

Four dead, several others injured as Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derails

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Gonda, July 18: Sandeep Kumar remembers hearing the cries of a boy and his coach getting filled with dust as the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed here on Thursday.

that hurled him to the ceiling of the coach. "I climbed to the upper berth to catch a nap after the train left Gonda. I just remember a strong jerk before being thrown on the other side's upper berth.

the gates were closed. I got hit with the gate. Had the gate been open, I would have fallen straight down. The people of the village and the nearby areas helped us a lot," she said.

could not understand what happened to the train. The loud noise of the coaches leaving the track and toppling over to the left was followed by loud cries of the passengers, especially children.



Communist Party of India fears losing its last remaining bastions to Congress

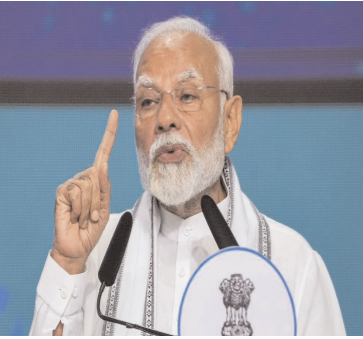
Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, July 18: The Communist Party of India (CPI) fears losing some of its last remaining bastions to its INDIA bloc partner Congress rather than its sworn enemy Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

CPI in the constituency. Thiruvananthapuram has been voting for Tharoor ever since he first contested from the seat in 2009. The CPI has lost in Thrissur and Mavelikara as well in the last General Election, but the party hopes to make a comeback in these seats.

Stop spreading hate against Modi: BJP to Opposition after Trump attack

New Delhi, July 18: Close on the heels of an assassination bid on former US president Donald Trump, the ruling BJP on Thursday said Indian opposition's utterances about Prime Minister Narendra Modi could have "serious implications and must be avoided".



Modi in the speeches of opposition leaders". "Sonia Gandhi of the Congress was the first to use the words "maut (maut ka saudagar) for PM Modi in 2007. The BJP, even at the height of Emergency, never used such

words for then PM Indira Gandhi. We want to caution the opposition, mainly the Congress, to desist from such utterances whose outcomes could be serious for the country. The world just witnessed the consequences of such provocations (in the US)," Trivedi said, recalling how PM Modi's security was compromised when he visited Punjab in 2022.

Delhi court refers jailed BRS leader K Kavitha to AIIMS for medical check-up

New Delhi, July 18: A Delhi court on Thursday referred BRS leader K Kavitha, lodged in Tihar jail in two cases related to the alleged excise scam, to AIIMS for a medical check-up. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) MLC was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital after she developed a gynaecological problem and high fever on Tuesday.

Vikram Misri to pay 2-day visit to Bhutan in first trip abroad as Foreign Secretary

New Delhi, July 18: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will pay a two-day visit to Bhutan beginning Friday, in his first trip abroad after assuming charge of the top post. In Bhutanese capital Thimphu, Misri will meet Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Foreign Minister DN Dhunghyel and Foreign Secretary Pema Choden among others.

Supreme Court directs NTA to declare centre-wise results of NEET-UG

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, July 18: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare by 12 noon of July 20 the centre and city-wise results of controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024 while masking the identities of the aspirants, saying it wanted to ascertain whether candidates appearing at allegedly tainted centres scored more marks than those elsewhere.

disclosing the identity of the students. The result should be declared city and centre wise by 12 noon on July 20, 2024 and shall be uploaded on the website of the NTA," the bench, also comprising



Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said in its order. "We want the identity of students be masked. You can have dummy roll numbers. But let us see it centre-wise what is the marks pattern," the bench said. The top court will resume hearing arguments on July 22 on

a batch of pleas seeking cancellation, re-test and court-monitored probe into the allegations of malpractice in the prestigious exam. The bench noted the counsel for the petitioners have submitted that it would be appropriate if the result of NEET-UG 2024 examination was published on the NTA website so as to bring about transparency with regard to centre-wise marks obtained by candidates. It also said that material collected by the Bihar Police and the report of its Economic Offences Wing (EOW), before the investigation was taken over by the CBI, shall be filed in the court by 5 PM on July 20. At the outset, the bench said it has prioritised the hearing on the pleas over other cases as these have "social ramifications" and lakhs of students are waiting for the outcome. It rejected the submission of the petitioners that they were handicapped as the CBI's status report filed in the court was not made available to them.

Ratna Bhandar of Puri Jagannath temple reopened for shifting of valuables

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Puri, July 18: The Ratna Bhandar, the revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, was reopened on Thursday for the second time in a week for shifting of valuables to a temporary strong room, officials said. The treasury was reopened at 9.51 am, they said. After offering prayers before Lord Jagannath and his siblings, the members of a supervisory committee set up by the Odisha government for the shifting of valuables from the Ratna Bhandar, entered the temple around 9 am. Speaking to media persons before entering the temple, the supervising committee's chairman and Orissa High Court former judge Justice Biswanath Rath said, "We sought the blessings of Lord Jagannath for smooth completion of shifting of all valuables stored in the inner chamber of the treasury." Last time, the treasury was opened on July 14 after 46 years. On that day, the ornaments and other valuables of the outer chamber of the

Ratna Bhandar were shifted to a strong room. Justice Rath also requested Puri's titular king Gajapati Maharaja Divya Singh



Deb to remain present in the Ratna Bhandar and oversee the shifting of the valuables from there. Deb, who inspected the shifting of valuables to the temporary strong room on the temple premises said, "The 'Khatasheja' (a store room) is being

used as the temporary strong room. The valuables from the inner chamber of the Ratna Bhandar will be shifted to the 'Khatasheja' room, amid tight security." "The shifting of valuables from the inner chamber is expected to be completed by evening. The temporary strong room will be sealed and repair work of the Ratna Bhandar will be taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). A list of ornaments and other valuables will be prepared only after the completion of repair works," he said. The titular king also said, "The outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar has been cleaned after shifting of valuables from there. The inner one requires repair as it is being opened after 46 years." Asked whether any tunnel was there in the inner chamber as claimed by

many people, Deb said the ASI would use modern equipment to assess the condition of the chamber and the surveyor could give details about the structure of it. Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said only authorised persons were allowed to enter the treasury with traditional attire during the shifting of valuables from the inner chamber of the Ratna Bhandar. "If the shifting of valuables will not be completed today, the work will continue as per the standard operating procedure (SOP). The entire process is being videographed," he said. As per the SOP, CCTV cameras were installed and adequate security personnel were deployed around the temple, Puri Superintendent of Police Pinak Mishra said. "Snake catchers, Odisha Rapid Action Force personnel and fire services officials have been kept on standby to deal with any emergency," an official said. The temple administration restricted the entry of devotees into the shrine from 8 am on Thursday.

Chancellor of state-run universities should be 'elected CM', not 'selected': CM Mann

Naresh Malhotra

Chandigarh, July 18: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday stressed that chancellor of state-run universities should be an "elected chief minister" rather than "selected", a remark which was referred to the state governor. Taking a swipe at Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Mann said if the governor does not want to give assent to any bill, then he sends it to the President who returns that bill after a couple of months. His statement came after the President returned a Punjab bill that seeks to replace the state governor with the chief minister as the chancellor of state-run universities without her assent. Mann said he will hold a meeting over the issue of the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which has been returned by the President without her assent. The Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was for replacing the governor with the chief minister as the chancellor of state-

run universities. Replying to a question on the bill being sent back by the President,

ments in West Bengal and Kerala. "We want that democracy should not be of



Mann said such bills which state that an elected chief minister should be the chancellor were also brought by the govern-

selected but of elected," he emphasized. Speaking about the current process for the appointment of vice-chancellor of state-

run universities, Mann said, "If we want to appoint the VC of Punjab University, then we will have to give three names to the governor. He will select one of them of his choice. Then who chooses? Is it elected or selected." "One should know the culture. What is Punjab University's culture, what is the culture of Punjab Agricultural University and other universities," he added. Mann further said, "We had brought that bill (Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023) in Vidhan Sabha. We had brought the SGPC Bill as well and that was also sent there (to the President). "It means if the governor does not want to pass bills (give his assent), he sends them to the President and then the President returns after four to five months. This is our democracy," he added. The Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and three others bills were passed by the Punjab Assembly in the two-day session in June last year but the governor had called the session "patently illegal".

Part of under-construction bridge on Badrinath National Highway collapses near Rudraprayag

Rudraprayag, July 18: A part of an under-construction bridge on the Badrinath National Highway collapsed on Thursday, officials said. There was no loss of life in the incident that occurred in the Narkota area near Rudraprayag, they said. The frame of the bridge was being made by joining iron angles, when it suddenly collapsed around 4 pm, they said. Some labourers working nearby had a narrow escape as they ran away when they realised that the frame was going to collapse, an official said. National Highway Executive Engineer Tanuj Kamboj said a part of the frame of the under-construction bridge has collapsed. Being built at a cost of about Rs 67 crore under the Chardham Road Project, the bridge

has been under construction for the last three years. Fortunately, when the frame of the bridge collapsed, there were no workers there, due to which loss of life was averted in the incident, the official said. Iron rods had fallen while preparing the foundation of the bridge two years ago. The reasons for the incident are being investigated, he said. The bridge is being constructed by a private company. District Disaster Management Officer of Rudraprayag Nandan Singh Rajwar said that as soon as the information about the collapse of a part of the bridge was received, the disaster management team reached the spot and obtained information from the project manager of the RCC company Rupesh Mishra.

1 jawan injured in gunfight with terrorists in J&K's Doda: Sources

One Indian Army personnel was wounded in the encounter that broke out in Jaddan Bata village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

Jammu. One Army jawan has been injured as a gunfight erupted between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, a source informed India Today. The encounter broke out in Jaddan Bata village in the Kastigarh area around 2 am. "There was a brief exchange of fire between the security forces and terrorists around midnight in the Kastigarh area of Doda district. No fresh firing this morning," the source stated. This came two days after four Army personnel, including an officer, were martyred while fighting against terrorists in the Doda district. Soon after this, a massive crackdown against the terror network was launched in the region on the intervening nights of Monday and Tuesday.

Captain Brijesh Thapa, Naik D. Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra, and Sepoy Ajay laid down their lives in the line of duty.

After five army personnel were killed in action in Kathua last week, this was the second major encounter in the region.



The attack was claimed by the "Kashmir Tigers," a shadow group of Pakistan-backed terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). In a statement, the

terror group 'Kashmir Tigers' said the clash and gunfire erupted while the security forces launched a search operation for the "Mujahideen".

'Kashmir Tigers' is the same group that earlier claimed responsibility for the attack on an Army convoy in Kathua on July 9. Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert following a recent surge in terror attacks in the Jammu region over the past few weeks.

On July 14, the Indian Army thwarted an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district, successfully killing three terrorists.

On July 6, six terrorists were gunned down by security forces in twin gunfights in Kulgam district, with two soldiers also losing their lives during the separate encounters. Most recently, on June 26 in Doda, three terrorists were killed in a gunfight with security forces. The confrontation occurred after the Army cordoned off a hideout containing four terrorists, leading to the deaths of three.

Mumbai businessman jumps off Bandra-Worli Sea Link after video call to son

MUMBAI. After making a video call to his 22-year-old son on WhatsApp to inform him that he intended to end his life by jumping off the Bandra-Worli Sea Link (BWSL), a 56-year-old Ghatkopar businessman switched off his cellphone and took the extreme step around 3.15pm on Wednesday. Police suspect the deceased, Bhavesh Seth, might have been in financial distress. His body was found after a three-hour search operation carried out by the fire brigade. Andhra police said Seth requested a motorist at the BWSL toll plaza to drop him in south Mumbai, saying his car had broken down and he needed to reach his destination at the earliest. "However, the deceased asked the motorist to stop on the sea link. He got out of the vehicle and then made a video call to his son, informing him that he was about to jump off the sea link," said DCP (Zone IX) Raj Tilak Roshan. The incident came to light after the deceased's son approached Bandra police at 4.30pm to inform them about the tragedy. Police corroborated his account after examining the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage at the sea link and the toll plaza, which showed Seth getting into a car and alighting on the sea link.

"The motorist, after dropping Seth, kept driving on the southbound carriage, unaware that he had jumped off," said a Bandra police officer. Police suspect Seth, who was in the business of trading ball bearings, might have been facing a financial crisis and may have been depressed.

"Seth's son said his father had left their Ghatkopar home for his South Mumbai office without exhibiting any change in his behavior. He said the family was in shock," the

CM Naidu performs housewarming rituals at new official residence in Delhi

CM concludes his two-day visit to national capital without meeting Finance Minister



VIJAYAWADA. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu performed housewarming rituals at his new official residence in Number 1 Janpath, New Delhi on Wednesday. Naidu, who was in the national capital on a

two-day visit, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday night, and explained the sorry state of State finances. Though he was expected to meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Chief Minister concluded his visit without meeting anyone on the second day, and returned to his residence at Undavalli. During his meeting with Amit Shah, which lasted nearly an hour, issues related to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 were discussed. He also sought more Central aid highlighting the precarious financial position of the State.

Taking to X after meeting Shah, the Chief Minister posted, "Today in New Delhi, I met with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to apprise him of the devastating condition of finances that Andhra Pradesh

had slipped into over the past five years. I also discussed the findings of the four White Papers released, outlining the staggering debt accumulated between FY 2019-24 that spiralled our State's finances out of control. Economic incompetence, gross mismanagement, and rampant corruption by the previous government have caused irreparable damage to our State. Honouring the mandate given by our people to the NDA, the Central and State governments will devise a comprehensive recovery plan and bring our State's economy back on track. We shall fulfil people's aspirations together."

More central aid sought During his meeting with Amit Shah, Naidu discussed issues related to Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. He also sought more Central aid to the State



officer added. An accidental death report (ADR) has been registered and police are conducting a further probe. Last Nov, Parel's Akash Singh (28), a banker, had similarly jumped off the sea link. Singh boarded a taxi at BKC for Parel. While crossing the sea link, Singh, who was on a call, claimed his phone had fallen out of the window. After the cabbie pulled over, he got out and jumped into the sea.

Suicide prevention helplines: MPower Mental Health Helpline 1800-120-820050. Vandrewala Foundation 9999666555. I-Call (TISS) 9152987821 (Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm) Samaritans Mumbai 8422984528, 8422984529, 8422984530.

French national, 23, held with live cartridge at SVPI

Ahmedabad. A 23-year-old French resident was arrested by Airport police after a 9mm pistol cartridge was found in his bag at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Tuesday. Inspector S G Khambhala said that the youth, Daya Mansuri, was flying from Ahmedabad to Mumbai when security discovered the cartridge during a routine screening. French national, 23, held with live cartridge at SVPI. The incident occurred around 2am while the luggage was being checked for a flight scheduled to depart at 4.50am. The Level 2 screening machine flagged a navy blue bag belonging to Mansuri, and further inspection at Level 3 revealed a live 9mm pistol cartridge.

Prashant Saheta, a senior security screener, lodged the complaint. He detailed that he identified the cartridge in Mansuri's bag while on duty at the domestic terminal. Upon questioning, Mansuri, who lives at 2B, 12 Avenue Pablo Picasso, in the Villepinte suburb of the French capital, admitted he had no firearm permit. He explained that he had visited Mumbai to meet his father and then travelled to Ahmedabad on July 6 to visit his uncle in Juhapura. He was returning to Mumbai when the incident occurred. Mansuri said he had forgotten the live cartridge in his bag after a firing practice session in America. Since he had no firearm licence, he was arrested and handed over to Airport police. We also published the following articles recently: NRI misses flight

after terminal mix-up at airport. NRI misses flight after confusion at Pune airport terminals. Passenger not notified about terminal change, leading to missed flight to Lucknow. Airline apologizes and offers full refund. Learn more about this incident at Pune Airport. Navi Mumbai international airport to begin operations by March 2025, announces Murlidhar Mohol. Find out the latest update on Navi Mumbai International Airport's anticipated launch in March 2025. Minister Mohol shares insights on the progress and highlights the airport's connectivity benefits. Learn more about the government's commitment to addressing project-related issues and compensations. Bill Hayes makes his final appearance on Days of Our Lives in emotional episode airing 6 months after his death. Learn about the special tribute episode planned on 'Days of Our Lives' to honor the legacy of soap opera star Hayes. The episode will feature his character's funeral and the return of beloved characters, marking a celebration of his impactful career. Bill Hayes makes his final appearance on Days of Our Lives in emotional episode airing 6 months after his death. Learn about the special tribute episode planned on 'Days of Our Lives' to honor the legacy of soap opera star Hayes. The episode will feature his character's funeral and the return of beloved characters, marking a celebration of his impactful career.

Tamil Nadu records 88 per cent excess rainfall in southwest monsoon

CHENNAI. With heavy rain continuing to lash the western districts, Tamil Nadu has received an excess rainfall of 88% for the southwest monsoon season so far. Tirunelveli received 450% excess rains while Chennai and neighbouring districts received excess rains in the range of 175%. The regional meteorological centre has issued an orange alert for Nilgiris and ghat areas of Coimbatore for Thursday. A fresh low-pressure area is likely to form over west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal around July 19.

Moderate westerlies/southwesterlies would prevail over the region in the lower tropospheric levels and they would sustain the rainfall in southern districts of Tamil Nadu, especially the ghat areas. On Wednesday, the Avalanche weather station in Nilgiris district received extreme downpours for the second consecutive day. In the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday, it received 34 cm of rain. Following this, the water level of the 7,460-foot capacity Upper Bhavani Dam reached 7,412 ft.

In Gudalur, as many as 48 residents in the



low-lying areas of Iruvayal and Chemundi were evacuated and given accommodation at the temporary relief camp at the government residential school at Thorapalli on Wednesday morning. Two houses were partially damaged in rain at

Pandalur, and four huts were partially damaged in the rain in Udhamandalam taluk. A tree fell on the road and was cleared within half an hour on Naduvattam road. A landslip occurred along the roadside at Ithalar in Kunda Taluk.

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Legal Advisors:

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

HC tells 7 in way of soc redvpt to vacate or pay Rs 5L

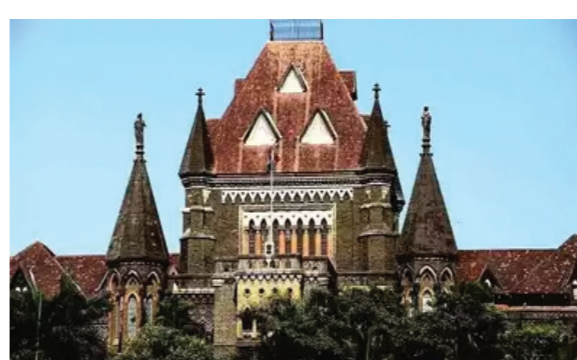
MUMBAI. Observing that their conduct has put the entire redevelopment at risk, Bombay high court recently directed seven members of a housing society to pay Rs 5 lakh in all in costs if they do not vacate their flats in a building at Chakala, Andheri (East), within two weeks. "The docket of this court continues to be flooded with several such matters where minority members continue to attempt to stymie redevelopment on grounds which are ex facie frivolous, untenable, and contrary to the well-settled position in law," Justice Arif Doctor said on July 1. DEM Homes LLP had filed a commercial arbitration petition to adjudicate the dispute between it and the

dissenting members. In Sept 2023, a redevelopment agreement was executed between the developer and Taruvel CHSL. In Oct 2023, a VJTI structural audit declared the building in the CI (dilapidated) category. In March, after obtaining the IOD (intimation of disapproval), the developer asked residents to vacate. Initially, 76 out of 84 members vacated. As the dissenting members refused to vacate, the developer moved the high court. After that, one member vacated his flat.

Advocates Sarosh Bharucha and Jay Vakil said grave prejudice is caused to the developer since it commenced paying hardship compensation, rent, brokerage,

and transportation charges to members who vacated their flats. The majority of them are senior citizens. Kapadia said the dissenting members had filed a suit in the city civil court challenging the redevelopment, but there is no stay.

Advocates Narayan Bubna and Pooja Malik, representing three members, said the developer was unwilling to fulfil its obligation as it had sought exemption from executing a permanent alternate accommodation agreement with dissenting members. But Justice Doctor said the contention is misconceived as Bharucha clarified the agreement will be executed with them and they will be treated



at par. Told that the trio would oppose the petition, Justice Doctor decided to grant

costs incurred in the petition. The developer submitted Rs 48 lakh in costs and the CHSL, Rs 3 lakh. In his discretion, Justice Doctor directed that Rs 5 lakh be paid if the seven members do not vacate their flats within two weeks of the upload of the order. "In the event all or any of them do not, then costs shall be borne by those who do not," he said, directing it to be paid equally to the developer and members who vacated their flats. If the costs are not paid, the developer and CHSL may recover it as arrears of land revenue.

NEWS BOX

MCG official rejects pet registration application, fined

GURGAON. The Haryana Right to Service Commission (HRSC) on Wednesday imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on an MCG official for wrongly rejecting an application for pet registration though the applicant had provided all required documents and data. An HRSC spokesperson said the commission took cognisance of an appeal made by resident Devendra Singh Bhati. Bhati filed an application for a dog registration certificate on Antyodaya Saral portal on April 10 this year. His application was rejected on April 12. When he asked MCG officials why the application was rejected, they told him to provide residential proof, which he did soon after. He was then told that his application was complete, but he got an e-mail later in the month saying that his application was rejected. HRSC chief commissioner TC Gupta looked into the complaint and found that Bhati had provided all necessary documents, but the chief medical officer rejected the application nonetheless. MCG's health department is responsible for pet registrations. The commission concluded that the corporation's CMO, Dr Ashish Singla, did not provide the service within the specified duration and wrongly rejected the application. It then ordered that Rs 5,000 be imposed as a fine and deducted from Singla's July salary.

Expedite drain and sewer line cleaning, MCG officials told

GURGAON. In a meeting on Wednesday, MCG commissioner Narhari Singh Banger directed officials of the corporation to accelerate cleaning of storm-water drains and sewage lines, and spoke about the importance of better coordination among executive engineers of all divisions. He directed officials to provide 10 manhole covers to each RWA in the city. "The officers should ensure to provide the required machinery and equipment at the time of rains. It is crucial for officers to be present on the ground and



address any complaints of waterlogging that may rise. Sewage blockages should be given priority and should be resolved swiftly," said the commissioner. MCG had begun cleaning and repairing storm water drains and sewage lines on June 1. The engineering work was directed by the additional commissioner, Balpreet Singh, to complete the work by June 30.

Kanwar yatra: DME to be out of bounds for cars from July 27

Ghaziabad. Private cars and other light goods vehicles from Delhi to Meerut will be diverted from the Delhi-Meerut Expressway (DME) through National Highway 9 and Hapur from July 27 to make way for kanwar pilgrims as the yatra starts next week.

Ghaziabad traffic department, which issued a three-phase diversion plan, said it will also stop the entry of all vehicles on the speedway from July 29. Trucks, buses or any other heavy vehicles will also be rerouted from July 22. The diversions will continue till 8 pm on Aug 5. Additional DCP (traffic) Piyush Singh said movement of all vehicles on Ganganahar Patri Kanwar Road and Pipeline Road, two stretches used by kanwar pilgrims every year to reach Haridwar in Uttarakhand, will be completely restricted. "Also, movement of vehicles from Meerut trisection to Hindon riverside, Kanawani and Indrapuram will also be restricted. These vehicles will be rerouted via the old bus stand, Chaudhary Mod, Vijaynagar railway overbridge and NH-9 to reach their destinations," the officer said. Vehicles travelling from Mohannagar, Meerut trisection, Rajnagar Extension and Hapur Chugi towards Meerut through the NH-34 will move through a single lane till July 29. Thereafter, vehicular movement on the route will be restricted till Aug 5. According to the travel advisory, vehicles travelling from Palwal and Kundli via the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) will not be permitted to move towards the main city areas, Muradnagar and Modinagar from the Duhai intersection from July 29. Instead, these vehicles will be rerouted to NH9 from the intersection. Till July 29, vehicles travelling from Meerut trisection towards Mohannagar or Seemapuri border will use a single lane of the Meerut Road. Thereafter, the route will be closed for vehicular movement.

We also published the following articles recently
Govt mulls restriction on heavy vehicles into Mumbai
Find out about the Maharashtra government's plans to regulate heavy vehicle entry on the Mumbai-Nashik highway. Minister Dada Bhuse discusses minimizing inconvenience for passenger vehicles by allowing heavy vehicles during designated times. Get the latest updates! 111772104

Weekly Horoscope Predictions From July 15 to July 21, 2024
Discover your weekly horoscope predictions covering career, finance, and love aspects for each zodiac sign. Get insights on communication, planning, and relationship advice to enhance productivity and well-being. 80% violations on Mys-Bluru NH are by vehicles from outside state
Karnataka police take action on speeding violations on NH275 connecting Mysuru and Bengaluru. Over 80% of offenders have out-of-state vehicles. FIRs for speeds over 120kmph. Road deaths reduced from 127 to 40 in six months. Manual checks and technology used for enforcement.

Why Gurgaon traffic cops are bringing in portable signals to ease jams

GURGAON: The traffic police will soon deploy 25 portable traffic signals throughout the city to streamline traffic movement. These portable signals, which will be procured by GMDA at a cost of Rs 40 lakh, are likely to be handed over to cops by the end of next month. They will be utilised whenever traffic signals encounter technical issues, and for purposes such as traffic diversion, VIP movement and trials, officers said. Portable and easy to install, these traffic signals are mobile, self-contained units on wheels that are equipped with solar battery packs and can be transported in vans or trucks. The signals can function for up to eight hours on a single charge and come equipped with a remote-control system for distant operation by traffic police. Unlike traditional signals, portable traffic signals don't require the



installation of poles or a separate power source. According to traffic police, there are times when signals malfunction, requiring officers to manage vehicular

"Besides replacing fixed traffic signals whenever needed, these portable units will aid in managing traffic during VIP movement and special events, and in conducting traffic trials before the installation of permanent signals. The portable nature of these signals allows for quick deployment and flexibility in their use, ensuring that traffic flow remains smooth," DCP (traffic) Virender Vij said on Wednesday. By leveraging solar power and battery operation, these portable signals offer an environmentally friendly and cost-effective approach to traffic management, cops said. The move is expected to significantly enhance the traffic situation in the city and ensure a smoother flow of vehicles. Several cities across India have used portable signals for traffic management in the past, including Delhi and Raipur.

3 offer increase in credit card limit, access targets' account info, cheat them; held

GURGAON: Three cyber fraudsters, who allegedly offered an increase in credit card limits and cheated many, have been arrested. They have eight cases registered against them in various districts of Haryana. The cons would contact people, offering to increase credit card limits and loans. They then scammed their targets by obtaining their credit card details and transferring money to their own bank accounts, which they subsequently shared among themselves, cops said. Faridabad residents Bharadwaj and AS Mohammad alias Ashu were arrested on July 15, and Lakhan from Delhi was arrested the next day following an FIR that was filed on April 24, reporting a fraud of Rs 1.2 lakh in the name of increasing credit card limit. ACP



(cyber crime) Priyanshu Diwan said a case was registered under IPC sections 419 (punishment for cheating), 420 (dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 204 (destruction of documents to prevent production as evidence), and 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy). Police recovered a mobile phone from the possession of the accused. "Further investigation is underway, and action is being taken as

per law," the ACP added. In another case of cyber fraud, a person was arrested for scamming people on the pretext of providing jobs overseas. Cyber police station (east) received a complaint in the first week of July about fraud of Rs 1 lakh, after which the accused was arrested on July 16. Madhya Pradesh native Jatin Joshi, who works in a private company in the city, was arrested from Sector 43. A mobile phone and a laptop were recovered from the accused. "Joshi used to gather the data of job seekers through a website, contact them, conduct interviews, shortlist candidates, and then send them to his associates who would scam them by charging money for necessary documents," said the ACP.

Two real-time noise monitoring stations set up in Faridabad, a first for Haryana

GURGAON: Amid growing concerns over rising noise pollution levels, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has set up the state's first two real-time noise level monitoring stations in Faridabad. Linked to a centralised network, these stations will monitor noise levels 24x7. Focused on residential and silent zones at present, the board plans to add two more monitors for commercial and industrial areas next month. The initiative, mirroring the air monitoring stations, will eventually be extended across the state. The data from these stations will help the state come up with an action plan to mitigate noise pollution. The two operational stations are in Sector 16A (residential area) and ESI medical college (silent zone). The two new stations will be set up at Sector 69 (industrial area) and BK Chowk. "We installed two noise monitoring stations earlier this month and two more will be installed soon. We will eventually expand it to all districts. We will analyse the data and prepare strategies on its basis. The stations have been set up first in Faridabad as a pilot project," HSPCB senior environmental engineer JP Singh said. "This new project will aid our department in preparing a database, identifying major sources of noise pollution, and taking adequate action," said another official. Faridabad is the sole Haryana district on the list of 'non-attainment cities' under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), implying that its air failed to meet the national ambient air quality standards from 2011 to 2015. So, it was decided to set up noise monitors there to ensure that, in conjunction with air pollution, noise pollution is also monitored for analysis and formulation of a

Gurgaon: Nod given years ago, but Rs 140 crore infra projects made little headway

GURGAON. MCG has made little headway on four development projects, altogether estimated to cost over Rs 140 crore, despite receiving approval for them years ago. One of the projects, a Rs 19.5-crore community centre in Sector 12A, was given administrative approval in June 2022. But only 10% of the work is complete till now, with officials citing design changes as the reason for the delay. Similarly, the renovation and redevelopment of a swimming pool at Kamla Nehru Park, estimated to cost the corporation Rs 14.9 crore, received administrative approval in March last year. Till now, however, a mere 5% of the work has been completed. The progress of these development works, each valued at more than Rs 10 crore, was recently discussed in a meeting held at the office of the urban local bodies (ULB) department. TOI had reported on May 7 that state govt asked municipalities to prepare a 100-day



unavailability of a suitable agency to start the work. We have now given directions to expedite work," a senior MCG official said. Another of these projects, a community centre in Daultabad to be built at a cost of Rs

CM Manohar Lal Khattar in 2016. Estimated to cost around Rs 95 crore, the project got administrative approval in Sept 2019 and again in Feb 2023. But its work order was issued only on June 13 this year, five years after the project was approved. The estimated cost of the stadium was initially Rs 95 crore, which has now been revised. The project has been redesigned with an emphasis on local sports on govt's direct officials said. The international swimming pool has been dropped from the project now, and squash and basketball courts have also been excluded. Infrastructure to encourage sports such as boxing and karate will be constructed, said official Gauri Sarin, convener of M

<p>Name Change I, SEEMA D/O VISHNU DUTT SHARMA residing at WZ-60 A WZ BLOCK NARAINA VILLAGE DELHI-110028 have changed my name to SEEMA SHARMA permanently</p>	<p>Name Change I, J. SIVAMM, W/O JANGA DEVDAS REDDY R/O A-404, RUDRA APARTMENT, PLOT NO. 12, SECTOR-6, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 have changed my name to JANGA SIVA REDDY.</p>
<p>Name Change I, JC-332611F, Rank-SUB, Name-MANOJ KUMAR SINGH Residing at VPO-SUHIYA, PS-SHAHPUR PATTI, DIST-BHOJIPUR (ARA), BIHAR-802165 have changed my wife's name from USHA to USHA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 18/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>Name Change I, SHARDA Mother of No 4581328A, Rank-NK, Name-HAJARE NILESH ASHOK R/O AT/PO-ANGAPUR VAN-DANI, TEH & DIST-SATARA, MAHARASHTRA-415019 have changed my name from SHARDA to HAJARE SHARDAASHOK for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 18/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>

<p>Name Change I, AKSHAY KUMAR NAYAK S/o Sri RABINDRA NAYAK R/O WZ-1211, Don Bosco Ashalyani, Palam Village, South West, Delhi-110045 declare that my both names AKSHAY KUMAR NAYAK and AKSHAY KUMAR NAYAK are the names of the same and one person.</p>	<p>Name Change I, JANGA DEVADAS REDDY R/O A-404, RUDRA APARTMENT, PLOT NO. 12, SECTOR-6, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 have changed my name to JANGA DEVADAS REDDY.</p>	<p>Name Change I, Hamida Rafiq W/o Saurabh Bansal R/o Flat No-203, 2nd Floor, 95F, Bharat Residency, JMD Pacific Square, Sector-15, Chander Ngr, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed My Name to Aarohi Hamida Bansal</p>	<p>Name Change I, SAKARIYA BALUBEN KANUBHAI wife of Sh. SHAKARIYA KANUBHAI MEPPABHAI R/O HARIPIURA, AMRELI, LATHI, GUJARAT - 365430, have changed my name from SHAKARIYA BALUBHAI KANUBHAI to SAKARIYA BALUBEN KANUBHAI for all future purpose.</p>
<p>Name Change I, Shalini Bansal D/o Bal Kishan (W/o Mahesh Agarwal) R/o Beacon-703, Omare Hills-1, Sector-43, Faridabad-121010, have changed my name to Shalini Agarwal.</p>	<p>Name Change I, JC-493063A Rank-NB SUB Name- SUNIL KUMAR is legal father of SHAGUN R/O VPO-DHINDHAWALI, TEH-MUZAFFAR NAGAR, DIST- MUZAFFAR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-251318 have changed my Minor daughter's name from SHAGUN to SAGUN for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 18/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>Name Change I, ANJU SHARMA, Wife of JC-303211M SUB YOGESH KUMAR SHARMA, R/o 36A/60, DEFENCE COLONY, NEAR KARTIK VATIKA NIROTTAM PALACE PHASE-2, AGRA CANTT, UTTAR PRADESH-282001, in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/08/1977 instead of my correct date of birth as 10/03/1976 vide affidavit dated 18/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>	<p>Name Change I, NOOKA RATNAM RAKUTTI Mother of No 15710732H, Rank-LOCHAV, Name-NAGESWARA RAO RAKUTTI R/O DOOR NO-2-16, VILL-MONDIPALEM, PO-VETAJANGALPALEM, TEH-ANAKAPALLE, DISTT-VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-531001 have changed my name from NOOKA RATNAM RAKUTTI to RAKUTTI NOOKARATHNAM for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 18/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

1. Improvement of Level crossing by providing rubberised surface other misc work crossing road surface in the section of ADEN/Jind. (NIT 05-WV-24-25)	(1) Rs. 1,04,72,263.50 (2) Rs. 2,32,66,801.06 (3) Rs. 2,32,35,409.66 (4) 74,99,976.63 (5) Rs. 89,95,046.82 (6) Rs. 1,85,48,363.65
2. Improvement of Level crossing by providing rubberised surface other misc work crossing road surface in the section of ADEN/Jakhai. (NIT 06-WV-24-25)	(1) Rs. 2,02,400.00 (2) Rs. 2,66,300.00 (3) Rs. 2,66,200.00 (4) 1,50,000.00 (5) Rs. 1,79,900.00 (6) Rs. 2,42,800.00
3. Improvement of Level crossing by providing rubberised surface other misc work crossing road surface in the section of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 07-WV-24-25)	
4. Supply of potable water at LC and colonies under ADEN/ROK. (NIT 51-WV-24-25)	
5. Repair to level crossing surface etc. in the section of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 52-WV-24-25)	
6. Improvement of LHS on LC No. 06 & 07 on JHI-SNP section under ADEN/JHI. (NIT 54-WV-24-25)	

Approx Cost of work (1) Rs. 1,04,72,263.50 (2) Rs. 2,32,66,801.06 (3) Rs. 2,32,35,409.66 (4) 74,99,976.63 (5) Rs. 89,95,046.82 (6) Rs. 1,85,48,363.65

Earnest Money (1) Rs. 2,02,400.00 (2) Rs. 2,66,300.00 (3) Rs. 2,66,200.00 (4) 1,50,000.00 (5) Rs. 1,79,900.00 (6) Rs. 2,42,800.00

Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender Bidding Start date for work on. Up to 15.00 hrs on 26.07.2024 opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs on 09.08.2024

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

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/05,06,07, 51,52&54-WV/24-25 Date: 16.07.2024

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NEWS BOX

Dinosaur skeleton sells for record \$44.6 million at New York auction

New York. The largest stegosaurus skeleton ever found, nicknamed Apex, sold for a record breaking \$44.6 million at auction in New York on Wednesday, Sotheby's said. Estimated to be 150 million years old, Apex is said to be "among the most complete skeletons ever found," according to the auction house. It measures 11 feet (3.3 meters) tall and 27 feet long and counts 254 fossil bone elements of an approximate total of 319. The previous auction record of \$31.8 million for a dinosaur skeleton was set in 2020 for a Tyrannosaurus Rex nicknamed "Stan."

Sotheby's had expected Apex to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million, but the price quickly skyrocketed as telephone bidders deluged the sale, prompting gasps and clapping in the auction room. After the record-breaking sale, the auctioneer asked her colleague Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's global head of science, "do you need a cigarette?" Apex was discovered in May 2022 on the private land of paleontologist Jason Cooper. The auction house says it has collaborated with Cooper to "document the entire process, from discovery and excavation to restoration, preparation and mounting," in order to guarantee the "highest standards and transparency."

In 2022, Christie's auction house had to withdraw a T-rex skeleton a few days before auction in Hong Kong, due to doubts about its authenticity. Wednesday's auction follows an increasing trend for the sale of dinosaur remains. Stegosaurus skeletons are already on display around the world, but according to Sotheby's, Apex is 30 percent larger than Sophie, the most complete stegosaurus on public display to date, which is housed in the Natural History Museum in London.

14 killed after fire erupts at shopping centre in China

Beijing Sixteen people were killed in a fire at a department store in Sichuan province in China's southwest on Wednesday evening, state media said on Thursday.

The fire broke out in a 14-storey building in a high-tech zone of the city of Zigong, shrouding the vicinity with thick smoke, according to the Xinhua news agency.

Overnight rescue work ended at 3 am, state broadcaster CCTV said. Preliminary investigation showed the fire was due to construction operations. Further investigation was underway to identify the specific cause of the fire.

US military to end Gaza aid pier, declaring 'mission complete'

Washington The US military announced on Wednesday that its mission to install and operate a temporary, floating pier off the coast of Gaza was complete, formally ending an extraordinary but troubled effort to bring humanitarian aid to Palestinians. The pier, announced by President Joe Biden during a televised address to Congress in March, was a massive endeavor that took about 1,000 US forces to execute. Aid began flowing via the pier to Gaza in May, an operation aimed at helping avert famine after months of war between Israel and Hamas, but bad weather and distribution challenges inside Gaza limited the effectiveness of what the U.S. military says was its biggest aid delivery effort ever in the Middle East. The pier was only operational for about 20 days. The maritime surge mission involving the pier is complete. So there's no more need to use the pier, Navy Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, the deputy commander of US Central Command, told a news briefing.

Cooper said efforts to distribute aid to Gaza arriving by sea would now shift to the established port of Ashdod in Israel. At least 5 million pounds of aid, which are either in Cyprus or on ships, will be going to Ashdod in the coming days, he said. "Our assessment is that the temporary pier has achieved its intended effect to surge a very high volume of aid into Gaza and ensure that aid reaches the civilians in Gaza in a quick manner," Cooper said, adding that nearly 20 million pounds of aid was delivered to Gaza. The pier became a sore point in Congress, where Republicans branded it a political stunt by Biden, who was under pressure from fellow Democrats to do more to aid Palestinians after months of staunchly supporting Israel's punishing war on Hamas. This chapter might be over in President Biden's mind, but the national embarrassment that this project has caused is not. The only miracle is that this doomed-from-the-start operation did not cost any American lives, Senator Roger Wicker, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said.

Cooper said he expected the pier, which was authorized to be used until the end of July, to cost less than the \$230 million the Pentagon had expected it to cost.

Cooper said the United States had so far delivered more than 1 million pounds of aid through Ashdod and he was confident more could be delivered through that port.

Biden Says He Would Reevaluate Presidential Bid If Serious Medical Condition Emerged

Washington D.C., U.S. President Joe Biden said in an interview released Wednesday that he would reassess his decision to remain in the presidential race if a doctor informed him of a medical condition that necessitated withdrawal. The 81-year-old Democrat tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms shortly after his remarks were made public. Biden gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a campaign trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation. The New York Times reported. Biden has repeatedly said that no doctor has diagnosed him with a serious medical condition. After a physical examination in February, White House physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor described Biden as "a healthy, active, robust 81-year-old male." After testing positive for covid, Biden thanked well-wishers on X, adding "I will be isolating as I recover, and during this time I will continue to work to get the job done for the American people." The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside. It is also the latest development in a tumultuous few days in an already frenetic White House race that saw his Republican Trump survive an assassination attempt at a campaign rally of his own.

Severe storm causes flooding in Toronto, tornado hits New York

Little Rock, Arkansas. Another wave of severe storms pummeled a wide swath of the United States and Canada, leading to flash floods and water rescues Wednesday in the Ozark Mountains, dropping a tornado that ravaged a community in upstate New York and stranding drivers in high water around Toronto. The relentless series of storms has caused deaths or damage from the Plains to New England this week. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost power and air conditioning during days of sweltering heat. As much as 11 inches (nearly 28 centimeters) of rain fell overnight into Wednesday on parts of the Ozarks in Arkansas and Missouri, the National Weather Service said. Buses and ambulances evacuated 86 people from a nursing home in Yellville, Arkansas, where water rose to about 4 feet (1.2 meters) during flash flooding, Marion County Sheriff Gregg Alexander said. A section of a bridge washed out and a historic courthouse flooded.

Cities across upstate New York were cleaning up after a storm swept through

Tuesday with high winds and spectacular lightning and flying debris that killed one person. In the small city of Rome, New York, a tornado ripped off roofs, tipped over vehicles and turned several buildings into piles of rubble. Steeples crumbled and roofs were torn apart at First Presbyterian Church and the St. Mary's Church, both built in the 1800s. Copper sheets from the roof of First Presbyterian were found wrapped around utility poles a quarter mile away. The winds were fierce enough to move a multi-ton tourist attraction, a B-52 bomber displayed at Griffiss Business and Technology Park. A mural of a Revolutionary War figure on horseback — a Rome landmark — was destroyed, along with the building on which it was painted. All that remained was an image of a horse hoof. Speaking outside St. Mary's, Gov. Kathy Hochul said it was "miraculous" no one was killed in the city of 31,000. She toured the downtown Wednesday and said 22 buildings were damaged or destroyed. She described seeing trees "collapsed like toothpicks"



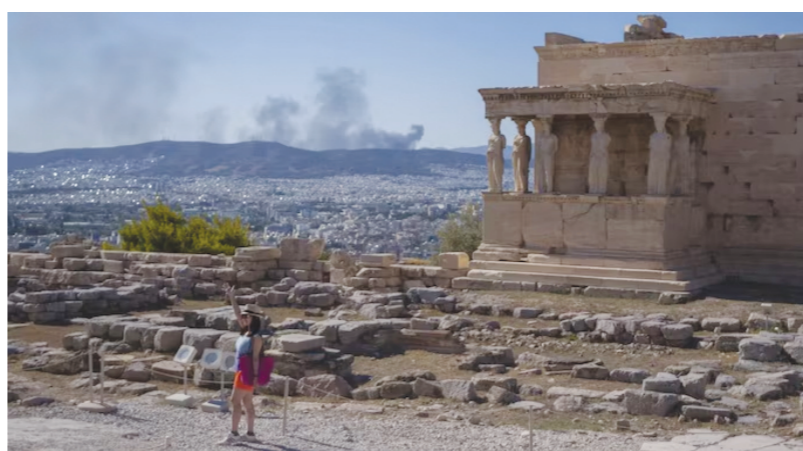
and told of mobile homes tipped over with people inside. The governor marveled at narrow escapes, including two children in a medical waiting room who emerged unscathed even though the building was partially "obliterated." National Weather Service preliminary damage survey released Wednesday night estimated the Rome tornado's top winds at 135 mph (217 kph) and gave it an EF2 rating, considered "significant," on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

Chiropractor Kingsley Kabari was with a patient in his second-floor office in Rome when his cellphone blared with a tornado

alert Tuesday afternoon. By the time he could pick it up to mute it, the storm had arrived, he said, blowing out windows, tearing at the roof of the two-story brick building and sending debris flying. "It was like a bomb dropped on the building with very high-power wind. Things were just flying everywhere — and this was inside," he said Wednesday. The tornado cut a path between two nursing homes operated by Grand Healthcare, sparing them of the most severe damage but pelting the buildings with powerful winds and heavy rains that knocked out their power, regional vice president Bruce Gendron said. He said he was at one of the nursing homes when the storm hit, and staffers moved residents away from the windows in case trees came toppling into the building. The facilities' backup generators kicked in, keeping most systems intact until normal power was restored Wednesday afternoon, he said. "To our residents of Rome: Do not be discouraged. This community is resilient and we will build back."

Heatwave forces Acropolis in Greece to shut, 2 firefighters killed in Italy

Athens. A heat wave across southern Europe forced authorities in Greece to close the Acropolis Wednesday for several hours and two firefighters died while putting out a fire in the Basilicata region in southern Italy. Italian authorities said. Italy added Palermo, Sicily, to the list of 13 cities in the country with a severe heat warning. Elderly people in the city of Verona were urged to stay indoors, while sprinklers were set up to cool passersby. Greece's Culture Ministry ordered the closure of the Acropolis — the country's biggest cultural attraction — from midday for five hours. Tourists hoping to visit the Parthenon temple atop the Acropolis queued early in the morning to beat the worst of the heat, while the Red Cross handed chilled bottled water and information fliers to those waiting in line. "We got it done and got out quick, and now we're going to some air conditions and some more libation and enjoy the day," said Toby Dunlap, who was visiting from Pennsylvania and had just toured the Acropolis. "But it's hot up there, it really is. If you don't come prepared, you're going to sweat." Meteorologists said the hot air from Africa was forecast to continue through Sunday, with heat wave temperatures expected to peak at 43 degrees C (109 F) in



Albania, the heat led the government to reschedule working hours for civil servants, making it easier for some to work from home. Neighboring North Macedonia struggled with dozens of wildfires that had broken out in the previous 24 hours.

One major blaze stretched across nearly 30 kilometers (21 miles). Firefighting aircraft from Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania and Turkey responded to the country's call for assistance. In western Turkey, firefighters — aided by more than a dozen water-dropping aircraft —

managed to bring a wildfire near the town of Bergama under control several hours after it ignited. The cause of the blaze, which was fanned by strong winds, was not immediately known.

The municipality of Turkey's largest city Istanbul issued a heat warning on Tuesday, saying temperatures would rise between 3-6 degrees C (37-43 F) above seasonal norms until July 28. Several Spanish cities, including Granada and Toledo, are bracing for temperatures as high as 44 degrees C (111 F) forecast for later in the week in the country's hottest spots in the south.

Secret Service chief to testify to US congressional panel on Trump shooting

Washington Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle has agreed to testify before the US House of Representatives Oversight Committee on July 22 for a hearing related to the shooting of former President Donald Trump at a rally, the panel said on Wednesday. Security at the Republican presidential candidate's rally in Pennsylvania has been under scrutiny after the former president was shot on Saturday at the event. The FBI said it was probing the shooting as an assassination attempt. The shooting has raised serious concerns about how the suspect was able to access a nearby

roof top with a direct line of sight to where Trump was speaking. Trump has since said he was doing well and has appeared at the Republican National Convention this week but the shooting left his face streaked with blood after his right ear was hit. A rally attendee was killed in the shooting, two others were wounded and the suspect is dead.

KEY QUOTES

"Americans demand and deserve answers from Director Cheatle about the attempted assassination of President Trump and the Secret Service's egregious failures," the Republican-led House oversight

panel said on Wednesday, adding Cheatle agreed to comply with a subpoena issued by the committee's chair. "The hearing will take place as scheduled on Monday, July 22," the panel added.

CONTEXT

Democratic US President Joe Biden, who will face Republican Trump in November's election, said on Sunday he had ordered an independent review, and Republican lawmakers in Congress have also vowed swift investigations. Cheatle said on Monday the Trump rally shooting was "unacceptable" and that she would not resign her post.

Donald Trump's aide calls on Taiwan to boost defence spending

Milwaukee A top national security adviser to Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Taiwan needs to boost its defence spending significantly in the face of potential Chinese aggression.

The comments by Robert O'Brien, Trump's fourth and final national security adviser, follow remarks by the former president in which he said Taiwan should pay the United States for its defence. Speaking to Bloomberg Businessweek in a June 25 interview published on Tuesday, Trump said: "I know the people very well, respect them greatly. They did take about 100 per cent of our chip business. I think Taiwan should pay us for defence."

O'Brien, asked about Trump's comment at a Bloomberg Roundtable on the sidelines of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, said he believed Trump meant to indicate Taiwan should contribute more to its own defence.

"They've got to ramp up their spending to contend with the PRC and CCP, and we can help them, we can be part of that. But I think what President Trump is saying is... we've got to have burden sharing," O'Brien told reporters, referring to the People's Republic of China and the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

He suggested Taiwan should consider spending at least 5 per cent of its gross domestic product on its military to keep up with China, though he implied that figure was a rough estimate.



While O'Brien is not part of the Trump campaign and made clear he was expressing his personal views, he is in frequent contact with the former president on national security matters. Washington has been eager to create a military counterbalance to Chinese forces, building on an effort known within the Pentagon as "Fortress Taiwan", as Beijing's military makes increasingly aggressive moves in the region. Taiwan typically purchases weapons it receives from the U.S., rather than relying on aid, though America and its allies do have significant military assets in the region, which are intended in part to deter Chinese aggression against the democratically governed island that

Beijing claims as its territory. "If you look at the support that we have provided, the security cooperation that we have provided them over decades, it has been Taiwan actually purchasing military (equipment) from the United States," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters on Wednesday.

"It has not been any way charity from the United States." Taiwan's de facto embassy in Washington said preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in the interest of the U.S. and the international community. "Taiwan is doing its part by actively strengthening deterrence capabilities with the support of the United States under the Taiwan Relations Act," it said in a statement, citing the "threat of

military coercion." INCREASED DEFENSE BUDGET

Taiwan has significantly expanded its defence budget in recent years. From 2017 to 2023 its military spending rose to 2.5 per cent of GDP from 2 per cent, according to the US Congressional Research Service. Taipei announced a defence budget for 2024 of about \$19.1 billion. But the island's overall level of spending still pales in comparison to China's massive outlays and the historic build-up of the People's Liberation Army, which dwarfs Taiwan's forces. In March, Beijing unveiled an annual defence budget of some \$230 billion, a 7.2% increase on the year before, though analysts say actual spending is likely much greater. The Democratic ranking member of the US House of Representatives' bipartisan select committee on China, Raja Krishnamoorthi, called Trump's comments a betrayal. "Failing to provide for Taiwan's defence would not only be potentially illegal under the Taiwan Relations Act, it would be a betrayal of American values and our democratic institutions," he said in a statement. During the Trump administration, Washington agreed to sell billions of dollars worth of US weaponry to Taiwan, but Taipei has complained of delays to weapons deliveries, including of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Germany to slash its military aid to Ukraine by half in 2025: Report

Berlin Germany plans to halve its military aid to Ukraine next year, despite concerns that US support for Kyiv could potentially diminish if Republican candidate Donald Trump returns to the White House. German aid to Ukraine will be cut to 4 billion euros (\$4.35 billion) in 2025 from around 8 billion euros in 2024, according to a draft of the 2025 budget seen by Reuters.

Germany hopes Ukraine will be able to meet the bulk of its military needs with the \$50 billion in loans from the proceeds of frozen Russian assets approved by the Group of Seven, and that funds earmarked for armaments will not be fully used. "Ukraine's financing is secured for the foreseeable future thanks to European instruments and the G7 loans," German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said on Wednesday at a news conference. Washington pushed to "front load" the loans to give Ukraine a big lump sum now. Officials say EU leaders agreed to the idea in part because it reduces the chance of Ukraine being short of funds if Trump returns to the White House. Alarm bells rang across Europe this week after Trump picked Senator JD Vance, who opposes military aid for Ukraine and warned Europe will have to rely less on the United States to defend the continent, as his candidate for vice president. Trump sparked fierce criticism from Western officials for suggesting he would not protect countries that failed to meet the transatlantic military alliance's defence spending targets and would even encourage Russia to attack them. Germany has faced criticism for repeatedly missing a NATO target of spending 2 per cent of its economic output on defence.

DEPLETED MILITARY STOCKS

The stocks of Germany's armed forces, already run down by decades of underinvestment, have been further depleted by arms supplies to Kyiv.

So far, Berlin has donated three Patriot air defence units to Kyiv, more than any other country, bringing down the number of Patriot systems in Germany to nine. Germany's fractious coalition of left-leaning Social Democrats, pro-business liberals and ecologist Greens has struggled to comply with NATO's spending target due to self-imposed rules that limit the amount of state borrowing they can take on. Though military aid to Ukraine will be cut, Germany will comply with the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence in 2025, with a total of 75.3 billion euros. Days after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced a "Zeitenwende" — German for historic turning point — with a 100 billion euro special fund to bring the military up to speed. From this special fund, there will be 22.0 billion euros more for defence, plus 53.3 billion euros in the regular budget, still less than that sought by Defence Minister Boris Pistorius.

Tirupati temple board junks rumours on laddoo preparation: Always freshly made



Tirupati. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Wednesday rejected rumours and false propaganda surrounding the preparation of the famous Tirupati laddoo, saying the sweet is freshly prepared and has been made by Sri Vaishnava Brahmans for several centuries. The clarification came after some social media posts claimed that the laddoos were being prepared under the supervision of a contractor and that the sweet was not fresh when distributed to devotees, according to reports. In a press note, the TTD said the sacred Srivari laddoo prasadam is being prepared with the finest quality and appealed to the devotees not to get carried away by false news. The board said that legal action will be taken against those who spread false propaganda about Srivari laddoos on social media platforms. "In 'Laddoo Potu', (kitchen) as many as 980 Hindu community members are working at present and performing the pious duties assigned to them since time immemorial," the TTD added. "Among them, the Sri Vaishnava Brahmans are engaged in collecting the raw materials used to prepare and make the laddoos," it further said.

Strays maul toddler to death at Jawaharnagar in Telangana

The toddler sustained multiple injuries on his head, limbs and other body parts and was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

HYDERABAD. In a gruesome incident, an 18-month-old toddler, Vihaan, was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in Adarshnagar of Jawaharnagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad late on Tuesday. He sustained multiple injuries on his head, limbs and other body parts and was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. CM A Revanth Reddy expressed grief over the boy's death and directed officials to take immediate measures to prevent such incidents in the future. He also ordered officials to establish a call centre or toll-free number for citizens to report stray dog-related incidents and ensure swift action. According to the preliminary inquiry by the Jawaharnagar police, Vihaan was playing outside his house when the stray dogs dragged him a few metres away. The child's parents, Bharat and Lakshmi, who hail from Siddipet district, found the body with the help of locals who had scared the dogs away. He was first rushed to a private hospital, where doctors advised them to take him to Gandhi Hospital for better treatment. The incident is one more in a growing list of attacks by stray dogs in Hyderabad and its suburbs, with children and adults being either mauled to death or seriously injured. Residents have expressed outrage over the attacks, accusing the state government of inaction. Despite multiple complaints lodged with



the civic body, no action has been taken. Vihaan's death triggered a protest led by his parents at the Jawahar Nagar municipal office. The protesters demanded compensation for the parents. The family had moved to Jawaharnagar a few months ago. Following a complaint from the boy's parents, a case was booked under Section 194 (suspicious death) by the Jawahar Nagar police. Meanwhile, the chief minister directed the officials to take comprehensive measures to address the stray dog menace. He told them to set up an expert committee with representatives from voluntary organisations, veterinarians and Blue Cross to study the factors contributing to

the aggression of stray dogs towards children. The chief minister also instructed the Medical and Health department to ensure availability of necessary medicines for dog attacks in all urban health centres under GHMC, primary health centres and state hospitals. Dogs attack 25 people in Huzurabad, one critically. In another stray dog incident, dogs attacked 25 people in Huzurabad town on Wednesday night. Among them, one person is said to be critical and is being treated at the MGM hospital Warangal. Set up call centre, CM tells officials. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed grief over the boy's death and directed officials to establish a call centre or toll-free number for citizens to report stray dog-related incidents. For effective implementation of Animal Birth Control-Anti Rabies programme for eradication of rabies and reducing man-animal conflict, the government has constituted State Animal Birth Control Implementation and Monitoring Committee. The government also constituted Local Animal Birth Control (ABC) Monitoring Committees. A seven-year-old boy, Pendram Devender, was attacked by a stray dog at Mangela village in Bheerpur mandal, Jagtial on Tuesday. A woman drove away the dog and rescued the boy.

2.5 lakh trees counted in 80 wards in BBMP limits

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which is holding a tree census within its limits, has counted 2.5 lakh trees in 80 wards. The enumeration that has been going on since January will likely see an extension in the deadline, which was scheduled to be August. BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) BLG Swamy said two agencies have been tasked with carrying out the tree census across the city. As there were technical glitches and other challenges, the deadline will now be extended by a few more months, he added. As per BBMP, the census is fully done in Hanumantha Nagar, Srinagar, Gali Anjaneya Temple, Girinagar, Kathriguppe, Vidyapecta and two other wards. These wards have over 30,000 trees in all. The agencies have painted the code on each tree and uploaded it on the website. Jeevan, one of the two contractors, said, "Along with another agency, we have taken up the census work. The work was affected because of a software issue and fixing it took four months. When we deployed a team of botanists



and others to resume the work, some of them collapsed because of severe heat in March and April. We had to stop the work then. Now due to rain, painting codes on trees is a challenge. We expect the civic agency to extend the deadline."

Maharashtra firm fined Rs 1 lakh for 'spiking' protein powder & false claims

MUMBAI. Observing the recent spate of deaths across India attributed to the consumption of substandard health supplements or nutraceutical products, a consumer commission has directed a nutritional supplement firm to pay a Powai-based fitness enthusiast Rs 1.1 lakh who discovered that the Rs 1,599 protein powder he had bought from them online last year contained harmful ingredients. It deemed as unacceptable the endeavour of the company, Big Muscles Nutrition Pvt Ltd, to artificially inflate the protein content of the product by incorporating unidentified amino acids. Moreover, the product exhibited high levels of sugar and carbohydrates. "...disparity in the contents of the product as brought on record through the lab testing of the said product definitely a cause of concern and adverse effects cannot be ruled out altogether," the commission said. The complainant, Rahul Shekhawat, had



conducted tests at a reputable laboratory after coming across online reviews criticising the product. The commission ordered the company to reimburse the Rs 36,409 he had incurred for the tests and the product. "Studies show that consumption of such a protein-spiked powder can lead to short-term side effects, such as headaches, acne, bloating, nausea and diarrhoea... Prolonged consumption... can lead to long-term side effects, like heart issues and liver damage," it said. The commission said laboratory reports had showed that the brand's label had made numerous false claims about the product's ingredients, particularly regarding the nature of the protein content. "...Making false claim of the content of the product sold to the customer, which can adversely affect the health of the customer, is definitely a deficiency in service and despite the knowledge that protein-spiking is misleading to consumers, the opposite parties (company) continue to advertise, distribute, label, manufacture, market and sell the product in a misleading and deceptive manner," it said. Shekhawat had filed the complaint in 2023, raising concerns about misleading labelling, in addition to allegations of protein content spiking.

Beware of brain-eating amoeba, avoid freshwater activities: Doctors

BENGALURU. With Kerala reporting its fourth fatality due to a rare 'brain-eating amoeba' infection recently, experts, terming the condition as 'usually fatal,' have cautioned against engaging in water activities in warm freshwater and diving deep into swimming pools, while emphasising the importance of proper chlorination of pools. Experts reiterated that even with treatment, the condition could prove fatal, with coma and death typically occurring within a week to ten days after symptoms set in. The brain-eating amoeba, scientifically known as Naegleria fowleri, is a free-living amoeba typically found in warm freshwater environments such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs. It can cause Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a severe infection of the central nervous system. Dr Vikas Naik, Consultant in Neurosurgery at Fortis Hospital, highlighted that the infection is alarming because it infects the central nervous system through the nose. Once inside, it travels to the brain, causing a rare and deadly illness. PAM, Dr Naik added that PAM results in rapid inflammation and tissue damage, leading to symptoms such as fever, hallucinations, and seizures. With its swift progression and limited successful



The brain-eating amoeba, scientifically known as Naegleria fowleri, is a free-living amoeba typically found in warm freshwater environments such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs.

treatments, PAM is 'almost always fatal.' Dr Swati Rajagopal, Consultant in Infectious Disease and Travel Medicine at Aster CMI Hospital, stressed that the infection occurs when contaminated water enters the nose and travels to the brain, which can also happen with hot tap water or poorly chlorinated swimming pool water. Dr Swati added that symptoms of PAM usually appear within one to nine days after exposure and progress rapidly. "Early symptoms include severe headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, and a stiff neck, followed by confusion, loss of balance, seizures, hallucinations, and potentially leading to coma," she highlighted. While PAM is almost always fatal, with very few survivors, in suspected cases, doctors may recommend a brain biopsy to detect the presence of the amoeba and determine appropriate treatment, she said.

Chennai man arrested for stabbing nine-day-old daughter to death with scissors

CHENNAI: A 38-year-old man was arrested by the Vyasarpadi police on Wednesday for allegedly stabbing to death his nine-day-old daughter with a pair of scissors. The police said that the man was upset that his third child, born on June 29, was a girl. He already has two daughters aged four and two-and-a-half. According to the police, the arrested man was identified as Rajkumar (38), a daily



wage labourer. On July 7, Rajkumar told his wife that their newborn child had developed a medical complication and her intestine had burst. The child was taken to a government hospital. The child died on July 9. After a postmortem, the body was handed over to the parents. However, the postmortem report said that the injury suffered by the child was caused by a sharp object. The police and the district child welfare officials were alerted. The police conducted an inquiry, during which Rajkumar reportedly confessed to stabbing the child.

Renowned cardiologist Dr MS Valiathan passes away

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Dr. M S Valiathan, a renowned cardiac surgeon and academic, passed away in Manipal on the night of July 17. He was 90. He played a pivotal role in founding the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science, serving as its inaugural director. Under his leadership, the institute swiftly became a hub for treating cardiovascular and neurologic ailments and embarked on developing advanced cardiovascular devices. Dr. Valiathan's pioneering work in creating medical innovations such as the disposable blood bag and the tilting disc heart valve significantly contributed to India's medical device sector, making treatments more affordable for patients. He set up Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science in two years on the invitation of the then Chief Minister Achutha Menon. As Sree Chitra Institute grew, it received support from Prime Minister Morarji Desai and was notified as "An Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament within five years of Dr. Valiathan's leadership. He later served as the first Vice-Chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) from 1993 to 1999. Belonging to the first batch of Government Medical College Thiruvananthapuram, he held fellowships from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, England, and Canada. He was the former chairperson of Indian Academy of Sciences. Valiathan received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the Padma Vibhushan (2005), the Padma Shri (2002), the Dr. B. C. Roy National Award, the Hunterian Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Chevalier of the Order of Palmes Académiques from the French Government, the Dr. Samuel P. Asper Award for International Medical Education from Johns Hopkins University, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indian Medical Association. Born in Mavelikara in 1934 to Marthanda Varma and Janaki Varma, Dr.

Jalasangrudhi: A model of water conservation success in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Amid Kerala's escalating climate challenges and dwindling groundwater reserves, micro-level initiative 'Jalasangrudhi' has emerged as a beacon of success in the Kattakada assembly constituency. Implemented over the past seven years, this community-based conservation programme has not only halted the acute water scarcity the people of the locality have been facing for the past two decades but also significantly replenished groundwater levels. Initiated by MLA I B Sathesh after his election to the assembly in 2016, Jalasangrudhi represents a unique blend of local planning and governmental cooperation, catalysing a transformative movement. The project officially commenced in 2017 and has since become a cornerstone of sustainable development in the region. According to a comprehensive study by Gautam Ganapathy and Salil C S titled



'Bureaucracy, Sustainable Development and Decentralisation: Reflections on Jalasangrudhi, a Community-based Water Conservation Programme in Kerala', groundwater availability in Kattakada has surged from 1,355 million cubic metres (mcm) to 4,908.68 mcm between 2017 and 2019. "As many as 314 ponds and more than 43,000 wells in the area were cleaned as part of the initiative. In addition, more than 300 farm ponds were dug up. Recharging structures set up in government institutions and schools also helped improve

groundwater levels locally. According to the Kerala Land Use Board, a fourfold increase in groundwater recharge during monsoons was seen in the Nemom block compared to other blocks in Thiruvananthapuram district," the study says. Reflecting on the genesis of Jalasangrudhi, Sathesh highlighted the community's pivotal role in its success. "During the 2016 election campaign, I witnessed firsthand the water crisis plaguing our constituency. I made a commitment to the people to find a solution," he told TNIE. "The initiative mobilised 22 government departments, local elected representatives, and organisations like Kudumbashree. School students played a crucial role as ambassadors of the project. We even carried out a water literacy campaign, formed water clubs, and also convened a 'water parliament'. On March 22, 2017, we held a programme.

Tirtol police bust fake engine oil racket in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha

JAGATSINGHPUR. Tirtol police, on Tuesday, seized two barrels of adulterated engine oil, stickers of various reputed companies, and a large quantity of empty engine cans during a raid on an illegal factory in Dagarpada village. The factory was found to be manufacturing fake engine oil under the label of well-known brands. Sources revealed that a racket was actively selling counterfeit mobil oil in Jagatsinghpur, Paradip, and other areas of the state. The adulterated oil was made by mixing engine oil with various other substances, then packaged in containers with labels of reputed brands and sold at inflated

prices. The operation came to light when Eipr India Pvt Ltd, a pioneer in the field of intellectual property protection in the South Asian market for over 20 years and based in Kolkata, identified the racket operating in the area. The racket, allegedly led by Subrat Mishra and Akhya Mishra, had been running for several months without detection. Upon receiving this information, an investigation officer from Eipr India Pvt Ltd, Shani Ghosh, lodged an FIR last Thursday at Tirtol police station. Acting on the complaint, Tirtol police, with the assistance of a magistrate, raided the site. They confiscated

around two barrels of adulterated engine oil, stickers of reputed brand names, and numerous empty mobil cans from the factory in Dagarpada village. The owner of the unit managed to flee during the raid. Abhimanyu Nayak, the inspector in charge (IC) of Tirtol police station, stated that a case has been registered based on the allegations by the investigation officer from Eipr India Pvt Ltd. The seized fake oil and stickers will be sent to a forensic laboratory in Bhubaneswar for examination. No arrests have been made yet as the accused remain at large, he added.



The sacrifice of Capt Thapa can't go waste

YET another piece of tragic news has come from the Jammu region. Capt Brijesh Thapa and three other brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives in the line of duty during counter-terror operations in the dense Desa forest of Doda district. This incident comes just a week after another grievous attack in which five soldiers were killed when their vehicle was ambushed near Badnota village in Kathua district. The once relatively calm districts of Poonch and Rajouri have witnessed a disturbing spike in terror incidents over the past two years. Now, terrorist groups are operating in areas like Reasi, Kathua and Doda, long considered militancy-free. This has resulted in the emergence of flashpoints across the entire breadth of the Jammu division, indicating a deliberate plan by terrorists to shift their focus to this region. Groups of well-trained terrorists, armed with sophisticated weapons, have managed to infiltrate across the international border in Jammu, and there are strong suspicions that infiltrations have occurred across the Punjab border as well. The J&K Director General of Police, RR Swain, has acknowledged this issue, admitting that "some infiltration is taking place; it is common knowledge". Addressing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir involves two primary facets. The first is to deter Pakistan from using terrorists as an instrument of state policy against India. Achieving this deterrence will require continuous and credible use of India's national power to demonstrate that Pakistan's policies will ultimately harm itself. This is a long-term effort that involves diplomatic, economic and possibly military measures. The second facet is to actively stamp out terrorist activities on Indian soil. While setbacks are normal in counter-terrorism operations, a consistent pattern of attacks resulting in the loss of lives of soldiers and civilians, with no apparent damage to the terrorists, raises serious questions about the strategy and tactics employed by the security forces. It is essential for military leadership to review their methodology, and based on my own experience, I have several suggestions.

The counter-infiltration mechanism along the international border and the Line of Control should be strengthened. This may require the induction of additional forces, wherever necessary. However, it is crucial to recognise the limits of human endurance. Operating around the clock for months can lead to fatigue, causing attention to flag and increasing the likelihood of mistakes. To mitigate this, technology must play a more significant role. For over a decade, there has been talk about installing a 'smart fence' along our borders, but the implementation has been inconsistent. Rather than waiting for a perfect solution through countless trials, we should adopt a fence that offers better protection than what we currently have. Additionally, we need to find a technical solution to detect tunnels reportedly being dug across the border. The Special Forces (SF) should be given greater responsibility in counter-terrorism operations. These are our best-trained soldiers, ideally suited to operate in small teams within the mountainous and forested terrains where terrorists often find shelter. By bringing in additional SF units and granting them the freedom to operate in specified areas, we can increase the effectiveness of our operations. Intelligence is the backbone of successful operations, and human intelligence is often the most reliable. An extensive outreach to local communities can help expand our intelligence network. Although there may be some locals who support terrorists, the vast majority of Jammu's population is highly nationalistic. Therefore, treating locals with suspicion can be counterproductive. Instead, we should recruit more Special Police Officers and increase the number of Village Defence Guards from the local population. These individuals will serve as our eyes and ears, providing the first line of defence against terrorists. With more intelligence flowing in, the SF can conduct effective 'seek and destroy' operations. Currently, there is a plethora of organisations operating in the region. The Border Security Force (BSF) handles the international border, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) protects roads in the hinterland, the UT police force manages local law enforcement and the Army conducts broader counter-terrorism operations.

Revisit economic policy to boost growth

The policy regime in India continues to draw heavily from the Western experience of economic transition.

THE Indian economy has experienced fast changes in the post-reforms period. The size of the economy has increased manifold. This has been accompanied by changes in the sectoral share in the gross domestic product (GDP) or income and the share of various sectors in employment of the workforce. There has been an increase in the share of the secondary and services sectors, while the agriculture sector has suffered a loss both in terms of the share in income and employment. This has resulted in economic stress on the workforce and households engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The gross national product/GDP of India has grown 13 times in terms of the purchasing power parity of the rupee to the dollar between 1991 and 2023. In terms of the prevailing exchange rate, it rose nearly 14-fold during this period. The per capita income surged from \$304 in 1991, when policy changes were introduced, to \$2,484.8 in 2023. According to the National Sample Survey Office, agriculture and allied activities employed 63.84 per cent of the total workforce in 1993-94 compared to the 25.01 per cent engaged in manufacturing, including construction. The share of services in employment was 21.16 per cent. This has changed over time. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021-22, the share of agriculture and allied activities in employment has dipped to 45.4 per cent, a decline of 18.44 percentage points. The share of the manufacturing sector has increased to 29.6 per cent. This gain is mainly contributed by construction activities, which now account for 15 per cent of the total employment in the country.

The share of the industry, both in employment and income, is not picking up as fast as required. The share of services in employment has increased to 31 per cent. This is further reflected in changes in the share of the GDP. The share of agriculture and allied activities in the income declined from 30.01 to 18.4 per cent between 1993-94 and 2021-22. This shows that now, more than 45 per cent of the population has just 18.4 per cent of the income, while 29.6 per cent of the workforce in manufacturing gets 28.3 per cent of the income and 31 per cent of the workforce in the services sector corners 53.3 per cent of the GDP.

It is obvious that the people engaged in agriculture are earning a very low income. This is reflected in the form of indebtedness and poverty leading to a high

rate of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers. There is an urge among the youth — largely children of farmers and agricultural labourers — to look for employment in manufacturing and services. When the rural youth turn to non-agricultural activities or employment, they get low wages and poor-quality



jobs in the unorganised sector. Employment in the organised sector is skill-intensive, but it is expanding at a very slow pace. The India Employment Report 2024 by the International Labour Organisation and New Delhi-based Institute for Human Development brings out that unemployment among educated youths is nearly 21.84 per cent in the country. The figure is much higher among educated young women.

The increasing use of automation and precision technology in industry and construction work and artificial intelligence in services is not allowing the creation of jobs in proportion to the investment in these dynamic sectors. The economic transition in India is happening under conditions different from those in advanced countries. When these countries made the transition from agrarian to industrial and then to service economies, there was a massive rise in employment in non-agricultural sectors.

India had entered jobless growth in 2003-04, and now we are facing job-loss growth. This means that while income and investment are growing, jobs are shrinking. It is very difficult to provide gainful and better-quality jobs to the workforce released from agriculture because of the fast process of mechanisation and modernisation. This is the reason that the country is unable to reap the demographic dividend of its young population. This is accompanied by the fast-growing concentration of

income and wealth in a few hands. There are many reports by independent agencies supported by official data that bring out that less than 1 per cent of the population annually receives more than 40 per cent of the GDP. This small section of the population has come to acquire more than 40.9 per cent of the wealth of this country, while the bottom 50 per cent of the population has only 5.9 per cent. Along with inequality in the distribution of income, regional inequality in the development process is getting sharpened. All this has created structural difficulties, which demand the immediate attention of policymakers. These difficulties are not recognised; hence, the policy response is missing. The policy regime in India continues to draw heavily from the Western experience of economic transition. This line of thinking has powerful support from Bretton Woods institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It intends to achieve this transition through liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. This resulted in the abandonment of the employment policy when the country launched economic reforms in 1991. The youth are being left to suffer unemployment on a massive scale and face humiliation. The policy regime has moved swiftly to make the employment quality poor. This is reflected in the labour codes that not only allow employers to hire and fire but also allow working hours beyond eight hours without pay for overtime. Most of the jobs are on a contractual or temporary basis, without retirement benefits. This has led to the flourishing of the gig economy, devoid of any social protection. The whole policy response is to promote corporates without enforcing the norms of a decent livelihood for the workforce. The policy regime is not rooted in the ground reality — this can be called a policy distortion. Our policy regime must have a strong component of inclusiveness. Policy distortion has created unrest among the youth. This is a situation of a 'million mutinies', to use a term coined by Nobel laureate VS Naipaul. The presence of latent and open discontent has the potential to derail the development process and tear our social fabric apart. This doesn't fit into the rising aspirations of the country to come out of the middle-income trap and join the ranks of developed countries. It is the right time for the government to have a relook at its economic policy and do course correction.

No let-up in J&K terror

Counter-insurgency mechanism must be reviewed

DODA, Reasi, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri — terrorists and their handlers are relentlessly targeting the Jammu region, putting the Army and the UT police under immense pressure to stem the alarming tide. Four Army personnel, including a Captain, died after a gunfight with terrorists in Doda district on Monday night. The incident happened a week after terrorists ambushed an Army patrol in the Machedi forest belt of Kathua district, claiming the lives of five soldiers. The writing is on the wall: the number of security personnel and civilians killed in terror attacks or encounters in the region since January 1 has crossed 20 — four times the terrorist fatalities.

The epicentre of militant activity has shifted in recent years to Jammu from the Kashmir valley — and drastically so over the past month or so. Despite the emergence of this clear pattern, the Army, the police and the Central Armed Police Forces are struggling to counter the foreign terrorists who are infiltrating from across the border. This points to lapses on the intelligence



front, besides possible gaps in coordination among various agencies. It is apparent that militants are

exploiting these chinks to cause mayhem week after week.

The spotlight is on the usual suspect, Pakistan, which continues to pursue its strategy of bleeding India with a thousand cuts amid its own economic and political problems. While New Delhi must up the ante against Islamabad in the international arena, the entire counter-terror mechanism has to be urgently reviewed. The security forces must regain the element of surprise to turn the tables on the terrorists. At the same time, all stakeholders need to exercise restraint for the sake of peace. The J&K DGP has struck a discordant note by accusing mainstream regional parties of cultivating leaders of terror networks for political gains. The blame game will not only undermine the supreme sacrifice of soldiers but also embolden Pakistan to further its nefarious agenda.

Indo-Pacific at the core of NATO's strategic realignment

Strategic partnerships between the IP4 and NATO will revolve around maintaining deterrence and a rules-based order in the region and having stable ties with the West.

THE just-concluded NATO summit in Washington marked the alliance's 75th anniversary. With its historical context, this milestone summit has raised significant hopes and aspirations for extensive engagement amid the complex issues that have emerged in the past two years. Discussions revolved around the allies' collective support for Ukraine and defence expenditure, a divisive and thorny subject. However, members also discussed an issue of considerable importance to India — NATO's strategic pivot towards the Indo-Pacific.

The Indo-Pacific region is crucial for global economic growth, technological innovation and geopolitical activity. With over half of the world's population and significant global trade passing through its waters, the region's stability is paramount to international security. As threats evolve, NATO's focus, traditionally on Europe and North America, is also shifting, recognising the importance of the Indo-Pacific. It began with NATO's engagement with Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, collectively known as the Indo-Pacific Four (IP4). NATO has been collaborating with these nations since the early 2000s. However, conflict between Russia and Ukraine, security threats from China and a resurgence in global strategic contention have intensified these partnerships. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues and the US-China competition remains fierce, NATO can significantly enhance its strategic position through cooperation between its allies and partners in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. The IP4 group, an informal yet powerful alliance, is expected to remain a key NATO mechanism for addressing mutual interests in the foreseeable future. This alliance enables NATO to unite its member states with like-minded partners from the Indo-Pacific region. Unlike NATO's

formalised regional partnerships, the IP4 is more unofficial. With its inherent flexibility and the reduced risk of China reacting negatively to what it might perceive as an Asia-Pacific NATO, this informality brings unique benefits to the alliance. The NATO summit saw the continuing involvement of Indo-Pacific partners, underscoring the importance of their cooperation in addressing shared security challenges. Focus areas include cyber defence, technological advancements and the security implications of climate change. The collaboration extends to countering hybrid threats and bolstering maritime security. NATO is expanding defence industrial cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners, aiming to leverage the production capacities of countries like Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to manage challenges posed by strategic competitors effectively. Additionally, four new flagship projects were identified for collaboration, encompassing support for Ukraine, enhanced cooperation on cyber defence, exchanging information on challenges posed by disinformation and engaging in expert discussions on artificial intelligence. NATO and its allies recognise the importance of placing the conflict in Ukraine within a global context. Since early 2022, NATO has acknowledged Europe's historical role as the centre of global power dynamics and the Indo-Pacific as the primary arena for competition. The recent NATO meetings in Madrid and Vilnius signalled a shift in focus to recognise Europe's increasing interconnectedness with global strategic dynamics. However, embracing a more global perspective faces significant challenges, with many European allies advocating for maintaining NATO's focus on safeguarding the Euro-Atlantic region.

NATO's Indo-Pacific partners prefer the alliance to



focus on securing Europe, allowing the US to concentrate more on Asia independently. Concerns about the perception of NATO's expansion into the Indo-Pacific, driven primarily by China, highlight diplomatic sensitivities and strategic perceptions. NATO is carefully working to enhance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, considering historical and geopolitical factors. The focus is on cybersecurity, climate security and the need to address power competition and strengthen deterrence capabilities.

As the NATO summit concluded in Washington, the alliance iterated the need to integrate its Indo-Pacific partnership agenda with the alliance's core mission: reinforcing deterrence against significant power revisionism. The growing interdependence between NATO and IP4 is due to two critical aspects. First, IP4 nations provide NATO with a dynamic defence industrial base. As the Russia-Ukraine war drags on, NATO's Euro-Atlantic allies are on the verge of depleting their cache of weapons and other military equipment. The IP4 allows NATO to develop batches

of weapons and military equipment to keep the Russia-Ukraine conflict going, thus allowing their Euro-Atlantic allies to catch on. For instance, Australia has stated in its 2024 Defence Strategic Review that it aims to develop domestic missile manufacturing capabilities. Along with Pillar II of AUKUS, NATO is provided with the development of an Indo-Pacific military-industrial complex. Second, the foreign policy outlook of the IP4 is more pro-West. The IP4 has an inclusive approach to the Indo-Pacific and international security, and their reservations for decoupling from China are in tune with the preferences

of their European allies. And yet, there are limitations to what NATO can do in the Indo-Pacific. Creating an Indo-Pacific military complex will only cause regional destabilisation, leading to China seeing NATO as a threat to its Asian sphere of influence. Also, there is a lack of consensus between the IP4 and NATO regarding China. Additionally, non-NATO nations are suspicious of NATO influence in the region as, for decades, it has only been concerned with the security of the Euro-Atlantic. These uncertainties will emerge as an obstacle to further strengthening the relations between NATO and the IP4 regarding the challenges pertaining to the Indo-Pacific. Thus, even though NATO aims to use the Indo-Pacific for arms development and procurement, strategic partnerships between the IP4 and NATO will revolve around maintaining deterrence and a rules-based order in the region and having stable relations with the West.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics reveal that a total of 1,35,445 people committed suicide in 2012 which amounts to an average of 15 suicides an hour or 371 suicides daily. Maharashtra ranked second on the suicide index with Tamil Nadu topping it. Aasra, a 24x7 suicide helpline based out of Mumbai receives about 50 calls daily from people who, almost at the verge of suicide and are seeking out help. Jhonson Thomas, the director of this crisis intervention centre said, "The callers are usually really desperate and right at the edge as seeking help is not ingrained in our culture and people prefer to sort out an issue on their own." The counsellors remain with them on the call for durations ranging from 20 minutes to 2-3 hours, depending on the situation, and discourage them from taking

Depression

on the rise, undetected



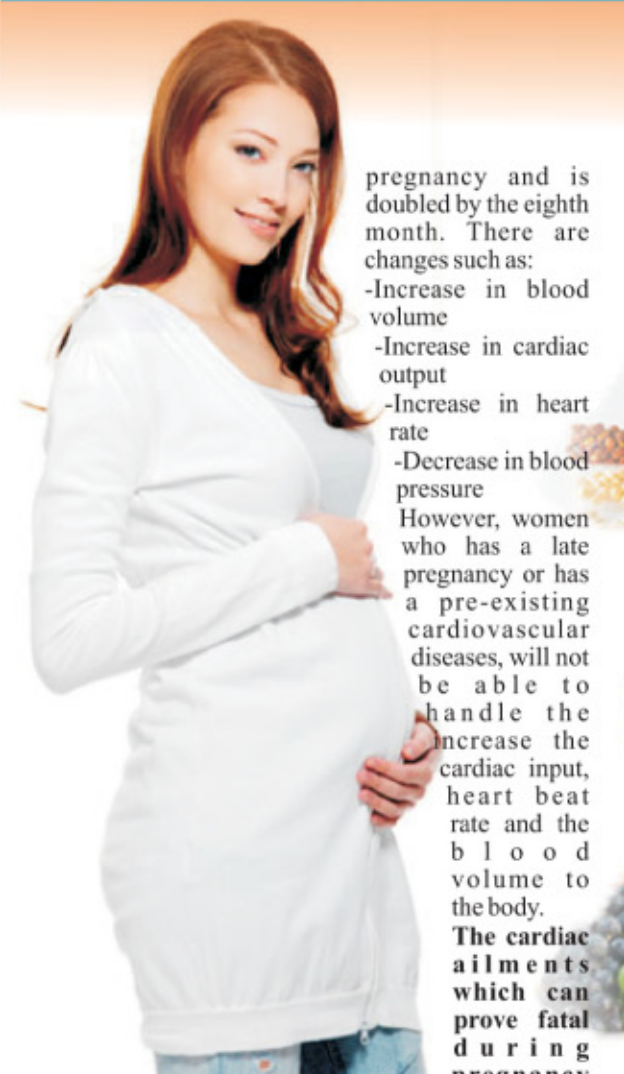
any drastic step. "We cajole the caller to share his/her problem in detail and vent out their bottled emotions. Once that is done its easier to address the issue and offer solutions," he added. Many psychologists and doctors believe that suicide is a mere trigger reaction to unaddressed issues that have been piling on. City-based psychologist, Dr Himani Chaphekar, who treats 8-10 depression patients every month, said, "Stress levels have gone up right from school level which continues well into the old age. Excessive expectations to excel, societal pressures and being unsatisfied with what you have are the factors

that contribute largely to depression." Commenting on the fact that Indians do not take their mental health very seriously and are sceptical of addressing it she added, "There are many stigmas and misconceptions associated with mental health and well being. While people rush to a doctor for a normal cold and flu they avoid seeing a psychologist as they feel that a psychological disorder is their own doing that they need to be ashamed of." Emphasising on the need for quick identification and diagnosis of such disorders, she added, "Very few people know that mental health is directly co-related to hormonal imbalance or chemical changes/imbalance and is hence also physiological. All this misconception ensures that people are not able to distinguish between sadness, normal anxiety and clinical depression that requires treatment."

Adding to it another city-based psychiatrist, Neville Misquitta said, "The stigma for mental health patients arises from the behaviours and emotions that sets them apart from others. Once these are controlled, there is no stigma. And modern medication can do this. If diagnosed with depression the person needs to follow the prescribed medical advice. The road to recovery is normally smooth but one needs to be patient."

Speaking about the average age group of the callers on the suicide helpline Thomas added, "15-45 is the most prominent age group that is prone to suicidal tendencies globally. The second most vulnerable age group comprises 60 plus people. While for the first age group its usually a break-up, loss of a loved one or a general loss that's the biggest trigger, among the second age group the reasons range from loneliness, chronic illnesses, coping with the lack of loved ones to coming to

terms with retirement and making a transition to a sedentary lifestyle." Examinations, especially the waiting period between exams to the results being declared is when students are most vulnerable. In recent times, unemployment, an unsatisfactory financial position and marital discord have also been seen as the major reasons of depression. Blaming the changing social scenario for the rise in depression rates and subsequent suicides, Thomas said, "India has been in a transition phase, since the last 15-20 years, with a changing value and support system. The MNC culture has brought about long working hours, lesser time spent with family, more distractions and more reliance on technology etc." Pointing out the flaws in a nuclear family structure he added, "Joint families earlier used to be a huge protective set-up as there were so many people to talk to. Man is social animal and needs to constantly talk things out." Corporations and educational institutions all have a provision for in house counsellors who can be approached. "While companies do have a counselling cell, employees refrain from using it openly or otherwise as firstly you cannot discuss work related problems there and secondly no one wants to be seen as a whiney, problematic employee," said Neelam Puri, an IT professional. "The constant competition these days is really nerve wrecking. From climbing the corporate ladder, to looking good, to managing all the stress factors related to city life and then the financial and emotional upheavals really takes a toll and all of us do feel depressed every now and then," confessed Nafisa Begum, an advertising professional



Pregnancy

Mom-to-be take special care of your heart

pregnancy and is doubled by the eighth month. There are changes such as:
 -Increase in blood volume
 -Increase in cardiac output
 -Increase in heart rate
 -Decrease in blood pressure
 However, women who has a late pregnancy or has a pre-existing cardiovascular diseases, will not be able to handle the increase the cardiac input, heart beat rate and the blood volume to the body. **The cardiac ailments which can prove fatal during pregnancy are:**



As a mother's body prepares to take care of two individuals, the heart has to work overtime to accommodate all the imminent changes. An over-worked heart often leads to certain health woes, viz, swollen ankles, fatigue, mild shortness of breath, and frequent urination. Women with pre-existing cardiovascular diseases or conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, hypertension or women who smoke, are at higher risk of these complications. These complications may have an important impact on the mother and the baby. During pregnancy, changes occur to the heart and blood vessels that add stress on a woman's body and increase the workload of the heart. **How should the mother prepare her heart for pregnancy?** **Lethal heart diseases:** Women with heart ailments or a family history of

Cardiomyopathy: For women with Cardiomyopathy, the heart is weak and is not able to pump large amount of blood through the body and maintain a normal electrical rhythm for the pregnant mother. This can lead to heart failure or irregular heartbeats called arrhythmias. **This can be lethal for both the mother and baby.** **Heart valve disease:** For women with heart valve disease, heart's valves do not work the way they should and the heart will not be able to handle the changes in the blood volume and pressure. It can be lethal for both the mother and the baby.

cardiac disorders should consult a cardiologist and a gynaecologist before planning a baby. **Congenital heart defect:** If the mother or father had a congenital heart defect, there is a 5 - 10 per cent chance that the child could have it at birth. If both the mother and father had a congenital heart defect at birth, there is a higher risk that the child would be born with it. Such parents are asked to do a fetal ecogram before the 24th week of pregnancy.

Anti-epileptic drugs: Anti-epileptic drugs can also induce a cardiac problem with the baby. Most women do not have the luxury of stopping medications during pregnancy without seizure recurrence. Doctor's consultation is extremely important in such situations.



Ten commandments for good eye health

This negligence can cause blindness or vision impairment in the long run. Follow the Ten Commandments for good eye health and vision, to keep your window to a colourful life safe.

- Wash your hands**
Wash your hands thoroughly before touching your eyes. Our hands are filled with dirt and minute pollutants, when they meet your eyes can cause eye infections and conjunctivitis.
- Quit smoking**
Smoking is bad for the human body including your eyes. Excessive smoking or constant chewing of tobacco can cause macular (eye-nerve) degeneration or blindness, due to the presence of harmful compound, nicotine.
- UV protect your eyes**
Yes, sunshine is good for eye health, but nothing in excess is ever good. If your work demands you to stay outdoors, then always wear good UV protected sunglasses. This will help prevent or delay the problem of cataract.
- Wear safety goggles**
Eye injuries can also impair your vision in a great way; in order to avoid it always remember to wear safety goggles or eyewear, while working with chemicals, playing sports, bursting crackers or while swimming.
- Stare at a distance**
All work and no play will surely make you lethargic and add strain to your eyes. Take a break and change the focus of your eyes to greener or look at a distance. Practice eye exercises for good vision.
- Eat healthy food**
Nourish your eyes with foods that improve your eyes like carrots, apricots and blueberries. All these foods are rich in beta-carotene and are good for vision.
- Go for a routine check-up**

Eyes are the most neglected especially when we spend hours straining our eyes in front of the screen - computer or smartphones.

Even if you have good vision and have no trouble in reading, go for a vision check at least once a year. This is a good way to detect various eye related ailments and prevent it with timely treatment.



Do not ignore!
If you face any abnormality with your vision never neglect it. Take action and consult an ophthalmologist at that instance. This action of yours will help prevent major problem in the future.

Blink your eyes regularly
Keep blinking your eyes, to keep your eyes fresh and avoid eyestrain. Computer users tend to blink their eyes far less, thus it is recommended that they should follow the eye exercise of blinking their eyes every three-four seconds.

Splash water
Splashing your eyes with water will help to relieve your eyes from excessive stress. Thus, whenever you feel your eyes are strained, go splash some water on them.



"NEET-UG Re-Test Only If Sanctity Lost On Large Scale": Supreme Court

NEET-UG Paper Leak: Controversy over the 2024 NEET-UG exam - attended by nearly 24 lakh aspiring medical professionals - broke last month after allegations the question paper had been leaked.

New Delhi: The 2024 NEET-UG - for entrance to undergraduate medical courses - can only be conducted again if the "sanctity" of the test held on May 5 was "lost on a large scale" as a result of leaked questions the Supreme Court said Thursday morning as it heard over 40 petitions asking for a re-test. The remark was an echo of observations made last week, when the court said the "sanctity" of the examination had been affected and it demanded answers from the authorities. The court advised petitioners against a re-test and said certain circumstances would argue against that measure. The court also heard petitions from the under-fire NTA - the National Testing Agency, the central body responsible for the conduct of competitive exams - seeking transfer of cases filed by various state police forces to the respective High Courts to avoid potential duplication and confusion. The day's hearing began with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud remarking on the urgency of this situation as

lakhs of students are waiting on the outcome of the court's decision. "We will give priority to the NEET matter because of social ramifications," the Chief Justice said.



The first significant moment was the Chief Justice's sharp response to a petitioner's request to void results of the exam for all students on grounds the leaked paper may have compromised the scores. "You have to show us that the leak was systematic that it

affected the entire examination... so as to warrant cancellation of the entire exam..." the court responded, "Second, tell us what should be the direction of the investigation in this matter," the Chief Justice-led three-member bench said firmly.

"If we accept your wider submission (that leaked question papers compromised the exam results) we would also like your assistance on the lines on which the investigation must happen." The court also pointed out it may be unfeasible to identify and "segregate" the hundreds, or thousands, of students who may have conspired to access questions beforehand.

'1.08 Lakh vs 24 Lakh' Question

On the numbers of petitioners - seen as crucial to establish the strength of petitions seeking cancellation - the NTA responded, "There are 131 not within the 1.08 lakh (students selected for admission to private colleges) who want a re-test and there are 254 who are opposing the re-test." The question

of data and how to analyse this data was an early bone of contention, with senior advocate Narender Hooda, for the petitioners, complaining of a "handicap". "I am starting with a handicap. I do not have the results... because of that I cannot have the data analytics," he told the court, as he also pointed out a possible conflict of interest. He said, "One of the Directors of IIT Madras is a member of the governing body of the NTA..." appearing for the agency, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta countered quickly. "This is factually wrong. Somebody else was..." he said, and explained, "Governing body has no role in conduct of exam." Returning to the question of analytics, Mr Hooda argued it would be difficult to establish variances given a data set as large as all students who took the exam, i.e., nearly 24 lakh. The NTA, in a written submission to the court last night, said data analysed by IIT Madras showed mark distribution followed a bell-shaped curve normal to any large-scale examination, and indicated no abnormality.

Muzaffarnagar's new advisory for eateries along Kanwar Yatra route after row

New Delhi: In a fresh advisory on Thursday, police in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar made it "voluntary" for eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display names of their owners following a backlash from the opposition and NDA allies. In a post on X, Muzaffarnagar Police said its intention was not to create any kind of religious discrimination but only to facilitate the devotees passing through Muzaffarnagar district and prevent any untoward situation. "During the holy month of Shrawan, many people, especially



Kanwariyas, abstain from certain food items in their diet," the Muzaffarnagar Police stated. In the past, such instances have come to light where some shopkeepers selling all types of food items on Kanwar Marg named their shops in such a way that it created confusion among the Kanwariyas and created a law and order situation. To prevent such a recurrence, hotels, dhabas and shopkeepers selling food items on Kanwar Marg have been requested to voluntarily display the names of their owners and employees... This system has been prevalent in the past, too," the advisory further said.

"I'm A Nepo Kid," Admits Chirag Paswan, But Calls It "Double-Edged Sword"

New Delhi: Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) President, Chirag Paswan, addressed his status as a "nepotism kid" in a podcast with news agency ANI. As the son of Ram Vilas Paswan, the founder of the undivided LJP, Mr Paswan acknowledged his privilege but also highlighted the inherent challenges of being the son of an influential political leader. Mr Paswan, who serves as the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries in Modi 3.0, said, "I am a nepo kid, I can't shy away from that fact. I am proud that I am the son of Ram Vilas Paswan. For me, it is a matter of pride." "If you do good work, people say that it is because of your parents. So the credit is not yours. But if you do bad, then you will hear abuses. So you are always on a double-edged sword," he added.

Mr Paswan, who serves as the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries in Modi 3.0, said, "I am a nepo kid, I can't shy away from that fact. I am proud that I am the son of Ram Vilas Paswan. For me, it is a matter of pride." "If you do good work, people say that it is because of your parents. So the credit is not yours. But if you do bad, then you will hear abuses. So you are always on a double-edged sword," he added.

Despite his privileged position as the son of a party leader, Mr Paswan claimed that his rise to the party's leadership was not automatic. He had to prove himself, especially after the split within the LJP orchestrated by his uncle, Pashupati Paras.

Mr Paras, Ram Vilas Paswan's brother, was the MP from Hajipur, a constituency with a strong Paswan vote bank.

However, the last assembly polls indicated that the 6 per cent Paswan vote had consolidated behind Chirag Paswan, a factor the BJP considered when excluding Pashupati Paras from the seat-sharing arrangement for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Ram Vilas Paswan had secured the Hajipur seat eight times, with four consecutive victories starting in 1996. In the 2024 polls, Chirag Paswan won the seat by over 1.7 lakh votes.

I lost everything - the party, the symbol, the organisation, and the house we stayed in for three decades. So everything was taken away from me. I had to start from scratch; I did not even know how to make a new party," Chirag Paswan said.

Chandipura Virus Kills 4-Year-Old In Gujarat, 14 More Deaths Suspected

New Delhi: The Chandipura virus has killed a four-year-old girl in Gujarat, a health department official said on Wednesday while confirming the first such fatality in the state.

As many as 14 other patients are suspected to have died of the infection in the state, which has so far reported 29 cases of the virus that causes fever, with symptoms similar to flu, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). "The sample of a four-year-old girl from Aravalli district's Mota Kanthariya village, who died at the civil hospital at Himatnagar in Sabarkantha district, has tested positive for the Chandipura virus. This was the first death due to the Chandipura virus infection in the state," the news agency PTI quoted

Sabarkantha Chief District Health Officer (CDHO) Raj Sutariya as saying.

A patient from Rajasthan's Udaipur, who was being treated at a state hospital,



has also died of suspected Chandipura virus. The suspected deaths have been reported from Sabarkantha (two), Aravalli (two), Mahisagar (one), Mehsana (one), Rajkot (two),

Surendranagar (one), Ahmedabad (one), Morbi (two) and GMC (one) districts. The cases have also been reported from Kheda, Gandhinagar, Panchmahaland Jamnagar districts. Another patient from Rajasthan's Udaipur and one from Madhya Pradesh's Dhar have also been treated in the state hospitals, officials said. What Is Chandipura Virus

Chandipura virus is a type of arbovirus that is a member of the vesicular virus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family. It is transmitted primarily through phlebotomine sandflies and sometimes through ticks and mosquitoes. Children are reportedly more prone to getting infected with this virus. It was first identified in India in 1965 in Chandipura village in Maharashtra.

Idli for Rs 10, Masala Dosa for Rs 20: Woman Shocked by Low Prices at Bengaluru Restaurant

New Delhi: A woman shared her shocking experience while visiting a cafe in Bengaluru. The cafe served authentic South Indian dishes like dosa, idli, vada, kesari bhath, chow chow bhath, and much more at an unbelievable price. The post of a woman went viral on the internet, sending shock waves among netizens. The woman (Sahili) went to Taaza Thindi restaurant in Jayanagar, Bengaluru craving a South Indian dish and was hit by surprise looking at the menu pricing. The food card rated idli at rupees 10, masala dosa at 20, vada at 10, and kesari bhath at rupees 12.

Posting the menu Sahili compared it with Rameshwaram cafe of Bengaluru which is famous for its South Indian cuisine and wrote, "What is the Rameshwaram are these prices." She

also shared a picture of the two dosas, idli, and vada including two drinks that she ordered from the restaurant.

The post went viral on the internet with



over 50,000 views, 5000 likes, and 250 comments. Prices on the menu have shocked internet users and are flooding the comment section with various reactions. "You guys are so lucky the

price is insane. In goa we get overpriced South Indian Food in so-called new age QSR outlets. Dosa is 120-150 rupees and tastes like crap," said one. Another joined with, "Kolkata, wakes up to idli at 55/- per piece in south indian restaurants. Third individual shares his emotions on the post and wrote, "Wow! This what I used to pay 15 years back in Mumbai. Wish they came with this pricing or even marginally higher in Mumbai"

Fourth user commented, "This is dirt cheap, in ncr normal restaurants like Haldirams sell Masala dosa for approximately 250.

Fifth user added, "All Thindis in jp nagar jayanagar Malleswaram area are cost effective and taste way better than overrated Rameshwaram and Filter coffee."

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Opposes Karnataka's Job Quota Bill, Minister Responds

New Delhi: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the founder of pharmaceutical giant Biocon, on Wednesday opposed the proposal to reserve private jobs for local hires in Karnataka, which houses the country's information technology hub Bengaluru.

Taking to her official X account, Ms Shaw said highly skilled recruitment must be exempted from the Karnataka government's decision mandating reservation for Kannadigas in private firms. She also said the job reservation for locals must not affect the state's leading position in the technology sector.

As a tech hub, we need skilled talent and whilst the aim is to provide jobs for locals we must not affect our leading position in technology by this move. There must be caveats that exempt highly skilled recruitment from this policy, said wrote

on X. Her post drew a response from Karnataka's Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology Priyank Kharage, who said "no detrimental rules or



laws will be enforced without due consultations with stakeholders." "Karnataka has always led the nation in economic growth and we continue to do so," he said. Citing that Karnataka is the fourth largest

technology cluster in the world, number 1 in the India Innovation Index, and first in IT service exports, he said the state has achieved "these milestones and many more because our Government consistently engages with all stakeholders to draft policies and schemes that boost investments and create more employment opportunities."

"As always, we will consult with industries, industry bodies, and thought leaders to ensure we foster a favorable environment for investments and job creation for locals while addressing the needs of the global workforce," the Congress leader said.

Many other leading figures from the industry also spoke out against the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, which was approved by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led cabinet on

Monday. The bill requires firms in India's IT capital to prioritise local hires for 70 per cent of non-management roles and 50 per cent of management-level jobs. The state government, however, paused the bill after backlash.

Row Over Karnataka's Job Quota Bill

Former Infosys chief financial officer Mohandas Pai said the bill was "discriminatory" and "regressive." "This bill should be junked. It is discriminatory, regressive, and against the Constitution. This is a fascist bill as in Animal Farm," he said on X. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) also expressed disappointment and concern over Karnataka's new bill mandating reservation for locals in private sector jobs. In a statement, it said, "Nasscom and its members are disappointed and express deep concern regarding the passage of the Karnataka State Employment of Local Industries Factories Establishment Act Bill, 2024."

Railway Cops Rescued Over 84,000 Children Under Risk In Stations, Trains In Last 7 Years

New Delhi: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued as many as 84,119 children who were at risk in stations and trains across the country during the last seven years (2018-2024), preventing them from falling into harm's way, according to data released by the Ministry of Railways on Wednesday. Most of these children had run away from home or were reported missing while some had been left behind at railway stations or trains. There were also some children among them who had been kidnapped.

In the first five months of 2024, the RPF has already rescued 4,607 children. With 3430 runaway children rescued, the early trends suggest a continued commitment to the operation 'Nanhe Faristey'. The numbers reflect both the persistent issues of child runaways and the dedicated efforts of the RPF to address them. The RPF's 'Nanhe Faristey' mission dedicated to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones has turned out to be a lifeline for thousands of children who find themselves in precarious situations.

The year 2018 marked a significant start for 'Operation Nanhe Faristey' with the RPF rescuing a total of 17,112 children, including both boys and girls. Out of 17,112 children rescued, 13,187 were identified as runaway children, an alarming number of 2,105 were found to be missing, 1091 children as left behind, 400 as destitute, 87 as kidnapped, 78 as mentally challenged and 131 as street children. During 2019, the RPF's efforts continued to bear fruit, with a total of 15,932 children, including both boys and girls being rescued. Out of 15,932 children rescued, 12,708 as runaway children, 1454 as missing, 1036 children as left behind, 350 as destitute, 56 as kidnapped, 123 as mentally challenged and 171 as street children. The consistent numbers showcased the persistent issue of children running away and needing protection.

The year 2020 was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted normal life and significantly impacted operations. Despite these challenges, the RPF managed to rescue 5,011 children. During 2021, there was a resurgence in the RPF's rescue operations with 11,907 children being rescued during the year. There was a significant increase in the number of children found and protected, with 9601 children identified as runaways, 961 as missing, 648 as left behind, 370 as destitute, 78 as kidnapped, 82 as mentally challenged and 123 as street children.



High-fat diet in Pregnancy

may impact baby's gut, immune system

Women consuming high-fat diet during pregnancy may increase the risk of affecting bacteria living in her baby's gut thus impacting proper development of the immune system, says a study. The results showed that expecting mothers' diets can lead to distinct changes in their babies' microbiome, which could affect energy extraction from food as well as early immunity development.

"Diet is very amenable to change and women are highly motivated to make healthy changes during pregnancy. Traditionally, dietary interventions during pregnancy have focused on micronutrients, such as iron and folic acid," said Kjersti Aagaard, Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine in the US. Further, a high-fat diet in the mothers was also significantly associated with fewer numbers of bacteroides microbes in the infants' microbiome

both in samples taken shortly after birth and at four to six weeks of age. Bacteroides are involved in breaking down and extracting energy from certain carbohydrates. As a consequence of depletion of bacteroides, these carbohydrates could become unusable to the infant or other microbes. A persistent reduction of bacteroides species in the infant gut could thus have significant consequences on energy

extraction from food and developing immunity, the researchers said. "The study speculates that there may be a sound argument to also discuss and estimate fat intake," Aagaard added, suggesting an increase in the need for dietary recommendations during pregnancy. For the study, examined stool samples from 157 newborn babies that were taken

24 to 48 hours post-delivery, a subset of 75 babies was further sampled at four to six weeks of age. The researchers found that the mothers' dietary intake of calories from fat per day ranged from 14.0 per cent to 55.2 per cent. The average daily intake of calories from fat was 33.1 per cent. The results were published in the open access journal Genome Medicine.

Now, stem cell treatment to save children from disability



Now, stem cell treatment is being used to treat Perthes, a common disease in children which makes their limp before disabling them with debilitating arthritis. "Use of stem cells for orthopaedic purposes comes under an emerging area of medical science called

orthobiologicals. The university has already used stem cells among elders for successful treatment of a condition called avascular necrosis of the femur (thigh) bone. Taking cue from the method's success in adults, we will now treat children," said Dr Ajai Singh of department of paediatric orthopaedics at

King George's Medical University (KGMU). The university, which has already tried the process on two children, included the modality in its treatment protocol here on Monday.

Under the process, stem cells are extracted from the patient's bone marrow in the iliac bone in the pelvic region. "About 60ml bone marrow is taken and placed inside a centrifugal machine and reduced to a concentrate. A hole is drilled into the patient's affected bone. Once the concentrate is ready, it is injected on the site of problem and sealed. The entire process lasts for about an hour," said Singh.

Before orthobiologicals, patients were saved from arthritis surgically by trimming the bone affected. The joint was fixed with the help of metal plates. But this method led to permanent lifelong disability by shortening of leg besides introducing a number of side effects. "Perthes in children and avascular necrosis are similar. In both scenarios, head of the femur bone becomes dead and affects function which shows up as pain on standing, walking or on taking up activity. Orthobiologicals save children from shortening of leg."

Identified in the 4-8 years age group, Perthes affects three out of 10,000 children in India, mainly in coastal regions. Several centres in Europe and America are already using the method and have recorded a success rate of 85%.

Seasonal allergies may cause changes in The brain

Seasonal allergies like hay fever reduce the presence of brain immune cells as well as increase the growth of nervous tissue, which may lead to changes in the brain, says a study.



Hay fever, also known as allergic rhinitis, is caused by an allergic response to outdoor or indoor allergens such as pollen, dust mites and leads to cold-like runny

nose, itchy eyes, congestion, sneezing and sinus pressure.

According to a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 10 to 30 per cent of the population worldwide suffers from hay fever. The findings showed that brains of mice when exposed to a model of grass pollen allergy actually produced more neurons than when

they were under normal conditions. During an allergic reaction, an increase in the numbers of new neurons in the hippocampus -- the part of the brain responsible for forming new memories, and the site where neurons continue to be formed throughout life -- was found. This raised the question that what could be the consequences of allergies on memory, the researchers said.

New device launched to detect

Colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer, which is gradually turning to be a major health-concern among the Indian population, can be prevented with early detection using enhanced technology, health experts said at an event here on Tuesday.

G-EYE, an endoscopy technology which is claimed to detect gastrointestinal diseases more accurately was introduced in India during the event, organised by Smart Medical Systems-manufacturer of gastrointestinal endoscopy devices along with enhanced technology products supplier Ventura Business Solutions. Colorectal cancer which is mainly caused by genetic disorders or environmental factors, is gradually becoming a major health concern. Currently, around four per cent of Indians are diagnosed by colorectal cancer while it is the third most common cancer among men and second most common in women worldwide.

"There is a serious gap in detection of gastronomic diseases in many countries and colorectal cancer is becoming a growing reason for deaths in western countries. There is a high rate of colorectal cancer patients among Indians who have migrated to US," said Zamir Halpern, Professor, Tel Aviv University, Israel at the event.

The latest device is expected to make it easier to detect and improve the diagnosis and therapy of gastro-intestinal disorders and diseases. The device uses innovative balloon technology to uncover pre-cancerous polyps that are hidden behind the colon's natural folds and provides the ability to perform double balloon endoscopy.

"Our presence in India provides a great opportunity to serve the medical community by enhancing physicians' capabilities during endoscopy procedures and providing better treatments," said Misha Krakowsky, Executive Director, Asia Pacific, Smart Medical Systems at the event.



Godrej, Boyce planning to expand footprint in Chennai, to set up manufacturing facility

CHENNAI: Godrej and Boyce is planning to expand its footprint in Chennai by setting up another manufacturing facility in the outskirts of the city and is likely to invest around Rs 350 crore to Rs 400 crore, according to Vikas Choudaha, executive vice-president and business head of Godrej Solutions. Addressing reporters here on Wednesday, Choudaha said the expansion of the company, which is into manufacturing of pallets and shelves, is being planned to augment production capacity in view of growth in the sector for the next two decades. The investment would be in a phased manner. The 27-acre Ambattur plant has a capacity of 90,000 tonnes per annum and it has touched up to 66,000 during peak time. "This year we are planning to produce more and the plant is efficient for the next 18 months," said Choudaha. He said that the company is looking at a similar size of land parcel for the new plant. "If we have to have a similar capacity plant then the investment would be around Rs 350 crore to Rs 400 crore plus the land," he said. Targeting a turnover of Rs 500 crore in exports by the financial year 2027-28, he said the company is aiming at the overall growth of Rs 1,600 crore in the next two to three years.

Tata Power Renewable Energy, NHPC Renewable join hands for installation of rooftop solar projects

NEW DELHI: Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) has joined hands with state-owned NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NHPC-REL) for installation of rooftop solar projects on government buildings of central ministries, states, and union territories. "This collaboration represents a major step forward in our shared vision of a sustainable and green energy future. By leveraging our combined strengths, we are confident in achieving our goal of 100 per cent



solarisation by 2025," Nanda said. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in this regard was signed on July 17, 2024, between Deepesh Nanda, CEO & MD of TPREL, and S P Rathour, CEO of NHPC-REL. TPREL said in a statement. "This initiative will not only help us meet our solarisation targets but also contribute significantly to reducing the carbon footprint of government buildings," NHPC CMD R P Goyal said.

An arm of Tata Power, TPREL is a developer of renewable energy projects including solar, wind, hybrid, round-the-clock (RTC), peak, floating solar, and storage systems including battery storage. It owns, operates, and maintains these projects.

India's exports in Q1 show resilience despite global slowdown: CRISIL

New Delhi. India's exports have shown resilience amidst global challenges, with merchandise exports rising by 5.8% to \$109.96 billion in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, according to CRISIL. Despite a slowdown in growth in June, non-oil exports maintained momentum at 7.7%. However, a significant 18.2% contraction in oil exports contributed to a widening merchandise trade deficit to \$21 billion. "On a cumulative basis, merchandise exports rose 5.8% to \$109.96 billion for the first quarter of fiscal 2025, from \$103.9 billion in the year-ago period. This growth in exports in the first quarter of fiscal 2025 suggests that India has managed to keep its exports resilient in the wake of the ongoing conflict in Europe and the Middle East," CRISIL said. According to CRISIL, while India's fiscal year began positively with merchandise



exports showing growth in the first quarter, the widening trade deficit due to higher import growth remains a concern. The government's emphasis on foreign-trade agreements (FTAs) is anticipated to boost exports, although challenges such as potential dumping from China following US tariff hikes loom. "That said, growth in imports so far has surpassed exports, thus widening the trade deficit. This will remain a key monitorable, especially since the US has announced tariff hikes on Chinese imports, which could potentially lead to some dumping by China in the larger Asian market, including India," added CRISIL. "Cumulative imports rose at a faster pace of 7.7% to \$172.4 billion from \$160 billion. As a result, trade deficit widened to \$62.44 billion from \$56.1 billion. It is also noteworthy that the trade deficit widened due to a higher oil trade deficit, while the non-oil trade deficit narrowed compared with last year," it added.

Infosys Q1 Results 2024 Live Updates: Revenue Growth Expected To Rebound

New Delhi. Infosys, a leading IT company, is scheduled to announce its Q1 financial results today, July 18. Analysts predict a rebound in sequential revenue growth of 2-3 percent in constant currency (CC), driven by the ramp-up of significant deals secured during FY24. However, attention will be on the management's comments regarding any adjustments to FY25 revenue growth guidance.

Analyst Opinions and Market Reactions
According to analysts, Infosys was likely to see a rebound in its sequential revenue growth to 2-3 per cent on constant currency (CC), on the back of a ramp-up in large deals won during FY24.

Latest Updates on Infosys Q1 Financial Performance
Nomura predicts that Infosys will experience a 3.0% quarter-on-quarter growth in constant currency (cc), fueled by the ramp-up of large contracts, the removal of the one-time 100 basis points (bp) impact from the BFSI client contract restructuring, and robust seasonal patterns. Infosys is anticipated to uphold



its FY25F revenue growth forecast of 1-3% in constant currency. Regarding EBIT margins, Nomura forecasts an 80 basis points quarter-on-quarter expansion, driven by the absence of the one-time 100 basis points impact from the BFSI client contract restructuring and the exclusion of visa costs for the quarter.

Infosys Q4 Results FY 23-24

In April 2024, Infosys reported a 30% year-

on-year increase in net profit, reaching Rs 7,969 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. However, its revenue for January-March 2024 grew only 1.3% year-on-year to Rs 37,923 crore, compared to Rs 37,441 crore in the same period the previous year. Infosys' net profit was Rs 6,128 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. For the financial year ended March 31, 2024,

Infosys had recommended a final dividend of Rs 20 per equity share and a special dividend of Rs 8 per equity share, as per a BSE filing on April 18.

Q1 Results of IT Companies

Last week, IT giants Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and HCL Tech announced their earnings for the June 2024 quarter, both surpassing expectations. This led to a rise in their share prices. TCS, India's largest IT services company, reported a 9% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit, reaching Rs 12,040 crore for the first quarter of FY 2024-25, ending on June 30. The company's revenue from operations during April-June 2024 rose by 5.4% year-on-year to Rs 62,613 crore. Analysts had anticipated a profit of Rs 11,999 crore and revenue of Rs 62,190 crore. HCL Technologies recorded a substantial 20.45% year-on-year increase in net profit, amounting to Rs 4,257 crore for the first quarter of FY 2024-25. Its revenue from operations during April-June 2024 grew by 6.69%, reaching Rs 28,057 crore, compared to Rs 26,296 crore in the same period last year.

Why union government won't withdraw angel tax in Budget 2024

NEW DELHI: Despite persistent industry demands to address the issue of angel tax, sources suggest that the government is unlikely to abolish it in the upcoming budget to be announced on July 23. The rationale behind retaining the angel tax is to prevent the potential risk of converting black money into white money in the absence of this provision. "Removing Angel tax can lead to black money because some people might exploit the system by investing their undisclosed, untaxed money into startups at higher-than-actual values. This practice allows them to convert their unaccounted for or illegally obtained money into legitimate, taxable income through these investments," one of the sources, who didn't want to be cited told this paper.

angel tax is a provision that affects start-ups and unlisted companies that receive funding from foreign investors, who are a major source of capital for these



ventures. Despite various supportive schemes like the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, the Startup India initiative, and Startup Accelerators of MeitY Product Innovation and Growth,

the presence of angel tax is proving to be counterproductive, as per experts. Industry is demanding from the government to address the issue of angel tax which was first introduced in 2012 to prevent money laundering.

"The issue with angel tax lies in the subjective valuation of start-ups, which can lead to disputes with tax officials. Startups are required to justify any excess amount raised beyond the valuation determined by a specific formula or approach. This scrutiny not only creates uncertainty but also poses a risk of additional tax burdens on the startups. Moreover, the extended reach of angel tax is prompting startups to consider relocating or establishing operations in foreign jurisdictions with more favorable tax environments," the source said.

IDBI Bank Privatisation Gains Momentum as RBI Gives Nod to Investors

New Delhi. The road to privatise IDBI Bank has been largely cleared, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signaling its approval of potential investors. The NDA government at the Centre initiated the stake sale process in May 2021, awaiting RBI's assessment of bidders' suitability. Confirming the development, sources within RBI reported that all but one foreign bidder has been evaluated, except failing to provide the required information, hindering the assessment process. With the receipt of RBI's favorable assessment, attention has now turned to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget presentation on May 23. Market sentiments are focused on indications regarding government disinvestment plans. Following RBI's 'fit and proper' nod to potential buyers, IDBI Bank shares surged by 6%, trading at Rs 92.80 on the NSE at 11 am on Thursday, July 18. The government, holding a 45.5% stake,

plans to disinvest a total of 60.7%, including shares owned by LIC. Regarding the foreign bidder, the RBI has reportedly completed assessments for all but one foreign entity. This particular bidder did not disclose the required information, nor did its foreign regulator provide the necessary data. Currently, the central government holds a 45.5% stake in IDBI Bank, while LIC possesses over 49%. Initially established as a financial institution, IDBI later transformed into a bank. Under the government's disinvestment blueprint, a total stake of 60.7% in the bank is slated for sale, comprising 30.5% from the government's share and 30.2% from LIC's. Estimations suggest that the government stands to garner more than Rs 29,000 crore from the stake sale, given IDBI Bank's current market capitalisation of approximately Rs 99.78 thousand crore. The government's disinvestment plans, which also

encompass BPCL, CONCOR, BEML, Shipping Corporation, IDBI Bank, and an insurance firm, have faced delays over the past 18 months. Union Minister Hardeep Puri recently confirmed the postponement of BPCL's disinvestment. The Finance Minister's budget is expected to provide further clarity on the disinvestment strategy. Market analysts remain optimistic about IDBI Bank's privatisation, viewing it as a crucial step to mitigate financial burdens stemming from past losses. Over the past decade, the government has consistently expressed its intention to divest from 'non-strategic' sectors, with Air India being the sole disinvestment thus far. Market analysts are optimistic about the privatisation of IDBI Bank, noting its status as a private entity. The government's increased stake in the bank was necessitated by the need to inject capital to offset substantial losses incurred from debt.

Global Financial Wealth Trends: India Generates Largest-Ever 590 Billion In 2023, Check Full Report Now

New Delhi. Global net wealth staged a significant recovery of 4.3% in 2023, after a difficult year in 2022. Much of the growth was due to a rebound in the financial market, as financial wealth—a subset of global net wealth—rose by almost 7%, following a 4% decline in 2022. Over the next five years, an estimated \$92 trillion of financial wealth will be created, according to a new report.

This does not alleviate the pressure on wealth managers, who have seen their margins decrease significantly since 2007. Industry players can no longer rely exclusively on revenues from interest income, and they face rising costs due to inflation, operational inefficiencies, and tightening regulatory requirements.

Financial wealth represents that of the total adult resident population, collected by market and by asset class from central banks or equivalent institutions, based on the global System of National Accounts (SNA). It encompasses cash and deposits, bonds, public and private equities and investment funds, life insurance and pensions, other accounts receivable, and cross-border wealth. These are among the findings of BCG Global Wealth Report 2024: The GenAI Era Unfolds, the 24th annual global wealth report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Generative AI (GenAI) will play a crucial role in the digital transformation of wealth managers, with use cases along the entire value chain.

Yashraj Erande, India leader, financial services, BCG, said, "The financial wealth market has seen an uptick in the last year since its slump in 2022. The trajectory has been fairly well but not as good as it was between 2014-2021. For the wealth creation market to go back to its previous era the condition should continue to be favourable."

"India is expected to add about \$730 billion annually to the overall growth by 2028. With GenAI entering the financial wealth market, it has the potential to significantly transform the wealth management sector as it will allow wealth managers to curate tailor made options for their clientele keeping in mind the favourable conditions and the risk factor of the market," Erande added. "Wealth creation resumed in 2023—but even so, wealth managers cannot afford to stand still," said Michael Kahlich, a managing director and partner at BCG and a coauthor of the report.

"To capitalise on growing global wealth, industry players, among others, will need to set a clear digital transformation strategy and leverage GenAI to manage costs and improve client experience."

India To Lose 0.05% of GDP Due To EU's Carbon Tax, Should Impose 'Historical Polluter Tax' on EU: Report

CBAM is the EU's proposed tax on energy-intensive products, such as iron, steel, cement, fertilizers and aluminium imported from countries like India and China.

New Delhi. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose an additional 25 per cent tax on carbon-intensive goods exported from India to the EU, a new report said on Wednesday and recommended a counter-tax on rich countries historically responsible for climate change. CBAM is the EU's proposed tax on energy-intensive products, such as iron, steel, cement, fertilizers and aluminium imported from countries like India and China. This tax burden would represent 0.05 per cent of India's GDP, according to the report titled "The Global South's response to a changing trade regime in the era of climate change" by an independent think tank — Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). These findings are based on data from the past three years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24). The tax is based on the carbon emissions generated during the production of these goods. The EU argues that this mechanism creates a level playing field

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for domestically manufactured goods, which must adhere to stricter environmental standards, and helps reduce emissions from imports. But other nations, particularly developing countries, are worried this would harm



their economies and make it too expensive to trade with the bloc. The move has also sparked debate at multilateral forums, including UN climate conferences, with developing countries arguing that under UN climate change rules countries cannot dictate how others should reduce emissions. Trishant

Dev, Programme Officer (Climate Change) at CSE, said that India's CBAM-covered goods exports to the EU accounted for 9.91 per cent of its total goods exports to the bloc in 2022-23. He said 26 per cent of India's aluminium and 28 per cent of its iron and steel exports were destined for the EU in 2022-23. These sectors dominate the basket of CBAM-covered goods shipped from India to the EU. In 2022-23, the exports of CBAM-covered goods to the EU made up about one-fourth (25.7 per cent) of India's total such goods exported globally, which is significant for the industries operating in these sectors. Currently, hydrogen and electricity are not exported from India to the EU. Of India's total goods exported worldwide, CBAM-covered goods exports to the EU constitute only about 1.64 per cent. The report recommended a counter-tax on rich countries historically responsible for climate change. Countries that have not historically contributed to the climate crisis may consider imposing a 'historical polluter tax' on trade partners to fund their own decarbonisation efforts, the report said.

NEWS BOX

Hardik Pandya shares body transformation images from 2023 World Cup to T20 WC win

New Delhi. India's star all-rounder Hardik Pandya has yet again caught the attention of Indian cricket fans on social media, and this time with a stunning body transformation post showing his progress from the 2023 ODI World Cup injury to his 2024 T20 World Cup campaign. After being forced to bow out from India's ODI World Cup campaign due to an ankle injury, Hardik made an emphatic comeback to the side in the T20 World Cup. The 30-year-old went on to play a pivotal role in the side's triumph in the latter, answering his many critics. The T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies was truly one of redemption for Hardik, which saw him make a comeback to form and silence the criticism he had been under since taking over the captaincy of MI from the long-successful Rohit Sharma. Hardik's post on his official Instagram account has seen several fans heap praise on the all-rounder for his fitness and recovery journey. In his post, Hardik also gave an insight into his comeback journey and how difficult it had been for him. "Was a difficult journey after the freak 2023 WC injury but well worth the effort with the T20 WC win. The results come as long as you put in the effort. Hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Let's all try our best and work on our fitness," the post read. Pandya played the T20 World Cup as the vice-captain of the India and had been leading India in the T20I format in the absence of Rohit Sharma after India's T20 World Cup 2022 semi-final loss against England. After Rohit Sharma returned to the T20I side in January 2024, Hardik was handed the position of vice captain, when he returned to the side after a long layover due to the ankle injury. However, there are multiple reports that suggest that the T20I captaincy could make a last-minute dramatic switch to Suryakumar Yadav.

ENG vs WI: Dan Lawrence on standby as Ben Duckett awaits birth of his child

New Delhi. England captain Ben Stokes confirmed right-handed batter Dan Lawrence is on standby ahead of his side's second Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge. Notably, Lawrence is on standby because Ben Duckett is awaiting the birth of his first child and has been included in England's playing eleven for the match. However, if Duckett needs to be with his fiancée Paige for the birth of their child before the toss, Lawrence will replace him in the playing XI as a contingency plan. "There is a plan in place for Ben and his partner," Stokes said at the pre-match press conference on Wednesday. "We will have to make a decision if it happens before the game and we are batting. If it happens during the Test, Ben will go and then return to the team. He is incredibly eager to play this Test match, but the message from me and Baz (head coach Brendon McCullum) is that family comes first. Whatever decision he makes, he has our full support." Stokes also confirmed that Gus Atkinson will share the new ball with Chris Woakes following the retirement of veteran pacer James Anderson at Lord's. Atkinson impressed on his Test debut, taking 12-106 and playing a crucial role in England's victory by an innings and 114 runs. "I said last week that when I first saw Gus live in the World Cup in India, he had all the attributes of a very, very good bowler," Stokes remarked. "A lot of it has to do with the Dukes ball and how it behaves. There hasn't been much movement in the air with the new ball; it's generally off the surface, hitting the seam, and Gus is very good at that." Stokes further elaborated on the strategy involving Atkinson and Mark Wood, who has come into the eleven following Anderson's retirement. "At 10-12 overs, you get a buff on one side and that is when it really starts to swing, so that is where me and Woody come in," he explained. "Finding another bowler who can bowl between 87 and 90mph is very exciting. Gus Atkinson running in from one end and Mark Wood from the other is a great prospect. Woody had an unbelievable Ashes last summer and made a massive impact due to his pace. Bowling at 94mph with the ball swinging is going to be tough for anyone."

ENG vs WI, 2nd Test: Ben Stokes backs Chris Woakes to help fill Anderson's void

New Delhi. England captain Ben Stokes backed "phenomenal" senior pacer Chris Woakes to lead England's bowling attack without the legendary James Anderson. With Anderson retiring from international cricket after England's emphatic victory over the West Indies in the first Test at Lord's, Woakes is set to become the new spearhead for England's bowling unit. Anderson ended his illustrious career with 704 Test wickets—the highest by any fast bowler in history—and leaves a significant void. The first Test saw England dominate, winning by an innings and 114 runs. Anderson's retirement, following his 188-match career, alongside Stuart Broad's exit after last year's Ashes series against Australia, means England will be without their combined 1,308 Test wickets as they prepare for the second Test at Trent Bridge on Thursday. This Test will be the first home match since 2012 where England will play without Anderson or Broad. Despite their absence, Stokes is optimistic about Woakes' ability to fill the gap. Woakes, a seasoned all-rounder, is set to play his 50th Test this week, boasting an impressive average of 22.04 wickets per Test in home red-ball internationals. "I see it (James Anderson's retirement) as an opportunity for someone like Chris Woakes to take up the leadership role in the bowling unit," Stokes stated on Wednesday. "Woakesy is a very experienced bowler."

FIFA investigates Argentina for Copa celebration chant after racism allegations

Following Argentina's 1-0 win over Colombia in the Copa America final, FIFA has launched an investigation into alleged racist chants by Argentina players. This comes in response to concerns raised by the French Football Federation about a video on social media.

New Delhi. FIFA has announced the launch of an investigation into alleged racist chants by Argentina players following their Copa America victory. The global governing body



of football responded after the French Football Federation (FFF) raised concerns about a video circulating on social media. "FIFA is aware of a video circulating on social media and the incident is being looked into," a FIFA spokesperson said. "FIFA strongly condemns any form of discrimination by anyone, including players, fans, and officials." The controversial video was live-streamed on social media by

Chelsea and Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez from the team bus. The footage captured players singing chants that have been condemned as "racist and discriminatory" by the FFF. The celebration followed Argentina's 1-0 win over Colombia in the Copa America final in Miami on Sunday. Chelsea defender Wesley Fofana, a teammate of Fernandez, described the video as showcasing "uninhibited racism."

Fernandez later issued an apology on social media, expressing regret for his actions.

"The song included highly offensive language, and there is absolutely no excuse for these words," Fernandez wrote. "I got caught up in the euphoria of our celebrations." Chelsea Football Club released a statement condemning the incident: "Chelsea Football Club finds all forms of discriminatory behavior completely unacceptable. We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people from all cultures, communities, and identities feel welcome." This incident has rekindled memories of the racist abuse directed at France striker Kylian Mbappe and other players of African descent on the national team after their defeat to Argentina in the 2022 World Cup final. Despite the uproar, neither the Argentina Football Association nor Lionel Messi have made public comments about the incident. Representatives for both parties did not immediately respond to requests for statements. Argentina's triumph over Colombia secured them a record 16th Copa America title, celebrated by fans and players alike. However, the aftermath of their victory has now been overshadowed by this investigation, as FIFA seeks to address the serious allegations of racism within the sport.

Greece's Tsitsipas hopes to complete childhood dreams of Olympic medal in Paris

New Delhi. Greek tennis star Stefanos Tsitsipas has set his sights on achieving a lifelong dream at the Paris Olympics: winning an Olympic medal. With the Games' rich Greek heritage, Tsitsipas feels a deep connection to the event and hopes to add to his country's historic legacy in tennis. The Olympic Games, originating in Greece, have seen the nation win three tennis medals, all during the inaugural modern Olympics in Athens in 1896. Now, Tsitsipas, currently ranked world number 12, is determined to end this 128-year drought. Tsitsipas will be competing in both the singles and men's doubles events at the Olympics, partnering with his brother Petros. "Greece and the (Olympic) Games for sure fit like bread and butter together. It is something that has been a dream of mine since I started playing tennis," Tsitsipas shared in an interview with Stats Perform. "Since I first picked up a



tennis racket, I always wanted to be an athlete that gets to participate in something like that. And of course, to be aiming for a medal is something extraordinary."

Tsitsipas has consistently performed well on the clay courts of Roland Garros, the venue

for the upcoming Olympic tennis tournament from July 27 to August 4. His notable achievements include reaching the French Open final in 2021 and making it to the quarter-finals in the last two editions of the Grand Slam. "Getting a good preparation before the games start in August is something that I'm really looking forward to," Tsitsipas said. "I've had great success there a few years ago at the same stadium playing the finals of the Roland Garros. So coming back there with that confidence and that living in the backside of my mind allows me to strive and work towards the same end goal that I ended up pulling off this amazing run that I had a few years ago."

West Indies longing for more Test cricket: WI captain Kraigg Brathwaite

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite has emphasized the need for more Test matches for his team ahead of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge.

New Delhi. West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite has underscored the importance of more Test matches for his team as they gear up for the second Test against England at Trent Bridge. This came after a heavy defeat in the first Test at Lord's, where the West Indies were thoroughly outplayed, losing by an innings and 114 runs. However, the disparity between the two teams extends beyond on-field performance. England, along with India and Australia, is part of international cricket's financially dominant 'Big Three' nations, whereas the West Indies is one of the economically poorer members of the Test-playing elite. This financial gap is reflected in their respective fixture lists. While Tests are still primarily arranged



bilaterally between teams, the International Cricket Council (ICC) only mandates a minimum of two matches per series. For instance, Thursday's second Test at Trent Bridge will be England's seventh of 17 Test matches scheduled for this year, while it will be only the third of nine for the West Indies in 2024. "It's a challenge. I mean, we're longing for more Test cricket," Brathwaite expressed during a pre-match press conference at Trent Bridge on Wednesday. "The more you play, the faster you learn. If

it's spread over a long period, with just two Tests here and two Tests there, it takes longer to learn. We need more Tests." The 31-year-old captain added, "All I can do is keep advocating for it. I don't know how hard it is to organize a Test series for the West Indies, but I will keep asking. I hope those in charge of scheduling, amidst all the white ball and T20 tournaments, can fit in five or six more Test matches for us each year."

In the short term, the West Indies must focus on improving their batting to be competitive in this series. At Lord's, they were bowled out for just 121 and 136, with Brathwaite himself managing only 10 runs in total during his 90th Test. "It's pretty simple what we've got to do -- we've got to bat a lot better," said Brathwaite, who scored a Test century in England at Headingley seven years ago. "We've got to find a way to put runs on the board. I know what I have to do, and it's important to lead this team and the batting. We just have to keep learning."



desperate to pick his brains. Before that, it's been different because Jimmy has been preparing as he always has done. It's been a case of letting him do his stuff... But now, he's just standing there and you can see the lads are being drawn towards him -- asking how he thinks and how he bowls certain deliveries. I've been working on the wobble seam with him -- our wrist positions are very different," Stokes said in the pre-match press conference. "I was chatting through what his mindset is when he bowls that. It's something I want to add to my armoury. I wish it had it last week, I was picking his brain. Everything he said made complete sense -- but he made it sound like the easiest thing in the world. It's not," Stokes added. "There's been emotion with Jimmy, it's only been a week. But I think with him being around a team he knows, he has so much to offer to English cricket, in particular with the ball. I can't think of a better bloke to pass on knowledge of fast bowling... He's got so much to offer English cricket. We don't want to see that go. When we asked him, he was keen. He is going to have a lot of options."

Will Jay Shah take over as next chairman? Topic to be discussed during ICC AGM

The ICC Annual Conference in Colombo will see significant discussions on Jay Shah's potential takeover as ICC Chairman from Greg Barclay. Financial losses from the T20 World Cup in the USA and other key issues are also on the agenda.

New Delhi. All eyes will be on BCCI secretary Jay Shah during the four-day ICC Annual Conference in Colombo, starting on Friday, where there might be serious discussions about when he will take over from New Zealander Greg Barclay as the chairman of

the global body. The ICC conference that starts with the board meeting on Friday is expected to be dominated by losses to the tune of more than USD 20 million incurred by the global body for hosting T20 World Cup games in the United States of America. While the nine-point agenda of the AGM (a copy of which is with the PTI) doesn't include the event's financial details, but it will be discussed by the board as a "post-event report", which is a standard operating procedure.

ICC's new external auditor appointment is also on the agenda along with discussions on ICC memberships, reports from associate member's meeting and ICC development Awards presentation. The other important point -- India not travelling to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy -- is not a



part of the ICC Board's official agenda unless it is brought with permission of the chair under the section "Any Other Business". An ICC source privy to the developments, however, said that one of the main areas of interest for everyone at the ICC is when Shah takes over the reins of the

world body. "It is not about how but when, as he still has one year left as BCCI secretary before his cooling off period in Indian board starts in 2025 as per constitution. However, if he has to take over in 2025, then Barclay can't complete his third term of two years from December 2024 to December 2026," the ICC source said. "There is a school of thought that what if ICC's chairmanship term changes from three terms of two years each to two terms of three years, so the cumulative term can remain six years." It is widely believed that if Barclay's current term becomes three years, then Shah can complete his six years as BCCI secretary and take over as ICC chairman in 2025 for three years when he will be cooling off in BCCI. Then in 2028, he can come back and take over as board president.



Juhi Chawla

Recalls How Shah Rukh Khan Comforted Her After Mother's Death in Prague: 'He Was With Me...'



Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla have maintained a close friendship over the years, supporting each other through many challenges. During the tragic period when Juhi lost her mother, Shah Rukh stood by her side. In a past interview, Juhi described this time as "horrific" but credited Shah Rukh for ensuring she was never alone and for lifting her spirits. In a conversation with Rajeev Masand, Juhi mentioned that alongside her husband Jay Mehta, Shah Rukh was a constant presence during her difficult time. Her mother passed away in Prague while they were filming "Duplicate." Juhi remembered being utterly devastated and immersing herself in work to cope.

"Shah Rukh was with me when we were there. And I remember just being totally devastated. And to try and forget about it, I would just jump into work so that... And Shah Rukh would try and make us all laugh, like he always does, he does it to everybody and he would just make sure that I was around and he'd keep it all happy and stuff and that's how I got by," she shared. In another interview, Juhi revealed that Shah Rukh understood the pain of losing a parent, having experienced it himself. She told Hindustan Times, "He was the one who consoled me. He knew the pain of losing a parent and tried to make me laugh and forget the sorrow." Juhi resumed work after a period of mourning, and her next two films, "Duplicate" and "Yes Boss," were with Shah Rukh. She looked forward to being on set with him, finding comfort and distraction in his presence during that difficult time.

Juhi also shared that the tragic incident occurred just a day after they arrived in Prague. She and her mother had bought a gift for Karan Johar's birthday, but the next morning, her mother went for a walk and never returned. Juhi described the experience as extremely traumatic, recounting how they brought her mother back in a coffin just three days later. "Duplicate" was produced by Dharma Productions and directed by Mahesh Bhatt.

Sanjana Sanghi

Has The Sweetest Birthday Wish For Brother: 'Endlessly Proud Of You'

Sanjana Sanghi, who is known for her memorable role in film Dil Bechara, recently took to social media to shower her brother, Sumer Sanghi, with a heartfelt birthday wish. She shared a delightful series of snapshots on her Instagram page capturing their candid and fun-filled moments together from their travel diaries. The carousel begins with a stylish pose of the sibling duo dressed in their best. Another snapshot captures their infectious smiles as they enjoy a meal at a restaurant. Sanjana also shared a lively selfie of herself and the brother radiating pure sibling bond. Sharing the same picture on her Instagram Stories, Sanjana cheekily wrote, "A rare public display of sibling affection." Amid other pictures, Sanjana is seen laughing heartily while her brother cuts his birthday cake. Another photograph shows them posing while relishing a barbecue dinner on a chilly winter night.



Sanjana also shared a touching caption along with the photos: "From sharing a room and fighting over ice cream growing up, to taking impulsive flights across 7 seas to hang with each other (long distance siblingship sucks) to being my best friend and guardian angel, since the day I was born - there isn't anything I know better about myself than you know about me. It's always great to have a wiser, kinder and more annoying version of yourself around in sibling form to learn from. Endlessly proud of you, everyday. Happy birthday Sumer Sanghi."

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Sanjana Sanghi was last seen in coming-of-age romantic comedy Woh Bhi Din The. Alongside Sanjana, the film features Rohit Saraf, Adarsh Gourav and Charu Bedi in lead roles. The film was released on March 29 this year. Before Woh Bhi Kya Din The, she appeared in a notable role in Dhak Dhak alongside Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza and Fatima Sana Shaikh. Sanjana started her acting career as a child artist with Intiaz Ali's Rockstar in 2011, playing Nargis Fakri's sister. After appearing in several supporting roles, she had her breakthrough in 2020 with the romantic drama Dil Bechara, directed by Mukesh Chhabra. The film, based on John Green's 2012 novel The Fault in Our Stars and its subsequent 2014 American film adaptation, features Sushant Singh Rajput and Sanjana Sanghi as terminal cancer patients. The film also marked Rajput's unexpected posthumous appearance, following his death on 14 June 2020.



Vicky Kaushal Admits He Struggles With Gifting Katrina Kaif, Says 'I'm Really Horrible at It'



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal, like many, finds it difficult to select the perfect gift for his wife, actress Katrina Kaif. In a recent interview, Vicky admitted that he is "horrible" at choosing gifts for her, but revealed that Katrina's passion for art has inspired him to learn more about it. During an appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast, Vicky discussed his struggles with gift-giving. "I haven't cracked this game yet. Some people are really good at gifting, but Katrina isn't into materialistic things. For me, gifting is about making a joke, and I often run out of jokes and thoughtful ideas. I am really horrible at it," he admitted.

However, Vicky did manage to find a gift that resonated with Katrina. He shared that the best gift he has ever given her was a painting. "She is really into art, so I gifted her a painting. It was the first time I bought a painting in my life. I had no idea about art, but now I love it because it's my favourite wall in the house. The painting is by GR Iranna. This is the first time I'm mentioning his name because, apart from MF Hussain, I didn't know any artists," Vicky explained.

Vicky and Katrina, who dated for two years before tying the knot in December 2021, have always been in the spotlight. Recently, rumours about Katrina's pregnancy surfaced, but Vicky put an end to the speculation during a promotional event for his upcoming film "Bad Newz." He firmly denied the rumours, saying, "For now, please enjoy 'Bad Newz.' When the time is right, we won't shy away from announcing the pregnancy news."

The couple's relationship has often been the subject of public interest, but they have managed to keep their personal lives relatively private. Vicky is currently gearing up for the release of Bad Newz, which also stars Ammy Virk and Triptii Dimri. The film is slated to hit theatres on July 19. On the other hand, Katrina was last seen in Tiger 3 alongside Salman Khan.

Ranveer Singh Send Wishes To Anant Ambani-Radhika Merchant, Shares Unseen Pic With Deepika Padukone



Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant recently got married in a grand wedding in Mumbai. It was a star-studded event with many well-known celebrities from different sectors marking their attendance. The couple has been getting wishes from all corners. And today Ranveer Singh also wished them by sharing an unseen photo from the wedding. Taking to his Instagram handle, Ranveer Singh shared a photo in which he is seen posing with Anant Ambani, Radhika Merchant, and Deepika Padukone. "Just pure love Anant & Radhika, God bless you both on this journey of blissful togetherness @radhmerch1610 @deepikapadukone," read the caption. One of the fans wrote, "Such a beautiful picture, congratulations to Anant & Radhika." Another wrote, "Ahhh Baba!! All of you are just a sight for sore eyes!! Many many blessings to all of you!!". Deepika Padukone also shared the same photo and wrote, "Wishing you both Love & Blessings in abundance as you embark on this most beautiful journey..." Several Bollywood and international stars were present at the wedding. These included Kim Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, John Cena, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas, Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Janhvi Kapoor, to name a few. The pre-wedding festivities for Anant and Radhika commenced in Jamnagar back in March, spanning three days of merriment and hospitality.

Notable personalities like Diljit Dosanjh and Arijit Singh graced the event, with a show-stopping performance by pop icon Rihanna that captivated all in attendance. The main wedding ceremonies of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant started on July 12, with the auspicious Shubh Vivah or wedding function. Yesterday, marked the day of Shubh Aashirwad, and the dress code was Indian formal. July 14 i.e today will be the Mangal Utsav or the wedding reception, and the dress code is Indian chic. All these functions will be held at the Jio World Centre in BKC.