Tokyo Olympics after being in medal contention till the very end. She finished a stroke behind the bronze medallist Lydia Ko and two strokes behind gold winner Nelly Korda. Aditi's form deserted her on the final day after she was second overnight. "I want to see Aditi playing with the same pomp that she played with in the Tokyo Olympics. For cricketers and golfers, form is very important. If Aditi plays in the same form, she has a good chance to win a medal. And if she has a bad week, then she can only sit out and rue the loss," Kapil told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview. The World Cup winning captain, who has been playing on the PGTI circuit for many years, felt there was a severe dearth of quality international-level golf courses in India. "In India, there is a catch-22 situation. You have to have good golf courses up to international standards with top tournaments and people playing golf in tougher conditions and scoring well. Some of the courses in India have to improve also and give the players to play in decent courses. "I have seen playing 20 under 19 under 18 under but conditions may not be as good as we would like to have. Somebody who has played in DLF Gurgaon or Oxford, and hit 15 or 20 under, then you can say that's the different level you have played."

KAPIL DEV ON VISION FOR INDIAN GOLF

On his vision and priorities after assuming office as PGTI president, "My first vision is to bring money to golf and more golf to the players. At the moment they play 15 or 20 weeks a year if we can make it 30-35 weeks a year... that's the vision." "The only way it can come is if more sponsors come. So I would like more tours and tournaments to take place. I will open the door for many companies and the corporate world to come out and promote golf." "Golf is slightly different because every person has to earn his own money. In cricket, the Board decides the fees. Start talking to the Corporate world if they can come and organise more golf tournaments. That's the immediate plan. I am not the lone golfer who played the game."

Jasmine Paolini calls it a 'dream' after reaching Wimbledon 2024 final with Vekic win

New Delhi. Jasmine Paolini called it a dream' as she reached the final of Wimbledon 2024 for the first time in her career on July 11, Thursday. Paolini had to comeback from a set down to secure the win in the end over Donna Vekic and head to the final on Saturday, July 13. With the win, the Italian became the first woman to make it to the French Open and Wimbledon finals in the same year after Serena Williams in 2016. Speaking after the win, Paolini said the last few months have been crazy for her and she trying to focus on what she has to do on court. Paolini said the clash with Vekic was an intense one, and she will now focus on recovering.

"These last months have been crazy for me. I am trying to focus on what I have to do on court and I love playing tennis. It is amazing to be here and it is a dream," Paolini, who reached the semi-finals in Eastbourne last month, said on court. I think it was an intense match and I tried to play my best and now it's time to recover. I think I need an ice bath as my legs are a little bit tired." Paolini had never gone past the second round of a Grand Slam before her runs in the Australian Open, where she reached the fourth round, and the finals of both the French Open and Wimbledon. When asked if she would have believed if someone said she would have been a two-time finalist in a year, Paolini had a simple answer and said she would have said the person was crazy. "You are crazy, I would say, yes... I don't have words. Just, yeah, you are crazy," she told a press conference while laughing.

If Jürgen Klopp is available, Jim Curtin says no others need be interviewed by US Soccer

NEW YORK. Jim Curtin thinks the search for Gregg Berhalter's successor as U.S. coach doesn't need to be complicated. "If Jürgen Klopp is available to do it and wants to do it, you don't need an interview process for that. That's the guy," the Philadelphia Union coach said Thursday. "But the reality is I don't know how serious that is." Klopp retired from Liverpool this spring after nine seasons that included Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League titles and appears to be the fan favorite to replace Berhalter, who was fired Wednesday after the Americans' first-round exit at the Copa America. Thierry Henry, Patrick Vieira and Marcelo Bielsa also are among those being speculated about as candidates to lead the Americans into the 2026 World Cup, along with Curtin, Steve Cherundolo, Jesse Marsch, Hugo Pérez, Pellegrino Matarazzo, David Wagner, Massimiliano Allegri and Mauricio Pochettino. "I think you need a bold, brash personality, someone that walks into that room and tells everyone that they're on a clean slate, and they've got to figure out who they want to be going into that World Cup," said Apple TV lead analyst Taylor Wellman, a former national team forward speaking at this week's American Century Celebrity Golf Championship.

Wimbledon 2024 semifinals prediction, live streaming: Djokovic vs Musetti and Alcaraz vs Medvedev

Wimbledon 2024: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz faces a tricky test as he will take on former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev in the first men's singles semi-final. Seven-time champion Novak Djokovic takes on 22-year-old Lorenzo Musetti, who is playing in his first-ever Grand Slam last-four match.

London. It's time for the men's singles semi-final day in Wimbledon. Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic will take the centerstage at Centre Court in London. Carlos Alcaraz will face a stiff test against 2021 US Open champion and fifth seed Daniil Medvedev in the first semi-final -- a repeat of last year's semi-final. Alcaraz stormed past Medvedev, beating the Russian in straight sets while dropping only 9 games. However, Alcaraz of wary a

rejuvenated Medvedev, who is high on confidence after having beaten World No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the quarter-finals this year. Medvedev avenged his Wimbledon defeat to Alcaraz last year by beating the Spaniard in the semi-final of the US Open. However, the Russian lost their only meeting of 2024 in the final of the Indian Wells Masters on hard court.

Alcaraz has been made to work hard in Wimbledon 2024. The defending champion overcame a five-setter against Frances Tiafoe in the third round before playing out four-setters against Ugo Humbert and Tommy Paul. On the other hand, Novak Djokovic, who is yet to reach a final in 2024, will be keen on making the most of the extra day's break he got after his quarter-final opponent Alex de Minaur withdrew due to injury. Musetti, on the other hand, is heading into the match on the back of a sensational five-set marathon against Taylor Fritz. Musetti will be playing in his first Grand Slam semi-final and the lack of experience might work against him. However, the 22-year-old Italian has the



tools and a varied skillset to trouble Djokovic if the Serb is not at his best. Djokovic seems to have completely recovered from the knee injury that he was dealing with earlier this season and the extra day's rest must spur him on against Musetti. It will also be interesting to see his equation with the crowd after the sensational rant earlier this week.

WIMBLEDON SEMIFINALS SCHEDULE: WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH

The first semi-final between Carlos Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev will get underway from 1:30 pm local time and 6 pm IST on the Centre Court. Novak Djokovic will take on Lorenzo Musetti after the first semi-final

on Centre Court. Star Sports will provide the live television coverage of the matches in India. Hotstar will provide live streaming of the matches.

WIMBLEDON SEMIFINALS: ALCARAZ vs MEDVEDEV AND DJOKOVIC vs MUSETTI HEAD-TO-HEAD

Alcaraz and Medvedev have played six times with the Spaniard winning four of their matches. Friday will be the third time they meet in Wimbledon. Medvedev defeated Alcaraz in the second round in 2021 before losing to him in the 2023 semi-final. Djokovic and Musetti have met each other on the tour six times with the Serb winning five of them. Musetti's only win came in Monte Carlo on clay last year.

WIMBLEDON SEMIFINAL PREDICTION: WHO WILL WIN?

Daniil Medvedev has the tools to trouble Carlos Alcaraz, but the Spaniard is likely to win the first semi-final in four sets. Alcaraz will be keen on extending his title run and give himself another shot at glory.

Ben Stokes joins Jacques Kallis-Garfield Sobers to have 6000 runs, 200 wickets

Ben Stokes joined an elite list as he completed 6000 runs and 200 Test wickets on July 11, Thursday. He became only the 3rd player after Sir Garfield Sobers and Jacques Kallis to achieve this unique feat. The England captain achieved this milestone during Day 2 of the 1st Test match against West Indies at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground. England have been dominant throughout the first 2 days of the Test match as West Indies ended Day 2 at 79 for 6 and trail by 171 runs.

Stokes became the first English player and third overall player to have over 6000 runs and 200 wickets in Test cricket. Sobers has played 93 Test matches and has scored 8032 runs with 235 wickets. South Africa's star all-rounder Jacques Kallis has played 166 Test matches with 13289 runs and 292 wickets. England's Ben Stokes achieved the feat in his 103rd Test match with 6320 runs and 200 wickets.

Stokes enters elite club



Stokes managed to pick the wicket in his very first over to achieve the milestone as he dismissed Kirk McKenzie for a duck. He also joined another elite list with a double of 10000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket. This list includes Carl Hooper, Sanath Jayasuriya, Jacques Kallis, Shahid Afridi, Shakib Al Hasan. Stokes also removed Mikyle Louis in West Indies' second innings, moving onto 201 wickets when the batter snicked behind to Jamie Smith and getting through 10 overs in that spell.

The return of Stokes, the bowler

During the West Indies' first innings as well, Stokes had bowled an eight-over spell and picked up a wicket. Speaking before the series, the skipper said: "I can finally say that I can play the role that I've been known for, for 10 years, which is batting and being that fourth seamer." "I've worked very, very hard to get into this position and I know how much me as that fourth seamer adds to the team. I'm really excited to get going this week." After bundling West Indies out for 121 runs in the first innings, England went on to put 371 runs on the board. The visitors continued to struggle as they stood at 79 for 6 in their second innings with plenty of lead to recover from.

How West Indies' guard of honour for James Anderson failed due to runout

New Delhi. James Anderson's final Test continued to proceed towards a serene end as the 42-year-old is set to retire after the conclusion of the 1st Test match between England and West Indies at the Lord's Cricket Ground. However, the West Indies team's plan to give a guard of honour to Anderson failed when he came out to bat during England's first innings. This was probably the last time when Anderson was walking out to bat for England in international cricket, but the West Indies team missed the chance to pay tribute to him due to a moment of jubilation. It is customary for the fielding team to form a guard of honour when a prominent player from the opposition team is walking out to bat for one last time in a Test match. However, the West Indies team was involved in exuberant celebrations after Shaib Bashir's run out. Mikyle Louis



triggered a brilliant run out as he hit a bullseye to send Bashir back to the pavilion. The team was busy celebrating the direct hit and Anderson entered the field simultaneously. Former West Indies captain Jason Holder was present on the field to welcome Anderson and greeted him with a handshake.

Anderson's last dance in Tests Why Anderson didn't get guard of honour?

"We spoke about it," said Jayden Seales, the West Indies bowler, "but the run-out took us all the way down to Swiss Cottage so it was pretty hard to do a guard of honour for the great man - thankfully Jason caught up with him." Anderson was also deprived of the opportunity to emulate Stuart Broad's feat, who had scored a six off his final delivery in Tests. Anderson had to go back to the pavilion without facing a single delivery as Jamie Smith was caught in the deep, becoming the last man to be dismissed. "It's a bit disappointing I couldn't hit one more six to allow him his moment," Smith said. "That's the one thing I regret about that innings, I think."

Virat Kohli's T20 World Cup trophy gesture to Rahul Dravid was great: VVS Laxman

New Delhi. Former India batter and the head of National Cricket Academy, VVS Laxman, said the T20 World Cup triumph meant a lot to the country, adding it was a special feeling when Rohit Sharma's men fought back from the jaws of defeat in the final against South Africa in Barbados on June 29. Laxman recalled the grand celebrations that began in Barbados and ended in Mumbai, highlighting his former teammate Rahul Dravid's outpouring of emotions.

VVS Laxman lauded Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for giving Rahul Dravid the space he deserved during the celebrations after the T20 World Cup final. The legendary batter praised Kohli for inviting Dravid to the trophy celebrations and helping give way to one of the most emotional moments during the trophy celebrations at the Kensington Oval. "And then someone like Rahul, with whom I have played so much cricket, I have known him for so many years, for him to show so much emotion, first when the last ball was bowled and the conversations he was having with various team members.



When he lifted the World Cup, I thought it was a great gesture by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to hand over the trophy. And the way he celebrated lifting the trophy showed how much it meant to each one of them," VVS Laxman said in a video for the

World Cup trophy, but Kohli made sure Dravid joined the party. Dravid celebrated wildly, taking the cricket fraternity by surprise. "Everyone showed their emotions. It showed how much it meant to each and every player of that squad. It's not only the playing XI.

Even the support staff and the coaching staff, the emotions were high. You saw Hardik Pandya break down and show his emotions after bowling the last over. We saw Rohit Sharma on the ground," Laxman added. The celebrations happened with full vigour in Mumbai even though Team India returned home after a three-day delay due to Hurricane Beryl in Barbados. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the victorious team for breakfast in New Delhi, thousands of people lined up along Marine Drive in Mumbai to cheer for Rohit Sharma's men during their open-top bus parade. The BCCI also felicitated the team in a ceremony at the Wankhede Stadium, handing over the prize money for Rs 125 crore.

Stalwarts Virat, Rohit and Jadeja played T20Is with pride and passion: Laxman

New Delhi. NCA chief VVS Laxman had a special message for the retired trio, including Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja. Laxman congratulated them for their careers in the shortest format of the game and their contributions to the Indian team. The 3 stalwarts of the Indian team announced their retirement from T20 internationals for India after the T20 World Cup triumph. It was a fairytale ending to their T20I careers as they ended on a high with a T20 World Cup trophy in their hands. It was a bittersweet moment for the Indian cricket team's fans the day India lifted an ICC trophy on June 29th. The day that ended India's 11-year-long wait to win an ICC title and a T20 World Cup trophy after 17 years. However, this day also

marked the end of an era as two of the pillars of the Indian cricket team announced their retirements. Kohli casually dropped a bomb while receiving the Player of the Match award as he announced this was his last game in the blue jersey in T20Is. Rohit brought down curtains on his T20I career and announced during the post-match press-conference. Jadeja took to social media the next day after the triumph and marked an end to his career in T20Is for India as well.

End of an era

Laxman paid tribute to the 3 players and said that they have set an example for the youngsters to follow.

"My message to these three stalwarts of the game -- Virat, Rohit and I consider



Ravindra Jadeja also an extremely talented player who has contributed immensely to the development of the Indian cricket team. A big congratulations. Thank you for all the contribution they have given to the great game," Laxman said in a video posted by the BCCI on their social media. Laxman was confident that Rohit, Kohli and

Jadeja will continue to make their contributions in the ODI and Test format for the Indian team.

"They set an example for the youngsters to follow. The passion and the pride with which they played the game is exemplary. While they have retired from this format, I am sure that they will continue to prepare the way they did in their careers. A big congratulations for their excellent T20 career. I am sure they are going to continue to contribute in the longer version of the game." Laxman is currently with India's young brigade as their coach in Zimbabwe. India lead the series 2-1 against Zimbabwe and the 4th T20I will be played on July 13th, Saturday.

Priyanka Chopra

Nick Jonas Arrive In Mumbai For Anant Ambani-Radhika Merchant's Wedding



Priyanka Chopra, along with her husband Nick Jonas, have arrived in Mumbai for the grand wedding celebration of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant. Earlier this evening, the couple were spotted exiting the airport premises in Mumbai, along with their team. Before heading into their car, they wore their brightest smiles and waved at the paparazzi. The video instantly went viral. The upcoming wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant is creating a buzz as one of the most highly-anticipated events of the year. Their pre-wedding celebrations have captivated the internet, marked by star-studded gatherings where Bollywood celebrities dazzle in exquisite designer outfits.

The main wedding ceremonies of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant will start on July 12, with the auspicious Shubh Vivah or wedding function. The dress code is Indian traditional. July 13 will be the day of Shubh Aashirwad, and the dress code is Indian formal. July 14 will be the Mangal Utsav or the wedding reception, and the dress code is Indian chic. All these functions will be held at the Jio World Centre in BKC.

The Ambani family pulled out all the stops by organising a grand sangeet ceremony for the couple last Friday at the prestigious Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). The dress code for the occasion was Indian Regal Glam, adding to the royal aura of the occasion. As the celebrations kicked off, a galaxy of celebrities graced the venue with their presence. The ceremony was a star-studded affair which was attended by several celebrities including Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Mouni Roy, Disha Patani, Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani and Varun Dhawan, among others. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and wife Nita Ambani's youngest son Anant Ambani and his fiancee Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities began with a Mameru ceremony at the Ambani's residence, Antilia, in Mumbai last Wednesday.



Actress Pavithra Gowda's Mother, Young Son Pay Her A Visit In Jail



Pavithra Gowda is one of the accused in the Renuka Swamy murder case, along with actor Darshan Thoogudeepa. Recently, it was reported that over 200 pieces of physical and technical evidence have been collected by the Karnataka police and some of these objects have fingerprints of the actors. Now, recently, her mother and young son came to meet her in the jail. Recently, Pavithra Gowda's mother and her son came to meet her at the Parappana Agrahara, aka Central Prison of Bengaluru. As per reports, the actress spoke to her mother for a few hours and opened up to her about the difficulties she is facing. Reportedly, she also wept bitterly about being wrongfully blamed in the Renuka Swamy case.

The reports also claim that the actress is distressed about Darshan keeping a distance from her and shared that the actor is behaving as if it is her fault. Reportedly, she is exhausted from her time spent in jail and was missing her daughter while she played with her son. She expressed her displeasure about the food as well and told her mother that she plans to file a petition in court to seek permission to use her household appliances. Meanwhile, celebrities, directors and producers have visited Darshan in the jail. A few days ago, Darshan's wife, Vijayalakshmi, his son and mother Meena. His sister and sister's son too came to visit him in the jail. Reportedly, before the Renuka Swamy murder, Pavithra Gowda fought with Darsha about whether she could have a luxury car or not. As per reports, the actress stopped talking to the Kaatera actor after which he gifted her a Range Rover, which is estimated to cost about Rs 2 to 3 crore.

Karan Johar 'Can't Believe' Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt Starrer Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania Completes 10 Years



Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan starrer *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania* has completed 10 years today. The lead actors along with the makers are celebrating the special day. Karan Johar also joined them and shared the poster. He also penned a sweet note. Aking to his Instagram stories, Karan shared the poster and wrote, "Can't believe it's been 10 years Shash!." Earlier this morning, filmmaker Shashank Khaitan shared a BTS photo of Varun and Alia from the sets and wrote, '10 Years Wow, Only Gratitude.' Alia Bhatt reshared the photo and wrote, "Can't believe it," and added a bundle of crying and heart emojis. Varun too shared the photo on his Instagram handle.

Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania was inspired by the classic Bollywood film *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol. The Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt starrer not only captured the essence of *DDLJ* but also includes a scene where the lead characters, Humpty and Kavya, visit the iconic train station in Punjab, from where Raj and Simran start their beautiful journey. Karan Johar recently revealed on *Koffee with Karan* that Varun and Sid did not want him to cast Alia in the film. Karan said, "I still remember with Alia, the first time that she walked in, how both of you sent me messages saying you can't cast her. One of you said she is too young. I am saying it started like this but when we shot with her, three months post that for a photo shoot, I remember she stood quiet and didn't look at either of you.

Either she was conscious or shy because you all already knew me. She didn't know me at all. We did the photo shoot, and right after that, I mean, I knew at the first shot." Karan added that Varun Dhawan sent him pictures of other actresses he could cast instead of Alia.



Preity Zinta's

Pics From Food Festival Will Make You Fall For Her All Over Again

Preity Zinta is a foodie and her love for food is quite evident from her social media feed. Recently, her culinary adventures took her to San Jose, California where she attended the Taste of India food festival. It is hailed as the largest Indian food festival in North America. A while ago, the Veer Zaara actress took to her Instagram and treated her admirers with a few glimpses of the vibrant festivities. The first picture features a close-up shot of Preity holding a mic and flaunting her million-dollar smile. This glimpse of hers will surely make her fans sing *Pretty Woman* from the 2003 Shah Rukh Khan starrer, *Kal Ho Naa Ho*.

The next pic is a selfie in which the actress can be seen holding a plate of the South Indian delicacy — Dosa with Sambar and coconut chutney — with many of her fans in the background. Dressed in a pink jumpsuit, Preity dropped another selfie from the stage with a sea of fans gathered at the food festival. Sharing the pictures on Instagram, the actress wrote, "A few more pictures from the Taste of India Festival in San Jose." Soon after she dropped the photos, her fans and admirers swamped down the comment section and shared their reactions. An Instagram user wrote, "Dimple Queen." Another noted, "Seeing this is a blessing." "You are so gorgeous," stated a user. Wednesday, the actress posted a reel video from her time at the food festival. In the montage, she could be seen posing with her fans for pictures, watching traditional Indian dance performances and enjoying a variety of Indian dishes like Chola Samosa, Bhutta (Corn), Chaas (Buttermilk) and Dosa.

What fun it was attending Taste of India in San Jose, California — the largest food festival in North America. It was food, happiness, laughter and sooooo many people. A big thank you to all the wonderful people that came & showered me with so much love. I didn't get a chance to take proper photos but the vibe, the smiles & the food made up for it. A big thank you," Preity wrote in the caption.

