

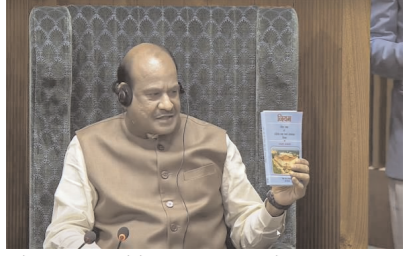
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Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla amends rules; bars members from raising slogans during oath

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, July 3: With some Lok Sabha members resorting to sloganeering during oath taking, Speaker Om Birla has amended the rule which now bars MPs...



and "shall not use any word or expression or make any remark as a prefix or suffix to the form of oath or affirmation". The amendment came against the backdrop of several members raising slogans like "Jai Samvidhan" and "Jai Hindu Rashtra" while taking oath last week...

PM Modi invokes Emergency to counter Congress's 'protecting Constitution' pitch

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, July 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday took the Congress to the cleaners over making the 2024 general elections about the protection of the Constitution...

Kharge wanted to intervene but was not allowed, leading to the opposition MPs trying to drown out Modi's speech by raising slogans. Later they staged a walkout.



Undeterred, Modi continued his speech and said the Congress was running away as it does not have the courage to hear the truth. Chairman Jagdeep Thakkar also condemned the walkout, calling it an insult to the Constitution.

vious government's achievements: from raising MSP for crops to giving the poor access to the banking system and loans, and fuelling India's rise to become the fifth largest economy. With development and self-reliance as pivot, Modi said, India will "definitely" become the third largest economy in the world in his third term.

account of our work and it is my duty," he said as the Opposition walked out of the House. Modi also took a jibe at the opposition for terming the current NDA dispensation "one-third government", asking "what could be a greater truth than this?"

Pointing out serious lapses in aircraft operating areas at airports

Chandigarh, July 3: Listing out serious lapses such as operators falling asleep while on duty, faulty equipment and non-adherence to standard operating procedures among reasons for increasing number of safety related incidents at airports involving aircraft, vehicles and ground equipment...

Discussions around AI regulations ongoing

New Delhi, July 3: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said discussions on AI regulations are on and a political consensus would be required. The Minister for IT and Electronics further said all sections of society must fully understand the threats and potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI)...

Congress versus Congress in Karnataka with powerful seers adding to drama

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Chandigarh, July 3: While the public attention remained focused on Narendra Modi versus Rahul Gandhi in Lok Sabha this week, in Karnataka's unique caste-based politics there has been a Congress versus Congress. The uneasy relationship between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy, DK Shivakumar, resurfaced, yet again...

Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana Mutt, a prominent mutt of the Vokkaliga



community, was quoted as saying. What may have added to the discomfort of the Karnataka Congress was that both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were present at the event to mark the birth anniversary of Kempegowda. All's not well between Sidha and DK it is an open secret that Shivakumar, who played a major role in Congress's win in the last Assembly

elections, was hoping to get the top post after the results. That he did not is another story but of late there have also been reports of several Karnataka ministers calling for the creation of additional deputy CMs' posts for Lingayat, SC, ST and minority communities. Making the most of the situation, the opposition BJP accused the Congress of "taking revenge on the people" for its "near wipe out" in Lok Sabha election in the state.

'We do not trust the State', Supreme Court tells Manipur as Kuki undertrial not taken to hospital for medical test

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, July 3: Taking strong exception to an undertrial prisoner lodged in a Manipur jail not being taken to a hospital for a medical test just because he belonged to the Kuki community, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said "we do not trust the State."

pay heed to persistent requests for medical help by his client who had severe backache. The top court's harsh comments came after it perused a Manipur



High Court order that revealed Haokip was not taken to a hospital as he was from Kuki community and "shifting him

to a hospital will be hazardous taking into account the law and order situation" in the state. More than 170 people have been killed and several hundred others injured in Manipur that has witnessed ethnic violence between the minority Kuki and majority Meitei communities for more than a year over attempts to include the Meitei community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

NEET-UG leak case: CBI arrests co-conspirator from Dhanbad

New Delhi, July 3: The CBI arrested an alleged co-conspirator in the NEET-UG paper leak case, Aman Singh, from Dhanbad in Jharkhand, officials said on Wednesday. The CBI had developed intelligence about Jharkhand-based module allegedly involved in the paper leak that resulted in the arrest of Singh, they said.

Woman accuses Goa police official of assault, forcing to lick his shoes

Panaji, July 3: A woman has accused a sub-inspector (SI) of Goa Police of assaulting her and forcing her to lick his shoes following which an inquiry has been initiated, an official said on Wednesday. An FIR would be registered against the police officer after a preliminary probe, he added.

Champai Soren resigns as Jharkhand CM, Hemant Soren stakes claim to form government

Naresh Malhotra

Ranchi, July 3: Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren on Wednesday resigned from his post, following which JMM leader Hemant Soren called on Governor CP Radhakrishnan and staked claim to form the government. Earlier in the day, leaders and MLAs of the ruling coalition at a meeting at Champai Soren's residence here unanimously decided to elect Hemant Soren as the JMM legislature party leader.

linked to an alleged land scam. He had resigned as the CM shortly before his arrest on January 31. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to approach the Supreme Court soon with a special leave petition (SLP) against a recent Jharkhand High Court order that granted bail to former chief minister and JMM leader Hemant Soren in a money-laundering case, official sources said on Wednesday.

Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The high court had said there was "reason to believe" that Soren was not guilty of the offence as alleged by the ED and there was no likelihood of the petitioner committing a similar offence. Section 45 of the PMLA stipulates that bail can be given to a money-laundering accused if two conditions are met - if

the court is prima facie satisfied that the accused did not commit the offence and that he is unlikely to commit any offence while on bail. The federal agency is expected to move the apex court with these grounds mentioned in its SLP. The ED's legal team had, the day the high court granted the relief to Soren, requested the court for a stay on the implementation of the bail order for 48 hours, so that it could move the Supreme Court. However, the high court had rejected the plea. On Wednesday, Soren staked a claim to form the government as the next chief minister of Jharkhand and his party colleague, Champai Soren, resigned from the top post. Soren (48), the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), was arrested by the ED on January 31 from the Jharkhand Raj Bhavan in Ranchi, just after he resigned as the chief minister.



CBI court sentences man to life imprisonment for killing 2 CMOs in Lucknow

New Delhi, July 3: A special CBI court in Lucknow on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing two chief medical officers of the Uttar Pradesh family welfare department in 2010 and 2011, officials said. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 58,000 on convict Anand Prakash Tiwari who was hired by YS Sachan, the then deputy CMO in the UP family welfare department. Two other accused in the case, Vinod Sharma and RK Verma, were acquitted by the court for lack of evidence.

Prakash Tiwari, to eliminate Arya and Singh, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. "In both the cases, investigation by the local police had found involvement of YS Sachan. However, he was not charge-sheeted due to his death during the investigation," the statement said. Sachan was found dead in a Lucknow prison toilet on June 22, 2011, with deep cuts on his hand. The CBI, which probed his death, had filed a closure report claiming he had died by suicide. The agency had said although there were deep cuts, there was "no injury on inaccessible parts" and there were no cuts on his clothes. During the course of an investigation into the killings of the two CMOs, the CBI examined 45 prosecution witnesses, exhibited various documents and cross-examined four defence witnesses. After filing the charge sheet in 2012, the CBI had said, "Sachan conspired with others and hired two shooters through a contractor, all based in Uttar Pradesh."

Andhra Pradesh: Black Plum prices plummet in Annamayya district

TIRUPATI: Jamun, also known as Java plum and black plum, which fetched between Rs 280 to Rs 300 per kg last season, is being sold between Rs 40 to Rs 60 at Madanapalle market in Annamayya district, creating severe concerns among the local horticulturists. The dwindling prices, driven by oversupply and production, have exacerbated the plight of the farmers who have invested significantly in the crop and expected similar prices to last season. Some spent lakhs of rupees on protective measures to ensure a high-quality yield. However, the reality has diverged sharply from expectations. Untimely rains during the critical pesticide spraying period have rendered many treatments ineffective, and fruit flies along with other pests have severely damaged the crop in numerous areas. Additionally, early rains have also played a part in spoiling the expected bumper crop and leading them to premature fall, fruit fly infestations, and blemishes on the fruit. Black plum was cultivated on around 1,500 acres across Annamayya district. The jamun is known for its medicinal value. The fruit is being exported to Hyderabad, Chennai, Vijayawada, Guntur and also to other parts of the country. The Madanapalle black plum market, which has been expanding annually similar to the tomato market, attracts produce from the united Chittoor and Anantapur districts, as well as bordering areas of Karnataka. The season began on May 15 with optimism, as prices remained favourable until the end of the month. However, the onset of rains in June, ranging from light showers to moderate downpours, caused the fruits to split and fall prematurely.

Forward castes constitute highest chunk of government staff in Kerala: Report

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Hindu forward classes constitute roughly 22% of the government employees in the state, figures tabled in the assembly have shown. The data was provided in response to a question by P Ubaidulla of the Indian Union Muslim League. Of the 5.45 lakh permanent government employees, staff from forward Hindu communities such as Nair, Menon, Kurup and so on constitute 1.08 lakh. While there were 7,112 employees from the Brahmin community, 2,765 employees belonged to Ambalavasi, Warrior categories. The share of Ezhava community, with 1.15 lakh government employees, stood at 21.09%. There were 73,774 employees from the Muslim community, constituting 13.52% of the total government employees. As per data tabled in the assembly, there are 73,714 forward Christian employees in the state service, denoting a share of 21.01%. The representation of Latin Catholic employees was 22,542 with an overall share of 4.13%. The data also showed that there were 2,399 employees who converted to Christianity and another 929 employees belonging to the Nadar Christian community. If all four sections of Christian employees are taken into account, they constitute 18.25% of the total government staff. While there were 51,783 employees from the Scheduled Caste, the number of Scheduled Tribe employees stood at 10,513. Another 955 employees said they did not belong to any

category. According to Ubaidulla, the data shows that different socio-religious sections and communities do not have proportionate representation in government jobs. "Earlier, the Narendran Commission Report had recommended that the backlog in appointments should be filled to address this disparity. The present data shows a



major disparity in this regard. The government should take urgent measures," the MLA told TNIE. **Oppn slams govt over spike in diseases** The Opposition walked out of the assembly on Tuesday after Speaker A N Shamseer denied it permission for an adjournment motion on the surge in communicable diseases. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan flayed the government for its "ineffective response" and attributed the issue partly to inadequate pre-monsoon preparations. He dismissed LSG Minister M B Rajesh's explanation citing election-related restrictions, and said the curbs only

pertained to meetings, not preventive activities like cleaning. **Fees hike in family courts to be revoked** The state government will consider the demand to withdraw the fees hike in family courts, said Finance Minister K N Balagopal during the discussion over the motion to refer the Kerala Finance Bill 2024 to the subject committee. As per the budget, court fees would be 1200 for cases upto 11 lakh, and 0.5% of the claim amount for cases above 11 lakh upto 15 lakh. One per cent of the claim amount would be levied on cases above 15 lakh. **A slice of banter and T20 metaphor** A twist awaited Minister M B Rajesh who tried to defend CM Pinarayi Vijayan in the assembly. He was referring to the controversial remarks of KPCC president K Sudhakaran against Pinarayi. "The KPCC president refers to the CM as 'avan' or 'ivan'. He once addressed him as the son of a toddy tapper. Have the CM or ministers behaved in this manner to anyone in the opposition?" he asked. When Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan sought to know Rajesh's opinion on the CM's "Paranari" remark against MP N K Premachandran, Rajesh, instead of replying, found a new target in the media. He also likened the LDF's defeat in LS polls to Axar Patel's over in the T20 WC final. "Many thought the game ended with Axar Patel's over. But things changed in Bumrah's over. Situations would change dramatically in politics too," he said.

What if arrack was sneaked into Assembly, Madras HC asks TN

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has asked the state government what would be the consequence if some members brought banned products like illicit liquor into the Assembly to highlight the menace, just as certain DMK members had sneaked gutka products into the Assembly, during the previous government, as part of protest. A division bench of justices SM Subramaniam and C Kumarappan raised the question when the petition filed by the Assembly secretary seeking to take back the appeal filed during the previous AIADMK government challenging the quashing of the breach of privilege notices issued against 18 DMK members, including current Chief Minister MK Stalin for displaying the contraband. The bench deplored such activities on the floor of the House where dignity and decorum have to be maintained. During the previous hearing, the bench questioned the rationale



behind attempting to withdraw the notices due to mere change of guard in the state. Advocate General PS Raman, representing the Assembly Secretary, submitted that the show cause notice issued by the privileges committee of the previous Assembly had lapsed as 16th Assembly and a new privileges committee coming into being after the 2021 polls. The bench sought the AG to file the documents regarding this issue and adjourned the hearing. The counsel for Pollachi V Jayaraman, then chairman of the privileges committee of the 15th Assembly, told the court the privileges committee is a permanent body even though the members are replaced when the new Assembly is inducted. The counsel sought the court to grant permission for filing a counter-affidavit by Jayaraman to the petition filed by the Assembly secretary. It may be noted that the Privileges Committee issued notices to 18 DMK MLAs including Stalin for bringing and displaying gutka packets in the Assembly in 2017. Based on their petitions, the high court quashed the notices with a direction that fresh notices could be issued as per procedures and law. Subsequently, fresh notices were issued, which were quashed by the court in 2021.

Kerala government amends order to justify action against teachers from Changanassery

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The row over the 'punishment' transfer of five women teachers of a government school in Changanassery to various districts in northern Kerala, has turned murkier with the government hastily amending its earlier order to remove references that would imply that the action was taken allegedly due to political pressure. While listing out various reasons for the transfer of the teachers on June 25, the order by the Director of General Education (DGE) contained a reference that Changanassery MLA Job Maichil had demanded that the teachers were "not taking classes properly" and they "need to be transferred". This was mentioned in the report submitted by the Regional Deputy Director (Higher Secondary), Kottayam, and was part of the transfer order. The initial transfer order of the DGE also had references indicating that the MLA intervened in the day-to-day functioning of the school, including in deciding the timetable for extra classes. The alleged non-cooperation on the part of teachers to conduct extra classes so as to improve the school results and a few students'

"complaints" that they could not follow the classes, were cited as the reasons for the transfer. As per the initial transfer order, teachers handling English, Physics, Commerce, Botany and Hindi subjects had "collectively ignored the directions of MLA Job Maichil and functionaries of the School Management Committee (SMC) and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)." The order also cited that the five teachers had not cooperated with "measures to improve the results of their respective subjects." After the transfers turned controversial, the DGE has issued a new order removing all references to the MLA in the entire episode. Other remarks that the teachers were found "sleeping in the staff room" and that they indulged in "activities unbecoming of the teacher's post" were also removed. This was done to allegedly ward off adverse strictures from the court as the teachers have reportedly decided to take legal recourse against the order. "If falling results are the reason for the

disciplinary action, then in-service training should be carried out for the teachers instead of transferring them to far-off districts," opined Abdul Jaleel



Panakkad, a senior functionary of the Kerala Higher Secondary Teachers' Union. Meanwhile, the school results have shown 100% pass for Hindi, 76% for Biology, 74% for Physics, 73% for Accountancy and 69% for English. While

the teachers handling these subjects were transferred, Mathematics, handled by the principal, had registered the lowest success rate of 48%. While three teachers were transferred to Wayanad, the other two were shifted to Kannur and Kozhikode respectively. The transfer has already evoked protests from the schools to where they were shifted as the action was seen as using districts in Malabar as centres for rehabilitating teachers against whom disciplinary action has been taken. **Teacher had approached women's panel** One of the teachers who was transferred had earlier approached the Kerala Women's Commission against the alleged 'misuse' of feed from CCTV cameras in the staff room. The panel had directed the school to remove the cameras as it was an infringement on the privacy of woman teachers. The episode reportedly caused embarrassment to the PTA and the principal.

TN approaches international agencies to fund Kovai, Madurai metro rail work

COIMBATORE: With the union government delaying funds for Metro Rail projects in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai, the Tamil Nadu government plans to take loans from the AIIB and go ahead with the works. Sources told TNIE that the government is working with international financial institutions to fund Metro Rail projects in Coimbatore and Madurai. A meeting was held between officials of CMRL and AIIB in Chennai on Tuesday. Officials from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and CMRL will visit Madurai and Coimbatore on Wednesday and Thursday and hold inspections before taking a call on funding the projects. The state had announced metro rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai and prepared DPRs. According to announcement made in the budget last year, the DPRs for Metro Rail along Avinashi and Sathyamangalam Road in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs 10,740 crore, and one in Madurai connecting Thirumangalam and Othakkadai at Rs 11,368 crore have been sent to the MoHUA Ministry for approval. Sources said with the centre silent over the state's request for 50:50 funding for the Rs 63,246 crore second phase of Chennai



Metro project, covering 119 km, it is being executed by the state from its own resources and loans. Questions remain whether the union government will consider similar request for Coimbatore and Madurai. An official from CMRL said, "There are many financial institutions that provide loans and AIIB is one of them. Representatives from AIIB will conduct an on-site inspection of routes that are proposed. Later, they will take part in a meeting with the government's finance department secretary on Friday and take a final call."

MPs flay centre over funds Chennai: DMK Rajya Sabha MPs P Wilson and Kanimozhi NVN Somu criticised the union government on Tuesday for not allocating funds for the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II project. During a discussion on the motion of thanks to the President's address, Kanimozhi NVN Somu said just before the 2021 Assembly election, the PM announced a record sanction of Rs 63,000 crore for the project. By July 2024, not even a single rupee had been allocated by the union government for this project.

Karnataka HC denies bail to Udupi quadruple murder accused

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court rejected the bail petition filed by the accused in the Udupi quadruple murder case, considering the technical evidence relied on by the prosecution. Justice MG Uma passed the order dismissing the petition of Praveen Arun Chougule (40) from Mangaluru, saying he is not entitled for bail, considering the seriousness of the offence. The accused, who was an employee at a private airline when the crime took place, was arrested on November 15, 2023, for murdering Aynaz, an air hostess, and three of her family members. A chargesheet against Chougule was filed by the Malpe police. "Even though there are no eyewitnesses to the incident, the prosecution is relying on all these circumstantial evidence, which are strong



enough to point an accusing finger at the accused at this stage. The prosecution is also relying on CCTV footage showing the movement of the accused," said Justice Uma, while rejecting bail. As per the

submission made by Additional State Public Prosecutor Jagadeesha BN and government advocate Rahul Rai K, the accused was identified in the test identification parade, the sketch matched with him by up to 98 per cent, his hair sample found on one of the bodies matched with his DNA, and his blood-stained clothes matched the DNA of the deceased. Also, the car of the accused, which had a location tracker, showed the movement of the vehicle on the day of the incident and the previous day, when he had gone near the house of the victims. There was also an exchange of audio, photo and text messages between the petitioner and one of the deceased whom he liked. The victim had later blocked his WhatsApp number and all text messages had not reached her.

Karnataka to launch statewide online booking for trekking routes by July

MANGALURU: Karnataka Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology Eshwar Khandre has said that online booking will be introduced for all trekking routes in the state from July third week in order to regulate the process. Speaking to reporters after a review meeting of Mangaluru circle of the Forest Department, Khandre said that the department has already introduced online booking for Kudremukh, Netravathi and other trekking peaks in Mangaluru circle and the same will be extended across the state. A software, which provides online booking for all trekking spots in a single website, is being developed and it will be ready in a fortnight, the minister said. The new system is aimed at putting an end to irregularities in the booking system by streamlining the process, he said. Khandre



said the Forest Department has set a target to plant 5 crore saplings in Karnataka this year and the work has already begun. Last year, 5.43 crore saplings were planted against the target of 5 crore. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has promised an additional grant of Rs 100 crore for this purpose, Khandre said. In Mangaluru circle, he said 26.5 lakh saplings were planted last year of which more than 90% survived

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NEWS BOX

15k cases pending, but new laws are set to make forensic experts busier

Gurgaon: The introduction of the new criminal laws is set to increase the workload of forensic experts because cases in which sections warrant punishments of seven years or more will need teams to mandatorily initiate a crime scene investigation. Haryana, as of now, has 17 mobile units of six forensic scientists each who visit crime scenes in the state's 22 districts and police commissionerates. While Gurgaon has two such units, the larger districts have one each. But there are some that share a team of experts — Nuh and Palwal, for instance. With more than 15,000 cases pending at the state forensic science laboratory in Madhuban and four regional facilities in Gurgaon, Hisar, Rohtak and Panchkula, the teams have their task cut out. Officials said a proposal to sanction six additional mobile forensic units was pending with the finance department. "Now that the new criminal laws have been implemented, the need for teams to go on spot visits will definitely increase. We are expecting our workload to double. But unless we hire more staff and procure testing kits, investigations are bound to get delayed," a senior officer said. Even before the new laws came into effect, forensic teams would visit crime spots, but they weren't mandatory. In most instances, scientists were called by investigating officers if the crime was heinous in nature, like a rape or murder. For cases lodged under IPC and CrPC sections, the presence of a forensic expert was not mandatory at the scene of crime. But for all grave offences, such as sexual assault, murder, and those lodged under the NDPS Act, investigating officers would seek the help of forensic experts. In burglaries too, scientists visited the site. But these were only on a case-to-case basis," said Yashpal, a spokesperson for Faridabad police. "But now, forensic teams must go on field visits if the offence is punishable with a jail term of seven years or more. The mandatory visit is under Section 176 (3) of BNSS, which replaced CrPC," he added. In the first six months of this year, mobile forensic teams visited 3,366 crime scenes across the state. Of these, 1,376 were related to cases involving punishments of at least seven years. So, how does a forensic team investigate a scene of crime? The six-member mobile unit collects any kind of biological and serological evidence that may give leads about the accused — hair, semen, blood, saliva or fingerprints. The team takes photos of the scene and collects narcotic samples if required. The pieces of evidence are put in specific bags and tagged, and a list is prepared for the investigating officer.

1.2k cr for infra upgrade, but owners of illegal 4-floor bldgs to face 10x penalties Gurgaon: The state govt has announced infrastructure upgrade in all sectors and colonies, and allowed release of Rs 1,179 crore under infrastructure augmentation charges (IAC), which was earlier collected by DTCP, HSVP, HSIIDC and ULB department against approval of stilt-plus-four floor plans. Residents, who have been opposing four-floor buildings, claimed their biggest concern is lack of key infrastructure — road, electricity, sewerage and drainage — which doesn't support four dwelling units per plot. In the 1990s, when most of the city's licensed colonies were being developed, the infrastructure was developed keeping in mind construction of two-and-a-half floors on each residential plot. Over three decades later, the population has doubled but the infrastructure, however, remained unchanged, which led to a burden on civic amenities. Civic amenities like width of drainage and sewer lines, capacity of underground water tanks and electricity distribution network among others, have not been upgraded since the colonies were first developed. As soon as the govt approved the fourth-floor policy in 2019, hundreds of residential properties across the city were converted into four-floor buildings. However, residents kept questioning how the infrastructure could sustain almost double the load. In its order, the govt has said Rs 1178 crore shall be released on immediate basis to HSVP, which shall be the nodal agency for prioritisation and execution of upgrade. According to govt records, of Rs 1178.95 crore collected against approval of stilt-plus-four floors, Rs 690 crore was collected by DTCP, Rs 466 crore by HSVP, Rs 20 crore by ULB and Rs 2.6 crore by HSIIDC. So, the state govt has announced heavy penalties on property owners who have raised four floors without approval of building plans till date.

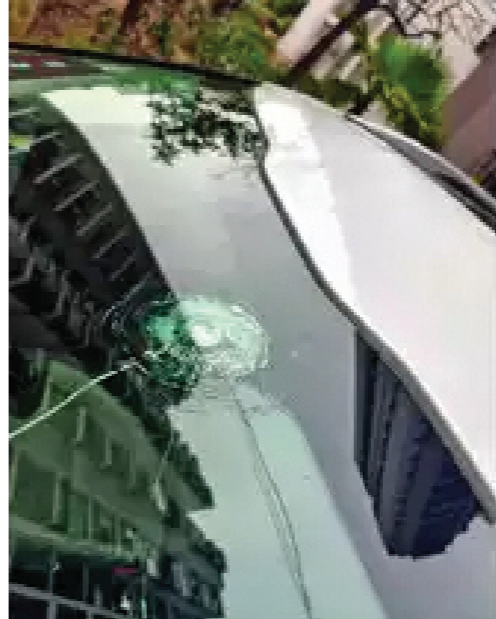
2 die in 2 NH-8 service road accidents on weekend

Gurgaon. Two men lost their lives in two separate road accidents on the service lane of NH-48 on Saturday and Sunday. In the first case, Mainpuri native Amar Singh lost his life after a truck rammed into his bicycle on the service lane of the NH-48 near the Sunbeam gate around 5.45 pm on Sunday. He was returning to his accommodation in Narsinghpur village on his bicycle after completing his duty. His wife, Ramlali, lodged an FIR with the Sector 37 police station after she received a call on Sunday evening informing her about the accident. She reached the accident spot and discovered that her husband had succumbed to his injuries. Eyewitnesses called the police and said the speeding truck's registration number was HR55T8137. Cops reached the spot, and the truck driver, Amar, was taken into custody along with the truck. "The driver will join the investigation after the autopsy," said the cops. In another incident, a 24-year-old man lost his life in an accident on the service lane near Hero Honda Chowk on Saturday night. Gaurav used to live in rented accommodation in Narsinghpur area with his father. His father Tejbir Singh, who was in Gujarat when the accident occurred, lodged a police complaint with the Sector 37 police on Monday after returning. "The person who took the victim to the hospital informed police. Initially taken to Artemis Hospital in Sector 51, the victim was later referred to the Civil Hospital, where he was declared dead. No vehicle was found near his body, hence we suspect that he might be walking when an unidentified vehicle hit him. An investigation is underway," said the police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar. Both Amar and the unidentified driver have been booked under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) of the IPC on Monday afternoon.

Crack in windshield, pellet spark gunshot fears in Noida condo

Noida. A crack in a car windshield and a pellet found nearby sparked fears of gunshots possibly being fired at Prateek Wisteria in Sector 77. While police believe the crack could have been caused by an airgun, investigation is still underway to determine the cause, an officer said on Tuesday. According to additional DCP Manish Mishra, the damage was first noted by a security guard at the society who informed the owner. The car's owner, Deepika Garg had not used the car for the last four days. When she saw the damage, she reported the incident on the police. Immediately, police teams, along with the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area. A pellet or bullet casing was also recovered from near the car," the additional DCP said. Garg filed a police complaint in the matter, following which an FIR was registered under section 324 (4) of the

Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Sector 113 police station. This section addresses acts of mischief causing losses between Rs 20,000 and Rs 1 lakh. "The crack was likely caused by an airgun. The forensic department has been tasked to examine the cause of the damage to the car," a senior officer said, adding that police are also checking CCTV footage from the area. Meanwhile, Prateek Wisteria AOA's president, Navnet Johari, suggested that the damage might have been caused by a toy gun used by children. Further investigation is underway, police said. e also published the following articles recently: Throwback: When Shah Rukh Khan rammed a car on Don 2 sets, causing damages worth crores! Farhan Akhtar expressed interest in collaborating with Shah Rukh Khan post 'Don 2'. He directed 'Lakshya'



with Hrithik Roshan, Amitabh Bachchan, Boman Irani. 'Reees' was co-produced by Farhan's production house. Police get ready to fight crime with tougher Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita now! Gurgaon police are well-prepared for the implementation of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and BNSS, with officers trained on digital processes and apps like E-Pramaan and Sakshya. The new laws introduce community service punishment and zero FIRs, enhancing law enforcement capabilities. 111372997 Police bust Irani gang, crack Panaji jewellery thefts! Goa police arrested an Iran national linked to thefts at jewellery stores involving an interstate Irani gang. Abrar Beg was apprehended in Karnataka. The thieves targeted Vailankanni Jewellers and PNG Jewellers, stealing gold and diamond necklaces.

Sewer damage causes 12-ft-deep cave-in on Sohna highway again

Gurgaon. A portion of the Sohna highway developed a sinkhole on Tuesday, near the spot that was damaged in Dec last year after the wall of a sewer chamber passing underneath the road had caved in, creating an 18-foot-deep hole. NHAH had repaired the stretch in March. The 12-foot-deep sinkhole that has opened up now on the highway is suspected to have been caused by damage to an underlying sewer line, according to officials. The highways authority has restricted traffic movement on the stretch as a precautionary measure. "The affected area has been barricaded, and GMDA has been asked to repair the sewer line immediately. After carrying out the repairs, we will finish the patchwork. We have asked GMDA to use CIPP (cured-in-place-pipe) technology this time to ensure a permanent solution," said Yogesh Tilak, project director, NHAH (Rewari). GMDA officials, who were at the site for inspection, said the cause of damage could be ascertained only after excavation. "Prima facie, it

looks like damage to the sewer line. Remedial measures are being taken, and machinery and manpower are being deployed for repairs," said GMDA chief engineer Rajesh Bansal. An 1,800-metre master sewer line starting from Shankar Chowk crosses the elevated portions of Sohna highway near Sector 47 before it ends at Behrampur sewage treatment plant. The brick sewer chamber, which is two decades old, was not adequately reinforced during the highway's construction, contributing to the recurring problem. GMDA officials said they would prepare an estimate for repairing the sewer line using CIPP technology to prevent such incidents in the future. After the road cave-in in Dec, the development authority had explored shifting of the sewer line but it has not been done so far. Commuters expressed concerns about the substantial amount spent on the highway's construction and apparent lack of proper planning and execution. "The recurrence of such incidents raises serious worries

about the quality of construction. The authorities must investigate the cause thoroughly and make accountable whoever is at fault. Both GMDA and NHAH are blaming each other, but it is the citizens, who suffer," said Siddharth Bhalla, a resident of Sector 48. We also published the following articles recently: How the drain? Rs 62 crore spent on sewer network, Gurgaon still flooded! MCG allocated funds for sewerage and stormwater drain repair and new networks. Issues like delayed desilting persist. Recent monsoon brought record-breaking rainfall, causing severe waterlogging and traffic disruptions. 111372218 GMDA will hire agency to design drain plan in 2 wks! In Gurgaon, urban flooding continues due to poorly planned systems and inadequate civic actions. Climate changes impact water flow, emphasizing the need for addressing drainage issues since the city's development. Effective flood mitigation requires a comprehensive overhaul of the drainage infrastructure.

Monsoon here but little rain as clouds drift off to foothills

Gurgaon: Southwest monsoon completed its route on Tuesday to cover north India, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). But besides the 100mm and 0.5mm rain on Friday and Saturday, respectively, there has been no major rainfall so far. IMD had predicted moderate to heavy rainfall from Sunday till Thursday. Experts said that the region might not be getting much rain for the next few days as the monsoon clouds are currently around the foothills of Himalayas. IMD has already issued a yellow alert in the state till July 5. The monsoon season in India is a crucial time for agriculture as well as economy. The arrival of the southwest monsoon marks the beginning of the rainy season, which is essential for the growth of crops and the replenishment of water resources. Inadequate or excessive rainfall can lead to crop failures, affecting food security and livelihood of farmers. Mahesh Palawat, an official at Skymet Weather, told TOI, "There is a lack of heavy rains in Delhi-NCR due to the current position of the monsoon clouds — around the foothills of the Himalayas. This means that the region might not receive much rain in the coming few days. The transition phase of the clouds was very fast in the past days, so they did not linger over the region for an extended period, resulting in the absence of heavy rain so far." The minimum temperature on Tuesday dropped by 2.5 notches. It was recorded

RWA opposes plan to set up animal shelter in residential area

Noida: A delegation of residents' welfare association (RWA) met the additional chief executive officer (ACEO) of Noida on Friday to oppose the authority's plan to set up an animal shelter in Sector 117. The sector, home to over 2,000 people, lacks a community park. Residents have been urging the authority to convert a vacant plot next to a community centre into a children's park. However, the plot is now earmarked for an animal shelter, which is expected to accommodate stray dogs, cats, cows, and buffaloes. "We met Sanjay Khatri, the ACEO of Noida Authority, regarding shifting the proposed animal centre and hospital from the vicinity of residential areas in Sector 117.

Name Change

I, I. RUPA Begum W/o Subir Ali Residing at E-158, Gali No-5, Subhash Mohalla, Majpur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Roshni B for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, J. LOHAR S/o Sayad Ali Residing at M-112, Gali No-5, Subhash Mohalla, Majpur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Gouhar Ali for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, Davinder Singh S/o Kishan R/O Add-70/A Goyla Khurd post office chhawla new delhi-110071 have changed my name from Davinder to Davinder Singh for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, J. DAVINDER Singh S/o Kishan R/O Add-70/A Goyla Khurd post office chhawla new delhi-110071 have changed my name from Davinder to Davinder Singh for all future purposes.

Name Change

I, KATHULA USHA RANI Wife of NO-15800874F Rank-NK Name-KATHULA SAMBARAJU R/O VILL-MANSINGH THANDA, PO-ANKUSHAPUR, TEH-THARIGOPPULA, DISTT-JANAGAON, TELANGANA-506367 have changed my name from KATHULA USHA RANI to KATHULA USHARANI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 03/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

I, hitherto known as KAUSHAL alias KAUSHAL RAWAT S/O AMAR SINGH RAWAT residing at House No. -177640 , Gali No. -4 , East Goarkh Park, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAUSHAL RAWAT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ANZAR ALI S/O ANSAR ALI R/O T-HUTS E-15/ C/112, NEW SEELAMPUR, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110053 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PAPPU in my minor son namely MOHD ASAD aged 10 years in his school record. The actual name of mine is ANZAR ALI which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ASHOK GIANCHANDANI S/O PAHILAJ GIANCHANDANI R/O B-101, UGF Flat, No. 3, Panchsheel Vihar, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi - 110017 declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as FARHAD RAI GANCHANDANI in my Pan Card No. AAPRZ2213P. The actual name of my Father is PAHILAJ GIANCHANDANI which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change

I, MUKTABAI mother of No 6504850P Rank-SEP Name-ANIL PATIL residing at VPO-PEERANWADI, TEHSIL-BELGAUM, DISTT- BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-590014 have changed my name from MUKTABAI to MUKTA KRISHNAJI PATIL for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 03/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

I, KATHULA YELLAIAH Father of NO-15800874F Rank-NK Name-KATHULA SAMBARAJU R/O VILL-MANSINGH THANDA, PO-ANKUSHAPUR, TEH-THARIGOPPULA, DISTT-JANAGAON, TELANGANA-506367 have changed my name from KATHULA YELLAIAH to KATHULA PEDDA YELLAIAH for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 03/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

I, AAHNA BISHT D/O Mrs. RENU BISHT R/O A4-1203, M3M, WOODSHIRE, DHARAMPUR MAIN ROAD, SECTOR-107, DHARAMPUR (59), PO. DAULTABAD, DISTT. GURGAON, HARYANA-122006 have changed my name from AAHNA BISHT to AAHNA BISHT ADHISH for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sharmna parveen W/o Late Liaquat Hussain R/o 5191-60 batta house jamia nagr okhla muradi road near pnw atm 110025 has severed her all relations from her son Danish Liaquat and his wife Shazia Fazal and disowned them from her all moveable and immovable properties due to their disobedience. I shall not be responsible for any of their civil and criminal liabilities and acts.

Name Change

I, KATHULA SAMAJVA Mother of NO-15800874F Rank-NK Name-KATHULA SAMBARAJU R/O VILL-MANSINGH THANDA, PO-ANKUSHAPUR, TEH-THARIGOPPULA, DISTT-JANAGAON, TELANGANA-506367 have changed my name from KATHULA SAMAJVA to KATHULA SAMANVA for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 03/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

I, J. C-304881A Rank-NB SUB VPO-HIRANYAKUMAR BARUAH R/O VPO-BATADRWA, TEH-BATADRWA, DISTT-NAGAOAN, ASSAM-782122, in my service records my name (NIRJUMONI DUTTA BARUAH) date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/01/1989 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/06/1986 vide affidavit dated 03/07/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ANTARA BHATTACHARYA alias ANTARA MUKHERJEE D/o RAMESH CHANDRA BHATTACHARYA Ex. W/o JOYDEEP MUKHERJEE, residing at Flat No. 403, New Delhi Apartments, Bhagwan Mahavir Swami Marg, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110056 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree HMA No. P. 4219 Dated 09.07.2013. Further, I remarried with PARTHA SARATHI DEY S/O MRINAL KANTI DEY, R/o Flat No. 403, New Delhi Apartments, Bhagwan Mahavir Swami Marg, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110056, vide Marriage Registration No. 202314900994 dated 16-09-2023. Henceforth I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANTARA DEY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHRI SURESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O LATE SHRI BABU SHANKER GUPTA AND SMT. MEERA GUPTA alias MEERA DEVI B/O R/O E-8, FIRST FLOOR, MADHU VIHAR, DELHI-110052, declare that we have discontinued our daughter SHALINI GUPTA from our all moveable/immovable assets/properties/bank balances due to reason that my daughter married with inter caste person without our consent on 24.06.2024. That we shall not be responsible for any liabilities, debts and acts of our daughter in any manner from 24.06.2024.

Name Change

I, hitherto known as GULSHAN alias GULSHAN KUMAR S/O GURDIAVAL SINGH R/O SAVITRI NAGAR Malviya Nagar S/O South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GULSHAN KUMAR.

Name Change

I, AAHNA BISHT D/O Mrs. RENU BISHT R/O A4-1203, M3M, WOODSHIRE, DHARAMPUR MAIN ROAD, SECTOR-107, DHARAMPUR (59), PO. DAULTABAD, DISTT. GURGAON, HARYANA-122006 have changed my name from AAHNA BISHT to AAHNA BISHT ADHISH for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SURENDER SINGH S/O Surinder Kumar R/O GURU GOVIND SINGH NAGAR, CHANDER VIHAR, NILOTIHI EXTENSION, Mangoli, West Delhi, Delhi-110044 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Surennder kumar in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is SURINDER KUMAR respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Sita Negi W/O Late O Ram Negi R/O PARAMOUNT address Vill Chhatan Seri, P/O Raison, Tehsil Kullu, Bandrol (27/56), Kullu, Himachal Pradesh - 175128, Present address 208/21 Flat no 5 Savitri Nagar, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written in my husband PPO No. 240559606560. The actual name of mine is Sita Negi, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change

I, No. 14447346Y Rank HAV Name SANDEEP KUMAR S/O BUDH RAM R/O VPO-ADYANA, TEH-MATLAUDA, DISTT-PANIPAT, HARYANA-132113 have changed my minor daughter's name from NAVAYA CHAUHAN to NAVAYA CHAUHAN for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/06/2024 (IN-DL09582865976539W) before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Ram Bhajan s/o Mr. Janki Prasad is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot No. C-211, area measuring 26 sq. yds., out of Khaska No. 367, situated at Narayan Kunj-II, Village Banthla, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghaziabad, U. P. by virtue Gift Deed dated 31.01.2024 duly regd. as Doc. No.1850, Book No.1, Vol. No.5405, page 283-312, on 31.01.2024 (SR-Loni), till date and has lost/Misplace his Original Sale Deed dated 19.09.2018 duly regd. as Doc. No.21036, Book No.1, Vol. No.36625, page 49-72, on 19.09.2018 (SR-VI, Ghaziabad), it was executed in favour of Mrs. Manju w/o Mr. Ram Bhajan, now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property, finance by ANJASHA FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED Branch: Room no. 1004 on 10th Floor, Arunachal Building, Barakhamba, Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi. If any person is having objection/right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. (NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA) Advocate F-211 sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uter Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0958871432

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Manju Simon Moses aged 51 years, w/o. Late Mr. Simon Moses, Aadhar card No.828829277372 R/o H Block 100B/2 Aya Nagar, Phase 6, New Delhi-47, has severed all her relations with her Younger Son Mr. Silvester Simon aged about 33 years, R/o- H Block 100B/2, Aya Nagar, 1st floor, Phase 6, New Delhi-47 and his Wife Sanju Devi. My client further disinherits her son and daughter-in-law from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their wrongful and atrocious behaviour. Henceforth my client shall have nothing to do with them. ANGEL JACOB (Advocate) Office; 141, Lawyers Block, Saket District Court, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ANTARA BHATTACHARYA alias ANTARA MUKHERJEE D/o RAMESH CHANDRA BHATTACHARYA Ex. W/o JOYDEEP MUKHERJEE, residing at Flat No. 403, New Delhi Apartments, Bhagwan Mahavir Swami Marg, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110056 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree HMA No. P. 4219 Dated 09.07.2013. Further, I remarried with PARTHA SARATHI DEY S/O MRINAL KANTI DEY, R/o Flat No. 403, New Delhi Apartments, Bhagwan Mahavir Swami Marg, Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110056, vide Marriage Registration No. 202314900994 dated 16-09-2023. Henceforth I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANTARA DEY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHRI SURESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O LATE SHRI BABU SHANKER GUPTA AND SMT. MEERA GUPTA alias MEERA DEVI B/O R/O E-8, FIRST FLOOR, MADHU VIHAR, DELHI-110052, declare that we have discontinued our daughter SHALINI GUPTA from our all moveable/immovable assets/properties/bank balances due to reason that my daughter married with inter caste person without our consent on 24.06.2024. That we shall not be responsible for any liabilities, debts and acts of our daughter in any manner from 24.06.2024.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const./Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

- 1. Full Name Construction of 2-lane Road over bridge in lieu of existing level crossing No. 70 sp. at Km 148/3-4 in between Deoband - Talheri Buzang station with Bow of String Girder/Bow Shaped Truss along with Construction of LHS by pushing work method and other allied works on GZB-SRE section of Delhi division

2. Approx. Cost of work Rs. 2073.79 lacs

3. Completion period of the work 18 (Eighteen) months

4. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 11,86,900/-

5. Sale/availability of tender documents on RLY Website Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.07.2024 to 25.07.2024 upto 11:30 hrs.

6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders 25.07.2024 upto 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f, 11.07.2024 to 25.07.2024

7. Date and time of opening of tender 25.07.2024 at 11:30 hours. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 741-W-1-2-401-WA-CSB-II Dated : 02.07.2024 2006/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BOX

Pre-poll survey predicts landslide victory for Labour Party in UK polls

London. Britain's Labour Party is set to sweep to power with a record number of seats at Thursday's national election, a forecast by polling company Survation showed on Tuesday. Survation's central scenario showed Keir Starmer's Labour winning 484 of the 650 seats in parliament, far more than the 418 won by the party's former leader Tony Blair in his famous 1997 landslide win and the most in its history. The Conservatives, who have been in power for the last 14 years, were predicted to win just 64 seats, which would be the fewest since the party was founded in 1834. The right-wing Reform UK party were projected to win seven seats. The Survation analysis used the Multilevel Regression and Post-stratification (MRP) technique that estimates public opinion at a local level from large national samples. Pollsters describe it as a model that uses polling data, rather



than a poll itself. Other MRP analyses have shown smaller margins of victory for Labour, but none have shown a different overall outcome. Earlier, a regular poll by Redfield and Wilton Strategies which measured vote share nationwide showed a slight narrowing in Labour's lead, but still put the party on course for a comfortable victory.

US Regulator Approves Eli Lilly Drug For Early Alzheimer Treatment

Washington. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a drug made by Eli Lilly on Tuesday that is designed to treat the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The drug known as Kisunla should be used by "patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia stage of disease," the FDA said in a statement announcing its decision to approve the drug. "Patients treated with Kisunla demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in clinical decline," and a range of other criteria, it added.

Kisunla, which is the brand name for the drug donanemab-azbt, joins only a handful of other drugs currently approved by the US regulator to treat Alzheimer's, which currently affects more than 6.5 million Americans.

"Kisunla demonstrated very meaningful results for people with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease," Eli Lilly executive vice president Anne White said in a statement published by the US pharmaceutical company. "We know these medicines have the greatest potential benefit when people are treated earlier in their disease, and we are working hard in partnership with others to improve detection and diagnosis," she added. The FDA's decision was welcomed by the Alzheimer's Association, a non-profit organization focused on eradication of the disease. "This is real progress," the association's president, Joanne Pike, said in a statement. "Today's approval allows people more options and greater opportunity to have more time." "Having multiple treatment options is the kind of advancement we've all been waiting for — all of us who have been touched, even blindsided, by this difficult and devastating disease," she added.

US Supreme Court rejects teen sex abuse victim's bid to revive Snapchat lawsuit

WASHINGTON. The US Supreme Court declined on Tuesday to hear a Texas teen's bid to revive his lawsuit accusing Snapchat owner Snap of failing to protect underage users of its social media platform from sexual predators - in this case, a female teacher who pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting him. The justices turned away up an appeal brought by the plaintiff, who was not identified by name in the case because he was a minor when it was filed, after lower courts dismissed his lawsuit. Lower courts found that Snapchat was shielded by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which safeguards internet companies from liability for content posted by users. Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch said they would have granted the appeal. The case involves a relationship between Bonnie Guess-Mazock, a high school science teacher who was 36 at the time it started in 2021, and the plaintiff, who was 15, in the Texas city of Conroe, about 40 miles (65 km) north of Houston. Criminal charges were brought against Guess-Mazock, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to sexual assault of a child, according to court filings. The plaintiff in the lawsuit accused Guess-Mazock of using Snapchat - known for its disappearing photos and videos - to groom him by sending him sexually explicit content. Over nearly a year and a half starting in 2021, Guess-Mazock sexually assaulted him until the abuse was discovered when he overdosed on drugs she either provided or paid for, the lawsuit alleged. In 2022, Doe sued Guess-Mazock, the local public school district and Snap. Only his claims against the Santa Monica, California-based company, seeking unspecified monetary damages, were at issue in his appeal to the Supreme Court. The plaintiff's civil lawsuit alleged three counts of negligence against Snapchat under Texas law. He accused the company of breaching its legal duty to protect its minor users "from sexual predators who are drawn to the Snapchat application by the privacy assurances granted by the disappearing messages feature of the application." Houston-based US District Judge Lee Rosenthal in 2022 dismissed the suit against Snapchat, finding the company was shielded by Section 230.

Indian-American Kamala Harris Has A Better Chance Of Retaining White House Than Biden: Poll

The approval rating of Biden, 81, has plummeted after his dismal debate performance in Atlanta last week against his predecessor Donald Trump

US Vice President Kamala Harris has a better chance of retaining the White House in the November presidential polls than her boss President Joe Biden has, according to a latest poll. Biden's approval rating has plummeted after his debate debacle in Atlanta last week against his predecessor Donald Trump, CNN reported. Since the debate, there has been increasing voices in the ruling Democratic party for Biden to step down and let someone else run the race for the crucial November 5 presidential elections.



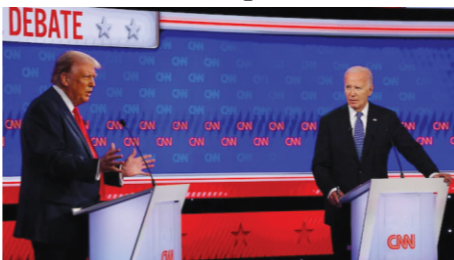
Trump is ahead of Biden by six points. The poll also finds Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, within striking distance of Trump in a hypothetical matchup: 47 percent of registered voters support Trump, 45 percent Harris, a result within the margin of error that suggests

there is no clear leader under such a scenario. "Harris' slightly stronger showing against Trump rests at least in part on broader support from women (50% of female voters back Harris over Trump vs. 44% for Biden against Trump) and independents (43% Harris vs. 34% Biden)," the polls said. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre refrained to give a direct comment on the polls. "I'm constrained to speaking directly to your poll and I get it and I hear the question. I got to be mindful, that is something for the campaign as you started saying, what the campaign has laid out their argument of the case. That is something for them to take up and that is something for them to answer," she told reporters when asked about it.

"What I can speak to is the president's record. What I can speak to, what he's been able to accomplish and the things that he's been able to do and get done is actually in line with majority of Americans. And I think that's important too, to note. And again, I will say with age comes wisdom and experience and that's certainly something that the president brings," she said. Former First Lady Michelle Obama leads Trump by a whopping 11 points in an Ipsos poll—50 percent to 39 percent — though her office told NBC News in March she would not be running for president this year.

Biden says he 'almost fell asleep' during debate with Trump, blames jet lag

World US President Joe Biden has admitted that he "almost fell asleep" during the disastrous debate with his Republican rival Donald Trump last week and said his feeble performance was due to jet lag from travelling "around the world a couple of times, going through around 100 time zones" before the event.



The 81-year-old's acknowledgement came amid pressure from Democrats after his poor performance at the debate, as well as growing questions about his cognitive ability to continue in office for four more years if he returns to power following the election in November. "I didn't have my best night. I wasn't very smart. I decided to travel around the world a couple of times, going through around 100 time zones before the debate," he said while addressing a campaign event on Tuesday in McLean, Virginia. "Didn't listen to my staff and came back and nearly fell asleep on stage... That's no excuse, but it is an explanation."

According to a Reuters report, Biden travelled to France and Italy in a span of just two weeks in June, and then flew

overnight from the G7 Summit in Bari, Italy to Los Angeles where he appeared at a fundraiser with former US President Barack Obama.

Ahead of the June 27 debate, he spent six days at Camp David -- the country retreat for a US President near Washington D.C -- in preparation for the event. While White House officials have blamed Biden's poor performance on a cold, his re-election campaign is making all-out efforts to downplay the age factor. Biden, who is already the oldest serving American President, would turn 82 by the time he is sworn in next year if he wins the November 5 election. On Tuesday, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll revealed that one in

three Democrats thought Biden should end his re-election bid following the debate. The survey also found the 78-year-old Trump and Biden maintain the support of 40 percent of registered voters, suggesting that the latter has not lost ground since the debate. Meanwhile, a CBS News poll released on Monday found that 45 per cent of Democrats want Biden to step aside.

Lloyd Doggett, a Democratic lawmaker in the House of Representatives, became the first in the party to publicly call for Biden to step down, saying the President's debate debacle had failed to "effectively defend his many accomplishments". In a statement on Tuesday, Doggett said, "My decision to make these strong reservations public is not done lightly nor does it in any way diminish my respect for all that President Biden has achieved. Recognising that, unlike Trump, President Biden's first commitment has always been to our country, not himself, I am hopeful that he will make the painful and difficult decision to withdraw."

Trump's sentencing in hush money case delayed to September, weeks before US polls

Washington Donald Trump's sentencing for his conviction on criminal charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star was delayed on Tuesday until September 18, less than seven weeks before the US election. Justice Juan Merchan pushed back the sentencing date so he can weigh the former US president's argument he should have been immune from prosecution under Monday's landmark Supreme Court ruling that presidents cannot be criminally prosecuted for official acts. The new timeline means Merchan could decide the Republican presidential candidate's punishment, including whether to jail him, in the thick of the campaign season before the November 5 election. The sentencing had previously been set for July 11, just days before the July 15 kickoff of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. Trump faces an uphill battle getting the hush money conviction overturned, since much of the conduct at issue in the case predated his time in office.

Trump's lawyers on Monday asked Merchan to allow them to argue his conviction should be overturned due to the justices' 6-3 ruling on July 1, which also held that evidence related to presidents' official actions cannot be used to help prove criminal cases involving unofficial actions.

Prosecutors with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said earlier on Tuesday that Trump's argument was "without merit," but agreed to delay the sentencing to give Trump the chance to make his case. A Manhattan jury on May 30 found Trump guilty of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer Michael Cohen's \$130,000 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels to stay quiet about an alleged 2006 sexual encounter until after the 2016 election, in which Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Prosecutors said the payment was part of an illicit scheme to influence the election. Trump denies having had sex with Daniels and has vowed to appeal the conviction after his sentencing.

'A PURELY PERSONAL ITEM' In their letter to Merchan, defence lawyers argued that prosecutors had presented evidence involving Trump's official acts as president, including social media posts he made and conversations he had while in the White House.

"This official-acts evidence should never have been put before the jury," lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove wrote. Last year, Trump made a similar argument as part of an unsuccessful push to move the hush money case to federal court. In July 2023, US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein wrote that the payment to Daniels "was a purely personal item." "Hush money paid to an adult film star is not related to a president's official acts," Hellerstein wrote.

Employer arrested for Indian farm worker's death in Italy

ROME. Italian police have arrested the owner of the agriculture company who dumped a 31-year-old Indian worker on the road without medical assistance after his arm was severed by heavy farm machinery, causing his death, a tragic incident that shocked the country and its leadership. Satnam Singh was abandoned by his employer after a strawberry wrapping machine severed his arm in Lazio, near Rome, last month and died due to "copious bleeding", the ANSA news agency reported. The Sikh casual farm labourer died in a hospital in Rome two days later after being airlifted there when he was eventually found. Police on Tuesday arrested the alleged gang master, Antonello Lovato, on suspicion of causing Singh's manslaughter death, the report said. Prosecutors said in a statement that the Sikh farmer, who died of a massive haemorrhage in a Rome hospital, "would in all likelihood have been saved if he had been

promptly assisted". "We were waiting for this news, we were angry," the president of the Lazio Indian community, Gurmukh Singh, said. "The worst thing (Lovato) did was to leave him outside his home instead of taking him to hospital," he was quoted as saying. "An accident can happen, but not calling for medical assistance is unacceptable," he said.

Singh's death has spurred outrage at gang mastering, which is widespread in Italy, especially in the south of the country, and modern forms of slavery. According to an earlier report, Lovato loaded Singh and his wife into a van and left them by the side of the road near their home. Singh's severed arm was placed in a fruit crate.

Meanwhile, Singh's widow Soni, who was treated for shock after the incident, received a special 'justice' stay permit to end her legal status in Italy, it said. On June 26, India asked Italy to take prompt action against those

responsible for Singh's death. Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary [CPV & OIA], conveyed to Luigi Maria Vignali, the Director General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, India's "deep concern" about the death of Singh, the Indian Embassy in Italy said in a post on X. He called for prompt action against those responsible. "Embassy is in contact with the family of Satnam Singh for consular help & transportation of mortal remains," the mission added.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said last month that Singh, one of thousands of Indian immigrants who work the fields in the country, was the victim of "inhuman acts". "These are inhuman acts that do not belong to the Italian people. I hope that this barbarity will be punished harshly," she said following a Cabinet meeting.

Italy's Minister of Labour, Marina Calderone, said the death of Singh had been an "act of barbarity".

Police use tear gas as 'Ruto must go' chants heard at tax hike protests in Kenya

Protesters in Kenya have condemned police brutality amid deadly demonstrations over the withdrawn tax bill, call for president to resign.

Nairobi. Riot police fired tear gas grenades and charged at stone-throwing protesters in downtown Nairobi and across Kenya on Tuesday in the most widespread unrest since at least two dozen protesters died in clashes a week ago. The nationwide demonstrations signalled that President William Ruto had failed to appease a spontaneous youth protest movement, despite having abandoned plans for tax rises that triggered the unrest last week. Tuesday's demonstrations began in ebullient mood but turned violent as the day wore on. In Nairobi's downtown business district, police wearing helmets and carrying shields and wooden clubs charged at the protesters, and tear gas



bombs exploded in the crowds. BEAUTIFUL DAY "We are determined to push for the president's resignation," said Ojango Omondi, an activist in Nairobi. "We hope for a peaceful protest and minimal casualties, if any." The authorities appealed for calm. "It's a beautiful day to choose patriotism. A beautiful day to choose peace, order and the sanctity of our nationhood," State House communications director Gerald Bitok wrote on X on Tuesday, adding in Swahili: "Violence is not patriotism." Opposition leader Raila Odinga, runner-up in the last four presidential elections, backed the protesters though they have called on politicians to keep out of it. "The youth have given our country its last best chance," Odinga's ODM party said in

a statement. "We either seize it and swim with it by implementing all their demands, or we ignore it and sink the country altogether." The protests, which started as an online outpouring of anger over nearly \$2.7 billion of tax increases in a proposed finance bill, have grown into a nationwide movement against corruption and misgovernance.

Ruto has directed the treasury to come up with ways to cut spending to fill a budget gap left by the withdrawal of the tax plans, and also said more borrowing would be required. Veteran anti-corruption activist John Githongo told Reuters that while Ruto had addressed the nation and media, "there isn't an indication that he wants to take action" on protesters' demands, including firing corrupt officials.

"There hasn't been any indication by the government that they are going to take the calls to deal with corruption seriously," he said. The protests had been mostly peaceful until June 25, when some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament and set part of it ablaze, prompting police to open fire.

Ruto has defended the actions of the police and blamed the violence on "criminals" who had hijacked the demonstrations.

Does State have any law to protect trees, asks Telangana HC

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court on Tuesday questioned the state government whether it had any mechanism or statutory provision to save greenery, conserve trees and maintain the ecological balance in the state, especially in urban areas. A bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti directed Additional A-G Imran Khan to inform it by Thursday. The bench was dealing with a PIL filed by K Pratap Reddy complaining that the state government and local bodies like GHMC and municipal corporations are failing to provide adequate green spaces / park areas / recreational areas for the citizens. He said that it is a failure of the state, and violation of citizens' fundamental rights including the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The petitioner requested the court to direct the authorities and the state government to ensure adequate maintenance of the existing public parks / green spaces and to identify and demarcate the land for development of public parks in various urban centres of the state. Gorantla Sri Ranga Pujitha, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that indiscriminate felling of trees in rural and urban areas was leading to erratic rainfalls, recurring famines and floods, soil erosion and consequent ecological disturbances. The bench commented that the people living in the towns and cities are moving in a concrete jungle and there was a need for parks and greenery and said that the state must bring the provision to preserve the existing greenery and to ensure the new greenery and to maintain them properly. Justice Aradhe cited that the neighbouring state has a statutory provision called Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, which regulates the felling of trees and the planting of adequate numbers to restore ecological balance.

For BJP, Katchatheevu is only an election-time rhetoric, says Stalin

CHENNAI: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday charged that despite coming to power for the third consecutive term, the BJP-led union government has not made any tangible and meaningful effort to retrieve Katchatheevu except using the issue as election-time rhetoric. Stalin made this charge while expressing serious concern over an unprecedented increase in the instances of the arrest of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lanka Navy in recent weeks. Referring to the arrest of 25 fishermen from Tamil Nadu by Sri Lanka on July 1, Stalin said the need of the hour is to ease the problems faced by the Tamil fishermen and find a lasting solution to this problem. Urging External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take concrete steps to find a lasting solution to this vexatious issue, the CM, in his letter recalled the union minister's statement on June 27 that the genesis of this issue goes back to 1974 following an understanding between the then union government and the state government over the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. Stalin said the then state government was not properly consulted in this regard; it was the then union government that ceded the island to Sri Lanka completely, jeopardising and depriving the rights and interests of Indian fishermen. In this regard, Stalin pointed out that the DMK-led state government and the then CM M Karunanidhi opposed the Katchatheevu agreement tooth and nail. Stalin also said the former CM had even filed a sworn-in affidavit before the SC and categorically pointed out that since entire exercises undertaken by GOI are



devoid of constitutionality, it cannot be said the sovereignty of Katchatheevu was a settled matter. Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami wrote on X, "Retrieving the island alone can be a permanent solution to the recurring arrests of Tamil fishermen."

"In a post on X, BJP state president K Annamalai said while ceding Katchatheevu to Lanka, the then CM Karunanidhi was fully aware of the development and was inclined towards accepting the suggested solution. This, Annamalai said, was revealed in the minutes of the meeting between the then foreign secretary and Karunanidhi.

"Yet, his son is lying to people that the DMK was firmly opposed to the ceding. The steps taken by PM Modi has only ensured the lives of fishermen are not at risk unlike the times of the UPA regime."

Fishers' arrest: Indefinite strike begins at Pamban

Ramanathapuram: Condemning the arrest of 25 fishermen by the Lankan navy, the country boat fishermen's association in Pamban commenced an indefinite strike on Tuesday.

The association urged the union government to take immediate action to secure the fishers' release and retrieve the boats.

People evicted for Ukkadam flyover seek houses

MUMBAI: A youth strangled his girlfriend to death and left her house to end his life but did not dare to do so. This made him go to the Kabrastaan (graveyard) sat beside his mother's grave in Andheri (East) for over five hours before his father located him and handed him to the Sahar police station at 12.30 pm on Sunday.

Police said the 22-year-old youth named Zaib Khawaja Solkar strangled his 18-year-old girlfriend, Sara Sayyed, to death in her flat at Ashok Tower in Marol Naka, Mumbai at 4.30 after she, a Class XII college student, allowed him access to her bedroom through the backdoor late on Saturday night.

Sayyed's father and younger brother, aged around 14, were asleep in the hall, unaware of Solkar's presence due to the locked bedroom door. "Solkar, who is pursuing an AC mechanic course after completing Class XII, confessed to having a fight with the victim after spending some time together. He used Sayyed's dupatta (scarf) to strangle her," said a police officer of the Sahar police station.

In the morning, Sayyed's family found her motionless and rushed her to the hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival. Police said after committing the crime, Solkar left the flat through the back door and purchased rat poison from the Chimanpada locality in Andheri (East).

Solkar said he tried to kill himself but did not dare to consume the poison. "This made him go to the graveyard and sit beside his mother's grave before his father tracked him. Solkar and the victim have known each other for the last three years. They even had a verbal fight on social media three days ago before he killed her early morning on Sunday," said the police. Police booked Solkar under the Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder) and took him into custody for five days. **COIMBATORE:** Over 200 people, including sanitary workers who are residing in temporary sheds at Pullukadu, staged a dharna at the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) head office on Tuesday. They demanded the civic body to vacate the traders and demolish the old fish market building and hand it over to the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board at the earliest to construct a new housing unit for the 520 families who lost their houses for the Ukkadam flyover project.

The Ukkadam-Aathupalam flyover project works were started in 2018 in Coimbatore. In order to make way for the flyover's ramps, several houses and old housing units at CMC Colony in Ukkadam were demolished and the officials promised the people that they would construct a new housing unit in the same area and provide them with temporary sheds in Pullukadu. Though six years have passed, the officials have not provided them with proper housing facilities. Due to this, over 200 people residing in the sheds arrived at the CCMC head office and staged a dharna. Sumathi, one of the affected people said, "It has been over five years since we vacated our houses and moved into temporary sheds. Still, there has been no solution. Some of them had no option but to move out and rent another house as the sheds began to leak and turned to be unsafe for children and adolescent girl children.

Karnataka to adopt Centre's plastic waste management rules amid ongoing violations

BENGALURU: Despite the ban on single-use plastic carry bags, large quantities of such used bags are seen strewn across towns and cities. Further, prohibited plastic carry bags are in circulation in the name of biodegradable ones. Taking note of this, Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials to drop or amend the plastic waste management rules. He also directed them to follow the rules introduced by the Union Government on using biodegradable carry bags that dissolve within 180 days. Khandre had held a meeting with the officials earlier, sought to know why prohibited plastic carry bags are still in use. He told them to take steps and ensure that biodegradable vegetable poly liquid acid polymer bags are manufactured and sold. The minister asked the officials to submit a report on adopting the Central Environment Department's Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021-22. When the officials explained that bags made of maize extract, will dissolve within six months, Khandre said if it is proved scientifically, then permission could be granted to manufacture them for public use. Principal secretary of Ecology and Environment, BP Ravi told TNIE that new rules are being framed and they will be sent to the urban development and finance departments for approval. Later, they will be sent to the state cabinet. The new rules are being framed to change the definition of plastic carry bags, since processed plastic is used in place of biodegradable bags, and prohibited plastic carry bags are also in circulation, he said. Principal secretary of Ecology and Environment, BP Ravi told TNIE that new rules are being framed and they will be sent to the urban development and finance departments.

Kerala: Organ harvesting racket did not pay promised compensation to donors

KOCHI: The donors who fell prey to the recently busted global organ trafficking racket were not paid the promised compensation despite the recipients paying the amounts demanded by the racket, police investigation has revealed. Kalamassery resident Sajith Shyam, 43 -- the third accused in the case -- made these revelations during the interrogation. He admitted to transferring the funds collected to a medical tourism firm operated by the prime suspect, Madhu Jayakumar, in Kochi. This firm, which posed as a medical tourism enterprise, was a cover for illegal organ transplants, sources with the police confirmed. Sajith is learnt to have told investigators that donors were promised up to Rs 6 lakh per organ, but the police found that the racket charged recipients up to Rs 50 lakh in some cases. While four persons have been arrested so far, Madhu Jayakumar remains at large, according to the police. The investigators have found a broad criminal conspiracy behind the organ trafficking. Charges of criminal conspiracy have been invoked against the accused. The police found that Sajith had witnessed the rent agreement for the medical tourism firm, indicating he had prior knowledge of the criminal

activities, a source said. The racket was uncovered with the arrest of Valappad resident Sabith Nasar from Kochi airport on May 19. Sabith confessed to facilitating the travel of 20 Indians to Iran for organ harvesting. His confession led to Sajith's implication in the case. Sajith admitted to acting as an interlink between Madhu and the organ donors. The police found evidence of significant financial transactions, illegally collected from the recipients, and frequent phone calls between Sajith and Madhu. Sajith and Madhu are childhood friends, with Sajith claiming that Madhu told him he was running a medical business in India and Iran. Some clients could not transfer money directly to Madhu's account, so they transferred it to Sajith who then forwarded it to Madhu. However, the police believe Sajith had prior knowledge of the criminal activities.

It was also discovered that none of the donors received the necessary post-operative care. The donors were taken to a private hospital in Iran, where they donated organs to matched recipients.



Aditya-L1 achieves milestone with first halo orbit around L1 point, ISRO confirms

BENGALURU: Aditya-L1, India's maiden mission to the Sun launched on September 2, 2023, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange 1 point, ISRO announced on Tuesday. The observatory satellite was inserted into its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024. The spacecraft has taken 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point. This extraordinary feat and crucial manoeuvre was possible because of the state-of-the-art flight dynamics software developed inhouse at UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru. Completing the orbit has made the software fully reliable, and validated the capability of Aditya-L1 missions. The spacecraft took a precise three-dimensional trajectory. The final firing of the thrusters on July 2 placed the spacecraft back in the required orbit. If an accurate firing was not done, the spacecraft would have moved away from the designated orbit. Through a graph, ISRO also showed if the critical manoeuvre hadn't worked, what divergent path Aditya L1 would have been on. "It underwent two station-keeping manoeuvres on February 22 and June 7, respectively, to maintain this orbit. Today's 3rd station-keeping manoeuvre has ensured that its travel continued into the revolution around the L1 point second halo orbit path around L1," said ISRO in a statement. During its travel in the halo orbit, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft was subjected to various strong and unsettling forces that caused it to depart from the targeted orbit. Scientists explained that the journey of Aditya L1 around the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point involves modelling complex dynamics. "Understanding of various perturbing forces acting on the spacecraft helped in determining the trajectory accurately and planning precise orbit manoeuvres," said the space agency. Aditya-L1 carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and corona of the Sun using electromagnetic and particle detectors. The mission aims to provide crucial insights into solar physics and space weather and moreover.

Woman's body parts exhumed 15 years after she went 'missing' in Kerala

ALAPPUZHA: It sounds like an episode out of a crime thriller series. Acting on a tip-off, police on Tuesday exhumed body parts, suspected to be of a woman who went missing 15 years ago, from the septic tank of her husband's home at Eramathoor, near Mannar. Police said that Kala was killed by her husband Anil and confederates. Five of his accomplices have been taken into custody. A special team has been constituted to investigate the murder. "The incident came to light after the Ambalappuzha police received an anonymous letter a couple of months ago. The letter claimed that Kala was strangled to death by her husband and relatives, and buried in the septic tank in his house. We started a covert investigation and got some clues," District Police Chief Chaitra Theresa John said. "Later, we took five into custody and they confessed to the crime. They confirmed the claim in the



letter that Kala's body was dumped in the septic tank," she said. The exhumed body parts will now be sent for forensic examination and DNA test, and only after that it could be ascertained whether they were of Kala, Chaitra said. Anil, who was engaged in small-time construction works, and Kala, belonging to different castes, fell in love and got married despite opposition from his family. After the marriage, she stayed at the house of Anil's relative. After one year, she gave birth to a son. Later, Anil went to Angola for his job. After being alerted by

relatives that Kala was having an affair with a youth, Anil flew back. On the pretext of sorting out the issue through discussion, he took her to Kuttanad, and strangled her with the help of his accomplices inside the vehicle, the DPC said. Anil concocted a story that Kala eloped with her lover, abandoning her son. Everyone, including Kala's relatives, believed the story. However, her brother filed a missing complaint. The police failed to trace her. Anil married again and the couple has two children. He reconstructed the old house but did not destroy the old septic tank. He went to Israel for work a few months ago. After receiving the anonymous letter, the police reopened the file and took some relatives of Anil into custody and it led to the arrest of others. Soman, a relative of Anil, Suresh, Pramod, Santhosh, and Jinu Rajan are under police custody.

1 killed, 7 students & teachers hurt as truck rams into school bus in Nellore

NELLORE: One person was killed while seven students and teachers sustained minor injuries after a truck crashed into a school bus on NH-16 near Kavali in Nellore district on Tuesday. There were 37 people, including the bus driver and cleaner, students and teachers, on the bus when the incident happened. The deceased has been identified as D Chinna Malakondiah (60). "The school bus belongs to RSR Educational Institutions. The incident took place when the students were on their way to school," said Kavali Traffic DSP M Venkata Ramana. The bus was turning towards the school when an oncoming truck rams into it from behind, causing it to overturn. Passersby

responded swiftly and rushed the injured to a nearby hospital in Kavali. On receiving the news about the accident, the parents of the students reached the hospital immediately. Police arrived at the scene to manage traffic and launch an investigation into the incident. The overturned bus, which had blocked the road, was moved to restore traffic flow. The body of the deceased cleaner was transferred to a government hospital for post-mortem. "The driver of the truck abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene. The truck was seized and a case has been registered," Venkata Ramana said. Soon after the accident, Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh posted on X,

"The incident of a lorry hitting a school bus near Kavali today has left me deeply worried. Sadly, a cleaner died in the accident. The authorities have been ordered to provide immediate better treatment to the children injured in the accident. School managements should keep their buses in condition and be vigilant about the fitness of the buses." Expressing shock over the incident, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy described the death of the cleaner as heartbreaking. He voiced serious concern over the injuries suffered by the children and assured government assistance for the bereaved family. The MP also pledged enhanced medical support for the injured students.



Agnipath scheme has led to an acute shortfall in manpower

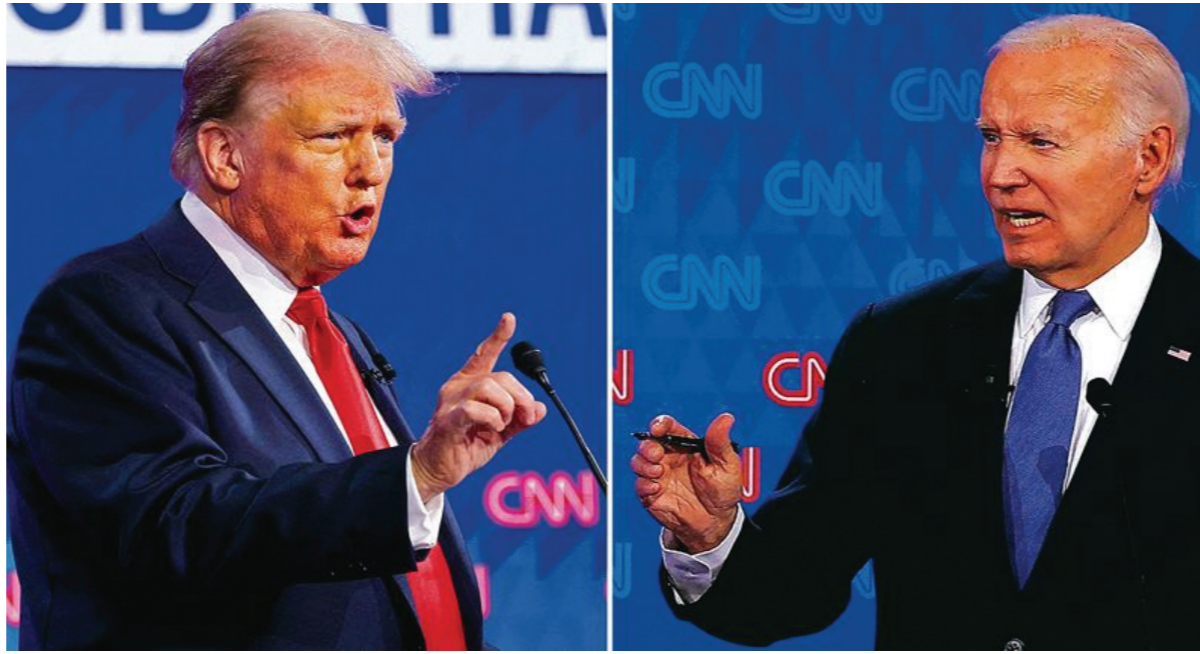
ANY systemic transformation that relies on 'after the fact' mechanism to rectify errors is inherently flawed. The Agnipath scheme stands out as one such example. The scheme was ceremoniously rolled out two years ago. Touted to transform the recruitment process of 'personnel below officer rank' (PBOR), it has sought to cut down the burgeoning pension bill and ensure a youthful profile of other ranks in the armed forces. The scheme has faced resistance from young aspirants passionate to join the armed forces. Periodically, it has been in the news and, of late, there is a strong demand across the spectrum for its holistic review.

The Agnipath idea draws from the 'Tour of Duty' (ToD) concept, which is widely prevalent in Western armies to overcome the shortage of optants for the military service. It was Gen Bipin Rawat, then Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), who conceived the idea of introducing ToD in our armed forces. The original plan was to test-bed the proposal by recruiting small numbers. However, the scheme was apparently pushed through unilaterally. It is evident from the reported disclosures in the book Four Stars of Destiny by a former Chief of Army Staff, Gen MM Naravane, wherein he describes the scheme as a 'bolt from the blue' for the three services.

Currently, under the scheme, Agniveers in the age group of 17.5 to 21 years and with Class X/XII qualification are recruited for a period of four years after six months of training. Only 25 per cent of them are to be retained and re-enrolled for a period of 15 years on fresh terms of service, with entitlement to pension and post-retirement benefits. Those released are to be given a severance package — Seva Nidhi — of Rs 10 lakh. The total number of defence pensioners is about 24.62 lakh; of them, armed forces veterans constitute around 19 lakh and civilians 5.62 lakh. Going by the figures of 2022, when the Agnipath scheme was introduced, the defence budget was Rs 5,25,166 crore, of which the pension outlay was Rs 2,07,132 crore. While the share of defence personnel stood at Rs 1,19,696 crore, the civilian component was Rs 87,436 crore, the latter accounting for a disproportionate 40 per cent share of the pensionary budget. The adverse impact of the scheme is evident from the fact that individuals seeking an honourable career in the armed forces, many in keeping with family traditions, are now looking for alternative avenues, with the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) being the top choice. I have witnessed this trend in my home state of Punjab. There is also a general feeling among the Agniveers that those released will bear the stigma of being discards and not be seen as proud veterans. Given the high rate of unemployment, particularly among the youth, the released Agniveers are unlikely to get a decent job; the idea of lateral placement into the CAPF is far-fetched. Recently, there were two instances of Agniveers who made the supreme sacrifice while deployed in operational areas. Their kin were entitled to only a lump sum compensation as against those of the regular soldiers who are eligible for full pension. This discrimination stands out as a serious anomaly. In the units today, there are two categories of soldiers: the regulars and the Agniveers. There is an unhealthy competition and obvious stress among the Agniveers in their quest to qualify for retention. It is indeed detrimental to the camaraderie and esprit de corps, the bedrock of unit culture and regimentation, the cutting edge of our armed forces as against the better-equipped adversaries. Incidentally, the performance of 'tourist soldiers' has been found wanting — be it Americans in Vietnam and Afghanistan, Israelis in Gaza and troops in the Russia-Ukraine war. Even the Chinese army conscripts have performed poorly in Ladakh during the ongoing standoff. Agnipath has led to an acute shortfall in manpower; while the yearly retirement count is around 70,000, the Agniveer intake is just 42,000. With 25 per cent retention, the deficiency is set to grow further.

Biden's debate fiasco deals a blow to his campaign

Russia has been the steadiest of India's allies, both in the best and the worst of times. The bilateral relations just cannot be undermined or weakened.



THERE are wars raging in Gaza and Ukraine, and tensions are running high around Taiwan and the Philippines. You may not believe it, but perhaps the gravest crisis that the world may face could be in the US, which is looking like it could elect a narcissist, liar and convicted felon as its President this November.

Millions of Americans saw President Joe Biden on debate night on Thursday, delivering his answers in a hoarse, faltering voice, slack-jawed and struggling to string his thoughts together. The performance has set off alarm bells ringing across the world. Instead of focusing on his substantial achievements as the President, we have been forced to look at the issue of his age. Biden's aides had hoped that the debate would help steady their somewhat slow-moving campaign. Instead, it may have undermined it completely. Since then, there have been calls by prominent voices for Biden to step aside to enable a younger candidate to take his place. Debate disasters are not new. But what makes this a first-class crisis is the fact that it could propel Donald Trump back into the White House. Almost all the commentary noted that Trump's attacks on Biden were often false and mostly misleading. But all he had to do was be Donald Trump. The damage was done to Biden by himself.

Given his felony convictions, other looming cases and his history, Trump is unfit to be the President of the US.

But he is what we will get, given the current circumstances. Biden supporters believe that the President has the opportunity to make up for the fiasco by improving his performance in the next debate in September. But given that things are going his way, why would Trump want any further debates?

Just 14 hours after the debate, Biden addressed a campaign rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was forceful, confident and landing hard political punches on Trump and the Republicans. Unlike in the debate, he gave categorical and clear outlines of his positions on abortion, immigration, taxes and race. But does this suggest that Biden could still turn things around? It's too early to say. Over the years, the Biden team has carefully managed his sleeping hours, his walk to the Marine One helicopter and his climb aboard aircraft to mute concerns over his age. But the debate performance last week has shattered the efforts to show Biden at his best. Insiders say that Biden performs best between 10 am and 4 pm. But the debate began at 9 pm and went on till 10.30 pm.

Biden accepted at the Raleigh rally that his debate performance was poor. "I know I am not a young man. I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to," he told the crowd. But that is precisely the point: age is a factor. As of now, his allies are publicly

supporting him. This includes his former boss, ex-President Barack Obama, and a clutch of potential candidates who could replace Biden were he to step aside — Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Governors JB Pritzker of Illinois, Gavin Newsom of California, Wes Moore of Maryland and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan.

One major advantage is that the debate happened in June, when four more months are left for the elections. In terms of the US presidential election cycle, it is early, and it offers an opportunity for Biden to turn things around. Other events can and will take place in the US and around the world until November, dulling the impact of Biden's debate performance last week. Large numbers of Americans simply do not focus on elections until a week or two before polling. You can be sure, though, that Republicans will use videos of Biden's performance to keep memories of the debate alive through attack ads. Biden versus Trump is all about the election. And despite poor polling numbers, Biden still has a fighting chance to beat Trump. But the debate performance has thrown a bright light on the issue of Biden's age and raised doubts about whether he is capable of managing the presidency till 2029, when he will be 86. This central question, which is linked to the important decision on whether he should step aside for another candidate, demands answers, and soon. The Democratic National Convention will be held in August, and Biden could well show the electorate in the coming month that he is indeed fit to continue. But if he is unable to do so, the delay would make it difficult for the party to find another candidate to take over the campaign and win.

The Democratic Party rules make it almost impossible to replace Biden at the top of the ticket unless he voluntarily steps aside since most of the 4,000 estimated delegates are pledged to him already.

Biden could step aside, even while endorsing an alternative. But the issue would inevitably divide the Democrats at a crucial time when they need to be united not just for the presidential campaign but for the elections to the entire House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, several governorships and state legislatures. The Democrats are hoping they can retain their Senate majority and win the House of Representatives as well. Both Houses have slim majorities, and the races there are almost as important as winning the presidential poll. The problem they now face is that the presidential worries could also adversely affect these other important elections.

New criminal laws

Wake-up call for infra and urban planning



THE three new criminal laws came into effect on Monday amid a verbal duel between the ruling BJP and the main Opposition party, the Congress. The former described the laws as a symbol of India's progress and resilience, while the latter accused the government of getting them forcibly passed in Parliament after the suspension of 146 MPs. The Congress has declared that the INDIA bloc will not allow such 'bulldozer justice' to prevail in the parliamentary system. The government has repeatedly stressed that these statutes — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam — will give priority to providing justice and protecting rights, arguably in contrast to the draconian colonial laws which laid emphasis on penal action. However, the Opposition is not convinced. Nor are some legal experts, who have raised concerns over possible misuse of the laws. There are also

apprehensions about a surge in litigation in the form of appeals seeking re-evaluation of the existing cases (registered before July 1, 2024) or a review of the new legal framework. Even as a chaotic rollout is only to be

expected, the government will find itself under increasing pressure to pay heed to suggestions made by various stakeholders and consider amendments to fine-tune the laws. Calls to scrap the statutes altogether will also get shriller.

The push for reforms to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act seems well-intentioned, but it will be an onerous task for the BJP-led government — now a shadow of its former all-powerful self — to get everyone on board. Implementing the new laws is a huge challenge for law enforcement agencies, judicial officers and legal professionals. Litigants, too, will have to confront new complications. Clarity and transparency hold the key to reducing uncertainty as well as confusion. The powers that be will have to work very hard to prevent the fiasco of the three farm laws, which were repealed after a year-long protest by farmers.

The churn in the global liberal order

Public disillusionment is being shaped by the inequitable benefits of globalisation

THE Lok Sabha elections have set the stage for a series of critical elections globally. The Iranian presidential election was held on June 24 to find a successor to President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May. With none of the candidates getting at least 50 per cent of the votes, there will be a run-off between the top two contenders. In France, after his party's rout in the European parliamentary elections, President Emmanuel Macron ordered a domestic parliamentary election. Huge gains by the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen are being projected. The two-phase polls will end on July 7.

The UK is also poll-bound after Indian-origin Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ordered early parliamentary elections. A massive win for the Labour Party after 14-year Tory rule is foreseen, with Keir Starmer tipped to be the PM.

The most significant election is of the US President in November. The opening debate between President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump was held by CNN on June 27. An incoherent and defensive Biden faced a glib and dissimulating Trump. They sparred over the economy, immigration, abortion and the Ukraine and Gaza wars. This churn in established democracies, the ascendancy of far-right parties in Europe, the possibility of Trump's re-election and Iran throwing up another conservative President raise questions about the state of the liberal democratic order. In 1989, Francis Fukuyama wrote in The National Interest that the world faced the 'end of history'. He later explained that with the Berlin Wall's fall in November 9, 1989, change appeared inevitable in the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact nations. The Western model of a liberal democratic state tied to the market economy appeared universally acceptable. However, liberal democracies across all continents appear challenged today. Public disillusionment is being shaped by globalisation's inequitable benefits and immigration-induced

xenophobia, feeding the rise of far-right parties. In India, populist and majoritarian politics has been moulded by bigotry and jingoism. The scenario is complicated by the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The Indian poll results brought relief to the G7 nations. The democratic recession in India and the repressive use of agencies against the Opposition have elicited criticism from the Western media and even by parliamentarians.

But the lure of Indian markets and the Indian role as a counterweight to China compelled foreign leaders to hold their noses and engage India transactionally. The BJP's loss of parliamentary majority and dependence on allies, at least theoretically, is expected to restore constitutionalism. But the ruling party's initial moves, like the renomination of Om Birla as the Speaker despite his poor record, has dampened hopes.

President Biden is in the damage-control mode after his disastrous performance in the debate with Trump. The Iran-China-Russia axis would have observed this as well as the increased possibility of Trump's return. Russian President Vladimir Putin would take solace in Trump reiterating his ability to end the Ukraine war quickly. That implies acceptance of the status quo by Ukraine. European Union (EU) states would also brace for turbulent trade and strategic ties with a Trump-led US. There is speculation that if French President Macron's gamble goes awry, he may resign. Le Pen has moderated her party's stand on some issues, compared to her more radically right-wing father's views. She is even endorsing military support to Ukraine. However, her party remains sceptical about the benefits of the EU. After the Brexit blow by Britain in February 2020,

another exit or even a debate about it would weaken the group. The Conservative Party is projected to lose the July 4 British parliamentary elections. If elected, the Labour Party will inherit a weak economy and post-Brexit disillusionment. But its leader Keir Starmer has moved the party to the political centre, like Tony Blair in the 1990s. Labour has announced a 'free to go' for a Free Trade Agreement with India. It advocates 'progressive



realism' in foreign policy. It seeks a new geopolitical partnership with the EU and an increase of the defence budget by 2.5 per cent, besides strengthened nuclear deterrence. It recalls that it was Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin in the post-World War II Labour government of Clement Attlee who helped create NATO and Britain's nuclear deterrence. In the Iranian presidential election, the sole reformist candidate, approved by the Guardian's Council, is Masoud Pezeshkian. He was the health minister in the government of reformist President Mohammad Khatami (1997-2005). Opposing him are

conservative politicians Saeed Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator, and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian parliament. ezheshkian's candidature is being attributed to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's worry over mere 48 per cent voting in 2021, when late President Raisi had won the election. The Iranian voters may be denied a real choice with politically vetted candidates, but they can express their disapproval of the Islamic regime by avoiding voting. The elected President's legitimacy is more crucial than ever before due to the economic stress faced by the people due to Western sanctions. Huge crowds at polling booths late in the evening indicated revived public interest in the political contest.

Pezeshkian led in the first round, with Jalili second. In the runoff, the third candidate's votes will shift to Jalili because both are supported by conservatives. The same happened in the 2005 presidential election when Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was trailing in the first round and then won in the second one as the conservative votes consolidated. Iranian people can sometimes surprise the Islamic regime by voting for reform.

Even Fukuyama would concede that three-and-a-half decades after his 'end of history' pronouncement, the global liberal order is challenged by a realignment of some of the old players. Instead of the Soviet Union, it is the China-Russia-Iran axis and North Korea now. India is still doing a balancing act between the two sides in a neo-Cold War, as demonstrated by PM Modi's upcoming visit to Russia. The difference is that maintaining equidistance is more difficult as China, which is inimical to India's rise, is co-leading one side. The BJP must register the June 4 message of the people. India's enemies are abroad, not at home.



Weekends are all about Monsoon Treks



Gautala Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Shuli Bhanjan hill, Brazen Glen group of caves and Gogababa hill are some of the hotspots for trekkers. City based trekking organizations say that monsoon treks over the weekend is quite popular and reveal that this year, enquiries have been pouring in due to early monsoon. Most organisers have decided to prepone their trekking dates. Kishor Gathadi, an experienced trekker says, "This year we are starting our trekking programmes earlier than usual. Generally we start from July as the monsoon is at its peak. But this time due to early rains we start from June 23. There are a lot of engineering students

With monsoon settling in, youngsters are geared up for exciting treks in and around Aurangabad.

who will be part of the treks this year, since most of them have just finished their exams. We have 60 entries so far and the number is increasing on a daily basis." Ravi Choudhary of another organization adds, "More than 50 students have enrolled with us so far. With early showers it's not a surprise that nature lovers want to get started with adventure activities." For most students trekking is an exciting activity that gets them close to nature and also helps stay fit naturally. Mansi Mahadik, student of

Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University says, "I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun trekking this year as the rains have been good." Kshitija Bardapurkar a student from Marathwada Institute of Technology College adds, "I cherish the memory months later after a trek. It provides a respite from the drab routine of city life. Nature also inspires me to write poetry." But it isn't only limited to being a fun activity

and also provides an opportunity to learn new things and spread environmental awareness for some. Ravi adds, "While conducting treks, we encourage the trekkers to clean the plastic littering the area and also plant seeds." Prakash Kulkarni, a student of Maulana Azad College who is all set to plant 500 neem seeds during his trek says, "Trekking is no doubt fun and a great form of exercise. But I also like to contribute to the environment in my own way.

I have bought 500 neem seeds which I will sow along the stretch that I pass during my trek." Meanwhile Rahul Ingle, another student from Maulana Azad College who has been an avid trekker since past five years, has plans to teach rappelling to new trekkers. Expert trekker Utsav Helambkar doles out some advice to new student trekkers. "Students should follow all the instructions given by their trekking head so as to avoid any mishap. Sometimes, girls tend to wear incorrect footwear during trekking. Wearing the right footwear, carrying enough food and water and a first aid box is very important. Also trekkers should walk in groups to reduce the risk of losing their way," ashokumarmundetiya.S

The western Grand Canyon was largely carved out by about 70 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, an analysis of mineral grains lying at the bottom of these hulking shapes reveals.



Grand Canyon

was carved out while dinosaurs roamed

The new research pushes back the conventionally accepted date for the formation of the Grand Canyon in Arizona by more than 60



million years, says Rebecca Flowers, assistant professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. The team used a dating method that exploits the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium atoms to helium atoms in a phosphate mineral known as apatite, said Flowers, who co-authored the study with Kenneth Farley, professor at the California Institute of Technology, the journal Science reports. The helium atoms were locked in the mineral grains as they cooled and moved closer to the surface during the carving of the Grand Canyon, she said, according to a Colorado statement. Temperature variations at shallow levels beneath the Earth's surface are influenced by topography, and the thermal history recorded by

the apatite grains allowed the team to infer how much time had passed since there was significant natural excavation of the Grand Canyon, Flowers said. "Our research implies that the Grand Canyon was directly carved to within a few hundred meters of its modern depth by about 70 million years ago," said Flowers. Flowers said the entire modern canyon may not have been carved all at the same time. Different canyon segments may have evolved separately before coalescing into what visitors see today. Over a mile deep in places, Arizona's steeply sided Grand Canyon is about 280 miles long and up to 18 miles wide in places. Visited by more than five million people annually, the iconic canyon was likely carved in

large part by an ancestral waterway of the Colorado River that was flowing in the opposite direction millions of years ago, said Flowers. "An ancient Grand Canyon has important implications for understanding the evolution of landscapes, topography, hydrology and tectonics in the western U.S. and in mountain belts more generally," said Flowers.



Amid Hathras tragedy, a look at India's deadly stampedes at religious events

The Hathras tragedy is not an isolated event and India has a long history of deadly stampedes at religious gatherings over the years.

New Delhi: Over 120 people, most of them women and children, died in a stampede at a satsang (religious congregation) in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras in one of the worst such tragedies in recent years. The gathering was organised by Narayan Sakaar Hari, also known as Sakaar Vishwa Hari or Bhole Baba. However, such a tragedy is not an isolated event and India has a long history of deadly stampedes at religious gatherings over the years. One of the deadliest stampedes took place at Maharashtra's Mandhardevi temple in 2005, which claimed 340 lives. Another stampede at Chamunda Devi temple in Rajasthan's Jodhpur in 2008 killed 250 people. At least 36 people died when a slab on top of an ancient 'baoli' or well collapsed during a 'havan' programme held on the occasion of Ram Navami at a temple in Indore city. January 1, 2022: At least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir

triggered by a heavy rush of devotees. July 14, 2015: 27 pilgrims died, and 20 others were injured in a stampede at a major bathing spot on the banks of the Godavari river where a huge crowd of devotees had gathered on the opening day of 'Pushkaram' festival in Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

October 3, 2014: 32 people were killed, and 26 others injured in a stampede at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, shortly after the Dussehra celebrations ended.

October 13, 2013: 115 people were killed and over 100 injured in a stampede during the Navratri festivities near Ratangarh temple in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district. The stampede was triggered by rumours that a river bridge the devotees were crossing was about to collapse. November 19, 2012: Around 20 people were killed, and many others injured as a makeshift bridge caved in, triggering a stampede during the Chhath Puja at Adalat Ghat on the bank of river



Ganga in Patna.

November 8, 2011: At least 20 people were killed in a stampede in Haridwar at Har-ki-Pauri ghat on the banks of the Ganga river.

January 14, 2011: At least 104 Sabarimala devotees were killed and over 40 were injured in a stampede when a jeep crashed into pilgrims at Pulmedu in Kerala's Idukki district. March 4, 2010: About 63 people were killed in a stampede at Ram Janki Temple of Kripalu Maharaj in Uttar

Pradesh's Pratapgarh district as people gathered to collect free clothes and food from the self-styled godman. September 30, 2008: Nearly 250 devotees were killed and over 60 injured in a stampede triggered by rumours of a bomb going off at Chamunda Devi temple in Rajasthan's Jodhpur city. August 3, 2008: 162 people died, and 47 were injured in a stampede triggered by rumours of rockslides at Naina Devi temple in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district. January 25, 2005: Over 340 devotees were trampled to death and hundreds injured during an annual pilgrimage at Mandhardevi temple in Maharashtra's Satara district. The accident occurred when some people fell down on the steps made slippery by the devotees breaking coconuts. August 27, 2003: 39 people were killed and around 140 injured in a stampede during the holy bath at the Kumbh Mela in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

Bhole Baba, Who Held Hathras Event, Has Sexual Assault Cases Against Him

New Delhi: A 'satsang' gathering in Uttar Pradesh addressed by self-styled godman Suraj Pal, known as Bhole Baba to his followers, descended into chaos and tragedy as a stampede resulted in the death of 121 people. The incident, which occurred in Hathras, was reportedly triggered by a frenzied rush to collect dust under the godman's feet, leading to a deadly crush where men, women, and children were trampled underfoot.

A video that has gone viral on social media shows the godman leaving the venue in his car and hundreds of devotees running behind his car to gather the dust as a token of blessings. Suraj Pal, alias Bhole Baba, has been known for his controversial 'satsangs' and has a history of legal troubles, including allegations of sexual assault. Despite multiple cases filed against him in various jurisdictions including Agra, Etawah, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, and Rajasthan, he continues to command a considerable following, drawn to his promises of spiritual enlightenment and blessings.

Born in Bahadur Nagar, Kasganj, Suraj Pal had a stint in the police department before facing legal troubles in 1997 related to allegations of sexual assault, for which he served time in prison. Upon his release, he reinvented himself as 'Saakar Vishwa Hari Baba', attracting devotees to his ashram in his ancestral village.

IAS Sivaguru Prabhakaran: From Factory Worker to Sleeping on Railway Platforms, The journey to the prestigious chair after UPSC

New Delhi: Passing the UPSC exam and becoming an IAS officer is the dream of millions of Indians. We often hear stories of candidates who overcome immense hardships to pass the UPSC exam and achieve their goal of becoming an IAS officer. Here, we will talk about one such officer who overcame all odds to clear the UPSC exam. We are talking about IAS officer M. Sivaguru Prabhakaran. Born into a farming family, Sivaguru's family members all had to work in the fields. Additionally, his father was an alcoholic. His mother and sister worked in the fields during the day and made baskets at night. Watching his mother and sister toil day and night, Sivaguru decided to drop out of school and start working at a sawmill.

"I worked at a sawmill for two years and did a bit of farming. Whatever money I could save, I spent some on



my family and saved some for my education. I was not ready to give up on my dreams," Sivaguru said in an interview.

Despite working in a factory, Sivaguru never forgot his dream. After his sister's marriage, he resumed his studies and helped his brother get an education. In 2008, Sivaguru enrolled in civil engineering at Thanthai Periyar Government Institute of Technology in Vellore. On weekends, IAS officer Sivaguru would study and stay on the platform of St. Thomas Mount Railway Station. During the week, he would return to his college in Vellore and work on his studies in his free time.

Despite the numerous hardships, IAS Sivaguru Prabhakaran remained focused on his goal. He successfully passed the IIT-M admission test and completed his M.Tech in 2014. After finishing his M.Tech, IAS Sivaguru Prabhakaran focused on his dream of cracking the UPSC exam. In his fourth attempt, he passed the UPSC exam and secured an All India Rank of 101. Sivaguru's story is a testament to perseverance and determination, showing that with hard work and dedication, one can overcome any obstacle to achieve their dreams.

After Hijab, Mumbai College Bans Torn Jeans, T Shirts, "Revealing Dresses"

New Delhi: Days after banning the hijab, a college in Mumbai has issued a new dress code barring students from wearing torn jeans, t-shirts, and "revealing dresses" on its premises.

In a notice issued by the administration of the Chembur Trombay Education Society's NG Acharya and DK Marathe College, students were asked to wear a "formal and decent" dress while on campus.

Students should wear formal and decent dress while on campus. They can wear half shirt or full shirt and trouser.

Girls can wear and Indian and western outfit. Students shall not wear any dress which reveals religion or shows cultural disparity. Jeans, t-shirts, revealing dresses and jerseys are not

allowed," a notice hanged on the college gate said. "Hijab, burka, naqab, stoles, caps and badges can be removed by going to common rooms on the ground floor and then only they can move throughout college campus," the notice dated June 27, 2024, said.

"Hijab, burka, naqab, stoles, caps and badges can be removed by going to common rooms on the ground floor and then only they can move throughout college campus," the notice dated June 27, 2024, said.

Some students claimed that they were unaware of the new dress code and were not allowed to enter the college as they wore jeans and t-shirts. The college had earlier imposed a ban on the hijab, naqab, burka, stoles, caps,

and badges inside the premises, following which the students had moved the Bombay High Court. In their petition, nine girl students said the ban was "arbitrary, unreasonable, bad-in-law and perverse". A division bench of Justices AS Chandurkar and Rajesh Patil, however, said it was not inclined to interfere in the decision taken by the college and dismissed the petition. Senior counsel Anil Anturkar, appearing for the college management, said the dress code was for all students belonging to every religion and caste.

The college claimed the decision to ban hijab, naqab, and burka was merely a disciplinary action for the uniform dress code and was not against the Muslim community.

IAS Officer Srushti Deshmukh's Marksheet Goes Viral: Here's Why People Are Curious About Her Scores

New Delhi: IAS officers' motivational stories often highlight how perseverance and hard work pay off.

Recently, the marksheet of IAS officer Srushti Jayant Deshmukh went viral, capturing the attention of many aspiring candidates and the general public. Srushti frequently advises UPSC candidates through social media, emphasizing the importance of a proper and strategic approach to cracking the civil services examination.

According to Srushti, passing the IAS exam is not insurmountable if one prepares correctly. She has always had a strong preference for academic activities. Srushti scored 93.2 percent in her CBSE Class 12 exams and achieved a perfect 10 CGPA in her Class 10 exams.

First Attempt Success
Srushti Deshmukh cleared the UPSC exam on her first attempt. She has



over 2 million followers on her Instagram account, where she remains active, sharing moments from her personal and public life.

Topper of 2018
In the 2018 UPSC exam, Srushti

secured the 5th rank overall and was the top female candidate. The key fact is that she began preparing for the UPSC exam while she was still an engineering student. In an interview, she mentioned that reading newspapers and watching Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV) significantly aided her preparation. Additionally, online study materials were beneficial.

Early Life and Education

Born on March 28, 1996, in Bhopal, Srushti completed her schooling at Carmel Convent School in Bhopal and earned an engineering degree. She credits her success to her family, maintaining her focus on work while preparing for the UPSC exam. She had decided that her first attempt would also be her last.

Samajwadi Party MP's big claim on stampede: Bid to make it Hindu-Muslim issue

RK Choudhary said the government's intention was not right after Chief Minister Adityanath asserted that a probe would reveal if the Hathras tragedy was an accident or a conspiracy.

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party MP RK Choudhary claimed the Uttar Pradesh government wanted to turn the Hathras stampede incident into a Hindu-Muslim issue, saying the Chief Minister's

intention was wrong. The stampede during a satsang (religious congregation) in Hathras killed over 120 people on Tuesday. Choudhary said the Uttar Pradesh government's intention was not right after Chief Minister Adityanath asserted that a probe would reveal if the Hathras tragedy was an accident or a conspiracy. The gathering was organised by godman Narayan Sakaar Hari, also known as Sakaar Vishwa Hari or Bhole Baba, who is absconding.

"The Yogi Adityanath government wants to make it a Hindu-Muslim issue. The Chief Minister's intention is wrong," the Samajwadi Party leader said. "Hathras is an accident. It is the failure of the administration and the organisers," Choudhary further said. He also said the police officials deployed at satsang could be seen folding hands before the godman.



"They were 'mast' in what the Baba was saying — 'na khata, na bahi, jo baba bole wahi sahi'," the MP said.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav blamed the government's negligence for the stampede. "The Uttar Pradesh government and administration are fully responsible for this incident. Some injured persons died due to lack of proper treatment. SOPs for large gatherings should be made to ensure that such incidents do not occur again," he

said. When asked about his images with the godman, Akhilesh Yadav ducked the question. "See what bad things the BJP can do... The BJP can stoop to any level," he said. A case has been filed against the organisers of the event, but the name of Bhole Baba does not figure in the list of accused in the FIR. 'Mukhya sevadar' Devprakash Madhukar and other organisers have been named in the FIR.

The FIR said 2.5 lakh people gathered for the event in which only 80,000 were permitted. The FIR alleged that the organisers hid the actual number of devotees coming to the 'satsang' while seeking police permission, did not cooperate in traffic management and hid evidence after the stampede. The stampede occurred as thousands of people rushed to touch the feet of the godman as he was leaving the venue.

No Emergency Exits, Lack Of Cops: Focus On Lapses After Hathras Stampede

New Delhi: Tough questions are being asked after 121 people were killed during a stampede at a 'religious' event in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras Tuesday evening, including which government body or official permitted such a large rally and why there were no crowd-control or safety measures, such as designated entry and exit points and provision of ambulances.

Police have filed a case against a close aide of the 'godman' - Suraj Pal Singh, who ordained himself Narayan Saakar Hari, or Bhole Baba, - who headlined the 'prayer meet' and the event organisers. The case does not mention Hari, who has, so far, evaded the cops. State police chief Prashant Kumar was non-committal when asked if Hari will be arrested, telling reporters, "Action will be taken based on facts arising during the investigation."

No arrests have been made thus far, despite Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's assurances and Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging the stampede mid-speech in Parliament. The aide of the 'godman' and the event organisers face charges that include culpable homicide not amounting to murder and wrongful restraint; the latter is applied in cases where the accused "voluntarily obstructs any person so as to prevent that person from proceeding in any direction which that person has a right to proceed..." Apart from those killed, over two dozen are in hospital.

Hathras Stampede Tragedy Lapses

Organisers told police they expected a crowd of around 80,000. The estimated attendance on the day, however, was over two lakh people.

Police believe the organisers deliberately underplayed the number of people expected at the meeting, possibly to face fewer restrictions in hosting the event and circumvent additional crowd safety measures; in any case, it appears even those were not ensured. This underlines one of the big questions being asked now - who gave permission for this public meeting. And, as an addendum, why were only 70 police personnel deployed? Even if the police were planning based on expected crowd figures provided by the organisers - i.e., 80,000 - that works out to one cop per 1,150 attendees, an abysmal ratio.

It is possible that because there were so few police personnel the crowd could not be controlled after the meeting finished. Some rushed to the exit and others rushed to collect the mud Hari had walked on - causing a massive rush in what was a small built-up area. "... the crowd, running in water and mud-filled fields behind the car, was stopped by the organising committee with sticks, due to which pressure of the crowd kept increasing and women, children, and men kept getting crushed," the police said in the filed complaint.



Meghamalai

Land of greens and blues

As the dusk falls and city lights up on Friday, people with wanderlust break their heads over a weekend getaway. All one wants is a change from the week routine. One of the ideal weekend spots near the city is Meghamalai in Theni district where one can spend some quality time and re-connect with nature.

attractions include tea estates, forest, dams and water falls. If you are planning a day's trip, then you can reach by morning and spend the rest of the hours relaxing in waters and scouting for elephants and bison. If you're lucky, then you can catch a glimpse of the jumbos quenching their thirst in the water," adds Sivaraman.

Bird's eye view

Land of greens and blues
Meghamalai is a misty mountain range located in Theni district (part of Western Ghats) at 1,500 metres above sea level. The place is more popular for the tea estates where access is restricted. However, one can still enjoy the sight of the lush green forests and valleys. Sivaraman, a tourist says, "Till now, we assumed Kodaikanal to be the only weekend spot. However, after visiting Meghamalai, we are happy to have found an alternative place to unwind." If you choose to travel via Chinnamanur, you cannot miss the scenic beauty along the way. "The main

Meghamalai hills are the originating point of river Suruli. Hence, the twin waterfalls located at its course is perennial throughout the year. Karthikeyan, a tourist guide explains, "The tourism officials help tourists get a better view of the wildlife in this area. Due to the presence of water throughout the year, some of the wild animals like the spotted deer and gaur hit the spot frequently during sunrise and sunset." Apart from the waterfalls and the tea estates, the main attraction of Meghamalai is the Vellimalai (the silver mountain). Vellimalai is 1,650 metres above sea level. "This is the place from where the River Vaigai originates. The hills are also home

The misty Meghamalai, is a perfect weekend getaway to unwind. We explore the surprises in store for us..

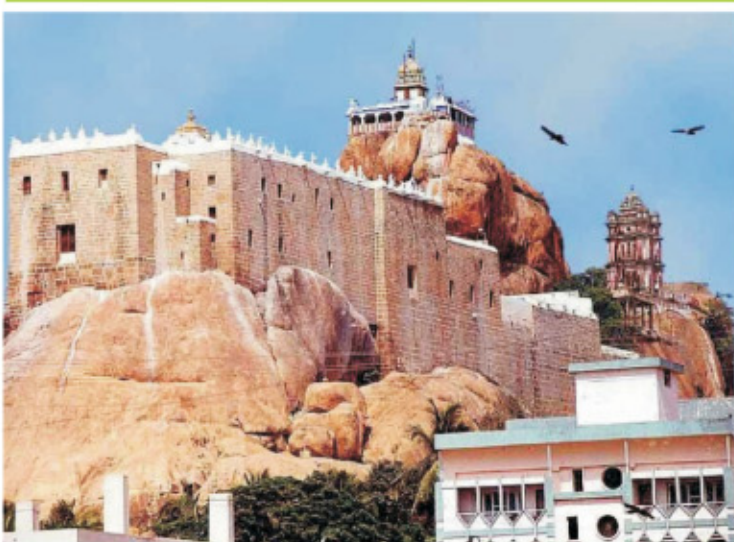
to six dams, including the Manalar dam from where one can view the Cumbam valley. A weekend of fascinating facts is only a hours away our monotonous life," adds the excited tourist guide.

A haven for rare species

"Wild animals are spotted near the foothills," says Kamala Devi, a student who has returned from a recent visit to the hills of Meghamalai.

"The hills opens up to a huge expanse of the tea and coffee plantations that is enveloped by the aroma of the spices. But the road narrows down as we approach the top of the hill and paves way for the dense forests that is least disturbed. Also, this place is a perfect spot for bird watching as different species of birds including the great Indian hornbills can be spotted here. The most adventurous part of the tour would be to spot a leopard or a tiger in the area." An endangered species of squirrel (flying

squirrels) are found flying between the trees of the forest. However the major gripe tourists have is that the place lacks hotels for accommodation. Although the Panchayat rest houses and forest lodges can be booked much in advance to secure a perfect stay for an entire family, informs Kamala. Meghamalai is a place of natural beauty dotted with cardamom plantations and tea estates. With all this and more it's definitely a perfect weekend spot especially for summer.



Trichy

rich in heritage and history

that is how world famous the cigar of the region is.

Grand Anicut

One of the oldest dam built around 2000 years is said to be a symbol of Dravidian engineering. Built by Karikala Cholan, it is used a model for building modern day architecture - probably one of the oldest used dams in the world.

Srirangam temple

The biggest functioning Hindu temple in the world Srirangam, is the sacred amongst the Vaishnavites. The temple is on the island, Srirangam and the

mythological stories that surrounds the history of the temple is fascinating.

The Southern Railways

Established in 1890 with its headquarters at the city, The Southern Railways played a prominent role during the British Raj. However, now it has been shifted to Chennai - the Golden Rock Workshop is still one of the three mechanical workshops serving the Southern railways till date.

Natharvalli Dargah

A 1000 year old mosque once an Easwaran Temple - it is the tomb of Baba Natharvalli. It stands as a symbol of how the Trichiites are a group of peace loving people who accept all religions and co exist in harmony throughout the years!!

Lady of Lourdes church

A replica of the Lourdes Church in France is situated within St. Joseph's College compounds. Gothic architecture, intricately stained glass panels with its towering spire makes it remarkable of Indian craftsmanship.

From the pages of literature to the minds of historians, Trichy occupies a special place. Here's a look at all the things that our city can call its very own...

Trichy is a city of a million sounds and sights. From the picturesque banks of Cauvery to the grand old Trichinopoly cigars, from the natural wonder Rockfort to religious shrines aplenty, there's something for everyone who visits the city...

Rockfort

A 3,800 million year old rock structure with a shrine on top is considered to be older than the Himalayas and is the pride of the city. It is visible for miles around the city and a view from the top, is mesmerizing either by sunrise or

sunset.

River Cauvery

The town is on the banks of the River Cauvery making it one of the most fertile regions in the state. A walk on the Cauvery bridge, a dip in the river and some classical music - this would make a perfect outing for most Trichiites.

Trichinopoly Cigar

Winston Churchill has claimed to have a long standing affair with this; Sherlock Holmes has said to have mentioned it in his books and Trichinopoly is synonymous with Cigar in the Oxford Dictionary -



Sensex crosses 80,000 for first time, Nifty hits record high

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices hit fresh record highs as the trading session opened on Wednesday, backed by gains in heavyweight stocks such as HDFC Bank.

The S&P BSE Sensex crossed the 80,000 mark for the first time, while the NSE Nifty50 hit a record high of 24,292.15. At around 9:22 am, the Sensex was up 498.51 points at 79,939.96 and the Nifty gained 134.80 points to trade at 24,258.65. It may be noted that HDFC Bank rose 3.5% at the open and emerged as the top gainer on the Nifty50. All 13 major sectors recorded gains. The increase in HDFC Bank drove banks, financials, and private banks 1.3%-1.5% higher.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The focus of market activity today will be HDFC Bank which will continue its upward move factoring in the news of potentially increasing the weightage of the stock in the MSCI Index. The delivery-based buying in the stock witnessed in the last many days has the potential to continue for a few more days pushing the stock further up and imparting resilience to it."

"As the weightage of HDFC Bank in Nifty increases there will be more delivery based buying by ETFs and also active funds. There can be a marginal negative impact on other high weightage stocks in the Nifty like RIL, TCS, Infosys and ICICI Bank," he noted.

The latest Fed speak on US inflation is also positive news for equity markets globally. Responding to the inflation print of 2.6% with zero month on month increase Fed chief Powell yesterday made a dovish remark that the US is on a disinflationary path. The Fed's next rate action is likely to be a rate cut. RBI also is likely to follow suit with a rate cut in the next policy meeting," Vijayakumar further added.

Karnataka HC sets aside NCLT order on rights issue, sends the matter back to tribunal

BENGALURU. The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday set aside the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order that had restrained Byju's from launching a second rights issue. Think and Learn Pvt Limited (Byju's) and Byju Raveendran had filed writ petitions against the order of NCLT dated 12 June 2024. The High Court has remanded the matter to the NCLT for fresh consideration within 2 weeks from 4 July 2024.

The high court also declined the request of the investors' counsel to suspend the present order by the high court which sets NCLT's order. On June 12, the NCLT Bengaluru told the edtech firm to maintain the status quo with regard to existing shareholders and their shareholding shall be maintained till the disposal of the main petition. Earlier, four investors including Peak XV Partners and General Atlantic Singapore accused the parent company of Byju's, Think & Learn for oppression and mismanagement. In April, Byju's said 55% of its shareholders have approved the vote for an increase in authorized share capital put forth in the form of a postal ballot and the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on March 29, 2024.

The approval of the EGM proposals paved the way for Think & Learn Private Limited, to issue fresh shares and conclude the rights issue that was aimed at tackling the liquidity crunch, including unpaid salaries, regulatory dues and vendor payments. But investors had requested the NCLT to stop the edtech firm's second rights issue as they expressed concerns that this would lead to dilution of their ownership in the company. Last week, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) clarified that reports claiming Byju's has been cleared of financial fraud in an investigation are factually incorrect. It is about a year since MCA initiated the probe on Byju's.

The ministry had ordered a probe after Byju's auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells exited due to delay in the filing of FY22 financial results.

Global index inclusion yet to reflect on Gsec yields

MUMBAI. Though the much-anticipated inclusion of the government bonds (G-secs) in the JP Morgan's emerging market bond index from last Friday has underwhelmed the market with muted response, both in terms of inflows as well as in the flat bond yields. In the long-run this is going to be a game-changer for the finance street, say both bond dealers and analysts. After closing flat on the D-day at 7.02% after rising to 7.1% in initial trade, the benchmark bonds closed 0.01% down on Tuesday, the third day since the inclusion at 7.012%, something nothing to write home about. The rupee also remained range bound and closed with a gain of 0.04 paise at 83.55 to the greenback.

For one, the bond inclusion will bring down the borrowing cost both for government and corporates both directly and indirectly. Secondly, it will increase foreign fund flows, which many peg it at least \$25 billion by March 2025 and thus boost the rupee. Increased forex flow can boost the already-record high forex reserves as well as help bridge the current account deficit. But on the negative side, hot money inflows can raise inflation pressure, which RBI has been fighting since May 2022 with limited success. Announcing the inclusion, JP Morgan on September 21, 2023 said it will be staggered over a 10-month period beginning June 28 to March 31, 2025, indicating 1% increment on its index weighting. That drew the curtains over the decade-long negotiations that the then Reserve Bank governor Raghuram Rajan started in 2013. Though 38 bonds are under the fully accessible route (FAR), only 29 of them are eligible for the JP Morgan index which requires a face value of \$1 billion and at least 30 months remaining maturity. These bonds combined have a valuation of Rs 27 trillion or around \$330 billion. The total Gsecs market is closer to Rs 90 trillion. On March 5, 2024, Bloomberg Index Services also announced inclusion of the G-secs in its emerging market local currency government index and related indices, beginning from January 31, 2025.

Jobs in unicorns record 30 per cent growth in June

In the FMCG sector, Mumbai (34%), Bengaluru (24%) and Delhi (23%) witnessed their strong performances.

BENGALURU. Though there has been no significant recruitment activity in the IT and start-up industries, tier-2 and tier-3 cities showed signs of improvement in June. Unicorns recorded about 30% growth in June, as per the Naukri JobSpeak Index.

As far as hiring in the IT industry is concerned, the report highlighted that with 16% hiring, Jaipur, Kochi (6%) and Delhi-NCR (4%) emerged as bright spots. In the FMCG sector, Mumbai (34%), Bengaluru (24%) and Delhi (23%) witnessed their strong performances. Though fresher hiring saw only 3% increase, professionals with over 16 years of experience saw a 41% growth. The report added that hiring in pharma or biotech witnessed notable growth in cities



such as Hyderabad (18%), Baroda (27%) and Mumbai (14%).

Pawan Goyal, chief business officer of Naukri.com, said, "As we have reported over the past year, the power dynamic shift in the Indian hiring landscape is well

and truly underway with mini-metros consistently outpacing their metro counterparts. Gujarat has been a silver lining in an otherwise turbulent market and it is now encouraging to see emerging cities in Rajasthan such as Jodhpur and

Udaipur join the fray." In June, AI-ML (artificial intelligence and machine learning) and FMCG with 205 and 12% showed positive growth.

However, Global Capability Centers (-7% YoY), BPO (-9%) and education (-9%) dragged down the overall index. Cities in Rajasthan and Gujarat witnessed resilience, with 36% Jodhpur, 21% Kota, 13% Udaipur and 13% Surat leading in new job creation. Both Bengaluru and Mumbai experienced declines in hiring in June.

Unacademy lays off 250 employees

BENGALURU: Edtech unicorn Unacademy has fired about 250 employees as the start-up is looking to streamline operations. In a statement to TNIE, a company spokesperson confirmed the layoff and said, "As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline operations and enhance business efficiency, we have undergone a restructuring exercise. This was necessary keeping in mind its goals and vision for the year, as we focus our efforts on sustainable growth and profitability."

Vraj Iron and Steel lists at 16% premium: Should you hold or

NEW DELHI. Vraj Iron & Steel

made a decent debut on Dalal Street on Wednesday, listing at a premium of 16% over its issue price. The shares started trading at Rs 240 on the NSE, marking a 15.94% rise from the issue price of Rs 207. Similarly, on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the shares opened at Rs 240, reflecting a 16% premium over the issue price. Before its debut, the company's shares had a grey market premium of Rs 50 each, indicating a potential listing gain of 24%. Just a day before listing, the grey market premium was between Rs 67 and Rs 70 per share.

Should you hold or sell?

"The company's financial performance paints a positive picture. Vraj Iron & Steel has a proven track record of consistent profitability over the past



three years, demonstrating its ability to generate healthy returns," said Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd. She further said that investors should acknowledge certain risks, such as the concentration of manufacturing facilities in a single region and the lack of long-term customer contracts. The steel industry's inherent competitiveness is another factor to consider. "Despite these

considerations, the IPO's P/E valuation of 9.48x appears reasonable. Considering these factors and the current market sentiment, we maintain a buying rating of SL 240 for the target of 300+," said Nyati. The initial public offering (IPO) of Vraj Iron and Steel garnered significant interest from investors as the public issue was subscribed over 100 times.

Vraj Iron and Steel IPO was subscribed 126.36 times. The public issue was subscribed 58.31 times by retail investors, 173.99 times by Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB), and 221.66 times by Non-Institutional Investors (NII) over the course of three days. The IPO offered 5,782,609 shares up for grabs but saw bidding for 73,07,12,160 shares. The price band for the IPO was set at Rs 195 to Rs 207 per share.

India's services growth picks up in June on record rise in exports, PMI shows

New Delhi. Growth in India's dominant services industry accelerated last month, buoyed by strong demand and a record rise in export orders, according to a business survey that also showed companies were hiring at the fastest in nearly two years. HSBC's India Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 60.5 in June from 60.2 in May, close to a Reuters poll median forecast of 60.6 and a preliminary reading of 60.4.

It has been above 50, which separates growth from contraction, for nearly three years. "Activity growth in India's service sector accelerated in June ... led by an increase in both domestic and international new orders," noted Pranjal Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC. New business - a key gauge of demand - has been above breakeven since August 2021 and expanded at a faster pace last month. That was supported by the fastest rise in international orders since the sub-index was added to the survey nearly a decade

ago. That is good news for India's economic outlook, already the seventh largest services exporting country globally, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

Asia's third-largest economy posted faster-than-expected growth of 7.8% in



January-March quarter but was expected to slow modestly this fiscal year, a Reuters poll found.

Strong demand encouraged service providers to recruit more staff. The pace of job creation was the strongest since August 2022, taking the current stretch of growth in hiring to over two

years. However, overall positive sentiment for the coming year slipped to an 11-month low due to concerns surrounding market uncertainty and competition.

"Overall, service providers remain confident about the year-ahead business outlook, although the level of optimism moderated sharply during the month," added Bhandari.

Meanwhile, costs rose at the slowest pace in four months, indicating cooling inflation, and the report said fewer than 5% of firms surveyed opted to pass cost burdens to clients, resulting in only a moderate rate of charge inflation.

The Reuters poll found inflation would likely fall below the midpoint of the RBI's medium-term target of 4% this quarter, but then pick up in the next one. Yet, the central bank was expected to cut interest rates to 6.25% towards year-end. A rise in both manufacturing and services pushed up the overall HSBC India Composite PMI to 60.9 last month, matching the flash estimate, from 60.5 in May.

Puravankara said the saleable area of the project will be about 750,000 sq ft, with a potential gross development value (GDV) of 900+ crore.

NEW DELHI. Big property developers continue to sign high-profile land deals in Bengaluru. A day after Mumbai-based Godrej Properties acquired a 7-acre land in Bengaluru to develop a luxury housing

project with an estimated revenue of Rs 1,200 crore, Puravankara Limited on Tuesday said it has bagged a 7.26-acre land parcel in Hebbagodi, Bengaluru.

Puravankara said the saleable area of the project will be about 750,000 sq ft, with a potential gross development value (GDV) of 900+ crore. The company recently announced the acquisition of a 12.75 acre land parcel in Thane's Ghodbunder Road and Lokhandwala in Mumbai, with a potential GDV of Rs 5,500 crore over the project lifecycle.

"With the acquisition of landowner share of 820,661 sq ft in Provident Adora De Goa, Provident Botanico and Provident Capella, along with the 7.26 acres of land in Hebbagodi, the group has added a potential total GDV of Rs 1,550 crore in addition to the recent acquisitions in Mumbai," said Ashish Puravankara, MD of Puravankara Limited. Godrej



Properties on Monday had announced the acquisition of 7 acres of land in Thanisandra, North Bengaluru on an outright basis. Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO, Godrej Properties, said, "Availability of land parcels and infrastructure development has turned

Bengaluru into a mature real estate market with increased demand for residential development... This will strengthen our presence in Bengaluru and complement our strategy of deepening our presence in key micro markets across India's leading cities".

In recent times, realtors have announced big-ticket land acquisitions in Bengaluru as housing demand continues to remain at an elevated level with property prices seeing substantial appraisal. Concorde had last week said it had acquired a 1.6 acre land parcel located on Sarjapur Road which has a GDV of Rs 200 crore.

In March, Concorde acquired a 4.5 acre land in Thanisandra. In May, The Brigade Group had signed an agreement to buy a 4.6 acre land parcel in Bengaluru with a developmental potential of 0.69 million sq ft and a GDV of Rs 660 crore.

NEWS BOX

Wimbledon: Brenda Fruhvirtova stuns favourite Mirra Andreeva in battle of 17-year-olds

New Delhi. Top seed and World No.1 Jannik Sinner and French Open winner Carlos Alcaraz will be in action on July 3, Wednesday as the round 2 action gets underway in Wimbledon 2024. Apart from Sinner and Alcaraz, a host of big names will also be in action as wildcard Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff will have their second round clashes as well. There will be one round 1 match that will be completed on Wednesday as Felix Auger-Aliassime and Thanasi Kokkinakis couldn't get over on Tuesday.

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The defending champion Alcaraz was given an early scare in the tournament as he was made to battle for the win by Mark Lajal in the first round. He will now be facing Australia's Aleksandar Vukic in the second round. Sinner will be facing fellow Italian Matteo Berrettini in the second round at Centre Court on Wednesday. Gauff will be facing qualifier Anca Todoni while Osaka will take on Emma Navarro at Centre Court.

Daniil Medvedev, Casper Ruud, Grigor Dimitrov are some of the other big names the fans will get to see in action on Day 3.

Jay Shah offers stranded Indian media in Barbados to fly out with Indian team

New Delhi. BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) secretary Jay Shah has come forward to help the stranded Indian media personnel in Barbados by offering them to fly with the Indian team on the special chartered flight from Barbados to Delhi. Notably, Barbados has been on high alert due to the Hurricane Beryl threat in the island nation since Sunday, June 30. Hence, the Indian cricket team has been left stranded in the country with the airports being shut due to the harsh weather conditions. Along with the team, several media personnel from the country have also been left stranded in Barbados and will be rescued by Jay Shah informed India Today's Vikrant Gupta.

"Special thanks to @JayShah for taking the initiative and 'rescuing' stranded Indian media in Barbados. As a gesture, the 20-odd media contingent have been offered to fly out with the Indian team on the special chartered flight from Barbados to Delhi! The special flight will take off in a few hours and land Delhi around 4-5 Thursday morning," wrote Gupta on his X account.

Team India to arrive in Delhi on July 4. Gupta also informed that the flight will be landing in Delhi at 4-5 am where they will be expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The fans are eagerly waiting for the return of team India after winning the T20 World Cup 2024. The Men in Blue beat South Africa by seven runs in the final on Saturday, June 29 at Kensington Oval Bridgetown Barbados. After opting to bat first, India posted a good score of 176/7 in their allotted 20 overs with Virat Kohli top-scoring with his innings of 76 (59). In reply, South Africa could only reach 169/8 in their 20 overs with Hardik Pandya (3/20) successfully defending 15 runs for India in the final over. As a result, India won their second T20 World Cup after a long gap of 17 years after having won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2007 under the leadership of MS Dhoni in South Africa.

Euro 2024, Quarterfinals: Full list of fixtures, dates, venues and teams revealed

New Delhi. It's time for the business end of Euros 2024 as the quarterfinals for the tournament was finally set on July 2, Tuesday, after the last set of Round Of 16 matches took place. The games on Tuesday saw Netherlands emerge as comfortable winners against Romania with a 3-0 win. The second match saw Turkey beat Austria 2-1 to seal their spot in the quarters. Mehri Demiral was the star of the show in Leipzig on July 2 as he scored a brace to knockout



the dark horses of the tournament in the Round Of 16. The likes of Germany, Spain, France, England, Switzerland and Portugal had already sealed their place in the final 8, setting up some big clashes. Hosts Germany secured a routine 2-0 win against Denmark while Spain thrashed Georgia 4-1. These two powerhouses will now be meeting on Friday, July 5 to kickstart the quarterfinal stage. This will be followed by a replay of the 2016 Euro Final as Kylian Mbappe's France will lock horns with Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal. Both teams have been far from convincing in the last few games and will be hoping for the perfect performance. July 6 will see England taking on Switzerland in D/asseldorf. Gareth Southgate's side have huffed and puffed their way into the final and needed some magic to get past Slovakia to save their blushes. The Swiss humbled Italy dumped the 2020 champions with a commanding performance. July 6 will see England taking on Switzerland in D/asseldorf. Gareth Southgate's side have huffed and puffed their way into the final and needed some magic to get past Slovakia to save their blushes.

Euro 2024: Demiral brace powers Turkey into quarters with 2-1 win over Austria



BCCI Secretary Jay Shah has come out to help the stranded Indian personnel in Barbados by offering them to fly out with the Indian team.

New Delhi. Turkey's Merih Demiral shone with a goal in each half and goalkeeper Mert Gunok made a crucial stoppage-time save, securing a thrilling 2-1 victory over Austria on Tuesday to advance to the Euro 2024 quarter-finals. The man-of-the-match, Demiral, scored just 57 seconds in and added a powerful header just before the hour mark. This set up a quarter-final clash on Saturday in Berlin against the Netherlands, who defeated Romania 3-0 earlier the same day. Austria's Michael Gregoritsch reduced the deficit midway through the second half, but their hopes of equalizing were dashed in the final seconds

when Christoph Baumgartner's header was brilliantly saved by Gunok. Celebrations erupted across several German cities as Turkish fans took to the streets, honking car horns, waving flags, and chanting in anticipation of a potential repeat of their Euro 2008 semi-final run. For Austria, considered dark horses of the tournament,

it was a bitter exit, as they are still waiting for their first knockout match win in a major tournament since 1954. **How the match unfolded** Turkey grabbed the lead in a frenetic start when Demiral capitalised on a goalmouth scramble following a corner, scoring the fastest goal in Euros knockout stage

history. Despite ceding possession to Austria, who had defeated them 6-1 in a friendly in March, Turkey pressed high and aimed to catch their opponents on the break, disrupting Austria's typical playing style. Even without their suspended captain Hakan Calhanoglu, Turkey managed to keep Austria at bay in the first half, with Ralf Rangnick's team failing to register a shot on target. Austria intensified their efforts after the break, and captain Marko Arnautovic should have equalized six minutes into the second half, but Gunok blocked his one-on-one attempt. Instead, Turkey extended their lead with Demiral's second goal, a powerful header from another corner delivered by the impressive teenager Arda Guler in the 59th minute. In pouring rain, Austria pulled one back through substitute Gregoritsch in the 66th minute and amassed 20 attempts on goal as they sought an equaliser. Baumgartner seemed to have secured it with his stoppage-time header, but Gunok's stunning one-handed save preserved Turkey's narrow lead and ensured their progression to the last eight.

Mere pass bhi hai: Axar Patel pokes fun at Rishabh Pant after World Cup medal post

New Delhi. Axar Patel decided to take a dig at his India teammate Rishabh Pant, who was showing off his T20 World Cup winners medal on social media. Pant and Axar played key roles in India's T20 World Cup triumph, with the all-rounder's knock in the final being crucial. Axar scored 47 off 31 balls and picked up the big wicket of Tristan Stubbs as India won the match by 7 runs in the end. Pant, who was making his return to international cricket with the bat, was incredible behind the stumps and picked up 2 Best Fielder medals during the tournament. The Indian wicketkeeper was in a fine mood and posted a picture of him with the winner's medal on July 3, Wednesday. Pant said on his post that the medal hits differently. Axar would respond



with a dig at the Indian star, saying he also has the same medal with him now. "Bhai same mere pass bhi hai (Brother, even I have the same one with me)," said Axar in the comments section. Team India set to arrive in Delhi on July 4. Pant, Axar and the other members of the

victorious Indian team are all set to arrive in Delhi on July 4, Thursday after a slight delay in plans. The Indian team has been stuck in Barbados because of the Hurricane Beryl, forcing the airport in the island nation to be shutdown on July 1, Monday. The team was initially set to arrive on Wednesday evening, but the plan got a bit delayed. The team is now expected to reach Delhi by 6 am on Thursday morning. As previously reported by India Today, the team will fly directly to New Delhi, where they are expected to meet with the Prime Minister. Along with the Indian team, Jay Shah has also offered to take the Indian media personnel back home in the chartered plane set up by the BCCI.

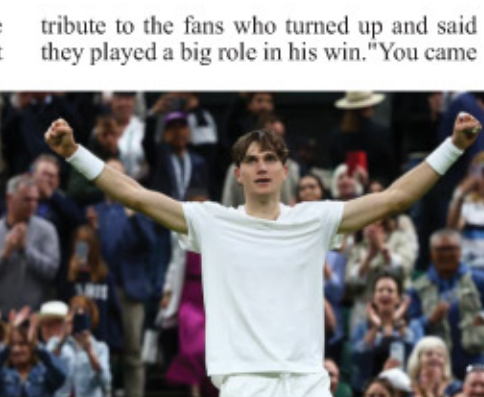
'It's coming home': BCCI post special T20 World Cup video as players set to return

The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) posted a special video of T20 World Cup 2024 trophy as team India is all set to return home after their successful triumph. The Men in Blue beat South Africa by seven runs in the final of the tournament on Saturday, June 29 at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados. Following their win, the Rohit Sharma-led side was stranded in the island nation with the airport shut down due to Hurricane Beryl. However, after three days the team is all set to return home through a chartered flight and is expected to land in Delhi early morning on Thursday, July 4. Ahead of their departure, BCCI posted a video of the World Cup Trophy mentioning that 'it's coming home.' Team India is expected to meet Prime Minister



Wimbledon: Jack Draper edges past Elias Ymer to setup Cam Norrie clash in Round 2

New Delhi. Jack Draper made a memorable debut as the British men's number one at Wimbledon, channelling the spirit of Andy Murray with a dramatic five-set victory under the Centre Court lights. Seeded 28th, Draper faced Swedish qualifier Elias Ymer and overcame a shaky start and a fourth-set lapse to triumph 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the first round. This match marked Draper's return to Wimbledon after an injury sidelined him last year. His win came in the evening slot originally intended for former world number one Andy Murray, who had to withdraw due to an injury earlier that day. Draper's success served as a morale boost for home fans disappointed by Murray's absence. Celebrating his victory, Draper delighted the crowd by hitting a ball into the stands. What did Draper say after his win? Draper started off with a joke, saying that the crowd came in to watch Andy Murray, but were stuck with him instead. He paid a



tribute to the fans who turned up and said they played a big role in his win. "You came here to watch Andy, but you were stuck with me instead," Draper said on court. "The crowd helped massively, I love playing in front of a lot of people." Draper also paid a tribute to Murray and said he wouldn't be here without the former World No.1. "I wouldn't be here without Andy," Draper said. "He is an incredible guy

off the court, so funny, so genuine, one of a kind. And what a -competitor - and what a champion. I think it's going to be tough to emulate what Andy's achieved." "It's -obviously unbelievable. He's won here a couple of times. He's been part of that Big Four era who were just winning constantly, constantly. But if I just keep on improving, keep on doing my best, I don't see why I can't be a great player like Andy has been." In the next round, he is set to face Cameron Norrie, whom he recently overtook as Britain's top male player. Norrie, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2022, secured his second-round spot with a straight-sets win over Argentina's Facundo Diaz Acosta, ending his streak of four consecutive tour-level defeats. This victory saw Norrie bounce back after first-round losses at the French Open, Queen's Club, and Eastbourne, though he has since dropped out of the world's top 40 rankings.

Narendra Modi in New Delhi, who also congratulated the team on their historic win through a phone call. Notably, PM Modi also visited the Indian dressing room after their heartbreaking loss in the final of the ODI World Cup 2024. Meanwhile, after winning the T20 World Cup 2024, India became the third team in the history of the tournament to win the coveted title twice after West Indies (2012 and 2016) and England (2010 and 2022). India won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2007 held in South Africa under the leadership of MS Dhoni. Since, then it took another 17 years for the Asian Giants to win their second title. Nation awaits team India's return After opting to bat first, India posted a good score of 176/7 in their allotted 20 overs with Virat Kohli top-scoring with his innings of 76 (59).

Team India touchdown in Zimbabwe ahead of five-match T20I series

The Indian cricket team consisting of youngsters arrived in Zimbabwe ahead of the five-match series beginning from July 6.

New Delhi. Team India has arrived in Zimbabwe ahead of the five-match T20I series against the hosts. Notably, a young team led by Shubman Gill will take on Zimbabwe on Saturday, July 6. National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman will oversee the role of head coach for the entire tour. Ahead of the series, the team landed in Zimbabwe on Wednesday, July 3 as they received a warm welcome upon their arrival. In a video shared by Zimbabwe Cricket, Laxman could be seen emerging from the arrivals gate along with other members of the support staff followed by the 15-member squad. The BCCI has announced



three changes in the squad ahead of the series with batter Sai Sudharsan, wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma and fast bowler Harshit Rana added to the team. The trio have replaced Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube and Yashasvi Jaiswal for the first two T20Is who are stranded in Zimbabwe along with the Indian team due to Hurricane Beryl and are likely to join the squad later. Notably, Harshit Rana had a phenomenal season playing for KKR in the Indian Premier League 2024 as he finished as the joint fourth-highest

wicket-taker of the tournament. The right-arm seamer picked 19 wickets from 11 innings at an average of 20.15 and an economy of 9.08. Harshit Rana's cryptic post after being ignored After not being picked in the initial squad, the 22-year-old put up a cryptic message on his Instagram story saying, 'Everything will come to you at the perfect time.' However, after his selection in the team, KKR congratulated the youngster with a special post with the caption, 'God's Plan, babay! 0Y380Y3! Chalo Zimbabwe!' On the other hand, Sai Sudharsan also had a good season with the bat finishing as the sixth-highest scorer of the season (531 runs) while Dhruv Jurel scored 195 runs with the bat in the season. India's squad for 1st & 2nd T20I against Zimbabwe: Shubman Gill (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande, Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Harshit Rana

Disha Patani

Finally REACTS To 'Curiosity' Around Her 'PD' Tattoo: 'Amused To See...'

Disha Patani made headlines after her photo with tattoo reading PD went viral. In no time fans started commenting. Well, now today the actress has finally reacted to it and shared a photo again with a tattoo. She has mentioned that she is amused to see the curiosity around her tattoo. She is currently seen in Kalki 2898 AD. Taking to her Instagram handle, Disha wrote, "Amused to see so much curiosity around my tattoo! discover what the joy is all about!



#cloudnine." In the pic, Disha can be seen flaunting 'PD' initials on her forearm. Disha looked hot in a powder blue-coloured crop top and white pants. She completed her look with black sunglasses and white bag. As soon as the photo was shared fans again commented. One of the fans wrote, "Wow so gorgeous". Another wrote, "Roxy from Kalki." In Kalki 2898 AD, Disha plays the role of Roxie, who is in love with Bhairava (Prabhas). In the movie, Roxie gets a 70 day contract to work inside the complex, but all hell breaks loose when Bhairava breaches into the facility after stealing one of the complex owner's cars, and later crashing into a party without invitation.

Meanwhile, the success of Kalki 2898 AD starring Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone at the box office continues to defy expectations, with the film scoring a record-breaking collection

on Monday. As per early estimates, Kalki 2898 AD grossed around Rs 84 crore-plus worldwide on the fifth day of its release. Earlier, the makers of Kalki 2898 AD shared that the film grossed Rs 550 crore globally in its opening weekend. Kalki 2898 AD created history at the box office by becoming the third biggest opener in Indian cinema as it earned massive Rs 191 crore globally on its opening day.



Varun Dhawan Indulges In A Fun Chat With Paparazzo, Says 'Tere Godh Mein Beth Kar Jata Hoon'



Varun Dhawan is currently enjoying his fatherhood phase. The actor has welcomed a baby girl and is yet to announce her name. Well, today he was spotted in the city. As usual, Varun indulged in a fun chat with the paparazzi. The video has gone viral. In the video, shared by Instant Bollywood, we can see Varun Dhawan coming out of a building in casual wear. He looked cool and as he was making his way towards the car, he asked one of the cameramen, "Ja tu baith ja gadi mein, tere godh mein beth kar jata hoon." Others started laughing. Fans also dropped laugh emoji in the comment section.

Earlier in the day, Varun Dhawan shares a praise note for the film Kalki 2898 AD. "Kalki is all that we have ever dreamt for and from Indian Cinema!! Every frame is to Marvel at - what you guys have done is not less than magic and madness. Thank You for giving us this experience in #Kalki2898AD," Varun shared on X.

The Telugu film, which has been released in four other languages, heavily draws inspiration from Mahabharat. The film is set in a dystopian future and revolves around four people - a pregnant woman named Sumathi (Deepika Padukone), who is said to be carrying a child that is the 10th avatar of Vishnu; the immortal Ashwatthama (played by Amitabh Bachchan) who has been tasked to protect the unborn child; a ruthless villain named Supreme Yaskin (Kamal Haasan), who wants the child dead for he knows the child will be the end of the baddie; and Bhairava (Prabhas), a bounty hunter who would sell anyone in return of money.

Meanwhile, Varun Dhawan is busy with his upcoming film, Baby John. The film is set to release on December 25 this year. Taking to his social media handle last month, Varun Dhawan shared, "Christmas this year just got merrier. Brace yourselves for Baby John releasing on December 25th," and also unveiled a new poster from the film.

Trisha Shares Glimpse Of Varalaxmi Sarathkumar-Nicholai Sachdev's Sangeet, Drops Inside Pics



Tamil-Telugu actor Varalaxmi Sarathkumar is all set to tie the knot with Nicholai Sachdev. The wedding festivities started and on Monday a sangeet ceremony was held. Many celebrities including Lakshmi Manchu, and Trisha were seen attending. Trisha also shared some inside photos which instantly went viral on social media. Taking to her Instagram stories, Trisha shared photos featuring Lakshmi Manchu, Vishnu Vishal. Bride-to-be Varalaxmi was spotted wearing a beige lehenga and was looking gorgeous. Trisha opted for an ivory ensemble with a sheer dupatta. Rayane Mithun, daughter of Radikaa, wore a red Indo-western outfit for the sangeet. Radikaa looked gorgeous in a dark blue ensemble for the event.

On Saturday, Varalaxmi took to her X handle and shared a series of pictures in which she was seen posing with PM Modi. While one of the photos featured the HanuMan actress taking a selfie with the Prime Minister, another also had her fiancé Nicholai and parents R Sarathkumar and Radikaa alongside her. "What a privilege it was to have met Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji and invited him for our reception..thank you for being so warm & welcoming.. spending so much of your valuable time with us despite your very busy schedule.. truly an honour sir..thank you daddy @realsarathkumar for making this happen @realradikaa (sic)," Varalaxmi wrote. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar got engaged to gallerist Nicholai Sachdev in March this year. Back then, she took to her Instagram handle to share their love-filled pictures from the intimate engagement ceremony. "Engaged. Love, laughter and happily ever after (with Nicholai Sachdev)," she wrote.

Ashika Ranganath

Looks Like A Modern Day Princess In Gorgeous Grey Lehenga

Celebs are very active on social media. They usually post small updates about their lives online. Their posts often go viral on the internet, creating a massive craze among the fans. Today we will talk about one such actress, who often shares posts about her daily life, captivating her fans. She is known to showcase her beauty on social media, captivating her fans. We are talking about popular actress Ashika Ranganath. She is a popular figure in the world of Kannada film industry. She often posts pictures flaunting her looks on social media. Recently, she shared some pictures which were likely taken during a shoot. The pictures became a sensation soon after they were posted.



Posting the picture on Instagram, Ashika captioned the post with a snowflake emoji. The actress looked divine wearing a grey-coloured lehenga perfectly teamed up with a diamond tikli on her head. She also wore a diamond necklace along with similar bangles on her wrist. She looked elegant in the outfit. She posed in different poses in front of the camera. She wore heavy makeup along with light pink lipstick which gave her a complete look. The post went viral soon after the pictures were shared by the actress on her Instagram handle garnering millions of views. The post was liked by more than 1.8 lakh users. Several users also

commented on the post. One user commented, "If Indians made a Disney princess movie, they should definitely cast you," while another wrote, "Simply looking like a queen in this dress, loved the pictures." A third user wrote, "You are the Real sandalwood queen, Looking stunning, adorable and gorgeous." Several other users commented with heart, fire and Smiling Face with Heart-Eyes emojis to express their love for the actress.

