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K C Venugopal accuses Modi Government of targeting his phone with 'malicious spyware'

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, July 13: Congress general secretary K C Venugopal on Saturday accused the Modi Government of targeting his phone with a "malicious spyware" and asserted that "we will oppose this blatantly unconstitutional act" and breach of privacy.

PM Modi urges Indian media to aid expansion of nation's global image

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, July 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the media had a role in expanding the global image of the country, which in turn impacts its economy.

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren meets Delhi CM's wife Sunita Kejriwal

New Delhi, July 13: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren on Saturday met Sunita Kejriwal, the wife of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal who is in jail in connection with the corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam.



was present during the meeting at the Delhi chief minister's official residence here, said the talks were cordial and the issue of "misuse" of Central probe agencies against Opposition leaders was discussed.

Victory with big lead in Jalandhar West bypoll: Chief Minister Mann

Chandigarh, July 13: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said the big margin of victory of the AAP in the Jalandhar West assembly bypoll shows that people are "very happy" with the state government's work.



BJP in March. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Mohinder Bhagat defeated BJP's Angural by a margin of 37,325 votes. While Bhagat polled 55,246 votes while Angural secured 17,921, according to officials.

33 Indian farm labourers freed from 'slavery' in Italy's Verona province

Rome, July 13: Italian police said on Saturday they had freed 33 Indian farm labourers from slave-like working conditions in the northern Verona province and seized almost half a million euros (\$545,300) from their two alleged abusers.

CJI Chandrachud for imparting legal education and conducting court proceedings in regional languages

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, July 13: Emphasising the need to make law and legal education accessible to millions of Indian citizens, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday said universities should come together to prepare teaching modules in regional languages.



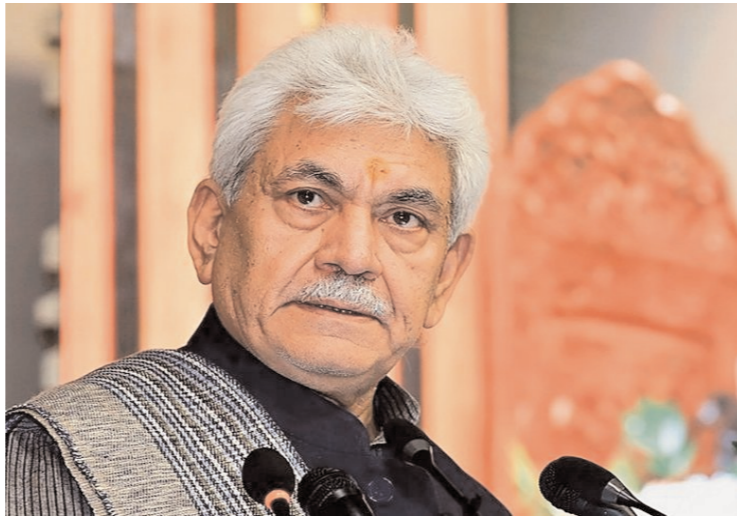
Himachal bypoll breather for Chief Minister Sukhu as party hoppers suffer defeat

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Shimla, July 13: A little over a month after its dismal performance in Lok Sabha polls, in which it drew a blank, the Congress has won two out of three assembly bypolls in Himachal Pradesh, the results for which were declared on Saturday.



Centre gives more powers to J-K Lieutenant Governor on matters related to police

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi/Srinagar, July 13: The Centre has significantly strengthened the authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering him to make decisions on crucial matters such as police, and all-India services officers and granting sanctions for prosecution in various cases.



NIMHANS to hold events on brain awareness in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. In a bid to bring people together to learn, discuss, and reflect on the importance of mental health, the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind (CBM) at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) is organising Brain Awareness Week with 'Coffee, Cinema, and Community: Mental Health Redefined' initiative. The initiative features a variety of activities from book talks and film discussions to art exhibitions and storytelling workshops to foster engagement and understanding around mental health. The highlights of the event include – a guided tour of NIMHANS with Director Dr Pratima Murthy on July 15, from 9-11 am, providing an in-depth look at the institution's history and research, along with a visit to the Brain Museum, a book talk by Dr Sanjeev Jain on July 17 from 4-5.30 pm at Atta Galatta, discussing his book 'Mindscape and Landscape: An Illustrated History of NIMHANS', an art exhibition titled 'Through the Looking Glass' on July 20 at the Neurobiology Research Centre, featuring artwork and images related to mental health and neuroscience, a panel discussion on the portrayal of mental health in films on July 20, from 6.30-8 pm at Bangalore International Centre (BIC), and a storytelling workshop by Dr Ankit Dwivedi on July 21 from 5-7 pm at BIC, focusing on mental wellness through narratives.

Submission of DPR to raise Poondi level by end of July

“The state government allocated Rs 48 lakh in 2022 for investigation and preparation of the report.”

CHENNAI. The Water Resources Department is expected to submit a detailed project report to the state government by July end with regard to raising the Poondi Reservoir level from 35 feet to 37 feet. This will increase the water storage capacity from the present 3,231 tmcft to 3,971 tmcft. “The state government allocated Rs 48 lakh in 2022 for investigation and preparation of the report. The surveying and levelling works are done. We are now working on the



detailed design and drawing. We are yet to finalise the project cost, but it is estimated to be around Rs 100 crore. WRD plans to complete the project in four to five years,” a

senior WRD official told. Another official said that the project is necessary to meet the drinking water needs of the growing population of Chennai. Currently, six reservoirs -- Cholavaram, Chembarambakkam, Poondi, Red Hills, Kannankottai Thervaikandigai, and Veeranam -- with a combined capacity of 13,222 tmcft, supply drinking water to Chennai. However, the annual demand for drinking and industrial water is about 22 tmcft, which could rise to 32 tmcft by 2035 due to population growth. Hence, this project is a priority for the state government, the official added. Under the Krishna water supply project, the capacity of the Poondi reservoir was increased from 2,750 tmcft to 3,231 tmcft by raising its 'Full Reservoir Level' from 33 feet to 35 feet during 1990-1996.

TNPSC aspirant murdered, body buried near Palar; two friends nabbed

On analysing CCTV footage, the police spotted a car belonging to one of Dhanush's friends, travelling in the area.



complaint with the police. Meanwhile, cattle herders in Koyambakkam village alerted the police on Thursday that they saw a pack of dogs sniffing around a human leg that stuck out of the mud at the Palar river bank. Later, Dhanush's parents identified the body to be that of their son. On analysing CCTV footage, the police spotted a car belonging to one of Dhanush's friends, travelling in the area. Preliminary

inquiry suggested that one of Dhanush's friends had borrowed '10 lakh in instalments from him. "When Dhanush asked him to repay the cash as it was his parents' money, a conflict arose, which could have led to the murder," the police officer further said. Property dispute: Man runs van over father, kills him Chennai: A 26-year-old man allegedly ran a van over his father and killed him over a property dispute on Wednesday night. Poonamallee police said the deceased, Rajendran (63), has three daughters and a son, Venkatesan. Venkatesan, who runs a travel company, had a conflict with his father about a six-cent plot over the past few years. "While Rajendran, who owned the land, wanted to split it equally among his children, Venkatesan wanted the whole plot to himself and just give '5 lakh each to the sisters," a police source said. On Wednesday night, Rajendran was clearing undergrowth in his land, when a van ran over him. Analysis of CCTV footage allegedly revealed that Venkatesan was driving the van when the incident occurred. A case has been registered and police launched a search for Rajendran.

To tackle dengue, Lokayukta inspects waste disposal land in Karnataka

BENGALURU. Following the alarming rise in dengue cases in Karnataka in general and Bengaluru in particular, Karnataka Lokayukta Justice BS Patil along with Upa Lokayuktas Justices KN Phaneendra and B Veerappa examined Kammagondanahalli and Abbigere and Kereguddadahalli lake to check blackspots and proper disposal of waste. The inspection was mainly to tackle the problem of waste disposal in these areas following complaints from the public. After inspection at Kereguddadahalli lake, the Lokayukta said, "Funds were released to clean the lake three months ago, but people are seen disposing of wastes into it." He directed officials to get the work done within a week. He also told the officials to prepare weekly reports on the status of cleanliness. Addressing the media after the inspection, Justice Patil said it is noticed that the waste disposal was not done appropriately, which could lead to viral infections like dengue. He warned of stringent action against officials if the problems are not fixed at the earliest. Justice Phaneendra said waste should not be dumped on railway tracks, which could lead to water stagnation. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) should involve NSS and NCC volunteers from various schools and colleges in keeping the city clean, he suggested.

APJUDA stir against attack on doctors at Siddhartha Medical College in Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA. The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) of Siddhartha Medical College (SMC) declared that their strike will continue until their demands are resolved. The strike was called at the SMC campus on Friday, alleging that the relatives of a patient forcibly entered the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), attacked them, and damaged hospital property. The junior doctors raised their slogans seeking justice and safety, demanding measures to control attacks on doctors and paramedical staff. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) - Andhra Pradesh also announced their support for their strike. According to the doctors, a 54-year-old male patient who consumed an unknown amount of glyphosate ammonium poison was brought to Vijayawada Government General Hospital (GGH) on Thursday morning. He was admitted to a private hospital on Wednesday at around 10.30 pm.



Though the doctors shifted him to the ICU from casualty and tried to save his life, the patient unfortunately died. Later, a group of the patient's relatives attacked the duty doctor and other staff, using objectionable foul language. The junior doctors of SMC then decided to call for a strike under the auspices of SMC JUDA leader Dr R Harish. About 300 postgraduate students and house surgeons staged a protest by boycotting duties except for emergency, casualty and labour duties. GGH Superintendent D Venkateswar Rao shared a letter with the students stating that they would pursue the demands and take preventive measures against such attacks. However, the students did not accept his assurance and

continued their strike. Directorate of Medical Education (DME) Dr Narasimham urged the leaders of JUDA to call off the strike for the sake of poor patients and discussed resolving their demands. Meanwhile, IMA State President Dr M Jaya Chandra Naidu and General Secretary Dr P Phanidhar visited the camp on Friday, announced their support, and discussed the issue with DME. President of APJUDA-SMC wing Dr Dharmakar Pujari declared that they will continue their strike until the Minister of Health, Y Satya Kumar, assures measures to be taken to stop future attacks on doctors. Dharmakar demanded the arrest of the accused and the registration of a non-bailable case against them. "The accused has warned the doctors during the strike that they would attack them again when they came out of the hospital premises. We need a permanent solution for such issues. Until then, the strike will continue," he added.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation takes steps to prevent water logging on roads

VIJAYAWADA. Ensuring the safety and convenience of residents is our top priority, said Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) In-charge Commissioner A Mahesh. He inspected various areas under Circle II and Circle III, including Gymkhana Grounds, Gandhinagar, BRTC Road, Sarada College, Guru Nanak Colony, Benz Circle, and other areas on Friday. The official issued several instructions to the engineering and sanitation staff. The engineering staff were directed to use machines to clean rainwater logging on the roads, ensuring the public does not face any inconvenience. He emphasised the need for constant monitoring and vigilance,



especially during rainfall, to immediately clear rainwater logging from the roads. Additionally, he instructed authorities to maintain an unobstructed flow of stormwater inside drains, ensuring regular

checks and maintenance. Mahesh encountered issues of overflowing sewage on Sitarapuram Signal Road and Guru Nanak Colony Road during his visit. He instructed officials to promptly address the underground drainage problems. He also stressed the importance of collecting and testing drinking water samples daily to ensure the supply of safe drinking water. Furthermore, he urged residents to collect water only during the specified supply times set by the VMC. He cautioned that using motors to collect water outside these times could result in muddy or discoloured water. "Residents should only collect drinking water at the designated times to avoid any contamination," he appealed.

Seeman has no political standing to comment on Kalaingar: Geetha Jeevan

THOOTHUKUDI. Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Minister Geetha Jeevan condemned NTK coordinator Seeman for his derogatory remarks against DMK patron and former chief minister M Karunanidhi at the MLA office on Friday. "Seeman has no political standing to comment on Karunanidhi, who dominated Tamil politics for over 70 years. Seeman supports his party members, who make

derogatory comments about senior leaders of other parties, and does not restrict them. It shows his lack of leadership qualities. He is a chameleon making contradictory statements, inciting law and order problems. Earlier, when NTK had offered opinions on different matters to the DMK government, it has been accepted. Now, despite such offensive comments, the ruling party is choosing to be silent," Geetha Jeevan said,

adding that the DMK cadre is just waiting for Chief Minister MK Stalin's nod. Drawing attention to the recent remarks against Karunanidhi, she added, "Seeman had used the same words in his movie, 'Thambi', and publicly vowed not to use it again and apologised. But all that is forgotten, as he is repeating the same thing now. Seeman must undergo a mental health check-up and control what he says in public.

VELLORE. Suresh, who came from Chennai to visit his brother at Vellore Central Prison on Thursday, had to sit on the floor for two hours in the waiting room that had no ceiling fan. Such is the plight of visitors, who come to meet their relatives and friends, who are lodged in the Vellore Central Prison. The second largest jail of Tamil Nadu lacks basic amenities in its waiting room. The room is devoid of chairs, ceiling fans, and has poor drinking water facilities. According to visitors, there are no breastfeeding rooms for mothers. Additionally, the telecom service for speaking with inmates is also not functioning properly, leaving visitors in a difficult situation. Official sources report that the men's prison houses around 1,000

inmates, with the facility of receiving 100-150 visitors daily. Prison authorities have drafted visit schedules to alleviate the crowding issue. Relatives are allowed to visit remand prisoners on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while convicts and Tamil Nadu Goondas Act detainees are allowed visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Not only the waiting rooms, but the visitors also pointed towards poor drinking water facilities in the jail. "While I was waiting for my son, I tried to drink water, but the water had algae. Children were also trying to drink the contaminated water. There is only one jar present for all visitors," said a mother, who came to visit her son. She also added that while there are rooms for checking ladies, there are no

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NEWS BOX

Teen held for threat call to cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangji

Gurgaon. A 15-year-old student was apprehended in Rajasthan for allegedly threatening to kill cow vigilante Raj Kumar alias Bittu Bajrangji over the phone. On July 10, Bittu lodged a complaint at the Saran police station in Faridabad, alleging he had received a phone call from an unknown number on July 6. The caller had threatened to kill him if he came to a worship place in Nuh. "The caller also demanded Rs 1 lakh not to harm me," Bittu alleged. Based on his complaint, the police registered a case under BNS sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 507 (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication), and 387 (putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion) on July 10.

During the investigation, the police analyzed the phone records of the caller and, on Friday, took a 15-year-old class XI student from Deeg, Rajasthan, into police custody. "During the interrogation, the juvenile confessed that while using Instagram, he saw cow vigilante Bajrangji's ID, found his mobile number there, and called and threatened him. We have recovered the phone used by the juvenile. The minor was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and sent to the child reform home," said Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal.

We also published the following articles recently
BMW hit-and-run case: Mihir Shah sent to police custody till July 16. Learn about the latest updates on the Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case involving Mihir Shah. Shah has been placed in police custody as investigations continue. Additionally, Shiv Sena leader Rajesh Shah has been removed from his party position in connection to the case. 111632250

An 18-year-old from Colorado dies in lake accident during Fourth of July. Read about the tragic incident involving 18-year-old Jesse Hamric who lost his life after diving into an electrified lake in Virginia. Learn how the community is rallying around the Hamric family and supporting them through this difficult time. Authorities are investigating the source of the electrical currents in the water. 111601450

Moists call villager police informer, kill him in C'garh. Tragic incident in Chhattisgarh as Maoists abduct and fatally thrash villager branded as police informer. The attack follows recent clashes between Maoists and security forces in Narayanpur district. Learn more about the escalating violence in the region.

'State acted like child': Court acquits medical shop owner charged under PC-PNDT Act

Gurgaon. Charged for sex determination nine years ago, the owner of a medical store in Rohtak was acquitted by a trial court that came down heavily on state authorities who had "acted like a child" and slapped the case after "ayurvedic" pills promising birth of a male child were found at the shop. Additional chief judicial magistrate Manglesh Kumar Choubey said in his July 7 order that the case was a "classic example of misuse of power", and that the accused was "compelled" to face an 8-year-long trial for an act that was "not an offence" under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act. Choubey said that PC-PNDT Act prohibits sex determination, and any "competent" investigator "should have been wise enough to understand that from an ayurvedic medicine, sex selection does not take place". The case was filed by the health department after a local journalist claimed to have carried out a "sting operation" and said that the Jagdamba Medical Shop was selling a drug for Rs 5,100, which promised delivery of a male child.

The department conducted a raid at the shop and pills named Shivlingi Bij, Shivputra, and Jeeval Bij were recovered. An FIR was registered against the store owner under Section 420 (cheating) of the IPC and provisions of the PC-PNDT Act. The accused was arrested in Sept that year, and as PC-PNDT Act is a non-bailable offence, he remained in jail till this month. The case went to trial in 2016. Accused's counsel Harish Sikri told the court during trial that of the 15 witnesses listed by the prosecution, some had turned hostile and the journalist had failed to give a statement. Another witness, Dr Satish Khurana, told the court that the pills found in the store contained ayurvedic herbs and compounds that were easily available at a paan shop. Another witness, Dr Harpal Bhudwar, said the products in the pills were not banned and available in the market.

A yr gone, 140cr green fines still not recovered

Gurgaon. Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) is yet to recover penalties amounting to Rs 140 crore imposed on polluting industrial and commercial units in the city as environmental compensation (EC) over the past 16 months. From Dec 1, 2022 to April 30 this year, a total of Rs 134 crore was imposed as EC in the north circle of Gurgaon, and Rs 6 crore in the south circle. But no recovery of fines has been made so far.

Experts suggest that the delay in penalty recovery could be a strategy to benefit the violators, as EC might be written off if the units are declared dismantled or non-functional. The policy instrument of environmental compensation operates on the 'polluter pay principle'. The primary objective of this policy is environmental protection. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has empowered state pollution control boards to establish a methodology to assess and recover compensation for environmental damages. The recovered amounts are then utilised through action plans for environmental protection. Delhi-based activist Varun Gulati, who filed an RTI on this issue, said, "It's clear that HSPCB has failed to do its job, even though it has imposed EC. Instead of paying up the fines, many of the 'sealed' or 'closed' units just begin operations somewhere else in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonapat, or nearby places. The owners get away by saying the units have been dismantled or closed after the fines were imposed. This reveals the huge nexus between HSPCB staff and these polluters." "Normally, food joints and other commercial/industrial units have to apply to the pollution control board for the consent to operate (CTO) certification. They have to furnish details of waste likely to be generated, mechanism of disposal, and if they plan to use generator sets for power backup. at these establishments.

Temp dips by 5.5C, cloudy skies likely but no heavy showers

Gurgaon: The day temperature in the city dropped by a significant 5.5 notches on Friday and IMD said it is likely to remain stable for the next few days, with scattered or isolated rainfall.

The maximum temperature was 34 degrees Celsius on Friday, down from Thursday's 39.5 degrees and 2.6 notches shift from the season's normal. Minimum temperature was recorded at 29.2 degrees Celsius, up from 28.5 degrees on Thursday. The relative humidity fluctuated between 39 and 60% on Friday, indicating a mix of dry and moderately humid conditions throughout the day. India Meteorological Department (IMD) said no heavy downpour is forecasted for the upcoming days in the city and the sky is expected to remain overcast till July 14, providing a break from the scorching sun. "There is no warning for heavy rain in Gurgaon for the next five days. There might be scattered rainfall in isolated areas during this period," an IMD official said. The IMD has predicted that the weather condition will remain relatively stable over the next few days.



The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 34-35 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature may range between 27-29 degrees Celsius. The sky will likely remain partly cloudy to overcast. The relative humidity levels are expected to remain moderate, ranging between 40-60% during the day. This may lead to some discomfort, especially during the afternoon hours. It

is advisable for residents to stay hydrated and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun during this time. In Delhi, meanwhile, the maximum temperature decreased by over four degrees Celsius on Friday, resulting in pleasant outdoor conditions. No colour-coded warning has been issued for Saturday. Nevertheless, IMD anticipates light showers accompanied by mostly

overcast skies throughout Saturday and Sunday. We also published the following articles recently

Rainfall deficit down to 2.3%, heavy showers soon, says IMD. Learn about the fluctuating monsoon rainfall trends in India from June to July. Deficit levels improved in July with heavy rainfall expected in various regions. Reservoir water storage is increasing, benefiting agriculture. Heavy rain lashes Delhi-NCR; IMD predicts light rain for next 2 days. Get the latest update on heavy rain in Delhi-NCR. IMD predicts more rain ahead. Delhi's rainfall above average for the season. Air quality improves to 'satisfactory' levels. Read more for details. Uttarakhand weather forecast: IMD issues heavy rain alert for next 3 days. Chardham Yatra on hold. Stay updated on the heavy rainfall forecast in Uttarakhand until July 10. The state government issues alerts as the IMD predicts heavy to very heavy rainfall. Precautionary measures are advised by the Chief Minister to ensure safety.

Irregularities in electoral roll revision: 35 BLOs suspended

Gurgaon. The district administration has suspended 35 booth level officers (BLOs) for irregularities in the revision of the electoral roll. The administration has already started a drive to add to and delete names from the existing list after verification as the assembly polls are only a few months away. Deputy commissioner and district election officer Nishant Kumar Yadav ordered suspension of BLOs — 22 from Gurgaon, seven from Pataudi, four from Sohna and two from Badshapur — who have been accused of manipulating the voters' list by unauthorised addition and deletion of names. "According to the guidelines of the state's chief electoral officer, these BLOs had to complete home-to-home verification by July 4.

A total of 35 BLOs from the four assembly segments, however, did not complete the work on time, showing negligence. The disciplinary action came after a proposal from the concerned SDMs. Employees who do not take election duties seriously will not be spared, and the election commission may even terminate their

services," said Yadav. After voters alleged irregularities in the voter list during the Lok Sabha polls, the administration launched a revision drive to make corrections and add new voters by July 18. The final draft for the assembly election will be published on Aug 20. The drive includes publishing the draft voter list, filing claims and objections, resolving claims and objections, adding names to the voter list for those who have turned 18, and removing names of deceased voters. Gurgaon has a total of 25.7 lakh voters spread across four assembly constituencies — Badshapur, Gurgaon, Sohna, and Pataudi. In the last five years, Gurgaon district added 4.4 lakh new voters to the electoral list, and the number of electors increased from 21.3 lakh in 2019 to 25.7 lakh before the parliamentary election. In Badshapur, BLO Santosh from booth number 180 in village Basai and BLO Sanjula from booth number 349 in village Tikri were suspended.

BLOs Santra, Dhampal, Indu and Vikram from booth numbers 24, 70, 68

and 129, respectively, were suspended in Sohna. In Pataudi, BLOs Deepak, Geeta Rani, Ganga, Geeta, Pradeep, Pushpa and Kamlesh Devi were suspended. In Gurgaon, BLOs Gudra Saini, Rekha, Rashmi, Anita Kumari, Ankush Chauhan, Monika, Indubala, Naveen, Deepa, Suman, Manita, Poonam, Sunita Rani, Praveen, Kuldeep, Shalu, Rajesh, Neeraj, Wazirchand, Surjit, and Sanjay were suspended. We also published the following articles recently: Madhya Pradesh: 2.5 lakh Amarwara voters to elect new MLA today. Discover the latest updates on the assembly elections in Amarwara with over 2.5 lakh voters casting their votes today. Learn about the security measures in place and the identity proof documents required for voting. Questions French voters asked. Snap elections in France result in hung parliament with far-right defeat. Political fragmentation and ideological differences hinder government formation. Lessons on shared power and avoiding far-right mimicry.

Woman electrocuted as iron cot touches cable, two in hospital

Gurgaon: A 42-year-old woman was electrocuted and two of her family members were injured when the frame of an iron cot they were moving to a balcony touched a live wire hanging near their building in Sector 9A on Friday morning.

Police said Sunita Devi, who was from Bihar's Arwal, was rushed to a hospital in the city, where she was declared dead. Her 18-year-old son Situ Kumar, a college student, and her sister-in-law Subhanati (32) have suffered serious burn injuries and are admitted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. Lokesh, a relative, said Situ's condition is stable and Subhanati was operated on. Sunita's husband Arvind Kumar works at a factory in Sector 37. Police said the incident was reported around 6.30am. Sunita's family was cleaning a vacant second floor at their neighbour's house in Bhavani Enclave, a densely populated area with small lanes and electric wires hanging over the streets. "The family was looking to get their daughter Priyanka married. A prospective groom's family was supposed to visit them over the weekend. As they didn't have adequate space in their own house, Sunita's family spoke to their neighbours to allow them to host the groom's family on the vacant second floor. The mishap occurred when Sunita's family was cleaning the floor," said inspector Rambir Singh of Sector 9A station. While cleaning, Singh said, Sunita saw a metal cot and went to the balcony to keep it. "When she lifted the metal cot to keep it in a corner of the balcony, the frame came in contact with a 11,000-volt line passing next to the building. Sunita suffered a severe jolt along with two other family members," Singh said. He said cops aren't certain if the two family members were injured because they too were touching the metal cot, or they were electrocuted while trying to save Sunita. Lokesh said the neighbours who lived in the house would have been aware of the high-tension line passing by the building, but Sunita and her family weren't. There was no grille or boundary wall on the balcony of the second floor, Singh said. "As per the procedure under Section 194 (police to enquire and report) of BNSS, we will hand over the body to the family after an autopsy. A case has not been registered," the inspector added. We also published the following articles recently: Still stuck in Space: What astronaut Sunita Williams said about her return to Earth. Learn about American astronaut Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams' confidence in the Boeing Starliner spacecraft despite delays. Find out the latest updates on their return to Earth and the technical issues being addressed by NASA and Boeing. Stay informed! Sunita Williams on her month-long space mission.

20km pipeline soon to boost water supply to tail-end areas

Gurgaon. GMDA will lay a 20.5km master supply pipeline from Basai water treatment plant (part 2) to tail-end areas of the city. The agency will submit its technical plans within a week and float a tender soon, an official said. Last year, the govt approved GMDA's proposal for the master pipeline, which will have a capacity of up to 200 million litres per day (MLD) and will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 125 crore. The pipeline will be laid with looping arrangements using glandless bush-mechanised resilient seated sluice valves, the official said. According to GMDA's Infrastructure Development Plan, an additional water treatment plant (WTP) with a capacity of 200 MLD will be required in addition to the existing 270 MLD at Basai WTP, to meet the prospective water demand. At present, GMDA supplies 128 MLD to the tail-end areas, whereas water demand is 152.4 MLD, which is expected to escalate to 328 MLD by 2041. On Wednesday, the GMDA board approved upgrade work on the Basai water treatment plant (part 2) with a new filtration unit of 100 MLD, which will be



constructed at an estimated cost of around Rs 247 crore. A separate waterworks will be constructed with a storage tank. "The existing pipelines from the Basai water treatment plant have exhausted their carrying capacity,"

and a new pipeline needs to be laid to cater to the increasing water demand in the city. The agency is expected to submit the technical scheme of the project within a week, and after scrutiny and finalising the Detailed

Project Report (DPR), we will invite the tender for the same," said a senior official of the GMDA. The proposed master water supply line will be laid along the Dwarka Expressway towards sectors 101, 104, 108, 110, and 110A, dividing roads of sectors 110A or 111, railway crossing, dividing roads of sectors 1/2, 23A/23, 22, 19/22, and 19/20, NH-8 crossing, and connecting to the Cyber Hub and Sector 16 line in the end. The pipeline will boost water supply in other areas including Palam Vihar, sectors 23A, 22, HSIIDC sectors 19, 20, Dundahera, Surya Vihar, and DLF Phase-III. However, it will take at least three years to complete the project once it is allotted. Currently, there are three rising main lines from the Basai water treatment plant, which include a 1300mm pipeline, a 1200mm pipeline, and a 400mm pipeline. The 1300mm line carries 200 MLD of water against the designed capacity of 170 MLD.

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. The boy, who was apprehended under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) - the first case to be registered in the city under the new law that has replaced the Indian Penal Code - had allegedly gone to the neighbour's house to steal jewellery when her mother and brother were visiting his flat. The two families live in adjacent towers of the Sector 107 society, which was built under the affordable housing scheme. The case was registered at Rajendra Park police station. The boy told investigators he entered the neighbour's flat thinking everyone was away and panicked when the girl suddenly walked out of the washroom. Police said the girl's father, a machine operator at a factory, was away at work, so she was alone. She was taking a bath and had probably come out to check when she heard noises as the boy made his way in. The door was apparently latched but not locked, since the family had only gone out to the next tower and was expecting to return soon.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. :- 128-W/280/Tender Notice/24-25/W-1 (NIT-22-27) Dated: 12.07.2024

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest Money

- Annual Bridge zone work for Repairs & Maintenance of Bridges etc on DUK & NK section under ADEN/KUN. Approx. Cost : Rs. 7281467.35/- Earnest Money : Rs. 145600/- Completion Period : 12 Months
- Annual Bridge zone work for Repairs & Maintenance of Bridges etc on DUK under ADEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 7015798.16/- Earnest Money : Rs. 140300/- Completion Period : 12 Months
- Dewatering of LHS, Desilting of sump wells, cleaning or waterways and other Maintenance works of bridges and LHS in the section of ADEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 9317116.70/- Earnest Money : Rs. 186400/- Completion Period : 12 Months
- Major repairs of staff Qtrs by replacing jack arch roof to RCC roof of T-96(4unit), T-71 (8 unit) at PNP & Conversion of Type-I Qtrs into Type-II Qtrs E-6(6 unit) at PNP in the section of SSE(w)/PNP under ADEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 9284192.74/- Earnest Money : Rs. 185700/- Completion Period : 12 Months
- Provision of Safety fencing/precast/RCC/Sleeper/anticrash barrier type boundary wall on DUK section under ADEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 97991895.84/- Earnest Money : Rs. 640000/- Completion Period : 12 Months
- Provision of Safety fencing/precast/RCC/Sleeper/anticrash barrier type boundary wall on DUK section under ADEN/KUN. Approx. Cost : Rs. 97991895.84/- Earnest Money : Rs. 640000/- Completion Period : 12 Months

Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 06.08.2024 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 06.08.2024

Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site i.e www.ireps.gov.in

Similar nature of work For S. No. 1 to 6 : Any Civil work other than track work.

NOTE : ii) All attachments must be self attested by the tenders and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIII is compulsory. 2138/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

'TRAIN HANDLING PLAN' FOR TRAFFIC BLOCK ON DELHI-AMBALA SECTION

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Northern Railway will launch girders of new Foot Over Bridge at Mohri station on Delhi-Ambala section. To execute this work, Railways will take a suitable traffic block of duration of 3 hrs. (from 03:10 hrs. to 06:10 hrs.) on 19.07.2024. During this period following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) from Originating Station	
04139 Kurukshetra Jn.-Ambala Jn. MEMU Special	18.07.2024	
04140 Ambala Jn.-Kurukshetra Jn. MEMU Special	19.07.2024	
DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Date(s) (from originating station)
11906 Hoshiarpur-Agra Cantt. Express	Ludhiana Jn.-Dhuri-Jakhal Jn.-New Delhi	18.07.2024
12446 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Exp.	Ludhiana Jn.-New Delhi	18.07.2024
RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS		
Train No. 12426 Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Express will depart from Jammu Tawi at 23:55 hrs. (150 minutes late) on 18.07.2024		
REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Regulation period	Date(s) (from originating station)
04076 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Exp Spl.	35 minutes in Ambala Division	18.07.2024
19411 Sabarmati-Daulatpur Chowk Express	20 minutes at Dhola Mazra	18.07.2024
Note: Special train or late running train, if any, will be regulated accordingly.		
For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.		
Please join us on	7/ Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

NEWS BOX

Joe Biden says Kamala Harris is 'qualified to be president'

Washington. US President Joe Biden on Thursday said his deputy, Vice President Kamala Harris, is "qualified" to lead the country. At a high-stake press conference here on Thursday, Biden said, "From the very beginning, I made no bones about that. She is qualified to be the president. That's why I picked her." When asked about the reasons for this, he said "Firstly because of the way she's handled the issue of freedom of women's bodies, to have control of their bodies and secondly, her ability to handle almost any issue on the board." This was a hell of a prosecutor. She was a first-rate person and in the Senate, she was really good. I wouldn't have picked her unless I thought she was qualified to be the president," Biden said.

Harris, 59, is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as US Vice President in 2020. Biden's remarks on Harris came amidst growing calls for the 81-year-old to step aside from the race for the White House in November since he stumbled through a TV debate with his Republican rival Donald Trump last month. The president mistakenly referred to Kamala Harris as former president Trump during the press conference. He said, "I wouldn't have picked Trump to be the vice president, did I think she was not qualified to be president?" "The fact is that the consideration is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once and I will beat him again," Biden said. "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," he said. So, there's a long way to go in this campaign and so I'm just going to keep moving, Biden, the presumptive candidate of the Democratic Party, said.

Russian assassination plots against those supporting Ukraine uncovered in Europe, official says

WASHINGTON. Western intelligence agencies have uncovered Russian plots to carry out assassinations, arson and other sabotage in Europe against companies and people linked to support for Ukraine's military - one of the most serious being a plan to kill the head of a German arms manufacturer, a Western government official said. The plots have sometimes involved recruiting common criminals in foreign countries to conduct the attacks, said the official, who is familiar with the situation but not authorized to comment and spoke on the condition of anonymity. One major plot recently uncovered had targeted Armin Papperger, CEO of defense company Rheinmetall, the official said. The official declined to offer any details on other plots, which were first reported by CNN. The CNN report said the US informed Germany, whose security services were able to protect Papperger and foil the plot. Rheinmetall is a major supplier of military technology and artillery rounds for Ukraine as it fights off Russian forces. The company last month opened an armored vehicle maintenance and repair facility in western Ukraine and also aims to start production inside the country. White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson declined to comment on the alleged plot to kill Papperger but said, "Russia's intensifying campaign of subversion is something that we are taking extremely seriously and have been intently focused on over the past few months."

"The United States has been discussing this issue with our Nato allies, and we are actively working together to expose and disrupt these activities," Watson added. "We have also been clear that Russia's actions will not deter allies from continuing to support Ukraine."

Neither Rheinmetall nor the German government would comment Friday on the reported plot against Papperger. The Interior Ministry can't comment on "individual threat situations," spokesperson Maximilian Kall said, but he added that more broadly, "we take the significantly increased threat from Russian aggression very seriously."

'Cosmic ballet': Nasa unveils stunning images of two galaxies merging in space

World. Nasa on Friday unveiled a set of images of two galaxies merging in sort of a "cosmic ballet". The galaxies, affectionately named the Penguin and the Egg, are located 326 million light-years away in the constellation Hydra. The release of these images marked the second anniversary of the telescope's first scientific results. The image was taken by the James Webb Space Telescope which was launched in 2021 and began collecting the data since that year. Since becoming operational, Webb has observed galaxies teeming with stars that formed within a few hundred million years of the Big Bang event that marked the beginning of the universe about 13.8 billion years ago. "We see two galaxies, each a collection of billions of stars. The galaxies are in the process of merging. That's a common way that galaxies like our own build up over time, to grow from small galaxies - like those that Webb has found shortly after the Big Bang - into mature galaxies like our own Milky Way," Reuters quoted Jane Rigby, Nasa Webb senior project scientist, as saying. The Penguin and Egg galaxies, collectively known as Arp 142, are shown in the images connected by a haze of stars and gas as they slowly merge. The Penguin galaxy, formally called NGC 2936, is a distorted spiral galaxy, while the Egg galaxy, NGC 2937, is a compact elliptical galaxy. Their interaction began between 25 and 75 million years ago, and they are expected to become a single galaxy in hundreds of millions of years. Webb has made significant contributions to the understanding of the universe, detecting the earliest known galaxies and providing insights into exoplanet composition and star-forming regions. "This mission has allowed us to look back to the most distant galaxies ever observed and understand the very early universe in a new way," said Mark Clampin, astrophysics division director at Nasa headquarters. "For example, with Webb, we've found that these very early galaxies are more massive and brighter than we expected, posing the question: How did they get so big so quickly?" As the largest and most powerful telescope ever put in space, Webb specialises in capturing infrared light, allowing it to see through dust and gas and examine the composition of exoplanet atmospheres with unprecedented detail.

Obama, Pelosi Spoke Privately About How Hard It Has Become For Biden To Defeat Trump: Report

Neither Barack Obama nor Nancy Pelosi are sure about what they should do next as Biden faces a mutiny from within the Democrats.



Washington D.C. Former US president Barack Obama and former US House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi this week privately discussed their growing concerns regarding US President Joe Biden's re-election campaign. A report by US broadcaster CNN said that both discussed how tough it is getting for 81-year-old Biden to beat his rival and predecessor Donald Trump. The report also said that they are unsure regarding what to do next as a growing number of "very connected Democrats" devise a plan to get Biden to drop out of the race. The report also said that several Democrats have urged Obama and Pelosi

behind the scenes to ensure that no more damage is done to the party ahead of the November elections. Two weeks after a disastrous debate night where Biden struggled to keep up with his rival Donald Trump, more than 15 Democratic lawmakers have called for Biden to step aside. Many more kept their newfound alarm about Biden semi-private. Mega-

donors froze in the moment. Democratic voices from Congress to the intelligentsia to the streets pitched in to tell the president he should go. He said hell no. However, some Democrats are hoping that Biden himself reaches the decision of bowing out of the race and Nancy Pelosi has hinted that she thinks on similar lines when she indicated Biden still has a

decision to make on whether to run even though the president has made it clear he remains in the race. On Democratic senator and 16 House Democrats have publicly called on Biden to drop out of the race. Biden tried to make the case that what he's doing matters more than how he talks about it during his latest press conference, a test he avoided throughout this year. During his press conference, in a slip-up he referred to Vice President Kamala Harris as "Vice President Kamal Harris," saying he picked her because he believed she could beat Trump. Even before the news conference, Biden had bungled an important name at the NATO summit and instantly lowered expectations for his performance. "Ladies and gentlemen President Putin," Biden said as he was introducing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is most definitely not Russian President Vladimir Putin. The gaffe immediately prompted gasps, as Biden caught himself and said to Zelenskyy: "President Putin? You're going to beat President Putin."

Actor Alec Baldwin cries in court as judge dismisses 'Rust' shooting case

Los Angeles. Alec Baldwin's trial for involuntary manslaughter collapsed in spectacular fashion on Friday (local time) as a judge found key evidence over a fatal shooting on the set of "Rust" had been withheld from the defence, and dismissed the case. Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer, presiding over the trial in Santa Fe, New Mexico, said bullets potentially linked to the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins that could have been favourable to Baldwin's case had not been shared with his lawyers by police and prosecutors. The Hollywood A-list actor immediately burst into tears, as the case -- which could have seen him sentenced to 18 months in prison if found guilty -- was abruptly tossed out in sensational scenes. "The state's willful withholding of this information was intentional and deliberate. If this conduct does not rise to the level of bad faith, it certainly comes so near to bad faith as to show signs of scorching prejudice," said Marlowe Sommer.



"The court concludes that this conduct is highly prejudicial to the defendant."

Baldwin was holding a gun in the direction of Hutchins during a rehearsal in October 2021 when the weapon fired, killing Hutchins and wounding the film's director. The movie's armourer Hannah Gutierrez, who loaded the fatal weapon, is already serving 18 months in prison for involuntary manslaughter. Baldwin was facing the same charge. Prosecutors claim he ignored basic gun safety laws and acted recklessly on set. Baldwin's celebrity lawyer Alex Spiro argued the actor had no responsibility for checking the weapon's deadly contents and did not know it contained live rounds. But the defence's case also

rested heavily on discrediting the police investigation. And Spiro on Thursday introduced evidence that live bullets potentially linked to the shooting had been handed to police, but not disclosed to Baldwin's lawyers.

'BURIED' The bullets were handed to police by a "Good Samaritan" earlier this year, more than two years after the "Rust" tragedy. The "Good Samaritan" was a former police officer and a family friend of Gutierrez, the armourer. He told police the bullets matched the rounds that killed Hutchins. Spiro accused police of having "buried" evidence by not filing it under the "Rust" case, depriving the defence of a chance to see it. "It was a perfect plan," he told the court. Crime scene technician Marissa Poppell, under questioning from Spiro, said she had catalogued the bullets, but had been told not to file them under the "Rust" case. Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey scrambled to respond, telling the court she had never seen or heard of the bullets before this week.

Elon Musk makes 'sizeable' donation to Donald Trump's campaign

World. Tesla CEO and X chairperson Elon Musk, a known critic of US President Joe Biden, has made a "sizeable" donation to a political group working to elect Republican Donald Trump to the White House, according to a Bloomberg report. While the exact amount donated is not known, sources said it was "sizeable". Musk, who had previously said he would not spend money on either Trump or Biden, has donated to a group called America PAC (political action committee). The PAC will disclose its list of donors on Monday (July 15). The development has grabbed attention as Elon Musk, a South African immigrant to the US, donated to a candidate known for strict anti-immigration policies and views. The billionaire has,



however, not publicly endorsed any candidate so far. The donation from Musk comes at a time when Trump has overtaken Joe Biden in fundraising with backing from Wall Street and corporate donors, Bloomberg reported. Biden's own fundraising bid has tapered following a shaky presidential debate with Trump that has ignited his health concerns. Even

Democrats have publicly asked Biden to drop his re-election bid. Trump, who is expected to be officially nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for the November 5 US polls, had a meeting with Musk and other donors in March.

Two months later, he denied media reports that suggested he might be roped in for an advisory role if Trump becomes president. "Musk knows Trump is a sucker who will sell America out, cutting his taxes while raising taxes on the middle class by \$2,500. Joe Biden has been standing up to people like Elon and fighting for the middle class his entire career -- and it's why he'll win in November," Reuters quoted Biden's campaign spokesperson James Singer as saying.

Amid calls to quit race, Biden tells supporters, 'I promise you, I'm ok'

Detroit, UPDATED. Seeking to revive his struggling re-election campaign, President Joe Biden held a rare rally in Detroit on Friday (local time), telling a cheering crowd he wasn't going to leave the race and warning that Republican Donald Trump poses a serious threat. Biden, 81, is trying to shift the conversation from his mental sharpness and a growing number of Democratic defections to the impact of another Trump presidency, as he tries to reboot his campaign after a shaky debate performance on June 27. "I am running and we're going to win," he said to a crowd that carried "Motown is Joetown" signs and chanted, "Don't you quit." "I'm the nominee," he said. "I'm not going anywhere." Pointing to the press area in the gym, Biden said, "They've been hammering me," to which the crowd boomed. "Guess what, Donald Trump has got a free pass," he added. "Hopefully with age comes a little wisdom." Biden said, in a defiant and sometimes gleeful performance. "Here's what I know - I know how to tell the truth, I know right from wrong and I know Americans want a president, not a dictator." Biden also laid out what he intended to do with his first



100 days of a second term, including codifying abortion rights, signing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, ending medical debt, raising the minimum wage and banning assault weapons. These sweeping changes would be difficult or

impossible without Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. While union and religious leaders attended, Michigan's governor Gretchen Whitmer and its Democratic senators, Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, did

not. Earlier on Friday, Biden made a surprise stop at a restaurant in a Detroit suburb, where he told diners he planned to "finish the job," and said, "I promise you, I'm okay." Biden got a boost on Friday when two prominent Democrats - Representative James Clyburn and California Governor Gavin Newsom - said he should stay in the race. On Friday afternoon, United Auto Workers president Shawn Fain, who had previously said he was worried about the president's chances, praised Biden for standing "with the working class," without using his name. But there were signs that his support was weakening elsewhere, as two more lawmakers called on him to drop out. "It is time to move forward. With a new leader," Representative Mike Levin, from California, said in a statement. Levin, like many others who have called on Biden to leave the race, faces a competitive re-election battle of his own this year. Since the debate, at least 19 lawmakers have urged Biden to step aside, so the party can pick another candidate, as have some donors, Hollywood stars, activist groups and news outlets.

Imran Khan's PTI to emerge as largest party in Parliament after court's ruling

Islamabad. Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday ruled that Imran Khan's party was eligible for more than 20 seats reserved for women and minorities in Parliament, in a major legal victory for the jailed former prime minister, who demanded the resignation of the election commission chief.

Candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, who had contested and won the February 8 elections as independents after their party was stripped of its election symbol, had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), a political alliance of Islamic political and Barelvi religious parties in Pakistan, to form a coalition of convenience. The SIC had filed a plea challenging the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) move to deny its share in reserved seats in the assemblies. A 13-member full bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. The ruling in the keenly awaited case is viewed as a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition though there is no immediate threat to the federal government. Chief Justice Isa had announced after the proceedings on Tuesday that the panel decided to reserve the verdict for mutual consultation, which it announced on Friday. A majority of eight judges ruled in favour of SIC by overturning the orders of the top election body and the judgment of the Peshawar High Court. The judgment was announced by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. "The order of the Election Commission of Pakistan, dated 1st of March 2024, is declared to be ultra vires to (beyond the powers of) the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect," according to the verdict. "The notifications of various dates, whereby the persons respectively mentioned therein, being the persons identified in the commission's notification, dated 13th of May, 2024, have been declared to be returned candidates for reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies, are declared to be ultra vires to the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect, and are quashed from 6th of May 2024 onwards," it read. The court went ahead to declare "the lack or denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the constitutional and legal rights of a political party to participate in an election (whether general or by) and to field candidates and the Commission is under a constitutional duty to act, and construe and apply all statutory provisions, accordingly". The verdict further declared that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was a political party and eligible for reserved seats. "The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a political party."

Fraudsters cheat public on servicing RO units in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. As dengue cases rise, more people are seeking to service their RO (reverse osmosis) units to ensure clean water. Cyberfraudsters, however, are exploiting this demand by posing as RO service providers. After receiving numerous complaints, the city police have flagged this as a new trend in online scam and warned the public against making any advance online payments. A police officer told that approximately 100 such complaints from different parts of the city have been received. Another senior police officer said, "The caller typically claims that the water purifier needs servicing or a part replacement, creating a false sense of urgency. As most branded companies regularly call to offer services every six months, people are falling prey to the scam, mistaking them to be genuine calls." In some cases, fraudsters would already possess information about individuals who have inquired about the service, enabling them to call back and make the scam appear genuine, the officer added. Fraudsters schedule a service visit and demand an advance fee for the appointment or for replacing parts. Though the amount they collect is typically low, it provides the fraudsters with access to some sensitive information, the officer said, and added that they use these details to either set up a mule account or target the same individual again for future scams. The officer said that in some instances, a person shows up to service the unit, tampers with the machine to aggravate issues or installs substandard parts, only to extort more money from their victims. In most cases reported so far, nobody arrived.

U-shaped flyover near Tidel Park signal to be ready in two weeks

Will provide huge relief from traffic congestion during peak hours at junction, which will soon be made bidirectional



CHENNAI. The extensive traffic congestion at Tidel Park Junction on Rajiv Gandhi Salai will soon be a thing of the past as the second U-shaped flyover on the stretch is nearing completion. After the flyover is opened for public use, right turn for vehicles coming from East Coast Road will not be permitted towards Indira Nagar, making the Tidel Park Junction bidirectional. The two-lane, unidirectional flyover that spans over 230 metres, aims to enhance traffic flow by allowing motorists from Thiruvanniyur/ECR to proceed towards Indira Nagar by making a U-turn on the

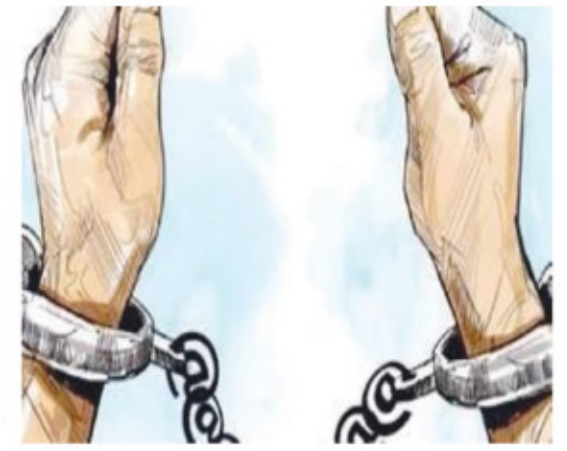
OMR Road near Tidel Park. Official sources from the Tamil Nadu Road Development Company (TNRDC) said as much as 95% work has been completed and the remaining civil work is expected to be finished in two weeks. Tidel Park Junction witnesses huge traffic congestion during peak hours since it facilitates traffic in all four directions. Additionally, the ongoing construction of metro phase II shrunk the carriageway of Rajiv Gandhi Salai, further slowing down vehicular movement. Sources said traffic police have proposed the closing of the entry towards

Thiruvanniyur Bus Stand/Kottivakkam for vehicles coming from SRP Tools, thereby making the junction bidirectional in the Madhya Kailash-Thiruvanniyur section. The road handles more than 1.5 lakh vehicles daily. The first U-shaped flyover, facilitating traffic from SRP Tools to Thiruvanniyur Bus Stand, was unveiled at Indira Nagar Junction last year.

"The traffic changes can be implemented only when both flyovers are ready to use. The new flyover will significantly reduce congestion in the Madhya Kailash-Kandanchavadi section," said a traffic police official. S Chakravarthi of Thiruvanniyur commented, "It takes nearly 20 minutes to cross the Tidel Park signal during peak hours. Once the junction is made bidirectional, the police should ensure that vehicles don't pile up near the new flyovers."

To reduce traffic congestion on OMR and other major roads, as much as ₹108.13 crore was allocated for the "Development of Comprehensive Integrated Traffic Infrastructure at Tidel Park Junction". A G.O. was issued in November 2019, and construction began in 2020. However, the projects faced delays due to the COVID-19 lockdown and the relocation of electrical and underground drainage pipelines.

West Bengal native held for abetting wife's suicide in Chennai



CHENNAI. A 30-year-old man from West Bengal was arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of his wife at Kovalam in Chengalpattu district. The suspect has been identified as Dibankar Sarkar, a carpenter. Quoting the neighbours, a police officer said Sarkar and his wife Ramba Burman (23), a house keeping staff in nearby companies, used to quarrel frequently. He said on Thursday morning, Sarkar locked the house from outside and left. "Since Ramba did not come out for the entire day, the neighbours grew suspicious and looked through the window, only to find the woman lying on the floor," he said. The Kelambakkam police broke open the door and sent Ramba to a hospital, where she was declared dead. Dibankar was arrested from Perumbakkam under the charges of abetment to suicide under Section 108 of BNS. He allegedly confessed to the police that on Thursday morning, he hit Ramba, and she took the extreme step upset over this. Sources said the couple was married for eight years and does not have children.

MVD seizes 'unfit' school van carrying children in Kochi

KOCHI. A couple of days after a school bus caught fire in Kundannoor, the motor vehicle department (MVD) on Friday seized a school van operating without a fitness certificate. An MVD squad seized the vehicle, belonging to an international school functioning at Kalamassery, from Vazhakkala in Kakkannad. "The school van was seized after a random inspection by the squad. There were six students inside the bus," said Motor Vehicle Inspector Assim V I, who led the squad. The students were taken to school in another vehicle and the authorities were instructed to produce the vehicle for an inspection after resolving the problems. "We are planning to conduct a drive to spot such illegal operations," the officer said. Rajesh A R, another inspector with MVD, said any violation of norms could lead to a fine and seizure of the vehicle concerned. "In some cases, violations lead to the rejection of the vehicles' fitness certificates."

The department has conducted awareness classes this year for around 750 persons, mostly drivers and helpers, he said. "Around 900 educational institution vehicles are registered in the district. Fitness tests are held in April and May. Of these, around 300 vehicles clear the fitness test before the academic year begins in June," Rajesh said.



The MVD issues stickers to vehicles which clear the test, he said. "This year, 259 vehicles attended the marathon test held before the school reopening. Except for a few, most of the vehicles passed the test. The other vehicles also cleared the fitness test within a few days, after resolving the issues," the officer added. Awareness classes held Motor Vehicle Inspector Rajesh A R said that the department has conducted awareness classes this year for around 750 persons, mostly drivers and helpers

'Sail, savour the sea, not sights of Europe', says Captain Dilip Dondé

CE spoke with Captain Dilip Dondé, the first Indian to complete a solo unassisted circumnavigation of the globe under sail, during a session organised by YFLO on the endless possibilities in the blue economy.

HYDERABAD. The marine world offers so much to us, and when it comes to navigating the choppy waters, we often look towards Navy officials who have been crucial in many expeditions that have made our country proud. CE had the opportunity to speak with Captain Dilip Dondé, the first Indian to complete a solo unassisted circumnavigation of the globe under sail, during a session organised by YFLO on the endless possibilities in the blue economy. **What are the challenges that you usually encounter in this profession?** The biggest challenge is that we are the first in the country doing something like this. Sailing boats, navigating from

one place to another, and taking people who are interested in doing it—being the first in the country obviously comes with challenges. Making people understand exactly what it is and weaving the regulative network is difficult since no one has done it before. We don't have the necessary rules and laws like in the western world where it is quite common. These are the challenges in any venture when you are doing it for the first time in the country, and we are facing similar challenges. **How does it feel to be a part of this expedition?** It feels really nice to be doing something for the first time in the country and introducing our people to activities our ancestors used to do. It seems that this was lost somewhere, and now, reviving and continuing it feels nice. **How important is it to educate the younger generation about these things?** Firstly, I was a Captain in the Navy and left it in 2006. However, I think it is

important for the younger generation and anyone as an Indian to learn about these things. We have a vast population but not enough landmarks, yet we have the ocean around us with 7,000 kilometers of coastline. This can be used for various activities like sailing for recreation and sport, which raises maritime awareness among the younger generation and benefits the overall country. It also generates substantial revenue. Today, if you go to Himachal, there are people growing around there, but the sea is open to us and is far bigger than the landmarks we have, so let's utilise it. **Any inspirational words for those who want to join the Navy?** Joining the Navy is a wonderful career and offers a fulfilling life. I made that career choice around 30 years ago and have not regretted it for a single day. The opportunities that the navy offers for the next generation are growing by the day with the changing geopolitical scenarios.

NIA to probe larger nexus of racket in Kerala's Nedumbassery organ trade case

KOCHI. The NIA which has started a probe into the organ trafficking case registered at Nedumbassery police station will look into the larger national and international nexus of the racket. The national agency had filed an FIR in the case at the NIA Court in Kochi recently. The accused persons listed in the FIR are Valappad native Sabith Nasar and others. The case is registered under Section 19 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (Commercial dealing in human organ transplantation) and Section 370 of IPC (Human trafficking). As per the FIR, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified NIA to take over the probe into the Nedumbassery case considering its grave nature and international ramifications on July 1. As directed, the NIA took over the probe and re-registered the case. Later, the NIA filed a report in the NIA Court in Kochi arraigning three more persons as accused.

They are Kalamassery native Sajith Shyam, Ballamkonda Ramprasad alias Prathapan of Vijayawada and Kochi native Madhu Jayakumar who is currently at large and staying in Iran. On Monday, the national agency filed a petition before the NIA Court seeking a directive to hand over all evidence collected by Kerala Police in the case. "The agency had questioned Sajith when he was intercepted by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) at Nedumbassery airport in May this year. Later, a preliminary probe was launched regarding the network behind the trafficking of Indian citizens to Iran after promising them a huge amount for donating their organs. After the deal is struck, the racket members will force the donors to hand over their passports to them. Once the organ is donated at government-approved hospitals in Tehran, donors will be given a smaller amount than what was promised.

Women-friendly tourism gaining momentum in Kerala: Minister

Noting that the members of the destination promotion campaign are students, the minister emphasised that it is significant that youngsters become promoters of Kerala tourism by joining the campus tourism clubs.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Catching up with the global trend, women-friendly tourism is gaining momentum in Kerala with government initiatives turning the entire state into a safe, clean and comfortable destination for women to travel solo or in groups, said Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas. Flaggging off an all-woman destination promotion campaign organised by Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission (KRTM) Society from the city, Riyas said that Kerala has set another successful model by promoting women-friendly tourism in partnership with UN Women. "It has become a global trend for women to travel on their own or



with friends, colleagues or family members, especially after the Covid pandemic. When hosts are also women, they feel more comfortable. This model also opens plenty of economic opportunities for women," said Riyas. Noting that the members of the destination promotion campaign are students, the minister emphasised that it is significant that youngsters become

promoters of Kerala tourism by joining the campus tourism clubs. Tourism director Shikha Surendran and KRTM Society CEO K Rupesh Kumar were present on the occasion. The group that set off from Park View complex, that houses the directorate, were selected for the campaign based on their expertise in promoting tourism on social media handles. They will tour through panoramic places like Amboori and Vellarada in the district to pass on the message of women-friendly tourism and encourage women to be stakeholders in this fast emerging model. The Women-Friendly Tourism initiative was launched in October 2022 by the KRTM.

TN truck driver killed at Kamarajar Port after a container falls on his truck

CHENNAI. A truck driver was killed at Kamarajar Port here on Saturday when a container that was being moved by a crane operator from a ship to the Adani Ennore Container Terminal brushed against another container and fell on his vehicle. The incident resulted in a flash protest by the truck drivers at the port, who sought Chief Minister M K Stalin's intervention. The truck drivers claimed that there were laxities in safety guidelines. Kamarajar Port officials confirmed that the truck driver was killed in the incident. All top port officials are at the spot. Kamarajar Port spokesperson said that the truck drivers later dispersed from the site and the port operations resumed. The identity of the driver and other details are awaited.



Kochi's Calvathy Road to history lies in shambles

KOCHI. Shaji travels nearly 12 kilometres every day to reach his workplace in Fort Kochi. He doesn't mind the journey — the traffic snarl-ups, the crowded ferry, and the long walks through lanes bathed in history. It has been his routine for decades. However, for the past few years, this very routine had started to sap the Edappally native's strength. Not the entire journey per se. Just the final stretch — the nearly one-kilometre-long Calvathy Road. Years of stalled construction, potholes and dust have left this road in shambles, making travel near perilous. "It's tough to reach the

workplace now," Shaji says. His plight is emblematic of the struggle faced by countless others who traverse this historic yet neglected stretch, considered the gateway to Fort Kochi. Calvathy or chaotic road The Calvathy Road, which dates back to the 14th century, boasts a rich history and cultural significance. It's not just any road; it's the spine of an area that once hosted Arab settlers and European quarters. The remnants of these eras can still be seen, with the 14-century Calvathy Juma Masjid standing as a silent witness to centuries gone by.

"Muslims were the first community to have migrated and settled in Calvathy, in the latter half of the 1300s. The Calvathy Juma Masjid is an indispensable shard in piecing together Kerala's Muslim history," says Johann Binny Kuruvilla, who runs the popular Kochi Heritage Project. Indeed, it is the "second-oldest mosque in India, the oldest being the Cheraman Juma Masjid in Kodungallur, an hour's drive from Kochi," says Stephen Robert, a local resident. Calvathy Road connected the twin towns of Fort Kochi and Mattanchery. "Fort Kochi



mostly had European settlements, while

Mattanchery belonged to the erstwhile Cochin state. The colonial forces often clashed with those of Cochin kingdom here," Johann says. It was also a stretch of commerce with merchants, traders and businessmen from a horde of communities setting up their shops here. "During the time of the Portuguese, it was also a shipbuilding lane. It is believed that Vasco da Gama first landed in Kochi near the Calvathy bridge. The area also housed a palace of the Cochin royal family," Johann adds.

What Modi can learn from Sunak

RISHI Sunak and his Conservative Party badly lost the parliamentary elections in the UK last week. He was gracious in defeat. "I can hear your anger. I take responsibility for the loss to the many good, hardworking candidates," he said. He resigned as the Prime Minister immediately after the expected verdict was announced. The next day, he resigned as the leader of the Conservative Party, leaving the field open to ambitious politicians to vie for the top job in the party. Considering that only 36.56 per cent of the voters supported the BJP this time, he should listen to the voices of those who voted against his party.

Sunak's stature in my eyes, at least, and I am sure in the eyes of Indians who think and feel, went up by several notches. I compared his reaction to the defeat to that of our own popular Prime Minister when the BJP lost 60 seats in the Lok Sabha compared to its 2019 tally of 303.

Narendra Modi had set his sights on winning 400 seats this time. He had launched several infrastructure projects, traversed the length and breadth of the country in his peripatetic fervour, and inaugurated the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya all by himself. All his efforts were in vain. His party lost ground in Uttar Pradesh and, wonder of wonders, the BJP lost the Ayodhya seat to Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party.

But our Prime Minister is made of sterner stuff than our former colonial master's ex-PM. Modi did not mention 'defeat' even once. He claimed victory for the NDA. His pre-poll tieup with Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and the mercurial Nitish Kumar's JD(U) took the BJP-led alliance past the halfway mark. Modi began his cherished third term without batting an eyelid. For him, it was business as usual. He showed no discomfiture at the BJP's below-par show in the Lok Sabha elections and did not think it necessary to offer any explanation to his party members for what can only be described as his personal failure as the BJP fought the elections in his name. Sunak is of Indian origin. His family has its roots in Punjab. His wife, Akshata Murthy, is the daughter of Narayan Murthy, the founder of Infosys. Her roots are in Karnataka. They hail from the same stock as Modi and millions of Indians. Yet, Sunak's reaction to a setback in his career was diametrically opposite to that of Modi. Sunak is a practising Hindu. It is obvious that he follows the essence of his religion. He was humble and penitent. He accepted responsibility for the defeat. The RSS should comment on this aspect of his personality and behaviour like it commented on Modi's without naming him. After all, the core teachings of the great religions in the world are similar. They all teach humility and reject arrogance. They disapprove of lies. They preach compassion and service without expectation of reward. Then, why do our desi politicians differ from our brethren who have migrated to other countries and achieved unbelievable recognition? Sunak became the Prime Minister of the country that ruled over us for two centuries or more. Kamala Harris, whose mother's family migrated to the US from Tamil Nadu, is the Vice-President of the world's most powerful country. Besides Indians seeking a better quality of life in the West, there are Indian-origin citizens of smaller countries in the world. Their ancestors had been recruited as indentured labour to work in the cotton and sugarcane fields in British-ruled colonies in the West Indies, Mauritius and Fiji. Starting with Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, the Prime Ministers of Mauritius have been of Indian origin. Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, whose origins are in a Dubej family from a village in Uttar Pradesh, is acknowledged as one of the greatest writers in the English language. His family was transhipped to the West Indies two or more centuries ago. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature for his writings, including A House for Mr Biswas, An Area of Darkness and India:

Russia, China keen on rapid BRICS expansion to counter West

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.

AMID Russia's chairmanship of BRICS, Beijing and Moscow are making efforts to rapidly expand the grouping and gain traction for the organisation to challenge Western domination. They aim to position BRICS as an upholder of the values of the Global South. BRICS has traditionally tried to find better economic avenues not dependent on the West. It is also an important effort for a multipolar world.

As many as 33 countries are waiting to join BRICS. This is a huge number. Since 2010, when South Africa joined BRICS, it remained a club of five countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. In 2023, during the South African chairmanship, six countries were invited to join the bloc: Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Argentina withdrew, while Saudi Arabia has not ratified its membership. The criteria-based approach was ignored in this rush.

Among Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Egypt, there is a mix of pro- and anti-Western countries. But the dominant theme is how to join another pole in the emerging international order and seek greater economic opportunities for themselves.

Indonesia's reluctance to join the first expansion has left a gap in BRICS because no Southeast Asian country is a member so far. Indonesia, which was then the chair of ASEAN and had successfully helmed the G20 in 2022, was seen as an ideal partner. But it demurred. One reason was that it did not want to be a party to the international contestation between the US and China, assuming that it saw BRICS as a China-led grouping. Economically, Indonesia placed its bets on its application for the membership of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development). Hence, it did not find BRICS equally attractive. Currently, there are three ASEAN countries seeking BRICS membership — Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. Public pronouncements by their leadership have varied. Thailand and Malaysia are more public about their efforts, while Vietnam, which recently hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin, has been discreet. Other applicants include Venezuela, Senegal, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Bahrain and Pakistan.

Why this eagerness of ASEAN countries to join BRICS? They are not taking an ASEAN position on BRICS. Indonesia perhaps thought there should be an ASEAN point of view on BRICS before ASEAN members sought to join. On international issues like the Ukraine war and the Gaza crisis, there is minimal, if any,

common ASEAN view. Various ASEAN countries see BRICS as having political and economic influence, which has been significantly higher since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis. Russia, China and India offer economic opportunities for trade and investment, which several applicants for BRICS membership think could benefit them. Thailand and Malaysia view their applications as a Global South initiative to seek a more determined international order where they could have a



bigger voice. They seek to leverage South-South cooperation, play a more proactive role through BRICS and participate in a more balanced international order. Prioritising multilateralism, strengthening the role of the countries of the South and enhancing economic opportunities are the main reasons cited.

Within Thailand and Malaysia, however, there are voices that challenge their governments' inclination towards BRICS. They aver that ASEAN has traditionally maintained its strategic autonomy, which, in real terms, has come to mean close economic engagement with China and a security understanding with the US-led Western bloc. The discomfort that ASEAN countries had with Quad has diminished, but that this would lead to a rush to join BRICS was unanticipated.

It is not as if Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand have had similar voting patterns on the Ukraine crisis in the UN. They voted separately. Now, they are keen on BRICS membership, even though Russia and Iran are under US sanctions and China leads the anti-Western bloc.

When these countries' push for membership is challenged domestically on the grounds of strategic autonomy,

they revert to citing economic opportunities. However, this does not hold much water because Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand are closely aligned with China in economic terms. For several years, Beijing has been their largest trading partner, and they are benefiting from the Belt and Road Initiative. They are all members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, from which India withdrew in 2019. Yet, they are all members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, which is led by Quad countries.

Vietnam is also a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, with several members from the Asia-Pacific; both China and Taiwan are among the applicants.

The changing of the guard in Indonesia will take place in October, when Gen Prabowo Subianto will take over the presidency from Joko Widodo. This is likely to see a shift in the Indonesian position as well. Indonesia may not be able to enter the BRICS fray in time for the summit in Russia in October, when Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand will be considered, but it could very well be a subsequent applicant. Prabowo has a geopolitical sense of foreign policy and is unlikely to feel the constraints that Widodo felt, even when Indonesia was a natural contender to join BRICS during the expansion in 2023. Overall, the entry of ASEAN nations into BRICS will improve its geographical coverage and bring countries in the ambit of India's Act East Policy into the grouping. India should have no difficulty in supporting Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand for their entry into BRICS and Indonesia whenever it seeks to join. India has close ties with these countries. And the economic and political expansion of relations with them remains a keystone of India's Act East Policy. They are all friends of India and could benefit by balancing the composition of BRICS. However, all of them are close economic partners of China, whose left with their inclusion into BRICS would be clearly felt. India has been comfortable with the new members who have had good relations with it but prosperous economic partnerships with China.

Of the 33 current applicants, perhaps five to 10 that are acceptable to the others will be approved. ASEAN countries, with their wider reach and support from China, Russia and India, would perhaps find it easier to enter BRICS at this stage.

NATO at it again

US, allies must avoid belligerent rhetoric



NATO is adopting a holier-than-thou approach by solely blaming Russia for the war. Amid increasing domestic pressure on President Joe Biden to drop his

re-election bid, the US has declared that it will start deploying longer-range missiles in Germany in 2026 in a bid to counter the 'growing threat' Russia poses to Europe. This makes it clear that the West is unwilling to bring Russia to the negotiating table, a stark reality that was laid bare by Moscow's absence from the Ukraine peace summit hosted by Switzerland last month.

The US-led NATO has also not stopped short of riling China, calling it a 'decisive enabler' of Russia's war in Ukraine. Reacting sharply, Beijing has urged NATO to 'reflect on the root cause of the crisis and take concrete action to de-escalate rather than shift the blame'. Indeed, NATO would do well to introspect and shun belligerent rhetoric; otherwise, this can worsen the situation in eastern Europe and bring the world to the brink of a catastrophic conflagration.

Flawed development models worsen flood misery

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

THE monsoon is the cruellest season in India. One of the most terrifying experiences is to witness a river breach an embankment and instantly eat up swathes of land. I have reported on floods for decades; the fury of a cloudburst or a landslide or rising water level is almost incomparable. To see huge chunks of solid earth being devoured by a hungry tide is numbing.

After a scorching summer, a wave of floods is sweeping India from the north to the east and the west. About 49 million hectares (of 3,290 lakh hectares) of land are prone to floods in India. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, on an average every year, "75 lakh hectares of land is affected, 1,600 lives are lost and the damage caused to crops, houses and public utilities is Rs 1,805 crore due to floods." This year, at least 85 lives have been lost so far. Over 30.83 lakh people are affected, with 3,154 villages submerged and 49,014 hectares of crop area damaged. But the impact of floods is not a mere statistic.

Flood studies and reportage almost invariably miss out on the inequality and the cumulative loss. Typically, a flood story is about loss of home, cropland, livestock, relief camps, fleeing or dead wildlife, aerial survey by ministers and vox pops of survivors demanding more attention. As the water recedes, the attention shifts till the next monsoon, when the same low-lying areas will go under water. If you are lucky, the house is still standing but will need repairs. To get through another season without crops, one must borrow money. To feed too many mouths gets difficult, encouraging traffickers to take away children who drop out of school that turn into temporary shelters. The following year, the story repeats itself, and over a decade, each family is caught in an inescapable cycle of debt. In many cases, entire houses go under water and rehabilitation is rare as well as circuitous. It often strips families of every piece of possession without any help whatsoever. We are not even halfway through the monsoon and 27 districts of Assam are flooded; 18 lakh people are affected. Beyond

Dibrugarh in upper Assam, amid challenging logistics, the media coverage reduces. Cachar, one of the worst-affected, has not even received relief. A large section of flooded India remains invisible. Parts of Arunachal Pradesh are cut off, hampering relief efforts. The Army and the air force are routinely called in to help — such is the scale of devastation year after year. Roads are blocked and damaged. By the time the government can repair them, another wave hits the hills. This year, Manipur has been hit by floods, with the Imphal and Iru rivers breaching embankments. Flood warnings have been sounded in Bihar and a flood-like situation is being reported from north Bengal.

While rivers in the east are known to flood their plains, the misery that follows is largely created by flawed development models and corruption. Embankments are not adequately reinforced, leading to breaches. An alleged nexus between contractors and government agencies (earlier, armed groups were involved in many states) ends up doing a poor job. The bigger problem is persistent erosion that robs landmass. Since 1950, Assam has lost 7.4 per cent of its land.

I grew up in the hills, where the monsoon meant incessant rains, but it didn't trigger floods. Today, Indian hills and plains are both vulnerable. Mumbai city can't bear the monsoon downpour and New Delhi is thrown off gear with just one good shower. The hills of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are chipping away. The reasons are simple: hill-cutting, making tunnels across mountains, rampant illegal construction and unplanned city development with poor or no drainage system and no master plans for cities. Mumbai city was built by the reclamation of seven major islands connected by the



Mithi river that served for drainage. The river swells during the monsoon, flooding the city that reclaims more and more land for expansion. In the past 40 years, the city reclaimed double the land compared to the previous 300 years, reducing the width of the river dumped with waste, filled with slums and killing mangroves along the way while reinforcing the retaining wall. The sum result is a history of disastrous flooding, the worst recorded in 2005 that killed more than a thousand people. This monsoon, the city is again reporting floods drowning parts of it within hours of rain. While the 2005 Mumbai floods called attention to India's vulnerabilities in disaster management, no lessons seems to have been learnt. In 2023, the Yamuna

reached a record high of 208.66 metres, much above the level recorded during the last great flood in Delhi in 1978. It is well known how the Capital choked the great river by discharging polluted water, leading to siltation and a rise in the level of the riverbed. The normal flow of water is impeded, causing flooding of the city, which is always underprepared to deal with any amount of rainfall. Bengaluru urban and rural are the most flood-prone in all of South India, save a few places in Kerala. From 1969 to 2021, IMD (India Meteorological Department) data shows Bengaluru recorded more than 70 flood events almost entirely due to urbanisation. Today, the city has 250 flood hotspots and planners are still figuring out how to drain rainwater.

Chennai is also emerging as a city that can no longer manage rains, but it is telling how such disasters are embedded within inequality and settlements in low-lying areas. But the most dangerous destruction of the ecosystem leading to catastrophic floods is the unstable Himalayan belt of Uttarakhand and Himachal. Images of houses, roads and people being washed away is becoming a regular phenomenon. At least six districts of Uttar Pradesh are under threat from the water released in Uttarakhand. Sharda, Rapti and Gandak are flowing above the danger mark, affecting more than 20 villages.

The big picture is grim, and any long-term study or coverage on loss of human and animal lives is episodic. While weather conditions are beyond our control, early warning systems, community involvement and better planning of development projects and flood management are obvious ways to mitigate this annual disaster. Despite state governments' demand, floods are not yet a national calamity. Is it because they affect the most vulnerable of our population?

Things you should know before starting your

Career



A senior human resource professional ruminates on what she should have known while starting out in her career.

Having been in the industry for more than two decades, I'm constantly asked this question by young women, "What do you wish you knew when you were starting your career?"

Here are my top 5:

It is okay to be ambitious just back it up with results

We often see talented young women hold themselves back and stay within the confines they have set for themselves. While it is up to you to define your ambition, don't let your gender, lack of a good support system or social or cultural norms define what you can accomplish. Believe in yourself so others can believe in you too. But, always keep in mind that merely being ambitious does not make you more successful than someone else. Work hard at it. Deliver results and maximise your performance; keep learning; leverage the resources



around you; meet new people, etc. And if a job really isn't matching your expectations or giving you opportunities to learn, find something new. This could be in your current company too.

Having a mentor is very important

It is always good if you seek the advice of

people who hold seats you'd like to someday occupy. But, make it a point that you build genuine relationships, and not use it to gain career advice. Also, formalise the mentoring process: rather than taking off-hand advice, try to set expectations and establish a frequency of discussion.

Good organisations offer mentoring opportunities to employees as part of their talent management programme.

Invest in yourself while rising in your career

Women often set unrealistic expectations for themselves both, personal and professional. Be kinder to yourself, invest time to think, take stock, deepen your faith, and equally



importantly, to reflect on your accomplishments, strengths and learnings. These are very important in the journey towards selfrealisation and personal growth. Also, ask for help when you need it from family, friends or coworkers because it is okay to need others and let them help you. Those who truly want to help will actually appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your success.

Effectively balance your work and life

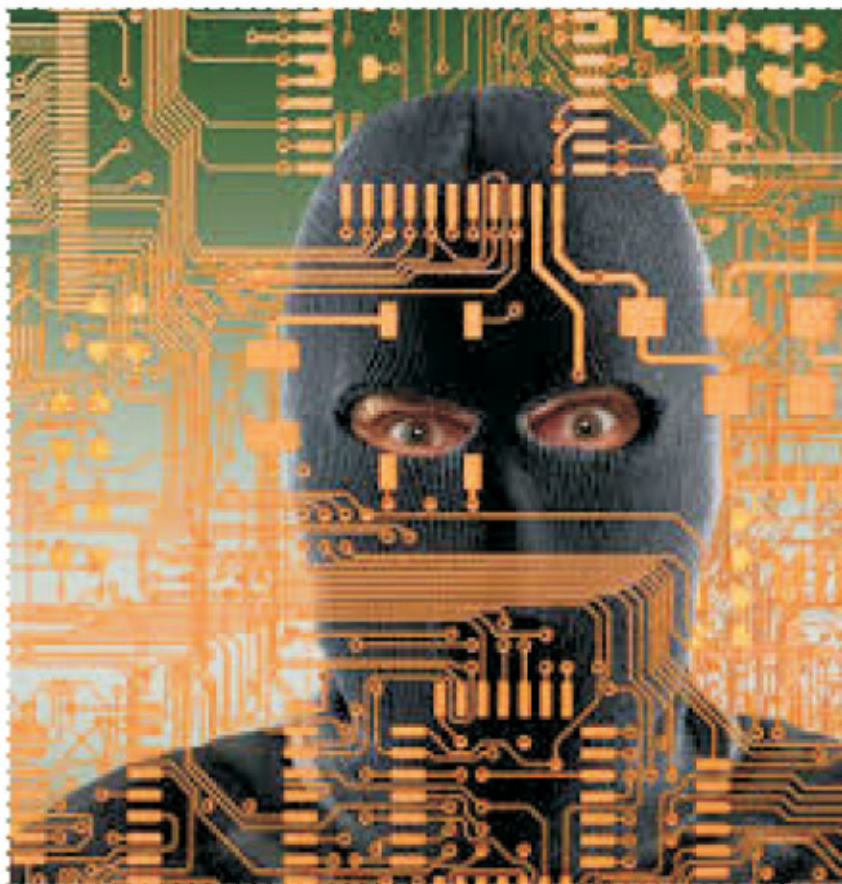
I work with women from different cultures and ethnic groups, but one common theme that I see is the "fine balancing act" that is at the back of each of our minds. Yes, pursuing

ambitious goals sometimes demands a woman to make choices that an average man may not have to worry about. For most female professionals who are wives and mothers, it is impossible to achieve "balance". Instead, constantly hone your ability to "juggle". It is important to constantly and actively prioritise, to not feel guilty about your choices and to recognise "you got this" many fans are rooting for you from family, to friends, to coworkers, to the community, at large.

Stay competitive to be powerful in tech

If you wish to make it big in a high-tech company, learn early on in life that you need to stay competitive throughout your career. For instance, the semiconductor industry that I represent is one of the most advanced and fast-paced industries. To stay ahead of technology advancements, we need to constantly innovate; clearly, this is something we look for in our employees.

Chinese hacker arrested for blackmailing Gaming company



Chinese hacker allegedly involved in blackmailing an online gaming company has been arrested in east China's Wuxi city, a media report said. Police arrested the hacker for attacking the servers of the company and extorting a protection fee. The arrest came after the online games could not run normally, prompting hundreds of complaints from its users. The hacker attacked the company's 20 servers between July 19 and 21 this year, state-run china.org.cn reported. After the attack, the hacker contacted the company and admitted that he had hacked its servers.

He then extorted a protection fee of 1880 yuan (around \$296) per month from the company, threatening it with repeated attacks if it refused to pay up. On August 12, the hacker attacked the company's servers again and this time asked it to pay the protection fee for the next month in advance. The company reported the case to the security authorities on July 22 this year. A number of US firms have complained of hacker attacks originating from China which Beijing consistently refute, saying it is also a victim of cyberattacks.

How to communicate effectively at work

Clear communication is of utmost importance in a professional atmosphere, and the sooner an employee understands this mantra, the better it is for his/her growth on the professional front. How one communicates with one's managers is extremely crucial in today's workplace dynamics. Manuel D'Souza, director-HR, Serco Global Services, suggests that the employees should list out their messages and weigh the queries and challenges beforehand before presenting their thoughts. "Before initiating discussions, if the employees list and ponder over their thoughts, it will be of great help as they will be able to convey the message correctly, without creating confusions and controversies. An effective way of communicating during such instances would be to tailor make your message while reaching out to certain people at the workplace." He adds that it surely goes a long way to have effective communication with your supervisors as they are the ones who monitor your performance and contribute greatly to your growth path. While one can make a list of things before taking them up with his/her supervisors, nonetheless, it is not as easy when it comes to

dealing with your peers. While things like working an extra hour or working on the weekends may not be on your wish list, blatantly refusing to do your bit may not go down too well with your peers. It is understandable that everyone tends to be a bit relaxed when dealing with their peers, but it is important to be polite in one's professional life. Swapnil Kamat, founder, CEO and chief trainer, Work Better Training, suggests, "Communicating at the workplace requires one to be tactful at all times. Being tactful in your communication with colleagues helps you to be honest while ensuring that you do not hurt the other person's feelings. Owing to a formal environment at work, it is important that professionals say the right thing at the right time. Doing so helps preserve professional relationships, demonstrates thoughtfulness and also builds credibility." He cautions that in case one comes across rumours at the workplace, the best way to tackle that situation is to ignore loose talk and refuse to get involved and engage in unnecessary conversations. Lee Iacocca has rightly said that you may have brilliant ideas, but if you can't get them across, your ideas won't go

You might be the most efficient worker at your workplace, received accolades and earned some of the best remarks for your work, but if you are unable to convey your words effectively in the most efficient manner, even the excellent work done by you might pass unnoticed.

anywhere. Having said that, it is an accepted fact in today's workplaces that if one wishes to climb the corporate ladder without being blocked for failing to put across their standing, one needs to learn the art of effective communications. Zubin Zack, director and chief recognition strategist, India Profile, provides clear advice when he says, "Even if a professional has lost a few opportunities in the past due to lack of effective communication, there is absolutely no point in crying over spilt milk. One should rather focus on rebuilding the communication. Clear and effective communication is the key element for building trust and a healthy environment at work and is imperative to success. Define objectives of your communication and be specific and concise. Identify the right time to communicate things that matter. Prioritise and organise your thoughts to avoid speaking too little or going overboard." To conclude, D'Souza gives an advice to the employees looking to expand their horizons by communicating effectively at their workplace, "Executives looking for growth should speak to their supervisors regarding their areas of interest and grasp prospects that they think will benefit their careers."



Fear of snakes and serpent guards of Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar

Days before the opening of the inner secret chamber of Puri Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar, the temple committee was looking for a skilled snake catcher. This, amid rumours of hissing sounds from the Bhitara Bhandar and legends that a group of serpents guard the valuables. What's the fact and myth?

New Delhi: Be it the snake tales of the world's richest Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, or the stories of dancing Burmese pythons guarding the relics of Gautam Buddha buried deep beneath the Mandalay temple's foundations, snakes and serpents have often been regarded as guardians of treasures. The talk of snakes coiled around the hidden riches has long been common in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Mythology and movies like Naag Nagin (1989), too, have been full of such instances. The Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple, therefore, is no exception. There are legends of a group of serpents closely guarding the valuables of the Mahaprahu, Lord Jagannath, and the other deities of the temple in Puri.

SNAKE SCARE AT JAGANNATH TEMPLE AHEAD OF RATNA BHANDAR OPENING?

Six years ago, in 2018, following an order from the Orissa High Court, a joint team



from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and officials from Puri's Jagannath Temple ventured into the Ratna Bhandar to examine its structural condition. Outside, along with a buzzing crowd of devotees and rescue personnel, two expert snake catchers, specially called in from Bhubaneswar, stood ready to assist if needed. On the eve of the 2018 search, when sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, now a member of the temple committee, amplified the cause of the Ratna

Bhandar on the Puri beach, a snake found prominence in his artwork.

SKILLED SNAKE CATCHERS TO BE DEPLOYED ON JULY 14

Now, days ahead of the anticipated opening of the inner chamber of the Bhitara Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple on July 14, a report in The Times of India said the temple committee, apprehensive of a threat from reptiles of all sizes, was on the "hunt for a skilled snake charmer". The snake charmer will be deployed in the Ratna Bhandar, when the Bhitara Bhandar, or the inner secret chamber, is opened for the first time since 1985, on Sunday (July 14). A team of doctors will also be on standby with a medicine kit, prepared for any exigency.

"Though we are curious to know the types of ancient valuables in Ratna Bhandar, we are equally scared of the possible presence of snakes, said a servitor on the committee that proposed to the BJP government to open Ratna Bhandar, reported The Times of India

on July 11." Since it is an age-old temple, there are small holes and cracks in several places. There is a possibility of snakes slithering into Ratna Bhandar through holes," another servitor, Harekrushna Mahapatra, said. His remarks were based on the sightings of snakes in the Jagannath temple's periphery during the recent Jagannath Heritage Corridor Project work.

SNAKES IN RATNA BHANDAR: A MYTH OR REALITY?

Given the cautious stance of the Jagannath Temple Committee, claims of hissing sounds from the Ratna Bhandar and rumours of the presence of snakes in the Bhitara Bhandar, what do experts have to say about the claims? "These are just rumours and there is nothing like this in the Ratna Bhandar," former temple administrator Bhaskar Mishra tells India Today. He junks all claims of serpents guarding the Bhitara Bhandar, which has chests full of valuables, including the crowns and thrones of kings.

Case Filed Over Obscene Online Comments On Captain Anshuman Singh's Wife

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operation (IFSO) cell has registered an FIR over an alleged lewd remark made on the widow of Kirti Chakra Captain Anshuman Singh on social media platform X, officials said on Saturday. The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday took a suo motu cognisance and filed a complaint before Delhi Police regarding the matter. According to a police officer, the FIR has been registered at the IFSO unit under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita act and Information Technology (IT) Act.

The social media platform has also been contacted to provide details about the handle that allegedly passed the lewd comment, he said.

In a letter issued on Monday, the NCW referenced specific legal provisions that the comment violates, including Section 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which penalises acts intended to insult the modesty of a woman, and Section 67 of the IT Act, 2000, which deals with the punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form. The commission also demanded a fair and timely investigation into the matter and requested a detailed action taken report (ATR) within three days.

Keeping Non-Muslim Kids In Madrasas Violates Fundamental Rights: Child Rights Body Chief

New Delhi: The Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Priyank Kanoongo, has expressed concern about children's rights, particularly of non-Muslim children in madrasas. In a post on X, Priyank Kanoongo said, "Madrasas are centres for imparting Islamic religious education and are outside the boundaries of the Right to Education Act. In such a situation, keeping Hindu and other non-Muslim children in madrasas is not only a violation of their Fundamental, Constitutional Rights but can also become a reason for spreading religious animosity in society. Therefore, @NCPCR has urged all state governments to admit Hindu children studying in Madrasas to schools so that they can get the right to basic education as per the Constitution and also make arrangements to provide Muslim children religious knowledge along with the right to education."

"In this regard, the Chief Secretary of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had issued an order in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission," he added.

Further, Priyank Kanoongo said in his post on X, "It has been learnt through newspapers that an Islamic organisation called Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind is spreading rumours about this order issued by the Chief Secretary and misleading people." They are also working to incite the sentiments of the general public against the government. This is an organisation of Islamic clerics, a branch of Madrasa Darul Uloom Deoband, against which the Commission has taken action for supporting Ghazwa-e-Hind. He also mentioned, "It is noteworthy that last year, communal harmony was harmed due to the incident of changing the identity of a missing Hindu child and conversion by circumcision in a madrasa running in a village adjacent to Deoband in Uttar Pradesh. This action is also necessary to prevent such incidents." He also mentioned the Religious Freedom Act in his post, which is in force in Uttar Pradesh, and said no one should violate the religious freedom of children.

"I request the public with folded hands that this is a matter of children's rights; do not get misled by any fundamentalist fanatic and participate in building a better future for children," he said. "A separate request is being made to the government for action against those spreading rumours," he added in his post.

Centre amends rules to give more power to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the rules of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, giving more power to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha amid speculation of assembly polls being held in the Union Territory soon.

This effectively means any elected government in the Union Territory will have limited powers when it comes to critical matters, including internal security, transfers, prosecution, and appointment of government lawyers, including the Attorney-General.

"No proposal which requires previous concurrence of the Finance Department with regard to police, public order, AIS and ACB to exercise the discretion of the Lt Governor under the Act shall be concurred or rejected unless it has been placed before the Lt

Governor through the Chief Secretary," the notification said.

The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will submit the proposal for the appointment of an Advocate-General and other law officers to assist the Advocate-General in the court proceedings, for getting approval from the Lt Governor through the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister. The proposal regarding grant or refusal of prosecution sanction or filing of appeal will be placed before the Lt Governor through the Chief Secretary by the Department of Law, according to the notification. The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the transaction of business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules 2019. On July 5, sources told India Today that the

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls would be held after the Amarnath Yatra, which concludes on August 19. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a key BJP meeting and asked leaders from the region to prepare for the election, sources said. Sources privy to the development confirm that Assembly election will be held in Jammu and Kashmir soon and the change in business rules is another indication of what's in store for the Union Territory as far as the governance model in a post-election scenario is concerned.

Major parties like the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) termed the Centre's action an attempt to turn an elected government into a municipal council.

Centre Considers Just Handing Over MTNL Operations To BSNL, Avoid Merger

New Delhi: The government is considering the option of handing over operations of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) to BSNL through an agreement, instead of pursuing a merger route, a source privy to the development said.

A final call on this is likely to be taken in a month's time. The source told Press Trust of India that the option of handing over debt-laden MTNL's operations to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) through an agreement is being looked into. The source said that given MTNL's high debt, a merger with BSNL was not a favourable option.

Once the decision is taken, the proposal would be placed before the Committee of Secretaries, and thereafter taken to the Cabinet. Amid mounting financial woes, MTNL this week informed in a statutory filing that it is unable to make

interest payment to certain bondholders "due to insufficient funds". The second semi annual interest with regard to 7.59 per cent MTNL's bond series...is due on July



20, 2024. As per the structured payment mechanism of Tripartite agreement (TPA) signed among MTNL, Department of Telecom and Beacon Trusteeship Ltd, MTNL has to fund the semi-annual interest into the Escrow account with adequate amount 10 days before the due date," it said. In

view of the provisions of TPA, it is informed that due to insufficient funds, MTNL could not fund the Escrow account with adequate amount, the corporation said in the BSE filing.

While MTNL offers services in Delhi and Mumbai, BSNL runs all India operations (except Delhi and Mumbai). Even as private telcos like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have scaled their subscriber tally in past months capitalising on Indian users' massive appetite for data and voice services, the customer base of MTNL has been dwindling - from just 4.66 million (wireless and wireline) in January-March 2023 to 4.1 million a year later. MTNL's losses mounted to ? 3,267.5 crore in FY24 from ? 2,915.1 crore in FY23. Revenue from operations in last fiscal year was ? 798.56 crore, down 14.6 per cent from a year ago.



protesters who were gunned down by the army of the erstwhile Maharaja in 1931. Hitting out at the Centre, the former Chief Minister said it was an attempt to "erase each one of our collective memories". "On August 5, 2019, J&K was dismembered, disempowered and stripped of everything that was sacrosanct for us. Such assaults will only strengthen our determination to continue the fight for our rights and dignity," she said. Omar Abdullah, vice president of the National Conference, also expressed outrage on X over "police excesses" to stop people from paying homage to those who sacrificed their lives to establish a "just, fair and democratic regime" in J&K. "Another July 13, Martyr's Day, another round of locked gates... Everywhere else in the country these people would have been celebrated, but in J&K the administration wants to ignore these sacrifices. This is the last year they will be able to do this. Insha Allah next year we will mark July 13 with the solemnity and respect this day deserves," Abdullah said.

Bypoll results: INDIA jolts BJP, wins 4 of 13 assembly seats, ahead in 7

New Delhi: Kamlesh Thakur, wife of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu and the INDIA bloc's candidate, won the Dehra assembly by-election on her poll debut. Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) secured the Jalandhar West constituency in Punjab while the Trinamool Congress bagged two seats in Bengal. The opposition INDIA bloc looked set to give the ruling BJP a jolt in the by-elections for 13 seats across seven states. The INDIA bloc is leading in 7 of the rest 9 seats. The bypolls are being considered as a litmus test for the BJP, which is reeling from the rude shock of failing to clear the majority mark in last month's Lok Sabha elections. The counting of votes began at 8 am at key constituencies in West Bengal, Uttarakhanda, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Bihar. The fiercely contested bypolls, that took place on July 10, are the first since the Lok Sabha election, with the ruling BJP and the opposition INDIA

bloc, comprising Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK and the Aam Aadmi Party, vying for the seats. In Punjab's Jalandhar West seat, AAP's Mohinder Bhagat defeated his nearest rival and Congress nominee Surinder Kaur by 37,325 votes. Bypolls were announced in the constituency after Sheetal Angural, the AAP legislator, jumped ship to the BJP. The hill state of Himachal Pradesh was witnessing a Congress surge, with the ruling party's candidates putting up a strong show in all three seats that went to bypolls. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu congratulated his wife Kamlesh Thakur for her win in Dehra. Thakur beat her nearest rival, BJP's Hoshiyar Singh, by a margin of 9,399 votes. In the Hamirpur seat, Congress's Pushpinder Verma was ahead by 1,707 votes against BJP candidate Ashish Sharma. Hardeep Singh Bawa of the Congress was also leading by 1,571 votes against the BJP's KL Thakur in Nalagarh. All three BJP

candidates used to be independent legislators, who resigned from the Himachal assembly after voting for the saffron party in the Rajya Sabha polls earlier this year. In West Bengal, where

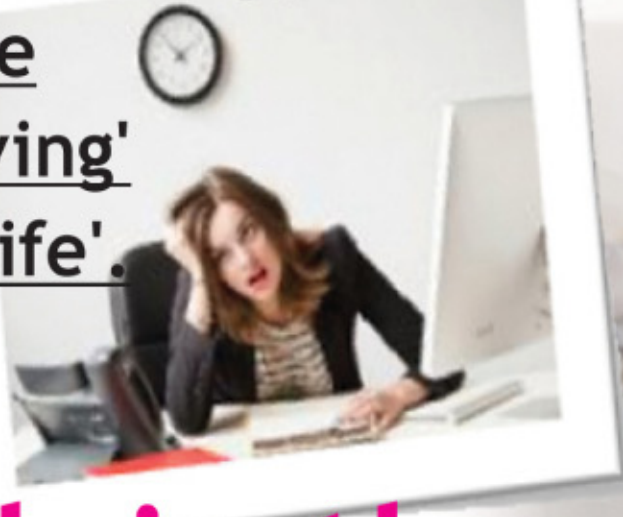


four seats are up for grabs, Trinamool Congress's Madhupurna Thakur and Krishna Kalyani won by a landslide in Bagda and Raiganj respectively. The ruling party's candidates also took the lead in Ranaghat and Manikata. Madhupurna (25), the daughter of Trinamool's Rajya Sabha MP

Mamatabala Thakur, is set to be the youngest member of the Bengal assembly. Congress candidate Qazi Nizamuddin was ahead in Uttarakhanda's Manglaur with 12,540 votes, followed by BSP nominee Ubedur Rehman, and the BJP's Gujjar leader Kartar Singh Bhadana a distant third. The constituency had witnessed violence on the day of polling. n Badrinath, Congress newcomer Lakhpat Singh Butola was leading. He is facing off against BJP's Rajendra Bhandari.

The ruling DMK's candidate Anniyur Siva (alias Sivashanmugam A) was leading in the Vikravandi assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu in early trends. He is pitted against C Anbumani and Naam Tamilar Katchi's K Abinaya. In Bihar, JD(U)'s Kaladhar Prasad Mandal was leading by 2,433 votes over his nearest rival, an independent candidate, in the Rupauli bypoll. RJD nominee Bima Bharti was in third place with 2,359 votes.

Stuck in the wrong job? Brave enough to have changed careers, three go-getters explain how you can exchange 'earning a living' to 'living a life'.



Stuck in the Wrong Career?

Strong performances certainly helped make Raju Hirani's 3 Idiots a record breaking success, but more than the calibre of its actors, what seemed to resonate more with the country's young audience was its message - one's career choice should not be dictated by parents or peers. It should, instead, reflect one's own predilections. Shalini Umachandran's new book *You Can Make Your Dreams Work* profiles 15 individuals who have managed to fight against all odds and pursue a career option of their choice years after having started out in another profession. Umachandran says the motivation was simple - people switched careers to follow their own interests or passions. "Not all of us have one overarching passion. We don't always know what we want, but you need to zero in on what you like most," says the author and journalist. Most of the profiles in Umachandran's book are of people who had spent five-six years in a certain profession before they decided to make a shift. So, one would imagine that they had a body of work to fall back on. But Umachandran informs that none of them considered their previous profession as a backup. "When you decide to take the plunge, you ought to have an 'all or nothing' perspective. If you

have a 'plan B', you won't be as committed. They also said it is best not to give oneself a deadline like: 'I'll try it out for a year,'" explains the author. Featured in Umachandran's book, here are three career mavericks who have managed to ditch their old jobs to follow their dream. They tell us how to figure out if you're in the wrong profession, find what's best for you and prepare for metamorphosis.

FROM TOXICOLOGY TO SOCCER
Abhijit Barse was living the great American dream after a PhD in aquatic toxicology. He had joined a German company in the US as a toxicologist, but a year and a half later, he somehow felt empty. Barse returned to India and decided to teach at a college in Nagpur and then quit teaching to join Nagpur-based Slum Soccer in 2010, an organisation that uses football to keep kids in school and off drugs.

EVALUATE YOUR PRIORITIES
Today, there are a lot of ways to find out what would be your ideal job. There are consultants who help you do that. Figure out what is it that drives you. For someone hoping to make more money, it's a no-brainer. But if there's something missing at work, you surely need to evaluate your priorities. If you're always complaining about work,

you're in the wrong job.

"PRIOR RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL"
If you're just beginning your career, it's easier to make a shift. As time passes, responsibilities pile up and you can't chuck one job and pick another easily. I didn't do it overnight. I eased myself into it. A change of job can leave you with psychological problems, especially when you go from a '9 to 5' job to one where you don't have assigned timings. When I started out, there was no money, projects or structure, so I had to study about the field. This is essential before you nose-dive into a new profession. You need to know exactly what your job description would be and what the job entails.

FROM WALL STREET TO SOCIAL WORK
Vikram Bhat, a Wall Street analyst in New York, gave up his 10-year career in finance and computer engineering in 2008. Having moved to Bangalore, Bhat decided to teach in a school for children from low-income families.

"AVOID UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS"
Financial security is the biggest obstacle when trying out a new profession. At 33, when I decided to figure out what I wanted to do, I was old enough to not have to listen to my parents. My wife is a doctor and it helped that she had a stable income and was willing to support me. The biggest challenge when you enter a new career is that you have unrealistic expectations about how satisfying it will be. We all have a certain vision of ourselves, but we don't build on it much. Try to figure out how practical or impractical that vision is by making it more realistic for yourself.

"INTERNSHIP BRIDGES A GAP"
Before you take up a new job, an internship can help bridge the gap, as it did for me. From the outside, it all looks great, but it has to make sense to you on a daily basis. You have to

have your basic finances sorted and have close ones on board with your decision. Find yourself a mentor and periodically remind yourself why you made the shift. You have to be patient as you will face disappointment in your new career. You need to envision the progress you see for yourself in this new chapter.

FROM LAW TO LEH
Piya Bose ditched the legal profession to launch Girls On The Go, an all-women's travel company, in 2008. Initially clueless about what she wanted to do, the former corporate lawyer's only mission was, 'I would rather live than spend my life earning a living'.

"EMBRACE THE UNPREDICTABLE"
I was working at a reputed law firm in Mumbai and I took home a fat paycheck. But the work I was doing failed to inspire me. I had no doubt that I was stuck in the wrong job. Stepping into a new profession without a guide was a trial by fire. Startup cash was a challenge. I overcame that with a zero-cash business model. Entrepreneurship is all about unpredictability, a certain risk appetite and having faith in the invisible forces that govern the market. I once went through a prolonged rough patch when things didn't work out as planned. I encountered aggressive clients and started losing faith in myself, but I couldn't give up.

"IT IS AN ADVENTURE"
The only way to figure out your best career choice is through a series of eliminations. Be clear about the reasons you are opting for a career change. Is it only because you will earn more or is it because you want a new lease of life? Treat it as an adventure and you will stay inspired when the going gets tough. If you are able to hold on even when you're at the bottom, the rewards will be very satisfying.

Effects of workplace

Gossip

Gossip in the workplace can function as a weapon to attack people's reputation or a gift in enhancing it, according to researchers. Lead researcher Tim Hallett, assistant professor in Indiana University Bloomington's Department of Sociology, and team looked at the power dynamics involved in organizational charts as the gossip unfolded. The study "identifies subtle ways that people who are targets of gossip are negatively evaluated during formal work meetings, including veiling criticism with sarcasm or talking up another colleague for comparison. "It also discusses how efforts to embark on negative gossip can be effectively -- and again, subtly -- derailed, by changing the subject, targeting someone else for criticism or by pre-emptive comments that are positive." Hallett said: "When you're sitting in that business meeting, be attentive to when the talk drifts away from the official task at hand to people who aren't present. "Be aware that what is going on is a form of politics and it's a form of politics that can be a weapon to undermine people who aren't present. But it also can be a gift. If people are talking positively it can be a way to enhance someone's reputation." The research, co-authored by IU sociologist Donna Eder, a leading authority in gossip research, and Brent Harger, now a sociologist at Albright College, further discovered that gossip in a formal setting is more likely to involve veiled criticism. Hallett said: "If you're interested in learning how an organization works, you can look at the organizational chart, which can be useful. "But often people say, 'I still can't tell how things get done, who the

prime movers are.' If you're attentive, you can see who has the informal status, which isn't on the formal charts. It can help you understand how work actually gets done."



How to deal with bad day at work

A bad day at work can really put you down and you may feel like you hate your job. Here's how you can deal with when it is just not your day...

- Talk it out with someone at workplace as it helps in bringing out another perspective to it. You might want to speak to your immediate senior in order to sort out the issue. Someone who is generally positive and looks at the larger picture than on the minute details.
- Rather than focusing on what you hate, try looking at the brighter side by looking at things you like about your work. Don't take an impulsive decision by deciding to put your papers down. As time passes, the



- feeling, too, shall subside.
- Listen to your favourite song or read your favourite book or watch an old favourite movie or series in order to divert your attention.
- Meet a friend for a cup of coffee and some conversations. You may or may not talk about your day at work. The best would be to faintly mention about it, get over the topic and go back to talking about something more fun and end the day on a lighter note.

Marut aims to create 500 drone entrepreneurs

CHENNAI. In a bid to expand its dealer network in Tamil Nadu and educate farmers by training them in drone operation, Marut Drones is aiming to create 500 drone entrepreneurs by 2024-end. With approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for manufacturing small and medium drones, this initiative is expected to attract youngsters to pursue agriculture as a profession and become drone operators. The company claims by using drones for spraying fertilisers, farmers can potentially earn up to Rs 50,000-Rs 60,000 per month. Marut Drones is collaborating with Annamalai University to provide drone training. Adoption of drone technology among small-scale farmers will not only help in precision-spraying, but also reduce water and fertiliser application by 70%.

Most tech professionals feel unfairly compensated, cite pay disparities

BENGALURU. More than 60% of tech professionals feel unfairly compensated, and they cite substantial pay disparities that underscore an urgent need for action. The 2024 Compensation and Benefits Survey by ANSR and Talent500 reveals that 65% of respondents perceive a significant gender-based pay gap, with 56% noting disparities of at least 25% across different roles. Nearly 70% emphasise the critical role of Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) in fostering long-term commitment through equity-based incentives. The survey also reveals that beyond competitive salaries, personalised benefits and clear career development opportunities have become the key drivers of employee satisfaction and retention. The report highlights a major shift in priorities among tech talent, with 61% of respondents emphasising the importance of customisable health benefits programmes. 77% of them value hybrid work arrangements, urging companies to optimise benefits packages for hybrid work. "In today's dynamic talent market, flexibility has become a cornerstone of employee satisfaction and organisational success," said Vikram Ahuja, Co-Founder ANSR and CEO Talent500. "It's about crafting a holistic employee experience — one that cultivates purpose, growth, and well-being," he added. Tech professionals highlight the critical importance of Learning and Development (L&D) programs. Over 90% of respondents view career pathing and L&D initiatives as indispensable factors when assessing potential employers. Moreover, 81% of employees express a preference for mentorship programs and stretch roles, indicating a strong interest in career advancement and leadership opportunities.

Quant Mutual Fund Confirms Sebi Raids, Says Data Collection 'Not Part of Any Regular Process'

Quant Mutual Fund told investors via e-mail that data collected by Sebi was not part of any regular process but was part of a court-approved search and seizure operation with respect to any ongoing investigation initiated by Sebi.

NEW DELHI. Weeks after Sebi's search-and-seizure at Quant Mutual Fund's offices, the company has confirmed the raids and said it was "not part of any regular process". The mutual fund house is under Sebi's investigation for a probable front-running case. In June, Sebi conducted search-and-seizure operations in the Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad offices of Quant MF, reportedly linked to alleged profits estimated at Rs 20 crore. Sebi did not release any official information on the action. But, it was



reported in the media. Now, in an email to investors on July 13, Quant Mutual Fund said, "We would like to clarify that the data collected by the regulator was not part of any regular process but was part of a court-approved search and seizure operation with respect to any ongoing investigation initiated by Sebi." In the FAQs Corrigendum on July 13, one of the questions was 'Has anyone been convicted?'. Responding to this, Quant MF said, "No. It is the regulator's job to collect and analyse data on an ongoing basis. We have not received any communication after initial enquiries." Earlier, Quant Mutual Fund had said in an email FAQ that the SEBI investigation was a regular ongoing process by the regulator to collect data and analyse it. Front-running refers to an illegal practice in the stock market where an entity trades based on advanced information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to its clients. Quant Mutual Fund on Friday said its Chief Financial Officer Harshal Patel has resigned, and Shashi Kataria has been appointed to replace him with effect from July 1, 2024. It, however, said that the rejig was done on February 19, way before the Sebi action in June, and the last day of Patel was May 19.

Promoters sell stakes worth Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 15 months amid stock market surge

Mumbai The big jump in valuations that the market and the companies are now commanding is enticing an increasing number of promoters — both local and multinational — and private equity (PE) funds to divest stakes and book bumper profits. In the last 15 months, Indian promoters have sold over Rs 1.12 lakh crore (Rs 82,005 crore in FY24 and Rs 35,588 crore in the first quarter of FY25) of equity through the secondary market. This is equivalent to the net systematic investment plan (SIP) inflow to mutual funds during this period. This is a big rise from Rs 45,448 crore share sales by promoters in FY23. In May alone, Indian and MNC promoters of 20 companies have sold up to 20 per cent of their stakes in the secondary market raising Rs 40,000 crore, according to a research report prepared by Axis Mutual Fund Chief Investment Officer Ashish Gupta. The report also said only 6.6 per cent — around Rs 5,300 crore — of Rs 80,000 crore raised from the market was used for capital expenditure as two thirds was "offer for sale" from private equity

investors and promoters with money going to their coffers. The Sensex jumped by over 32 per cent, or 21,000 points, to over 80,000 since April 2023, sending stock valuations to new highs. This had prompted PE funds and promoters to book profits. Stake sale by MNC parents in past 15 months amounted to nearly Rs 74,000 crore (Rs 46,822 crore in FY24 and Rs 27,118 crore in Q1 of FY25) as against Rs 12,114 crore in FY23. "This is not surprising with nearly a dozen MNC subsidiaries in India today trading at four times the multiple their parents trade at in the home market," Gupta said. Secondary market sales by promoters and of private equity stakes since April 2022 has been Rs 4.42 lakh crore compared to gross SIP flows of Rs 3.96 lakh crore and overall net inflow of Rs 5.02 lakh crore into mutual funds, the report said. Gupta's report said private equity funds have arguably reaped the most benefits from rising equities. In the past 15 months, they have also divested Rs 1.15 lakh crore (Rs 79,812 crore in FY24 and Rs 35,558 crore in Q1 of FY25) worth of equity stakes in the secondary market, in



addition to the stakes offered in the initial public offerings (IPO). The accelerated pace of PE exits is reflected in the decline in net FDI over the past few years, with FDI outflows rising from Rs 2.25 lakh crore to Rs 3.40 lakh crore, the report said. The 91 IPOs that have come to the market in the past 15 months have raised Rs 80,000 crore. "Unlike in the past most of this raise has not been growth capital. Two-thirds of these have been 'offer for sale' from private equity investors and promoters. Of the remaining one-third, only 20 per cent of IPO proceeds are intended for capex and another 15 per cent raised by financial companies to

augment their lending capabilities," Gupta said. The IPO pipeline over the next few months is larger at another Rs 93,000 crore. "Private equity selling is likely to accelerate. These funds currently hold Rs 277,000 crore worth of stakes in listed companies and of these over Rs 217,000 crore are of more than 3-year vintage and therefore should be offered in the market sooner rather than later. In the coming months, pre-IPO locked in shares of the 91 recent IPOs will also come to the market given that on average these IPOs are up 79 per cent from their issue price," the report said. In addition, these funds have investments of Rs 4.67 lakh crore in companies that are still private. Of this, Rs 3.70 lakh crore is of more than three-year vintage. Assuming, 60 per cent of these are exited via the public market route and have MOIC (multiple of invested capital) of two times, and 50 per cent will be sold in IPOs these will be another Rs 2,24,000 crore of potential supply, it said. Stake sale by MNC parents in past 15 months amounted to nearly Rs 74,000 crore.

HCL Q1 profit rises 20% to Rs 4,257 cr

BENGALURU. HCL Tech's June quarter performance beat Street estimates as the IT services firm posted a 20% year-on-year increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,257 crore compared to Rs 3,534 crore in the year-ago period. Its revenue from operations in the first quarter was Rs 28,057 crore, up 6.7% compared to Rs 26,296 crore in the same quarter last year. The company retained its constant currency (CC) revenue growth guidance between 3% and 5% in FY25 and EBIT margin is expected to be between 18% and 19%. Briefing the media on outlook for Q2, C Vijayakumar, CEO & MD, HCLTech said, "In the second quarter, we expect to grow in all geographies and verticals except financial services. Even in manufacturing we expect to recover in Q2." Usually Q1 is a seasonally soft quarter for the company.



He added that Q2 will be a soft quarter for financial services after that we are confident of sequential growth in financial services. Its financial services was down 1.3% in Q1 and manufacturing grew 3.5% YoY. The CEO added that discretionary spending will be the same as last year and we continue to spend on Gen AI and other emerging technologies. "We clocked in \$2 billion TCV (total contract value) of new business bookings," he said. The CEO said there are over 200 Gen AI PoCs (proof of concepts) and several of them are going into production. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCLTech, said, "With our future-ready portfolio, we are well placed to tap emerging opportunities led by GenAI." Prateek Aggarwal, CFO said, the

company delivered an INR revenue growth of 6.7% YoY, healthy given the global environment. EBIT margins came in at 17.1%, steady on YoY basis. The company's headcount was reduced by 8,080 in the first quarter and it lost around 7,398 employees due to divestiture. It added 1,078 freshers in the June quarter and is likely to hire 10,000 freshers in FY25.

The company's chief people officer Ramachandran Sundararajan said the headcount is in line with what we have planned for and attrition level was at 12.8%, and we expect it to continue at similar levels. The company has announced many GenAI deal wins including a leading US-based financial services company selected HCLTech to build a GenAI platform with robust AI governance and LLM Ops. The company also announced that an APAC-based financial services major selected the company to help accelerate its enterprise-wide data and AI transformation.

Number of resolutions under IBC to go up every year: IBBI chairman

NEW DELHI. Amid criticism over delayed resolution of cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the chairman of insolvency regulator pointed out on Friday that 270 cases defaults were resolved in 2023-24 against the average 125 in the previous years. Ravi Mital, the chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), said that the number of resolution per year would continue to grow. Mital was speaking at an event organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). He said that it is crucial for project completion to be timely and efficient. "Faster resolutions can address many concerns," said Mital. He said that India has outperformed many countries in insolvency resolution, and Indian resolution professionals should extend their expertise globally. "IBC not only protects creditors' interests but also promotes economic growth in the nation, which is reflected by NPAs being at the lowest levels," he added.

The IBC has successfully settled around 28,000 cases, and around Rs 3.4 lakh crore debt has been settled. Mital, however, pointed out the need for



improvement in the quality of information Memorandum. He also called for more disclosures in the Information Memorandum, which is a document released by the insolvency professional at the time of inviting Expression of Interest from interest resolution applicants. The insolvency regulator said with little more effort from resolution professional, the recovery rate under IBC could increase from 32% to 40%. During the inaugural session Justice Ashok Bhusan, Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLT), said that The landscape of insolvency and bankruptcy has evolved significantly, with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) becoming pivotal in addressing corporate distress. He also praised the ICAI as playing a key role in understanding the intricacies and promoting best practices in this emerging landscape.

Retail inflation at 4-month high, industrial output up

A quick analysis of the retail inflation data showed that the spike in June was largely due to a 14% month-on-month surge in vegetable prices, which clocked a 29.3% year-on-year growth.



NEW DELHI: With high food prices refusing to ebb, the country's retail inflation in June increased to a four-month high of 5.08% from 4.75% in the previous month. According to government data released on Friday, food inflation surged to 9.4% for June, while the Consumer Price Index-based retail inflation crossed the 5% mark

after three months. Meanwhile, another set of data released on Friday showed that India's industrial output growth reached a seven-month high of 5.9% in May, up from 5% in April, on the back of a significant increase in electricity generation and production of consumer durables. However, manufacturing growth stood at a lower-than-expected 4.6%. A quick analysis of the retail inflation data showed that the spike in June was largely due to a

14% month-on-month surge in vegetable prices, which clocked a 29.3% year-on-year growth. The prices of pulses surged 16.1% in June from a year ago. "Inflation for sub-groups — eggs, spices, meat & fish and pulses & products — decreased as compared to May 2024," said a government release. The Reserve Bank of India, which has the legal mandate to control inflation, has time and again expressed its discomfort with high food prices. In the previous month, food inflation was 8.7%, even as overall inflation had dropped to a 12-month low.

The data released by the National Statistical Office showed that rural inflation is higher at 5.66% urban inflation which came in at 4.39%. On the other hand, food inflation is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, the data showed.

India's Direct Tax Collection Grows 19.54% In FY 2024-25, Reaches Rs 5.74 Lakh Crore By July 11

In FY 2024-25, the corporate tax collection stood at Rs 2,65,336 crore, showing a growth rate of 20.44 per cent compared to the previous year's Rs 2,20,297 crore.



New Delhi. The net direct tax collection of the government registered a significant growth of 19.54 per cent in the financial year 2024-25, amounting to Rs 5,74,357 crore by July 11, highlighted the data by the income tax department. Last year, the net direct tax collection was Rs 4,80,458 crore. This represents a notable growth in direct tax collections over the one year. Moreover, the total refunds issued in FY 2024-25 amounted to Rs 70,902 crore, representing a significant surge of 64.49 per cent compared to the previous year. In FY 2023-24, the total tax refunds issued by the government were Rs 43,105 crore. The increase in tax refunds highlights the

government's efficiency in processing claims and providing timely relief to taxpayers.

TRENDING NOW

The data also pointed out that the total gross direct tax collection has registered a growth of 23.24 per cent by July 11 in the financial year 2024-25, compared to the same period in FY 2023-24. The data highlighted that the gross direct

tax collection during the current financial year up to July 11 stands at Rs 6,45,259 crore from the Rs 5,23,563 crore collected during the same period in FY 2023-24. Direct tax, a type of tax imposed directly on individuals and entities based on their income or wealth, includes categories such as corporate tax, income tax, and securities tax. The breakdown of the individual components of direct taxes

reveals impressive growth rates across the board. In FY 2024-25, the corporate tax collection stood at Rs 2,65,336 crore, showing a growth rate of 20.44 per cent compared to the previous year's Rs 2,20,297 crore. This increase reflects improved corporate profitability and compliance.

Similarly, personal income tax collections have also seen a notable rise. By July 11, FY 2024-25, the collection reached Rs 3,61,862 crore, up by 22.76 per cent from Rs 2,94,764 crore during the same period in FY 2023-24. This growth in personal income tax indicates an increase in individual earnings and effective tax collection mechanisms.

Furthermore, the securities tax in the current financial year has surged to Rs 16,634 crore from Rs 7,285 crore during the last financial year in 2023-24, showcasing a more than twofold increase. This jump can be attributed to heightened market activity and increased trading volumes in the share market.

Overall, the direct tax collections for FY 2024-25 showed a positive growth trajectory across various tax categories.

NEWS BOX

Novak Djokovic tips Carlos Alcaraz to win grand slams with cheeky Wimbledon admission

UPDATED Novak Djokovic has tipped Carlos Alcaraz to win more grand slams but is hoping that he doesn't start his run by beating him in the Wimbledon 2024 final on Sunday, July 14. Djokovic and Alcaraz are all set for a rematch of last year's final after the Serbian defeated Lorenzo Musetti in straight sets. Last year, Djokovic was defeated by Alcaraz in a five-set thriller. Since then, the Serbian has beaten Alcaraz in the US Open final. Speaking after his win against Musetti, Djokovic praised Alcaraz for leading a well-balanced life on and off the field and hailed him as one of the greatest 21-year-olds the sport has ever seen. The Serbian expects Alcaraz to be a serial winner in the sport going forward.

Wimbledon 2024: Men's singles semi-final highlights

He is a great example as a young player that has a well balanced life on and off the court. He has great values in his family and a lot of charisma," said Djokovic, who will be playing in his first final of the year on Sunday. "He is deservedly one of the greatest 21-year-olds we have seen in this sport. We will see a lot of him in the future no doubt.

He is going to win many more Grand Slams, but hopefully in two days not this one."

Alcaraz is a complete player

Djokovic pointed out to the fact Alcaraz had already beaten him at Wimbledon last year and is expecting the same energy from the Spaniard this time around. The Serbian hailed the Spaniard as the complete player and said it would take his best ability to beat him in the final. "He has already beaten me here in a thrilling five-setter. I don't expect anything less than that (on Sunday)," said Djokovic. "He is complete as a player as they come. It is going to take my best ability to beat him." Alcaraz and Djokovic will lock horns in the final on July 14. If the Serbian does win the match on Sunday, then he would go level with Roger Federer for most titles at Wimbledon.

Manchester United's Jadon Sancho ends Erik ten Hag feud, returns to 1st team training

New Delhi. Jadon Sancho has returned to training with Manchester United for the first time in 10 months, following a reconciliation with manager Erik ten Hag. The winger and Ten Hag had a productive meeting at the Carrington Training Centre, where they resolved their differences after a public fallout last year. Sancho, 24, made only three appearances for United last season and spent the latter half on loan at Borussia Dortmund due to his strained relationship with Ten Hag. The tension began in September when Ten Hag excluded Sancho from the squad for a 3-1 defeat to Arsenal, citing poor training performances. In response, Sancho accused Ten Hag on social media of making him a "scapegoat," leading to his exile from the first team and subsequent training with the youth squad. United would make a social media post to show that Sancho had indeed returned to training with the first team as they slowly start their pre-season ahead of the new campaign. Sancho was also seen having a chat with Marcus Rashford during training as both men were involved in training on Friday, July 12. In January, Sancho returned to Dortmund, where he excelled, notably during their Champions League semi-final win against Paris St Germain. His performance earned praise from Ten Hag despite Dortmund's eventual defeat to Real Madrid in the final. "Sancho is a very good player... he showed why Manchester United bought him and he showed he represents a high value for Manchester United, which is good," Ten Hag told reporters following Dortmund's 1-0 win over PSG in the first leg. "I'm happy for Jadon, for the performance, and we'll see what is going to happen in the future."

'Workhorse' Avesh Khan wants Test debut for India: I'm waiting for that chance

New Delhi. India fast bowler Avesh Khan wants to play Test cricket for India. Speaking ahead of the 4th T20I against Zimbabwe, Avesh has given an open message to the Indian selectors that he is ready for red-ball cricket. Avesh's request comes right ahead of India's home Test season against Bangladesh and New Zealand before they fly out to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, one of the most high-profile bilateral series in the world. Speaking via a Board of Control for Cricket in India video, Avesh has said that he has executed the red-ball role before in the domestic set up and has the ability to replicate that on the international stage as well. "I'm very excited for Test cricket as I feel it's a format where I can prove myself which I've done for my state team, India A or while Duleep, Deodhar trophy. I'm waiting for that chance as there's a different kind of fun playing Test cricket. I love to bowl with the red ball as I bowl around 20-25 overs in a day for my state team as well. In the entire season I bowl around 300-350 overs so I'm looking forward for a chance to play Test cricket and do well for my country in the longest format," Avesh Khan said ahead of the penultimate match of the Zimbabwe series.

ZIM vs IND 4th T20I: Preview

Avesh has bowled well in the series without the guidance of Jasprit Bumrah, who has been rested for the series. Speaking about the Indian spearhead, Avesh said that Bumrah was a once-in-a-generation bowler and the best thing about working with the pacer was that he was willing to share his knowledge.

ZIM vs IND, 4th T20I: Team news, Harare pitch conditions and predicted playing XI

ZIM vs IND, 4th T20I: India will aim to take an unassailable lead in the fourth T20I match of the series.

Shubman Gill will hope to bag his first series win after staging a strong comeback with the Indian side.

New Delhi. Shubman Gill will be hunting his first series win as the captain of the Indian team when they take the field against Zimbabwe on Saturday, 13 July. The young Indian team have made a strong comeback in the series after their initial hiccup in the first T20I. The side will be looking to win a clean game on Saturday. Their batting lineup has done really well in the last two matches, but the bowling attack has sprayed runs in different phases of the game. As a captain, Shubman will hope that his side stands up and delivers a knockout punch against Sikandar Raza's team, who have

tried their best to hurt in the bilateral series. India have not played the same team in their 3 T20Is so far. Changes can be expected as Shubman Gill has already spoken about rotating his fast bowlers. It is expected that Mukesh Kumar will come into the playing XI, either in place of Khaleel Ahmed or Avesh Khan. One of the things that India might do is to drop Shubman Gill to No. 3. One can definitely argue that having Abhishek Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top of the batting order is a win-win situation for India. The duo are ultra-aggressive and have the ability to take the game away from the opposition team. In case they fail, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shubman Gill can always get to their anchoring roles and take India to a safe score. It looked a little sore when Abhishek came out to bat at No. 3 in the previous match and was not effective at all. For Abhishek to be a big part of India's future, the youngster needs to be given a chance at the position that he has succeeded in.

ZIM vs IND: Team News

Zimbabwe are unlikely to make big changes



ZIM vs IND: PITCH AND WEATHER CONDITIONS?

India players have vouched throughout that the pitch is double paced. Shubman Gill, speaking after his innings in the 3rd T20I, said that it was difficult to play against the new ball but once the pitch settled in, a lot of runs were on the wicket against the old ball.

ZIM vs IND, 4TH T20I: PREDICTED PLAYING XIS

India Playing XI

Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan/Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed.

Zimbabwe Playing XI

Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani/Innocent Kaia, Brian Bennett, Sikandar Raza (c), Dion Myers, Johnathan Campbell, Clive Madande (wk), Wellington Masakadza, Richard Ngarava, Blessing Muzarabani, Tendai Chatara.

in this game. Sikandar Raza has been very critical of his batting unit and would hope that they finally come to party in the next game. Apart from that, Zimbabwe really need to do something about their catching if they want to qualify for the 2026 T20 World Cup from the African region.

ZIM vs IND: WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH?

Harare Sports Club in Harare will host all the T20Is in Harare. The matches will get underway at 1 pm local time and 4:30 pm IST.

Wimbledon 2024 Final: Paolini, Krejckikova aim for first win at All England

New Delhi. Jasmine Paolini and Barbora Krejckikova will be stepping out on Centre Court on Saturday, July 13 with the aim of winning their first-ever Wimbledon title. For Paolini, 2024 has been a breakout year as she has had incredible runs at all three grand slams so far. It all started with a run till the 4th round in the Australian Open and it has now been followed up with two final appearances.

While she faced a reality check at Roland Garros at the hands of Iga Swiatek, the Italian is showing that she isn't a one-trick wonder. During her semi-final marathon against Donna Vekic, the 28-year-old was forced to fend off the brute force from the Croatian and then secure a comeback win after going down in the first set. The next two saw Paolini show off her fine skills and resilience to reach her second consecutive final. The same spirit was shown by



Krejckikova as well, as she had to fight back from a set down against Elena Rybakina. The Czech Republic star was loud during the match as she brought the crowd on its feet with her shots and spirit on the day. Krejckikova has some experience winning Grand Slams before as she won the French Open in singles and all four of the majors in doubles. For Paolini, it is all about a 'dream' she saw as a kid to win a grand slam and she will have to overcome the determined

Czech star to take the title.

WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL SCHEDULE: WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH

The final between Jasmine Paolini and Barbora Krejckikova will get underway from 2 pm local time and 6:30 pm IST on the Centre Court. Star Sports will provide the live television coverage of the matches in India. Hotstar will provide live streaming of the matches. WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL: Paolini vs Krejckikova Head-to-Head Both women have faced each other only once in the past, with Krejckikova taking the win in 2018 during the Australian Open qualifiers. WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL: Prediction

Expect both women to serve up a 3-set thriller on Saturday. Given Krejckikova's experience of winning grand slams in the past, expect her to win her first Wimbledon title.

WCL, India Champions vs Pakistan Champions: When and where to watch final

New Delhi. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan are set to face each other in the final of the World Championship of Legends on July 13, Saturday at Edgbaston in Birmingham. The two teams reached the final of the tournament by winning their respective semi-final clashes. India thrashed Australia by a massive margin of 86 runs and Pakistan defeated West Indies by 20 runs in their respective knockout matches. The league has reached its final frontier after 17 exciting contests as India Champions will take on Pakistan Champions in the summit clash. During India's semi-final clash against Australia, India's opener Robin Uthappa provided a great start with his 35-ball 65. Despite Suresh Raina and Ambati Rayudu falling cheaply, Yuvraj Singh shared a 47-run stand with Uthappa. Yuvraj turned back the clock with his blazing knock of 59 runs from 28 deliveries. Yusuf and Irfan Pathan's quick-fire fifties ensured



the India Champions posted a mammoth total of 254 runs against the Australia Champions. The Australians succumbed to scoreboard pressure and were restricted to 168 runs. The India Champions and Pakistan Champions met each other earlier in the tournament and the former suffered a loss by 68 runs. However, the Yuvraj Singh-led side will look to bounce back and win the league.

Yuvraj's masterclass vs Australia

When will India Champions face Pakistan Champions in the final of the World Championship of Legends?

India Champions will play Pakistan Champions in the final of the World Championship of Legends on Saturday, 13 July. The match will start at 9 pm IST.

Which venue will host the final of the World Championship of Legends? The final of the World Championship of Legends between India Champions and Pakistan Champions will be played at Edgbaston in Birmingham.

Where to watch the India Champions vs Pakistan Champions World Championship of Legends final match on TV in India? The final of the World Championship of Legends between India Champions and Pakistan Champions will be telecast live on the Star Sports network.

Where to watch the India Champions vs Pakistan Champions World Championship of Legends final match online in India? The final of the World Championship of Legends between India Champions and Pakistan Champions will be streamed live on the FanCode app and website.

Jhulan Goswami joins Trinbago Knight Riders as mentor ahead of women's CPL

Jhulan Goswami joined Trinbago Knight Riders as a mentor ahead of the women's CPL. Jemimah Rodrigues and Shikha Pandey will also join the team as players. The tournament will kickstart from August 21st.

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Jhulan Goswami has joined Trinbago Knight Riders

as their mentor ahead of the women's Caribbean Premier League 2024. Goswami retired from all formats of cricket in 2022 as India's leading wicket-taker in women's internationals. Her illustrious international career spanned 20 years; Goswami bagged 355 wickets across formats for India before her retirement. She is currently the bowling coach and mentor of MI in the Women's Premier League. This will be her first stint as a mentor in an overseas T20 league.

"It's an honour to join such a quality franchise," Goswami said in a statement shared by Knight Riders. "Knight Riders have done so well in India and around the world, and to join TKR Women at the WCPL is a pleasure. Thanks to KKR management for thinking about me as a mentor and I'm really looking forward to this



tournament." Goswami will provide guidance to the franchise, which will be captained by all-rounder Deandra Dottin. Under her leadership, the TKR women emerged victorious in the inaugural season in 2021. The conversation about me joining TKR started with Mr. Venky Mysore (CEO of Knight Riders group)," Goswami said. "As a management head, the way he takes

care of everyone is amazing. I felt really honoured by the way both Shah Rukh Khan and Venky sir welcomed me and spoke to me when we met in Kolkata during the IPL."

Jhulan Goswami is an absolute legend of the game, and we are very happy to have her on board as the mentor of the TKR Women's team. We strongly believe that under Jhulan's mentorship, the team will reach greater heights. It's a fantastic opportunity for the youngsters to pick Jhulan's brains and learn from her experiences to become better cricketers themselves. We would like to wish her all the best, and look forward to seeing her in the TKR setup soon," Mysore said.

The Knight Riders bolstered their squad with international stars, Jemimah Rodrigues, Meg Lanning Shikha Pandey and Jess Jonassen.

On this day in 2002, Sourav Ganguly took off shirt to celebrate NatWest final win

New Delhi. It has been two decades since Sourav Ganguly pulled off the iconic celebration to mark India's triumph at the NatWest Final in 2002. Today, we celebrate the heroes who made it possible. From Ganguly's captaincy to Rahul Dravid's composure and the heroics of Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif and Harbhajan Singh. The victory at Lord's marked a significant milestone in Indian cricket, showcasing the team's growing confidence and ability to perform under pressure. The win was a tribute to Ganguly's leadership and the team's collective effort. The triumph in the NatWest Final in 2002 remains one of India's most memorable victories in international cricket, and Ganguly's celebration continues to inspire generations of cricket fans. On July 13, 2002, India pulled off a stunning 2-wicket victory in the NatWest Series final against England at Lord's Cricket Ground. Chasing a daunting target of 326, Indian openers Ganguly and Virender Sehwag provided a solid foundation with a 102-run stand. However, wickets tumbled thereafter, leaving India in a precarious position at 146/5. However, a brilliant partnership between Yuvraj Singh and Mohammed Kaif turned the tide in India's favour. The duo added 121 runs, with Yuvraj scoring a majestic 69 and Kaif remaining unbeaten on 87. The drama continued as wickets fell at regular intervals. Needing 12 runs from the last 4 overs, the tension was palpable. Harbhajan Singh's 15 off just 8 balls brought India within touching distance. With 2 runs needed off the final ball, Rahul Dravid, the epitome of calmness, nudged the ball past the fielder, sending the Indian dressing room and a sizeable Indian contingent in the crowd into a frenzy. Ganguly's shirt-waving celebration was more than just a spontaneous expression of joy. It was a statement of defiance, a response to the criticism and scepticism India faced during the series.

22 years to the iconic celebration

Sourav Ganguly, the Indian captain who had marshalled his troops brilliantly throughout the tournament, became the symbol of India's victory. In a moment that captured the nation's imagination, he took off his jersey and waved it in defiance at the Lord's balcony, a gesture that reverberated across India. This act signified India's newfound aggression and self-belief.

The 2002 NatWest Trophy win was more than just a victory; it was a watershed moment for Indian cricket. It marked the arrival of a new, aggressive India, one that wouldn't be cowed by tradition or reputation. The team, under Ganguly's leadership, ushered in a new era of dominance in world cricket.



Divyanka Tripathi

Seeks Help From Italy PM Giorgia Meloni After Robbery Incident

The actors Divyanka Tripathi and Vivek Dahiya's European trip took a dark turn when they were robbed in Florence, Italy. The couple was celebrating their eighth wedding anniversary when thieves broke into their vehicle at a resort, stole their passports, cash, cards and other valuable items. The couple are currently in contact with the Indian embassy in Italy to resolve the situation. However, the Yeh Hai Mohabbatein star expressed frustration on social media and criticised the local police for handling their robbery case lightly. In a recent X post, the actress reached out to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, urging her to improve tourist safety. In the social media post, Divyanka wrote, "Dear PM Ms Giorgia Meloni, we were passionately touring Italy until we got robbed. Reported to the police. But robberies are being taken so casually here that we have already lost hope along with our enthusiasm. How will I & my people ever gather courage to visit Italy again?" In the separate post, she added, "Our embassy is helping us, but how about Italy taking up responsibility for the safety of the tourists. It's not only about us, but cumulatively all those who save up & spend a fortune to be here."

When Divyanka Tripathi first announced the incident, the couple was struggling with money and the two were without passports. However, recent updates suggest that their situation has improved. Divyanka and Vivek are now working on obtaining a temporary certificate, which will allow them to travel back to India. The actress, taking to her Instagram story, wrote, "Currently, our money situation is kind of sorted as we've got some help from a dear friend. We've replaced the rented car as it was thankfully insured. We'll be heading towards the embassy in another City today to get the emergency certificate sorted. Also, we have not lost everything as was reported. We have a few things left that were in the boot of the car."

Earlier, Vivek Dahiya shared their experience with Etimes and described how their day in Florence turned into a crisis. After arriving and planning a one day stay, they left their belongings in their car at a secure parking spot while checking out a property. When they returned, they found their car damaged, thieves just left behind old clothes and food, but took their valuable items. They attempted to report the crime to the local police, but they couldn't help, as the area doesn't have CCTV cameras. The police also mentioned they couldn't visit the scene and offered no help after 6 pm. They tried contacting the embassy as well, but it was already closed for the day.



Madhuri Dixit

Net Worth: A Look At Dhak Dhak Girl's Car Collection, Fee And Property

Madhuri Dixit is one of the most popular actresses in the film industry. She has had a strong presence in Bollywood since the 1980s. She is known for her impeccable acting skills. Apart from that, she is also known for her dance numbers, which have garnered her a massive fan base in India. After being the top actress for more than a decade, Madhuri took a sabbatical from films after her marriage. Thereafter, years later, she made a comeback in films as well. Over the years, the actress has amassed immense wealth and has been living a luxurious life. Today, let's take a look at her net worth, properties, fee and car collection.

Madhuri Dixit started out in the 1980s and went on to become the leading actress in the 1990s. She has been a part of some of the biggest films and has acted alongside many superstars. Even after making a comeback to films, she also held a strong position in the television world by judging various dance reality shows. Her cumulative wealth is reportedly Rs 250 crore. It has been reported that she charges a fee of Rs 4 to 5 crore per film. Her involvement in reality shows brings her an impressive Rs 10 to 20 crore for a single season, according to reports.



Madhuri has also been active in the advertising and brand collaboration worlds as well. It has been found that she receives an

astounding Rs 8 crore from such ventures. Madhuri's philanthropic inclinations shine brightly amid such significant net worth and earnings. She has exhibited her selflessness by adopting a village in Maharashtra. In terms of her properties, Madhuri Dixit has a lavish abode situated in Lokhandwala in Andheri West, Mumbai. The property has all the luxurious amenities. She also owns a lush apartment in Worli that has many popular film stars and sportspeople in her neighbourhood. The popular actress also has an extraordinary car collection. This includes a Mercedes-Maybach S560, a Range Rover Vogue, and more. Her latest addition to her car collection includes a Porsche 911 Turbo S that costs around Rs 3.08 crore.



Zeenat Aman Reveals Getting Pregnant During 'Daku Hasina' Shoot: 'To Hide My Belly, The Crew...'



Legendary actress Zeenat Aman has taken to Instagram with a nostalgic post about her film 'Daku Hasina', released in 1987 and directed by Ashok Rao. The movie featured Rakesh Roshan, with a memorable cameo by superstar Rajinikanth. In her post, Aman shared captivating photos from the film's set, divulging an interesting behind-the-scenes story. She revealed that she discovered she was pregnant just as filming began. This unexpected twist prompted the crew to devise ingenious methods to conceal her baby bump throughout the shoot, adding a layer of creativity to the production. One of the images depicted Zeenat in a movie scene portraying a female dacoit. Holding a large gun, she gazed directly towards the camera. In the accompanying caption, she initiated by delving into the plot and scribed, "Daku Hasina was your classic story of vengeance. Roopa, orphaned when her parents are killed by powerful village overlords, seeks the help of infamous dacoit Mangal Singh (The iconic Rajinikanth in one of his few Bollywood cameos) to extract revenge. Under his guidance, she transforms into the ruthless Daku Hasina, and so begins her reign of terror. The police scramble to apprehend her, but ah! There is a twist in the tale. What is the relationship between SP Ranjit Saxena (played by none other than @rakesh_roshan9) and the lady dacoit?" Following that, Zeenat disclosed that she discovered she was pregnant during the filming period, and expressed, "This was one of the last films I did before my extended hiatus. I became pregnant early on in the shoot, and by the end of filming was well into my third trimester! My svelte figure had naturally ballooned, so to hide my belly the crew came up with various creative shots. Some of these involved me riding a horse, which brought its own concerns. I had had a scare on horseback during a previous shoot, when the poor animal had bolted because of the artificial rain and blaring speakers on set. I wasn't nervous about my own safety, but the safety of the child in my womb was of utmost importance. Luckily, we were able to shoot these scenes without any incident."

Trailer Of Thaanara, Starring Shine Tom Chacko And Deepti Sati, Promises A Fun Ride



Shine The Tom Chacko, Deepti Sati, and Aju Varghese starrer comedy film Thaanara has been making headlines for a long time. Viewers were eagerly waiting for more updates. Recently, the makers have surprised the viewers and dropped their much-awaited trailer. The trailer gives glimpses of some funny sequences from the film, along with a team number. The video was released yesterday and has until now garnered 61,604 views on YouTube. This upcoming film is directed by Haridas and written by Raffi. The project is backed by Biju V. Mathai.

Thaanara also stars Chinnu Chandni Nair, Angel Shijoy, Vishnu Unnikrishnan, and Sneha Babu in the supporting roles. As per the latest reports, the film is all set to hit theatres on August 9. After the trailer release, the audience is currently waiting for the film with great anticipation as the trailer entertains the audience with interesting scenes. One of the users commented, "Shine Tom Chacko being Shine Tom Chacko in every movie... loading." Another one added, "Old days are coming back..." "Waiting," commented the third user. The music for the film is composed by Gopi Sundar, while the lyrics are penned by B. K. Harinarayanan. The cinematography is handled by Vishnu Narayanan. Meanwhile, on the work front, Shine Tom Chacko was last seen in the Malayalam-language romantic comedy film Little Hearts. The film is directed by Aby Treesa Paul and Anto Jose Pereira, written by Rajesh Pinnadan, and produced by Sandra Thomas Productions. The film features Shane Nigam and Mahima Nambiar in the lead roles. The soundtrack and background score were composed by Kailas Menon, while the cinematography and editing were handled by Luke Jose and Noufal Abdullah.