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Coaching centre deaths: 'Have they lost it': Delhi High Court

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, July 31: "What is Delhi Police doing? Have they lost it?" wondered the Delhi High Court on Wednesday, while castigating the police for a "strange" probe by arresting an SUV driver for his alleged role in drowning of three civil services aspirants at a coaching centre here.



whose bail plea was dismissed by a magisterial court later in the day. Judicial Magistrate Vinod Kumar rejected the bail plea of five accused, including SUV driver Manuj Kathuria, who was termed a "masti-khor" (fun lover) by the Delhi Police in their vehement opposition to his bail plea. In the high court, a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said a "strange probe" was going on with the Delhi Police taking action against a man who drove a car outside the coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar here but not acting against the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials.

Comprehensive Individual Health Insurance Options in Delhi

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, July 31: Living in a big city like Delhi has many perks, including access to top-notch healthcare. However, the costs of medical treatment in private hospitals can burn a hole in one's pocket. This is where having a good health insurance policy becomes essential. A suitable health insurance plan provides financial security against rising healthcare bills. It covers hospitalisation due to illnesses or accidents, pre-and post-hospitalisation expenses, daycare procedures, ambulance charges, etc. Those living in metro cities like Delhi especially need to safeguard themselves with adequate health coverage. Delhi has high levels of air pollution, which leads to various health issues for its residents. Lifestyle diseases

are also on the rise. Hence, having health insurance to provide financial backup during medical needs can give peace of mind. When buying health insurance in Delhi, one must choose a reliable provider. Look for companies with robust cashless networks, efficient claim settlement processes, and good customer service. A trusted brand like ACKO offers top-notch health plans with excellent features. Their Rs 1 crore health policy covers hospitalisation, daycare procedures, pre-and post-hospitalisation, OPD, ambulance, AYUSH treatment, and more. It comes with zero copays, unlimited reset benefits, and lifetime renewability. Cashless facilities are available at 14,300+ partner hospitals across India, including leading hospitals in Delhi like Apollo, Max Healthcare, Fortis, and more.

Delhi government to bring law to regulate coaching centres: Atishi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, July 31: The Delhi government will bring a law to regulate coaching centres in the national capital, cabinet minister Atishi said on Wednesday, days after three IAS aspirants drowned in the flooded basement of an institute in Old Rajinder Nagar. Addressing a press conference, the minister said the government would constitute a committee comprising government officials and students from different coaching hubs to frame the law. "Just like private schools and private hospitals/nursing homes are regulated by law with established guidelines for infrastructure, have regular inspections, and are given recognition by the government, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government will introduce a law to regulate all coaching institutes in the city, whether they are preparing students for IAS, IIT, NEET, CUET, NDA or any other exam," Atishi said. The minister said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in the last three days, has cracked down on coaching centres using basements in violation

of laws but long-term solutions are needed to resolve the issue. The Delhi government will bring a coaching institutes regulation act as a long-term solution, she added. "Just as schools and nursing homes are given infrastructure requirements, the coaching institute regulation act will specify infrastructure requirement and qualifications of teachers," Atishi said. Additionally, this act will regulate the fees charged by these coaching centres and prevent them from promoting misleading advertisements, she added. The AAP leader said the process through which coaching institutes will be regulated will not be a one-time process but regular inspections of these centres will be done. "We will form a committee today to bring this act. Besides the officers of the Delhi government, the committee will also include stu-

dents from coaching hubs of different parts of Delhi, be it Rajinder Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Laxmi Nagar.



Students, who are preparing for different exams - IAS, CA, NEET - will also be included in this committee," she said. Atishi also announced an e-mail ID - coaching.law.feedback@gmail.com - to seek public feedback on this act. "We will also publicise the e-mail address through

newspapers and FM radio. I appeal to people of Delhi, especially the students to give their feedback. "This act will have regulations according to the requirements of the students studying in coaching institutes. We believe that only such a law will provide a long-term solution to this type of illegality and irregularity that is going on in the coaching industry," Atishi said. Talking about the action initiated by the MCD following the tragedy, the minister said the civic body has terminated the service of a junior engineer and suspended an assistant engineer of the area based on the preliminary inquiry into the incident. "The report of the magisterial probe ordered into the incident will come in six days and strict action will follow. Whether senior or junior officials, nobody will be spared, she said. Atishi said 30 basements of coaching centres in Rajinder Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Laxmi Nagar and Preet Vihar have been sealed, while notices have been issued to 200 other coaching centres in Delhi.

Genetic, environmental factors in disease risk

New Delhi, July 31: Environmental factors may play a larger role in disease risk than previously thought, overshadowing genetic contributions, a study by researchers at Penn State College of Medicine reveals. Published in the journal Nature Communications, the research shows that lifestyle and environmental factors, such as air pollution, can significantly influence disease risk, offering more opportunities for mitigation. "We're trying to disentangle how much genetics and environment influences the development of disease," said Bibo Jiang, assistant professor of public health sciences. The team used a novel spatial mixed linear effect model, combining genetics and geolocation data, to analyse disease risks. Co-senior author Dajiang Liu emphasised the importance of separating environmental influences from genetic factors. "If we can tease apart these shared environments, what's remaining could more accurately reflect genetic heritability of disease." Using data from IBM MarketScan and environmental data, the researchers re-evaluated the genetic contributions to various diseases. For example, the genetic risk of type 2 diabetes was recalibrated from 37.7 per cent to 28.4 per cent, highlighting a greater role for environmental factors.

Congress moves privilege motion against PM Modi

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, July 31: Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday submitted a notice to move a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having posted on 'X' a video that allegedly contained portions of remarks made by BJP MP Anurag Thakur that were expunged from the proceedings of the House by the Chair. Thakur, during his speech on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, made certain remarks that were expunged from proceedings. His apparent reference about Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's caste during the discussion had also caused a huge uproar in the House. Channi, a Dalit MP of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, submitted a notice to Speaker Om Birla seeking to move a privilege motion under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure against the prime minister. "I hereby give notice to move a privilege motion under Rule 222 of the

Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha against the Prime Minister for having tweeted on 'X' a portion of remarks which were expunged from the proceedings of the House by the Chair," the former Punjab chief minister



said in his communication to Birla. On July 30, 2024, certain objectionable remarks made by Thakur were expunged from the proceedings of the House by the Lok Sabha Speaker, he said. It is, however, shocking to note that the prime minister posted on 'X' the whole video of the

speech which also contained these expunged portions, Channi said. As laid down in Practice and Procedure of Parliament, "The effect in law of an order of the Speaker expunging words, remarks or a portion of the proceedings is as if those words/remarks or that portion of the proceedings had never been spoken. Publication of the expunged words or expressions would amount to a breach of privilege," he said citing the 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament by Kaul and Shakdher. This position has been reiterated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Searchlight case, Channi said. "The prime minister's tweeting of the remarks which had been expunged from the proceedings of Lok Sabha clearly amounts to a breach of privilege and contempt of the House. I, therefore, contemplate to move a privilege motion against prime minister and request you to please admit my motion and permit me to move the same.

Centre gave advance warning to Kerala on July 23: Amit Shah

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, July 31: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Kerala Government was warned as early as July 23 regarding a possible natural calamity in Wayanad due to heavy rains and nine NDRF teams were rushed to the state the same day. However, the Kerala Government did not heed to the early warning and also did not get alerted even by arrival of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) battalions, Shah said in the Rajya Sabha. Shah assured the House that the Narendra Modi government was standing a like a "rock" with the Kerala government and people of the state in this moment of the tragedy. He also

promised all help from the central government. Intervening in the short duration calling attention motion on the Wayanad landslide tragedy in the Upper House,



Shah also assured help and support of the Centre to the state and the people to deal with the situation. He criticised the opposi-

tion for questioning the central government's early warning systems, and its response to the tragedy. Shah said early warning was sent to the state seven days ahead of the July 30 landslide. Another warning was given on July 24 also. "Nine NDRF battalions were dispatched on July 23 itself and three more were sent on July 30," Shah said. He further said several states, including Odisha and Gujarat used the early warnings provided by the Centre to reduce impact of natural calamities like cyclone. Had the Kerala Government got itself alerted and acted as soon as NDRF teams landed there, losses could have been minimised, the Home Minister said. Replying to the calling attention motion, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed the House that 133 bodies have been recovered so far and death toll may rise.

UPSC cancels Puja Khedkar's provisional candidature

New Delhi, July 31: The UPSC on Wednesday said it has cancelled the provisional candidature of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar and debarred her from all future examinations or selections. "The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules," the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said in a statement. It said her provisional candida-



ture for the CSE-2022 (Civil Services Examination-2022) has been "cancelled" and she has also been "debarred permanently" from all future UPSC examinations or selections. The commission said a show cause notice (SCN) was issued to Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar on July 18 for "fraudulently" availing attempts beyond the permissible limit in the examination by "faking" her identity. She was to submit her response to the SCN by July 25 but she requested for time till August 4 to gather the necessary documents for her response, it said. The UPSC granted her a "final opportunity" to submit her response by 3:30 pm on July 30 but she "failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time", the commission said.

40-year-old doctor found dead in car in Kota

Kota, July 31: A 40-year-old doctor was found dead on the driver's seat of his car in Kota, police said on Wednesday. Sub-Inspector Zakir Hussain of Jawahar Nagar police station said the deceased, identified as Dr Rakesh Choudhary based on documents in his car, was in an inebriated condition before his death. According to the police, a car was found parked with an unconscious man at IL Circle within the limits of Jawahar Nagar police station late on Tuesday evening. He was rushed to MBS Hospital, where he was declared brought dead, they said. Following the post-mortem by a medical board, the police handed over the doctor's body to his family on Wednesday morning and launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the death, they added.

Death toll in Kerala landslides rises to 158

Naresh Malhotra

Wayanad (Kerala), July 31: The number of people who lost their lives in the devastating series of landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district has climbed to 158, with authorities on Wednesday expressing concern over the fate of 191 people who are still missing. "Rescue operations in Wayanad are continuing in full swing. Our land has never experienced such painful sights before," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. The Wayanad district administration confirmed the deaths of 158 people in the calamity. Earlier, addressing a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram, the chief minister said that so far, 144 bodies had been recovered. Among them, 79 are men and 64 women. "As many as 191 people are still missing," according to the latest count. Earlier in the day, a cabinet meeting chaired by CM Vijayan expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the disaster. Vijayan said the scenes in Mundakkai and Chooralmala areas of the district are devastating. "Both these areas have been completely destroyed," he said. He added that efforts to

rescue as many people as possible from the disaster zone are progressing well. "In the two-day rescue operation, 1,592 people were rescued. This is the achievement of a coordinated and extensive mission to save so many people in a short span of time," Vijayan said. He said that in the first phase, 206 people from 68 families in the nearby areas of the disaster were shifted to three camps. "This includes 75 men, 88 women and 43 children," the chief minister said. Following the landslide, 1,386 people who were stranded and those who were trapped in their homes were rescued as a result of the ongoing rescue mission. "This includes 528 men, 559 women and 299 children who were shifted to seven camps. Two hundred and one people were rescued and taken to the hospital, of which 90 are currently undergoing treatment," he said. Vijayan said that in

Wayanad district, there are currently 8,017 people in 82 relief camps. This includes 19



pregnant women. "There are eight camps in Meppadi, where 1,486 people from 421 families are currently staying," he said. Meanwhile, rescue teams comprising the Army, Navy and NDRF are collectively looking for survivors by unearthing the debris and

breaking into the remains of houses destroyed or covered up with mud in the landslides. According to a Defence statement, army units deployed in the area rescued around 1,000 people from the affected areas till Tuesday night. Additionally, the Air Force is carrying out aerial reconnaissance of the affected areas to coordinate search and rescue operations. The landslides occurred around 2 am and 4.10 am on Tuesday catching people off-guard while they were sleeping, leading to a high number of casualties. Harrowing scenes of dead bodies in sitting and lying positions inside destroyed houses could be seen as rescue operations resumed in the landslide-devastated Mundakkai hamlet on Wednesday morning. The rescuers could reach many inland areas, which were totally cut off on Wednesday morning only. Tiny makeshift bridges were erected over swollen rivers and excavators were engaged non-stop in removing piles of debris and boulders, with rescue missions continuing in the landslide-hit hamlet.



## News box

## Mumbai: Drunk man stalks & slashes woman with blade in, held

**MUMBAI.** Deepak Mali (30), who claims he is a singer, was arrested on Monday for allegedly stalking and assaulting a 23-year-old woman near Bhayander station.

During interrogation, Mali admitted to the crime, claiming he was drunk and upset after an argument with his wife, said Navghar police senior inspector Aviraj Kurade. Initial investigations indicate that Mali, who lives in Borivli, and the woman were not known to each other.

The incident took place on July 23, when the victim was returning home from work. Around 11.45pm, she got off a local train at Bhayander station and was walking towards her residence, when Mali grabbed her from behind and demanded sexual favours. When she raised an alarm, he attacked her with a shaving blade on her left hand and punched her before fleeing the scene. The woman, who was in a state of shock, filed a complaint with Navghar police two days later.

This is the second such incident in less than a month. On June 29, a 32-year-old chartered accountant was molested and robbed of her cellphone while walking towards her Vasai (W) residence around 1.30 am. The 35-year-old accused, who was later arrested from Nalasopara, claimed to have been drunk.

In the Bhayander case, crime branch unit 1 at Kashimira scanned CCTV footage from Bhayander station and nearby areas, identified Mali, traced him to his Borivli residence and arrested him.

Kurade said Mali had followed the woman, who works at a private firm, from Borivli station, boarding the adjacent general compartment while she was in the ladies' coach, and got off at Bhayander when she did. Police sources said that during interrogation, Mali also confessed to having molested another woman at Borivli station last year, for which a case was registered with GRP. He was arrested and later released on bail.

## Maharashtra nod for Rs 81k crore projects, Toyota plans Rs 25k crore plant

**MUMBAI.** The state's cabinet sub-committee on industry cleared 7 mega projects worth Rs 81,137 crore on Tuesday. The projects, located in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan, are expected to generate 20,000 jobs. They include plants for industries such as semiconductor chips, lithium batteries, electric vehicles, and green energy. On the list is a Rs 27,200 crore project by JSW Green Mobility Ltd in Sambhajinagar for electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles. It is expected to generate 5,200 jobs and produce 5 lakh electric passenger vehicles and 1 lakh commercial vehicles.

A Rs 25,000 crore JSW Energy PSP project in Nagpur is expected to generate 5,000 jobs. The investment is for a lithium iron battery plant. The sub-committee cleared a Rs 1,500 crore fruit pulp and juice extraction project by Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverage, based in Ratnagiri. The state's first semiconductor manufacturing plant by RRP Electronics has also got the go-ahead at Taloja. It will generate an investment of Rs 12,000 crore in the first phase. The sub-committee cleared the Rs 13,647 crore AWAADA Electro Ltd projects in Nagpur and Panvel.

## Hand, foot, mouth disease affecting more kids: Docs

**Bengaluru.** As monsoon intensifies in Bengaluru, city hospitals are noticing a spike in hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) among children in the age of two to seven years. The combination of seasonal weather changes and close-contact settings in schools and daycare centres has led to a notable increase in transmission of this contagious disease, say doctors. It forms blister-like rashes on children's hands, feet and sores in their mouth. Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, senior consultant in neonatology & paediatrics at Aster CMI Hospital, shared with TOI, "We are noticing a rise in the viral infection, with five new cases per day, adding up to an average of 35 per week. Children are most susceptible to hand, foot, mouth disease. It is highly contagious and spreads through coughing, sneezing or contact with an infected person. Human faeces could be one of the infection carriers." Since there is no vaccination for HFMD, Dr Parimala emphasized the importance of taking preventive measures. "It is crucial to take steps like checking children's hands and feet every day before they get into the classroom to screen the infected ones. Generally, hand, foot, and mouth disease subsides on its own within 7 to 10 days."

Dr Prashanth Gowda, consultant paediatrician and neonatologist at Motherhood Hospitals, echoed this concern. "We are seeing almost 12 to 15 cases of kids on a weekly basis, indicating that awareness and preventive measures should be enhanced. HFMD outbreaks are prevalent in seasons, especially during humid weather when viruses spread more easily. Children in the age group of 2 to 4 years, who are frequent visitors of playschools or daycare centres, fall under the high-risk category."

# Health workers hold stir for cadre fixation & basic salary

**Hyderabad.** Contract employees under the National Health Mission (NHM) on Tuesday staged a dharna in front of the office of the director public health at Koti over cadre fixation and implementation of basic pay.

Staff from 78 cadres, including Asha workers, ANMs and lab technicians, participated in the dharna organized by NHM Contract and Outsourcing Employees Union.

"Over the past years, over 17,000 employees have been employed under 78 types of cadres under NHM. Although, they are providing medical services to the poor by performing regular duties, their families are in a state of being left on the streets due to negligence of the central and state govts in implementing the minimum wages," Union president M Narasimha said.

"It is unfair that the PRC arrears due to the employees for seven months have not been released even today," Rama Rajesh Kanna of the union said.

'Regularise our jobs': NHM workers launch protest against govt in Gurgaon/National Health Mission employees in Gurgaon



launched a protest for job regularisation after failed negotiations. Their demands include the 7th pay commission benefits, cashless

medical facilities, and compensation for wages deducted during strikes. The protest, involving 800 workers, will continue till July

29. Concurrently, Haryana government doctors ended their own strike after their demands were met. 112055003

Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy calls on Congress cadre to get ready for local polls. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy urged Congress workers to gear up for local body elections, promising various welfare measures. He highlighted the dismal performance of the opposition BRS in recent Lok Sabha elections. He assured that crop loans would be waived and infrastructure projects would be prioritized. He also praised late leader S Jaipal Reddy's contributions.

Gurgaon street vendor stabs pvt co employee after argument over quality of food. In Gurgaon, a street vendor allegedly stabbed a customer after a dispute over the quality of rotis served on Monday night. The victim, Rohit, was injured and the vendor also sustained injuries during the altercation. Police stated that a case has been registered and the vendor will be arrested upon hospital discharge.

## 135-year-old clock on Charminar damaged

**Hyderabad.** A 135-year-old clock on the eastern side of Charminar was damaged, reportedly by pigeons, on Monday. The damage was noticed on the white background of the clock's dial board near the 25-minute mark by workers during routine maintenance.

"We instantly informed the Wahid Watch Company, a family of watch repairers who maintain the historic clocks in the city, to assess the damage. They said that it is repairable with ceramic," said an ASI official. Ishiyaq Muhammad, a bangle shop owner near Charminar, said, "Authorities should take proper steps to curb pigeon menace in the area as residents are facing trouble every day." tnn

HC: Shop demolition illegal, assess damages. The Karnataka High Court declared the 2011 demolition of a textile shop in Magadi town illegal and ordered the Ramanagara district commissioner to investigate and determine damages for the shop owner within three months. The

## 'Repairs on, avoid roads near Sarvodaya Centre'

**Ahmedabad.** The city traffic police on Tuesday issued an advisory to the citizens, advising them not to use roads and lanes near Sarvodaya Commercial Centre on Relief Road due to the repair work on the five-decade-old building. The prominent edifice is in close proximity to Relief Cinema and adjacent to the general post office (GPO). This architectural marvel has withstood the test of time for approximately 55 years.

However, due to the deterioration of the aged plaster, which is now peeling off and descending onto the thoroughfare below, there exists a significant risk to the well-being and safety of pedestrians traversing the area. Consequently, it has become imperative to remove and refurbish the plaster on the exterior walls



court mandated recovering the compensation from responsible officials. Shop owner TN Chandrashekar alleged collusion between authorities and his landlord, claiming unlawful demolition under false pretenses. 111973793

Min assesses flood damage. Women and child welfare minister Laxmi Hebbalkar inspected the flood-affected areas in Khanapur and Belagavi taluks on Monday. She directed authorities to report rain

spanning from the first to the fifth floor of this iconic structure. Given the presence of bustling roads flanking the walls, including Salapas Road and the thoroughfare behind the GPO, coupled with the substantial public movement on these arterial routes, it is of utmost importance to implement stringent precautionary measures.

"In order to mitigate potential traffic disruptions and avert any harm to pedestrians arising from falling plaster during the day, the restoration work will be executed between 10pm and 5am, spanning 8 to 10 days.

Citizens are, therefore, advised to utilize alternative routes during this stipulated period. Man injured after ceiling plaster collapse in Maharashtra's Thane. Early Sunday morning, a 27-year-old man was

injured when ceiling plaster collapsed in a deteriorating, 50-year-old building in Thane's Kopri locality. Classified as C-1, the structure requires evacuation and demolition. Officials have cordoned off the area, and relief operations were carried out by fire brigade and disaster management personnel. Previous incidents of falling plaster were also reported.

Thane rains: 2 suffer injury in ceiling plaster collapse. An elderly woman and her son were injured when a portion of their ceiling plaster collapsed in Thane's Lokmanya Nagar.

The incident occurred around 12:30 am at Dandekar chawl, leading to severe injuries for a 63-year-old woman and her 38-year-old son. Their condition prompted a relocation to Sion Hospital.

clocks suitable for different styles, from modern to vintage. It provided detailed information on items like the Vintage Clock Handcrafted Iron Double Side Analog Clock, the HARRIS & CO. CLOCKMASTERS Premium Analog Wall Clock, and the DISHN Home Decoration European Peacock Wall Clock, aiming to enhance living room decor with functionality and aesthetics.

## Biological E's oral polio vax gets WHO prequalification

**Hyderabad.** Biological E Limited has received World Health Organisation (WHO) pre-qualification status for its novel nextgen live, attenuated oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). Biological E said that the vaccine significantly reduces the risk of circulating vaccine-derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) and is aimed at immunisation in countries affected by cVDPV2 outbreaks.

"With its improved genetic stability, nOPV2 has a decreased chance of seeding new outbreaks in low-immunity environments as against its predecessor, the Sabin poliovirus type 2 (mOPV2) vaccine," the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said on Tuesday.

Biological E said extensive clinical trials rigorously evaluated nOPV2's safety and immunogenicity with promising results that have been published in reputed journal The Lancet (2019-2024). The vaccine's real-world deployment in outbreak regions has shown that it can significantly decrease the incidence of cVDPV2 outbreaks, it added.

Termining WHO pre-qualification as a

significant milestone, Biological E MD Mahima Datla said the vaccine has been designed to address concerns about vaccine-associated paralytic polio (VAPP), found to occur in around 2-4 cases per million births with the traditional OPV due to the vaccine virus reverting to a virulent form.

Biological E also said it has become a key player in the production of the nOPV2 vaccine and has been selected by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for a grant to assist in meeting the growing global demand for vaccine for polio eradication.

While PT BioFarma of Indonesia is the first manufacturer of the nOPV2 vaccine to receive WHO pre-qualification in Jan 2024, Biological E has received technology for the vaccine from PT BioFarma and has in place a capacity to make over 500 million doses of the vaccine per annum. Biological E has also received approval from the Indian regulatory authorities to manufacture the vaccine for exports. he WHO pre-qualification for nOPV2 makes it the 10th vaccine from



Biological E to get pre-qualified.

Biological E's nOPV2 polio vax get WHO prequalification. Biological E Limited (BE) in Hyderabad received WHO Pre-qualification for its Novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). The vaccine underwent extensive clinical trials published in The Lancet, promising reduced risk of vaccine-derived Poliovirus type 2 outbreaks. BE received a grant from the Gates

Foundation and technology from PT BioFarma for mass production of nOPV2.

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

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## Legal Advisors:

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

# Mumbai: 3 held for taking Rs 21 crore gold from lockers, investing proceeds in stocks

**MUMBAI.** Police on Monday arrested three men, including an area head and a branch manager of a financial services company, for allegedly partially selling and taking a loan against 29kg gold worth Rs 21 crore that had been stored in bank lockers. The accused allegedly invested the sale proceeds and the loan amount in the stock market.

The scam came to light after the finance company conducted an audit to find the gold missing. When confronted by company officials, the accused allegedly resorted to threats, claiming they had connections with the underworld. City crime branch's property cell has arrested the company's Dombivli branch manager Shivkumar Iyer (30) and

area head Shivaji Patil (29), and bullion trader Sachin Salunke (41) in the case. Police have registered a case against them under various sections of IPC, including for criminal breach of trust, cheating, criminal conspiracy and misappropriation of funds. The complaint was filed by Akash Pachlod, an official of Rover Finance Ltd, a company that provides gold loans. In 2024, Rover Finance had taken over the loan department of Trillion Loan Fintech Pvt Ltd. During an audit conducted by the



company in April, it was discovered that 260 packets containing 29kg of gold ornaments, kept as mortgage in a bank locker, had gone missing. The keys to the locker were in the possession of Patil and Iyer. When questioned about the missing gold, the accused initially evaded the issue. Iyer, though, later reportedly admitted to investing the proceeds and loan amount in stocks for higher profit in connivance with Patil since Jan 2024. The funds were invested through Salunke who took a bank loan against part of the gold. The proceeds were shared

between Patil who received Rs 40 lakh and Iyer who got Rs 8.7 crore. Iyer said he suffered losses in the stock market. When the complainant met Iyer in Andheri on June 4 and inquired about the gold, Iyer allegedly threatened him saying he would involve "bhai log", local colloquialism for people with a criminal history, if a complaint was filed against him. The company then lodged a complaint with Sakinaka police, alleging that Iyer and Patil had secretly taken 260 packets of gold ornaments between Jan and April. Police obtained Iyer's bank statement and found he had invested money with Salunke, proprietor of R K Bullion. Police also found chats between Iyer and Salunke.



NEWS BOX

### Gurgaon: Woman falls off auto as two men on bike snatch iPhone & flee

**GURGAON.** A 32-year-old woman fell from a moving autorickshaw near Huda City Centre on Monday night as two men on a bike yanked her iPhone from her hand and sped away. Injured, the woman was treated at a private hospital in the city. Police said they have registered an FIR on a complaint by Jagruti Mahajan, who lives in Sector 12 and works for a private firm at Cyber City. Mahajan said she boarded an auto with her brother to go to a supermarket in Sushant Lok around 11.30pm on Monday. As the auto started moving, two men on a bike started following them. "When the pillion rider tried to snatch my iPhone 15, I did not let it go. He then used more force, and I fell on the road along with my phone. He took it and fled. I suffered multiple injuries," Mahajan told police. SI Vinod of Sushant Lok station said the FIR was filed under BNS Section 309 (6) (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery) on Tuesday. "We are verifying CCTV footage from nearby places to identify and arrest the accused. The complainant also said she will be able to identify the accused as they were not wearing helmets," the SI said.

### Contractor confronts contract killer: A case of demand and disconnect in Gurgaon

**GURGAON:** A retired DHBVN employee, who is a private contractor now, received threatening calls and voice messages from an unknown person demanding Rs 50 lakh. The accused has been arrested, police said. The complainant, Vijay Kumar Mehta (54), is a resident of Sector 9. According to police, on July 25 morning, Mehta received a call but he did not answer as he was busy with work. Later, around 2.50pm, when he returned the call, there was no response. "At 2.58pm, I received a voice message on WhatsApp from an unknown number. The caller claimed that my brother and I have been making a lot of money through private contracts and demanded Rs 50 lakh not to kill me or my family," Mehta told police. Subsequently, Mehta informed his family members about the message



and at 3.12pm, the accused called him again. "I turned on the phone speaker, and my brother recorded the video of my conversation with the caller," Mehta told police. According to the police, during the 1-minute call, Mehta refused to heed the demands of the accused and disconnected the call. Based on Mehta's complaint, a case was registered under BNS Section 308 (4) (putting a person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, to commit extortion).

### Gzb's circle rate set for a 20% hike, its first revision in 2 yrs

**Ghaziabad.** The circle rate in the city is likely to increase by 20% for residential and commercial properties next month. A proposal is being prepared by the stamp and registry department following a survey and will be placed before the district magistrate for approval. A higher circle rate means those buying houses will have to pay more in stamp duty, which will effectively increase the overall property prices. On Tuesday, AIG stamp and registration department Pushpendra Kumar told TOI that the city has undergone infrastructural changes in terms of connectivity over the last two years. "The Delhi-Meerut rapid rail commenced operation in Oct 2023 and is currently commercial operation has begun on nearly 50% of the corridor. We already have metro connectivity and several expressways. The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway and others are in the offing. A recent survey by the department showed the market rate of properties along these corridors has gone up. To tap into the growing market, we have proposed a hike of DM circle rate by 20% across residential and commercial categories," the official said. If approved by the DM, objection and feedback have to be invited from the public before the revised rates are implemented.

**Name Change**  
I, SHIV SINGH S/O RAMDIN R/O H.N.K-II-443, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062 have changed the name of my minor Daughter PRATIBHA SINGH, aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as HITANSHI SINGH.

**Name Change**  
I, GIRJA SHANKAR, S/O SH. SHIV CHARAN, R/O A-673, KALKAJI, DOUBLE STORY, NEW DELHI 110019 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GIRJA SHANKAR SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE AND BOTH THESE NAMES REFER TO THE SAME PERSON.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

- Name of work and location:** Providing fixing of various types of electrical works during IOH/POH & Major repair of Track Machines at TMMD/TKD, KKDE, BTI, LKO & MB as well as working site working under on Dy. CE/TMC/NR.
- Completion period of the work:** 24 Months
- Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 3,10,58,003.23
- Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online):** Rs. 3,05,300.00
- Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online):** Rs. Nil.
- Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 30.07.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs. on 20.08.2024. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 06.08.2024 & upto 15.00 Hrs. on 20.08.2024 on IREPS website. The tender will be opened soon after 15.00 hrs. on 20.08.2024.
- Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:** The detailed tender document is available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 30.07.2024 to 20.08.2024. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Ms. Rani Shilpee (Advocate)  
Office Add: H. No. T/181, UGF, Shukar Bazaar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

No. 1-W-Dy.CE/TMC-LEC-10-24-25 Dated: 30.07.2024 2322/2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# Yamuna breathes easy after rains, but just; pollutant levels alarming

**NEW DELHI:** The monsoon rains gave the Yamuna a slight respite and reduced the pollution, but the river water continues to be contaminated beyond acceptable standards. The faecal coliform level, which indicates the presence of untreated sewage in the water, is particularly worrisome and the improvement in the BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) level is insignificant. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) report of the water quality for July shows that the pollution levels, although somewhat alleviated by the rains, persist at alarming levels. The monsoon arrived in the city on June 28, and the water samples were lifted on July 5, by which time the city had received over 242mm of rainfall as measured at the base weather station at Safdarjung. According to the report, there was a big improvement in the faecal coliform measured at Palla, where the Yamuna enters the city. From 1,600 most

probable number (MPN) per 100ml in June, it was down to 920 MPN/100ml. At ISBT, the figure was 24,000 against 3,40,000, at Okhla Barrage 35,000 units against 2,20,000 and at Asgarpur, where the river exits the city, it was 1,60,000 MPN/100ml against 24,00,000 units earlier. While this indicated a 10-to-16-time improvement, the levels were still 10 to 64 times higher than the permissible standard of 2,500 and 48 to 320 times higher than the desirable limit of 500 MPN/100ml. Meanwhile, BOD at Palla in July dropped from 2.5 mg/l to 2; at ISBT it was 36mg/l against 47 in June, at Okhla 40 against 50 and at Asgarpur 80 against 85mg/l. BOD, which indicates dissolved oxygen demand for aquatic life, is expected not to exceed 4mg/l. However, despite these improvements, the river continues to and



at Okhla Barrage, the water has been white with froth in the past week. Several stretches of the river give off a big stench and appear grey, with decaying biomass, such as hyacinth, on the surface. Experts said to high BOD indicated that the pollution load was still very high. "Faecal coliform levels dropped due to the diluting effect of an influx of fresh water

due to the rains. However, BOD is still high and hasn't seen any improvement because very high," pointed out Dr Nupur Bahadur, associate director, NMCG-TERI Centre for Excellence of Water Reuse. "The organic load in the river was already high, which actually increased due to the runoff bringing in additional organic matter. A high BOD poses a risk to aquatic life. "During the monsoon, excessive organic matter reaches the river through sewage and stormwater runoff. This results in higher microbial activities that demand more oxygen. That is why BOD increases. The anaerobic conditions may result in less oxygen available for aquatic life," explained Fayaz Khudsar, who heads the city's biodiversity parks programme.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as Princy Kapoor alias Parthika Kapoor D/O Vinit Kapoor, GALI NO-14, 25/13, VISHWAS NAGAR, Shahdara S.O, East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARTHIKA KAPOOR

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as KUNWAR CHANDRA UPADHYAY S/O SHRINETRA UPADHYAY R/O 14, F-1, Sarang Vihar, Pushp, Bhawan, PO, Pushpa Bhawan, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi-110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KUNWAR CHAND

**Name Change**  
I, RAM GOPAL Father of No-3009708K, Rank-HAV/CLK, Name-RAJENDRA PRASAD Presently residing at VPO-DHOLIVA, TEH-LADNUN, DISTT-NAGAR, RAJASTHAN-341304 have changed my name from RAM GOPAL to RAM GOPAL JAKHAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, TRIVENI Wife of No. 4584301N Rank-NK Name-BODELE GUNANAND BUDHA Presently residing at SIDHARTH WAARD, VPO-DHARGOAN, TEHSIL-BHANDARA, DISTT-BHANDARA, MAHARASHTRA-441804 have changed my name from TRIVENI to TRIVENI GUNANAND BODELE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, BRUBHAN PAL S/O PATIRAJ PAL R/O B-56, B-BLOCK, VASANT KUNJ ENCLAVE, DELHI-110070. Have changed my name from BRUBHAN TO BRUBHAN PAL for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
I, ANAND VERMA S/O DEVI DASS residing at C-45 NEW GOVIND PURA GALI NO-1 KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110051 have changed my name to ANAND KUMAR permanently

**Name Change**  
I, Kiran Singh W/o Naresh Kumar Singh R/O Plot No 61, A Block, Gali No-6, Qutub Vihar Phase 1, Goyla Dairy, Chawla, Delhi-110071. Have lost my Original Registry No DL77804955552174U, missing of my property at A-8, Raj Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, Delhi-110077. Already Online Police Report Submit LR No:1982480/2024 missing at Goyla Dairy, Delhi

**Name Change**  
I, SUNITA Mother of No 16131841F, Rank-SPR, Name-RAJESH KRISHNA KHOT Residing at VILL-KHOTANATTI, PO-DESARHATTI, TEHSIL-ATHANI, DISTT-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591230 have changed my name KRISHNA to KHOT KRISHNA BHUSAHEB for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, MULASIYA HANSAREN Mother of No. 15815107A Rank-HAV/CLK, Name-RAJESH KRISHNA KHOT Presently residing at C/53, MANHAR NAGAR-2, AHMEDABAD CITY, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-380024 have changed my name from MULASIYA HANSAREN to PRAJAPATI HANSABEN RAMESHBHAI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, SHAFINAZ PARVEEN, W/O Mohd Hmza, R/O, E-12/66 A, Hauz Rani Mahiyva Nagar, new delhi-110017, Have changed my name to Shaheenaz Parveen for all future purposes.

**Name Change**  
I, KRISHNA Father of No 16131841F, Rank-SPR, Name- RAMESH KRISHNA KHOT Residing at VILL-KHOTANATTI, PO-DESARHATTI, TEHSIL-ATHANI, DISTT-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591230 have changed my name KRISHNA to KHOT KRISHNA BHUSAHEB for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, MAYATI Wife of JC-571367M Rank-SUB, Name-HELODE RAHUL KESHAORAO Presently residing at VILL-PLASHKED-NAGO, PO-PADLI, DISTT-BULDANA, MAHARASHTRA-443001 have changed my name from MAYATI to MAYA RAHUL HELODE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
MY CLIENT Arvind, S/o. Shri Devi Singh, R/O. H-283 Gali No.13, Chhuria Mohalla, Tughlakabad Village, New Delhi-110044, have served all relations and disowned his family members namely Ragini (R/wife), Ram (son), Tanya and Pari(daughters) from his all movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct/behavior. My client will not be responsible for their acts/defaults in future, if any person dealing with them in future shall be doing so, at their own risk and consequences. My client will not be responsible for their acts in any manner whatsoever.  
SWATI JAIN ADVOCATE  
CH. NO. 301, LAWYERS BLOCK, SAKET CIRCLE, NEW DELHI-110017

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public at large that our client, Mr. Krishan Bhatnagar and Mrs. Monika Bhatnagar who have approached IDBI Bank Ltd. for the purchasing of Flat No. 153-C, On First Floor, area measuring 76 Sq. yds., Situated at Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091. Mrs. Malati M Bhavre Purchased this property from President of India through DDA (Mr. Kudrat Singh) and became owner vide Conveyance Deed Regd. Document No. 5962, Book No. 1, Volume No. 738, on dated 10.10.2002, SR-VII New Delhi. It is to mention that the Original Allotment Letter Dated 08.01.1983 and Original Possession Letter Dated 04.02.1983 were issued by DDA in favour of Mr. Kudrat Singh in respect of the said Flat are lost by the Customer. And the said property is going to be mortgaged in IDBI Bank Ltd. Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110019 All persons, if any, including bank, financial institutions, or any parties having any claim, demand, right, interest in respect of or against the said property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, assignment, mortgage, charge, possession, lien or otherwise, are hereby required to make the same known in writing within 7 days with the documentary evidence from the date of publication, falling which the said claim of the person's, if any will be considered waived and settled.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public at large that our client, Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid who has approached M/s Varthana Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. for Home Loan of the Built - Up Property No. RZ-20A, on Plot No. 6, Land Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yds., i.e. 41,805 Sq. Mtr., With all the roof rights, out of Kharsa No. 624, Situated in the Area of Village Nasarpur, Delhi State Delhi, Colony Known as Gali No. 6, Kailash puri, Palam Colony, New Delhi - 110045. Purchased from Mrs. Satto Devi W/o. Sh. Raj Kumar vide Notarized GPA, ATs and Will Dated 21.08.1989. It is to mention that the above-mentioned property came directly through GPA. And the said property is going to be mortgaged in Indo Star Home Finance Pvt. Ltd, F-38, 1st Floor, Pearls Omaze, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampara, Delhi-110034. All persons, if any, including bank, financial institutions, or any parties having any claim (Objection to Kharsa Number), demand, right, interest in respect of or against the said property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, assignment, mortgage, charge, possession, lien or otherwise, are hereby required to make the same known in writing within 7 days with the documentary evidence from the date of publication, falling which the said claim of the person's, if any will be considered waived and settled.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public at large that our client Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid who has approached M/s Varthana Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. to borrow Loan Against Property in respect of Agricultural Land Area Measuring 0.295 Hect. (Out of total area 4.8550 Hect.) Having Kharsa No.2591, Pargana Budhpur Tehsil Chandpur & Distt. Bijnor. At present this property is in the name of Janta College of Education through Manager Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid who had purchased this property vide Sale Deed Dated 20.12.2012 executed by Naseran Memorial Educational Society through Manager Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid. It is to mention that the Original Sale Deed Dated 20.12.2012 executed by Naseran Memorial Educational Society through Manager Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid in favour of Janta Degree College through Manager Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid in respect of Agricultural Land Area Measuring 0.295 Hect. (Out of total area 4.8550 Hect.) Having Kharsa No.2591, Situated at Village Nurpur (Seema se Andar) Pargana Budhpur Tehsil Chandpur & Distt. Bijnor. Reg. as Doc No. 13931, Volume No. 6079, Book 1, Pages 313/334, SR- Chandpur is lost by Mr. Jiyauddin S/o Mr. Rashid. And the said property is going to be mortgaged in M/s. Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd, Tower B 1, 11th Floor Spaze 1 Tech Park, Sector 49, Gurugram Haryana-120018. All persons, if any, including bank, financial institutions, or any parties having any claim (Objection to Kharsa Number), demand, right, interest in respect of or against the said property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, assignment, mortgage, charge, possession, lien or otherwise, are hereby required to make the same known in writing within 7 days with the documentary evidence from the date of publication, falling which the said claim of the person's, if any will be considered waived and settled.

**Name Change**  
I, MANJU DEVI W/O SH. VISHNU YADAV R/O H.NO-C36, GOYLA DAIRY, PHASE-1, QUTUB VIHAR, SOUTH WEST, DELHI-110071, have changed my name from MANJU DEVI to SAPNA DEVI for all future purposes.

**Name Change**  
I, Naresh Vohra S/o Late Gurdayal Singh, R/O A-1220 D, 3rd Floor Maa Shakti Apartment, Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063, I have changed my Name Naresh Kumar Vohra to Naresh Vohra, for all Future Purpose, both are the same and one person.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Meenu Mittal W/o Mr. Ravi Shankar Mittal is the owner of Freehold Commercial Built-up Property No. X/695, area measuring 38.50 Sq. Yards, of Kharsa No. 703/76/59, 703/76/60, 703/59/61, 703/59/64, Situated at abadi Gali No. 6, Raghubar Pura No. 1, Gandhi Nagar, in the area of Village Seelampur, ilaga Shahdara, Delhi-110031. By Virtue of Sale Deed Dated 08.07.2013 as Doc No. 11361, Vol. No. 751, page Nos. 95-101, Dated 08.07.2013, SR-VII, New Delhi, in the chain document below mentioned not available i.e. SMC of Late Mr. Jagdish Lal died on 12.12.1989 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mohammad Naqi and Bank Ltd. Branch: Karol Bagh New Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.  
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate  
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09568871432

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

For the convenience of Rail passengers, Railways have decided to extend the Periodicity of run of the following Summer Special Trains as per Details given below:-

Train No. & Name	Frequency	Extended Upto
09195 Vadodara Jn.-Mau Jn. Summer Special (Weekly)	Saturday	Upto 28.09.2024
09196 Mau Jn.-Vadodara Jn. Summer Special (Weekly)	Sunday	Upto 29.09.2024
09417 Ahmedabad-Danapur Summer Special (Weekly)	Monday	Upto 30.09.2024
09418 Danapur-Ahmedabad Summer Special (Weekly)	Tuesday	Upto 01.10.2024
09557 Bhavnagar Terminus-Delhi Cantt. Summer Spl. (Weekly)	Friday	Upto 27.09.2024
09558 Delhi Cantt.-Bhavnagar Terminus Summer Spl. (Weekly)	Saturday	Upto 28.09.2024
09405 Sabarmati Bg-Patna Jn. Summer Special (Weekly)	Tuesday	Upto 24.09.2024
09406 Patna Jn.-Sabarmati Bg Summer Special (Weekly)	Thursday	Upto 26.09.2024
09097 Bandra(T.)-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Summer Spl. (Weekly)	Sunday	Upto 29.12.2024
09098 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Bandra(T.) Summer Spl. (Weekly)	Tuesday	Upto 31.12.2024
09525 Hapa-Naharlagun Summer Special (Weekly)	Wednesday	Upto 25.12.2024
09526 Naharlagun-Hapa Summer Special (Weekly)	Saturday	Upto 28.12.2024
09183 Mumbai Central-Banaras Summer Special (Weekly)	Wednesday	Upto 25.12.2024
09184 Banaras-Mumbai Central Summer Special (Weekly)	Friday	Upto 27.12.2024
09309 Indore Jn.-Hazrat Nizamuddin Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Fri, Sun	Upto 29.12.2024
09310 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Indore Jn. Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Mon, Sat	Upto 30.12.2024
09075 Mumbai Central-Kathgodam Summer Special (Weekly)	Wednesday	Upto 25.12.2024
09076 Kathgodam-Mumbai Central Summer Special (Weekly)	Thursday	Upto 26.12.2024
09189 Mumbai Central-Kathir Jn. Summer Special (Weekly)	Saturday	Upto 28.12.2024
09190 Kathir Jn.-Mumbai Central Summer Special (Weekly)	Tuesday	Upto 31.12.2024
04123 Prayagraj-Hazrat Nizamuddin Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Sun, Wed	04 to 28.08.2024
04124 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Prayagraj Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Mon, Thu	05 to 29.08.2024
04141 Subedarganj-Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Summer Special (Weekly)	Monday	05.08.2024 to 26.08.2024
04142 Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan-Subedarganj Summer Special (Weekly)	Tuesday	06.08.2024 to 27.08.2024
04137 Gwalior-Barauni Jn. Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Sun, Wed	04 to 28.08.2024
04138 Barauni Jn.-Gwalior Summer Special (Bi-Weekly)	Mon, Thu	05 to 29.08.2024

Train No.	From	Dep	To	Arr.	Frequency	Extended upto
09523	Okha	10:00	Delhi Cantt.	09:40	Tuesday	Upto 31.12.2024
09524	Delhi Cantt.	13:40	Okha	13:50	Wednesday	Upto 01.01.2025

Note: Rest of the instruction will hold good.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) Download RailMadad app. RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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## NEWS BOX

## North Korea houses, roads hit by flooding, Kim Jong Un inspects affected areas

**Seoul** Over 4,000 homes in North Korea's city of Sinuiju and Uiju County near the border with China have been flooded due to heavy rainfall, state media KCNA said on Wednesday. Around 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) of farmland along with numerous public buildings, facilities and roads were also flooded, prompting a two-day emergency meeting by the ruling Workers' Party's powerful politburo earlier this week, the report said. Leader Kim Jong Un chaired the meeting and expressed grave concern over the damage and urged strong measures to restore the affected areas, KCNA added. Kim inspected the flooded areas on Sunday.

The region has been affected by heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Gaemi in recent days, which caused a landslide killing 12 people in southern China and flash floods elsewhere. North Korea's state media have been raising the alarm in recent weeks about the monsoon season and have issued several reports on efforts to offset damage from extreme weather.

The month of July is annually the monsoon season in the Korean peninsula, but the region has experienced extreme weather in the summer months in recent years. In South Korea, heavy rain caused landslides, train delays and heavy damage to infrastructure earlier this month.

## 973 Native American children died in US government boarding schools, probe finds

**Billings, Montana** At least 973 Native American children died in the US government's abusive boarding school system, according to the results of an investigation released on Tuesday by Interior Department officials who called on the government to apologise for the schools.

The investigation commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland found marked and unmarked graves at 65 of the more than 400 US boarding schools where Native American children were forcibly assimilated into white society. The findings don't specify how each child died, but officials said the causes of death included disease and abuse during a 150-year period that ended in 1969. Additional children may have died after becoming sick at school and being sent home, officials said. The findings follow a series of listening sessions held by Haaland over the past two years in which dozens of former students recounted harmful and often degrading treatment they endured at the hands of teachers and administrators while separated from their families. "The federal government took deliberate and strategic action through boarding school policies to isolate children from their families, deny them their identities, and steal from them the languages, cultures, and connections that are foundational to Native people," Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico and the country's first Native American cabinet secretary, said in a Tuesday call with reporters.

"Make no mistake," she added, "This was a concerted attempt to eradicate the quote, 'Indian problem', to either assimilate or destroy native peoples altogether."

In their initial findings two years ago, officials had estimated more than 500 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children died at the schools. The federal government passed laws and policies in 1819 to support the schools, which were still operating in the 1960s. The schools gave Native American kids English names, put them through military drills and forced them to perform manual labour, such as farming, brick-making and working on railroads, officials said. Former students shared tearful recollections of their experience during the listening sessions in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Michigan, Arizona, Alaska and other states. They talked about being punished for speaking their native language, getting locked in basements, and having their hair cut to stamp out their identities.

## Kamala Harris to hold 1st rally with Veep pick on Aug 6 in Philadelphia: Sources

**USA.** Vice President Kamala Harris will hold her first rally with her new vice presidential nominee on August 6 in Philadelphia, sources say.

The location suggests Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has moved to the top of a short list of running mates, and that the Harris campaign had decided the state that Democrats won back from Republicans in 2020 is a must-win once again.

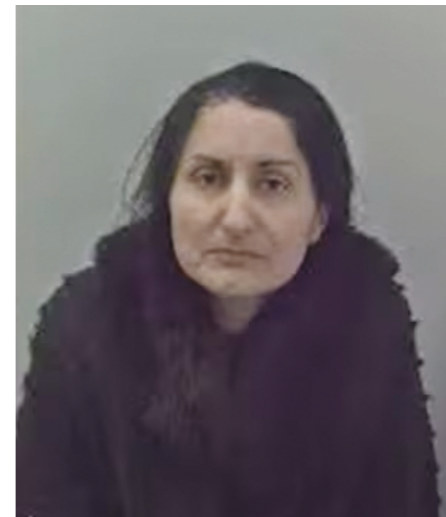
A campaign aide told Reuters on Tuesday not to read too much into the choice of the first city of a weeklong battleground state tour. The tour will take four days and cover multiple states, the aide said. A campaign aide told Reuters on Tuesday not to read too much into the choice of the first city of a weeklong battleground state tour. The tour will take four days and cover multiple states, the aide said. The high-stakes decision on who will run with Harris has taken centre stage since she became the Democratic frontrunner for the November 5 election when U.S. President Joe Biden ended his White House bid just over a week ago. Harris is expected to announce the decision as soon as Monday, ahead of Tuesday's event, the sources said. The short list of candidates under consideration includes Shapiro, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, US Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. If Shapiro is the pick, the Harris campaign is likely counting on the popular, 51-year-old governor to help win the state in November. Shapiro's stock among Democrats rose after he swamped his Republican opponent for governor, Doug Mastriano, winning 56 percent of the vote in a state known for tight elections. Shapiro would also become the second Jewish nominee for vice president on a major ticket in US history, following Joe Lieberman's failed 2000 bid with Al Gore.

## Indian-origin woman jailed in UK for 10 years after convicted of shoplifting

**The woman, Narinder Kaur, was previously found guilty of 26 counts of fraud, money laundering and perverting the course of justice in March 2023.**

**London.** An Indian-origin woman was on Tuesday sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a court in south-west England after she was found guilty of conning retailers and other businesses out of thousands of pounds. Narinder Kaur a.k.a. Nina Tiara, 54, was previously found guilty of 26 counts of fraud, money laundering and perverting the course of justice in March 2023. Prosecutors said she had shoplifted on an industrial scale and deceived shops into refunding her for items that she had never actually purchased. She was sentenced at Gloucestershire Crown Court for stealing from more than 1,000 shops across the

UK. This sentence today sends out a clear message that West Mercia Police will deal seriously with prolific fraudsters," said Steve Tristram, Fraud Investigator from West Mercia Police's Economic Crime Unit. "Kaur is a calculated individual who committed offences across the country, dishonestly claiming refunds on items she had stolen. She showed no remorse for her actions and even thought she would get away with submitting false documents to the court with the intention of perverting the course of justice," he said. The police force took ownership of the investigation into Kaur in 2018 and worked with the UK's National Business Crime Solution, an organisation representing retailers, and other police forces as a "multi-agency approach". "We were able to investigate further into her criminal activity and found fraudulent activity in her bank accounts which subsequently brought her to justice," added Tristram. Kaur was found to have travelled extensively across the country to steal from well-



known high street stores and then dishonestly claimed refunds on those items. Between July 2015 and September 2019, it is estimated Kaur netted around GBP 2,000 worth of refunds per week,

equating to over half a million pounds in fraudulent refunds and stolen goods.

Knowing that she was under investigation for these offences, she is then said to have embarked upon a scheme to defraud other businesses using the dishonestly obtained credit card details of members of the public. In March 2023, she was convicted of fraud, possessing and transferring criminal property and perverting the course of justice at Gloucester Crown Court. At the time, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) West Midlands said that working with the police it was able to use financial data, retail records, witness evidence and CCTV which proved Kaur's pattern of offending. She was seen on CCTV entering stores, taking items from the shelves and taking them to the tills as if they had been previously purchased. Close examination of her accounts confirmed the pattern of purchases and refunds and that the same process seen on the CCTV was being repeated on hundreds of occasions.

## UK bars Indian-origin lawyer from practicing over conviction in 'sham marriage'

**London.** A 44-year-old man who qualified as a lawyer in India has been struck off from practicing in the UK by the solicitors' watchdog after a tribunal heard of his conviction eight years ago for organising sham marriages for migrants to settle in Europe.

Mathew Moghan Rajamohan Chellam faced charges of fraudulent applications by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and a disciplinary tribunal concluded in its ruling that there was no doubt that he knew or ought to have known that his conduct was in material breach of the obligations to protect the public and the reputation of the legal profession. In a judgment dated July 5 released recently, the tribunal noted that Chellam has since returned to India and that his current address in India was unknown. "The Tribunal ordered that the Respondent, Mathew Moghan Rajamohan Chellam, solicitor, be struck off the Roll of Solicitors and it further ordered that he do pay the costs of and incidental to this application and enquiry fixed in the sum of GBP



4,058.00," reads the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal order.

"In assessing culpability, the Tribunal took account of the fact that the Respondent's motivation for the misconduct was for monetary gain, the fact that the misconduct arose from carefully planned actions including using sham marriages with a view to abusing applicable laws, and that the circumstances giving rise to the misconduct were under the direct control of the Respondent and concluded that Respondent's level of culpability was extremely high," it notes. According to the order filed with the UK's Law Society, Chellam was admitted to the UK's Roll of Solicitors

in February 2013 through the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test (QLTT) route as he was already a Legal Advocate in India. In 2015, he is said to have "self-reported" and confirmed that he had been charged with criminal offences under the UK's immigration legislation and that he was contesting those charges. In September 2016, at Snaresbrook Crown Court in London, he was convicted of assisting unlawful immigration into a European Union (EU) member state, five counts of providing immigration advice and one count of seeking to obtain leave to remain in the UK by deception and was sentenced to a total term of imprisonment of eight years.

As a result, the tribunal concluded that Chellam, who was not represented at its hearing last month, had "caused tremendous harm to the reputation of the legal profession" and his misconduct "constituted various criminal offences". He has now been struck off from practicing as a lawyer in the UK.

## Gulf nations 'concerned' over behaviour of Pakistani expats

**World** A number of Gulf nations, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, have raised grave concerns over the conduct of Pakistani expatriates and the labour force, a report said. The matter was raised by Secretary Overseas Pakistanis Dr Arshad at a Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis, where he said that a number of Gulf countries have voiced reservations about the behaviour of overseas Pakistanis. He said that a rather concerning issue has been raised by these countries pointing at the "inappropriate" behaviour of Pakistanis in the UAE, including them making videos in front of women in Dubai. Kuwait has raised an issue concerning Pakistani nurses, who are reportedly refusing to perform certain job-related duties and instead put the onus on ward boys for regular day-to-day activities. Moreover, they do not try and learn the local language, but also want to go to Europe after only a six-month stay in the country.

Meanwhile, Qatar, as per the officials of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, complained about Pakistani labourers refusing to wear safety helmets during work. Earlier in September 2023, officials had said that Pakistani beggars travel to countries like Iraq and Saudi Arabia on the pretext of "Ziarat" (pilgrimage) and then indulge in begging-related activities. As per official data, Pakistani nationals accounted for 90 per cent of beggars arrested in these countries. Furthermore, the officials added that around 2 million Pakistanis are living in Saudi Arabia and 400,000 move to the country every year. Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian authorities, the officials said, have asked Pakistanis not to send "beggars and sick people".

The officials said that Pakistanis visit Malaysia for a year, and are then sent to jail after they extend their stay there. Meanwhile, Senator Nasir Abbas also apprised the forum that in Iraq, Pakistanis are "helpless" as they get hired as cheap labour, adding that they are kept as "prisoners" there.

The ministry noted that these nations are now looking towards African nations for even cheaper labour. To counter this adverse situation regarding the future of the Pakistani labour force in GCC countries, the officials said that the ministry is compiling data regarding job availability and opportunities in various countries. A cabinet committee has been set up under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding matters related to immigration, they said.

## Top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh killed in Iran, outfit blames Israel

**World.** Top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed after his residence was targeted in Tehran early on Wednesday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement, Reuters reported. Hamas, a Palestinian outfit engaged in a war with Israel in Gaza, said an "Israeli" raid killed Ismail Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards in his residence in Tehran. In a statement, Hamas said Haniyeh was killed in "a treacherous Zionist raid on his residence in Tehran".



Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesperson. Amid the Israel-Gaza war, Haniyeh acted as a negotiator in the ceasefire talks. Hamas claimed in April that Israeli airstrikes killed three of Haniyeh's sons and four of his grandchildren. The military wing of Hamas is led by Yahya Sinwar, believed to be the mastermind of the October 7 attack on Israel that ignited the war in Gaza. The development comes a day after the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) claimed to have killed Fuad Shukur, a top commander of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Israel had claimed Fuad Shukur was behind a drone strike that killed 12 children in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

## WHO WAS ISMAIL HANIYEH?

The 62-year-old was born in a refugee camp near Gaza City. He joined Hamas in the late 1980s and swiftly rose through the ranks to become a close associate of Hamas's founder and spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. In the 1980s and 1990s, Haniyeh served several sentences in Israeli prisons. After Hamas's win in the 2006 legislative election, he became the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority government. However, it was short-lived as the next year he was dismissed from his position by President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007. Ten years later, in 2017, he was elected the head of Hamas's political wing. The same year, Haniyeh was named a "specially designated global terrorist" by the United States.

## Raging California wildfire grows bigger than Los Angeles's size

**California.** The largest wildfire in the US swelled to over 600 square miles on Tuesday, bigger than the city of Los Angeles, fire officials in California said, as thousands of firefighters battled the blaze in a wilderness area north of Sacramento.

More than 5,500 firefighters from across California and other states were working around the clock to douse the Park Fire, burning in the state's Central Valley, about 90 miles (145 km) north of Sacramento, the capital. The fire grew to 385,065 acres (155,830 hectares), becoming the fifth-largest wildfire in Californian history, officials said.

The Park Fire on Tuesday surpassed the size of the 2020 Creek Fire in Fresno County, which burned almost 380,000 acres, fire officials said. But it is still smaller than the state's largest fire on record, the August Complex fire of 2020, which burned more than 1 million acres in seven counties in northern California. The Park Fire - fueled by dry grass, brush and timber - is fast-moving, said Fire Captain Dan Collins of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Cal Fire.



"This fire has lots of fuel that is receptive to burning, and it's hard to get to," he said. "Our fire line is 260 miles around, that's the size of three Lake Tahoes. It can take two-three hours to get personnel in there over the terrain." The weather brings only a slight chance of a stray thunderstorm on Tuesday, said Ashton Robinson Cook, a

meteorologist with the National Weather Service. After that, no rain is in sight, and hot and extremely dry will prevail, he said. Temperatures will reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8°C) on Wednesday and highs could hover at that level until next Monday, he said, with relative humidity dropping to as low as 7%. The Park Fire,

which was only 14% contained on Tuesday, has forced the evacuation of more than 4,000 people and destroyed or damaged more than 192 structures, fire officials said. No injuries or deaths were reported. Jeremy Hollingshead, a spokesman for Cal Fire, said that lingering clouds of smoke have grounded the 41 helicopters used to drop water and fire retarding chemicals on the blaze.

Evacuations included Paradise, the town that was devastated by the 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest in the state's history.

The man charged with starting the Park Fire, allegedly by pushing a flaming car down a Butte County gully last Wednesday, was formally charged with arson on Monday, but awaits additional charges, officials said. The man, Ronnie Dean Stout II, 42, of Chico, California, denied wrongdoing at an arraignment on Monday, said Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey at a news conference. It was unclear if Stout had an attorney. Stout did not enter a plea but was denied bail. His arraignment was continued to Thursday, as more charges could be added, Ramsey said.



## News box

## Central Railway (CR): Harbour trains to terminate at Sandhurst Road?

**MUMBAI.** If Central Railway (CR) proceeds with its plan to lay fifth and sixth lines between CSMT and Parel, it may consider terminating Harbour line services at Sandhurst Road since Harbour platforms and tracks between CSMT and Masjid station will be needed for the new CSMT-Parel lines. CR also plans to demolish the fast corridor platforms at Byculla to create space for the new tracks. If so, there will be no stoppage for fast trains between CSMT and Dadar.

"The proposals are under serious consideration. Its feasibility is being checked," said a source. Under the plan, platforms 1 and 2 at CSMT and Masjid will be used for CR's Main line services, implying that all suburban network platforms at CSMT, from 1 to 7, will serve the Main line.

Currently, fifth and sixth lines exist between Kalyan and LTT, and work is underway to extend them between Kurla and Parel. But authorities have been debating their alignment between Parel and CSMT because of the need for land acquisition, especially private land -- a major issue. A CR official said, "Under the Railways Act, we can acquire land, but it is a time-consuming process and will cost an astronomical sum, which could make the project unviable."

A decade ago, CR proposed an alternative alignment for Harbour line from Dockyard Road over Eastern Freeway. The purpose was to free up space at both Masjid and Sandhurst Road for the exclusive use of the fifth and sixth lines from Kurla to CSMT. At the time, it was proposed to have two sister stations at Masjid and Sandhurst Road to provide points of interchange for both Main and Harbour lines. At CSMT, Harbour line trains were proposed to terminate on a deck that would come up at the existing platforms 17 and 18.

"This plan also required land from Mumbai Port Trust, which did not show a keen interest in the proposal. Additionally, MMRDA had a plan to extend its Metro 4 corridor (Wadala-Thane) to CSMT via PDMello Road, leading to discussions about avoiding a duplication of railway lines," said a CR official.

## Blasters to take on Mystics

**Bengaluru.** Bengaluru Blasters will face Gulbarga Mystics in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 opener at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Aug. 15. With league matchdays comprising double headers, Shivamogga Lions and Mysuru Warriors will be involved in the second match on Independence Day. The third edition has a cash purse of Rs 35 lakh with the winners and runners-up set to receive a cheque of 15 lakh and 10 lakh respectively.

Reigning champions Hubli Tigers will take on Mangaluru Dragons in their opener on Aug 16. Highlights: League stage from Aug 15 to Aug 29. Semifinal: Aug 30 and 31; Final: Sept 1. Cash prize: Winner: 15 lakh; Runners-up: 10 lakh. New voters should register by Aug 16: Election body Ahead of state assembly polls, Pune district election officials urged new voters to register by Aug 16 for inclusion in the final voter list set to be published on Aug 27. The initiative aims to address issues from the recent Lok Sabha polls where many voters reported missing names, with online and offline registration options provided.

Rahul Dravid's son Samit signs for Mysuru Warriors ahead of Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Mysuru Warriors signed Samit Dravid, son of Rahul Dravid, for the upcoming Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 season. Samit, a middle-order batsman and seamer, was acquired for Rs 50,000. The team also retained captain Karun Nair and secured pacer Prasidh Krishna for Rs 1 lakh, aiming to improve on their runner-up finish from the last season. From Aug 1, cops to register FIRs if your speed exceeds 130kmph on state highways in Karnataka. Karnataka police began enforcing stricter speed regulations on highways, registering FIRs against motorists exceeding 130kmph from August 1.

## Driver rapes woman in moving private bus near Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD.** A 26-year-old woman passenger was allegedly raped in a sleeper cubicle of a moving bus by one of the two drivers on the outskirts of city on Monday night. The woman alleged that the driver gagged her with a bed sheet before raping her next to her sleeping child. Both the drivers have been taken into custody and are being questioned. The woman, a widow from Prakasam, works in Nirmal from where she had boarded the bus. The private sleeper coach bus was going from Nirmal to Pamuru in AP. There were 35 passengers at the time of the incident. They told police that they woke up to the woman's angry utterances to Sidaiah, who was at the wheel, accusing the other driver, Krishna, of rape.

Around 12.40 am, when the bus reached Mettuguda, she dialed 100 who alerted Osmania University police. Police intercepted the bus near Tarnaka fire station. But by then Krishna had fled, helped by Sidaiah allegedly slowing down the vehicle.

"Krishna escaped after seeing the woman call police for help," OU inspector Rajender said, adding that the bus was seized and taken to police station.

## Landslides disrupt journey to coast

**Bengaluru.** Repeated incidents of landslides in the ghats section have made travelling to coastal districts arduous. On Tuesday, vehicles on the Shiradi Ghat section of NH-75 (Bengaluru-Mangaluru) were badly affected after a landslide occurred near Doddathappale village in Sakleshpur taluk, Chikkamagaluru district.

KSRTC buses were stuck for more than seven hours on the road and many other operators stopped services on the route. KSRTC diverted premier services operating between Bengaluru and Mangaluru to Sampaje route. Other buses operated via Charmadi Ghat section.

A senior KSRTC official said, "In the last month, there were multiple incidents in Shiradi Ghat section after Sakleshpur. Last week, the district administration suspended vehicle movement at night. Buses from Bengaluru had to stop till 6am at Sakleshpur, resulting in passengers reaching their destinations 3-4 hours late."

"Multi-axle buses manoeuvring sharp curves at Charmadi is a safety concern, so we're running buses through Sampaje section via Madikeri. Compared to Shiradi Ghat, passengers need 45 minutes to one hour more to reach their destinations as they have to travel an additional 40km," the official said.

Shravan K, a passenger, said, "Last week, I travelled from Bengaluru to Mangaluru. The bus left around 11.30pm from Majestic and reached Sakleshpur at 3.30am. The conductor then said the bus would halt till 6am. Along the route, there



was heavy congestion due to poor road conditions and bad weather."

Disruptions in trains

South Western Railway officials said trains between Bengaluru and Mangaluru may remain suspended till Aug 10 as heavy rain and other factors are affecting restoration of the rail track between Yedakumari and Kadagaravalli stations.

Because of landslides on the track on July 26, train services were cancelled on the section, affecting people heading to Mangaluru, Karwar, Murudeshwar,

Kannur and other locations.

Restoration efforts under way at Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Rail section. A severe rainstorm caused significant soil erosion and a landslide between Yedakumari and Kadagaravalli stations, leading to suspended train services. 430 personnel have been mobilized to address the damage. Immediate measures include inflatable tents, portable toilets, food supplies, medical aid, and equipment for restoration. Senior officers are overseeing the work to ensure effective implementation.

Heavy rain halts traffic at Tamhini Ghat on Raigad-Pune route. Traffic was halted at Tamhini Ghat on the Raigad-Pune route due to a landslide caused by heavy rains. Schools and colleges were closed by the Pune administration, who urged industrial establishments to consider a holiday. Multiple incidents resulted in fatalities and injuries, with rescue operations underway. Citizens were advised to stay indoors due to ongoing extreme weather conditions. 112006898

Landslides disrupt road connectivity in Munsyari. Multiple landslides disrupted connectivity between Munsyari and other parts of Pithoragarh district, blocking key roads. A landslide on the Thal-Munsyari road at Hardaria halted traffic, following a similar incident on the Jauljibi-Munsyari road. A total of 29 roads are currently blocked. Local rivers are also posing a threat, flowing above warning levels.

## Youth who killed 20-year-old & dumped her body on Navi Mumbai's Uran road held from Karnataka

**NAVI MUMBAI.** Four days after the body of a 20-year-old woman was found in the bushes behind a petrol pump at Kotnaka in Uran, police arrested the accused from his hometown in Karnataka's Gulbarga district.

Additional commissioner of police Deepak Sakore said the accused, Dawood Shaikh, has confessed his crime and is being brought to Navi Mumbai. "We had zeroed in on Shaikh as the prime suspect as he was caught on CCTV cameras on Uran station road walking behind Yashashri Shinde on July 25, the day she went missing," said a police officer.

A crime branch officer said Shaikh has confessed to killing Yashashri, who had rejected his advances in 2019 when he was living in Uran, as he suspected her of having an affair with his friend Mohsin, who is from his hometown. In 2019, Uran police had arrested Shaikh in a molestation and Poeso case based on



Yashashri's father's complaint after he caught them in a park. After spending four months in jail, Shaikh was granted bail during the Covid pandemic, and he went to Bengaluru with his widowed mother and sister. There he worked as a conductor with Karnataka state road transport agency. He, however, stayed in touch with Yashashri on the phone. In Feb, Shaikh made a call to Shinde from his friend Mohsin's phone. Later, Mohsin and Yashashri befriended each other on social media. Suspecting Yashashri and Mohsin

of having a relationship, Shaikh returned to Uran on July 23, and asked Yashashri to meet him on July 25, said police. She met him at Kotnaka near the petrol pump. When he asked her about her relationship with Mohsin, a verbal spat ensued and he allegedly stabbed her thrice on her waist and back, dumped her body in the bushes and fled. Her body was found the next day.

To apprehend Shaikh, a crime branch team, comprising a sub-inspector and three constables, went to Bengaluru and enquired with his mother and sister, while another team, comprising a police officer and three constables, laid a trap near his house in Alur village in Gulbarga, where his grandparents reside.

On Tuesday, around 5am, when Shaikh stepped out of the house, the sleuths, who were in plain clothes, followed him. On realising that they were cops, he tried to flee, but was caught after a chase.

## Tourism set to roar in Gujarat with lion-leopard safari in Kutch, Diu

**AHMEDABAD.** Soon, tourists visiting the white desert in Kutch and the beaches of Diu can also enjoy wildlife trails. In a major boost for tourism in the state, Gujarat govt's proposal to set up lion-leopard safari parks has been approved by the Central Zoo Authority of India (CZAI).

These twin safari parks, to be developed along the lines of Devalia safari park, will come up at Narayan Sarovar in Kutch and Naliya-Mandvi (Una taluka) in Gir Somnath. Nityanand Srivastava, the principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), said, "The CZAI has given its final approval. We will now submit the proposal to the Supreme Court for its approval as these sanctuaries will be set up on forest land." The Supreme Court had earlier this year saated that prior approval

of the court was needed to notify forest land as zoos or safari parks. The officials said that in Feb this year, the Supreme Court had stated that prior approval of the apex court is needed to notify forest land as zoos or safari parks under the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act 2023.

Sandeep Kumar, chief conservator of forests (CCF), Kutch, said that the Narayan Sarovar safari park will boost tourism in Kutch. It will have enclosures for lions and leopards in addition to the flora and fauna of Kutch. The forest officials said that the Naliya-Mandvi safari park, announced earlier this year by CM Bhupendra Patel, will be about 8km from Diu. Both these safari parks will be spread over nearly 400 hectares of forest land each. The officials added that in March, Gujarat govt had

decided to establish multi-species safari parks across the state to bolster wildlife conservation. Departing from the conventional model of single-species safari parks, these will offer visitors a more diverse and immersive experience by showcasing a variety of animal species.

CZAI has also given its approval for setting up a breeding centre for cheetahs in the Banni area of Kutch. The state forest department had begun laying the ground on a war footing for the cheetah breeding centre in March. To come up over 500 hectares, this will be India's first facility for the big cats where special open-to-air isolation enclosures are being built to create an environment conducive for breeding considering the mating behaviour of cheetahs.

## After directive, school shifts RTE students back to mornings

**Ahmedabad.** After a formal complaint about R P Vasani School in Nikol discriminating against poorer students admitted on the Right to Education (RTE) Act quota, the district education officer (DEO) issued notice to the school authorities and summoned them.

The school was directed to place its 35 RTE students back in the morning shift, instead of the afternoon shift, which had segregated them from the rest of the student body. The school administration assured the DEO that the students would be accommodated in the morning shift.

The DEO intervened after parents of RTE students approached said their children were being treated unfairly. The school authorities were asked to appear before the DEO, with substantiating evidence within a day, to explain the alleged discrimination.

After hearing the school representatives, the DEO, Rohit Chaudhary, issued a directive ordering the school to integrate these 35 RTE students with the rest of the student body. Schools to address student stress with happiness clubs. The Kochi Corporation's Happiness Project introduced Happiness Clubs in city government schools to enhance student mental health. Launched initially at two schools, the clubs focus on stress-relief activities for pupils from Class V to XII. The initiative includes workshops and sessions for students, parents, and teachers, addressing issues like emotional balance and drug abuse. 112103640

Two students suffer minor injuries after school bus collides with car. In Pimpri Chinchwad, a school bus and a BMW collided on a bus rapid transit route, resulting in minor injuries for two students and leg injuries for the car driver. Both drivers are facing charges for violating the BRT route rules. School administrators responded promptly, ensuring parents were informed and safety measures were reviewed.

Two students injured after school bus collides with car in Pimpri Chinchwad. In Pimpri Chinchwad, Maharashtra, a school bus and a car collided on Monday, resulting in minor injuries for two students. The crash happened at 12:30 PM on the Bus Rapid Transit route. The injured students were treated on-site, and the bus driver was taken into custody. An investigation to determine the cause of the accident has been initiated.

## City to fund green projects by selling AMC's unused FSI

**Ahmedabad.** Driven by its agenda to be a net-zero city, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is set to unlock a green goldmine. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is set to auction off underutilized floor space index (FSI) from plots reserved for public infrastructure in town planning (TP) schemes and sell the FSI to builders as transferable development rights (TDR). The proceeds from this TDR sale — close to Rs 1,000 crore annually, according to AMC estimates — will be channelled into a dedicated climate adaptation financing fund. The unused FSI, which will be sold as TDR, will belong to AMC's reserved plots in TP schemes such as those designated for social infrastructure — pumping stations, water tanks, sewage treatment plants (STP). A senior AMC official, requesting anonymity, confirmed the new policy under consideration.

The official also revealed that a separate committee will oversee the valuation and auction of TDRs, which will be headed by the municipal commissioner. The committee will include Auda's CEO and AMC's standing committee chairman.

The concept of TDR is closely linked to FSI. "FSI determines how much construction is permissible on a given plot of land. So, according to the new climate adaptation fund policy, developers can buy AMC's TDR to construct extra floors on their buildings or exceed their construction limit by a certain amount," said a senior AMC official.

## Bagalur KIA route barely qualifies as rd: Commuters

**Bengaluru.** Traffic police are advising Kempegowda International Airport-bound motorists from east and southeast Bengaluru to take the alternative Hennur-Bagalur main road to escape the nightmarish jams on Hebbal flyover. But the poor state of the road has left not only airport-bound travellers but also locals from Hennur, Kannur, and Bagalur cursing their plight.

The 21.9-km stretch from Hennur to KIA via Bagalur is preferred by residents of Hennur, Tin Factory, Nagawara, Hegdenagar, Chokksandra, Kannur, Chikkabagalur and beyond to reach the airport. Anil Lulla, a resident of Hennur, said: "There is no road, it is just a series of potholes. BBMP isn't serious about addressing the pothole menace, it's just interested in building flyovers and other development projects."

While the recent rain has worsened the road's condition, the numerous compactors and trucks that carry waste on this stretch aren't helping. "Cabs refuse rides from people who want to go to Bagalur because of the bad road conditions," said Preeti Shenoy, a resident of Kannur. When Preeti recently tried to book a ride from her home to the airport, six drivers cancelled. She finally got a ride but was delayed by 45 minutes, narrowly making her flight.

Vipin Andrews, a resident of Hennur-Bagalur main road, said there is barely any streetlight on this stretch. "In the name of impending white-topping work, the road is barely being maintained. The authorities are delaying starting works, so we'll have to bear this nightmare," he said.

"When it rains, the road is flooded and we can barely see anything. There are so many motorists who fall into stagnant water because of the lack of streetlights; only the headlights of vehicles are not enough to navigate through the road," he added. Rajeev Rajan, a resident of Bagalur Road,

said there is little hope the authorities will fix things. "Four-wheeler drivers have to literally slither like snakes trying to avoid potholes. Vehicles are getting damaged and I know of many people whose chassis has been damaged by bad roads," he said.

The poor road condition is echoing on social media too. Bipin MS (@BipinMS2) tweeted, "@DKShivakumar these things should be taken care of even before you dream about skydeck, tunnel etc. Brand Bengaluru starts with fulfilling basic infrastructure necessity and then going for advanced (sic)." Will patch up potholed roads at Curchorem. Prasanna Bhende was elected as the unopposed chairperson of the Curchorem-Cacora Municipal Council after Pradip Naik's resignation at the end of his term. Bhende praised Naik's work and pledged to continue ongoing projects and address pothole and garbage issues. Yolanda Pereira was also elected as vice-chairperson, following another unwritten agreement among councillors. 112147200

Roads damaged by rain leave commuters harried. In Ludhiana, roads have been severely damaged due to the rainy season, causing difficulties for residents and the municipal corporation. Areas like Feroze Gandhi market and Sarabha Nagar are particularly affected. The municipal body attributes the issue to water stagnation and an inadequate drainage system, which hampers road repair efforts.

Residents jittery as crocs venture out on Vadodara roads. Recent floods in Vadodara caused by heavy rains have led to numerous crocodile sightings in residential areas. The overflow of the Ajwa lake heightened the Vishwamitri river's water levels, prompting the nearly 300 crocodiles residing there to venture out to escape the strong currents, leading to encounters with locals and wildlife rescuers.





## India, Pakistan must work out ways to revive trade ties

NEARLY 77 years after Independence, diplomatic, political, and economic relations between India and Pakistan remain marred by enmity and hatred. They have fought two low-intensity wars (the Kashmir conflict in 1947-48 and the 1999 Kargil War) and two full-fledged ones (in 1965 and 1971). However, the contentious issues of Kashmir and cross-border terrorism remain unresolved. While political leaders from both nations have occasionally attempted to find mutually acceptable solutions, rational efforts have repeatedly been thwarted by irrational barriers. This cyclical pattern resembles a game of snakes and ladders, where progress is often undone by setbacks.

With the installation of new governments in India and Pakistan, there is a renewed glimmer of hope. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former premier Nawaz Sharif congratulated Narendra Modi last month when he took oath as the PM for the third time. Shehbaz emphasised that peace in the region was unattainable unless the Kashmir dispute was resolved. And Nawaz called for replacing hate with hope and seizing the opportunity to shape the destiny of two billion people in South Asia. PM Modi reminded them that the people of India had always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas. However, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated that terrorism could not be a policy of a good neighbour and, hence, it needed to be curbed.

While India insists on halting cross-border terrorism first, Pakistan demands that the Kashmir issue be addressed on priority. Both countries, however, understand that resolving these vexed issues requires mature and sustained politico-diplomatic dialogue, which, as yet, is not coming from either side. Sharat Sabharwal, a former High Commissioner to Pakistan, suggests managing the relationship at the lowest possible levels of violence and volatility, combining dialogue with deterrence, and nudging Pakistan in the right direction. He suggests that converting the LoC (Line of Control) into an international border could be a feasible non-military solution to the Kashmir issue. The prolonged delay in reaching a mutually acceptable and mature solution has complicated the issues further, with new factors — such as China's involvement — adding to the complexity. Both countries have incurred significant financial and human losses because of their acrimonious relations. It has impacted crucial development issues — such as education, health and poverty eradication — especially in Pakistan, which is currently facing a severe economic crisis. India had granted the most favoured nation (MFN) status to Pakistan in 1996 for trade purposes under the World Trade Organisation. But Pakistan did not reciprocate. This needs to be reviewed. Further, India revoked Pakistan's MFN status following the 2019 Pulwama attack. India should restore the neighbour's MFN status, and Pakistan should return the favour. Notably, there is huge potential for India-Pakistan trade. According to a World Bank study, it can reach \$37 billion. If the potential is fully exploited, it would also have a positive impact on trade through the integrated check-post (ICP) at Attari. The strained relations, however, have blocked India's access to Central Asia and beyond and hindered SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). Of late, India has strengthened its ties with Iran and signed a 10-year agreement for the management and development of the Chabahar port, which provides access to Central Asia, including Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. The proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) is also aimed at bypassing Pakistan and Afghanistan. While this would benefit Indian states near major ports, it is less advantageous for border and landlocked states like Punjab. Paradoxically,

## Agnipath has much scope for improvement

It may be a good idea to extend the Agniveer's tenure from four to seven years

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi may have gone overboard on Friday while speaking at the Kargil Vijay Diwas event in Drass. He accused the Opposition of politicising the Agnipath issue. The goal of the scheme, he said, was to make the Army young... and to keep it continuously fit for war. "Unfortunately," he added, "some people have made such a sensitive issue related to national security a subject of politics." He had some more strong words to say, and whether the occasion was appropriate for them is a question. Ideally, the Opposition and the Prime Minister should have shared a common platform for the solemn observance. But that would perhaps be asking for too much. There is no doubt that in the past 10 years a great deal has been done for reforming the military. The appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff and the creation of the Department of Military Affairs, the reformed Defence Acquisition Policy has been another, the forced indigenisation of the defence industry as well as the opening up of defence industry to the private sector and providing it 25 per cent of the defence R&D funds. But in its own way, the most ambitious is Agnipath. Under this scheme, an Agniveer is recruited between the ages of 17 and 21, s/he serves for four years and thereafter will leave with a severance package; 25 per cent of these 'retirees' would be offered re-enlistment for a further period of 15 years and more, and presumably be entitled to a pension. As for the bulk of the Agniveers, 75 per cent of them would have options of various government jobs where they would be entitled to preferential recruitment.

Controversy arose over the scheme when, in late 2023, former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane said in his yet to be published memoir that the scheme was a "bolt out of the blue for the Navy and the IAF" and that he had proposed a four-year term only for the Army, and that too with retaining 75 per cent personnel and letting go 25 per cent. But the Ministry of Defence (MoD) reversed this to releasing 75 per cent and retaining only 25 per cent.

There has been a problem with Agnipath from the outset. Because of politics, and both sides have played it, the main question often is: What (more) can we do for the Agniveer? But we do not quite have the answer to the other question: what can or should the Agniveer be doing for the Army?

The primary argument is that Agnipath will lower the average age of the Army. A government affidavit



claimed that India had the highest average age, 32, for below officer rank personnel as against a worldwide average of 26. But the recruitment age in the Army has always been in the 16.5-21 age group for decades. By releasing 75 per cent and infusing a new lot of personnel every cycle, the scheme expects to lower the age of the military. But as we noted, what will it get in return? There are certain realities of Indian recruits. When young men or women were recruited earlier, they were often underweight and undernourished and came from a diversity of backgrounds. Nine months of basic training just brought them to scratch in terms of physique and discipline, and thereafter there was need for professional training as an infantryman of more technical jobs as a handler of tanks, artillery, air defence systems. This could require anywhere up to another year for just proficiency.

Now, the Agniveer is inducted into the Army with just

six months of training. Given the rural background, levels of education and the age of induction, it is unlikely that an Agniveer comes in with any saleable skills. In better-off countries, a recruit would come in with a skill like driving, but in India that alone could take three months.

Former Admiral Arun Prakash has noted that while Agnipath may be useful for the Army, where infantry personnel are not too much into technology, it would be a major problem for the Air Force and the Navy, where "at least 5-6 years are required before a new entrant can acquire enough hands-on experience to be entrusted with the operation or maintenance of lethal weapons systems and complex machinery and electronics".

The government has denied that the Agnipath scheme was motivated by anything else other than the need for a younger profile of the military. In retrospect, the government needs to be upfront on the fact that it was indeed motivated by the public finance aspects of the scheme which will, however, kick in only after a decade. The pension bill which, according to the latest budget consumed Rs 1.41 lakh crore or 22.7 per cent of the defence budget is a millstone around the military's neck. Given the calls in the past for a younger force, we need not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Instead of ending the scheme, the government needs to modify it to overcome shortcomings such as that of training and skill development. It may be a good idea to extend the Agniveer's tenure from four to seven years, an idea that has been around for some time. This will ensure enough time for training and also providing effective contribution to the service. The Agniveers will be between 24 and 28 years when released, which is ideal for the many opportunities that are opening up, somewhat belatedly, for them.

And remember, of course, that the 550-odd who died in the Kargil War in 1999 were trained, hardened and dedicated soldiers, not Agniveers. That kind of test still awaits the scheme.

## A tragedy in Delhi

Let deaths of Shreya, Tanya & Nevin not go in vain

THERE is a sense of desperation about the action taken by authorities following the shocking death of three students, who drowned in the flooded basement of a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar on Saturday. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has terminated the services of a junior engineer and suspended an assistant engineer, besides carrying out an anti-encroachment drive and sealing the premises of several illegal coaching centres in the area. Ironically, it was just six months ago that the Union Ministry of Education had come up with a set of guidelines for the regulation of coaching centres across the country. The guidelines encompass key aspects, including infrastructure prerequisites, such as fire safety codes, building safety codes and other standards. Are various states and UTs taking these norms seriously? As per 2022 estimates, the coaching industry in India is a huge money-spinner — it is worth Rs 58,000 crore and projected to reach Rs 1.3 lakh crore by 2028. It is not uncommon for operators



to make compromises to cut down costs. In the Rajya

Sabha, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said coaching centres had become no less than gas chambers. The AAP government in Delhi is accusing the Centre-nominated L-G of turning a blind eye to the city's mess and the BJP is returning the compliment. Perhaps, then, it's time to ask the 'What if' question. What if these children were your own, or those of an influential politician? Would the inquiry have unfolded differently and different lessons be learnt?

The thought of how these three young people — Shreya Yadav from UP, Tanya Soni from Telangana and Nevin Dalvin from Kerala — could drown in the heart of a congested city is horrifying. But if we want to give ourselves the chance of redeeming ourselves — and the memories of these three people — then a political will must be forged to ensure that the guilty are punished. Let a national cleansing take place. Let it begin from Delhi.

## When aged leaders fail to see age as a handicap

These leaders tend to be in a bubble, surrounded by loyalists and sycophants who will never tell them truths about the seriousness of their cognitive decline.

WITH octogenarian Joe Biden exiting the US presidential contest because of age-related frailties, the tables have been turned on septuagenarian Donald Trump, the Republican candidate in the November election. Trump had not criticised Biden as being too old for the presidency — not in this campaign cycle nor in the one four years ago — despite calling him 'Sleepy Joe' and implying that he was not all there at the only debate this year between the two men. Trump, 78, knows he is vulnerable on the issue of his age. He is only three years junior to Biden. Old age had dogged Biden even during the 2020 election season because he has been chronically prone to gaffes and suffered from stutter as a child, which he overcame. Not many people have thought of Trump as a septuagenarian because he has talked in videos, leaked during his 2020 campaign, of groping women. And, strippers have given graphic accounts of sex with the real estate mogul who became President. The popular image of Trump is that of a man full of libido, notwithstanding his age.

Both Trump's approaching 80s and his convicted felonies and sexual escapades will be the stuff of an unfurling Democratic campaign. It will show the prowess of Kamala Harris as a former prosecutor when she is on the stump. Harris, who is Biden's presumptive replacement as the Democratic Party's candidate, is not yet 60 and can legitimately argue that Trump will soon be too old to govern if he is elected President. After all, her party replaced its candidate entirely on that ground. A majority of the Americans agreed with that decision, polls showed.

Growing old is an inevitable fact of life, but everyone recognises this handicap, except the aged Heads of State or Government themselves. Partly, this is because these leaders tend to be in a bubble,

surrounded by loyalists — with the usual sprinkling of sycophants — who will never tell their bosses uncomfortable truths about the seriousness of their cognitive decline. Biden's is the most recent and widely publicised example. But there have been many before him. In India, then External Affairs Minister SM Krishna read the Portuguese Foreign Minister's speech at the United Nations Security Council in 2011. He was as old as Trump when he made the faux pas. Indian officials did not blame the gaffe on Krishna's reflexes or his agility. They said the UN staff routinely placed an English translation of a Portuguese minister's speech on top of Krishna's papers after the former had spoken immediately before it was India's turn. Pakistanis at the UN made the most of this mistake. In 2013, LK Advani, then 86, had to be persuaded to not press his claim all the way to be the BJP's prime-ministerial candidate and make way for the incumbent, Narendra Modi. Dinesh Singh became External Affairs Minister when he was only 68 in 1993. Tragically, he suffered a stroke shortly after his appointment, but the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao did not relieve him of the very demanding portfolio that involved frequent travel. Singh could not even go to his office in South Block and files had to be sent to his home, where he was mostly bedridden. Delhi's grapevine was rife with speculation at that time about astrologers advising Rao that Singh's presence in the Union Cabinet was auspicious. The last straw was Singh's insistence in March 1994 that he would travel to Tehran as Rao's Special Envoy to deliver a message from the Prime Minister to Iran's then President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The mission was critical. India was



seeking Iran's intervention at the UN Human Rights Commission to prevent a resolution on Kashmir being passed at the commission's annual session in Geneva. Shortly after he came back from Tehran, Rao made Pranab Mukherjee External Affairs Minister because Singh simply could not discharge his duties. But Rao retained Singh as minister without portfolio until his death in November 1995.

I first interviewed Mahathir Mohamad in 1988 in Dubai. By then, he had served seven years as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister and was full of promise as an emerging leader of developing countries and as a moderate voice in the Islamic world. Maverick leaders like Libya's Muammar Gaddafi and unpredictable dictators like Iraq's Saddam Hussein were the flavours in the Organisation of Islamic Conference — as it was then known — and in the Arab League. Mahathir's time as Prime Minister spanned a total of 24 years, Malaysia's longest. When he gave up office in 2003, he was already 78 years old. His dramatic return as

Prime Minister 15 years later, when he was 93, is stuff of political legends. In 1988, Mahathir talked about his part-Indian ancestry on the condition that I will not publish it. He was then vigorously implementing the electorally rewarding 'Bumiputera' policy which gave preference to the Malays over the Chinese and Indians in Malaysia's multi-racial society. His Indian ancestry became less of a secret after he quit his first term as Prime Minister. The nonagenarian's return as Head of Government was hard fought. He had to resign from his political organisation and form a new party, whose Malay name translates as the Malaysian United Indigenous Party. It created a coalition, which swept to power, defeating the party which had ruled Malaysia since the country's formation in 1963. Sadly, Mahathir damaged his legacy by clinging to the PM's chair even at the age of 95 although he had promised to be an interim leader. The Malaysian people defeated Mahathir in the General Election two years ago. He lost his deposit from the Langkawi constituency.

Habib Bourguiba was a leader lionised by the Tunisian people for leading his country to independence. Tunisia is a remarkable country where the Arab Spring began in 2010. Unfortunately, Bourguiba, too, did not know when to retire. At the age of 84, as President, he forgot that he had signed a decree expanding his Cabinet and appointed the head of a state-run newspaper, only to fire him in 24 hours. He recalled an Ambassador a few days after the envoy presented his credentials. Bourguiba's peaceful ouster created the term 'medical coup d'état' after his doctors declared him unfit to be President.



# Mumbai to get India's first Lighthouse

## tourist destination

He wanted to examine whether we could make the lighthouse into a tourist destination and asked if the Times of India would support the initiative. So we agreed to meet at 6 am at the Gateway of India and took a 40-minute boat ride to the island. Throughout the way, we could not help but marvel at the fact that our sea looked as beautiful as any other part of the world, but it was just that we had not seen its potential, as a country, to exploit it for tourism.

I was excited with the possibility of we Indians also getting an experience in our country that we otherwise, only see as tourists in other

countries. Months after our visiting the island, the Ministry of Tourism has finally given its consent to the Ministry of Shipping and jointly, they have started to develop three lighthouses, that they have identified, into tourist destinations — Kanhoji Angre in Mumbai, the Dolphin's Nose in Vishakhapatnam and Mahabalipuram lighthouse

about 40 kms south of Chennai. The first to be launched would be, of course, the one in Mumbai. We bring you excerpts of our exclusive conversation with the two ministers:

**Dr K. Chiranjeevi, union Minister of state for tourism**  
**Have you visited any of the international lighthouses?**

Once as a brand ambassador of a beverage brand, I was supposed to shoot an ad in South Africa in a lighthouse. But I couldn't make it due to my tight schedule, but thanks to the graphics the ad showed me in the lighthouse and it looked fantastic. Now, once these lighthouses are built, Milind and I can actually stand on the lighthouse and give a

shot.

**Are you enjoying being a minister as much as you enjoyed being an actor?**

I enjoyed being an actor in the 30 years of my film career. After that, I think venturing into politics is a way to give back. I used to do some philanthropic work but with the political platform, I can contribute in a bigger way. On the lighter side, as an actor, your acting hours are limited but as a minister, it is unlimited. I remember when the Prime Minister appointed me, he said, 'We have rightfully chosen you as a tourism minister as you have enormous experience and you have gone all over the world as an actor, so you know how to enhance, uplift and encourage our tourism sector. You can be a brand ambassador for your ministry.' Our three big constraints for building tourism are connectivity, hygiene and the safety and security of our tourist places. Many countries find it difficult to get a visa and would like us to give them a visa on arrival. When I went to Spain, the tourism minister told me a lot of people want to come to India as they love Bollywood, but they don't have direct flights and find it difficult to get visas on arrival, that is currently offered to only citizens of nine countries. I am in talks with the home ministry to extend it to about 40 countries.

**Your favourite holiday destination?**

Internationally, I love going to Switzerland. I went there many times for my shooting and I loved the Alps, the tranquility, cleanliness, the greenery and the warmth of the people there. In India, there are lots of places that I love, but my favourite is Kashmir. Till the terrorism problem happened, for almost a decade, every summer I would be shooting there. I also like Goa, as it is happening and is lively and affordable. My family always joins me in the summer holidays when I shot in Kashmir. A few months back, my family members went to Jammu and Kashmir for a holiday. I had planned to go but could not. They said they missed me as they got nostalgic remembering the times and places where they jumped, slid and sledged as kids. Just hearing this from them made me so happy.

**Do you miss being a part of the film industry?**

If Charan (Ram Charan) was not there, I would have missed it. But I have no regrets since he took over and I feel connected to films through him. He is hard-working and focused and I am happy that he is no longer the brat that he was as a child.

**Milind Deora, Minister of state for shipping**  
**What excited you to develop these lighthouses?**

Our ministry runs 180 lighthouses along the coastline of India. They are important navigational tools for ships, but I realised that they can become important tourist destinations. And of the three we have identified, India's first will be developed just off the coast of Mumbai. It's a unique lighthouse and you have to sail to the island that makes it attractive for tourists. It's a historical island with a fort built around it by Kanhoji Angre. We feel that the partnership with the ministry of tourism should have happened a long time ago. But, better late than never.

These are beautiful assets waiting to be exploited for tourism. When I studied in Boston, I saw that the entire east coast of America has a number of lighthouses. It adds a full maritime experience and Europe and US do it naturally and very well. If we can recreate that in India, we can attract a lot of tourists both from India and abroad. Mumbai is one of the best coastal cities and this is the most underutilised asset we have. We live in Mumbai, but don't even know what it is like to go to the sea. People around the world appreciate it, look after it well and even exploit it as a government. To me, it is exciting, personally and professionally.

**Your favourite holiday destination?**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It's just by default that I have become minister of shipping, but I love the sea, I love swimming and diving.



## Rediscovering the wonders of Pune



**University of Pune**  
**History:** The main building of the University of Pune was made in 1864. During the British Raj, it was the official residence of the governor of Bombay and post-independence, the building was restored for academic and official purposes.

Heritage and history have always been a part of the city's charm. Over the next few days, we will showcase what we believe to be our city's 15 wonders. We have also organised visits to some of these heritage destinations.

**Nana Wada**

**History:** The Nana Wada, built in 1780, adopting Gothic structures, used to be the home of Nanasahab Phadnavis, an influential minister and statesman of the Maratha empire during the Peshwa administration. This wada is a large six-quadrangled, perimeter-protected construction. Back then, the Krishna river used to flow beside the Nana Wada, which had steps leading to the river. The Nana Wada has been a preferred location for many Bollywood filmmakers to shoot their movies. Mrityudand, Goonj Uthi Shehna, Jis Desh Me Ganga Rehata Hai, and Swades are a just a few such examples.

**To see:** Among the things to look out for are the few temples behind the Nana Wada that have beautiful Peshwai pictures on their walls. Another interesting thing is a huge bell housed in the temple premises which was won by the Peshwas in the war of Vasai in 1707 against the British. Nana Wada can be visited from 11 am to 6 pm daily.

Inspired by Prince Albert Osborne's house on the Isle of Wight, it was built at a cost of around 1,75,000 Sterling Pound, which was nearly six times the amount raised by the sale of the previous Governor's residence.

**To see:** A little ahead of the building is a small pond, with a stone prison right in the middle of it. During the British era, crocodiles were kept in the pond that surrounded the prisoners in their cells. The University can be visited between 8 am-6 pm with prior permission.

**Parvati**

**History:** Located at a height of 2,100 feet above sea level, Parvati is one of the highest points in the city and gives an excellent panoramic bird's eye view of Pune. The Parvati houses a temple complex and one needs to climb and a total of 103 steps to reach the top. The main temple was built by Shrimant Nana Saheb Peshwa in 1749 and was visited by the Prince of Wales, Albert Edward, during his visit to India in 1875. Apart from its historical importance, it is also a hot favourite among fitness enthusiasts, who come here daily for their morning and evening walks.

**To see:** Other than the temple, the complex also has a museum housing artefacts from the Peshwa period. The Parvati gates are open for the general public from 5.00 am to 8.00 pm.

Its cobbled streets, beautiful monuments, streets filled with music and art and charming old square make it a wonderful option for an enchanting history rich getaway.

**How to get there**

**By Air**

All leading airlines fly from Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai to Krakow, via Frankfurt, Moscow, Berlin or several other destinations in Europe. It also has a direct connection to several European cities and would make a good base for exploring the rest of the continent.

**By Bus**

Buses and trams make it easy to travel around Krakow, though you can happily walk for large parts of the city. You can buy tickets at ticket machines or on board. Keep change handy. For ease of travel, pick up the Krakow Tourist Card that gives you free travel on buses and trams. It comes in 60zł and 80zł denomination with two or three day validity. [http://www.krakow.pl/english/6243,artykul.krakow\\_tourist\\_card.html](http://www.krakow.pl/english/6243,artykul.krakow_tourist_card.html)

**Where to stay**

There are enough stay options in Krakow. You can choose from star hotels to boutique hotels, apartments and hostels. I stayed at the Sheraton, which gives a wonderful view of the river and castle. For apartments, check out [www.apartmentcrakow.com](http://www.apartmentcrakow.com). For Dorm accommodations, try The Secret Garden Hostel ([www.theseccretgarden.pl](http://www.theseccretgarden.pl)). You'll also find well known chains like Novotel and Radisson and Ibis.

**Food**

There are lots of options. Try a traditional Polish Milk Bar or a traditional brewery for the authentic local experience. If you can afford it, try a restaurant called Wierzynek. It's been around since 1364 (really) and hosted royal banquets!

**Places of Interest**

Plenty! Though it saw the worst of Nazis, Krakow was fortunate to not be completely destroyed during WWII. The Old Town is a historic location, as is Kazimierz (former Jewish Quarter). Old Town must visits include the majestic Wawel Castle, Cloth Hall (a merchant's market since the middle ages), St Mary's Basilica and the Town Hall Tower. The Royal castle on Wawel Hill includes a Cathedral as well, apart from other treasures inside its fortified walls.

Kazimierz has a sad history as Jews were persecuted here by the Nazis during World War II. A large number of Jews were saved by the businessman

## Krakow: Cultural capital of Poland



Krakow is the cultural capital of Poland. It's history goes back to the 4th century. It is considered one of the most beautiful cities of Eastern Europe and is on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Oskar Schindler, made famous in the movie Schindler's List. You can now visit Schindler's Enamelware Factory in Kazimierz. Kazimierz is also home to several churches, synagogues and museums and makes for a good walking tour.

Wieliczka Salt Mines: Built in the 13th century, these were one of the oldest salt mines still in operation until 2007. You can see statues, chapels and other things crafted out of rock salt.

Krakow offers some interesting tours. One is a cycling tour of the city (<http://www.cooltourcompany.com/>). The other is a communist tour of Krakow as it was a East European communist hub. Try [http://www.crazyguides.com/krakow\\_tours/](http://www.crazyguides.com/krakow_tours/). They take you in a cool communist era vehicle called Trabant, making it complete. You can also do a tour of the Jewish

quarter and some of these are free! More than the sights, the best experience in Krakow is to park yourself in the old town square, in one of the many open air restaurants and hear music being played and take in the general joie de vivre. Visit Planty Park and play chess on one of the available boards. You can also catch festivals, fireworks and other events by the river.

**Closure Line**

Though not on top of the regular Indian travel list, Krakow is a wonderful getaway that is rich both in history and the relaxed yet lively experience it offers. Make this part of your Europe itinerary and you won't regret it.



# Delhi study centre survivor recalls last words of victim: No need to panic

Recounting the horrifying moment, Rishabh Pal, one of the survivors, said the over 13-foot-high library of the coaching centre was filled with water in 3-4 minutes.

► IAS aspirant recounts last moments at flooded coaching centre

► Says library was filled with water in just 3-4 minutes

► 3 IAS aspirants died due to flooding in basement of coaching centre

**New Delhi.** A civil service aspirant, who narrowly escaped from the flooded basement of the coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar area in Delhi, said one of the victims had told him not to panic. Recalling the words of Tanya Soni, who was among the three students who drowned in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle institute, Rishabh Pal, 21, said he would forever feel guilty for not being able to save his batchmates, PTI reported.

Shreya Yadav (25) and Nevin Dalwin (28) were the other two IAS aspirants who died on July 27. The coaching centre had permission to use the basement only as a storage, but it was turned into a library.

Rishabh Pal, from Ghaziabad, said around 15 students managed to

escape from the basement, but around 15 more were stuck there. Recounting the horrifying moment, Pal said the over 13-foot-high library was filled with water in just three to four minutes. "Tanya, who was my batchmate, said there was no need to panic, and we would be saved. She also suggested forming a human chain. We tried forming a chain, but due to the flow of water we could not hold on," he said. He said that as the water started filling in, he climbed the stairs and a staff member pulled him up. Rishabh said Tanya and Shreya were standing on a table in the library the last time he saw them.

"Behind me, my friend Jaideep and a few others came out. Then, the staff members of our institute

brought a rope to pull the others who were stuck in the water," he told PTI. Rishabh said that he didn't notice Nevin in the library. Praising the quick work of the employees, Rishabh said had they not acted swiftly, the number of casualties would have been more.

However, contrary to reports, he said there were no biometric locks in any part of the building. He also alleged that there was a delay in response to their distress calls.

"The NDRF officials who came at about 10 pm told us that they could not do anything as they did not have any equipment," he told. So far, seven people, including the owner and the coordinator of the centre, have been arrested in connection with the case.



## 'Attempted murder' case against husband of woman tied to tree in Maharashtra

**Mumbai.** The Sindhudurg police on Tuesday registered an FIR against one Satish in connection with the matter concerning a US national, who was found chained to a tree in the jungle in Sindhudurg district last week.

The woman is suspected to have been chained to a tree in the jungle for around 40 days. Several people have been questioned, and some teams have also left outside the state for investigation in the case.

The FIR is registered for attempted murder, illegal confinement, endangering personal safety under sections of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as per the Sindhudurg police.

Senior police officials from Maharashtra police confirmed that an FIR has been registered against the person identified as Satish whose name was provided by the 50-year-old victim.

The victim is presently recuperating at the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour (IPHB) at Goa Medical College and Hospital in Bambolim. Sources said that the victim, in initial written notes, revealed that she had been chained to the tree using shackles by her husband, with whom she had stayed in Tamil Nadu since last decade and left there to die.

In one of the notes she handed over to the police, she said "Injection for extreme psychosis which caused a severely locked jaw and inability to drink any water. Need intravenous food. 40 days without food and water. Husband tied me to a tree in the forest and said I would die there". The US national has been identified as Lalita Kayi Kumar S and her passport, an Aadhaar card bearing a Tamil Nadu address, a bag containing food and supplies and a raincoat were found from the spot. She was seen by a shepherd, who was from the nearby village of Ronapal and saw her when he had taken sheep to the jungle and was shocked to hear her screams and then informed villagers who informed the local police. The police took her to the Sindhudurg district hospital where she couldn't talk or speak due to starvation and weakness and dehydration, so she was provided initial treatment to get her energy back and then shifted to IPHB in Goa for further treatment.

IG Konkan Range Sanjay Darade said "We are yet to record her statement as she is recuperating, meanwhile on primary details provided by her, an FIR has been registered, and an investigation has been

## Landslide hits Manipur village, woman and child buried alive

**Tamenglong, Manipur.** A woman and her child were buried alive after a landslide struck a village in Manipur's Tamenglong district, officials said. On Monday night, debris from the landslide fell on the house of Ringsinlung Kahmei, a constable with the Manipur Police, killing his wife and child on the spot, while leaving him critically injured. As a result of his critical injuries, Kahmei was airlifted to Imphal on Tuesday for further treatment, officials said. Expressing grief over the incident, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh tweeted, "Deeply



saddened to learn about the tragic loss of a mother and her child due to the landslide that occurred last night in Dimthanlong village, Tamenglong Ward No. 3."

"My heart goes out to the bereaved family. Our thoughts are with Mr Ringsinlung Kahmei, who has been critically injured in this incident. We are taking immediate steps to ensure he receives the necessary medical attention and advanced care", he added.

During the monsoon season, landslides and mudslides are common in the hilly areas of Manipur and Tamenglong district is known for such natural catastrophes.

## 320 new electric buses take Delhi's count to 1,970, overall fleet crosses 7,600

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, along with Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinay Kumar Saxena, flagged off 320 new electric buses from Baansera in Sarai Kale Khan.

**New Delhi.** The Delhi government on Tuesday inducted 320 new 12-meter electric buses into its public transportation fleet, bringing the total number of buses to 7,683.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, along with Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinay Kumar Saxena, flagged off these electric buses from Baansera in Sarai Kale Khan.

With this addition, the number of electric buses in the Delhi government fleet has now risen to 1,970. The fleet now comprises 5,713 CNG buses and 1,970 electric buses.

"The induction of these new electric buses marks a significant step towards our commitment to creating a cleaner, greener Delhi. These buses are not only environmentally friendly



but also equipped with the latest safety and convenience features for our passengers. We are proud to have the highest number of electric buses in any Indian city and are dedicated to further expanding this fleet", the Delhi Transport Minister said. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) now operates 4,536 buses,

including 2,966 CNG buses and 1,570 electric buses, while the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) operates 3,147 buses, which include 2,747 CNG and 400 electric buses.

Before Tuesday's flag-off, Delhi had been operating 1,650 electric buses since January 2022, which have collectively covered over 112 million kilometers, cutting down more than 91,000 tonnes of Co2.

Currently, 25 per cent of Delhi's bus fleet is electric. Delhi has the second-largest electric bus fleet in the world. With 2,267 electric buses, Santiago in Chile has the largest fleet. By 2025, Delhi aims to have a total of 10,480 buses, with 80 per cent (8,280 buses) being electric, saving 4,67,000 tonnes of CO2 annually.

## Delhi chief secretary blames coaching centre, government calls out 'delay' in probe report submission

**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi chief secretary on Tuesday submitted a magisterial inquiry report to Revenue Minister Atishi in the Old Rajinder Nagar coaching centre deaths. The report said the coaching institute completely blocked the drainage system and did not take measures to meet such eventualities.

Atishi, however, said she had asked the chief secretary to initiate a magisterial probe and submit a report within 24 hours. But what she received was an incident report on Monday.

The minister was told that the inquiry would take seven more days. "It is unfortunate that the bureaucracy is showing laxity in the



investigation. It raises questions whether the culprits are being protected," said the minister.

"The parking access to the institute is directly exposed to the road and in case of a heavy rain, water flows directly into the parking area instead of going into the stormwater drain," the report said. "In the absence of vigil by security staff, the water crossed the parking area and entered the basement, resulting in the death of three bright children," said the report.

It said the violation by the owner for using the basement for other than storage purposes led to the incident. It was evident from the local residents' version that the basement gate worked with a biometric/access control lock system and the students could not come out quickly.

## Death toll in Wayanad landslides touches 158, rescue ops on war footing

Kerala Wayanad landslides: Hundreds more are feared trapped as multiple agencies and the Army race against time to save as many lives as possible.

**New Delhi.** At least 158 people have been killed, and over 200 were injured after massive landslides struck the hilly areas near Meppadi in Wayanad. According to government data, more than 180 people are feared to be trapped under debris as multiple agencies and the Army race against time to save as many lives as possible.

Three landslides struck Wayanad within a span of four hours on Tuesday amid heavy rain, leaving a trail of destruction in Mundakkal, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha villages. Several people were swept away in the Chaliyar river.

In Wayanad, 45 relief camps have been established, accommodating 3,069 people. Visuals and videos on social media showed uprooted trees and damaged houses dotting the district, known for its picturesque locales and tea estates.

Wayanad Landslides: Latest Developments  
Wayanad district authorities have started collecting data to determine the number of people missing. The data on those missing is being collected by reviewing ration card details and other government documents, PTI reported.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who has declared a two-day state mourning, will chair a meeting with senior officials and ministers stationed in Wayanad to review the progress of rescue operations.

Units of the Army, NDRF, SDRF and other emergency services personnel resumed operations on Day 2 and are searching under collapsed roofs and debris of destroyed houses for victims and possible survivors.

A total of 225 Army personnel have been



deployed for rescue operations. Several companies of the Army have also been moved from Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru to Calicut. The Army rescued over 1,000 people using a temporary structure after a major bridge connecting Chooralmala and Mundakkal

villages in the district was washed away due to heavy rain.

An NDRF personnel was quoted by ANI as saying that there were chances of another landslide as heavy rainfall continued in the district. Helpline numbers 9656938689 and 8086010833 have been issued.

Meanwhile, Kerala Health Minister Veena George's car met with a minor accident while she was on her way to Wayanad. George was taken to Manjeri Medical College in Malappuram for first aid.

The weather department has predicted more rain for Wayanad and several other districts over the next couple of days. A red alert for heavy rain has been issued for Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod districts.

## 'There was no rash driving': Wife of SUV driver arrested in coaching centre deaths

**New Delhi.** "My husband was only trying to reach a safe spot," said Shima Kathuria, wife of Manuj Kathuria, who was arrested in connection with the deaths of three civil services aspirants inside a flooded basement of a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar last week. She further said that the video clearly showed that there was no rash driving by Manuj Kathuria.

Manuj Kathuria, a businessman, was behind the wheels of an SUV which drove through the flooded street, causing the water to swell and breach the gates of the three-storey building of Rau's IAS Study Circle and inundate the basement. Defending her husband, Shima said that the allegations levelled against Manuj are "completely wrong".

"There was no rash driving, the video is in front of everyone. My husband was not driving at a high speed. My husband was only trying to reach a safe spot," she said while speaking to news agency.

Furthermore, Shima also blamed Rau's IAS Study Circle for running a library in the basement of the building without permission. She also wondered why the police didn't close the roads when there was waterlogging in the area.

"The authorities will figure out who is at fault. Why was the coaching institute owner running a library there when they had a NOC only for storage? When there was severe waterlogging on the roads, police should have cordoned off the roads," she said.

Shima also believed that her husband was a victim in the case and not an accused. "We are very positive. My husband has not done anything wrong. We have full faith in the judicial system and I am sure that the court will take the right decision," she said in a separate conversation with news agency.

Recalling her husband's dramatic arrest, Shima said police arrived at their residence and told the family that they had come to question Manuj.

"The police said there is no criminal liability and they were just taking him for questioning since his vehicle was visible in the viral video captured around that time (when the water gushed in). Around 30 minutes later, my father-in-law got a call from him saying he had been arrested. It created a state of panic among us," she added. Speaking about the allegations of rash driving, Shima said that video which went viral on social media 'clearly' shows that the brake lights of the vehicle were switched on.



**Top 10 places to visit in**

# Matheran

When life in a metro is taking over your existence too swiftly and your heart strongly desires to escape to a timeless zone for some peaceful self-realisation moments far from the deafening, tainted and fast city life—don't you just wish to time travel to a peaceful world? We don't have a time machine, but we are blessed to have Matheran, which is India's lowest hill station positioned 800 m above sea level in Western Ghats in the Indian state of Maharashtra (90 km from Mumbai). The peculiar thing about this place is its pollution free environment as no motor vehicle is permitted inside the town, making it Asia's only automobile free hill station. Fresh air, picturesque beauty and enchanting landscapes make it a serene place. Most of the tourists unwind themselves during a day trip or a weekend trip, but those who love nature won't mind spending an entire week here.

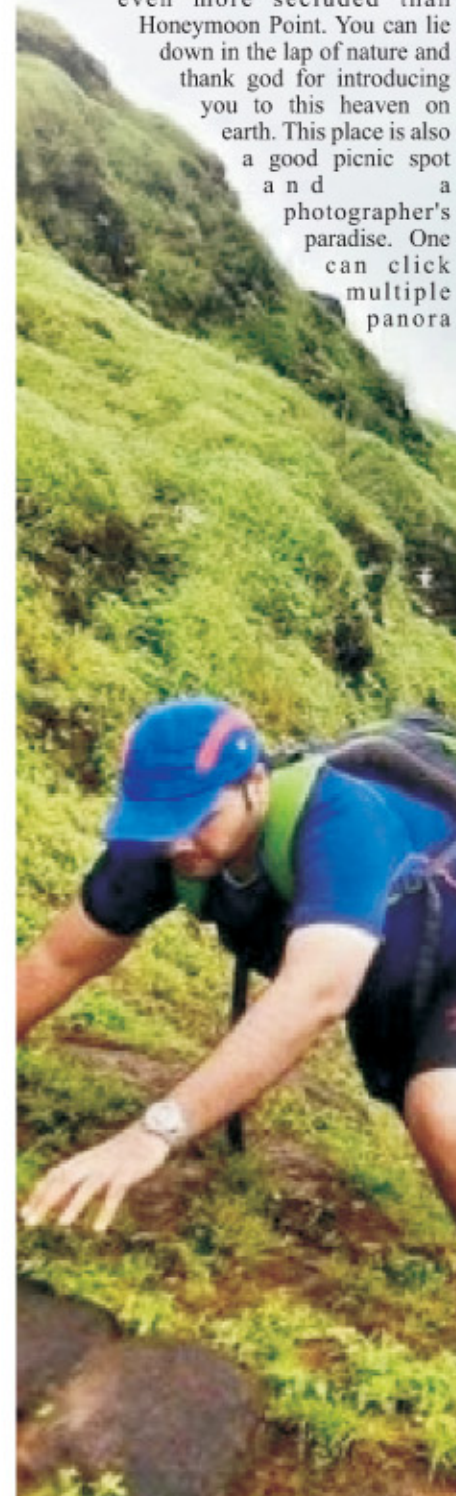
**What to see**  
There are many places to visit in Matheran, such as Sunset Point, Sunrise Point, Louisa Point, Echo Point and Honeymoon Point. Also popular are Charlotte Lake, King George Point, One Tree Hill Point, Alexander Point and Panorama Point that compel you to appreciate nature even more. Hand-pulled rickshaws and horses are used as modes of transportation inside the town. One man quoted INR 600 (negotiable) for a horse for 3 hours for around 10-15 sightseeing points. We thought of not doing things in a hurry and hence decided to walk on foot so that we can closely interact with the place. Horses are a good option if you are in Matheran just for a day or you want to visit some place too far with a steep hike. Mainly old people are seen availing the facility of hand-pulled rickshaws.

**How to reach**  
Mumbai is the nearest metro city to Matheran. You can take a local train till Neral (don't get confused with Nerul—another station in Mumbai—as the two are very far from each other). After reaching Neral, you can either opt for a toy train or a shared taxi to reach Matheran. Both these options cost almost the same (INR 70), but with a trade-off between an enjoyable experience and time. Toy train takes almost 2.5 hours while halting at various small stations. It provides a closer view of varying landscapes on one side and mountains on the other. On the other hand, taxi takes a maximum of 20 minutes to reach the town. I enjoyed the experience of toy train while going to Matheran, and decided to save time by taking taxi while heading back to Mumbai. A compulsory tax of INR 50 is levied on every visitor, and it has to be paid while entering the town.

**Panorama Point**

Panorama Point is the most exciting and the farthest viewpoint in Matheran. It is almost 7.5 km away from the marketplace. Taking a horse is probably the best. Another option is to take a toy train from the marketplace to the next station, but you will be required to walk at least 2 km. Horse ride takes 45-60 minutes to transport you from your hotel to this fairyland. The path is little bit rocky and hence, your back might start hurting after a while, but it's an unforgettable odyssey—you go through the forest hearing singing birds, breeze and horse's clip-clop, while having occasional glimpses of varying landscapes. The views from Panorama Point are incredibly stunning and beyond my words.

This point offers a 360-degree view of Matheran and surrounding areas. You can also spot Sunset Point from here. Being remotely located, this point is even more secluded than Honeymoon Point. You can lie down in the lap of nature and thank god for introducing you to this heaven on earth. This place is also a good picnic spot and a photographer's paradise. One can click multiple panoramic



mic pictures here without any intervention. Spend some time admiring some mesmerising views, while inhaling fresh air that is a rarity in cities. Panorama Point also serves as a good sunrise and sunset point. People often trek to this place from their hotel at dawn to see the sunrise. Don't forget to carry your Matheran's entry ticket along as you'll re-enter the town after returning from Panorama Point.

**Alexander Point**

Alexander Point is almost 1.5 km from the marketplace (a 20-minute walk), and is easy to reach in terms of distance, navigation and slope. It's a very pleasant walk from one's hotel to this point as you walk through woods, on a very narrow path over red soil, interacting with green trees. The peak offers good views of other points of the region and the valley below. I will call this point as a bigger version of Sunrise Point (Khandala Point) because it gives the same view as Sunrise Point, but comparatively has ample space. No doubt that it is more crowded as compared to other places because it's quite close to the toy train station. Alexander Point has some snack stalls that serve fresh juice, soda and Maharashtrian snacks to satiate your hunger. During the peak season, there is zip-lining option available from here to Rambaug Point, costing INR 350-500 per head. I am very cautious about the safety measures taken by adventure sports organisers. I saw a few Europeans doing it and they told me that Matheran's zip-lining is quite safe as compared to a few popular tourist destinations in Europe.

**One Tree Hill Point**

One Tree Hill Point is almost 4 km away from the marketplace, taking around an hour to walk up to this place. It's better to take a horse or a hand-pulled rickshaw. This point is named as One Tree Hill Point because a tree stands right on the top of the peak, and there is no other vegetation around except some grass. This beauty is at its best in the monsoon season. Some other tourist group told us that this is the southernmost tip of Matheran. The view from this peak is really spectacular

as you can see Karjat, Mumbai-Pune highway, Panvel city, Chowk village and a few other vantage points of Matheran. To get the best view of this peak, walk all the way to the edge and then only you'll be able to notice that why this point is called One Tree Hill. There is a trekking path from Ambewadi to One Tree Hill Point, which is pretty easy and can be done by beginners also. It takes almost 3.5 hours to climb up and 2.5 hours to descend. I'll advise to avoid this trek during monsoons or hire a guide.

**King George Point**

King George Point is almost 2.7 km (a 40-minute walk) from the marketplace. It takes around 10 minutes to walk here from Charlotte Lake. Many people say that it's a sin to go to Matheran and come back without visiting this vantage point. The sight from this peak is really majestic as it offers a picturesque view of the lake and waterfalls, and a large valley surrounded by three hills. The view is mesmerising and nature lovers can definitely sit here for hours. People prefer to come here in groups in the evening, take a walk, watch the sunset and enjoy baked corn with a cup of ginger tea. Sounds amazing, isn't it!

**Charlotte Lake**

Charlotte Lake is almost 2.5 km away from the marketplace, which is approximately a 35-minute walk. Although the walk is a bit tiring, the breathtaking view and cold breeze take away all the fatigue. There is a little waterfall near the lake which is a treat for the eyes during monsoons. During other seasons, either it is dry or the water is too less. Clear lake water, green backdrop and flawless waterfall look amazing. For a moment, you would certainly think of owning a house at a place that would offer such view. Lake area has got amazing birdlife and we got to know this when we met some passionate bird photographers here. Some people also like to visit Pisarnath Temple, which is situated to the left of the lake. You should stay here to watch the sunset because it looks stunning when the red-golden light reflects on the water. Locals told us that this lake supplies drinking water to Matheran and hence, swimming, fishing and boating are strictly prohibited. Any activity that tends to contaminate the lake water is banned. Nonetheless, it is a good picnic spot; just make sure that you

don't leave any wrapper or garbage behind. It can be quite a hike while going back to your hotel, so if you are tired, take a horse or hand-pulled rickshaw.

**Honeymoon Point**

Honeymoon Point is very tranquil and offers a wonderful view of Matheran's splendid mountains. From here, one can see Prabal Fort, various valleys accommodating civilisations and a beautiful sky that changes colours at dusk. The view of mountains from Honeymoon Point is such that you would call them 'Indian Grand Canyon'. There is no factual explanation as to why this point has been named Honeymoon Point. I brainstormed and came up with a few reasons. One hypothesis says that this place is a little secluded because you actually need to



cross some bushes to reach here. Second is that it offers a romantic view. Both facts are good enough to name this peak as Honeymoon Point. My group spent perfect 30 minutes of mindfulness hearing nothing but the sound of air and leaves, which left us rejuvenated. It was like meditation. Not many people visit this point, so you spend undisturbed moments lying down and gazing at the sky while talking to your partner.

Some people even enjoy picnicking here. Make sure that you carry your trash with you and dispose off in a dustbin. This point is very close to Louisa Point and Echo Point; and similar to them, it is a very good subject to be captured through lens as it is rarely crowded. Hence, it gives the freedom to amateur photographers to experiment with different angles and lenses to capture a variety of pictures and improve their skill.

**Echo Point**

Echo Point lies in the vicinity of Louisa Point, which can be seen from here. As the name suggests, you hear your screams and yells echo at this peak. High-pitched kids are a common sight here. We even saw adults going crazy to hear their voice back. We got to know about it when a group of almost 20 screaming people captured my attention. Funny, isn't it?

The vantage point offers the best view of the Western Ghats and is very crowded during daytime. So, it's advisable to visit here early in the morning. One of the best experiences we had here was crossing the valley by zip-lining. Mostly, zip-lining is offered by some local tour operators during the peak tourist season. There are a few stalls here that offer a variety of local food like vada pav and kandha poha, along with bottled water and soda. So, it's good to relax here for a while and admire nature in its full glory.

**Louisa Point**

Louisa Point is almost 1.5 km away from the marketplace and will take around 20 minutes to reach here on foot. If it's a clear sunny day, this place will offer you breathtaking views that will compel you to settle down here for a moment. This is a unique point in Matheran as it offers two different picturesque views. From one point, you can see the sky touching the mountains and a civilisation located far in a valley. If you visit during monsoon, you'll also be captivated by waterfalls. Another view is of Lake Charlotte that looks like a diamond necklace when seen from here. Louisa Point also offers a clear view of Prabal Fort. All these different views are intriguing and one can spend hours gazing at them. We sat there, soaked in the beauty of the place and relishing moments of silence.

This place is known as a photographer's paradise in Matheran because it offers panoramic views of mountains, peaks, valleys, lake and waterfalls. In most of the travel portals, blogs and magazines, Matheran has been represented by using Louisa Point's pictures. During the peak season, photo points are a little crowded and sometimes you need to be patient for your view to be 'people free', but all your waiting time is worth those beautiful, dreamy and wallpaper pictures. Some people also stay at Louisa Point to watch the sunset.

**Sunrise Point**

Sunrise Point, also known as Khandala Point, is located alongside the marketplace. This place is serene in the morning as very few people are able to make it to the sunrise.

Sitting here quietly works wonders as you hear the chirping of birds, sound of breeze striking against trees and music composed by tree leaves. Our ancestors used to say that when you see a rising sun, it gives you tremendous energy. Sun rising above glorious mountains with golden reddish sky forming the backdrop unquestionably make for a beautiful sight and give you positive energy. I did yoga at sunrise for 20 minutes and definitely felt very energetic that day as compared to other days where I follow a different lifestyle. It's 5-15 minutes' walk from the marketplace, depending on the

location of your hotel. Ask some local person or the receptionist of your hotel about sunrise time for the next day, before you go to bed at night. Sunrise time mentioned on the internet can be wrong sometimes and you obviously don't want to miss this sight. Videos recorded at sunrise are just perfect and can be used in any of your travel videos. I ended up with a shaky sunrise video because my view was obstructed by other photo enthusiasts and hands started trembling after a couple of minutes. So, I recommend taking your tripod along, if you intend to record the sunrise. While heading back to your hotel after seeing the sunrise, I would propose to indulge your taste buds in lip-smacking breakfast that has kandha poha and jalebi.



**ITR filing deadline ends today. Will tax department extend last date**

**New Delhi** The deadline to file Income Tax Return (ITR) for AY2024-25 ends today and there has been no formal announcement from the Income Tax Department (I-T Department) regarding an extension of the deadline. Several citizens and tax professionals have pointed out several glitches on the tax filing portal as a reason for seeking an extension. Despite the repeated appeals, the I-T Department has urged taxpayers to complete the process by July 31, indicating that there won't be a deadline extension beyond the last date. Moreover, the tax department has also said that more than 6.5 crore ITRs have been filed till July 30, which marks an increase of over 7.5% more compared to the same period last year. "The number of ITRs filed per day has exceeded over 45 lakhs on 30 July and is expected to rise exponentially on 31st July which is the due date for many taxpayers. The 6.5 crore milestone, which has been reached on 30 July this year, was achieved on 31 July last year," said the I-T Department. For taxpayers facing technical difficulty, the I-T Department has said they can reach out to its toll free helpdesk numbers (1800 103 0025 or 1800 419 0025) or E-filing web manager at [infocentretax.gov.in](mailto:infocentretax.gov.in). Should I-T Department extend July 31 deadline? Ritika Nayyar, Partner at Singhania & Co, believes an extension is unlikely, citing the many ITRs already filed and the department's frequent reminders.

**Sensex, Nifty gain after opening flat; Asian Paints rises 2.5%**

**New Delhi.** Benchmark stock market indices gained after opening flat on Wednesday even as profit booking continued on Dalal Street. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 205.79 points at 81,661.19 at 10:10 am, while the NSE Nifty50 rose 69.05 points to trade at 24,926.35. All the other broader market indices were also trading in positive territory. High-weightage sectoral indices such as Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty IT were among the gains in early trade, while Nifty Realty declined. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Asian Paints, NTPC, Hindalco, JSW Steel and Tech Mahindra. On the other hand, the top losers were Tata Consumer Products, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Motors and IndusInd Bank. Moreover, market experts said Sebi's proposal to curb speculation in index derivatives will lead to a more stable rally in the markets. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "Sebi's crackdown on F&O trade is eminently desirable and can go a long way towards making the ongoing rally healthy and less speculative." "The irrational exuberance of the retail investors, particularly the newbies who entered market after the Covid crash, will do more harm than good to the overall market in the long run. Therefore, these regulatory measures are to be welcomed," he added. Vijayakumar highlighted that global cues are likely to be supportive on expectations of a rate cut from the US Federal Reserve in September. "The Fed commentary expected tonight is likely to indicate the possibility of rate cut in September," he said. Lastly, he added that it is time for investors to take a "long-term call" on the market and moderate their expectations to realistic levels. "At this juncture in the market safety is important. Chasing super normal returns from the broader market would be a risky game," Vijayakumar said.

**Nitin Gadkari seeks removal of GST on life, medical insurance premium: Report**



**New Delhi.** Union Minister of Road Transport, and Highways Nitin Gadkari has called for the elimination of the 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. In a letter dated July 28 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Gadkari argued that taxing these premiums equates to taxing life's uncertainties and hinders the growth of the insurance sector. "You are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for the senior citizens," Gadkari wrote. Currently, both life and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18% GST. "Similarly, the 18% GST on medical insurance premium is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business which is socially necessary," he added. Gadkari's letter was a response to a memorandum from the Nagpur Divisional Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which highlighted the industry's challenges. Representing Nagpur in the Lok Sabha, Gadkari expressed the union's concerns, stating, "Levying GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life. The Union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give some protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to purchase cover against this risk." Gadkari pointed out that the union also noted "differential treatment of savings by way of life insurance, reintroduction of income tax deduction for health insurance premiums and consolidation of public sector general insurance companies". The GST Council, which is responsible for tax-related decisions, is scheduled to meet in August, with its last meeting held on June 22.

**Vedanta secures 75% creditor approval for major demerger plan**

**The demerger will create six distinct companies, allowing shareholders to receive one share in each new entity per existing Vedanta share.**

**NEW DELHI.** Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Limited has received approval from 75% of its secured creditors to proceed with its proposed demerger. With creditors' approval, Vedanta can now seek clearance from stock exchanges and file its demerger scheme with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The company, in September 2023, planned to demerge into six independent entities: Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Steel and Ferrous Materials, Vedanta Base Metals, and a residual Vedanta Limited.



The demerger aims to simplify Vedanta's corporate structure by creating standalone businesses, offering global investors direct access to pure-play companies tied to India's growth story. "The demerger will create six strong companies, each a Vedanta in its own right, unlocking massive value. While each entity will chart its own course, they will adhere to Vedanta's core values,

entrepreneurial spirit, and global leadership," said Agarwal during the annual general meeting. The demerger is planned to be a simple vertical split for every 1 share of Vedanta Limited, the shareholders will additionally receive 1 share of each of the 5 newly listed companies. The company said Vedanta has a track record of giving strong returns to its shareholders. Till June 2024, Vedanta's total shareholder return over 5-years stood at 276%, while the 5-years average accumulated dividend yield at 65%, delivering significant value for shareholders. Vedanta recently announced the closure of its QIP, through which it raised the entire Rs 8,500 crore for which it had secured approval from the board and the shareholders. Creating separate entities Demerger aims to simplify Vedanta's corporate structure by creating standalone businesses, offering global investors direct access to pure-play companies

**Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra rules out LTCG Tax changes in near future**

**NEW DELHI.** Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra confirmed on Tuesday that there will be no changes to the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax rates in the medium term, reported The Economic Times. Speaking at a post-budget session at the PHD House of Commerce and Industry, Malhotra said that the LTCG tax rates will remain stable at their current levels. Malhotra explained that the government had reviewed 1.05 million tax returns for the fiscal year 2023-24, which included capital gains from land and buildings. He said that the effective LTCG tax rate on real estate was 11.54% in 2022-23. Although the recent budget removed indexation benefits for LTCG on properties, it reduced the tax rate from 20% to 12.5%. This reduction sparked



concerns about a potential increase in tax burden. The budget also raised the tax rate on LTCG from listed equity by 2.5 percentage points to 12.5%. Malhotra described this increase as minimal and stated that the aim of the measure was to simplify the capital gains tax system. Malhotra also drew comparisons to the introduction of the new tax regime, which had initially faced similar

concerns. "There were apprehensions when the new tax regime was introduced. With about 6 crore income tax returns filed last year, and 70% of them under the new regime, the focus has been on simplicity and reducing the compliance burden," he said. The Centre has raised Rs 2.78 lakh crore from LTCG taxes over the past five years. For the assessment year 2023-24, the Centre collected Rs 98,682 crore from LTCG, compared to Rs 86,075 crore collected for the 2022-23 assessment year. The government has indicated that there are no plans to reverse or eliminate the LTCG tax. Overall, the Revenue Secretary's statements reflect the government's intention to maintain the current LTCG tax rates and continue its efforts to simplify the tax system.

**Suzlon Energy crosses Rs 70 mark. Is there more upside left**

**NEW DELHI.** Suzlon Energy Ltd shares surged 4% on Wednesday, marking the stock's eighth consecutive session of gains. The upward momentum propelled the stock to a new 52-week high, surpassing the 12-month targets set by several brokerages following its impressive June quarter results. The stock climbed nearly 4% to reach Rs 70.90 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The stock is up over 11% in the past 5 trading sessions and over 268% in a year. On July 24, ICICI Securities upgraded its target price for Suzlon to Rs 70 from Rs 60, although it downgraded the rating to 'Add' from 'Buy'. With the recent surge, Suzlon has now surpassed this target. Moreover, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers and Nuvama Institutional Equities have



both recommended holding Suzlon Energy shares, with price targets of Rs 69 and Rs 64, respectively. The targets that were met earlier this week. Is there more upside left? Nuvama Institutional Equities remains long-term positive on Suzlon Energy and has adjusted its earnings estimates for FY25-27. However, the brokerage firm noted that the current uptick in order inflows and profits is already reflected in the stock price, which trades at 40 times FY27E earnings per share for the WTG business. JM Financial maintains a 'Buy' rating with a target price of Rs 71. The brokerage highlighted several factors driving Suzlon's growth, including a gradual increase in execution momentum, a healthy order book, a strong bid pipeline, and an improving balance sheet and organisational structure. Suzlon Energy's positive net worth has enabled it to bid for Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) tenders, including those from NTPC. Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 56 tenders amounting to 55.4GW for utility-scale vanilla wind projects (including 1,110MW from NTPC Gujarat) and various wind combinations have been issued. These tenders represent an estimated wind component of at least 20GW, providing a robust pipeline of opportunities.

**Air India may form separate cargo entity to expand market share:**

**New Delhi.** Air India is reportedly consolidating its cargo operations with plans to eventually establish a distinct entity featuring dedicated freighters, reported The Economic Times. The move is part of the Tata-owned airline's strategy to capitalise on the expanding air cargo market, driven by a strong economy and increasing trade activities. "We have been consolidating and streamlining the entire network from all four airlines, to bring it to one function," a senior Air India official told ET, requesting anonymity. The restructuring comes as Vistara is set to merge with Air India by the end of the year, and AirAsia India is to integrate into Air India Express. Air India follows in the footsteps of SpiceJet, which has already separated its cargo

operations, while IndiGo, the country's leading airline, is also investing heavily in this segment with dedicated



freighters. "Internally, efforts are being streamlined at multiple levels. We are developing a comprehensive software to manage all cargo requests, revenue, and commercial aspects. Externally, we are expanding our global distribution network and onboarding

new customers," the senior official stated. The initiative is part of the Tata Group's broader efforts to consolidate its aviation business following its acquisition of the formerly state-run Air India in 2022. Discussing the airline's cargo strategy, the official noted plans to introduce dedicated freighters to handle increasing cargo traffic. "We may also spin off the cargo segment into a subsidiary to unlock its full potential," the official added, without providing a specific timeline. Another company official mentioned in the report indicated that Air India plans to partner with more sales agents, freight forwarders, and last-mile delivery partners to enhance its cargo services.

**Gold price rises on US Fed rate cut expectations: Should you invest now**

**The World Gold Council (WGC) predicts a rise in consumption in the latter part of 2024, thanks to a recent reduction in import taxes and a favourable monsoon.**

**NEW DELHI.** Gold prices increased by about 1% on Tuesday, as investors reacted to potential signals from the US Federal Reserve about interest rate cuts. The Federal Reserve is expected to complete a two-day policy meeting on Wednesday. Although an immediate rate cut is not expected, there is speculation that the Fed might hint at potential reductions as early as September. The US rate futures market has already factored in a September cut, which could reduce the cost of holding



non-yielding gold. In India, the second-largest gold consumer globally, gold demand fell by 5% in the June quarter compared to the previous year. Despite this, global gold prices are near record highs, supported by increased demand in India. The World Gold Council (WGC) predicts a rise in consumption in the latter part of 2024, thanks to a recent reduction in import taxes and a favourable

monsoon. The import duty on gold was recently cut from 15% to 6%, which is expected to boost retail demand and lower smuggling. "Gold and silver prices surged later on Tuesday after news of Israel's assault on Lebanon. This pushed gold prices above \$2,400 and silver above \$28.20 in global markets. Earlier in the day, gold prices had been stable around these levels, despite strong US data

showing a tight jobs market. Market sentiment is mixed, but a drop in US Treasury bond yields and a weakening dollar have supported bullion prices as traders await the Federal Reserve's decision on Wednesday," said Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities at Mehta Equities Ltd. "Investors are also watching for the upcoming ISM Manufacturing PMI and Nonfarm Payrolls report for July. Gold has support at \$2,392-\$2,378 and resistance at \$2,420-\$2,438. In INR, gold has support at Rs 68,310-Rs 68,050 and resistance at Rs 68,830-Rs 68,980. Silver has support at Rs 81,850-Rs 81,180 and resistance at Rs 82,290-Rs 82,800," he added. "The reduction in gold import duty in India has resulted in a four-month low in local gold prices, leading to a significant increase in demand over the past week. As a result, the price premiums in India over official domestic rates have surged to \$20/oz, the highest in 10 years. Last week's low of \$2,350 (Rs 67,400) will act as a short-term base, with gold rebounding towards \$2,460 (Rs 69,000).



## NEWS BOX

## Suryakumar Yadav lauds team's character after low-scoring thriller vs Sri Lanka

New Delhi. India's new T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav lauded the team's character after thrilling win over Sri Lanka in the third T20I on Tuesday, July 31 at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele. India managed to win the game in the super over despite Sri Lanka requiring just 23 to win from four overs having eight wickets in hand.

However, Washington Sundar (2/23), Rinku Singh (2/3) and Suryakumar Yadav (2/5) turned the game in India's favour with the ball and restricted Sri Lanka to 137/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Later in the super over, Washington Sundar dismissed Kusal Perera and Pathum Nissanka in just three balls giving away just two runs. Later captain Suryakumar Yadav chased down the target of three runs on the first ball itself. Reflecting on his team's improbable win, Suryakumar lauded their character and their ability to hold their nerve to turn the game in their favour. "More than the last over, I feel when we were around 30/4 and 48/5, how the boys showed character in the middle and took the game away from them... I felt 140 was a par score on that track. When we were going in during fielding session I told them, 'I have seen such kind of games. If we put our heart in for one and a half hours, we can pull it off.' If you are enjoying hitting 200-220s and winning games, you should enjoy 30/4 and 70/5 as well because that creates balance in your life and that's how you move on and just be humble," Suryakumar said in the post-match presentation.

The Indian skipper further appreciated the skill level of the side saying that it makes his job easy and also mentioned the camaraderie of the team. "I don't want to be the captain, I want to be a leader," Suryakumar Yadav

"The amount of skill they have, self confidence what they bring into the table, it makes my job very easy. The positivity they have on the ground and in the dressing room, the care for each other what they show is unbelievable. After the last game, I said few boys are going to rest and they were the first ones to tell me, 'Okay we would rest and you can give opportunities to others.' That shows the character of the team and how happy they are for others' performance as well. They have made my job easy. When I go into bat, I have little pressure, I just enjoy to express myself. I said before the series, I don't want to be the captain, I want to be a leader," he added.

## SL vs IND 3rd T20I Highlights

Meanwhile, having won the T20I series by 3-0, the two teams will next lock horns in a three-match ODI series beginning from August 2 as senior pros Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli mark their return in the 50-over format.

## Olympics: Triathlon races to go ahead as Seine passes water quality tests

New Delhi. Paris 2024 Olympics organizers have given the green light for the Olympic women's and men's triathlons to proceed on Wednesday, following recent water tests in the Seine river that showed reduced bacteria levels. This decision ends days of uncertainty caused by heavy rains, which had raised concerns about the viability of swimming in central Paris. Initially scheduled for Tuesday, the men's triathlon was postponed to Wednesday after the river failed to meet water quality standards. The confirmation that the races would go ahead was a relief for athletes, teams, and Paris authorities, who have promised a swimmable advertisement

Seine as a lasting legacy of the Games, with the triathlon serving as a prominent test. "We are thrilled to receive this news," said Benjamin Maze, technical director for France's triathlon federation, in a statement to Reuters. "Now that the event is confirmed, we can fully focus on the competition." Despite overnight rain, the races were approved to proceed. Organizers based their decision on the analysis of river samples collected at 5 a.m. the previous day, along with expert discussions on weather conditions, according to Paris 2024. Showers resumed at around 5:45 a.m. on Wednesday, adding to the challenge of the bike stage, which includes sharp turns and cobbled road sections. The triathlon, a central showcase of the Paris Olympics, starts and ends at the Alexandre III bridge, with the route taking athletes along part of the Champs-Élysées and past landmarks like the Musée d'Orsay. The women's race, featuring 55 competitors from 34 countries, will begin at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT). Among the top contenders for gold are France's Cassandre Beaugrand and Britain's Beth Potter, who will dive into the Seine side by side from a floating pontoon next to the bridge. The men's event will follow at 10:45 a.m. "The latest water analyses, received at 3:20 a.m., have been deemed compliant by World Triathlon, allowing the triathlon competitions to proceed," stated Paris 2024 and World Triathlon.

## PARIS WATER QUALITY

Paris has invested 1.4 billion euros (\$1.52 billion) in wastewater infrastructure to manage sewage and minimize spillage into the river. Earlier this month, Mayor Anne Hidalgo even swam in the Seine to assure the public of its safety. The last-minute postponement of the men's race on Tuesday caused frustration among some athletes. "If the priority was the health of the athletes,

## Suryakumar Yadav has a big heart when it comes to leadership: Washington Sundar

## Indian all-rounder Washington

## Sundar praised his skipper

## Suryakumar Yadav for leading

## India from the jaws of defeat

## to a superb win against Sri

## Lanka in the third and final

## T20I in Pallekele on Tuesday.

New Delhi. India all-rounder Washington Sundar reckons captain Suryakumar Yadav's bold leadership and strategic risk-taking helped India secure a thrilling win in the third and final T20I against Sri Lanka. Suryakumar's unconventional bowling choices played a crucial role in securing a remarkable win for India in a low-scoring T20I on Tuesday. Sri Lanka appeared poised for an easy win, needing just 12 runs from the final two overs with six wickets in hand. However, Suryakumar introduced Rinku Singh in the penultimate over, who delivered



an exceptional 1-0-3-2. Suryakumar then bowled the final over himself, taking two more wickets and leaving Sri Lanka stunned. In the Super Over, India quickly wrapped up the match as Sri Lanka lost two wickets in four balls, and Suryakumar hit a boundary off the first ball to clinch a series clean sweep. Speaking to the media after the

match, Sundar praised Suryakumar's leadership, stating, "It's amazing of him, amazing of his leadership skills, to be honest. With 12 balls to go and 12 runs needed, he brought in Rinku, especially with Kusal Perera batting, and Rinku got him out. Surya then came in for the last over and won the game for us." Sundar highlighted

Suryakumar's courage and leadership, noting, "We all know he has a big heart when he bats, but he also shows it in his leadership. All credit goes to him; it was amazing." Sundar also shared that Suryakumar consistently emphasized the importance of taking wickets during the middle overs to maintain pressure on Sri Lanka, even when the hosts seemed in control of the chase. "Surya kept telling us that one or two wickets in the middle overs would change the game, especially in low-scoring matches where even run-a-ball situations can create pressure," Sundar said. Reflecting on the thrilling encounter, Sundar added, "I hope the audience enjoyed the game because you don't often see such matches. It feels great to be a part of this kind of game."

Sundar, who contributed 25 runs and took two wickets, expressed surprise and delight at being chosen to bowl the Super Over. "Honestly, I had no idea I would bowl, but after the batsmen walked out, Surya turned to me and said, 'Washy, you're on.' I was very happy; it's a great opportunity to step up and win the game for my country. Thank God things went well," he concluded.

## Gautam Gambhir is all smiles as Rinku Singh becomes gamechanger with ball

New Delhi. India coach Gautam Gambhir was a very happy man when Rinku Singh ended up being the gamechanger for India during their 3rd T20I win over Sri Lanka in Pallekele on July 30, Tuesday. Rinku picked up 2 wickets in the 19th over as he was given the tough job of defending 9 runs from 12 balls as Sri Lanka were chasing 138 runs to win the game and get some consolation. India had already won the series. The cameras were on Gambhir during the penultimate over as Rinku took the ball in what was a very bold call from the Indian team. The southpaw, who was bowling gentle off-spin, was up against Kusal Perera. The Sri Lankan batter was on 46 and looked set to be the matchwinner when Rinku flipped the script of the game. The first ball was darted straight at Perera and the second one saw the Sri Lankan batter shy the ball in the air. Rinku made no mistake and



completed the catch when the camera captured coach Gambhir having a big smile on his face. Rinku would then go on to pick up one more wicket as he dismissed Ramesh Mendis to end the over on a high.

**What happened after the Rinku Singh over?** Following the completion of 6 balls from Rinku, captain Suryakumar Yadav stepped up to deliver the final over and picked up 2 wickets to put Sri Lanka in all sorts of trouble. The hosts were able to push the game to a super over to add to the excitement of the game. Sri Lanka would bat first and India handed the ball to Washington Sundar. The off-spinner would deliver for his side and conceded just 2 runs and picked up 2 wickets as India had victory in sight. Suryakumar would then get the win with a boundary off the first ball to seal the win and the series. The action now shifts to ODIs as India and Sri Lanka with the first match of the series happening on August 2.

## Paris Olympics 2024: Simone Biles makes triumphant return, leads US team to gold

New Delhi. Simone Biles clinched her fifth Olympic gold medal as she made a triumphant return to the women's gymnastics team final at the Paris Games on Tuesday, reinforcing her status as one of the world's greatest athletes just three years after abruptly withdrawing from the same event at the Tokyo Games. Biles, the most decorated gymnast of all-time, earned the United States their fourth Olympic gold in the women's team event with dazzling performances on all four apparatus. The American has been on what she described as a "redemption tour" at the Paris Games after she shocked a global TV audience by suddenly withdrawing from the team final in Tokyo suffering from the "twisties", a condition involving temporary loss of spatial awareness experienced by gymnasts while performing high-difficulty elements. "I started off with therapy this morning and ... I was feeling calm and ready," the 27-year-old told an overflowing press conference at the Bercy Arena. "As soon as I landed vault, I was like 'oh yeah, we're definitely going to do this.'" With the crowd rallying behind Biles and her



teammates in the absence of the French team that failed to qualify for the final, the United States finished with a total of 171.296, an impressive 5,802 points ahead of second-placed Italy. While the Italians won their first women's Olympic team medal since the 1928 Olympics, an incredible, high-flying vault by Rebeca Andrade helped Brazil to land the bronze, their first ever medal in the discipline. Britain finished fourth. Biles said it was too soon to reflect on her legacy and was surprised to hear from a reporter that she has now won a jaw-dropping 38 world and Olympic medals combined. "I'm doing what I love and enjoying it, that's all that matters to me," she said. "Yes, it's amazing

but I don't think I'll truly understand the depth of it until I walk away from the sport." Biles, who was competing with her left calf taped after suffering a muscle strain during Sunday's qualifying competition, started her bid for the first of a possible five gold medals in Paris on the vault. She powered down the runway before soaring high into the air while executing the Cheng vault to earn 14,900 points. She then glided through her uneven bars routine with ease to the delight of the 15,000 fans packed into Bercy Arena, who serenaded her with chants of "USA, USA, USA!". She was awarded 14,400.

## BILES, 'A DIFFERENT PERSON'

The star-studded crowd that included tennis great Serena Williams and the most successful Olympian ever, swimmer Michael Phelps, also roared their approval when Biles' teammates Sunisa Lee and Jordan Chiles completed their equally impressive displays on the bars by nailing their dismounts. After falling flat on the mat during the warm-up, Lee -- the defending all-around Olympic champion -- stuck her landing on the uneven bars, earning 14,566 points.

## Team purse spike, retentions main agenda during IPL Governing Council meeting

New Delhi. There could be a consensus about increasing the team purse up to Rs 120 crore and retentions up to six, including 'Right To Match' (RTM) options, during the IPL's Governing Council's meeting with the owners of all 10 franchises in Mumbai on Wednesday. With a big auction scheduled at the end of this year, the modalities need to be set in order and five points will be on the agenda of the BCCI-team owners meeting where divergent views could emerge on some of the points. While BCCI won't announce the rules and regulations on team building, the inputs from the owners will be taken into account. The PTI spoke to multiple franchisees and there was one aspect where everyone agreed that the current team purse of Rs 100 crore needs to be increased by at least 20 to 25 percent. "I think that (increase of purse) is happening for sure. The standard increase should be anywhere

between 20 to 25 percent and hence anything in the range of Rs 120 crore to 125 crore will be a fair deal. Most franchisees would agree to it," a senior official of one of the IPL franchisees told PTI on conditions of anonymity. However, the bigger issue is the player retention where it could be difficult to reach a common ground as most teams have different requirements. While one powerful franchise seemed to have suggested as many as eight retentions, including RTMs, it is unlikely others will agree to it. Currently, IPL allows four retention per year with three being Indians and one overseas. It is believed that most teams want retention to be between five to six. "Obviously, continuity and maintaining a core is very important going forward. May be allow six (retentions) including a couple of RTM cards with at least one uncapped player being kept in the mix. But there could be

some debate over the number of overseas retentions. "There are teams like Delhi Capitals (Jake Fraser-McGurk and Tristan Stubbs) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (Pat Cummins, Heinrich Klaasen and Travis Head), who would want more than one overseas retention," an IPL source added.

The other bone of contention could be the 'Impact Player' rule and while India's T20 World Cup winning skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli have both spoken openly about how it can affect the development of all-rounders, none of the franchisees would mind a contest where 12 players will be available. They are in the business of cricket and it is possibly BCCI's duty to protect all-rounders, who are becoming rare because of this rule. But then the counter argument by a franchise like Chennai Super Kings could be that the 'Impact Player' rule would.

## Ashwini Ponnappa breaks down after early exit in Paris: This is my last Olympics

## Indian badminton stalwart Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday broke down in tears, announcing she had played her last Olympics after she and her partner Tanisha Crasto suffered their third straight loss in the women's doubles competition of the Paris

New Delhi. Indian badminton stalwart Ashwini Ponnappa broke down in tears after her early exit from the Paris 2024 Games while announcing that she had played her last Olympics after her and partner Tanisha Crasto's third consecutive loss in the women's doubles competition. Ashwini and Tanisha lost their final Group C game to

Australia's Setyana Mapasa and Angela Yu 15-21, 10-21. This marked the end of their campaign, as they lost all three group matches. This will be my last, but Tanisha has a long way to go," said the 34-year-old Ashwini, who was competing in her third Olympics, when asked if she planned to play in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. "It takes a toll emotionally and mentally; I can't go through this again. It's not easy; you can handle it better when you're younger. Having played for so long, I can't take it anymore," she added, struggling to hold back tears.

Ashwini, who won her first national title in 2001, formed a formidable and history-making women's doubles pair with Jwala Gutta, who played until 2017. They won numerous international medals, including



gold at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games and bronze at the Uber Cup (2014 and 2016) and the Asian Championships (2014). In 2011, they made history by becoming the first Indian pair to win a medal—a bronze—at the World Championships, their most significant

achievement. The Jwala-Ashwini duo was consistently ranked amongst the top 20 in the world, reaching a peak ranking of 10th. Ashwini and Jwala competed in two Olympics together (2012 and 2016) but were unable to progress beyond the initial stages. "We wanted to get a win today. Although we hoped for a different and better outcome, the biggest takeaway for Tanisha and me is the journey to the Olympics. It hasn't been easy," Ashwini reflected. Tanisha, also emotional, could not hold back her tears. "She [Ashwini] has been my biggest support here. We wanted a better result and to hold our heads high. She motivated me every time," she said.



# Jacqueline Fernandez

## Sonu Sood Starrer Fateh To Release On THIS Date, Posters Unveiled; See Here

Jacqueline Fernandez and Sonu Sood will be soon seen sharing screen space in Fateh. Today, the makers have announced the release date and also new posters. It is going viral on social media. The film is releasing on 10th January 2025. Fans have reacted to it and dropped heart emojis in the comment section. Jacqueline Fernandez took to her social media handle and shared posters featuring her and Sonu Sood. The first poster shows both of them with surprised look. And in the second poster, we can see Sonu Sood in a formal avatar.

"Mark your calendars for January 10th! #Fateh is set to deliver Nation's best action film ever oh and Happy Birthday Sonu!!!!" read the caption. As soon as the posters were shared, fans reacted. One of the fans wrote, "so so excited." Another wrote, "Looking great! Best of luck".

Earlier, the much-anticipated teaser of 'Fateh', starring the hero of the masses, Sonu Sood, is out, and it is all that his fans expect from his film. The teaser offers a glimpse into the thrilling world of cybercrime, promising an exciting cinematic experience. What stands out is the film's tagline, 'Never Underestimate A Nobody', which truly encapsulates Sood's journey as well. However, it will be interesting to see which 'nobody' is Sood refers to in his film. Sonu shared the teaser clip on his Instagram handle. He also added a little note with the clip that read, "Aa Raha Hoon #Fateh! Brace yourselves for the biggest action-packed thriller!"

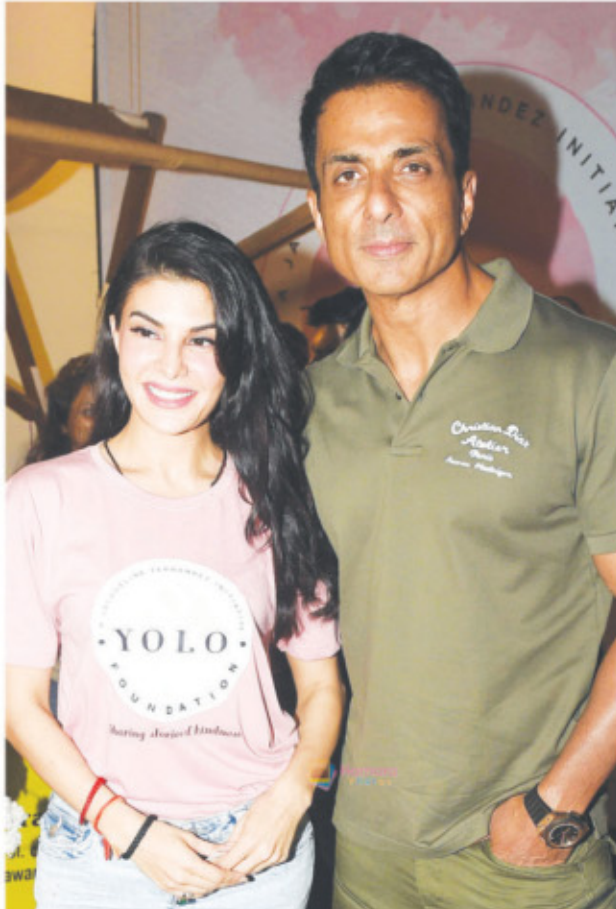
The biggest action film stars Jacqueline Fernandez in the lead role and marks Sood's directorial debut. Previously, Sonu Sood had shared the first look of the film, which received immense love from the audience. The teaser has surely taken fans' excitement to another level.

Helmed by Vaibhav Misra, Fateh stars Sonu and Jacqueline in lead roles.

The movie also features Vijay Raaz and Shivjyoti Rajput in prominent roles.

According to reports, the film's cast includes some of Hollywood's

biggest names, including the director of photography, the research team, and action choreographers. The makers have kept details of the project under wraps. Fateh is touted to be a thrilling and action-packed drama and has been generating considerable anticipation, thanks to its captivating storyline and the involvement of accomplished Hollywood stunt coordinators.



## Bhagyashree Recreates Maine Pyar Kiya Song Dil Deewana's Hook-Step



Bhagyashree Patwardhan has once again captured the attention of her fans. The actress, who rose to fame with Maine Pyar Kiya, was recently spotted at Mumbai airport as she jetted off to an undisclosed location. During her brief encounter with the paparazzi, Bhagyashree took a moment to pose for photos and even delighted onlookers by recreating the dance step of her popular song Dil Deewana. In a delightful twist, the paparazzi also joined the actress. Bhagyashree sported a stylish outfit, featuring a jacket, white T-shirt and comfortable tracks. She completed her look with a pair of chic white sneakers and left her hair open.

Fans and followers of the actress flooded the comment section with love. One user wrote, "Awww, how generous is she," while another user commented, "My 90s crush." Dil Deewana was from the 1989's romantic film Maine Pyar Kiya and starred Salman Khan and Bhagyashree. The film was directed by Sooraj Barjatya. It marked Salman Khan's first film as a leading actor and Bhagyashree's film debut. The chemistry between Salman and Bhagyashree as Prem and Suman remains iconic and memorable. It also featured Alok Nath, Rajeev Verma, Reema Lagoo, Ajit Vachani and more in significant roles. Bhagyashree keeps her fans engaged with regular updates on social media. Recently, she posted a couple of photos of herself wearing a floral saree. She beamed with joy as she posed with a transparent umbrella under which flowers were falling. Alongside the images, she captioned the post, "Flower shower."

On the professional front, Bhagyashree last appeared in the crime thriller film Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video. The film revolves around a school teacher who goes missing after a video of her goes viral on the internet. Bhagyashree played the role of Kalyani. It also featured Radhikka Madan, Nimrat Kaur and Sumet Vyas in the lead role. She will be next seen in Sooraj R. Barjatya's upcoming romantic film Prem Ki Shaadi.

## Rimi Sen Sparks Plastic Surgery Rumours, Reddit Compares Her to Shefali Jariwala, Nikki Tamboli



Rimi Sen, who lit up the screen in hits like Baghban and Dhoom, disappeared from Bollywood after her Bigg Boss stint in 2015. Now, she's back in the spotlight with Instagram photos that have fans buzzing. Some Reddit users are even talking about 'wild plastic surgery' rumours as they go through her new photos. Recent Instagram photos and videos of the actor have sparked plastic surgery rumors. A Reddit user wrote, "Damn, she looks unrecognizable." Many also compared her Shefali Jariwala and Nikki Tamboli. One user wrote, "She kind of looks like Shefali Jariwala now." Another wrote, "Why she's looking like Nikki Tamboli?" Rimi Sen, who worked in hit films like Hungama (2003), Dhoom (2004), Deewane Huye Pagal (2005), Phir Hera Pheri and Golmaal: Fun Unlimited (2006), has been missing from the spotlight for many years. The 42-year-old actress, in an interview, finally revealed the reason behind her sudden disappearance from Hindi films. "Main comedy films kar kar ke thak gayi thi, there used to be not much of a role for me there," Rimi told Hindustan Times. "Mera sirf furniture role hota tha. I had a good role in only a few, like Hungama and Johnny Gaddaar (2007). The latter didn't work, and that's the kind of work I wanted to do," she added. Rimi made a comeback with Salman Khan-hosted reality show Bigg Boss and her co-production, the National Award-winning film Budhia Singh: Born To Run. Rimi, who has worked with A-listers such as Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn, further said that she isn't in touch with anyone from the film industry. "I can't ask anyone for help. Jab tak gidgidao nahin, help nahin milti hai. Why won't other people look for their own benefit? Why will someone go out of their way to help someone?" Rimi asked.

## 'I Lost Everything'

# Rashami Desai

### On Divorce And Struggles That Followed



Rashami Desai, born Shivani Desai, is a well-known actress who gained fame for her role in the TV series Uttaran. She began her career in Assamese cinema before moving to Bhojpuri films and eventually becoming a prominent Hindi TV actress. Over her two-decade-long career, Rashami has achieved significant success in the entertainment industry and garnered further attention through her participation in Bigg Boss 13. Despite her professional achievements, Rashami's personal life has been marked by challenges and hardships. In an interview with ETimes, she opened up about her turbulent relationships, including her marriage to Uttaran co-star Nandish Sandhu. Rashami revealed that her first marriage left her deeply shaken, as she quickly realized that it was a mistake. She chose to leave the marriage respectfully, prioritizing her well-being.

Following her divorce, Rashami faced financial difficulties, including a debt of Rs 3.25 crores. She had taken out a loan of Rs 2.5 crores to buy a house but ended up losing everything. During this challenging period, she was left with no place to stay and resorted to living in her car. The stress of the situation led to depression, further complicating her struggles.

Rashami also spoke about her relationship with her ex-boyfriend Arhaan Khan, who proposed to her during Bigg Boss 13. Reflecting on that time, she expressed gratitude that the truth about their relationship came to light in the public eye. Although it was a tough period for her, Rashami felt relieved that everything was revealed and she could move forward. She acknowledged the support she received from Salman Khan and the new friends she made on the show, which helped her through this difficult phase. Rashami also noted that while some people may have judged her, she has no complaints about it. In 2013, 2014, and 2018, Rashami Desai was among India's highest-paid TV actresses. She was also the highest-paid contestant on Bigg Boss 13 and Bigg Boss 15. In 2020, she became the first Indian TV actor to collaborate with Google for cameos and ranked 22nd on BizAsia's top 30 TV Personalities list.

