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Ayodhya land sold to outsiders, alleges Akhilesh Yadav

Sanjay Kumar Lucknow, July 10: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday attacked the BJP government over the alleged sale of land in Ayodhya to outsiders, claiming a land scam of billions of rupees. He also demanded a thorough investigation into these land deals. Yadav made this comment on X posting a news report 'Arunachal Deputy CM to chief of UP Special Task Force, Brij Bhushan's MP-son to politicians across party lines: Rush to ride Ayodhya boom' published in The Indian Express. He said, 'As the land deals in Ayodhya are being exposed, the truth is coming out that under the BJP rule, people from outside Ayodhya have bought and sold land on a large scale to make profits. The BJP government is not increasing the circle rate for the last seven years is an economic conspiracy against the local people. Due to this, land scams worth billions of rupees have taken place.' The SP chief further said, 'Here (in Ayodhya), not the 'asthawan' (believers) but the land mafia have bought the land. The people living in Ayodhya-Faizabad and the surrounding areas have not got any benefit from all this. 'Buying land from the poor and farmers at throwaway prices is a kind of land grab.



In Austria, PM Modi reaffirms that 'this is not time for war'

Simmi Kaur Babbar Vienna, July 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said he held 'fruitful discussions' with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during which they discussed in detail the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict and situation in West Asia, reaffirming that "this is not the time for war". PM Modi, who arrived here from Moscow after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday night on a two-day visit - the first by an Indian prime minister in over 40 years, also said India and Austria identified new possibilities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and prepared a blueprint for cooperation for the coming decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during the signing of guest book in Vienna, Austria, on Wednesday. PTI Photo "Chancellor Nehammer and I have discussed in detail the ongoing conflicts around the world, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the situation in West Asia. I have said before that this is not a time for war. Problems cannot be solved on the battlefield. The loss of innocent lives, anywhere, is unacceptable," Modi said in a joint press statement along with Chancellor Nehammer after their talks. He said India and Austria emphasise on dialogue and diplomacy for the earliest possible restoration of peace and stability. "We are both ready to provide every possible cooperation to achieve this," he said, recalling that the historic Vienna Congress was hosted in the hall where they are standing and that the conference provided direction for peace and stability in Europe. On his part, Nehammer said India is an influential and credit-worthy country whose role is more than important when it comes to the Russia-Ukraine peace process. "We had very intensive talks about the Russian aggression against Ukraine. For me as the Federal Chancellor of Austria, it is particularly important to get to know India's assessment and to understand it and to familiarise India with European concerns and worries," said Nehammer, whose country is an ally of Ukraine. "Moreover, the conflict in the Middle East was a major topic," he added. During his talks with Putin, PM Modi told him that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace efforts do not succeed amid bombs and bullets. Nehammer said as a reliable partner, Austria will be available as a site for dialogue, making use of its unique position as a neutral country, a member of the European Union but not a member of NATO. "As such Austria is willing to act as a bridge builder and to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution," he said. PM Modi said he was happy that he got the opportunity to visit Austria at the very beginning of his third term. "This visit of mine is both historic and special. After 41 years, an Indian Prime Minister has visited Austria. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this visit is taking place as our bilateral relations complete 75 years," Modi said. He said shared belief in values such as democracy and the rule of law forms the strong foundation of our relationship. "Mutual trust and shared interests strengthen our ties," PM Modi added. "Today, Chancellor Nehammer and I had very fruitful discussions. We have identified new opportunities to further strengthen our cooperation. We have decided to provide strategic direction to our relationship. A blueprint for cooperation over the coming decades has been prepared.



Supreme Court collegium recommends appointment of three additional judges of Delhi High Court

New Delhi, July 10: The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has recommended to the Centre the names of three additional judges of the Delhi High Court for appointment as permanent judges. The collegium, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, recommended that seven additional judges of the Bombay High Court be appointed as permanent judges. It also recommended that Justices Sanjay Anand Rao Deshmukh and Vrushali Vijay Joshi be appointed as additional judges of the Bombay High Court for a fresh term of one year with effect from October 7, 2024. "In view of the above, the collegium resolves to recommend that Justices Girish Kathpalia, Manoj Jain and Dharmesh Sharma, additional judges, be appointed as permanent judges of the High Court of Delhi against the existing vacancies," said one of the collegium resolutions of July 9 uploaded on the apex court website. It noted that on March 12, 2024, the collegium of the Delhi High Court had unanimously recommended the names of these three additional judges for appointment as permanent judges of that high court. "In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Delhi have been consulted with a view to ascertain the suitability of the abovementioned additional judges for being appointed as permanent judges," it said. Another resolution uploaded on the apex court website said, "The collegium resolves to recommend that Justices Santosh Govindrao Chapalgaonkar, Milind Manohar Sathaye and Neela Kedar Gokhale, additional judges, be appointed as permanent judges of the High Court of Bombay against the existing vacancies." It said on May 3 this year, the collegium of the Bombay High Court had unanimously recommended the names of these additional judges for appointment as permanent judges. "The Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred with the above recommendation," the resolution said. A separate resolution said the apex court collegium "resolves to recommend as under:



My phone has been hacked by Pegasus, says PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter

Simmi Kaur Babbar Srinagar, July 10: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter and her media advisor, Iltija Mufti, on Wednesday alleged that her phone has been hacked by the Pegasus spyware. "Got an Apple alert that my phone's been hacked by Pegasus which GOI (Government of India) has admittedly procured & weaponised to harass critics & political opponents," Iltija Mufti said in a post on X. She also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of snooping on women leaders who do not "toe their line". "BJP shamelessly snoops on women only because we refuse to toe their line. How low will you stoop?" Iltija Mufti added. Got an Apple alert that my phone's been hacked by Pegasus which GOI has admittedly procured & weaponised to harass critics & political opponents. Developed by the Israel-based cybersecurity company NSO Group, the Pegasus spyware took control of mobile phones just by giving a miss call on WhatsApp.



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar asks private company official to expedite road project

Navdeep Singh Sahni Patna, July 10: A livid Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday asked a representative of a private company to expedite a road project in Patna and even offered to touch his feet to speed it up. The septuagenarian's awkward gesture came at a function where a stretch of "JP Ganga Path", an expressway along the river that promises to ease traffic congestion in the city, was dedicated to the public. A presentation was made at the function, attended by dignitaries like Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha and local MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, on the progress of the project. The longest serving CM, who kept wiping beads of sweat from his face, as he sat in the sultry weather, was visibly unimpressed and asked the company official to ensure that the entire work was completed by the end of the year. He sprang to his feet, saying: "Kahiye to hum aapka pair chhu lete hain (I shall touch your feet if that is what you want)." The horrified official scurried back several steps, screaming "Sir please don't do this", even as top government officials and political leaders also got on their feet to prevent the veteran leader from creating a scene. The incident came about a week after the chief minister had offered to touch the feet of a high ranking IAS officer, whom he urged to quickly settle land disputes by carrying out extensive surveys since, in Kumar's view, quarrels over holdings were found to be the prime trigger for violent crimes in the state. Meanwhile, the JP Ganga Path function went off without further ado, but not without creating a buzz on social media and evoking sneers from the opposition. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav came out with a statement, sharing the video footage and alleging that the Chief Minister was "lachaar" (powerless), a reason why he was "always ready to fall at the feet of all, be they government officials or those from the private sector". Yadav, who takes pride in the fact that his RJD is the single largest party in Bihar Assembly, also taunted Kumar for heading a party that had only "43 MLAs" in the 243-strong House, and claimed that "a handful of serving and retired bureaucrats" are running the show in the state.



1984 Anti-Sikh riots: Sajjan Kumar hospitalised, court defers hearing final arguments

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, July 10: The Rouse Avenue court on Wednesday deferred the hearing of final arguments in an anti-Sikh riots case against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar as he is hospitalised. This case pertains to the killing of a Father-son duo in the Saraswati Vihar area during the 1984 Anti-Sikh riots. Special judge (CBD) Kaveri Baweja adjourned the hearing final arguments till July 18. His counsel Anil Kumar Sharma informed the court that the accused Sajjan Kumar has been hospitalised since Tuesday. On November 1, 2023, the court had recorded his statement. This case pertains to the rioting and alleged murder of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in the Raj Nagar area. Initially, the case was registered at the police station Panjabi Bagh. Later on, this case was investigated by the Special Investigation Team constituted on the recommendation of Justice G P Mathur's committee, and filed a charge sheet. The committee had recommended the reopening of 114 cases. This case was one of them. On December 16, 2021, the court framed charges against the accused Sajjan Kumar for the commission of the offences punishable Under Section 147/148/149 IPC as well as the offences punishable Under sections 302/308/323/395/397/427/436/440 read with Section 149 IPC. It has been alleged by the SIT that the accused was leading the said mob and upon his instigation and abetment, the mob had burnt alive the above two persons and had also damaged, destroyed, and looted their household articles and other property, burnt their house and also inflicted severe injuries on the person of their family members and relatives residing in their house. It is claimed that during the course of the investigation, material witnesses of the case were traced out, and examined and their statements were recorded under section 161 CrPc. The statements of the complainant under the above provision were recorded on November 23, 2016, during the course of this further investigation, in which she again narrated the above incident of looting, arson, and murders of her husband and son by the mob armed with deadly weapons, and she is also claimed to have deposited therein about the injuries suffered by her and the other victims of the case, including her sister in law who is stated to have subsequently expired.



Sporadic violence reported in Uttarakhand, West Bengal bypolls

New Delhi, July 10: Moderate to brisk polling was recorded in 13 assembly constituencies across seven states where bypolls were underway on Wednesday amid sporadic incidents of violence in Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The electoral exercise, the first since the Lok Sabha polls, will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutantes, including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur. The bypolls are being held against vacancies created either due to deaths or resignation of incumbent members. Barring Uttarakhand and West Bengal, polling has been peaceful in the rest of the states so far. In Uttarakhand's Manglaur constituency, four party supporters were injured in a clash between workers of different political parties at a polling booth. Some reports claimed there was firing at the booth too. However, police denied the reports. Purported videos of the clash on social media showed Congress candidate and former MLA Qazi Nizamuddin taking a man in bloodstained clothes to the hospital.

18 killed, 19 injured as bus hits milk tanker in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao

Naresh Malhotra Unnao (UP), July 10: Eighteen people were killed and 19 injured when a double-decker sleeper bus headed for Delhi hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway here on Wednesday, officials said. The accident occurred around 5 am near Jojikot village in Behta Mughawar police station area. District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said it appears that the bus, which was coming from Motihari in Bihar, was speeding and hit the milk tanker from behind. Eighteen people died and 19 were injured in the accident. A probe has been launched into the matter, he said. Rathi said 20 passengers who sustained minor injuries were sent to Delhi in another bus, which was carrying 60 people. Additional Director General of Police, Lucknow, S B Shiradkar, told PTI that 14 men, three women and a child were killed in the accident. Bangarmanu Circle Officer (CO) Arvind Kumar said due to the collision, both the bus and milk tanker overturned. Drivers of the two vehicles were among the dead. He said the injured were rushed to a hospital and their condition was stated to be stable. Glass shards and people's belongings lay scattered on the highway next to the overturned bus and milk tanker. Cranes were used to put the two vehicles back on their wheels and they were later towed away. The impact of the collision left the front portion of the bus badly mangled with one side ripped open. "We were sleeping. I don't know what happened," Mohd Shamim, a passenger who sustained head injuries in the accident, told reporters at the hospital. Another passenger, Dilshad, lost six of the eight family members he was travelling with. "We were sleeping at the time of the accident and woke up to find ourselves trapped inside the bus. Those who reached the spot were busy recording videos instead of helping," Dilshad said.

He said the bus driver was speeding all night. Later, Dilshad identified six members of his family—Ashfaq (45), Ruby (40), Gulnaz (12), Suhail (4), Sonu (32) and Soni (28) - in the post-mortem house. Four other deceased were identified as bus driver Ekhlak (49), milk tanker driver Sunil Kumar (35), Deepak Kumar (27) and Shivdayal (28). Police had earlier said 14 bodies had been identified. However, they later said that only 10 had been identified so far. Another injured, Chandni, said there were around 60 passengers in the bus and officials reached the accident spot an hour after the incident. She thanked the local administration for facilitating a video call with her husband. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said officials have been instructed to ensure the best treatment for the injured. "The loss of lives in a road accident in Unnao district is extremely sad and heartbreaking. My condolences are with the bereaved families," he said in a post on X. "District administration officials have been instructed to reach the spot and expedite the relief work.



Lot of misinformation by Opposition to demotivate our loco pilots

New Delhi, July 10: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said loco pilots are important members of the railway family and alleged that there is lot of misinformation and theatrics by the opposition to demotivate them. Vaishnaw took to X to highlight various steps taken by the Railways to improve the working condition of train drivers. "Duty hours of loco pilots are carefully monitored. Rest is provided meticulously after trips. The average duty hours are maintained within prescribed hours," he wrote. "The average is less than 8 hours in the month of June this year. Only under exigencies, the trip duration exceeds the prescribed hours," he added. Last week, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met a group of loco pilots, who complained of "inadequate rest due to understaffing". Gandhi assured them that he would raise their issues in Parliament. According to Vaishnaw, pilots operate locomotives from loco cab and before 2014, cabs were in very bad shape. "Since 2014, cabs have been improved with ergonomic seats, and more than 7,000 loco cabs are air conditioned. New locomotives are manufactured with AC cabs," he said. Talking about off-duty resting facility, the railway minister said, "When pilots complete a trip, they come to running room for rest if they are out of headquarters. Before 2014, running rooms were in very bad shape. Almost all (558) running rooms are now air conditioned." "In many running rooms, foot massagers are also provided. Incidentally, this was criticised by Congress without understanding the working conditions of loco pilots," he added. He also laid emphasis on the recruitment process claiming that in the past few years, major recruitment exercise was completed and 34,000 running staff have been recruited. "Recruitment process for 18,000 running staff is currently in process," Vaishnaw said.

Karnataka: Life convict walks out of prison with six degrees

BENGALURU: A 44-year-old man has earned four postgraduate degrees and two diploma degrees while serving a life sentence in Bengaluru Central Prison. Satish Kumar Gupta, former HR manager of an IT firm based in Bengaluru, was convicted by a city civil and sessions court in July 2017 for murdering his wife on August 10, 2010, in Hulimavu police limits. Gupta, who was released prematurely on Tuesday along with 76 other prisoners for good conduct, said he wants to start a new life by taking up a job. He is also keen on offering legal advice to people and helping them draft documents pertaining to their cases.

Did nutrition course to keep myself healthy' Prison officials said Gupta created a record by getting postgraduate degrees in criminal justice of law, international business operation, business law and human rights law, and diploma degrees in cyber law, and food and nutrition from Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) in Mysuru and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Gupta told TNIE that he spent 14 years in prison. He cultivated a habit of reading books to keep away from anti-social elements in the prison. "I also completed 24 certificate courses and did the food and nutrition course to keep myself healthy. Officers and teachers in the prison helped me with my studies and allowed me to spend more time in the library," he said. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara lauded Gupta and expressed the hope that other prisoners would emulate him.

Muslim brides in Kerala defy tradition by attending their own weddings

KOZHIKODE: The presence of the bride at the wedding ceremony is slowly becoming a trend among the Muslim community in Kerala, where the ceremony is usually solemnised by the bridegroom and the bride's father. Brides were present on stage at two weddings in north Kerala over the past two weeks. he wedding of the daughter of Dr Ausaf Ahsan, oral physician and managing editor of Other Books, saw the bride joining the groom at the ceremony. In the other instance, the bride and her mother were present during the wedding ceremony of the daughter of Muhammad Shameem, author and Jamaat-e-Islami sympathiser. Jamaat Kerala amir P Mujeeb Rehman, general secretary T K Farooq, Shura member C Dawood and ideologue Sheikh Muhammad Karakunnu were present at Shameem's daughter's wedding. Islamic scholar Ilyas Moulavi led the prayers at the function. In a Facebook post, Shameem said that this was not a new thing in the community. "I myself had delivered khutba and prayers at such weddings and have asked the bride to directly receive the mahar from the groom," Shameem said in the post. He added that evolution, and not revolution, is the right way to bring about change. Sheikh Muhammad Karakunnu told TNIE that there is nothing new in such weddings. "Islamic scholars will not oppose, but ordinary persons who are not familiar with such things may be



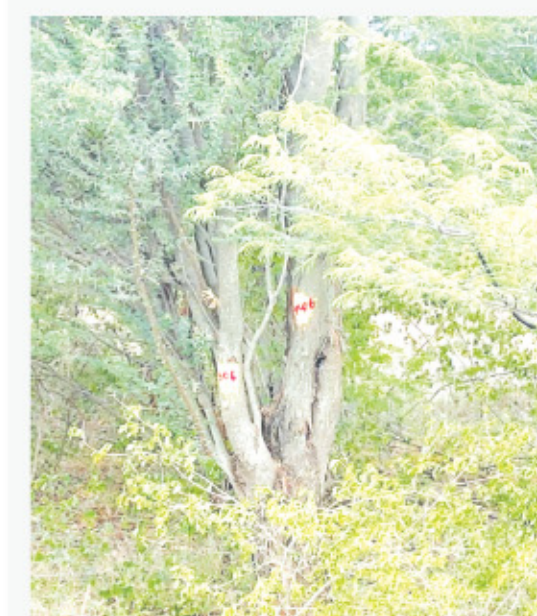
surprised. The practice of the bride attending the wedding ceremony is prevalent in countries like Malaysia," he said. Karakunnu said the girl doesn't need to be present at the wedding but there is nothing in the religion that prevents her presence. Observer Khader Palazhi said that no one can prevent such changes in society. "There was opposition to performing in cinema and theatre earlier. Now, Islamic scholars themselves have YouTube channels. I think more Muslim organisations will follow this line," he said. C H Mustafa Moulavi, who led a wedding in the presence of the bride three

years ago, said there was heavy opposition at the time.

All Muslim organisations had come out against it. They described the marriage as adultery. The bride sued a Muslim scholar for defaming her. It was compromised after the person tendered an apology," Moulavi said. He said he has since performed more than 20 such weddings. "Now girls assert that they have to be present during the most important occasion in their lives, and the community cannot override their objections. This trend will strengthen in the coming days," he said.

Forest department to axe nearly 2,200 trees for TANSIDCO project in Dindigul

DINDIGUL: The forest department (Dindigul division) has identified nearly 2,200 trees in Aralikuthu Kulam of Kadayam village, the site of the upcoming TANSIDCO industrial estate in Dindigul. After land acquisition, the department will axe these trees. The forest department began an initial assessment of the trees after a notification was issued for the proposed site of the project in Kadayam village of Oddanchatram taluk. Various species of trees, including Acacia and Indian Beech, were identified on the site spread across over 45 acres. Most trees are over 40 years old. Speaking to TNIE, a top forest department official said, "During the preliminary assessment, we found that these trees were planted forty years ago, as part of the forest department's afforestation activities in the 1980s. Mixed tree species were planted for the benefit of the village.



A final assessment will be done to determine the financial value of the trees. As the government is planning development activities, all these trees will be cut. During the assessment, we will also decide whether they will be used as fuel wood or timber." P Selvaraj, a farmer said, "It is shocking to know that the forest department will be cutting the trees in the pond. These activities of both the forest department and state government will not be tolerated. We will object and launch a massive agitation." A top official from the Dindigul district administration said, "We are yet to get the final assessment report from the forest department and a final decision will be taken by the District Green Committee (Dindigul), headed by the district collector. Based on these, appropriate action will be taken. Compensation will be given to the forest department by the revenue department or TANSIDCO."

Groundwater in over 30 per cent of firkas in TN over-exploited: WRD report

CHENNAI: A total of 57% of the 1,202 firkas surveyed by the Water Resources Department for groundwater use have been classified as over-exploited (395, nearly 30%), semi-critical (227) or critical (64). Firkas (or revenue blocks) are a group of revenue villages. According to WRD's assessment report for the year 2023-24 accessed by TNIE, firkas are classified as over-exploited if the stage of groundwater extraction (SoE), a measure of annual ground water extraction over annual extractable ground water resource, is 100% or more. It means that the extraction is more than the capacity to recharge. The firkas are classified as semi-critical if the SoE is 70% to 90% and critical when it is 90 to 100%. Expressing concern over 395 firkas being classified as over-exploited, farmers have requested that the state government take measures to prevent groundwater exploitation, considering the future requirements. KV Elankercan, president, Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, told TNIE, "Historically, the state has had numerous tanks, lakes, and



linkage channels and canals. Excess rainwater would naturally flow into nearby lakes and tanks during the rainy season through designated channels. But most of

the waterbodies and their surrounding areas are occupied nowadays. There is no way for water to flow logically." To avoid groundwater exploitation, the state should

increase rainwater harvesting and create awareness.

More check dams must also be built to improve groundwater recharge."

K Subramanian, state general secretary, Tamil Nadu Farmers Association, urged the state to identify channels that have disappeared and restore them. A senior WRD official told TNIE, "The 1202 firkas are categorised into five types: overexploited, critical, semi-critical, safe, and saline or poor quality, based on groundwater level, rainfall, and groundwater usage." The WRD has installed around 900 Digital Groundwater Level Recorders to continuously monitor water levels. Steps are being taken to install these devices in all 1202 firkas, he said.

He added, "To improve the groundwater level, check dams will be constructed at 10 places in the Cauvery and Vaigai basins, while the WRD plans to build subsurface dykes in the tail-end areas of the Cauvery basin. This will also prevent sea water intrusion. Once the government issues orders, work will start."

Cue that! International students queue up as Cusat gains more global attention

PURI: Seven servitors were injured during the 'pahandi' rituals when the ropes to control Lord Balabhadra's movement loosened, causing the deity to fall on the slanting ladders, in what was a rare mishap, here on Tuesday. The incident took place when the holy Trinity was being taken out of the chariots parked in front of Gundicha temple to the Adapa Mandap. According to eye witnesses, the 'pahandi' rituals began at 7 pm. The servitors unfastened the ropes and were escorting the deity to 'charamala' (slanting ladders fixed to chariots to facilitate pahandi). However, the ropes on the back to control movement of the deity on the ladder came undone causing Lord Balabhadra to fall on the

servitors on duty towards the front. After much effort, the deity was straightened and 'pahandi' rituals resumed.



Volunteers found seven daita servitors injured and rushed them to the DHH where doctors attended to them. X-ray and ultra sound tests were being conducted. Injuries, however, are not fatal, a duty doctor said. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed his regret over the incident and directed Law

Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan to rush to Puri to take necessary measures. Deputy CM Pravatiparida was also asked to head to Puri. Devotees were also in shock as they saw the mishap live on television channels. Earlier on the day, the priests performed the daily rituals and dry bhog was offered to the deities on their respective chariots.

Servitors dressed the holy Trinity in new attire. When pahandi rituals began, Sudarshan was escorted into the sanctum sanctorum of Gundicha Temple where 'goti pahandi' system is followed. Under this system, servitors escort one deity at a time. After placing one on the 'Ratna Simhasan,' they return to take another.

KOCHI: A 21-year-old woman, infected with HIV at birth, was ostracized by relatives and forced to stay in a care facility in Ernakulam, far away from home. However, her suffering worsened as the caregivers at the facility assaulted her brutally. They allegedly tied her to a window and beat her with a wooden log, causing multiple fractures, in November 2023. The incident came to light when the four accused persons sought anticipatory bail from the Kerala High Court. The woman, who lost her parents during childhood, endured immense suffering due to social stigma attached to HIV. Subsequently, she was shifted to a care home run by an NGO. Though she was sheltered at several care homes, the incident pertaining to the case happened at a facility in Ernakulam. The Binanipuram police

registered the case after the authorities at the hospital where the woman was taken for treatment informed them about her injuries. The police, which registered an FIR on January 5, booked the accused persons under section 341 (wrongful restraint), 324 (causing hurt by dangerous weapons), and 326 read with section 34 (causing grievous hurt by multiple people) of the IPC. In a statement recorded on July 3, 2024, a doctor who treated the woman confirmed that the fractures were due to assault and not other afflictions. A consultant psychiatrist from the Government Mental Health Centre, Thrissur, also stated that the victim said she was brutally assaulted by the accused.

Court denies bail

The High Court denied anticipatory bail to the four accused citing the seriousness and gravity of the accusations. High Court

denies anticipatory bail to four accused

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Ten-year-old among four stuck in hospital lift for an hour in Odisha

JAGATSINGHPUR: Four persons including a 10-year-old boy had a harrowing experience at the newly-launched Maternal and Child Health (MCH) hospital at Jagatsinghpur after the lift they got in malfunctioned, trapping them inside for around an hour on Monday night. The incident took place at around 12:30 am. Achyuta Bhoi of Tirtol said, "I had brought my 10-year-old son to the hospital for his treatment. After the lift malfunctioned, I

contacted my daughter over phone who then informed others about our situation." Similarly, a patient's attendant Abhaya Das said he was using the lift to go outside the hospital for dinner. But the lift malfunctioned, trapping four of them inside for an hour. Sources said no lift operator was present in the hospital when the incident took place. On hearing screams of the persons trapped inside the elevator, other attendants informed the local police and fire services

personnel. Subsequently, fire fighters reached the spot and rescued the trapped individuals by breaking open the lift's door with the help of an iron rod. Superintendent of Jagatsinghpur district headquarters hospital Sarojkant Jena said a lift operator is yet to be deployed in the new MCH building. "The lift malfunctioned due to power cut. We have stopped operation of the lift during the night and advised patients to use the stairs and ramp.

BENGALURU: Bengaluru-based scientists have developed an easy to use test kit that will help in early detection of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Brucellosis among the cattle. The kits have been developed by scientists and experts from Indian Council for Agricultural Research - National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI). The kits were distributed to farmers and laboratories, during the annual review meeting of the National Animal Disease Epidemiology Network in the Bengaluru campus, on Tuesday. The first case of LSD was detected in India in 2019, and so far, over 50 lakh cases have been reported and there

have been 2.50 lakh cattle deaths. Brucellosis is an old but dangerous disease, as it affects humans. To control this, the central government is keen to introduce a vaccine.

The invention of this 'Made In India' kit will help in early detection, and help control the spread, explained Director of NIVEDI, Dr Baldev R Gulati. The test kits cost Rs 100 and Rs 50 respectively. The animal husbandry department is working with the state to test animals for the diseases. The kits can be used on cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, camels and horses.

Senior scientist at ICAR Dr Manjunath Reddy, who developed the LSD kit said,

"So far, the LSD kits were being imported, and the tests were done in labs. Now, these antibody test kits that have been designed, are similar to the PCR test kits that were used during Covid-19. The results will be available within minutes. Before releasing the test kits, they were tested on over 15,000 samples, and was developed after a year's study.

Principal scientist at ICAR and an expert in Brucellosis, Dr Rajeshwari Shome said, the kit released on Tuesday, is the revised Indian version. So far, the kits have been imported. "I started working on the kit in 2015 and first designed one where animal protein was used. The results would come in five hours.

Bengaluru scientists develop test kit for lumpy skin in cattle

NEWS BOX

After EVs, UP gov't offers 100% road tax waiver on hybrid cars

NOIDA: UP gov't has decided to waive registration tax on hybrid cars - a concession in line with what it has already offered to fully electric vehicles. The move - owners of showrooms said - will bring the cost of hybrid cars almost on a par with those running on petrol. Officials said the tax exemption had come into effect from July 1. "The gov't has decided to offer a 100% tax exemption for hybrid vehicle registration. However, the waiver is yet to reflect on the Vahan portal," read a June 28 letter by chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh to Peeyush Srivastava, the director of IT at National Informatics Centre, which handles the portal. The exemption, it said, would apply to "hybrid electric vehicles, strong hybrid vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, series hybrid electric vehicles and series-parallel hybrid electric vehicles".

PK Singh, the regional transport officer in Ghaziabad, said the state gov't was constantly striving to promote eco-friendly transport at a time air quality was reaching toxic levels every winter. "The new exemption is another step in this direction," he added.

A hybrid electric vehicle integrates an internal combustion engine with an electrical motor and a battery, enhancing fuel efficiency and reducing emission. So, such vehicles run either on battery or petrol/diesel, depending on the speed.

As of now, hybrid vehicles do not have a separate category, but are treated like regular ones. Their registration fees vary from 8% for cars costing less than Rs 10 lakh to 10% for those exceeding the price line. Over the past few months, several hybrid models have been launched in the Indian market. Some of them are Toyota Innova HyCross, Toyota Camry, Toyota Vellfire, Honda City E, Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara, MG Hector Plus and Hyundai Tucson.

Tariq Jafri, who is a group trainer at a Toyota Esprit showroom in the city, said a vehicle powered both by a battery and fuel would offer better performance and mileage. Hybrid vehicles are better than normal ones as they are equipped with double-powered engines. So, they have better speed pickup and performance. They also consume less fuel or power because the two systems work in tandem. When a car is on standby, like in a traffic signal, the battery gets charged on its own," he explained. According to Jafri, the waiver would boost sales of hybrid cars in the region.

"They typically cost Rs 2-3 lakh more than vehicles powered by fuel. But with tax waivers that the gov't announced recently, the on-road price will be similar to that of petrol vehicles. The demand for hybrid cars has increased rapidly in the past few months. Our three showrooms in Noida and Greater Noida have been selling more than 100 cars a month. This waiver will increase sales all the more," he said.

Three try to abduct woman, nabbed after car overturns

Noida. Three men were arrested for allegedly trying to kidnap a woman in Greater Noida on Monday. The accused's car overturned as they were trying to flee with her, police said. The accused were identified as Anshu Bhati (24) of Meerut, and Amit Jat (26) and Senki Nagar (23), both residents of Hapur.

Complainant Neha, a 25-year-old school teacher from Sadat Nagar, told police that she was on her way to school around 7am when her school's van was intercepted by the accused. The trio forced her into their Ecco van and tried to drive away. "As I began to scream, village locals started to follow the car," she said. In the ensuing chaos, the accused's car overturned and all four occupants sustained injuries, police said, adding that the accused fled the scene after the accident. An FIR was registered against the three accused under Section 87 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc) of the BNS at the Badalpur police station. "Several teams were formed to nab the accused. They were arrested late on Monday night," a senior officer

Man held for rape attempt on toddler

Noida: A 20-year-old man wanted for attempting to rape a 1.5-year-old toddler was arrested on Tuesday morning after a gunfight in Sector 42. The suspect, Udayveer, works as a gardener in high-rise societies. He allegedly fled after the girl's mother raised an alarm on Sunday. As per the toddler's mother, she was cooking dinner while her younger daughter was playing on the road but went missing. When the mother went looking for her child, she found that the 20-year-old man had lured her daughter to his home across the street. The mother immediately raised an alarm and picked up her daughter, while the suspect fled the spot," said Praveen Kumar, assistant commissioner of police-1, Noida, adding that a complaint was received around 9 pm on Sunday. An FIR was lodged at Sector 39 police station based on the parents' complaint.

Early Tuesday morning, around 6am, police teams were conducting searches in the locality when they spotted Udayveer in a deserted area near Sector 42. Manish Mishra, additional DCP (Noida) said, "The suspect was hiding in the forest area of Sector 42, and when chased, he fired at the police team. In retaliatory firing, the suspect was shot in the leg by the police and nabbed. A country-made pistol and cartridges

Woman gets life term for strangling husband

Noida. A 30-year-old woman was sentenced to life imprisonment on Tuesday by an additional sessions court in Surajpur for murdering her husband by strangulation at their residence in Balla Ki Badhaiya village in Greater Noida in 2020. According to Ratan Singh Bhati, additional district government counsel (ADGC), the deceased, Pradeep Kumar (25), had married his wife Radha in June, 2019. Kumar's brother Manoj told cops he received a call from Radha on Aug 13, 2020, informing him that Pradeep had been hospitalized. "I rushed to the hospital and found that he had died," he said. Manoj alleged that Kumar had frequently complained about marital discord. "My brother told me that his wife often used to fight with him as he suspected her of having illicit relations," Manoj said. FIR was filed against the accused on Aug 20, 2020, under IPC Section 302 (murder) at the Beta-2 police station. The chargesheet was filed on Dec 11, 2020, and charges were framed on Jan 22, 2021. Radha denied the charges and opted to face trial. At the trial, the prosecution presented eight witnesses.

The prosecution alleged that Radha murdered her husband by sedating him by dosing his tea and then strangling him with her dupatta. The defense argued that Kumar had died by suicide and Radha was being falsely accused by Kumar's family to exclude her from the family inheritance. However, the autopsy report revealed that the ligature marks on Kumar's neck indicated strangulation rather than hanging.

In the end, the court found sufficient evidence to convict Radha. Chandra Mohan Srivastava, the additional district and sessions court judge, stated, "The accused is sentenced to life imprisonment under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC and fined Rs 40,000."

Work starts on underpass to unlog Gaur Chowk, to get ready in 18 mths

Noida. A team of cops and officials from the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) on Tuesday inspected Gaur City junction, where a six-lane underpass is being planned to decongest the area. Officials said work to shift electric poles, trees, cables and drains from a 720m-long stretch where the underpass is set to come up has already commenced while construction of the underpass would start in two weeks. The Rs 81.3 crore project would take at least 18 months to be ready. Rajesh Gautam, senior manager at GNIDA, said the underpass will be constructed on the road connecting Greater Noida to Gaur City and then Delhi-Meerut Expressway. It will intersect with NMRC's proposed Greater Noida West metro line.

"We expect to complete the work in 18 months. On Tuesday, we inspected the project site before commencing work on the underpass, we need to shift electric poles, trees, cables and drains that will come in its way. We also need to create service lanes to facilitate traffic movement as the existing road will be dug," Gautam said. Currently, police have restricted traffic movement on two arms of Gaur Chowk and created two U-turns, 100 metres from the roundabout. Merging traffic from Ek Murti Chowk, Surajpur and Crossings Republic leaves Gaur Chowk, also known as Char Murti or Kisan Chowk, leaves the intersection chock-a-block during rush hours, which is exacerbated by vehicles coming down the Parthala flyover. Nearly 4-5 lakh people living in the condominiums and villages of Greater Noida West face daily traffic jams at the intersection. Abhishek Kumar, president of the Noida Extension Flat Owner Welfare Association (NEFOWA), said after the Parthala flyover opened to the public last June.

City set to get its first govt-run old-age home

Gurgaon. The district administration is planning to start an old-age home in the city under the Samarth Vriddh SEWA Ashram Scheme to provide residential services to elderly persons who need it. This will be the first govt-run old-age home and the administration has invited proposals from NGOs, trusts, societies, and corporates under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav had informed the director general Ashima Barar about the plan on Thursday. The scheme is aimed at the rehabilitation and support of destitute senior citizens in the state. Yadav said that criteria have been set for the scheme and the old-age homes will be operated in buildings owned by the Haryana gov't. "The initiative aims to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the elderly who require assistance and care. The old-age home will offer various facilities and services to ensure the well-being of its residents, such as nutritious meals, medical care, recreational activities, and social interaction opportunities," Yadav said. To avail of the benefits of the scheme, the beneficiaries should have the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP). The scheme divides the beneficiaries into two categories. The first category comprises people with income less than Rs 2 lakh per annum. The other category is for those who have an income above Rs 2 lakh per annum but have been deserted by their family members or have no one to care for them. Under the scheme, elders who fall under the first category will be given a free-of-cost stay. Those with income above Rs 2 lakh would be covered under the 'Pay and stay' scheme. The charges will be fixed by the local administration. Besides, the old-age home will also admit senior citizens who require a short stay on the order of district magistrates, courts, and police. In case of an emergency, beneficiaries can be provided the facility on the recommendation of the SDM or area district welfare officer. We also published the following articles recently: Kundali Bhagya fame Sanjay Gagnani celebrates Fathers Day at an old age home; Sanjay Gagnani, known for his roles in Kundali Bhagya and Naagin, touched hearts on Father's Day by visiting an old age home, spending quality time with residents, and distributing gifts. Panel set to oversee agri schemes, farmer welfare; Goa's state government has established a state-level steering committee, chaired by the chief secretary, to oversee annual action plans and centrally sponsored schemes. The committee includes members from key organizations such as SAMETI-Goa, District Rural Development Agency, and Goa State Horticulture Corporation Ltd. FC Goa, Dempo join hands with others to fight age fraud, appeals to AIFF to institute amnesty scheme; FC Goa, Dempo Sports Club, and others are addressing age fraud in Indian football, emphasizing that it is a systemic issue involving adults. Efforts to tackle the problem include calls for AIFF to implement an amnesty scheme for honest age disclosure.

26 fire engines fight blaze at med store for 12 hours

Gurgaon. A fire broke out at a three-storey medical store on New Railway Road on Tuesday. A total of 26 fire tenders were deployed for around 12 hours to douse the fire at Dang Medical Store. There were no casualties in the incident, officials said. The police have not received any complaint but the loss is likely to be in crores of rupees, said an official, adding Dang Medical Store is run by Sanjay Dang, a resident of Sector 4. "We received a call at 5.05am about the fire at the medical store. Subsequently, a total of 26 fire tenders from various fire stations in the city participated in the operation," said Haryana fire services' deputy director Gulshan Kalra. "The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained," said Rameshwar, Sector 29 fire officer.

Police diverted the traffic from parallel roads during the fire fighting hours to ensure free movement of fire tenders around the building, said an official. "We also used a hydraulic platform from DLF fire station during the operation," Rameshwar added. We also published the following articles recently: Fire at multi-storey house in southeast Delhi, woman rescued; Fire in multi-storey building in East of Kailash, New Delhi. Fire department alerted at 5.50am. Eight fire tenders dispatched to scene. One person rescued. Efforts underway to control blaze. 111474976; Ukraine drone attack spurs fires in Russia's Volgograd, official says; Read about the Ukrainian drone attack that led to fires at a power substation and an oil depot in Russia's Volgograd region. Learn how air defense forces responded to the incident and the impact of the UAV debris. Sydney house fire kills three children, police suspect homicide; Tragic incident in Sydney as 3 children, including a 10-month-old, die in a house fire treated as a homicide. Police arrest 28-year-old suspect. 4 children and mother hospitalized in stable condition. Stay updated for more details on this heartbreaking news.

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During interrogation, it was revealed that Bhati was married with Neha and wanted to marry her. However, she had refused his advances. "It is suspected the three accused attempted to abduct her so Bhati could forcibly marry her. They knew each other through family relationships, so he was aware of her movements," the officer explained. All three accused have been sent to judicial custody and further investigation is underway, police

said. We also published the following articles recently: Accused in murder attempt case hangs self in police lockup; Tragic incident as man accused in attempt-to-murder case found dead in Faridabad police station. Autopsy and judicial probe initiated. The case stemmed from a debt-related dispute where the accused allegedly attacked a neighbor. Details reveal a concerning turn of events. 111589275

Rape accused opens fire at survivor, her family, later kills self; Man accused of gang rape attacks survivor and family in Kanpur, resulting in one fatality. Accused shoots himself near survivor's house. Incident leaves survivor, parents, and sisters hospitalized. Get the latest updates on this tragic event. 111589102

Woman, her 2 children dies after truck overturns at tea kiosk in UP's Unnao; Tragic accident on Unnao-Hardoi road leads to the death of a woman and her two children after a truck overturns at a tea kiosk. The driver escaped, causing traffic congestion. Learn more about this unfortunate incident. 1

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Name Change
I. VANSHIKA KUMARI Daughter of Sh. RAM CHANDRA PASWAN R/O P S SARANYA REPURA RAMPURA BALLI, PO: JAINPUR ESTATE, DIST: MUZZAFFARPUR, BIHAR - 843123, have changed my name from VANSHIKA KESHAV to VANSHIKA KUMARI for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Shinky Malik and Mrs. Mansi Vacher are the owner of Freehold Residential Flat no. SFS 589, Second Floor, situated at Pocket B and C, Sector-A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. By Virtue, WILL dated 21.04.2016 as Doc no. 228, Vol no. 10, Page no. 40-42, SR-VIIA Sarojini Nagar, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. Probate Order of WILL, dated 21.04.2016 now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold too be Mr. Shiv Shankar Tiwari and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch, Jhandewalan, Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-21, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 9958871432

Name Change
I. YUGUM DUTTA S/O Kamal Dutta, R/O 128A, Ekta Enclave, IIm Colony, Near IIm University, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Yugum Dutt For All Future Purpose.

North Eastern Railway
Open Tender Notice No.
SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2024-25-T08 Date 08.07.2024
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work:
S.N. : 01, Name of work : OHE modification work for 2x25 KV Traction System for capacity upgradation of BSB-PRRB Section of HUN route (Phase-II) in BSB Division of N.E. Railway, Tender Reference No. : SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2024-25-T08, Approx. Cost (in Rs.) : ₹ 32,50,15,430.51, Earnest Money (in Rs.) : ₹ 17,75,100/-, Cost of tender documents (in Rs.) : Nil, E-Tender Closing Date and Time : 30.07.2024 upto 14:45 Hrs., Completion Period : 18 Months.
• E-Tender Online will be submitted upto 14:45 Hrs. on date 30.07.2024.
• For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. www.treps.gov.in.
Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/Ekt-76 North Eastern Railway, Varanasi
Do not travel with inflammable article in train

Name Change
I. AGMATULNISA mother of No-1611593SP Rank-SPR Name-MOHD IRFAN R/O VILL-TOPKHANA RAIPUR FULWARI, PO-AMETHI, TEH-AMETHI, DIST-AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH-227405 have changed my name from AGMATULNISA to AJMATUL NISHA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1970 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/07/1974 vide affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

Name Change
I. SURENDRA KUMAR father of No-15179218M Rank-HAV Name-KUMAR MONU R/O VPO-BISHUNPURA, TEH-DANAPUR, DIST-PATNA, BIHAR-800111 have changed my name from SURENDRA KUMAR to SURENDRA SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I. SMT ARUNA is legally wedded spouse of No. 6499127F Rank-NKASHI Name-BAJU BOTCHU R/O VPO-KURUDU, TEH-KOTABOMMALI, DIST-SRIKAKULAM (AP)-532195, have changed my name from SMT ARUNA to BOTCHU ARUNA for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No IN-DL-15964656615180W dated 10.07.2024 before Public Notary Delhi.

Name Change
I. Riya Dutta D/o Kamal Dutta, R/O 128A, Ekta Enclave, IIm Colony, Near IIm University, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Riya Dutt For All Future purpose.

Name Change
I. I hitherto known as SAJAN PASWAN S/O CHANDER PASWAN R/O A-740, Jwala Puri, Camp No. 4, Sunder Vihar, S.O, West Delhi, Delhi-110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAJAN PASWAN.

Name Change
I. SABITRI MAITI Mother of No. 15706432K Rank-HAV (TTC) Name-CHANDAN KUMAR MAITI R/O VILL-KANTAI, PO-KANTAI, TEH-CONTAL, DIST-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL-721421 have changed my name from SABITRI MAITI to SABITRI MAITY for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I. HAREESH KUMAR S/O JAGMOHAN SINGH residing at H NO-1617, 50 FUTA ROAD, PHASE-1, NEAR BANI CAMP BLOCKE, JAI VIHAR, NAJAFGARH, DELHI-110043 have changed my name to HARISH KUMAR for all future purposes

Name Change
I. KALPANA JAGADESHA Wife of No. 15334320M Rank-HAV Name-HOSAMANI JAGADESHA Presently residing at 161, VPO-NEELAGUNDA, TEH-HARAPANAHALLI, DIST-VIJAYANAGARA, KARNATAKA-583213 have changed my name from KALPANA JAGADESHA to H KALPANA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I. JC-704306M Rank-SUB/NA Name-MANJUN KUMAR SINGH RATHORE S/o SH. HARISH CHANDRA SINGH Permanent residing at VILL-RAMNAGAR, PO-KAILA, TEH-ALIGANJ, DIST-ETAH, UTTAR PRADESH-207247 have changed my wife's name from REKHA to REKHA RATHORE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I. VIJAY KUMAR S/O BABU RAM R/O 58, Lodhi Estate, NDMC, Lodhi Road, Central Delhi, Delhi-110003, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as VIJAY YADAV in my minor daughter's namely TANYA YADAV aged 10 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine is VIJAY KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I. ANJALI SOLANKI wife of NO-18013943M Rank-HAV Name-BOBBY KUMAR R/O VILL-KHANPUR, PO-KHABRA, TEH-SIKANDRABAD, DIST-BULANDSHAHAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203203, have changed my name from ANJALI SOLANKI to ANJALI BHATI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Engagement of CMP/GDMO/ Specialist over and above present strength for NRDH/DLI
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for Engagement of One Contract Medical Practitioner (CMP) at Northern Railway, Divisional Hospital Delhi. Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, terms & conditions, format of application form is available on Northern Railway website <https://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in> Delhi Division,
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No.: NR-DLIOPERS (GENL)/466/2020-O/o DPO/A/DLI/ NR/22409/P-9 (Gaz) Dated: 10.07.2024 2097/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I ANITA W/O SUMIT R/O BLOCK -F, N DM, FLATS PALIKA DHAM, BANGLA SAHIB ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NEETU in my minor son namely SAMAR aged 11 years and RAJVEER aged 9 years in their birth certificate No. 49930 and 78910. The actual name of mine is ANITA which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I. ANJALI SOLANKI wife of NO-18013943M Rank-HAV Name-BOBBY KUMAR R/O VILL-KHANPUR, PO-KHABRA, TEH-SIKANDRABAD, DIST-BULANDSHAHAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203203, have changed my name from ANJALI SOLANKI to ANJALI BHATI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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Name Change
I. I hitherto known as KAMAL KISHOR alias KAMAL KISHORE S/O AMRIT R/O 525/14, KHERA, DILSHAD GARDEN, JHILLMI, EAST DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL KISHORE.

Name Change
I. Tarun Pande S/o-Bharav Dutt Pande R/O Palm Green Apartment flat C-1 Third floor, Adarsh Gali Near palam flyover, south west Delhi - 110045 have changed my name from Tarun Pande to Tarun Kumar Pande for all future purposes.

Name Change
I. AGMATULNISA mother of No-1611593SP Rank-SPR Name-MOHD IRFAN R/O VILL-TOPKHANA RAIPUR FULWARI, PO-AMETHI, TEH-AMETHI, DIST-AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH-227405 have changed my name from AGMATULNISA to AJMATUL NISHA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1970 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/07/1974 vide affidavit dated 10/07/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

NEWS BOX

Russia issues warrant for Alexei Navalny's widow, she calls Putin 'war criminal'

Moscow Russia on Tuesday (local time) issued an arrest warrant for Yulia Navalnaya, accusing the exiled opposition figure of participating in an "extremist organisation".

court said it had "approved the request of the investigators and decided a preventive measure in the form of detention for two months". Navalnaya has vowed to continue the work of her husband Alexei Navalny, Russian leader Vladimir Putin's main opponent who died in an Arctic prison in February. Navalnaya slammed the warrant in a statement, saying, "Vladimir Putin is a killer and a war criminal. He belongs in prison."

The activist's team also dismissed the allegations. Navalnaya "was arrested (in absentia!) for 'being a member of an extremist community' by the infamous Basmanny court of Moscow", wrote Leonid Volkov, Navalny's former chief of staff, on X.

"Quite a recognition of Yulia's determination to continue Alexei's fight!" he added. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday also criticised Russia's move, calling the arrest order a "warrant against the desire for freedom and democracy" in a post on X. Navalny's organisations have been outlawed in Russia, labelled an "extremist" group and put on an official "terrorist" list. Navalnaya, an economist, stood by her husband as he galvanised mass protests in Russia, flying him out of the country when he was poisoned before defiantly returning to Moscow with him in 2021, knowing he would be jailed.

Following his death, Navalnaya vowed to take up her late husband's work and has lobbied against Putin's government from abroad.

Zelensky to US: Act now, don't wait for November election for Ukraine aid

Washington DC. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged US political leaders in Washington on Tuesday not to wait for the outcome of America's November presidential election to move forcefully to aid his country against Russia's invasion.

Everyone is waiting for November. Americans are waiting for November, in Europe, Middle East, in the Pacific, the whole world is looking towards November and, truly speaking, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin awaits November too," Zelensky said, speaking at the Ronald Reagan Institute on the eve of the NATO summit. "It is time to step out of the shadows, to make strong decisions to act and not to wait for November or any other month," he added.

Search intensifies for dozens buried in an Indonesian landslide that killed at least 23 people

PALU. Search efforts for those trapped in a deadly landslide intensified Wednesday, with more rescuers deployed to search an unauthorized gold mine on Indonesia's Sulawesi island that saw 23 deaths over the weekend. More than 100 villagers were digging for grains of gold Sunday in the remote and hilly village of Bone Bolango in Gorontalo province when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried their makeshift camps. A provincial Search and Rescue Office said Wednesday that 81 villagers managed to escape from the landslide, several of them pulled out by rescuers, including 18 with injuries. It said 23 bodies were recovered, including a 4-year-old boy, while 33 others were missing. More than 1,000 personnel, including army troops, were deployed to increase the strength of search efforts, said Edy Prakoso, the National Search and Rescue Agency's operation director. He said the Indonesian Air Force would send a



helicopter as it was the only way to speed up the rescue operation that has been hampered by heavy rains, unstable soil, and rugged terrain.

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands labouring in conditions that pose a high risk of serious injury or death. Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some of the hazards facing miners. Much of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide with workers frequently using little or no protection. The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in April 2022, when a landslide crashed into an illegal gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women who were looking for gold. Environmental activists have campaigned for years to shut down such operations across the country, especially in Sulawesi, where the practice has grown in recent years. Sunday's landslide reignited their outcries. The local government which has allowed illegal gold mining activities in this area to continue has contributed to the deadly disaster," said Muhammad Jamil, who heads the legal division of the Mining Advocacy Network, an environment watchdog known as JATAM. He said that gold mining involves many people who share the blame, from those working on the ground all the way up to officials in the local council and even the police.

Trump takes 'Democratic panic' dig at Biden, Harris, teases vice president pick

Miami Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday (local time) revelled in the mounting turmoil surrounding President Joe Biden's campaign in the wake of their debate and teased the expected announcement of his Republican running mate with one of the top contenders, Florida Senator Marco Rubio, in attendance. After days spent lying low, golfing and letting Democratic infighting play out in public, Trump used his return to the campaign trail in Florida to ratchet up his attacks on both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, indulging speculation that she could replace the president as the Democratic nominee this year and alleging, without evidence, that his son Hunter Biden is "running our government" and first lady Jill Biden "is helping". Biden has repeatedly insisted he won't withdraw from the race. Trump rallied his supporters at one of his Miami-area golf courses as the presumptive Republican nominee nears a deadline to announce his running mate. But he appears in no rush, as much of the political world's attention is still centred on

questions about Biden's ability to govern for another four-year term. Some Democrats have started calling for Biden to step down as their presumptive nominee following his dismal debate performance last month. Trump, speaking from the 10th hole of his course, challenged Biden to another debate or even a "golf-off", reviving an offbeat argument from their debate. But mostly, he rubbed in how their meetup left Biden's campaign facing a grim prognosis. "Our victory was so absolute that Joe's own party now wants him to throw in the towel and surrender the presidency after a single 90-minute performance," Trump said Tuesday night. "They want 'Crooked Joe' out of the race. It's a shame the way they're treating him. But don't feel sorry for him. He's a very bad guy." James Singer, a spokesperson for Biden's campaign, responded to Trump with a series of challenges, saying in a statement: "We'd challenge Donald Trump to create jobs, but he lost 3 million. We'd challenge Donald Trump to stand up



to Putin, but he bent the knee to him. We'd challenge Donald Trump to follow the law, but he breaks it." Singer also said, "Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics — he's busy leading America and defending the free world."

Trump laced into Harris with more specifics than usual. She has become a focus of the former president and his allies as speculation has mounted that she would replace Biden as the Democratic nominee. Trump called her "Laughing Kamala", and referred to the "Biden-Harris administration", rather than just pinning

actions on Biden as he had for months, and blamed Harris for the White House's immigration policies. "Despite all the Democrat panic this week, the truth is, it doesn't matter who they nominate because we are going to beat any one of them in thundering landslides and this November's going to be amazing," he said. Trump, ever the showman, repeatedly played into the speculation that he might elevate Rubio to his ticket. Rubio, a Miami native and one of the contenders for the vice presidential post, was among the Florida politicians who spoke at the event. One point, Trump marvelled at the number of reporters in attendance and said, "I think they probably think I'm going to be announcing that Marco is going to be vice president." Later, when he talked about his pledge to make tips tax-free, he remarked that Rubio

Trump's 'Project 2025' could turn US into dictatorship, says Kamala Harris

New York. Former US president and the presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump would turn the American democracy into a dictatorship, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Tuesday. "Donald Trump wants to turn our democracy into a dictatorship. And the Supreme Court basically just declared he can get away with it," Harris said in Las Vegas, as she launched AANHPIs for Biden-Harris, a national organising and engagement programme that will mobilise Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) voters, communities and leaders across the country. Harris alleged that Trump's advisers have created a 900-page blueprint that they are calling "Project 2025", detailing everything else they plan to do in a second term, including a plan to cut Social Security, repeal the USD-35 cap on insulin, eliminate the Department of Education and end programmes like Head Start. "Project 2025 outlines a plan to limit access to contraception and for a nationwide abortion ban with or without an act of Congress. If implemented, this plan would be the latest attack in Donald Trump's full-on assault on reproductive freedom," she said. "Make no mistake, if Trump gets



the chance, he will sign a national abortion ban to outlaw abortion in every single state. But we are not going to let that happen. No, we are not. We are not going to let that happen because we trust women. We know women know what is in their own best interest and do not need their government telling them what to do with their body," she said amid applause from the audience. Harris told the audience that her mother arrived in the United States from India when she was just 19 years old. "And she and my father met while they were active in the Civil Rights Movement. In fact, when I was young, my parents would take me to the marches in a stroller. I was in the stroller, of course," she said. "My mother had two goals in her life: to raise her two daughters -- my sister, Maya, and me -- and to end breast

cancer. She was a breast cancer researcher. And I will tell you, my mother never asked anyone's permission to pursue her dreams. Never asked," she said.

arris said her mother was all of five feet tall. "But if you met her, you would have thought she was 10 feet tall. And it is because of her character and strength and determination that within one generation, I stand before you as vice president of the United States," she said. Harris said this is the most important election of "our lifetime". "Today, we are 118 days out from the election. And while many of us have been involved with these elections every four years, and nearly every time we say, 'This is the one'. Well, this here is the one. This is the one, the most existential, consequential and important election of our lifetime," she said. "Now, we always knew that this election would be tough. The past few days have been a reminder that running for president of the United States is never easy. But the one thing we know about our president, Joe Biden, is that he is a fighter. And he is the first to say: when you get knocked down, you get back up," the vice president said.

Ukraine can and will stop Russia's Vladimir Putin: Joe Biden at NATO summit

Washington DC. US President Joe Biden pledged to forcefully defend Ukraine against Russia's invasion at the NATO summit in Washington on Tuesday, using the global stage to try to show allies at home and abroad that he can still lead. Biden, 81, has endured 12 days of withering questions about his fitness for office as some of his fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill and campaign donors fear that he will lose the November 5 election after a halting debate performance on June 27. "(Vladimir) Putin wants nothing less, nothing less, than Ukraine's total subjugation and to wipe Ukraine off the map." Biden said in his welcome to NATO member states to the summit, referring to the Russian president. "Ukraine can and will stop Putin." The White House is hoping he can turn the page on a difficult period in his presidency with his highest-profile policy speech since the debate, although some diplomats at the summit said the damage was hard to erase.

On Tuesday, Biden spoke off of a teleprompter with a strong and confident voice and largely avoided the verbal flubs and signs of confusion that marked his debate performance.

Biden was framed by the gilded walls of the federal hall where the treaty creating NATO was signed, his speech bookended by stirring musical performances by the US Marine Corps band.

"Today NATO is stronger than it's ever been in its history," he said. Biden has rebuffed calls to step aside in his race against Republican Donald Trump, 78, vowing to beat him in November. So far, he has maintained the public support of most of his party's elite. The US President has made restoring traditional alliances abroad the centrepiece of his foreign policy after Trump challenged allies as part of an "America First" approach. The election winner in November could have a substantial impact on the future of NATO, Europe and the rest of the world.

"We don't see how he can come back after the debate," said one European diplomat, who dismissed Tuesday's speech as evidence of Biden's endurance because it was scripted. "I can't imagine him being at the helm of the US and NATO for four more years." Trump has suggested that, given a second term, he would not defend NATO members if they came under military attack and did not meet the alliance's defence spending target of 2 per cent of their annual GDP. He has also questioned the amount of aid given to Ukraine in its battle against Russia's invasion. Biden closed his remarks by surprising NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, clasping the highest US civilian award around the Norwegian politician's neck and crediting him with reviving the 32-member alliance.

Las Vegas eyes record of 5th consecutive day over 115 degrees as heat wave continues to scorch US

LAS VEGAS. Used to shrugging off the heat, Las Vegas residents are now eyeing the thermometer as the desert city is on track Wednesday to set a record for the most consecutive days over 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46.1 Celsius) amid a lingering hot spell that will continue scorching much of the U.S. into the weekend. On Tuesday, Las Vegas flirted again with the all-time temperature record of 120 F (48.8 C) reached on Sunday, but settled for a new daily mark of 119 F (48.3 C) that smashed the old one of 116 F (46.6 C) set for the date in 2021. Forecasters say the city will likely hit a record fifth straight day above 115 F (46.1 C) on Wednesday, even by desert standards,

the prolonged baking that Nevada's largest city is experiencing is nearly unprecedented. This is the most extreme heat wave in the history of record-keeping in Las Vegas since 1937," said meteorologist John Adair, a veteran of three decades at the National Weather Service office in southern Nevada. Tuesday's high temperature tied the mark of four straight days above 115 F (46.1 C) set in July 2005. And Adair said the record could be extended through Friday. Alyse Sobosan said this July has been the hottest in the 15 years she has lived in Las Vegas. A counselor at a charter school that's on summer break, Sobosan said she doesn't step outside

during the day if she can help it and waits until 9 p.m. or later to walk her dogs. "It's oppressively hot," she said. "It's like you can't really live your life." It's also dangerously hot, health officials have emphasized. "Even people of average age who are seemingly healthy can suffer heat illness when it's so hot it's hard for your body to cool down," said Alexis Brignola, an epidemiologist at the Southern Nevada Health District. The searing heat wave gripping large parts of the U.S. also led to record daily high temperatures in Oregon, where it is suspected to have caused six deaths, the state medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

UK PM Keir Starmer to visit US, first foreign trip since taking office

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UPDATED UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer jets off to Washington this week for his first steps on the world stage, just days after taking office following a landslide election victory. Starmer, 61, will attend NATO's 75th anniversary summit in the US capital on his debut foreign trip since becoming British leader last Friday. He will reaffirm Britain's enduring support for the Western military alliance and Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression. The visit kicks off a whirlwind of international diplomacy in Starmer's first two weeks in power, with the UK also hosting a European leaders' conference next week. "It will be an opportunity for him to learn and get to know other leaders as much as to communicate any particular messages," foreign policy expert James Strong told AFP. Britain's previous Conservative government was one of Ukraine's staunchest allies, providing money,

weapons and troop training to help it repel Russia's invasion. Starmer has pledged continued support for Kyiv under Labour, and is expected to reaffirm that message in person to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the NATO meeting. Starmer's Defence Secretary John Healey has already visited Ukraine since last Thursday's election, and Foreign Secretary David Lammy has been visiting European NATO members. Labour is committed to the alliance and wants to match the Conservatives' promise to raise defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP, above the NATO target of two per cent. "We can expect lots of talk about 'business as usual'," added Strong, a lecturer at Queen Mary University of London. While Starmer will stress continuity on the main foreign policy issues, he will also be keen to signal a reset in relations with allies that were soured by Brexit. Labour has pledged closer cooperation with European neighbours, including on bilateral deals with France and Germany but also on agreements with the EU bloc as a whole. "Special relationship" - "We can expect to hear a lot of talk about improving



relations, about being a more reliable partner, and above all about being more stable and predictable," said Strong. The trip also presents an early opportunity for Starmer to build a rapport with US President Joe Biden and cement the so-called UK-US special relationship. Starmer's centre-left Labour party is more closely aligned with Biden's Democratic Party than the Conservatives, which could help, but the trip comes at a sensitive time for the US president. Biden, 81, is under pressure to make way and allow another Democrat to take on Republican rival Donald Trump in November's presidential election. Starmer will be mindful that he may have to deal with the isolationist Trump from January next year. "(He) will want to demonstrate his rock-solid

commitment to the UK's alliance with America, and to send a strong signal about the resilience of the 'special relationship', whatever lies ahead," Sophia Gaston, head of foreign policy at the right-wing Policy Exchange think-tank, told AFP. A point of contention between Starmer and Biden could be the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, with Labour viewed as more pro-Palestinian than Washington. The leaders are also likely to discuss policy towards China, including on trade, commerce and technology. Starmer will then host the European Political Community summit at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford, in central England, on July 18, with France's president Emmanuel Macron and Germany's leader Olaf Scholz expected to attend. Labour wants "an ambitious" security pact with the European Union. Olivia O'Sullivan, director of the UK in the world programme at the Chatham House international affairs think-tank, told AFP the two summits "provide an opportunity to put more meat on the bones of this proposal". Starmer may also want to flesh out the shape of a post-Brexit trading deal, after his intro global stage in Washington.

Karnataka High Court dismisses PIL against 'hate' speech

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation seeking directions to government authorities to act against alleged hate speech by several state BJP leaders. Observing that the petition appeared to be politically motivated and allegations in the petitions were too general and unauthenticated, a division bench of Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind dismissed the petition filed by Mohammed Khaleelulla from Nagamangala in Mandya district. The court also asked the petitioner as to why he is misusing and wasting the time of the



court by filing such a petition. The petitioner sought the court's directions to the state and central governments to hold the officials concerned accountable for not initiating action against 10 leaders, including Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje, MP Tejasvi Surya, K S Eshwarappa, C T Ravi, Pratap Simha, Basanagounda Patil Yatnal and M P Renukacharya, mentioned as respondents in the petition. The petitioner also requested the court to issue directions to the state government to create awareness on hate speech, mob violence and mob lynching which attracts serious consequences and to take preventive measures.

TN govt hurries to seize minerals and collect penalty with flawed notices

THOOTHUKUDI: Beach sand miners are alleging that the show cause notices issued by the state government to recover the cost and royalty of the minerals under court custody, were on the basis of unsubstantiated documents. The state government had issued show cause notices to 64 heavy mineral mining leaseholders following allegations of illicit mining between 2000-14 and 2014-18, and sought to recover nearly Rs 5,000 crore in total from the defaulters. According to sources, the show cause notices rely on G.O 156 dated August 8, 2013, G.O 173 dated September 17, 2013, and the reports filed by a special team, headed by senior bureaucrat Gagandeepsingh Bedi, along with four comprehensive reports of Amicus Curiae Dr V Suresh. Both G.O.s state that the special team would consist of members from the department of revenue, environment and forest and geology and mining, nominated by the concerned secretaries. "However, the team members were handpicked by the officer himself, violating the G.O.," a mining baron said. RTI replies from the concerned departments have revealed that their secretaries had not issued any orders nominating their officers to assist the Bedi committee, he said. Moreover, Bedi and his team's appointments have not been officially gazetted to delegate the powers for the inspection under Section 26(2) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)



Amendment Act, and the notification was not placed in the Assembly under Section 28(3) of the Act. Sources said the state government had not obtained permission from the high court to conduct a parallel inquiry based on their reports, even as the case is pending. miner's representative told TNIE that the court had appointed Justice VK Sharma to probe into the illegal mining in 2014 in his suit against Bedi's appointment over personal enmity, but the state government obtained a stay to save the officials involved. He also claimed that

though he only has 12 mining leases, he has received notices for as many as 35 lease areas in the three districts. When asked, a top official from Tirunelveli told TNIE that some miners sought more documents to respond. "Since a few miners had appealed against the notices over ownership of the lease area due to the partition in the due course of time, it will be examined here the final order for recovery is issued." Previously, a senior official said the court had not restricted the government to issue proceedings on recovering the penalty.

RySS APCNF programme nominated for Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024

GUNTUR: Adding another feather to its cap, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) has been nominated for the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024. Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) launched by RySS, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture in 2016, is recognised as the world's largest agroecology programme with over a million farmers. Natural farming is being practised in over 5,00,000 hectares in the State. A high-level delegation from RySS and the Government of Andhra Pradesh will attend the award ceremony to be held at Lisbon City, Portugal on July 11. Nagendramma Nettem of Sathya Sai district is the champion farmer of APCNF, who will highlight the role of women in the success of APCNF at the Lisbon event. She has taken up the task of promoting awareness on natural farming, while leading a group of 20 women farmers. The 38-year-old hails from Ghantapuram village and she is a mother of two daughters. Her journey into natural farming started when her 7-year-old daughter was diagnosed with vision deficiency, and doctors advised her to increase the girl's green leafy vegetable intake. During that time a few community resource persons visited their village and briefed them about the natural farming model. Having learnt about its benefits, Nagendramma, a BA graduate, adopted natural farming and raised crops in 800 square metre plot, and within a short time she started witnessing the nutritional benefits of chemical-free food. "Buoyed by the good results, I decided to become a full-time farmer, which I never imagined. In the first crop harvest, the yield was much higher than the chemical farming method, and the food had better taste and quality." Recognising her proactive efforts to motivate farmers to adopt natural farming, RySS appointed Nagendramma as an NF farmer trainer in 2019, and as a Model.

Three held, 90 out of 235 sovereigns of gold stolen from auditor recovered in TN

ERODE: District police arrested three members of a gang that broke into an auditor's house and decamped with gold bars weighing 722 gm, Rs 17 lakh cash on June 8. The arrested were identified as B Sathyan (34), a diploma holder of Dindal, A Arunkumar, (36) of Hosur and C Vignesh (24) of Gudiyatham in Vellore. Arun Kumar is into real estate business, Vignesh works in the welding industry and Sathyan is a car driver, police said.

The victim Subramani (69) of NGGO Colony in Surampatti is an auditor and his wife Sadhana is a private college professor. Their son works in an IT company in Bangalore. Sathyan often worked as acting driver for them and was aware of their background and routine. On June 8, Subramani and Sadhana left for Theni to participate in a wedding. A neighbour saw the door of Subramani's house open and alerted him who in turn informed Erode South Police.

Subsequent investigation revealed that 235 sovereigns of gold jewels and Rs 48 lakh cash were stolen from the house. "On the previous day of the incident, a car with a Karnataka registration number came to the area. Police tracked the car through CCTV footage, and also mobile phone signals. Some numbers belonged to the people who used the car. Police also found out that Sathyan received a call from one of the numbers six months ago," sources said.

Police secured Sathyan and investigated him. Police said Sathyan told Arunkumar, whom he met while handling a car deal, an the others in robbing the auditor. Based on Sathyan's information, the others were arrested on Monday evening. Gold bars worth 722 grams, Rs 17 lakh and a car were seized from them. Search is on for two more suspects.



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Kochi corporation to decide on key projects for Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant

KOCHI: The Kochi corporation council meeting, to be held on Friday, will decide on various matters related to the Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant. The council will consider financial demand for various projects related to the waste treatment plant.

An estimate of ₹1,03,99,963 for road improvement at Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant has been submitted for laying a road from the security cabin near the health department office to the panchayat road on an urgent basis. The new road will facilitate easy movement of vehicles to various plants at Brahmapuram, as reported by the overseer. The finance standing committee, in its meeting on June 20, 2024, recommended granting financial approval and submitted the matter to the council. A joint inspection was conducted by the District Disaster Management Authority, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Irrigation Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and Kochi Corporation following a special report submitted by the Regional Fire Officer, Fire & Rescue Services, Ernakulam, on March 24, 2023. Based on the report, an urgent decision was made to install fire safety systems at the Brahmapuram Waste Treatment Plant. An estimate of Rs 3,00,000 was prepared for internal road restoration by the assistant engineer of the corporation, with preliminary approval from the mayor.

Following this, the tender process was initiated, and it was awarded to the lowest bidder who quoted Rs 3,00,000. The council will also validate the work awarded to the lowest bidder for the same. The council will take into account CSML's request to reconsider the use of CSML poles to install advertising boards.



Exotic fruits now home-grown, courtesy Malnad weather

SHIVAMOGGA: It appears Shivamogga district is setting a model for exotic fruit cultivation and its sale. It was around 2-3 years ago, that the residents of the city started getting foreign fruits like Dragon fruit, Rambutan, Avocado and Macadamia Nut in malls and supermarkets. Those days, the fruits were sold for more than Rs 250 per kg and were not familiar even to people in semi-urban cities. But now in Malnad, these exotic fruits have entered the streets where vendors began selling them at an affordable price. "For the first time in Shivamogga city, I have come across Dragon fruit and Avocados being sold by street vendors. Heaps of Dragon fruits have hit the Shivamogga market in the past 8-10 days. The vendors are selling the fruit at Rs 100 to 120 per kg and it is affordable," opined Shanmukha, a

fruit stall owner. "Surplus fruits are being supplied to the market that has brought down prices of the Dragon fruit. Besides this, Avocado fruit too is available at Rs 100 per kg that was Rs 300 per



kg a year before," said G N Prakash, deputy director, Department of Horticulture. "The Malnad weather has paved the way for many foreign fruits' cultivation. Some years ago, Dragon fruit, Avocado, Rambutan

and Macadamia Nut were not known to common people. Now, these fruits are sold by roadside vendors in Shivamogga city. Now, everybody is aware of the fruits which are affordable too," sources said. Thanks to a group of horticulture farmers who are growing these foreign fruits in a small portion of their land. Talking to TNIE, G N Prakash said, "Slowly, our farmers have started growing several exotic foreign fruits like Avocado, Rambutan, Macadamia Nut and other such fruits in the Malnad region as the weather is conducive for it. In the coming years, these locally grown fruits will be available in larger quantities. In the neighbouring districts like Chitradurga, Chikkamagaluru and Davanagere too, farmers have started cultivating these fruits."

Kerala's AI startups to shine at International Gen AI Conclave

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Over 20 AI startups from Kerala have been selected to showcase their products at the upcoming International Gen AI Conclave scheduled to be held in Kochi on July 11 and 12. The first-ever event of its kind in the country, the conclave is being co-hosted by the Kerala government and tech giant IBM. Anoop Ambika, CEO, Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), said, "The conclave will open up business and growth opportunities for the companies. Our entrepreneurs will get a chance to interact with national and international players in the sector and other stakeholders attending the meet." Anoop told TNIE. Participating startups may find new markets or get new investors or mentorship from tech majors, he said. The conclave will deliberate on the impact of generative AI, challenges and latest developments, besides exploring opportunities to leverage AI for India's economic

advancement and career growth of youth in India. Panel discussions, interactive sessions and product demos on how generative AI can be



deployed with trust and confidence are the event's highlights. The startups were selected based on the ideas they pitched at 'IBM Watsonx

Challenge', a virtual hackathon. Industries Minister P Rajeev announced that the hackathon's winner will get a scale-up fund of upto

₹1 crore from the KSIDC. "AI is one of the 22 priority sectors identified by the industries department. The GenAI conclave aims at transforming Kerala into a major AI hub. The department hopes the state will become a preferred destination for hi-tech manufacturers in 10-15 years," he said. The conclave will be held at Lulu Grand Hyatt Bolgatty International Convention Centre, and will be attended by industry leaders, policy-makers, innovators and academia from AI, defence and software domains. Former NASA astronaut and technology executive Steve Lee Smith will be the key speaker at the conclave. Smith will speak on 'Lessons Learned from A Skywalker' at 4.15pm on opening day-July 11.

Monsoon showers attract large flock of birds in Odisha

KENDRAPARA: Monsoon showers have breathed new life into Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, as large numbers of resident birds have begun nesting in the mangrove trees.

"Large numbers of birds have already stepped up their nesting activities at Mathadia forest, Durgaprasaddia, and Laxmiprasaddia forest within the park during the monsoon season. More than 10 species of resident birds have arrived in these areas for laying eggs," said assistant conservator of forests (ACF) of the park Manas Das.

The nesting birds include the Open-billed stork, Little Cormorant, Median Egret, Large Egret, Purple Heron, Grey Heron, Darter, White Ibis and Cattle Egret. Observing these birds as they build and mend nests, collect green branches, lay eggs, incubate, hatch and feed their fledglings is a sight to behold. Visitors can also witness newborns emerging from their nests and see non-brooding birds foraging for food in large flocks. "In the monsoon season, local birds arrive in Bhitarkanika to lay eggs. In winter, migratory birds come to avoid the harsh winter conditions beyond the Himalayas," added Das. The rich avifauna of Bhitarkanika's mangrove forests is attributed to the structural diversity of habitat conditions, he added.

PM Kisan survey: 72 per cent finished in Prakasam

ONGOLE: The district agriculture department officials are currently engaged in completing the field-level verification survey of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM Kisan) beneficiaries, following orders from the Central government. As of Tuesday, the Prakasam district authorities had completed around 72% of the field-level PM Kisan survey, leaving approximately 5,687 beneficiaries to be cross-checked. This annual routine practice aims to cross-check beneficiaries to ensure that all eligible farmers receive the support without fail. Additionally, it has been reported that the Union government received complaints regarding the inclusion of ineligible persons in the PM Kisan beneficiary list, who are allegedly receiving monetary



support illegally. To address these allegations and correct any errors, the government has instructed district agriculture department authorities to conduct a sample survey (5%) to verify the eligibility of some listed beneficiaries. A resident of Tripuranthakam mandal, P Subba Reddy said, "For two

days, the officials have been coming to us to verify our details. However, due to internet connectivity issues and mismatched photos taken through the mobile phone apps, our details are not being authorised in the portal. The government should adopt alternative methods of beneficiary identification, such as OTP (One Time Password) to mobile phones, face index, iris recognition and biometrics, to make the process easier for us." Speaking to TNIE, Joint Director-Agriculture (JD-A) said, "We have received orders to verify the eligibility of PM Kisan beneficiaries through the face recognition app and upload the details. However, many beneficiaries' photos do not match their Aadhaar photos, and there are

technical mismatches in their details." "Some beneficiaries are not at the addresses provided earlier, and internet connectivity issues further complicate the process for our staff. Nevertheless, we have completed 72% of the checking process so far and aim to complete the remaining as soon as possible. We have a total of 2.42 lakh beneficiaries across the district and need to complete the verification for the remaining 5,687 beneficiaries." "According to official information, the Central government has ordered a field-level survey of 3,53,734 selected beneficiaries across all 26 districts of the State. In this, Prakasam district has 20,285 (5%) beneficiaries, Anantapur has 23,720, Satya Sai district has 21,000, and Kurnool has 20,053 beneficiaries.

When the process is the punishment

THE Process is the Punishment is the title of a book published in the US in 1979. It is concerned with handling criminal cases in the 'lower' courts in America. In July 2022, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said at a function in Jaipur, "In our criminal justice system, the process is the punishment." In this context, he specifically adverted to some aspects of our criminal justice administration, namely indiscriminate arrests (which are continuing), difficulty in getting bail (which is getting harder) and prolonged incarceration of undertrials (which has become worse). He did not mention the average number of years that a litigant has to wait for justice in any given case or the average number of adjournments in a civil or criminal case, and of course, he did not talk about witnesses being suborned. Yet, his one-sentence analysis of our justice system was correct. Consider two examples. Arundhati Roy gave a speech in 2010, perhaps objectionable, according to some. In June this year, that is 14 years after her speech, the Lt Governor of Delhi gave sanction for her prosecution under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. All these years, the prosecutor's sword was hanging over her head. Consider this in the context of time. Life imprisonment is 20 years of prison in some states and 14 years in others. In a sense, Roy has undergone the equivalent of life imprisonment under the prosecutor's sword. This is nothing but the process being the punishment, as the CJI tells us. But the tragic reality is that her troubles are just beginning. Her trial hasn't begun; in fact, even the chargesheet does not appear to have been filed. Knowing how our justice system functions, if she is arrested now under the draconian law, it's curtains as far as her personal liberty is concerned.

Arrest apart, imagine the future of the case against Roy. It can take years, if not decades, before the trial and the appeal process are over. What is it that is sought to be achieved by this farcical process? Worse still is the case of Medha Patkar. She has recently been convicted of criminal defamation for something she said against some gentleman in 2001 — that is, 23 years ago (equivalent to more than one-and-a-half life sentences). Ironically, that gentleman is none other than the same Lt Governor of Delhi. After a protracted trial, Patkar has been sentenced to imprisonment for five months. The period of imprisonment could have been longer, but the judge said that a harsher punishment was not being given, considering her age and medical ailments. In addition to prison time, Patkar has been directed to compensate the gentleman with a payment of Rs 10 lakh. The compensation was for the "extensive harm and prolonged suffering that the complainant had endured over the 23-24 years of the legal battle". It appears that her medical ailments were known to the judge, but no information was available of the harm and prolonged suffering that Patkar had to endure over 23-24 years of the legal battle. By the way, does she have the financial muscle to pay Rs 10 lakh to the complainant? What if she doesn't pay the compensation? Will she spend more time in prison? Usually, in criminal cases, there is a default clause, so she may have to spend more time in prison. Let me give you two converse examples of persons who have got off scot-free, even though their offences are far more serious than those allegedly committed by Roy and Patkar. In May, a massive hoarding collapsed in Mumbai, resulting in the death of 17 persons and injuries to over 70. The hoarding was bigger than an Olympic-size swimming pool. Clearly, such an enormous hoarding was illegal, prevent the installation of the hoarding or later, to take it down? More than a month after the hoarding collapsed, one police officer has been suspended. That's all. No action has reportedly been taken against any other officer, whether from the MC or any other agency, even though 17 persons died due to criminal negligence. Are government officers not accountable? No legal process for them.

Invest in research & development to revitalise Punjab's economy

The focus of the R&D budget should be investing in risky projects to invent short-cycle technologies.

PUNJAB is passing through a stage of slow growth. Retrogression in the state's ranking compared to other states has set in. Its rank has slumped from No. 1 to 12 in terms of per capita income among major states. This is a cause for concern. It should prompt informed citizens to reflect on why this has happened and what the way out is. Answering this is equivalent to envisioning the future engine of growth for Punjab's economy.

When one looks at the production structure, it is obvious that the lack of strong linkages among the production sectors, a dysfunctional fiscal policy, social and cultural factors, ruined institutional infrastructure and risk-averse political leadership and bureaucracy are the major constraining factors. These have formed a vicious cycle, breaking which requires a big investment push and a sound public policy.

Apart from addressing the current and interlinked constraints that have slowed down the economic growth of Punjab over the last four decades, there is an urgent need to envision future sources of growth. Even as economic growth processes are turning increasingly knowledge-intensive, they continue to be input-sensitive in Punjab, marked by low productivity as well as wages. The agriculture sector has been a relatively high-productivity but low-value-added one. The scenario of manufacturing and services sectors is no different, thanks to low value addition. The innovation index developed by the NITI Aayog assigned Punjab as low a value as 15.35 in 2021 (the rank among the major states is sixth). The major stumbling block is an inadequate investment in science & technology and the environment. It is as low as 0.39 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP). Another dimension of the problem is the low level of knowledge-intensive employment, skill development training and involvement of NGOs in such areas.

To transform Punjab's economy from being input-intensive to knowledge-intensive, the state government and economic players of production should consider investing in in-house research and development (R&D) and increase it to the desired level of engagement of science & technology workers. Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer has argued that the higher the engagement of science & technology workers, the



higher is the level of innovations and patents (knowledge output). The application of innovations and technologies developed to address local problems faced by the economic production structure will help make it operate at higher efficiency. This requires decisions to shift the gears of the economy, while envisioning and channelling investment in the desired direction. The state government, during the annual budget formulation, should consider including the budgetary head of investment in R&D. A new incentive framework for knowledge enterprises should be framed and incorporated in the core policy and budgetary formulations.

There is an urgent need to develop coordinated high-end knowledge generation organisations and institutions. The goal should be to raise R&D standards and outcomes. In the short term, the share of R&D investment in the GSDP should be raised to 1 per cent. It should be increased to 2 per cent in the medium term and finally to the level of the Asian Tigers at around 3 per cent. For this, higher educational/research institutions may be engaged to generate new knowledge for current and future needs of the economic agents of production while building strong business enterprise-institutional linkages. In this context, there is a need to learn from China's experience of establishing solo research-based

universities. The main task of a research university should be to conduct research on the current problems faced by the economy, besides innovations and technologies for future sources of economic development. These universities will change the culture of academic engagement and give an edge in publishing research output and registering patents for raising global quality standards. This implies that the research output generated by such a university can be used by knowledge enterprises that can be established by it or by private enterprises. Obviously, the knowledge developed and absorbed in knowledge-intensive enterprises will help convert higher productivity into higher value addition and thus accelerate the pace of economic development.

The focus of the R&D budget should be on investing in risky projects to invent short-cycle technologies. Capability-building for harnessing future opportunities and making skilled manpower ready for futuristic technologies are the need of the hour. The state government and business enterprises should develop a strong linkage with the Indian diaspora to transmit the spillover effect from the knowledge gained from experience while working in developed countries. The production structure may also be fine-tuned to fulfil the needs of the diaspora while raising the quality standards of production that are acceptable in their respective country of residence. Brand-building could enable entry into global value chains. This will further enhance the possibilities of learning and facilitate increasing returns to scale in the enterprises and farms. This is the process that will help Punjab's economy move from a 'low productivity, low wage' enterprise to a 'high productivity, high income-generating' one, along with agriculture. Another advantage of this kind of new investment in knowledge enterprises is that it can be directed to generate green energy innovations and technologies for the greater benefit of achieving high productivity and high-wage employment in green enterprises. The Punjab Government must give the right signal to economic agents of production for making the state's economy dynamic. The right kind of combination of institutions like the state and the market is needed to deliver long-awaited development.

MSP promise unmet

Punjab undermines moong diversification

THE Punjab Government's failure to procure moong dal this year has left farmers in the lurch, compelling them to sell their produce to private players at rates below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 8,555 per quintal. This disheartening pattern has been generally evident since 2022, when CM Bhagwant Mann promised MSP-backed government procurement of the green pulse. His announcement had led to a record 77 per cent jump in sowing acreage that year. It was touted as a significant step in conserving groundwater and improving soil health through crop diversification. The legume crop is also believed to benefit the soil by fixing its nitrogen level, which is conducive to better paddy yield. However, the scheme has not materialised, leaving private players to dominate the market and putting financial strain on farmers. Moong is crucial for Punjab as the state produces only 15 per cent of the



pulses it consumes. Its promotion through procurement under MSP and Price Support Scheme would also help the Central Government meet its target of making the country self-sufficient in pulses by 2027. But without government intervention, the cultivators

are unlikely to overcome the challenges. The situation calls for a more reliable procurement scheme to protect farmers' interests and ensure the success of crop diversification initiatives in Punjab. Establishing more purchase centres and accredited warehouses could reduce distress sales by peasants. Introducing a deficiency price payment system could bridge the gap between the market price and MSP. Notably, in July 2022, Mann had announced that the state would bear the gap of up to Rs 1,000 per quintal for the moong crop sold below MSP. Promoting FPOs (farmer producer organisations) could improve farmers' bargaining power and market access. Targeted interventions are necessary to give the citizens the much-needed nutritious food security.

Well begun is half done for the Opposition

The Opposition must continue to focus on its poll campaign theme, which centred on the defence of the Constitution to ensure social and economic justice.

THE first session of the 18th Lok Sabha saw a charged-up Opposition using its numbers and momentum to take on the ruling BJP. The gap between the Opposition and the ruling benches in the Lok Sabha has narrowed down to 60 seats, making the House more representative of India's pluralistic society and diverse voices and interests. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 293 MPs, not far above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, while the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) has 234.

The role of the Opposition was reduced to mere tokenism in the last two Lok Sabhas because of the BJP's overwhelming electoral numbers and dominance. It used its majority to delegitimise and dismiss the Opposition from Parliament, short-circuiting debate and pushing through crucial legislation without adequate discussion or consultation. The BJP has lost its outright majority for the first time in a decade this year, while the Opposition has re-emerged as a legitimate political force, offering the opportunity to hold the ruling party accountable. A strong Opposition can act as an effective restraint on the government, preventing it from transgressing its functional limits. Data compiled by the PRS Legislative Research show that there was very little discussion in the 17th Lok Sabha; the Opposition was hardly ever heard and it was not given adequate time. It had fewer sittings compared to the previous full-term Lok Sabhas. Not only were there fewer sittings and debates, but fewer Bills were also sent to parliamentary committees for detailed scrutiny before they were passed. As many as 179 Bills were passed — 58 per cent of them within two weeks of introduction. Only 16 per cent of the Bills in the 17th Lok Sabha were referred to standing committees for greater scrutiny, compared to 7 per cent and 60 per cent in the 15th and 14th Lok Sabha (during the UPA rule).

Rahul Gandhi, in his debut as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), mounted an aggressive critique of the NDA government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The

INDIA bloc leaders entered the Lok Sabha holding copies of the Constitution. The LoP led the MPs in waving the copies when the PM was being sworn in. The scene was repeated when Home Minister Amit Shah took oath. PM Modi, in turn, called into question the track record of the Congress and the capability of Rahul — without ever taking his name. His more than two-hour-long speech signalled a continuity in his government's domineering approach towards the Opposition despite the electoral setback suffered by his party. The attack was concentrated on the Congress, which was called the biggest opponent of the Constitution and accused of running a 'fake narrative' to mislead the public. The PM challenged the Opposition's claim that the recent elections were fought on the issue of 'protecting the Constitution'.

To counter this assertion, Modi launched a sharp attack on the Emergency, listing its excesses, including arrests of political activists and suspension of civil liberties. According to him, the 2024 General Election was not about the protection of the Constitution; he said Indians voted on this plank only once when they threw out the Indira Gandhi government in 1977 after the Emergency.

The Emergency was undoubtedly a 'direct and frontal attack' on the Constitution. The Congress was punished for it in the 1977 election by a coalition of parties which had come together with the sole objective of defeating the authoritarian excesses of the Emergency and restoring democracy. The anti-authoritarian plank figured prominently in the recent Lok Sabha elections too. Saving the Constitution was an important electoral issue, no matter what the BJP might say today. It united 26 Opposition parties to form an alliance to counter the



attacks on democracy and the Constitution, witnessed during the second term of the NDA government. This was reflected in the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act, the change in status of Jammu & Kashmir and the massive rise in hate speech and persecution of Muslims — all this was in conflict with the fundamental values envisaged by the Constitution. This agenda was taken to its extreme when the new criminal laws were steamrollered through Parliament without consultation or debate and after the suspension of over 140 MPs. Against this background, voters actively and affirmatively responded to the Opposition's call to save the Constitution by voting against authoritarian manoeuvres. The saffron camp failed to counter the narrative that it wanted 400 seats in

Parliament in order to change the Constitution.

The Opposition made its voice heard during the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address. This debate is noteworthy because it took place despite the combativeness of the government and its insistence to showcase continuity in terms of its power. The fact that there was a debate is encouraging. Running roughshod over Parliament and the Opposition is not that easy anymore. The speeches of Rahul Gandhi, Mahua Moitra, Akhilesh Yadav, Bimol Akiyama, Mallikarjun Kharge, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sagarika Ghose and John Brittas — to name some of the vocal Opposition leaders who spoke — testifies to the resurgence of the Opposition. There was a stormy debate on issues such as the NEET paper leak, Manipur, unemployment, inflation, Agnipath scheme, violence against minorities and the political role of Hinduism in public life. The argument on 'who is a Hindu' was significant; it is likely to go down as one of the most consequential debates in India's parliamentary history. This debate underscores the ideological differences between the government and the Opposition — advocating two very different ideas of India and arguing sharply for or against equating democracy with majoritarianism. The failure of the BJP to reach majority on its own is expected to stall the majoritarian agenda and give space for constitutional politics. However, the Opposition must continue to focus on its poll campaign theme, which centred on the defence of the Constitution to ensure social and economic justice and material improvement in the lives of people through the promotion of equality, employment, free speech and other significant rights.

6 places that reveal Jaipur's exciting history

Most of Jaipur's attractions are clustered together, either located within the boundaries of the walled city built by Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th-century, or around the former capital at Amber. These six attractions are essential for any visitor looking to get a sense of the city's history.



Albert Hall

Built in 1876 to commemorate the visit of the Prince of Wales, this colonial museum was modelled on London's Victoria and Albert Museum. The impressive building was designed by the British engineer Samuel Swinton Jacob in an Indo-Saracenic style, which drew upon elements of Mughal, Rajput and British architecture. It

exhibits a large collection of miniature paintings, royal portraits, Indian arts and crafts, sculptures, musical instruments, coins, carpets and arms and armour. The surrounding Ram Niwas Garden was laid out later as part of a famine relief project, and now encloses a zoo, an aviary, a greenhouse and a herbarium.

Jaigarh Fort

Located next to the Amber Fort, this well-preserved military fort was built in the 18th century and housed the royal treasury. Its highlight is the Jai Vana, one of the world's largest cannons on wheels. Made around 1720, it has an impressive firing range of around 30km. The fort also houses an armoury and museum, which display weapons, old photographs and maps, and royal objects. Since the fort is located on a hillock called Cheel ka Teela (hill of eagles), it is an ideal vantage point to take in stunning sights of the Amber Fort and the Maota Lake. Climb up the Diwa Burg watchtower for a bird's eye view of the sprawling plains around.

Jantar Mantar

This astronomical observatory, like its counterpart in New Delhi, was built by Jai Singh II in the 18th century. It is the largest and the best preserved of the five he built across the country. It contains 14 structures or astronomical instruments, each with a specific function: either to measure time, track solar and lunar eclipses and the movement of stars and planets. Its name is derived from jantar (meaning instrument) and mantar (meaning formula in context to calculation).



You can marvel over the striking architecture, but we also recommend taking a tourist guide to understand how the instruments are used.

Hawa Mahal

The city's most striking landmark is famous for its pink latticed windows and balconies which offer panoramic views of the city below. This 'Palace of Winds' as it is often called, was constructed in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, and used by the women in the royal family to observe the city's processions without being seen. Built with red and pink sandstone, the five-storey monument was designed by Lal Chand Ustad who drew upon several Mughal architectural elements. An important note for visitors: entry to the Hawa Mahal isn't from the façade but through a side road at the rear end of the monument.

Amber Fort

This hilltop fort complex lies on the dusty Aravalli hill range, 11 km outside Jaipur. It was the capital of the Rajputs for 700 years and the original residence of the royal family, before Jaipur was constructed. Built in a combination of Hindu and Islamic architectural elements, it encloses pretty palaces, imposing gates and several official buildings. These are decorated with wall murals, carvings, and mirror and glass work. Take a moment to admire the magnificent inlay work in the Sheesh Mahal or Hall of Mirrors. The fort truly comes alive in the evenings with a light and sound show, which narrates its history in Hindi and English.

City Palace

Located in the old part of the city, the City Palace encloses several palaces, courtyards and gardens. These have been built over the last two centuries, and are a blend of the Rajput and Mughal architectural styles. The royal family continues to live in a part of the palace, and this impressive complex still exudes a regal aura.

Your first major stop inside will be the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, which has a good collection of royal costumes, weapons, miniature paintings, manuscripts and sculptures. Other highlights include the Diwan-i-Am or the Hall of Public Audience, where durbars (royal courts) were held, and which still has painted walls and ceiling, marble pillars and glass chandeliers. Another hall, the Diwan-i-Khas, was used during ceremonies, and exhibits the largest silver water containers in the world.

5 interesting excursions to take in

Kodaikanal

One of Tamil Nadu's most picturesque hill stations, Kodaikanal is located at an altitude of 7,200 ft in the Palani hills in the Western Ghats. Comprising of densely wooded jungles, cascading hill slopes, circuitous rivers and green rolling valleys, it is a favourite amidst tourists visiting the country's south. Though a trip to Kodaikanal is popularly referred to as all about revelling in nature, here are a few things to take in during your time there.

Kukkai Caves

This is one of the most interesting excursions from Kodaikanal. Located at a distance of about 40 km from the city, the journey will take you through thickly forested areas abounding with orchids and shoal trees. The Kukkai caves are amongst the oldest carved caves in the region. Situated at an altitude of 1500 m, they offer the most breathtaking views of the Manjampath valley down below. The caves themselves form a rock shelter with an overhang of stalactites and stalagmites rising from the base.

Subrahmanya temple

Also referred to as the Karthikeya temple and the Palani temple, this place of worship is a major draw for tourists. Located about 65 km ahead of Kodaikanal, it is dedicated to Lord Subramanian. One of south India's most famous

temples, the Subrahmanya temple is perched at an altitude of 135 m, and is approached by 659 steps, or alternatively by using the winch facility. The festivals of Tai Pusam (January) and Panguni Uttaram (April) are carried out on the premises with great pomp and show.

Bryant Park

Named, conceptualised and landscaped after the British officer Glenn Bryant back in 1980, Bryant Park is a botanical garden located to the east of the Kodaikanal Lake. The park holds an annual flower and vegetable show in May, which is the best time to visit. In addition, there is a glasshouse on the garden grounds, which houses a wide

variety of beautiful blooming flowers and ferns.

Pillar Rocks

One of Kodaikanal's most famous attractions, these three mammoth rock pillars stand shoulder-to-shoulder, looming 400-ft-high in the sky. Affording a bird's eye view of the surrounding vista, these granite structures are located at a distance of about eight km from the lake tower, and encompass little hidden nooks and crannies within them, which are great to explore. The chambers between the pillars are referred to as the devil's kitchen, and there's a beautiful public garden just adjacent that offers a great view of the structure.



'Not Charity, Right': Supreme Court's Big Alimony Order For Muslim Women

A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih dismissed a Muslim man's petition challenging a direction to pay maintenance

New Delhi: A divorced Muslim woman can seek alimony from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure - the law related to maintenance for wives - the Supreme Court ruled today. The big judgment came as a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih dismissed a Muslim man's petition challenging a direction to pay his wife maintenance after divorce. "We are hereby dismissing the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that Section 125 would be applicable to all women and not just married women," Justice Nagarathna said. Justice Nagarathna and Justice Masih delivered separate, but concurrent, judgments. The bench made it clear that the law for seeking maintenance applies to all married women, irrespective of their religion.



Maintenance is not a matter of charity but a fundamental right of married women, the court said. "This right transcends religious boundaries, reinforcing the principle of gender equality and financial security for all

married women," it added. "Some husbands are not conscious of the fact that the wife, who is a homemaker, is dependent on them emotionally and in other ways. Time has come for Indian men to recognise the indispensable role and sacrifices made by housewives for the family." The landmark judgment has come on a petition by Mohd Abdul Samad, who was directed by a family court to pay a monthly allowance of ₹ 20,000 to his divorced wife. Mr Samad challenged the direction in Telangana High Court, which modified the amount to ₹ 10,000. He then moved the Supreme Court. His counsel argued that divorced Muslim women can seek recourse to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 Act and stressed that it provides much more than what Section 125 CrPC does. He also argued that a special law -- referring to the Act -- shall prevail over a general law. Amicus Curiae Gaurav Agarwal

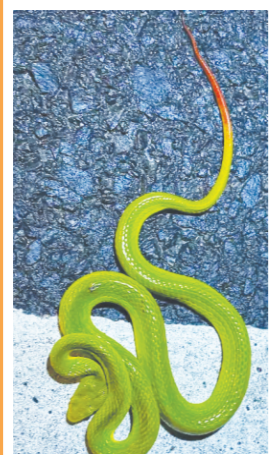
countered that the personal law does not take away a woman's entitlement to relief under the gender-neutral CrPC.

The History, The Significance

To understand the significance of this judgment, there is a need to go back to the Shah Bano case in 1985. In this landmark verdict, the Supreme Court had ruled that Section 125 of CrPC applies to everyone, irrespective of their religion. This was, however, diluted by the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, that stated that the Muslim woman can seek maintenance only during iddat -- 90 days after the divorce. In 2001, the Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional validity of the 1986 Act, but ruled that the obligation of a man to provide maintenance to his divorced wife extends till she remarries or is able to support herself. Today's order further consolidates a divorced woman's order to seek alimony under CrPC, irrespective of her religion.

"Real-life Harry Potter Snake" Found In Assam, Himanta Sarma Shares Pics

New Delhi: In a good news for Harry Potter fans in India, a snake named after a character in the famous novel-turned-movie series has been found in Assam. Salazar pit viper, named after Salazar Slytherin, was found in Assam's Kaziranga National Park, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced this week. In the Harry Potter universe, Slytherin was one of the founders of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, along with his friends Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Helga Hufflepuff. He was partly known for his ability to talk to snakes. The snake is also the symbol of the Slytherin Hogwarts house in the Harry Potter series of seven fantasy novels written by British author JK Rowling.



"Kaziranga just found a real-life Harry Potter snake! Meet the super cool Salazar Pit Viper: it's green like magic and has a funky red-orange stripe on its head," Mr Sarma said in a post on his official X account. He

"Harry Potter Snake" In Arunachal

A team of researchers had earlier discovered a new species of venomous snake in Arunachal Pradesh and named it Trimeresurus Salazar. They had suggested the snake commonly be known as Salazar's pit viper. It was found in the forests of the Pakke Tiger Reserve during a field expedition by researchers in 2019.

In Mumbai BMW Case, Sena Leader's Son Mihir Shah Admits Was Driving Car: Sources

Mumbai/New Delhi: Mihir Shah, the main accused in the Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case, has admitted that he was driving the luxury car when it hit a couple on their bike on Sunday, killing the woman, say police sources. However, he has claimed he wasn't drunk, they add. Mihir Shah, arrested yesterday, told the police during his interrogation that he had exchanged seats with his driver Rajrishi Bidawat and took over the wheel before it rammed into a two-wheeler at 5.30 am on Sunday. The 24-year-old is the son of politician Rajesh Shah, a member of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction. A dozen people are in custody, including Mr Shah's parents and two sisters. The woman killed in the crash was Kaveri Nakhwa, a 45-



year-old mother of two. She was with her husband Pradip Nakhwa, who suffered injuries. The two were out shopping for fish. Mihir Shah evaded the police for three days until he was tracked down to an apartment in Virar, which is around 65 km from Mumbai. The police traced him when one of his friends turned on his phone for 15 minutes.

Mihir Shah allegedly drove the BMW after partying with four friends for hours at a Juhu bar. CCTV footage indicates Ms Nakhwa was dragged for 1.5 km after the collision before the BMW was stopped. The police said the footage also showed that Mr Shah then again switched seats with Mr Bidawat, pulled the woman's body out from under the car, and left it on the road before driving away. The Mumbai accident has parallels to the Pune Porsche hit-and-run case when two software engineers riding a two-wheeler were killed by an underage driver.

Lashkar likely behind J&K bus attack that killed 9, says anti-terror agency

New Delhi: Handlers of Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) could have had a role to play in the attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district last month, interrogation of an arrested accused by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has revealed. Nine people were killed and 41 injured on June 9 when terrorists opened fire at the bus, which was en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The incessant firing caused the vehicle to veer off the road and fall into a gorge. Officials from the anti-terror agency told news agency PTI that at least three terrorists could have been involved in the attack. The likely involvement of Lashkar handlers came to the fore after NIA

officials quizzed Hakam Khan alias Hakin Din, who was arrested last month for providing shelter, food and logistics to the terrorists. His interrogation pointed towards the role of Saifullah alias Sajid Jutt and Abu Qatal alias Qatal Sindhi - Lashkar commanders who might have acted as the attackers' handlers, an NIA official told PTI. The aspect is being verified, the official added. Hakam's interrogation also revealed that he helped terrorists conduct a recon of the area where the attack happened and even accompanied them. The NIA officials said that on one occasion, the terrorists even stayed with him.

Based on the details provided by Hakam, the anti-terror agency on June 30 searched five locations linked with

hybrid terrorists and their overground workers. The NIA took over the Reasi bus terror attack investigation following June 15 orders from the Union Home Ministry. Lashkar commanders Jutt and Qatal have also been named in a charge sheet filed this year by the anti-terror agency pertaining to its probe into the attack on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in 2023. Earlier, Pakistan-backed The Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the Reasi bus attack, warning of more such attacks on "tourists and non-locals". An offshoot of Lashkar, the TRF was founded in 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370. It was designated as a terrorist organisation in 2023 by the Indian government.

Soon, Food Packets Will Have Bigger, Bolder Info On Sugar, Salt, Fat

New Delhi: In a historic move, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved a proposal to make a bolder and bigger display of nutritional information regarding total sugar, salt and saturated fat on packaged food items, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said on Saturday. The proposal calls for packaged food items to carry the amount of total sugar, salt and saturated fat "in bold letters and relatively increased font size." The Ministry noted that "the information regarding per serve percentage contribution to Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) would be given in bold letters for total sugar, total saturated fat and sodium content." The decision that will amend the Food

Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 was taken in the 44th meeting of the Food Authority. Regulation 2 (v) and 5(3) specify requirements to mention serving size and nutritional information on the food product label, respectively. "The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the product they are consuming and make healthier decisions," the MoHFW said. Healthcare and nutritional experts have been calling out the need to curb the intake of packaged food items, rich in sugar, salt and saturated fats -- a major reason for the rising incidences of non-communicable Diseases (NCDs). The proposal will enable

"people to make healthier choices as well as contribute towards efforts to combat NCDs and promote public health and well-being." The FSSAI is also expected to share the draft notification for the said amendment in the public domain for inviting suggestions and objections. Further, FSSAI has been issuing advisories from time to time to prevent false and misleading claims such as 'Health Drink', '100% fruit juices', the use of the term wheat flour/ refined wheat flour, the advertisement and marketing of ORS along with prefix or suffix, nutrient function claim for multi-source edible vegetable oils etc. These advisories and directives are issued to prevent misleading claims by FBOs, MoHFW said.

Delhi Man, Who Wanted A Son, Kills New-born Twin Daughters, Buries Them

Neeraj Solanki had been on the run since the alleged murder on June 3. He was arrested from Haryana.

New Delhi: A Delhi man has been arrested for allegedly killing his two new-born daughters and burying them, the police said on Wednesday. Neeraj Solanki allegedly wanted a son and was upset about the birth of twin daughters. He had been on the run since the alleged murder on June 3. He was arrested from Haryana. Pooja Solanki, who lives in Delhi's Sultanpuri with her husband Neeraj Solanki, gave birth to twin girls at a hospital in Haryana's Rohtak on May 30.



"The accused was evading arrest in Delhi and Haryana by changing his locations regularly," the police said in an official statement. Neeraj Solanki, 32, has been charged with murder after his wife complained to the police.

How Police Probe Began

The police said they began investigating after receiving a call at the Sultanpuri police station on June 3 about the "murder" of the two babies. The caller said his brother-in-law had killed

his 3-day-old twin girls and buried them at a crematorium, the police said. "After that, police staff was deployed at the cremation ground where the children were buried and permission was taken from the concerned SDM (Sub Divisional Magistrate) to exhume the corpses. On June 5, the corpses were exhumed and preserved at a mortuary in Mangolpuri. On June 6, we conducted a post-mortem. The bodies were handed over to their maternal uncle," they said.

How Neeraj Solanki Was Caught

A team of the crime branch was tasked with tracing Neeraj Solanki, a Delhi University graduate who survived on rent from his properties. The police launched surveillance and also drew inputs from local sources. The police analysed call data and noticed that Neeraj Solanki was changing his mobile handset, SIMs and hideouts frequently to dodge the police. After raids at various places in Delhi and Haryana, Neeraj Solanki was eventually arrested from Sampla in Rohtak.

13 Assembly Seats Voting In Key Polls, First Since Lok Sabha Elections

New Delhi: Of the 13 constituencies, four are in West Bengal and three in Himachal, where the Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government has survived removal attempts. Here Are 10 Points In This Developing Story: Bypolls to 13 Assembly constituencies in seven states are being held today, the first since the Lok Sabha elections, which saw the BJP falling short of a majority and the opposition gaining strength. The BJP won 240 seats and the INDIA alliance clinched 232, with the Congress emerging as its biggest constituent, with wins in 99 constituencies. The Assembly seats going to polls are Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Maniktala in West Bengal; Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh; Badrinath and Manglaur in Uttarakhand; Jalandhar West in Punjab; Rupauli in Bihar; Vikravandi in Tamil Nadu and Amarwara in Madhya Pradesh. Four of these states are ruled by INDIA constituents while the rest have a BJP or NDA government.

The electoral exercise will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutants, including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur from the Dehra constituency. The Sukhu government in Himachal Pradesh has survived removal attempts and won bypolls in four out of six Assembly seats which were held with the Lok Sabha elections. Six Congress MLAs and three Independents had cross-voted in favour of the BJP nominee in the Rajya Sabha elections. The Congress MLAs were disqualified and bypolls were held on those six seats earlier. The Independents resigned and joined the BJP and elections for their seats are being held on Wednesday. "Vote for the Chief Minister and not the MLA. Now, Dehra will also become the constituency of the Chief Minister... I will not need to go to the Secretariat to get your work done, I will get it done from the chief minister at home," Kamlesh Thakur told people while seeking votes. In West Bengal, the stakes are high for both the ruling Trinamool Congress - which beat all expectations and improved its tally in the Lok Sabha polls to 29 of the state's 42 seats, up from 21 in 2019 - and the BJP, whose figure went down from 18 to 12. The Trinamool won the Maniktala seat in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections while the BJP won Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin and Bagda. Later, the BJP MLAs switched to the Trinamool. The Maniktala bypoll has been necessitated by the death of sitting.



8 ways to get off the beaten track in Thailand

Thailand is a major travel destination, and as a result, much of its once-untouched landscape and island culture has been modernised. Yet, it still seems remarkably easy to get 'off the beaten track' in Thailand. This is due, in large part, to the fact that many first- and second-time visitors simply choose not to (as knowing the language quickly becomes a legitimate necessity and the transportation infrastructure degenerates aggressively farther from the tourist hotspots). The majority of the wonders to be seen in Thailand have become top tourist traps by default, so getting off the beaten path is an undertaking for a different kind of thrill—the experience of true Thai life, synced with the ebb and flow of the weather and seasons. This makes exploring and experiencing the 'unseen' Thailand a great opportunity to break from the hustle of 9-5 culture, and to often find more eco-friendly and fulfilling experiences.

Travel till you run out of English speakers
This seems pretty obvious, but what acts as a deterrent to most travellers is a fantastic guide to determine your level of off-track-ness. Yes, it will mean you'll need to learn a few key phrases (such as 7-Eleven yoo nai



krap—where is the 7-Eleven?). Keep some key photos on your phone (you know, like a bathroom door), or perhaps have a pencil and paper handy for notes and drawings; but the only way to get properly remote and utterly off the beaten track is to cut yourself off from the world, you and more importantly, all the other tourists are comfortable with. This will not only help you accomplish your travel goals and facilitate that proper adventure, but it will also seriously help the local economy, which suffers in areas not immediately adjacent to key tourist destinations.

Travel by motorbike
One of the easiest ways to traverse Thailand and the easiest way to find the path-less-travelled is by motorbike. Even on well-worn circuits (like the 3-hour stretch from Chiang Mai to Pai via Route 1095) becomes very much an individualised experience as you

travel farther north and with the freedom a motorbike provides. Additionally, the motorbike is probably the most ideal way to explore the multitude of islands surrounding Thailand. Yes, some may get a little hairy if you're an inexperienced biker (like the rougher and steeper roads to the better beaches on the northern and eastern edges of Ko Pha Ngan), but by and large, the best (and most cost-effective) way to set out is on a motorbike—particularly since the cost of motorbike freedom is about 600 baht (\$18.61) daily out of Chiang Mai, and fuel only 39.27 baht (\$1.22) per gallon.

Go north (east)
Generally, the northern half of Thailand is the best place to leave the souvenir stalls behind and enter the true 'land of smiles'. Some key regions to visit when planning your trip off the beaten path are Isaan and North.

You know you're on the right track when the Wikipedia page for Isaan lists 'Buddhist monks' as the first subcategory under 'Notable natives or residents'. Literally translating to 'north east direction', this massive section of north-eastern Thailand is home to a third of the

and time should be allotted to teasing apart the Laotian and Burmese influences on Thai regions. Backpackers gravitate to the north to lose themselves in the legendary trekking and motorcycling circuits (such as the well-known ones in Chiang Mai, and the lesser-travelled ones in Nan), so it's a perfect place to get outdoorsy and carve your own path. The remote Nan province in particular, right at Laos border, is a great place to explore between its three major towns and six national parks.

Follow the coast
Thailand's beach culture is justifiably legendary, considering its 2,000 miles of coastline and 85-degree summer days. This becomes incredibly evident when travelling to any of the many heavily populated beaches, such as the majority of the Krabi coast. But follow that coast a little farther, and you'll discover beaches that don't make to the 'top 10' lists, but wind up more beautiful in their isolation. Take Railay Beach in Southern Thailand, for example. It's a killer beach, and many make a day trip out there for sun, surf, cave exploration, and climbing. As a result, it's also become home to a dozen or more luxury resorts and is now super touristy. Follow the coast north a bit, however, and you'll wind up at Tonsai Beach—just as sweet, less than a third as populated. Plus, Tonsai is super laid-back, and a great place to grab a freshly ground chai or coffee and learn some slacklining or fire dancing.

Explore the islands
Thailand has a ton of islands. For example, the island group in Phang Nga Bay comprises 67. Some islands are big enough to house full

resorts, while others (many of which are privately owned and readily and cheaply available for rent) are much smaller and have accommodations for only a few, but are as off-the-beaten-track as they are ideal getaways for a peaceful and remote stay. Among the

best are the islands in Trat province off the Andaman coast. Take Ko Kut, which has been described as 'so off-the-beaten-path you might get bored', or Ko Chang, the second largest Thai island after Phuket and the last 'cheap' island—large enough to find some solid secluded spots.

Don't rule out any day trips
Many incredible Thailand experiences remain incredible because they don't, at the very first glance, seem quite as appealing. Take Doy Din Dang pottery studio, 7 mi north of Chiang Rai. Meaning 'Red Clay Hill', Doy Din Dang is a pottery studio in the middle of jungle nowhere, and is home to Somluk Pantiboon—an internationally renowned master potter. He gathers every material he uses from the land and supplies a lot of the ceramic ware you'll encounter at local restaurants. You can also sample some home-grown coffee that's supposed to be quite epic, so all around, it's an awesome trip that would likely never have occurred to you in the shadow of white temples and giant golden buddhas. Alternatively, check out Bo Klua salt wells outside of Nan. They're thought to have been in use for over 800 years and tap into brine from ocean water trapped underground for millennia. The water is pulled up to the surface and boiled off to access the salt. Again, totally remote and not terribly exciting at first glance, but an awesome way to get utterly off the tourist grid.

Ask the locals
If you must start your trip in one of the huge touristy cities in Thailand, fear not, there are still some amazing 'unseen' areas and neighbourhoods well within the city limits. Want to find where all the locals hide when the sea of tour buses shows up? Ask someone (and enjoy the benefit of being able to communicate with them in your native language). Of course, be wary, as some locals in the tourist districts will have their own agendas, but for the most part, you're likely to discover some legit locals-only spots by talking to the notoriously friendly people of Thailand. Want some peace? Try spending a stint at a wat and explore the Buddhist culture of the country. For something altogether different, have someone direct you to the part-store, part-museum Papaya Vintage Shop in Bangkok, or go to Phang Nga in Phuket on your own between tours. Finally, when you've exhausted all the resources within the city, venture just outside them—for example, to Amphawa, just west of Bangkok, where you'll find a kickass floating market on weekends.

Travel slow
The best way to get off the beaten track in virtually any destination is to give yourself enough time to do so. Sometimes this means having enough time to find that fork in the road that takes you to San Kamphaeng Hot Springs outside Chiang Mai. Sometimes it means having enough time to let a two- or three-day stay at Wat Suan Mokkh become a week-long experience. The only way to find what you're looking for, to touch those furthest obscure regions, is to be around long enough to identify what those regions are, and the idiosyncrasies that define each and its inhabitants. If you've come to experience true Thai living, you really have to give yourself the opportunity to live it—slow down, stay awhile.



Gold, silver price : Yellow metal trades higher, silver records dip on MCX

New Delhi. Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the higher side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a dip on Wednesday, July 10.

Gold futures, maturing on August 5, 2024, stood at Rs 72,570 per 10 grams, after recording a marginal hike of Rs 172 or 0.24 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 72,398. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on September 5, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 129 or 0.14 per cent and were retailing at Rs 92,840 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 92,969. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

Bansal Wire makes stellar debut with 39% premium over issue price

NEW DELHI: Bansal Wire made a healthy debut at the stock exchanges on Wednesday, listing at a premium of 39% over its issue price. The shares started trading at Rs 356 on the NSE, marking a 39% rise from the issue price of Rs 256. Similarly, on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the shares opened at Rs 352, reflecting a 37.5% premium over the issue price. The Bansal Wire IPO saw a subscription rate of 62.76 times by July 5 (Day 3). The public issue was subscribed 14.37 times by retail investors, 153.86 times by qualified institutional buyers (QIB), and 54.21 times by non-institutional investors (NII). Bansal Wire Industries, a leading manufacturer of steel wire products, surpassed pre-listing expectations with a stellar debut on the stock exchanges. The company is listed at Rs. 356 per share, translating to a significant 39.4% gain over its issue price of Rs. 256. This impressive performance outshines even the pre-listing buzz," said Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

"The company received a robust subscription, highlighting significant investor confidence in Bansal Wire's established position, diverse product portfolio, and consistent financial performance. However, it operates in a highly fragmented and competitive market," she added. "Bansal Wire listing was in line with our expectations looking at the demand received from all types of investors. Despite industry challenges and steady stable margin business model, management is confident in having multi-segmental growth coming in the company," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. The bidding period for the Bansal Wire IPO began on July 3, 2024, and concluded on July 5, 2024, with a price range set between Rs 243 and 256 per share. SBI Capital Markets Limited and Dam Capital Advisors Ltd (formerly IDFC Securities Ltd) acted as the book-running lead managers for the IPO, while Kfin Technologies Limited served as the registrar. Bansal Wire is a prominent manufacturer of stainless steel wire, catering to diverse sectors including automotive, general engineering, infrastructure, hardware, consumer durables, power and transmission, agriculture, and auto replacement. The company's products are marketed under the brand name "BANSAL."

Markets retreat from record high levels; trade lower on weak global trends



The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 129.72 points to hit a new all-time high of 80,481.36 during the opening trade. It soon retreated and declined 207.47 points to 80,144.17.

MUMBAI. Equity benchmark indices declined after hitting their fresh record high levels in early trade on Wednesday amid weak global market trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 129.72 points to hit a new all-time high of 80,481.36 during the opening trade. But, soon the benchmark retreated and declined 207.47 points to 80,144.17. The NSE Nifty also hit its fresh lifetime high of 24,461.05 in opening deals but pared all the gains and dipped 49.6 points to 24,383.60. Among the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India and ICICI Bank were the biggest laggards.

Maruti, Adani Ports, NTPC and Bharti Airtel were among the winners. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai were quoting lower while Hong Kong traded higher. US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.24 per cent to USD 84.46 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 314.46 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 391.26 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 80,351.64 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty went up by 112.65 points or 0.46 per cent to 24,433.20—its record closing high.

Delhi power companies hike electricity tariff

The hike is applicable in areas served by two BSES companies - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL).

New Delhi Electricity bills in Delhi have gone up since May 1, as power companies have hiked electricity tariffs affecting many households and businesses. The increase in tariffs is evident in the bills that residents are receiving in July. The hike is applicable in areas served by two BSES companies - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL). While Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited has not increased its rates, BRPL and BYPL have introduced noticeable hikes. The areas covered by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have seen a tariff hike of 6.15%. This includes parts of East and Central Delhi. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited



(BRPL) has implemented a higher increase of 8.75%. This affects residents in South and West Delhi. The increase in electricity rates has been made under Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC). This adjustment is made to cover the costs that power distribution companies incur while purchasing electricity from power generation companies. The higher costs are then passed on to consumers through their

electricity bills. The total Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC) for Delhi's power distribution companies from May to July 2024 varies. NDMC has the highest total PPAC at 38.75%, followed by TPDDL at 37.88%, BYPL at 37.75%, and BRPL at 35.83%. This includes existing PPAC on past dues and additional current PPAC, with NDMC and TPDDL each adding 8.75% to their existing rates, BYPL adding 6.15%, and

BRPL adding 8.75%. This increase in tariffs will be in effect for three months starting from May 1. After this period, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) will review the situation and issue further orders based on petitions from the power companies. Residents in the affected areas are now facing higher electricity bills. For many, this increase comes as a burden, especially during the summer months when electricity consumption is typically higher due to the use of air conditioning and cooling devices. It is worth noting that Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, which serves other parts of Delhi, has not raised its electricity tariffs. Customers in these areas will not see any change in their electricity bills for now.

The recent hike in electricity tariffs by BRPL and BYPL has resulted in higher bills for many residents in Delhi amid an increase in demand for power supply. While this increase is currently set for three months, future decisions by DERC will determine the long-term impact on electricity costs in the city.

Sensex nosedives 900 points, investor wealth declines by Rs 7 lakh crore

NEW DELHI: The stock market saw a significant drop today despite opening at all-time high, with the Sensex plummeting by 900 points to settle at 79,446 in early trading. This decline was due to a broad sell-off in various sectors including auto, consumer durables, capital goods, metals, and oil and gas. Similarly, the Nifty index fell by 259 points to 24,173, reflecting a weak investor sentiment on Dalal Street. The sharp decline in the market led to a substantial loss in investor wealth, which decreased by Rs 7.38 lakh crore. The market valuation now stands at Rs 443.89 lakh crore, down from Rs 451.27 lakh crore recorded in the previous session. Major stocks like M&M, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, and Tata Motors contributed to the losses on the Sensex. However, Maruti Suzuki emerged as the sole gainer, rising by 2%, significant number of stocks hit their lowest levels in a year today, with 208 stocks reaching 52-week lows. In contrast, only 21 shares managed to hit their 52-week highs on the Bombay



Stock Exchange (BSE).

The market breadth was largely negative, with 3,802 stocks being traded. Out of these, only 759 were in the green, while 2,905 stocks were in the red. Additionally, 138 shares remained unchanged. All 19 sectoral indices on the BSE were trading in the red today. The auto, consumer durables, capital goods, metals, and oil and gas sectors were the top losers. The BSE auto index dropped by 1,254 points, metals by 705 points, consumer durables by 427 points, capital goods by 1,153 points, and oil and gas by 473 points.

The market downturn saw around 258 stocks hitting their lower circuit limits, indicating a significant drop in their

prices. On the other hand, 174 shares managed to hit their upper circuit limits, defying the overall negative sentiment on the BSE.

The midcap and smallcap indices also took a hit, reflecting broader market weakness. The BSE midcap index fell by 678 points to 46,861, while the smallcap index declined by 909 points to 53,245. Despite the market downturn, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought Rs 314 crore worth of equities on a net basis on Tuesday. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were more active, purchasing Rs 1,416 crore worth of shares, according to provisional data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE). In the previous session on Tuesday, both Sensex and Nifty had ended at fresh record highs. The Sensex had gained 391 points to close at 80,351, while the Nifty had rallied by 112 points to close at 24,433. During the session, the Sensex had hit a record high of 80,397 and the Nifty had scaled a high of 24,443.

ONGC to invest Rs 2L crore to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2038

NEW DELHI. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has outlined ambitious plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2038 through substantial investments totaling about Rs 2 lakh crore. In a detailed 200-page document, the company delineated its road map, which includes significant investments in renewable energy sites, green hydrogen plants, and measures to eliminate gas flaring. By 2030, ONGC plans to invest Rs 97,000 crore to establish 5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity, encompassing solar parks, wind turbines, biogas projects, pump storage plants, and offshore wind

Another Rs 65,500 crore will be allocated by 2035, primarily for green hydrogen and green ammonia facilities.

installations. Another Rs 65,500 crore will be allocated by 2035, primarily for green hydrogen and green ammonia facilities.

By 2038, an additional Rs 38,000 crore will be directed towards setting up 1 GW of offshore wind projects. To mitigate environmental

impact, ONGC aims to eliminate gas flaring entirely by 2030, investing Rs 5,000 crore in technological advancements. In the base year of 2021-22, the company released 554 million cubic meters of methane into the atmosphere, largely due to incidental oil production or uneconomical quantities for consumer distribution. The renewable energy initiatives include Rs 30,000 crore for 5 GW of solar parks and onshore wind farms, with additional capacities of 1 GW each slated for installation by 2035 and 2038, respectively, costing Rs 5,000 crore each.

Emcure Pharma lists at 32% premium over issue price

Emcure Pharma listing: The shares opened at Rs 1,325.05 on both NSE and BSE, at a 32% premium from the issue price of Rs 1,008.

New Delhi. Emcure Pharma made a strong debut on the stock exchanges on Wednesday, with shares listing at a premium of 32% over the issue price. The shares started trading at Rs 1,325.05 on the NSE, marking a 31.5% rise from the issue price of Rs 1,008. Shares of Bain-Capital backed Emcure Pharmaceuticals opened at a similar price on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Emcure Pharma IPO, which is backed by Namita Thapar, was oversubscribed 67.87 times. As of July 5, 2024, the public issue has received subscriptions of 7.36 times in the retail category, 191.24 times in the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category, and 49.32 times in the Non-Institutional



Investors (NII) category. Emcure Pharma IPO offered 13,703,538 shares but 92,99,96,438 received bidding for 92,99,96,438 shares. "Emcure Pharmaceuticals, a leading player in the Indian pharma market, witnessed a strong debut on the stock exchanges, listing at Rs. 1325 per share. This translates to a significant 31.45% gain over its issue price of Rs. 1008. The

listing aligns with pre-listing expectations, fueled by the robust investor response," said Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd. She added that the oversubscription and listing gain highlight investor confidence in Emcure's established brand, diversified product portfolio, and international market reach. However, the pharmaceutical industry's regulatory

stringency and potential disruptions in the raw material supply chain still require ongoing monitoring.

"Emcure Pharma's listing performance is positive, which aligns with pre-listing anticipation. The strong investor response and listing gain demonstrate confidence in the company's future potential. However, the identified risks within the pharmaceutical industry necessitate ongoing monitoring by investors. Investors may hold their positions by keeping a stop loss at 1200," said Nyati.

"Emcure Pharma debuted the markets with strong listing gains in line with our expectations along with robust demand received from all types of investors. We believe the investor demand has come considering reasonable valuations and an opportunity to invest in the leading pharmaceutical company in India in the gynecology and HIV antiviral therapeutic areas," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Cognizant pays Rs 4 crore to settle Dalal case

In December last year, Wipro filed a suit against its former CFO Jatin Dalal who joined rival Cognizant.

BENGALURU. Nasdaq-listed Cognizant Technology Solutions on Tuesday said it has resolved a lawsuit against its chief financial officer Jatin Dalal filed by his former employer Wipro. The software company said it approved payment of \$505,087 (about Rs 4.1 crore) to its CFO, in connection with Dalal's settlement of the lawsuit brought by Wipro. In a US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, Cognizant said, "The settlement was reached without admission of liability by either party. The Company's payment covers Mr.



Dalal's settlement payment to Wipro as well as reimbursement of his legal fees." Wipro sought to obtain damages and injunctive relief arising out of Dalal's purported breach of non-compete and confidentiality obligations under certain of Dalal's compensation agreements with Wipro by joining Cognizant. In December last year, Wipro filed a suit against its former CFO Jatin Dalal who joined rival Cognizant. The company had initiated legal proceedings in the civil court in Bengaluru, but Dalal requested the court to move the matter to arbitration. Dalal joined Wipro in 2002 and became CFO of the company in April 2015 and also assumed additional responsibilities as President beginning in December 2019.

NEWS BOX

Happy Birthday Sunil Gavaskar: 'Little Master' turns 75

Former India captain and legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar turned 75 on July 10th 2024. On the occasion of Sunil Gavaskar's 75th birthday, we reflect on the remarkable journey of a cricketer whose legacy has left an indelible mark on the sport. Gavaskar's career not only defined an era but also laid the foundation for future generations of Indian cricketers, including icons like Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli. He was a pioneer, inspiring a generation of Indian youngsters to dream of wielding the willow with such elegance and grace. Sunil Gavaskar, known for his fearless approach and immaculate technique, revolutionised Indian cricket with his audacious batting against the most formidable bowling attacks of his time. His debut series against the West Indies in 1971, where he amassed an unprecedented 774 runs, showcased his ability to dominate even the fiercest pace bowlers without protective gear. He went on to defy their fearsome pace



battery led by the likes of Andy Roberts and Michael Holding.

Wishes pour in for Gavaskar Little Master Gavaskar

Gavaskar's monumental achievements include 34 Test centuries, with the highest score of 236* against the West Indies, highlighting his ability to perform consistently across diverse conditions. Gavaskar's career is studded with numerous records as he was the first batsman in history to surpass 10,000 runs in Test cricket, achieving this milestone with his trademark precision and dedication.

IND vs ZIM, 3rd T20I Prediction: Team news, Harare pitch conditions and predicted playing 11

New Delhi The T20 World Cup-winning Indian team will finally have an actual World Cup winner in their ranks as Shivam Dube joins their side for the third T20I match on Wednesday, 10 July. India levelled their 5-match series on Sunday, 7 July with a thumping 100-run victory against Sikandar Raza's side in the second match of the series. Abhishek Sharma and Ruturaj Gaikwad starred in the game with a 137-run partnership which blew the hosts away in the first innings of the game itself. India have brought in some heavy-weight replacements in Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal as well, who were part of the Indian T20 World Cup-winning team, but did not play a single game in the tournament.

The Indian team have a problem of plenty at their hands as they try to provide game-time to as many players as possible. Considering Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal did not play a single game at the T20 World Cup 2024, they might want some overs under their belt. Shivam Dube will possibly remain rested for the third game. To include Samson and Jaiswal in the same XI, it will be a little tricky as ideally for that to happen Dhruv Jurel, who has batted only in one innings will have to be dropped. Apart from Jurel, one player among the top order will have to be removed as well.

Novak Djokovic walks out of BBC interview after Wimbledon controversy

New Delhi Novak Djokovic, 24-time Grand Slam champion, stormed out of a television interview on Tuesday after snapping at the reporter who kept pressing the Serb about the Wimbledon crowd controversy. Within a minute into the interview, Djokovic looked upset over repeated questions about his outburst at the Centre Court crowd after his fourth-round men's singles match against Holger Rune. Djokovic kept his calm and answered three questions on the trot about his accusations against the London crowd 'disrespecting' him during his straight-set win over Rune. Djokovic asked the reporter if he had anything else to discuss before storming out of the interview with his representative. Popular broadcaster BBC took to social media to confirm that Novak Djokovic left its post-match interview on Tuesday midway. "Novak Djokovic walked away from our post-match interview last night after we asked him about his reaction to some of the Centre Court crowd," BBC Sport said in a post on X. Djokovic, in an extraordinary tirade during his on-court interview, accused the Centre Court crowd of being 'disrespectful' and booing him during his game against Holger Rune. Djokovic refused to believe the presenter's perspective that the fans were not booing him, but cheering for Rune. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTION?

It all began when Novak Djokovic sat down for a BBC interview after his dominant win in the fourth round. When initially asked about his reaction to the crowd behaviour on Centre Court on Monday, the 24-time Grand Slam champion said: 'Same'.

Lionel Messi fires Argentina into Copa America final after 2-0 win over Canada

Copa America, Argentina vs Canada: Goals from milestone man Lionel Messi and Julian Alvarez helped Argentina beat a spirited Canada 2-0 in New Jersey and book a place in the final of the prestigious tournament.

New Jersey. Lionel Messi broke a series of records as he inspired Argentina into their seventh Copa America final. Messi's side defeated a spirited Canada 2-0 in the semi-final in front of a packed house in New Jersey on Tuesday. Messi scored his 14th goal in Copa America to go level with Peru's Paolo Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas and be three shy of the all-time record in the tournament. Lionel Messi also moved to second in the all-time list of international goalscorers. With his 109th

strike, the former Barcelona star surpassed Iran's Ali Daei. The 37-year-old is now only behind Cristiano Ronaldo, who leads the charts with 130 goals in international football.

Argentina reached the final, in which they will face either Uruguay or Colombia in Florida. Argentina are looking to emulate Spain by winning two continental tournament titles on either side of World Cup triumph. Messi's men won the Copa America in 2021 before going to lift the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022. Spain won the Euros in 2008 and 2012 while winning the FIFA World Cup in 2010.



On the other hand, Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of winning another silverware with Portugal ended when they were knocked out by France on penalties in the Euro 2024 quarter-final. Messi and Julian Alvarez's goals sealed the deal for Argentina in their semi-final against Canada. It was the 7th time Argentina, 15-time champions, reached the final of the Copa America.

"It is insane what this team has done, what the Argentina national team is doing. For those who remain from the old guard, it's beyond impressive that the national team is in another final," Messi said after

After enduring early pressure, Argentina

took the lead in the 22nd minute when Rodrigo De Paul threaded a pass to Alvarez, who slipped between two defenders to score with a neat finish. Argentina gradually gained control. Messi had a chance to extend their lead in the 44th minute, creating space with deft footwork in the box before his shot went wide. Canada nearly equalised just before halftime when Jonathan David outpaced his marker to connect with a long throw, but his close-range shot was directed straight at goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. Although Messi had previously struggled with a muscle injury during the tournament, he seemed rejuvenated in the hot, humid conditions at MetLife Stadium, which will host the final of the FIFA World Cup in 2026. Messi netted Argentina's second goal in the 51st minute, redirecting Enzo Fernandez's shot from the edge of the area past Canadian goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq sacked from PCB selection committee

New Delhi Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq have been sacked from the Pakistan Cricket Board selection committee. The fallout from Pakistan's dismal show in T20 World Cup 2024 saw Riaz and Razzaq losing their place as national selectors. Both Riaz and Razzaq were part of the seven-member selection committee that picked the squad for the marquee tournament. An internal PCB enquiry is believed to have found discrepancies in many of the committee's decisions. It is also being informed that the decision is also connected with the feedback that has been received from the many members of the touring committee, including the manager, coach and possibly even the captain, Babar Azam.

Former Pakistan captain and ex-head of the PCB, Ramiz Raja, had criticised the



selection of the team. Especially the inclusion of Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir, who returned to the team after coming out of retirement. Furthermore, Riaz and Razzaq taking part in the ongoing World Championship of Legends, which is being played in Birmingham has not gone down well with the PCB authorities. Their decision to take part in charity games during a time when PCB is under immense pressure is not

being well-supported.

Fallout in Pakistan team begins

The PCB had announced a selection committee, without a chairman three months ago. Alongside Riaz and Razzaq, the committee included Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq, the national team's captain and head coach Gary Kirsten. Wahab was removed as the chief selector earlier this year and had travelled with the Pakistan side as senior team manager. This could be another duty from which he could be stripped off.

Riaz and Razzaq sacked

The musical chairs within the PCB continued with yet another sacking. The board had six chief selectors in the last four years, including Riaz. The other five are Haroon Rashid, Shahid Afridi, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Wasim and Misbah-ul-Haq. None of them were given a long stint to improve and restructure the team.

New head coach Gautam Gambhir seeks Abhishek Nayar as his deputy: Report

New Delhi Gautam Gambhir has sought the services of former all-rounder Abhishek Nayar for the assistant coach role for Team India. Gambhir, who was formally announced as the new head coach of the senior national men's team, worked with Nayar at Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2024. Gambhir has requested the Indian cricket board (BCCI) to rope in Abhishek Nayar into his support staff team, according to news agency PTI. Nayar has been a prolific mentor, overseeing the KKR academy as its head. Several young and veteran cricketers have lauded Nayar's role in helping shape their careers. Dinesh Karthik has often spoken about the impact Nayar has had in his late revival as a finisher at the highest level. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy made a special mention of Nayar after KKR lifted their third IPL crown earlier in May. Gambhir left

his job as the mentor of the Knight Riders after just one season to take up the role of India's head coach. The former opener was hugely credited for KKR's success in IPL 2024. Gambhir and Nayar have a close working relationship and the ex-Mumbai cricketer also has a good rapport with Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma. The BCCI on Tuesday confirmed that the support staff team of Vikram Rathour (batting coach), Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach) and T Dilip (fielding coach) would also make their way out along with Rahul Dravid, who stepped down from the head coach role after India's T20 World Cup triumph. "The Board also congratulates Mr Paras Mhambrey (Bowling Coach), Mr T. Dilip (Fielding Coach) and Mr Vikram Rathour (Batting Coach) on a highly successful tenure. The BCCI values their contribution and wishes them the best going forward" the BCCI said

in a statement. Gambhir applied for the head coach role after the BCCI invited applications before the T20 World Cup. Rahul Dravid, who was contemplating quitting the job after the ODI World Cup heartbreak in November last year, carried on and finished his coaching stint on a high. Dravid revealed that Rohit Sharma had called him after the ODI World Cup final and insisted him to stay on until the T20 World Cup.

BCCI BACKS GAMBHIR TO SHINE

Gambhir has no previous experience coaching a senior national team. The World Cup-winning former opener has not even coached an IPL side, but his stints as mentor at Lucknow Super Giants and the Knight Riders have been noteworthy. BCCI secretary Jay Shah said he is hopeful that 'fierce competitor' Gautam Gambhir would lead the team to new heights.

Rahul Dravid refuses Rs 2.5 crore extra bonus for T20 World Cup 2024 triumph

Wimbledon 2024: Novak Djokovic was ruthless on and off the court on Monday in London. The 24-time Grand Slam champion accused a section of fans of disrespecting him and lashed out at them after his fourth-round win over Holger Rune.

New Delhi. Rahul Dravid's humility shone through once again as the outgoing head coach refused Rs 2.5 crore extra bonus awarded by the Indian cricket board (BCI) after their T20 World Cup triumph in Barbados. Dravid took the call to ensure all the members of the support staff of the senior men's team were rewarded with equal bonus prizes. he BCCI announced Rs 125 crore prize money for Team India members, including the players and the support staff. While the players and Rahul Dravid were awarded Rs 5 crore, the other members of the support staff, including batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras

Mhambrey, and fielding coach T Dilip were slated to receive Rs 2.5 crore as bonus. However, a source told India Today that Rahul Dravid told the board that he would only take Rs 2.5 crore as a bonus. The 15 players who were part of the squad were rewarded with Rs 5 crore each. The support staff members got Rs 2.5 crore while the selectors and the traveling reserves were rewarded with Rs 1 crore each. BCCI Secretary Jay Shah and President Roger Binny handed over the prize money to the team after their victory parade in Mumbai on Thursday, July 4. It's not the first time Rahul Dravid has come up with such a heartwarming gesture. In 2018, after India won the U19 Men's World Cup trophy, BCCI announced Rs 50 lakh prize reward for then coach Dravid, Rs 20 lakh for other members of his team, and Rs 30 lakh for the players. Dravid had asked the Indian cricket board to divide the prize money equally among the coaching staff and the board agreed to his request. Rahul Dravid had spoken highly of the members of his support staff when he



recalled the T20 World Cup triumph during the felicitation ceremony at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. Along with Dravid, the tenures of Rathour, Mhambrey and Dilip also ended.

DRAVID SIGNS OFF ON A HIGH

Dravid signed off on a high, overseeing India's title triumph that ended their 11-year-long wait for an International Cricket Council crown. Dravid had contemplated quitting

Carlos Alcaraz's reaction to Spain's Euro semis win at Wimbledon goes viral

New Delhi Carlos Alcaraz was seemingly itching to end his press commitments as early as possible after his quarter-final win at Wimbledon 2024. The defending champion was keen on catching up on Spain's Euro 2024 semi-final against France, which was being played in Munich when Alcaraz was taking out Tommy Paul in their last-eight match on Court No. 1 at the All England Club in London. Thankfully, Carlos Alcaraz made it out of the press box just in time to see Spain dominating France in their Euro 2024 quarter-finals. Alcaraz, who has been rooting for La Roja at Wimbledon, was thrilled to bits when he saw Spain's victory in the much-anticipated semi-final against Didier Deschamps's men. Alcaraz, in a video shared by Wimbledon, was seen celebrating Spain's dominance over France as he joined in the staff, who were glued to their television sets with football live on them. While 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz kept his dreams of defending the Wimbledon crown alive after a come-from-behind win over 12th seed Tommy Paul in three hours and 11 minutes, Spain got the job done over France in the Euro semi-final in regulation time. 16-year-old Lamine Yamal was the star of the show for Spain as he inspired a sensational come-from-behind win for Spain, who reached the final of the prestigious continental tournament for the fifth time. France, led by Real Madrid's new signing Kylian Mbappe, took the early lead in the first-half with a header from Randal Kolo Muani. However, Spain bounced back at Munich, much to the shock of the Les Blues fans, with twin strikes in just 5 minutes. 16-year-old Lamine Yamal came up with a wonderstrike to cancel out Kolo Muani's goal before Dani Olmo put them in the lead. Spain's defensive discipline then shone through as they held France and secured a 2-1 win. Yamal was the man of the moment for Spain as he became the youngest-ever goal-scorer in Euro history. The Barcelona teenager showcased his composure as he controlled the ball outside the box and curled a stunning left-footed effort from 25 metres in off the post.

after the heartbreak of the ODI World Cup final in November last year. However, he decided to stay on and give another shot at winning a silverware when captain Rohit Sharma called him and persuaded him to continue. Dravid used his tenure with two major trophies, including the Asia Cup in 2023, and a runners-up medal in the ODI World Cup and the World Test Championship 2021-23.

"We thank Mr Rahul Dravid and his team of support staff for their service and stellar effort in their tenure with Team India. The team enjoyed remarkable success across formats and being crowned champions at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2024 is a moment that the nation will cherish for a long time," board secretary Jay Shah said. The BCCI appointed Gautam Gambhir as the new head coach of the senior men's team on Tuesday, July 09. The former India opener has been handed a 3-and-a-half-year contract. Gambhir is expected to have Abhishek Nayar as his assistant coach.

Sharvari Wagh

Offer Prayers At Siddhivinayak Temple As Munjya Hits The Rs 100 Crore-Mark

Sharvari Wagh is currently basking in the success of her film *Munjya*. The critically acclaimed movie, starring Abhay Verma, recently entered the Rs 100 crore club. Celebrating the milestone, the actress stepped out for a spiritual visit, seeking blessings from Lord Ganesha at Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai. A video surfaced on the Internet showcases Sharvari offering prayers at the temple as a gesture of gratitude for the success bestowed upon her. Dressed elegantly in a yellow Anarkali suit, Sharvari Wagh was accompanied by her parents as she arrived at the temple premises. After seeking blessings at the temple, the Maharaja actress even took a moment to acknowledge the paparazzi and graciously posed for them with her parents. The spiritual moment comes as a reflection of the support Sharvari has been showered on by her friends and fans. Sharvari Wagh is on cloud nine as she registered the first Rs 100 crore blockbuster of her career. However, this is not the only reason for her to celebrate.

The *Bunty Aur Babli 2* actress recently secured the top spot on IMDb's Popular Indian Celebrities list. Expressing her gratitude for the respo



nse to her film, the actress told Moneycontrol, "I have been awed by the big stars who have huge Rs 100 crore and above hits to their credit. To think that so many people have come to the theatres to see you, to shower their love and appreciation on your film and your work is quite an overwhelming moment for me." "Being known as the '100 crore girl' definitely has a nice ring to it, and this will get me to work harder every single time I face the camera. I have huge ambitions as an actor. I needed the right stepping stone to dash towards my goal, and 'Munjya' has done that for me," she added. Next up for Sharvari Wagh is *Vedaa* alongside John Abraham. The film is directed by Nikhil Advani. Besides, she is busy filming for a big YRF Spy Universe film titled *Alpha* alongside Alia Bhatt.



Anushka Sharma Shares First Post Amid Rumours of Moving To London With Virat Kohli and Kids



Anushka Sharma returned to Instagram after a short break to share a new picture. The Bollywood actress, who is rumoured to be moving to London with Virat Kohli and their children, made a comeback on Instagram to share a picture of a serving of fruits. The actress, who is said to be in the UK right now, revealed that she and her family are enjoying a serving of berries and grapes. The *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* star shared the photo with a heart emoji in the middle. Anushka's post comes just hours after a fan shared pictures of Virat from the airport in London. Virat landed in the city after he and his team won the T20 World Cup series and the celebrations that followed in India.

For the unversed, fans suspect Virat and Anushka might permanently shift to London to live a 'normal' life. This speculation comes especially because Anushka and Virat have often been spotted in London. In 2023, Virat even took a break from his hectic schedule and spent some time with Anushka in London. A viral photo featured Anushka and Virat outside a restaurant in London. Virat was also seen with Vamika at a restaurant in London, days after Akaay's birth was announced.

Anushka Sharma reportedly spent several months of her pregnancy in London, away from the limelight. This led to the belief that Akaay was born in London. These turn of events have fans guessing that Anushka and Virat are setting up a new nest in London and might move there permanently after Virat retires from all formats. The former Indian captain recently announced his retirement from the International T20 format.

Sonakshi Sinha Reveals SRK Sent a Voice Note to Wish Her, Zaheer Iqbal On Wedding: 'It Was The Highlight'



Sonakshi Sinha has shared 10 photos from her wedding with Zaheer Iqbal, each accompanied by a caption and a backstory and fans cannot have enough of it! In the first photo, Zaheer and Sonakshi pose in a filmi way, and she mentions that it is now her phone wallpaper. The next few photos capture Zaheer looking at Sonakshi with a lot of love as she prepares for her 'dream role': being his wife. For the photo, she wrote, "Hero watching his heroine get ready for her dream role. And since there's too much peace in the process... of course he HAS to disrupt it by saying something silly to make her laugh." In the photo that has caught everyone's attention is a picture that shows Sonakshi holding up a phone to Zaheer in an elevator, both smiling and listening intently to a voice note from none other than megastar Shah Rukh Khan, recorded on their wedding day! About the photo, she wrote in the caption, "Listening to a voice note from his all time favorite SRK (see pic 1 for reference), sending us both so much love and good wishes for the big day... i think this was the highlight of @iamzahero's day." In the fourth photo, a shirtless Zaheer kisses Sonakshi on the cheek. Another photo shows Sonakshi tearing up as she looks at herself in the mirror, adorned in sindoor, for the first time. In another photo, the couple is seen walking around a house that is now being built for them.

After dating for several years, Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal got married on July 26. The lovebirds tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in the presence of their close friends and family. The first photos from their wedding, have instantly become viral on the internet. But Sonakshi was quick to disable comments on the special post, in all likelihood, to avoid negativity and unnecessary trolling. Days after tying the knot, Sonakshi and Zaheer soaked up the romance on their honeymoon. Last week, Sonakshi shared a couple of dreamy photos on her Instagram stories. One photo showed the newlyweds taking a sweet selfie in a pool, basking in the sunset. In another photo, Sonakshi was sitting on the pool's edge with Zaheer holding her.

Anasuya Bharadwaj Serves Fiery Look In Red Saree



Anasuya Bharadwaj's name is synonymous with not just acting and anchoring, but with impeccable styling game as well. The actress keeps redefining fashion and leaves her fans in awe of her ethereal beauty. Be it in casual and chic clothes, a glitzy lehenga, or a saree, the actress can do it all. This time, the actress looks radiant in a bright red saree that has left everyone floored as she oozes with sensuality. The *Jabardasth* show's host is a prominent figure in the Telugu entertainment industry and continues to win the hearts of fans with her various talents. While the actress has earned immense recognition and fame for her acting prowess and hosting skills, she often grabs the headlines for her OOTD. This time, the actress has left everyone in a frenzy with her breathtaking looks. The *Vimanam* actress draped a simple bright red saree with a golden border and paired it with a matching red sleeveless blouse with a v-neckline. But that's not all. She decided to elevate her look by adding complementary accessories. She chose a golden-toned stone-studded necklace with a green pendant for a contrast. She also added a couple of rings, a bracelet and a watch to go with her outfit. For makeup, she kept it minimal. She opted for light smokey eyes, brows on fleek, white kohl to highlight her eyes and dark brownish lipstick to seal the look. She left her hair down and posed for the camera.



The caption read, "Code Red." As per her hashtags, she wore it for a program on Star Maa called *Kiraack Boys Khiladi Girls*. A fan wrote, "Very well balanced both sensuality and class. That's how a woman wears a costume." One more wrote, "If saree dressing is an art then she is an artist. She knows well about her body." Another chimed in, "OMG! Red Alert!" Speaking of her professional endeavours, Anasuya Bharadwaj has starred in films like *Pushpa: The Rise—Part 1*, *Rangasthalam*, *Kshanam* and *Bheeshma Parvam*. She has *Pushpa: The Rule—Part 2*, *The Chase*, *Flashback* and *Wolf* in her pipeline.