

Sharad, Uddhav instigating caste riots in Maharashtra: MNS's Raj

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, August 11: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray on Saturday charged that Opposition NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray were spreading "caste poison" in Maharashtra ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. Talking to media persons at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (erstwhile Aurangabad) as part of his ongoing "Maharashtra Navnirman Yatra", Raj said: "All the parties, including the BJP, have been playing politics over reservation. But the caste poison that Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray have started spreading after the Lok Sabha elections is terrible". Alluding to a recent statement by the NCP (SP) chief that



"Maharashtra might witness Manipur-like disturbances in view of the brewing rift among communities over Maratha-OBC reservations issue", Raj accused Sharad Pawar and Uddhav of instigating the agitation over the reservations issue to trigger caste riots in the state ahead of the State Assembly polls. "Shouldn't Sharad Pawar take the stand that caste politics should not spread in Maharashtra? On the contrary, they (Pawar and Uddhav) are contributing... Therefore, I request the people of all castes of Maharashtra not to support their dirty politics. Otherwise, I don't even think about what will happen to Maharashtra in the future," the MNS chief said. Demanding to know as to why the ruling BJP which has been in power at the Centre for 10 days had failed to accord reservation to the Maratha community so far, Raj said: "It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said that he entered politics holding the finger of Sharad Pawar. He was in majority at the Centre for 10 years. So why did not give the quotas. Uddhav Thackeray was also (an ally) at the Centre and state for five years, why did not insist on the Maratha reservation".

PM Modi releases 109 climate-resilient seed varieties to boost farm yield, nutrition

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, August 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and bio-fortified seed varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops, aim-

ing to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income. Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these varieties span 61 crops - 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. Modi unveiled the seeds at three experimental agriculture plots at Delhi's Pusa Campus,

where he also interacted with farmers and scientists. The field crop varieties include cereals, millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton and fibre crops. For horticulture, the PM released new varieties of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, tubers, spices, flowers and medicinal plants. Since 2014, Modi has advocated sustainable farming practices and climate

resilient methodologies to bolster farmers' income. He has consistently emphasised the promotion of bio-fortified crop varieties, linking them to government initiatives like the Mid-Day Meal scheme and Anganwadi services to combat malnutrition in India.

Article 370 and 35A were abrogated. On that day, the home minister stated in Parliament that the sequence (of action) would be delimitation first, followed by assembly elections, and then statehood at

Sebi, Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch rebut Hindenburg Research charges

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, August 11: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and its chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch, on Sunday rebutted fresh allegations made by New York-headquartered Hindenburg Research in the Adani matter. In a new report on Saturday, Hindenburg questioned the delay in the Adani probe and Sebi's objectivity in the matter, alleging Buch and her husband, Dhaval, were conflicted parties because they had invested in a fund that was allegedly used to inflate stock prices of the Adani group. Besides raising eyebrows over the use of a foreign fund structure, the US short-seller also accused the Indian securities regulator of promoting real estate investment trusts (REIT) due to Dhaval Buch's association with private equity major Blackstone, a large investor in the domestic realty space. Both Sebi and the Buchs issued separate statements rebutting all the allegations, terming them baseless and an attempt at character assassination. The Buchs found support from legal experts

and market participants such as Amfi, the mutual fund industry body, which backed

parliamentary committee to probe the allegations. Citing whistleblower docu-



her credibility and questioned the US short-seller's intent. However, the Sebi chairperson faced criticism from certain political parties, which called for a joint

investigation. Hindenburg had on Saturday issued a report on the couple's investments in IPE Plus 1 Fund, a Mauritius-based segregated fund under the Global

Dynamic Opportunities Fund (GDOF) managed by IIFL Wealth (now 360-One). The Buchs and 360-One clarified the fund, accused of having links to the Adani group, had never invested in any Adani securities throughout its tenure. Further, the holdings of the Buchs were only 1.5 per cent of the fund's corpus and they never had any say in the investment decisions. The couple stated their investment, which dates back to a time when they were residing in Singapore, was because Chief Investment Officer Anil Ahuja was Dhaval's childhood friend. They soon redeemed after Ahuja quit in 2018. Responding to the allegations that Sebi was favouring REITs, the couple stated that Dhaval had no association with the real-estate side of Blackstone and was associated with private equity PE and other companies, given his expertise in supply-chain management. Buch said Blackstone was on her "recusal list" and all disclosures and recusal had been diligently followed at Sebi. The market watchdog in its statement said the regulatory decisions around REITs were not

Congress demands JPC probe, urges Supreme Court to take cognisance of 'scam'

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, August 11: In the wake of the Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Sunday said the government must act immediately to eliminate conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group and reiterated the demand for a JPC probe into the entire matter. The Opposition party also said the Supreme Court should take suo motu cognisance of the "entire scam" and investigate it under its aegis because here the investigating agency SEBI itself is accused of being involved in it. It also asserted that in the wake of such "serious allegations", Buch cannot remain in her position at all.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) previously cleared Adani

before the Supreme Court following the January 2023 Hindenburg Report reveal-

tions. However, new allegations have surfaced regarding a "quid-pro quo" involving the SEBI chief, he said. "The small & medium investors belonging to the Middle Class who invest their hard-earned money in the stock market need

Buch, alleging she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal. SEBI Chairman Buch and her husband have denied the allegations as baseless and asserted their finances are an open book. The Adani Group termed the latest allegations malicious and based on manipulation of select public information. The company said it has no commercial relationship with SEBI chairperson or her husband. In a statement issued late Saturday night and re-posted on X on Sunday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the SEBI's "strange reluctance to investigate the Adani mega scam" has been long noted, not least by the SC's Expert Committee.

to be protected, as they believe in the SEBI. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry is imperative to investigate this massive scandal," he said. "Until then, concerns persist that PM Modi will continue to shield his ally, compromising

Hope Election Commission soon declares dates for J-K Assembly election in line with SC's directions: LG Sinha

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Jammu, August 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday reiterated that the government's stance on Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir has remained "unchanged" since the abrogation of Article 370 and expressed hope that Election Commission will soon declare the polling dates. He emphasised that the administration is ready to hold elections in the Union Territory, expressing confidence that they will be "peaceful and fair". "The full team of the Election Commission came to Jammu and Kashmir and returned after assessing the ground reality. The (polling) dates are decided by the Election Commission, and with the direction in which things are moving, I hope it will soon declare the date of the assembly elections in accordance with the wishes of the honourable Supreme Court," Sinha told PTI here in an exclusive interview. Sinha was

responding to a series of questions about the ECI's visit, the date of the election, and the earlier concerns raised by political parties regarding the conduct of the election as per the apex court's directions. "I would like to take you back to when

KAI BHAWAN JAMMU



Article 370 and 35A were abrogated. On that day, the home minister stated in Parliament that the sequence (of action) would be delimitation first, followed by assembly elections, and then statehood at

an appropriate time. There has been no change in this stance from that day till today," he said. "The Assembly size was increased, and following that, the Delimitation Commission, chaired by Justice Ranjana Desai, worked on setting new boundaries. This was a time-consuming process. The Delimitation Commission also visited Jammu and Kashmir, consulted all stakeholders, and completed the delimitation process," he explained. Clarifying the government's intentions regarding the election in the union territory, Sinha maintained that both Shah and Modi have consistently stated that the Assembly poll would be conducted at the earliest possible. "When the Prime Minister visited Srinagar on June 20 for Yoga Day, he reiterated this in a public programme," he added. The recent visit of the Election Commission was the first major exercise for preparing the grounds for holding the maiden Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 of the

Constitution on August 5, 2019. The visit of the three-member EC team led by Kumar comes ahead of the September 30 deadline given by the Supreme Court for the completion of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. However, Opposition parties, including the National Conference and Congress, have raised concerns that the government might delay the elections in Jammu and Kashmir due to the recent surge in terror attacks. LG Sinha pointed out that the Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory were successful, with an overall 58 per cent voter turnout. Over 50 percent voted in the valley alone, he said.

Heavy rain causes waterlogging in Gurugram, traffic disrupted

Gurugram, August 11: A heavy spell of monsoon rain turned Gurugram's major roads into streams on Sunday, and waterlogging was reported in several areas. As per the data from the district administration, Gurugram City recorded 53 mm of rainfall till 8.30 am. The data also showed that Wazirabad saw the maximum rainfall of 64 mm. Waterlogging was reported in several areas, including Sectors 30, 31, 40, 45, 47, 51, 22, 23, 4, 5, 12, 13, 48, Police Lines, Bus Stand Road, Sheeta Mata Road, Narsinghpur Service Road, Hero Honda Chowk, Basai Chowk, Khandas, Sanjay Gram Road, Sohna Road and Subhash Chowk. The heavy waterlogging caused major traffic snarls in these areas. Sectors 7, 6, 29, 39, 38, Palam Vihar, Sheeta Colony and Rajiv Nagar also had flooded streets. The waterlogging impacted the Gurugram-Delhi Expressway and several subways, making travelling a nightmare for commuters. The pedestrians had to wade through knee-deep water at many places. The overnight heavy rain wreaked havoc across Gurugram and exposed the tall claims of the city administration. On July 2, the district administration appointed 14 officers and an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) as nodal officers to ensure early draining out of the water in case of flooding at 112 locations. But the decision has not yielded any result as shown by the latest deluge. The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) and the irrigation department had decided to install more high-power pumps at waterlogging points along the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway, including at Narsinghpur.

Judge-less courts not feasible: Justice Surya Kant

Naresh Malhotra

Chandigarh, August 11: Judge-less courts are neither feasible, nor desirable, as adjudication requires nuanced understanding of complex legal issues, human emotions, societal values and intricate application of legal principles. Besides this, subtleties of human behaviour often play a crucial role in legal decisions. Relying on data and algorithms, artificial intelligence cannot fully grasp the complexities despite all its advancements, says Justice Surya Kant of the Supreme Court. In Chandigarh for two-day "National Conference on the Landscape of Technology in Courts in India and the Way Forward", Justice Surya Kant asserted judicial process involved empathy, the application of discretion and interpretive judgement - qualities that were inherent to human judges and not replicable by machines. Speaking at the sidelines of the conference, Justice Surya Kant said AI could undoubtedly support and enhanced the judicial process, but replacing judges would diminish human element necessary for delivering justice. The conference concluded with Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Augustine George Masih of the Supreme Court, and Chief

Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, collectively reflecting on the critical role technology played in transforming courts,

decision-making process. Machine learning algorithms could identify patterns in legal documents and case histories, aiding in the early detection of potential delays or bottlenecks in the judicial process. At the same time, it was equally important to recognise the significant harms it might entail. The introduction of online proceedings for high courts and the Supreme Court had led to the circulation of clips from the proceedings on social media. The proliferation of AI-generated deepfakes made it increasingly difficult to distinguish between reality and fabrication. Justice Surya Kant said he envisioned a judicial system where every citizen, regardless of socio-economic status or geographical location, had seamless access to justice.

The cases were resolved promptly, the integrity of proceedings was upheld through robust digital frameworks, and the judiciary was equipped with the tools and knowledge to continuously adapt to technological advancements. Achieving the vision necessitates a judiciary that was both technologically advanced and unwaveringly committed to the principles of jus

ice. Efforts to integrate technology into the judicial system had already made courts more accessible and efficient, marking a journey of learning, unlearning, and relearning. Justice Surya Kant also appreciated team of organizers led by Justice Lisa Gill for outstanding efforts in organizing the event attended by Chief Justices from across the nation. The Indian judiciary in the next year will share its technological advancements with nations through exchange programs, reflecting its leadership in judicial innovation, said Justice Surya Kant, who recently led the Indian delegation at the Chief Justices Conference of BRICS Countries. Justice Surya Kant said India's judiciary had been recognized for its pioneering role in integrating technology into the justice delivery system and the country's success of technological initiatives had garnered interest from other BRICS nations, with their Chief Justices seeking collaborative assistance in the field. Preliminary discussions with the National Judicial Academy and other stakeholders had already taken place, setting the stage for India to share its expertise and successful experiences in judicial technology with the global community through the upcoming exchange programmes.



enhancing access to justice, improving efficiency, leveraging artificial intelligence and fostering collaboration. Justice Surya Kant said AI undeniably held immense potential in revolutionising the judicial processes. AI-powered tools could assist in legal research, providing judges and lawyers with quick access to relevant case laws and statutes - expediting the

News box

TNSDC to set up gamified platform to conduct Olympiad for government schools

CHENNAI. The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) is set to introduce a gamified platform that will be integrated into 13,500 government schools across the state for conducting "Naan Mudhalvan Olympiad" – a competition for government school students of Classes 6, 7 and 8, to identify, nurture their cognitive skills at an early stage. Similar to hi-tech laboratories, the gamified platform will be incorporated into the existing school infrastructure and will feature grade-appropriate questions with detailed scoring mechanisms. The questions will assess the students' aptitude and cognitive skills, including critical thinking, concept understanding, problem-solving, logical reasoning, and auditory and visual processing. The platform will provide officials with advanced analytics, real-time performance insights, engagement levels, and assessment results. Each session of the Olympiad will last for an hour and comprise around 40 questions. As part of the competition, hackathons will be organised in schools. The school education department officials said the hi-tech laboratories – being established in 7,904 middle schools at Rs 400 crore – will be equipped to conduct the Olympiad. To validate the platform with respect to accuracy, a pilot project will be carried out in selected schools. Mock tests will be conducted for the students to familiarise them with the assessment format, said the officials. Based on the analytics, the TNSDC and the school education department will offer skill-based intervention and cross-mentoring opportunities for students, helping to create detailed talent profiles and fostering their development.

Monumental version of National Anthem by Ricky Kej, KISS

BHUBANESWAR: City-based Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and renowned music composer Ricky Kej have created a new Guinness World Record by coming up with a monumental version of India's National Anthem. In this collaboration with Kej, 14,000 tribal students rendered the National Anthem on the KISS premises here last month, setting a new Guinness World Record for the 'largest singing lesson' previously held by Sweet Adelines International, Nashville, USA with 6,651 participants.

Announcing about the record-breaking feat on Saturday, Kej, a three-time Grammy Award winner, said the anthem will be officially released at 5 pm on August 14, the eve of Independence Day, across all streaming platforms, YouTube and his social media accounts. He said the video features 13,944 children forming a human map of India and the word 'Bharat' in Hindi and English, symbolising the unity and diversity of the country and showcasing the nation's rich cultural heritage. The performance also features Kej who directed the music in collaboration with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, UK. The recording features flute maestros Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia and Rakesh Chaurasia, santon player Rahul Sharma, sarod maestros Amaan and Ayaan and Veena musician Jayanthi Kumaresan among others.

Edappally-Moothakunnam six-lane: 45 per cent work over, deadline revised

KOCHI: After an initial delay due to land acquisition issues, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has expedited the Rs 1,618-crore project to widen the Edappally-Moothakunnam NH 66 stretch into a six-lane highway. The agency has completed 45 per cent of the work since the beginning of the project in October 2022. It has now set a revised target of June next year as the completion date. "The original scheduled completion date is April 21, 2025, with a construction period of 910 days. Now, we aim to complete the work by June next and have stepped up the activities to meet the revised deadline," said a senior NHAI official. The 26.03-km stretch, from Edappally to Moothakunnam in Kodungallur, is the first of the five reaches of the 164-km Edappally-Ramanattukara (Kozhikode) NH 66 section, where the road widening exercise has been taken up. The works involve the construction of a Railway Overbridge (RoB) at Edappally, four flyovers, 7 major bridges, 8 minor bridges, 8 vehicle underpasses, 5 small vehicular underpasses, 4 light vehicular underpasses, and one pedestrian underpass.

Cantilever bridge

Of the seven major bridges, the one at Arappuzha is being constructed using the unique balanced cantilever method, which is used for long-span bridges. "Here, the spans, ranging from 80 to 100 metres in length, are being constructed with enough gap between them so as to facilitate the passage of large boats through the Periyar River under the bridge.

Historic Shivamogga school transformed from near closure to a model institution in Bengaluru

With revived infrastructure and modern amenities, the 89-year-old school now boasts 275 students and aims for 500 enrolments by 2025-26.

SHIVAMOGGA: The 89-year-old Government Model Higher Primary School in KR Puram, Shivamogga, has seen better times. In 2017, with just seven students taking lessons within its hallowed walls, the school was on the verge of closure. However, thanks to the collective effort of teachers, locals, block education officers and elected representatives, the school has now got a new lease of life. Sharing details about the school's revival with The New Sunday Express, assistant teacher B Ramachari informs that when he was deputed there in 2018, there were only seven students. "It looked like a rundown warehouse, and also resembled a den of illegal activities, where anti-social elements indulged in drug abuse and gambling," he mentions. "It was important that the school's glory days be restored. I personally took up the challenge to save the school, which was established during the British Raj. I sought



help from some locals and started a movement called 'Save Government School', for which I got pamphlets printed and distributed them among people, convincing the latter to send their children to government schools. It was difficult at first, with many of them being unenthusiastic. More than a thousand homes were contacted. With no funds to develop the school, the

movement marched on. I did not give up. During this phase, the then corporator Sunita Annappa also joined our movement and helped us get funds for the rejuvenation work," Ramachari says. Accordingly, the School Development and Monitoring Committee members too propagated the 'Save Government School' movement by conducting door-to-door visits to educate people about admitting their children in government schools. Ramachari further says that initially, parents were hesitant to send their children to a government school, citing lack of basic amenities, like learning instruments, sturdy infrastructure, pure drinking water, toilets, a playground, compound, efficient teachers and an English medium.

In 2018, local politicians, apart from the corporator, including then MLA KS Eshwarappa, and others, brought in more funds to develop the school, making it a

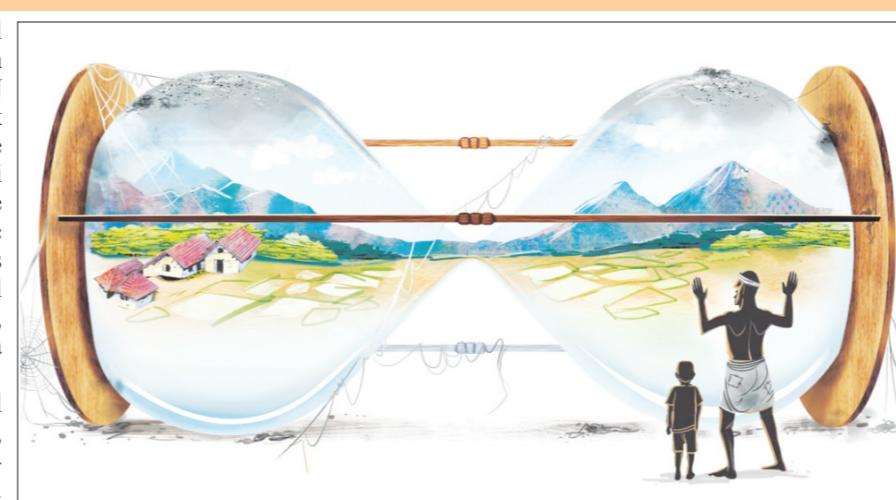
Karnataka Public School. All these efforts bore fruit, and the almost nine-decade-old institution emerged into a hi-tech government school, consisting of smart classrooms, CCTV surveillance, a digital library, and other modern features. Today, 275 students are enrolled in the school, from LKG to Class 7, taught by 11 teachers. In 2023, the school was also selected for the Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI Yojana). Ramachari says the number of admissions has risen over time due to the assurance of quality education and improved amenities. The aim is to reach 500 student admissions in 2025-26, he adds. On the school's inception, Headmistress C Daneshwari says it was constructed in 1935. "Ten years ago, the school had a strength of 700 students. But lack of amenities and quality education led to a fall in numbers. The children of autorickshaw drivers, daily-wage workers and others come to the school.

Entire ST hamlet in Dindigul left out of Adi Dravidar dept's habitation list; officials acknowledge mistake

According to the department's official records, there are 117 ST habitations, comprising 1,526 families in the 14 revenue blocks of Dindigul district.

MADURAI: As many as 610 tribal families belonging to the Kattunaicken community (scheduled tribes) of N Puthupatti village from Nilakottai taluk in Dindigul were left out of the habitation list of the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare. The issue came to light after a socio-economic survey of the ST community was initiated by the Directorate of Tribal Welfare across the state. The survey, which began on August 1, came to a close on August 31.

According to the department's official records, there are 117 ST habitations, comprising 1,526 families in the 14 revenue blocks of Dindigul district. However, the total number of persons under ST was projected as 4,104, leaving out a hamlet of 610 ST families comprising around 2,000 people from the records, sources said. Speaking to TNIE, G Muniyappan (58), a tribal resident of the village said, "There are around 700 families in N Puthupatti village and among them, 610 families belong to the Kattunaicken community. A majority of them are from financially poor backgrounds and are farm labourers or goat rearers. Recently, a friend informed me about the survey carried out by the tribal welfare department to carry out development activities in the future. Shockingly, no official visited us and later we realised that out entire hamlet was left out."



When contacted, Tamil Nadu Hill Tribes Association (Dindigul) secretary T Ajay Gosh expressed shock over the incident and said, "These tribals have been living in the hamlet for over several decades and they possess Aadhaar cards, voter IDs and other evidence to prove their nativity and residential settlement. The hamlet is a part of Nilakottai town panchayat and falls under ward 17. The officials failing to include the hamlet in the department's survey records comes as a shocker." He added that the socio-economic survey is regarded as one of the major sources to study about the household expenditure and income of scheduled tribes, as well as to ascertain their housing status, household

characteristics and living conditions. Based on such studies, the government can plan new schemes and welfare programmes. However, it seems as if the hamlet has been left out of the state records for several decades." Meanwhile, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare officer (Dindigul) A Murugeswari confirmed the delisting and said, "We do not know how the hamlet was left out from the habitation list of the department. I believe their village were not recorded earlier, or could have been added after the 2011 census. Upon information from the locals, we realised it was our mistake, and took action to add the hamlet to the list. We will carry out the survey in the village soon."

Kerala: SECI to launch project offering 1,200 MW solar energy, including 600 MW storage

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) held talks with officials of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) regarding the launch of a solar project offering 1,200 MW, including 600 MW storage also known as Battery Enabled Storage System (BESS).

As it's not possible to utilise solar power after dusk, with the BESS technology, the KSEB aims to store solar power so that they can provide 500 MW-600 MW to consumers during peak hours from 6pm to 12am. According to top board officials, the power entity is experiencing significant surplus during day time and shortage of 500 MW-1000 MW during peak hours which led them to tap on solar energy options. "We are anticipating a demand-supply gap during peak hours which might go up in future. The board is expecting to launch the solar project having a generation of 500 MW-600 MW, including Rooftop Solar (RTS) and Business As Usual (BAU) Solar, before 2026," a top board official told TNIE.

The official further said that the execution risks and gestation period for the BESS projects remain relatively low compared to Pumped Storage Power (PSP) hydro, a configuration of two water reservoirs at different elevations that can generate power. Though Kerala is aiming to become 100% sustainable on renewable energy by 2040, the current available capacity of solar energy is 886 MW.

This makes up only 15 % of the solar energy requirement. At a recent presentation by KSEB officials before the board of directors it was decided that BESS is urgently required for meeting peak deficiency of power. "The SECI held talks with KSEB board officials and has promised solar power which can be utilised for two hours. They have identified six locations in the state to generate solar power," added the official.

Kodagu's monsoon tradition: Ancestral dishes, rituals amidst the rain

MADIKERI: Known to be an agricultural district, farming activities engulf Kodagu during the monsoon months. The chilly weather and hard work in the farmlands demand that one stay healthy, leading to unique dishes being prepared during this period in ancestral times. The indigenous cuisine acts as a natural nutrient supplement, helping the natives maintain body temperature during the chilly and moist weather. While agricultural activities have seen a gradual decline across the district in the recent past, the ancestral fare still make up a large part of the monsoon diet in Kodagu.

The district has a special vibe during the monsoon, and a stroll down any town road introduces one to unique items being sold on the streets. Natives from interior parts of the village turn street vendors and source natural resources available in plenty across the estates and forest fringes of the district, which they sell locally. The wares vary from the traditionally made bamboo skep (to help

clothes dry using charcoal heater) by the roadside in Madikeri, to natural products -- a line of women wearing raincoats selling bamboo shoots, colocasia leaves, crabs, bracken fieldheads and leaves known as Justicia Wynaadensis or 'maddu thoppu' during the monsoon months from June to August. These locally sourced items make up for unique dishes that are prepared in all Kodava houses, and are now also being followed by all communities in the district. "July 15 to August 15 is 'Kakkada' month in the Kodava calendar," explained Ulliyada Dati Poovaiah, ex-president of Kodava Sahitya Academy. This month is synonymous with 'Ashada' month for Kannadigas, which is considered inauspicious. As the ancestors were busy with field work during this month, no auspicious events were hosted. Extreme weather conditions with heavy rainfall and gusty winds also stopped people from moving out of the safety of their houses, leading to 'Kakkada' month being



considered inauspicious for any public or private gatherings. Kodagu used to receive the highest rainfall during 'Kakkada', yet people had to be involved in paddy cultivation for a living. Nevertheless, to ensure that one stayed healthy during the extreme weather conditions, special dishes found their way to the plate. All the dishes prepared during this month maintain body temperature, even as they keep other

diseases, including pneumonia, at bay," explained Dati.

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'Degree for all' programme to start at Kattakkada assembly constituency in Thiruvananthapuram



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kattakkada assembly constituency has set an ambitious target to make all residents degree-holders. A survey has begun there to identify potential beneficiaries of the 'degree for all' programme. Like elsewhere in the state, Kattakkada has a large number of people who stopped studies at Class X or Class XII, said IB Sathesh MLA. "There are people who discontinued studies due to financial issues. Some stopped studying after marriage or getting jobs that required only a Plus-II certificate. We hope that a majority of them would be interested in continuing their studies," said Sathesh. The programme is in association with the Indira Gandhi National Open University and the Sreenarayana Gurukul Open University. The participants will be offered the new four-year degree programme. Public libraries in the constituency will be made study centres. "All the six panchayats have libraries. The highest number is 19 and the lowest is 6. If needed, anganwadis, after their

working hours, will be made study centres. The programme will also pave the way for reviving the library culture," the MLA said.

The first phase is to identify Plus-II certificate holders who want to join the programme. "The state government had launched a survey as part of the 'ente thozhil ente abhimanam' programme. We added an additional component to that survey to identify Plus-II holders fit for the programme," Sathesh said. Over 500 persons have already expressed willingness to join.

The second phase of the initiative is for people who stopped studies before Plus-II at the upper primary, 10th or 11th grades. They will be supported to obtain Plus-II through equivalency programmes of the Kerala State Literacy Mission. After obtaining Plus-II they can join the 'degree for all' programme. The survey to identify candidates for the second phase will be conducted by the grama panchayats in association with the Kudumbashree and Saksharata Preraks.

News box

Powerhouses, roads, colleges: CM Nayab Saini announces projects worth Rs 184 crore

GURGAON. Chief minister Nayab Saini announced and laid the foundation stones of 87 projects worth nearly Rs 184 crore in Pataudi on Saturday. The projects will improve local infrastructure, public services, and community facilities, he said. The announcements come ahead of the upcoming assembly polls, which are slated for Oct. The Pataudi assembly constituency is a reserved constituency with a large chunk of voters belonging to the SC and ST communities. While it has traditionally voted for BJP, a large number of voters shifted to Congress in the recent Lok Sabha polls, even though incumbent BJP MP Rao Inderjit won.

During a public meeting held in Pataudi on Saturday, he also announced the opening of a veterinary polyclinic and animal trauma centre in Taj Nagar, subject to land availability, with an estimated cost of Rs 1 crore.

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Gurgaon: 8-hour surgery saves woman with rare swelling in artery

GURGAON. Doctors at a city-based hospital successfully performed an 8.5-hour, highly intricate cardiothoracic and vascular surgery on a patient diagnosed with a rare abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), a condition in which the abdominal portion of the aorta - primary and largest artery of the human body - weakens and bulges.

Rama Devi (76) arrived at the hospital with excruciating abdominal and back pain. Her condition was precarious as the leaking aneurysm, in proximity to both her kidneys and intestinal artery, was at risk of rupturing, occurring in approximately 6 to 10 per 1,00,000 people, are linked with family history. Subsequently, Rama Devi underwent an aortic graft surgery. However, doctors devised a personalised surgical plan as the patient is diabetic and hypertensive. The surgery was conducted in three steps. First, openings were created in the stent graft (a tube inserted in a blood vessel to keep it open) while placing it inside the patient's body for blood flow. Then, the stent graft was accurately placed at the site of the aneurysm, and finally, a stent graft was placed in both renal arteries (blood vessels that supply blood to kidneys). Dr Sumit Narang, HOD and director of cardiothoracic vascular surgery at Marengo Asia Hospitals, said, "A CT scan for a leaking AAA is a crucial diagnostic tool. We created a 3D-measured stent graft and placed it inside the aorta. It stays in place, lets blood flow through it, and prevents the aneurysm from bursting. Advanced imaging techniques such as CT scans, MRIs, or 3D ultrasound are used to create a detailed, three-dimensional model of the patient's vascular anatomy with precise measurements of the vessel's diameter, length, and curvature. This technology enhances safety and effectiveness of aneurysm repairs."

BMW to Audi, 15 cars worth Rs 10 crore charred in fire at workshop in Gurgaon

GURGAON. A massive fire broke out at a car workshop in Sector 41's Silokhra village in the early hours of Saturday, destroying 15 high-end vehicles estimated to be worth Rs 10 crore - from BMW to Mercedes and Audi. The fire engulfed the garage around 3am on Saturday. There were, however, no injuries, as the workshop was vacant at that time.

The fire department said they got a call at 3.01am, alerting them to a fire at the Berlin Motor Workshop in Moti Vihar Colony. The department immediately dispatched fire tenders from Sector 29, Bhim Nagar, Udyog Vihar, Sector 37 and IMT Manesar stations. A total of 11 fire tenders were sent to the spot. By the time they arrived, officials said, the blaze had engulfed more than half of the workshop. While a preliminary probe pointed to a short circuit as the likely cause of the fire, further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause and to assess the extent of the damage, fire officials said. Teams of firefighters battled the flames for nearly four hours.

No end to garbage problem, now green belt a dumpsite in Gurgaon

GURGAON. MCG has imposed Rs 50,000 penalty on a private agency after it was found to have dumped garbage collected from households in a green area near Kataria Chowk in Sector 14. This, officials said, has resulted in the creation of a new garbage vulnerable point.

The contractor has also been asked to clear the waste from near the green area. The agency, however, has said that waste was being dumped near Kataria Chowk by unauthorised vendors. "We have issued a notice and asked the agency to explain the reason for dumping waste in the green belt. The agreement has a provision to impose penalties if the agency is not working efficiently. We have acted on the complaints received from the residents," said Harish Mehta, senior sanitary inspector-2, MCG, who issued the notice to the agency. Moreover, the corporation recently imposed a penalty of Rs 6 lakh on the same agency for lack of waste



collection vehicles required in the zone-1 area.

In response, the agency wrote a clarification letter to MCG on Thursday. "It is pertinent to mention here that the unauthorised vendors collect waste from households and then dump the waste at garbage vulnerable points, due to which residents have to face grave inconvenience. In such cases, where the unauthorised vendors create GVPs, our agency cannot be held

responsible for it. It is our request to take stringent action against those vendors," read the letter. After the MCG terminated its contract with Ecogreen in June earlier this year, the doorstep waste collection was outsourced to Bimalraj Outsourcing Pvt Ltd in all the zones. According to the contract, the agency has to pay MCG 46% of the total user charges collected in zone-1 and 2 and 48.51% of the total user charges collected in zone-3 and 4, and the agency keeps the

remaining share. Residents have also expressed concerns regarding the inconsistency in user charges levied by the agency. The introduction of this agency has led to a situation where some residents said they are being charged higher rates compared to what they were previously paying. The affected residents are urging the MCG to provide more transparency and clarity.

Don't want cos picking up waste in Gurgaon to sort our trash, say Manesar residents

GURGAON. Residents of Manesar objected to the municipal corporation of Manesar's (MCM) plan to hire the same agencies currently managing bulk waste in Gurgaon, fearing a repetition of the inefficiencies recently seen in the neighboring city. In a letter to the municipal commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg, the RWAs have raised concerns about the deplorable condition of waste collection in Gurgaon over the past few weeks.

This civic mess had prompted the authorities to declare a solid waste emergency in Gurgaon on June 12.

Highlighting the private agencies' failure to effectively manage waste, which exacerbated the situation in Gurgaon, Praveen Malik of the united association of New Gurugram said, "The corporation recently issued a public notice mentioning that they will hire agencies for managing BWGs. However, we don't want the MCM to hire the agencies working in



Gurgaon. The residents do not want heaps of waste accumulating in every corner of Manesar too. We have written to the MCM specifying this." MCG additional commissioner Jitender Kumar emphasised that the civic body encourages bulk waste generators such as condominiums, residential societies etc to manage waste on their own, with the help of empanelled agencies for assistance in BWGs in case of space constraints for setting up a composting unit or any other

waste management-related issues. "We are in the process of finalising agencies and will take the residents' requests into consideration," Kumar said. BWGs are required to separate waste into dry, wet, and hazardous categories and manage it independently. Wet waste can be composted or used to generate biogas, while dry waste can be sent to recycling facilities. The solid waste management (SWM) rules, 2016, also state that BWGs should have a composting plant to compost their wet waste and recycle their dry waste. The municipal corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) recently de-empanelled seven private agencies that were hired to assist in bulk waste processing for non-compliance with the SWM Rules, 2016. These agencies were found dumping wet waste on roads, secondary waste collection points, and roadsides. A total of 12 private agencies were hired for waste management in March this year.

No buses from Delhi side on Noida expressway in evening rush hours

NOIDA. Buses will not be allowed on the Noida expressway carriageway leading to Pari Chowk for two hours during evening rush hours, when office traffic merging on the speedway turns it into a bottleneck. The restrictions, police said, will be in place between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Vehicles will, however, continue to ply as usual on the other carriageway leading to Delhi.

Officials said the decision was taken during a meeting with representatives of bus associations on Friday. The expressway becomes a nightmare for commuters during office hours in the evening, when traffic from Mayur Vihar on DND Flyway merges with vehicles taking the expressway from various points in Noida. The situation is particularly worse in the evening, when vehicles move at a snail's

pace. Yamuna Prasad, DCP (traffic), said the restrictions were only for buses as trucks were anyway not allowed on city roads from 7am to 11am and 5pm to 10pm. "Most people travelling on the expressway at this time are those returning home from offices in Delhi. The expressway has multiple entry points. Traffic from ITO, Akshardham and Mayur Vihar enters Noida through Noida Gate. Vehicles from Udyog Marg take the speedway from Sector 15. Those coming from Film City and DND Flyway also merge with the expressway traffic. So, this heavy volume of vehicles leads to congestion every evening," he added. Prasad said the decision to stop buses for two hours was taken because the heavy vehicles were found to be a significant contributor to

snarls. "Bus associations have been told not to ply their vehicles for these two hours. These buses, which are mostly headed for Agra, Mathura and other parts of western UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, will be stopped on DND Flyway near Mayur Vihar in Delhi. They can access the N expressway only after 8.30pm," he added. Bus owners, however, raised questions about the move, pointing out that vehicles ferried 40-50 people at a time, taking a significant load off the passing traffic. "We attended the meeting traffic cops and officials of the transport department and were told not to ply buses between 6.30 and 8.30 every evening. We have little option but to follow the orders. Else, our buses will be impounded.

Name Change
I, RAHUL SIO SHEESH PAL RO, HOUSE NO.6 KHASA NO.71/102, GROUND FLOOR, AMBICA ENCLAVE NHALI VIHAR, Outer Delhi, 110041, have changed my name to RAHUL PAL for all future purpose.

Name Change
I, Sunny Sharma S/o Sudeesh Kumar RAO, R/o A-6 jaungpura-b Sector-110041 have changed my name to Sunny for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, SANDEEP S/O Mahaveer Singh, R/o house number, 680/13 Shahid Bhagat Singh Colony Karawal Nagar Delhi 110094 have changed my name to Sandeep Singh for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, PRIYANKA GULATI W/o DEEPAK GULATI residing at 1261, First Floor, Dr. Mukherji Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 have changed the name of my minor Son YUVAN GULATI aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as YAMINI GULATI.

Name Change
I, THOUNAOJAM KEINTOMBI DEVI W/o THOUNAOJAM NGAN-THOI SINGH R/o KANGMONG GOLJAM AWANG LEIKAI, IMPHAL WEST, MANIPUR-793154 have changed my name from THOUNAOJAM KEINTOMBI DEVI to LOUTONGBAM KEINTOMBI DEVI for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, OM PRAKASH S/O MANGAL YADAV R/O house no. 749, SHRI RADHA RANI township sanjekh Mathura, Uttar Pradesh 281105 have changed my name to Om Prakash Yadav for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, MANGAL mother of NO-15742130H Rank-SIGNMAN Name- MAHESH TIBBLE R/o VILL-BUGATE ALUR, PO-BUGATE ALUR, TALUKA- HUKKERI, DIST-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591313 have changed my name from MANGAL to MANGAL RAJU TIBBLE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, MANGA Singh, S/o Mamraj R/o house number, 680/13 Shahid Bhagat Singh Colony Karawal Nagar Delhi 110094 have changed my name to Sandeep Singh for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, DEEPTI D/o VIDYA NAND, R/o Jathkore, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039, declare that the name of my Father has been wrongly written as VIDYANAND in my all Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is VIDYA NAND, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, DEEPTI PRASANNA GOYAL S/o JAI KISHAN GOYAL R/o House No. 965, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as D P GOYAL in my minor daughter RASHI aged 17 years in her CBSE 10th class Marksheets cum Certificate. The actual name of mine is DEVI PRASANNA GOYAL, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, MAGRITA MING Mother of No. 1611764W Rank-LAHU Name-BINOU XALXO R/o VILL-JAWA CREEK, PO-ORALKATCHA BARATANG, TEH-RANGAT, DIST-MIDDLE ANDAMAN ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLAND-74210, have changed my name from MAGRITA MING to MAGRITA MINI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 02/03/1995 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, NO-1611265A Rank-HAV Name-PRAVEEN HITTALKER residing at H NO-54, TEACHERS COLONY, HINDALAGAR ROAD, BELGAVI, Modinagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201204, declare that name of my minor daughter is the name ANSHIKA PRAVEEN HITTALKER for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, SANJEEVA BEGUM W/o SHAIKH MOHAMMAD SAJID R/o 282 T-HUTS, KIRTI NAGAR, DELHI-110015 have changed the name of my minor son SHEIKH MOHD SAJID aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHEIKH MOHAMMAD SHAHZIAB.

Name Change
I, KAJAL PRAKASH D/o PREM PRAKASH, R/o House No. B-43, Street No. 2, Shastri Park, Bhajan Pura, North East Delhi - 110053, declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as PRAKASH in my CBSE Class 10th and 12th and Graduation Delhi University Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is PRAKASH respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, GOVIND S/o VUENDER Residing at F-165/166, 3rd Floor, Vijay Vihar, Phase-1, Sector-4, Rohini, Rohini Sector - 5, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GOVIND KUMAR.

Name Change
I, THEODOR XALXO Father of No. 1611764W Rank-LAHU Name-BINOU XALXO R/o VILL-JAWA CREEK, PO-ORALKATCHA BARATANG, TEH-RANGAT, DIST-MIDDLE ANDAMAN ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLAND-74210, have changed my name from THEODOR XALXO to THEODOR XALXO for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1997 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, M SHOBA mother of No. 1612299N Rank-SPR Name-MYADARI SRINIVASULU R/o H NO-2-16, NADIMIGERI VILL-GALIGUDA MAN-DOAL-CHOWDURY GUDEM, POST-PEDDA YELKICHERLA DISTT-RANGAREDDY, TELANGANA-502027 have changed my name from M SHOBA to MYADARI SHOBA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 22/06/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1972 vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, KAJAL PRAKASH D/o PREM PRAKASH, R/o House No. B-43, Street No. 2, Shastri Park, Bhajan Pura, North East Delhi - 110053, declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as PRAKASH in my CBSE Class 10th and 12th and Graduation Delhi University Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is PRAKASH respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, KAJAL PRAKASH D/o PREM PRAKASH, R/o House No. B-43, Street No. 2, Shastri Park, Bhajan Pura, North East Delhi - 110053, declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as PRAKASH in my CBSE Class 10th and 12th and Graduation Delhi University Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is PRAKASH respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, THEODOR XALXO Father of No. 1611764W Rank-LAHU Name-BINOU XALXO R/o VILL-JAWA CREEK, PO-ORALKATCHA BARATANG, TEH-RANGAT, DIST-MIDDLE ANDAMAN ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLAND-74210, have changed my name from THEODOR XALXO to THEODOR XALXO for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1997 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, ANJALI SHARMA S/o PREM KUMAR SHARMA, R/o Gali No. 2, Fafrana Road, Janta Colony, Modinagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201204, declare that name of my Mother has been wrongly written as NISHA SHARMA in my 10th, 12th Class Educational Documents and in my Bachelor of Ayurvedic medicine and surgery (BAMS) Degree. The actual name of my Mother is INDRA Respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Gurgaon's Basai road has crater after sewer line leak; may be fixed in 2 days

GURGAON: A portion of Basai road caved in due to a sewer line leak on Saturday. The 3.5-foot-wide and 10-foot-deep crater has been cordoned off and the road as well as the sewer line will be repaired within a couple of days, MCG officials said.

The cave-in occurred early in the morning and nobody was injured. "The line was laid by the public works department and HSVP in 2009. It was handed over to MCG in 2018. I was informed about the cave-in in the afternoon and went to inspect the site. The reason is a leaking sewer line. We will ensure that the line is repaired and the road is fixed within two to three days so that the commuters don't have to face any inconvenience," MCG executive engineer Nijesh Kumar said.

This is not the first such incident on Basai road - two



instances of road cave-ins were reported last year, and one in 2022. Residents urged the authorities to redevelop the stretch at the earliest. "There are only two roads linking Sector 9A to the rest of the city - Basai road and the Sector 4-7 road. The Sector 4-7 road is narrow and there is always a traffic jam on this road, leaving us with no option but to commute through Basai road. But the latter is also in a dilapidated state and riddled with potholes. MCG should speedily initiate work to revamp the sewer line and Basai road," said Lalit Suraj Bholia, a resident of Sector 9A.

Gurgaon: Bedridden, woman dies in shop fire

GURGAON: A 70-year-old woman confined to her cot after a hip fracture was charred to death in a fire that broke out at her tea shop at a grain wholesale market in Sohna early on Saturday. Kasturi, who stayed alone in the shop itself, suffered 90% burns and had died by the time she was taken to Civil Hospital. A widow, she had often turned down her family's requests to return home and ran the tea stall to eke out a living.

Fire department officials said they were trying to find out what caused the fire. But other shop owners in the vicinity claimed they had heard two loud explosions 15 minutes apart, possibly caused by gas cylinders kept in Kasturi's shop. The fire broke out around 1am. The flames were doused by two fire tenders after almost 40 minutes. "We were jolted out of sleep by the sound of an explosion. There was another after

News box

Celine Dion slams 'unauthorised use' of Titanic song in Trump rally

UPDATED.Celine Dion took a jab at Donald Trump on Saturday for using at an election rally the song she wrote and sang for the disaster movie "Titanic," about the ocean liner's sinking.The Republican presidential candidate has been lampooned on social media after playing the 1997 track "My Heart Will Go On" at a rally in the US state of Montana on Friday, as a video of Dion performing the song was shown on a big screen.Dion's management team and her record label, Sony Music Entertainment Canada, said in a statement on X the use of the song and video was "in no way" authorized."Celine Dion does not endorse this or any similar use... And really, THAT song?" it added.Users on social media have made analogies between Trump's campaign and the sinking ship at the heart of the James Cameron film Trump has appeared on the back foot since Kamala Harris replaced President Joe Biden in the US election race for the White House.The former president appeared on track to win back the White House before Biden dropped out of the race on July 21, but Harris has made big gains since replacing Biden at the top of the ticket and announcing Tim Walz, Minnesota's governor, as her running mate."My Heart Will Go On" was released on Dion's album "Let's Talk About Love" and the soundtrack to Cameron's film "Titanic." It became one of the biggest songs of all time, selling 18 million copies and earning Dion an Oscar, a Golden Globe and several Grammys.

Venezuela Supreme Court says its ruling on presidential polls will be 'final'

Caracas. The ruling that Venezuela's Supreme Court will deliver on the disputed presidential election will be "final," the body's president Carylisa Rodriguez said Saturday at a hearing on the July 28 vote.The court "is continuing the assessment begun on August 5, 2024, with a view to producing the final ruling... Its decisions are final and binding," said Rodriguez.Most observers say the high court is loyal to the government of Nicolas Maduro, which has claimed a narrow victory in the election.Opposition leaders insist that their candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, won overwhelmingly, and they have produced what they say are official tallies from voting sites as evidence.Maduro himself summoned the high court on August 1 to "validate" a victory that opponents insist was fraudulent.

The court heard from all candidates, including Maduro, this week -- except for Gonzalez Urrutia, who has said he fears arrest.He has made no public appearances in more than a week, while key opposition leader Maria Corina Machado -- a past presidential candidate who was banned from running this time -- has said she is living in hiding.The National Electoral Council (CNE) ratified Maduro's victory on August 2, saying he had won 52 percent of the vote, but it refused to release exact tallies from election sites, saying the data had been hacked.The opposition, in contrast, published printed tallies -- their legitimacy denied by Maduro -- that they say show Gonzalez Urrutia receiving 67 percent of the vote.

Donald Trump's campaign says its emails hacked, blames Iran

Washington, The campaign of Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Saturday (local time) that some of its internal communications were hacked and blamed the Iranian government, citing past hostilities between Trump and Iran without providing direct evidence.The campaign statement came shortly after news website Politico revealed it began receiving emails in July from an anonymous source offering authentic documents from inside Trump's operation, including a report about running mate JD Vance's "potential vulnerabilities".These documents were obtained illegally from foreign sources hostile to the US, intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our democratic process," Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said in a statement.Reuters has not independently verified the identity of the alleged hackers or their motivation.

The Trump campaign referred to a Friday report from Microsoft researchers that said Iranian government-tied hackers tried breaking into the account of a "high-ranking official" on a US presidential campaign in June. The hackers had taken over an account belonging to a former political advisor and then used it to target the official, the report said. That report did not provide further details on the targets' identities.A Microsoft spokesperson declined to name the targeted officials or provide additional details after the report was published.Iran's foreign ministry and its United Nations representative did not immediately respond to requests for comment.On Friday, in response to Microsoft's findings, Iran's mission to the UN in New York told Reuters that its cyber capabilities were "defensive and proportionate to the threats it faces" and that it had no plans to launch cyberattacks."The US presidential election is an internal matter in which Iran does not interfere.

Mexican drug lord 'El Mayo' Zambada on US capture: Was ambushed, kidnapped

Mexico City Mexican drug cartel leader Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada said he was ambushed and kidnapped when he thought he was going to meet the governor of the northern state of Sinaloa, then was taken against his will to the US, according to a letter released on Saturday (local time) by his lawyer.In the two-page letter, Zambada said fellow drug lord Joaquin Guzman Lopez asked him to attend a meeting on July 25 with local politicians, including Sinaloa Governor Ruben Rocha Moya, from the ruling Morena party.But he was led into a room where he was knocked down, a hood was placed over his head, he was handcuffed, and then taken in a pickup truck to a landing strip where he was forced into a private plane that finally took him and Guzman Lopez, one of the sons of imprisoned Sinaloa drug cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, to US soil, according to the letter.Zambada's comments were released a day after the US ambassador to Mexico confirmed that the drug lord had been taken to the US against his will, when he arrived in Texas in July on a plane along with Guzman Lopez.The letter raised questions about links between drug

traffickers and some politicians in Sinaloa, the Pacific coast state that is the home base of the Sinaloa cartel, but the governor denied any links to the criminals and said he was not in Sinaloa that day. After the arrests, he had said he was in Los Angeles."There is no complicity with crime," Rocha said on Saturday at an event in Culiacán alongside Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and the country's president-elect, Claudia Sheinbaum."We have all the confidence in the governor," Lopez Obrador said.Referring to his rivals, Rocha said, "They want to make me a narco by force." "If they said I was going to be there (at the meeting), they lied, and if he (Zambada) believed them, he fell into the trap," the governor said.Zambada's letter didn't say Rocha was at the meeting place.

It did say that at the site was Hector Melesio Cuén, a former local congressman, former mayor of Culiacán and former rector of Sinaloa University, whom he described as "a long-time friend." Mexican officials have said Cuén was murdered the same day, and Zambada's letter said he was slain at the meeting place.The trafficker said one of his



security guards, who is now missing, was a commander of the judicial police of Sinaloa. In early August, Zambada, 76, made his second appearance in US federal court in Texas after being taken into US custody the week before.Guzman Lopez apparently had been in negotiations with US authorities for

a long time about possibly turning himself in. Guzman Lopez, 38, has pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking and other charges in federal court in Chicago.But US officials said they had almost no warning when Guzman Lopez's plane landed at an airport near El Paso. Both men were arrested and remain jailed. They are charged in the US with various drug crimes.Ken Salazar, the US ambassador to Mexico, said the plane took off from Sinaloa and filed no flight plan. He stressed that the pilot wasn't American, nor was the plane.The implication is that Guzman Lopez intended to turn himself in, and brought Zambada with him to procure more favourable treatment, but his motives remain unclear.Zambada was considered the Sinaloa cartel's strategist and was thought to be more involved in its day-to-day operations than his better-known and flashier boss, "El Chapo", who was sentenced to life in prison in the US in 2019.Zambada's faction of the Sinaloa cartel has been engaged in fierce fighting with another faction led by the sons of Guzman.

Ukraine military ops in Russia's Kursk region is 'to restore justice': Zelenskyy



push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said."I am grateful to every unit of the defence forces for ensuring that. Ukraine is proving that it can indeed

restore justice and ensure the necessary pressure on the aggressor."Zelenskyy had previously alluded to the operation, praising the military's ability "to surprise" and thanking them for taking Russian soldiers prisoner to be used in future negotiations, specifically referring to the past week.In paying tribute to Ukrainian forces along the 1,000-kilometre front line, Zelenskyy made special mention of actions in northern Sumy region, across the border from Russia's Kursk region.Russia has stepped up its attacks of guided bombs and other aerial strikes in Sumy, prompting mass evacuations.

North Korea flies more trash-filled balloons towards South, says Seoul

Seoul. South Korea's military says North Korea is again flying balloons likely carrying trash toward the South, adding to a bizarre psychological warfare campaign amid growing tensions between the war-divided rivals.South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Saturday that the winds could carry the balloons to regions north of the South Korean capital, Seoul. Seoul City Hall and the Gyeonggi provincial government issued text alerts urging citizens to beware of objects dropping from the sky and report to the military or police if they spot any balloons.North Korea in recent weeks has flown more than 2,000 balloons carrying waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts toward the South in what it has described as a

retaliation toward South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border.Pyongyang has long condemned such activities as it is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.North Korea last flew balloons toward the South on July 24, when trash carried by at least one of them fell on the South Korean presidential compound, raising worries about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities.The balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt, South Korea's presidential security service said.South Korea, in reaction to the North's balloon campaign, activated its front-line loudspeakers to blast broadcasts of propaganda messages and

K-pop songs. Experts say North Korea hates such broadcasts because it fears it could demoralize front-line troops and residents.The Koreas' tit-for-tat Cold War-style campaigns are inflaming tensions, with the rivals threatening stronger steps and warning of grave consequences.Their relations have worsened in recent years as Kim continues to accelerate the North's nuclear weapons and missile program and issue verbal threats of nuclear conflict toward Washington and Seoul.In response, South Korea, the United States and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around U.S. strategic assets.

UK's Keir Starmer cancels holiday to focus on response to riots: Report

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer scrapped a planned holiday to take stock of the situation that arose following a series of riots that targeted Muslims and migrants in major British cities.

London. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has cancelled a planned holiday to focus on his government's response to a series of racist riots that targeted Muslims and migrants, a Downing Street source said.Thousands of police officers remained on duty over the weekend in case violence flared again although for a fourth day in a row on Saturday counter-protesters far outnumbered anti-migration demonstrators in several towns and cities.The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Starmer would no longer be going on holiday next week.His government has moved quickly to speed up the processing of people arrested and charged in relation to the riots.

On Friday, officials said 741 arrests had been made since the unrest broke out and 302 people had been charged.Police have said arrests are likely to continue for months.On Saturday, the National Police Chiefs' Council, representing police leaders, said specialist officers had been ordered to pursue online offenders and influencers responsible for spreading hate and inciting violence on a large scale."Online crimes have real world consequences and you will be dealt with in the same way as those physically present and inflicting the violence," Chris Haward, the NPCC's lead for



serious and organised crime, said. At least two people were jailed in recent days for stirring up racial hatred in messages on social media.The riots erupted after online posts falsely identified the suspected killer of three young girls in a knife attack on July 29 in Southport, northwest

England, as an Islamist migrant.King Charles on Friday made an appeal for mutual respect and understanding and welcomed the way that community groups had countered "the aggression and criminality from a few," a spokesperson for Buckingham Palace said.

All 62 bodies of Brazil plane crash victims recovered

The bodies of all 62 people who died in a plane crash near Brazil's Sao Paulo have been recovered. Earlier, the toll was at 61 but the company, which operated the ill-fated flight, said it found an unaccounted-for passenger, taking the number to 62.

Vinhedo, Brazil Brazilian emergency crews on Saturday (local time) recovered the remains of the 62 victims aboard an airliner that plunged to the ground in the town of Vinhedo, near Sao Paulo the day before, killing all on board.The bodies of most of the victims - 34 males and 28 females - had already been moved to



Sao Paulo's police morgue for identification.The bodies of the pilot and co-pilot were identified earlier in the day, said Dario Pacheco, mayor of Vinhedo.Four people with dual citizenship were among the victims, three Venezuelans and one Portuguese woman, said regional carrier

Voepass, which operated the aircraft.The Venezuelans were a four-year-old boy, his mother and grandmother, local outlet Globo News reported. The boy's dog was also on the flight, which the family was taking to later head to Colombia, according to the outlet.On Friday, Voepass said the plane was carrying 57 passengers and four crew, but on Saturday the firm confirmed another unaccounted-for passenger had been on the flight, putting the number of casualties at 62.

Authorities are using seat assignments, physical characteristics, documents and belongings such as cell phones to identify the victims, firefighter Maycon Cristo said at the crash site earlier on Saturday as the bodies were being pulled from the wreckage.Relatives of the victims were brought to Sao Paulo to provide DNA

samples to aid in identification of the remains, said state civil defense coordinator Henguel Pereira.The plane's so-called "black box" containing voice recordings and flight data was undergoing analysis, said Marcelo Moreno, the head of Brazilian aviation accident investigation centre Cenipa, at a press conference in Vinhedo.The plane, an ATR-72 turboprop, was bound for Sao Paulo from Cascavel, in the state of Parana, and crashed around 1:30 pm (local time) in Vinhedo, some 80 km northwest of Sao Paulo. Despite coming down in a residential area, no one on the ground was hurt.The aircraft was flying normally until 1:21 pm, when it stopped responding to calls, and radar contact was lost at 1:22 pm, Brazil's Air Force said in a statement.Pilots did not report an emergency or adverse weather conditions, the air force added.

News box

Action sought against illegal 'no parking' boards in Chennai

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has asked the police and Chennai Corporation to file a report on the action taken to remove unauthorised installation of 'no parking' boards and restricting the use of public spaces by placing flower pots or barricades by residential associations and individual bungalow owners. A direction, in this regard, was recently issued by the first bench of acting Chief Justice D Krishnakumar and Justice PB Balaji when a public interest litigation petition filed by CS Nandhakumar of Dharmapuri came up for hearing. The bench adjourned the hearing by two weeks. Stating that a large number of families own a car irrespective of the availability of parking space and many own more than one car, the petitioner mentioned that additional cars are parked on the streets. He added that the police, as custodian of the roads, have got a greater responsibility to prevent illegal parking.

The petitioner noted that public space is abused and misused due to influence of select neighbourhood associations, apartments, bungalows and VVIPs. They are misusing the public space by putting up no parking boards or by placing barricades, thereby not allowing the public to park their vehicles on these streets or roads even for a short duration.

This problem is more prevalent in localities like Adyar, T Nagar, Mylapore, Mandaveli, Mambalam and Ashok Nagar, the petitioner said. He alleged that such unauthorised blocking of public space is done with the connivance of the police and civic body officials. He sought the court to issue directions to the authorities to free the public space of all such unauthorised boards and barricades in a time bound manner.

Two anganwadi workers suspended for taking back eggs from kids' plates in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Two anganwadi workers were suspended for allegedly placing eggs on the plates of children and later taking them back during mid-day meals at a village in Koppal district recently. They were suspended after a video went viral.

The state government recently made eggs mandatory for students under the midday meal scheme. The workers Lakshmi and Shahnaz Begum were suspended soon after the incident came to light from Gundur village in Koppal district. The video shows one of the teachers collecting all the eggs served on the plates of eight children and storing them back in the kitchen. An order by the Women and Child Welfare Department, which manages over 69,000 Anganwadis, stated that the Koppal child development project officer too will be suspended. The department also issued a notice to the district's deputy director on August 9. Women and Child Welfare Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that as soon as the matter came to her notice, immediate action was taken and instructions were given to department officials to suspend the two workers. "Serving nutritious food and providing equality in education is the objective of Anganwadis. No injustice will be done to underprivileged children," she added. Hebbalkar said she has sought a detailed report and warned other officers and workers of strict action if such an incident is repeated. She stressed that anyone found guilty of such misconduct would be compulsorily retired from their positions in the department.

Two die as factory ceiling collapses in Peenya, Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Two labourers died and another suffered serious injuries when the ceiling of a factory building collapsed on them at the industrial area in Peenya on Saturday. Veeresh, 35, from Kalaburagi died on the spot, while Imam Sheik, 28, from Yadgir, passed away on the way to hospital. Prakash, 55, also from Kalaburagi, is being treated at Victoria Hospital.

The property owner and the building contractor fled the spot after the ceiling collapsed. Around nine labourers were working there, according to police. The property is reportedly owned by a former JDS leader from Tumakuru. However, police officers said that they are yet to confirm this. The incident took place around 2.15 pm at the building near NTTF Circle in Peenya.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Division) Saidulu Adavath told TNIE that the building was old and the labourers were working on the fifth floor. "The labourers were installing an industrial lift on the fifth floor when the ceiling collapsed. Iron rods and other construction material fell, resulting in the death of two workers and seriously injuring another," Adavath said.

Tamil Nadu stands second in renewable energy generation in south, again

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu continued to rank second in renewable energy generation among southern states during the first quarter of the current financial year (April to June) for the second year in a row. According to a recent report of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the state produced 8,379.19 Million Units (MUs) of renewable energy, a tad less than 8,400.15 MUs it generated during the same period last year. Karnataka took the top spot by generating 9,171.16 MUs despite recording a marginal dip from 10,001.55 MUs it generated last year. The report further highlighted that Tamil Nadu led in wind energy generation, producing 4,114.02 MUs, while Karnataka generated 3,095.93 MUs. Meanwhile, Karnataka and Kerala focused on small hydro projects (up to 25 MW) and large hydro projects, leveraging the availability of water resources. A senior official from Tangedco told TNIE, "Increasing hydro projects has been challenging as Tamil Nadu relies on its neighbouring state for water sources.

Karnataka has potential for small hydropower in canals, hill streams, and run-of-the-river projects. The state has nearly 4,500 mini-hydro plants and is leading in the small hydro segment of renewable energy sector. In contrast, Tangedco's hydro wing operates and



maintains 47 hydro power stations with a total installed capacity of 2,321.90 MW across four generation circles - Erode, Kadamparai, Kundah, and Tirunelveli." However, Tamil Nadu is planning to build pumped storage power houses and preparing a detailed project report. "We are looking for investors," the official added. Speaking on solar and rooftop power plants, another official said, "In major cities like Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore and Madurai, apartment culture is growing due to space constraints, making it

difficult to approach everyone for solar installation. Currently, the state's rooftop capacity is 599.16 MW.

However, Tangedco aims to speed up the PM's rooftop solar scheme, targeting 25 lakh households within a year." he official said Tamil Nadu met 22% of its total energy requirements from green sources. As per the union government's instructions, the utility aims to increase this to 50% by 2030. The new renewable energy hybrid policy will enhance wind and solar generation, helping Tamil Nadu lead among the southern states, he added.

Nizamabad ITI grapples with several issues

NIZAMABAD: The Government Boys Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Nizamabad, established in 1954, faces several challenges such as outdated infrastructure, vacant posts, maintenance issues and insufficient materials. The Nizamabad Boys ITI was initially set up on around 10 acres of land. Over time, it was joined by a girls' ITI on the campus and new ITIs were established in Bodhan (Minorities), Bheemgad and Kamarpally. However, the Nizamabad Boys ITI is now in a dilapidated state, with concerns about the safety of both instructors and students due to the potential for falling debris. Currently, out of 71 sanctioned posts, only 31 are filled. The ITI offers 11 trades with 22 units, and the yearly number of graduates ranges from 150 to 200. However, there has been a decline in admissions due to staff crunch, lack of raw material and maintenance grants not being provided regularly. How can any student complete their training under such conditions, questioned an ITI instructor. While the Union government programmes have



offered some assistance, they have not fully addressed the issues, such as the lack of faculty for new courses, said an instructor who urged for better coordination between the Union and state governments to strengthen ITIs. ITIs in the state come under the Department

conducting exams. The Union government selects a group of ITIs every five years to introduce new skill development courses and enhance infrastructure facilities.

Speaking to TNIE, former ITI Principal M Kotfredy said: "There is a lack of awareness about ITIs in the community, which hampers their growth. Industries often prefer ITI graduates over engineering students due to their practical skills. Many companies in Hyderabad and surrounding areas are eager to hire ITI graduates, with starting salaries improving after one or two years of experience. Job fairs are also held at ITIs to help graduates find employment.

"In undivided AP, the 'Earn While Learn' scheme implemented by the Naidu government did not meet expectations. However, there is hope that the state government's recent initiative to develop ITIs in partnership with Tata as an Advanced Technology Centre (ATC), introducing six new courses in 25 out of 65 ITIs, will improve the situation," said an instructor.

HYDRAA razes structures built illegally on lake buffer zone in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Amid heavy police deployment, the Hyderabad Disaster Relief and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) demolished unauthorised constructions built in the buffer zone of the centuries-old Bum-Ruken-ud-Dowla lake at Shivrampally in Rajendranagar, on Saturday. Bahadurpura MIM MLA Mohammed Mubeen, along with a few others, was taken into custody for obstructing the demolitions. These illegal structures were built in the buffer zone and full tank level (FTL) of the lake. By demolishing the illegal structures, HYDRAA recovered over 10 acres of lake land from the encroachers. In another operation at Chandanagar, the newly-created agency demolished an illegal

under-construction building and compound walls in an unauthorised layout at Erla Cheruvu. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath warned that stringent action would be taken against realtors and builders involved in illegal constructions within the FTL and buffer zones of water bodies. Legal action will also be taken against any government officials or individuals aiding these illegal activities.

Activists working to save lake from encroachments

Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, Cyberabad police and HYDRAA officials arrived early in the morning to oversee the demolitions. The police cordoned off the area to ensure safety, while the DRF and

enforcement teams, equipped the heavy earthmoving machinery, dismantled the structures.

Many NGOs and activists have been working to protect the lake from encroachment. Responding to public complaints, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy recently established HYDRAA to safeguard water bodies.

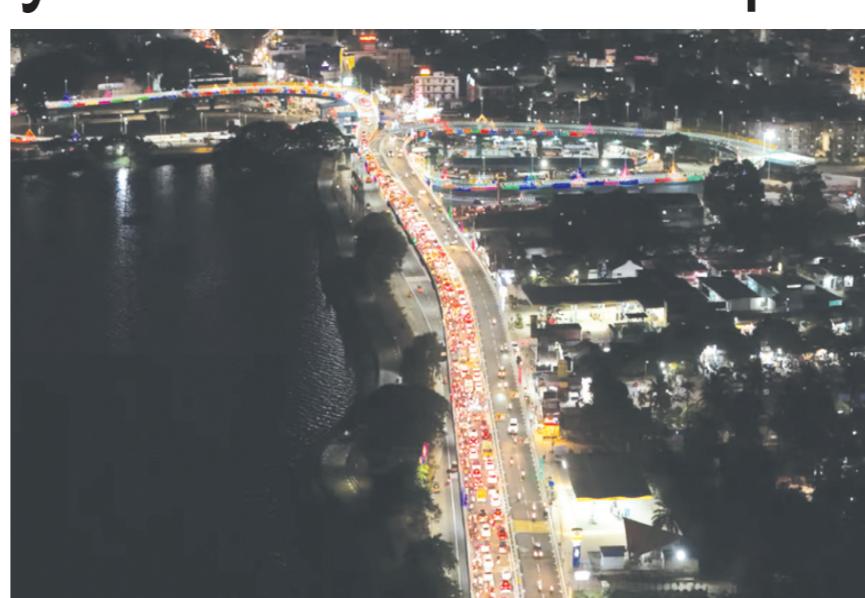
The HYDRAA Commissioner advised the public to be cautious when buying property near water bodies, especially since houses and apartments are available at low prices in the vicinity of the lakes. He urged citizens to verify if properties are within the 30-metre buffer zone from lakes and contact HYDRAA for further details.

Motorists throw caution to wind, Ukkadam flyover turns selfie spot

COIMBATORE: The newly inaugurated Ukkadam-Aathupalam Flyover in Coimbatore has become a picnic spot of sorts. Several people were seen stopping their vehicles midway on the flyover and clicking photographs and selfies against the scenic view of the Periyakulam water body with the Western Ghats at its background, thereby causing traffic hindrance.

The flyover was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday. Now, officials and traffic personnel are concerned with the dangerous practice of people strolling on the flyover and clicking pictures after alighting from their vehicles. This hinders the smooth flow of incoming vehicles and risks accidents. Several motorists demanded the officials concerned to take action. "Some irresponsible people stop all of a sudden on the flyover and park their vehicles to take photos. They are causing traffic congestion and hindrance for other motorists who use the flyover. The suspension of night traffic on the flyover for three days is a bit disappointing," said J Thangaraj, a motorist from Raja Street.

Speaking to TNIE, a state highways



department official, said, "We have installed CCTV cameras and 'No Parking' warning sign boards at several spots on the flyover. Despite the warning sign boards, a few people have been stopping midway on the flyover, taking photos, creating a nuisance and turning the facility into a tourist spot. We will seek police assistance in this matter. Soon action will be taken against those irresponsible

Unease in Congress as migrations from BRS come to a halt

HYDERABAD: Even as a sense of unease prevails among the BRS MLAs who joined the Congress as to when they would be merged into the CLP, the pink party leadership is trying to prevent further damage by protecting those who it suspects might jump the ship when the opportune time arrives.

For the last fortnight, there has been a lull in onboarding more BRS MLAs. During the recent Assembly session, many Congress leaders claimed that several BRS legislators would soon join the grand old party and that the BRS would be merged into the Congress. However, no such development has taken place so far.

Meanwhile, the Telangana High Court has reserved its verdict on the disqualification of three BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. As the court proceedings continue, the Congress is feeling insecure over how it could protect the BRS MLAs who joined its fold. If the party fails to win over enough number of BRS MLAs to effect a merger into the CLP, what would be the fate of the pink party legislators who joined its ranks after the 2023 elections. The BRS MLAs, who the Congress was confident would change their plumes, seem to be feeling more comfortable where they are at present. As Sravana maasam, which is considered an auspicious month, began on August 6, it was hoped they would join the Congress, but the "marked" BRS MLAs seem to be having second thoughts now. On the other hand, much to the consternation of the Congress leaders, the BRS leadership is trying to onboard defected MLAs back into the party.

BRS talks tough on defections

This apart, the BRS leadership is taking a tough stand against defections by making it clear that it would press for disqualification of those who change horses midstream. This has thrown cold water at them. The BRS has said that it would fight legally, if necessary even moving the Supreme Court for action against turncoats.

The ruling Congress is trying to convince itself that the high court verdict would not go against them since it is the Speaker and not the courts who could disqualify an MLA. As there is also no clarity on when the Cabinet expansion would take place, retaining the BRS MLAs or spiriting away new ones is becoming difficult.

Chennai: Man held for cheating couple of Rs 8L

CHENNAI: A 57-year-old man and his wife were arrested by Avadi police for allegedly cheating a couple of Rs 8 lakh by promising them high returns. According to the police, AL Kalaimani (63), a resident of Rajeshwari Nagar in Avadi, works as a senior marine supervisor in Abu Dhabi.

 In 2019, he was approached by his wife's friend P Gunasekaran (57) of Ambattur, who claimed to grow his money at rates better than those offered by banks. Kalaimani gave Rs 8 lakh in the period of 2019-20 to the suspect. Later, when Kalaimani asked Gunasekaran to return the money, he provided a loan document for the same. Kalaimani alleged that the suspect verbally abused him, refused to return the money, and told him that the money paid to him was not a loan but a gift. A complaint was lodged following which the Avadi police arrested Gunasekaran and his wife Venkateshwari (52), and sent to judicial custody.

Techie from Telangana held for ordering drugs on Dark Web

HYDERABAD: The Dark Web which is supposedly a hidden part of the internet keeps its user's identities anonymous and activities concealed, making it difficult for the authorities to access the details of malicious users. Despite these challenges, TGANB accomplished breaking through and executed an operation to intercept drug delivery which was reportedly utilising the speed post to avoid interference from the police.

TGANB's technical wing along with the sleuths of RNCC Khammam and local police on Saturday apprehended a software engineer from the district who had allegedly ordered drugs from a Dark Web marketplace.

"The order was placed on July 31 with Cryptocurrency payment mode and it was shipped from Sipukhuri, Assam, and delivered to the consumer in Khammam using Speed Post. This mode was chosen to avoid any police scrutiny," police said. The police tracked down the consignment and intercepted it upon delivery. The drugs were concealed under brown tape and hidden in a newspaper. Meanwhile, TGANB has offered counselling and support to the suspect and his family, addressing the drug menace. Following this incident, it is reported that the vigil on the Dark Web will intensify. Moreover, police are also urging youth and students not to fall prey to drugs and request their guardians to keep a watch on their activities. The police have also urged the citizens to share any information related to drug transportation on 8712671111 or 1908, or email tsnabho-hyd@tspolice.gov.in.

Don't make some 'unequals' more equal than others

EVEN as the Opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha, continues its focus on social justice and a caste count, the Supreme Court has adjudicated the constitutional issue of sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh, permitting sub-classification among SCs/STs for the purpose of reservation. The central question pertained to the constitutionality of the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006, where SCs were sub-classified to provide Balmikis and Mazhab Sikhs first preference in the state reservation policy for SCs. Extending the principle from the OBCs to the SCs/STs, the court overruled the 2004 verdict in EV Chinnaiyah vs State of Andhra Pradesh to allow state governments to carve out sub-quotas within the SC category. By doing this, "it rejects homogeneity in the backwardness of SCs and promotes homogeneity in the forwardness of SCs," argues Asang Wankhede, a Dalit scholar at the University of Oxford in a recent article.

Three issues have dominated policy debates on reservation since Independence. The first is whether backward classes should be caste groupings or whether these would be identified by economic and occupational criteria. The second is whether listing and preference for these groups are to be undertaken on an all-India basis or by state governments. The third concern is the exclusion of other disadvantaged groups from this framework and whether more complex criteria of caste, class, religious community and gender should form the basis of entitlement than the caste-based reservation because, in actual practice and interpretation, backward classes have come to be synonymous with backward-caste Hindus. Pressures have arisen from time to time to introduce changes in official categories to recognise economic and social mobility within caste groupings, especially OBCs. But it has been difficult to apply this differentiation measure to OBCs, and rather difficult, if not impossible, to take hard decisions to put out of the benefit system communities with political and economic clout. It will not be easy to do the same for SCs.

However, the question of economic differentiation within castes and communities needs to be addressed. The sub-classification debate addresses this by taking on board the question of whether SCs are a homogenous class in their composition. The court weighed in on the side of heterogeneity to classify and give preferential treatment to the more backward among them with the aim of furthering substantive equality. It is based on a clear recognition that SCs are not a homogenous category anymore as there are differences in the extent of backwardness and the levels of advancement among them. The reservation policy, from the start, was conceptualised as a policy of compensatory discrimination emanating from the traditional caste hierarchy. It was a remedial measure for handicaps faced by individuals and groups due to social discrimination. However, the 103rd Amendment Act in 2019 changed the rationale of reservation by creating provisions for 10 per cent reservation for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) in higher education institutions and government jobs for those who are not beneficiaries of existing reservation. The focus now shifts to economic backwardness, divested of historic injustices to which the lower castes have been subjected. The judicial approach in this case appears to follow the same line of reasoning and considers SCs and OBCs as equally situated within the constitutional scheme, although there are significant differences. The distinctions between the SCs, who are historically discriminated, and OBCs falling under the category of socially and educationally backward classes are significant. The OBCs constitute a heterogeneous category, more varied and diverse than the SCs and STs. Moreover, reservation for OBCs was designed to provide for power-sharing, whereas reservation for the SCs and STs aimed to reverse social discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity. The former aimed to change the balance of power while the latter sought to achieve greater equality.

THE recent assassinations of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah leader Fuad Shukr in Beirut, reportedly by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, have upset US President Joe Biden. He was not expecting one of America's closest allies, Israel, to create geopolitical crisis entangling the US armed forces into a full-blown war less than 100 days before the presidential election. This was confirmed by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken when he said on July 31 that Israel had not even informed the US about its plan to kill Haniyeh.

The Hamas leader's slaying came at a time when the US was actively involved in negotiations for a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages (including some Americans) from the Hamas' custody and preventing a regional conflict. It showed that there was no agreement between Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and the Biden administration on the objectives of the war and the terms for stopping it. Netanyahu seems to be in no mood to bring an end to the Gaza war — which has resulted in more than 40,000 civilian deaths and injuries to about one lakh people — until his aim of destroying the Hamas is achieved to regain the 'strategic deterrence'. The US, on the other hand, believes that a fight to the finish would do more harm than good, radicalise more Palestinians and provoke a wider war, alienating other allies and resulting in huge human casualties and losses to the global economy, trade and environment. Also, Israel does not have the capability to win such a regional war and would force drag the US into this conflict, which Washington does not want. America is also worried that even if its closest ally shows such little faith in it, how would it convince Iran, the Arabs and the other allies of its cause? But the pressure on President Biden from the Jewish lobby at home is such that he still can't abandon Israel in this war, and Netanyahu knows it. The Islamic regime in Iran is livid with Israel's audacious behaviour. Haniyeh's killing reveals gaping holes in the security of the Iranian state and its inability to protect its guests at the time of the inauguration of its new President, Masoud Pashashian, when there was the highest level of security. And Israel's ability to take out numerous Iranian nuclear scientists and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders in and outside Iran with relative ease conveys a message that no one in Iran is outside its reach. According to one estimate, Israel has killed about 40 commanders or senior members of the Iranian security services, including its proxies, since October 7 last year. The Iranian leadership feels humiliated. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has vowed to avenge Haniyeh's death and ordered 'harsh' punishment for Israel. Tehran's response would have to be much bigger this time than that in April if it is to retain its credibility. According to Iranian sources, it would lead the initial attack with the involvement of Iraqi, Yemeni and Syrian proxies, targeting Israeli military objectives. It will

Killing of Haniyeh, Shukr can trigger wider war in West Asia

PM Netanyahu is adamant about destroying the Hamas and dealing a crushing blow to Iran and its proxies.



be followed by a second wave of attacks by the Hezbollah in Lebanon. Areas deep inside Israel, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa, will be attacked. The residences of Israeli officials and the US forces in Iraq and Syria will also be targeted. The Israelis are expecting the attacks by or after August 17. The US has urged its allies, like Jordan, to talk to the Iranians to calm their anger. Russian President Vladimir Putin has also asked the Supreme Leader of Iran to restrain his response against Israel and avoid attacking Israeli civilians to prevent a wider war in West Asia. Comfortable with political, economic and military support from the US, the Netanyahu government remains undeterred. It is willing to take risks. Netanyahu is adamant about destroying the Hamas and dealing a crushing blow to Iran and its proxies. The war strengthens Netanyahu's otherwise weak position at home, as he is seen as a strong leader who can stand up to Israel's enemies as well as the US. If an opportunity arises, Netanyahu would be happy to order a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities, which have become anathema to Israel and others. He thinks the Americans are not doing enough about it. The governments of several

countries intervening between Iran and Israel have informed Tehran that they would shoot down any incoming Iranian missile for their own security. So far, Iran's proxies in Iraq and Lebanon have launched limited rocket and drone strikes against Israel and American targets in the Golan Heights and the US base in Iraq, causing some fatalities and injuries. Israel has struck some Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon, mainly in border areas. Since Iran cannot take on the US military, it is expected to continue a prolonged but controlled conflict (some kind of guerrilla war) that hurts its adversaries but does not escalate into a full-blown regional war. The ceasefire agreement that the US was trying to broker to secure the release of hostages or bring peace in the region appears elusive now. The assassinations ordered by Israel have brought the region closer to the brink of a wider war with devastating consequences for West Asia and the world at large. It is bad news for America to get ensnared in this conflict when its priority is the Indo-Pacific and it is already supporting a full-scale war in Ukraine. It remains to be seen if the US will be able to prevail upon a recalcitrant Netanyahu to agree to its peace terms.

Sisodia's bail

A turning point in politico-legal battle



THE granting of bail to Manish Sisodia in the Delhi excise policy scam on Friday marks a significant moment in India's legal and political arena. The arrest of Sisodia, a key lieutenant of AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, had sent shockwaves through political circles. The court's decision underscores the principle that even in high-stakes cases, the right to liberty cannot be overshadowed by prolonged judicial custody and upholds the principle of bail being the norm and jail an exception. Sisodia has been in custody for 17 months without the commencement of proceedings, depriving him of his right to a speedy trial. The stance also resonates with the broader discourse on personal liberty in India's legal system. The Supreme Court's emphasis that bail should not be withheld as a punishment also highlights the complex interplay between politics and the judicial process. This case raises critical questions about the use of investigative

agencies in politically sensitive cases. The timing of Sisodia's arrest and the subsequent media frenzy suggested a possible political motive, a concern echoed by many in the Opposition. The judiciary's role in balancing these pressures while upholding the rule of law is pivotal. It has, notably, intervened even in stringent UAPA cases, ensuring that the law is not weaponised to silence opposition. In 2021, the Bombay High Court granted bail to activist Sudha Bharadwaj after she had spent over three years in custody without trial. Similarly, a Delhi University professor, GN Saibaba, was acquitted in 2022 due to procedural lapses and a lack of evidence. Meanwhile, Sisodia's bail also marks a crucial moment for the Aam Aadmi Party, which has maintained that the charges were politically motivated. It gives the party hope that its other leaders, including Kejriwal and Satyendar Jain, who are also embroiled in legal battles, will receive similar justice.

THE GREAT GAME: Dacca-Dhaka/1975-2024

Events are leavened not just by the memory of August 15, 1975, but also coloured by fate of things to come

RONEN Sen was a young diplomat in 1974 when he was posted to Dacca (Dhaka), Bangladesh, still new after the 1971 Liberation War and still ruled by the conquering democrat-hero Mujibur Rahman. Within a year, Mujib and his family — including his youngest son Russell, barely 10 years old — were massacred in the wee hours of August 15, 1975, in their home at Dhanmondi in the heart of the capital. (I've visited that home, which later became a memorial, several times and the memory of the fading blood splatter on the staircase as some of Mujib's family members sought to escape, in hindsight, is a testimony to the bloody rollercoaster of Bangladesh's history.) The way Sen tells the story, with characteristic understatement, about how the message of Mujib's assassination was sent to Indira Gandhi, from Dacca to Delhi that morning — all kinds of transport were employed, it seems, including a motorbike — and how it barely reached her, just as she was climbing the ramparts of the Red Fort to deliver the PM's address to the nation. Mujib was dead. A young nation's promise had been brutally cut short.

As he thinks back on that strange morning, Sen says, he is filled with a sense of déjà vu. What were the forces that had carried out those murders 49 years ago? And who is responsible for the revolution in Bangladesh this past week? As we celebrate another Independence Day in India, the events in Bangladesh are leavened not just by the memory of 1975, but surely coloured by the fate of things to come. As a 17-member interim government has been sworn in under Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, there are reports that the BSF is stopping Bangladeshi from entering India via the land borders. Seems the BJP is in a dilemma — let the people, not long ago described by Home Minister Amit Shah as 'termites', in, or keep them out, like the BJP chief ministers of Assam and Tripura are demanding.

Moreover, should only Bangladeshi Hindus be allowed in — remember that citizenship under the CAA is applicable only to 'minorities' in South Asia — or should India open its doors to all Bangladeshis, including those secular Awami Leaguers believed to be hiding near the airport in the hope they can soon make a dash and catch a plane to safety? Some of Sen's déjà vu need not be 49 years old. Many remember another August 15 only three years ago, in 2021, when then Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled Kabul with three close aides and suitcases full of cash — the aides have long resettled in parts of the Western world, while Ghani cools his heels in Abu Dhabi. Like in Bangladesh, India had firmly shut the entry of all Afghans into the country — they are still not allowed in. The similarity with Sheikh Hasina ends there. Five days after the former Bangladeshi PM fled Dhaka and landed at the Hindon airbase, she is still awaiting permission to enter the UK. It's likely the British are waiting for the Americans to say yes — everyone knows about the bad blood between Hasina and the Americans as well as London's deferential ties with Washington DC — and highly likely that the latter are keeping Hasina on hold in order to send her a message.

The incredible irony is that if Hasina is allowed into London, she will likely take the place of another Bangladeshi exile who has lived there for more than 15 years and is probably wending his way back home — Tarique Rahman, also known as Tino, the son of Bangladeshi Nationalist Party leader Khaleda Zia. Mother Khaleda, a former Prime Minister and the wife



of former martial law dictator Gen Ziaur Rahman, is more ill than well. When Tino returns to Dhaka from London, which is supposed to be fairly soon, he will be the power on or behind the throne. The next few weeks will be interesting to watch — certainly, everyone will watch how the relationship between Chief Adviser Yunus and the Bangladeshi army unfolds. Army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman was supposed to visit Delhi this month — Delhi should encourage that the visit take place sooner than later. We know by now that 48 hours before Hasina fled, persuaded by her son in the US to stand down — it seems she refused to entertain even her sister Rehana's plea to do so — army officers had resolved not to fire into the crowds of student protesters. There is this tradition of loyalty to people that the Bangladeshi army abides by — thousands of whose soldiers gave their lives in the Liberation War — even if

the temptation to wield power behind the throne is a strong one. As the Modi government contemplates a realigning South Asia, it must ask itself what it really wants its 'Neighbourhood First' policy to look like — especially when it seems likely that Pakistan's ISI will now happily splash in the waters of the Bay of Bengal. The truth is that the Indian subcontinent is different from relationships with the US or Russia or China because India's ties with its neighbours are deeply embedded in culture, religion, ethnicity, language — all of them seeping into each other, creating a pulsating palimpsest of cultures on your doorstep. That's why it's imperative to constantly talk to everyone, including those that don't like you — or especially those that don't like you — in order to know what, when and why they think as they do. Equally, it is true that India supported Hasina to the hilt, in the face of severe criticism by the Americans, across two elections. But as things deteriorated, perhaps Prime Minister Modi or External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar could have called her and given her "brotherly advice", like Pranab Mukherjee used to do. Perhaps, if they had metaphorically held Hasina's hand and persuaded her to stand down in time, they could have averted this twisted turn of fate. For now, as India watches pictures of the smouldering remains of Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman's home in Dhanmondi, where he and his family were cruelly felled, the only thought that comes to mind is that even in 1975, the murderers didn't touch Bangabandhu's home. What is it about Naya Bangladesh that has made them want to deface their own history today?

5 herbs that can add flavour to any juice



herbs can lend a refreshing taste to mocktails as well as fresh fruit juices

Mint: Mint leaves have a pungent but pleasant menthol flavour, with a sweetish aftertaste. Mint goes well with most fruits, so add this to your guava, peach, apple and sweet lime or pomegranate juice. Always serve chilled.

Basil: Fresh green and aromatic basil also offers several benefits. For one, it is an anti-oxidant. It also helps with respiratory problems and indigestion. To use it, simply tear a few basil leaves and add them to your juice. A great morning pick-me-up is chilled orange or watermelon juice with some cinnamon and basil leaves.

Lavender: You may not know this, but the herb lavender has a sweet floral aroma and pairs well with mint. The leaves can be used with strawberries, peaches and lemonade gets a nice burst of flavour when you add a few sprigs of fresh lavender to a glass.

Lemongrass: This one can be bought at any local market. Aromatic lemongrass not only adds flavour to a soup or hot tea but it's a nice addition to a fresh orange or pear juice. Remember, when you buy lemongrass, ensure its base is intact.

Kaffir lime leaves: Tangy kaffir lime leaves can be used to liven up any citrus juice. Just add the leaves on their own or them into smaller pieces.

How to reuse cooking oil?



Are you wary of using your cooking oil after frying a batch of nachos, because of the health implications? Here are some tips to reuse them.

Choose the oil

If your frying technique is off, your oil won't be reusable. Every oil has a specific smoking point, - the temperature where the oil starts breaking down. Use oils like canola, peanut or vegetable oils with a high smoking point that won't break down easily. Avoid reusing olive oil as it has a low smoking point and a dominant flavour, which makes it a bad choice for deep-frying in the first place.

Filter the oil

After the first (and each subsequent) fry, drain the oil and filter it. Any impurities and unwanted extras like loose crumbs or bits of batter are going to spoil the oil's integrity, making it burn the next time you heat it. Put a few layers of cheesecloth in a metal strainer to filter out the crumbs.

Refrigerate it

Let the oil cool down till it's at room temperature, and then refrigerate it in an air-tight container.

Use separate oils according to flavour

The oil is going to take on the flavour of the food you cooked in it, which makes fried fish oil ideal for shrimp, but not good for onion rings. Separate the oils to prevent bad flavour overlaps.

Guilt-free bakes take over



Cakes, breads and cookies -the most calorie-laden, sinful delights -can be anything but healthy. Right? However, some city bakers are all set to change the mindset. They are using wholesome and organic ingredients to add health and taste to your bakes! Think cakes like olive, jalapeno, American corn, lemon pomegranate, almond tea-crunch, desi kaju katli, meetha paan, apple oats, red-velvet (with beetroot), pumpkin walnut bread and zucchini choco-chip cookies among others. There is something for everybody -fitness enthusiasts, lactose-intolerants, nut-intolerants, lactating mothers, vegans and even those suffering from diabetes or celiac. Gluten-free, sugar-free and vegan cakes among other healthy bakes, which use alternative ingredients like moong dal, wholewheat, oats, ragi, jowar, bajra, sooji and almond flour, are a reality now. Most of the healthy bakes are sweetened with natural ingredients like honey, jaggery, figs, nuts, dates, carrots and bananas. Instead of vegetable oil, rice bran or olive oil is used. Fresh fruits, beetroot, zucchini and amaranth seeds are added for colour and flavour, while puffed bajra, dry fruits, muesli, soya cream, butter of dry fruits are used to decorate the cake, instead of calorie-laden milk cream or the unhealthy fondant. "Staples, like millets ensure that the cakes are also rich in fibre," says baker Arun Kaulige.

Durga Menon adds, "Vegetables and fruits add a different character to the bakes, which you will not find with artificial flavours or regular bakes."

Before you turn up your nose at the organic ingredients, you should know what you are eating in the name of sweet treats. Meeta Wala Valkar says, "When I was learning how to bake, I was appalled by the unhealthy ingredients that went into it. After baking, we would bring our creations home, which was then served at dinner. In a month's time, my family started suffering from many health issues."

And that is not startling if you consider the fact that apart from copious amounts of flour, sugar, butter, oil and cream, seven types of chemicals go into any regular bread or bake. "It is a vicious cycle -to balance the sourness of preservatives, you add acidity regulator, which makes the bread hard. So you add dough softener. Then, to balance the sourness, you decrease the percentage of fruit and add sugar. So we decided to break out of it and just make healthy bakes. Our cakes use no decoration at all. Not even names on birthday cakes," Meeta added.

The healthy revolution started about five years ago, but is gaining prominence now. When Chaitali Raizada started healthy baking five years ago, it was an uphill task for her to reach out to others. The fact that atta cakes tend to be

dense, and not fluffy, led to speculation about the taste and texture. "Earlier, people were skeptical about the taste of healthy cakes. But now, the city has become much more fitness conscious, and most people who have tasted this have lost the palate for regular stuff."

Chaitali believes her bakery is not about desserts. It's a way of life that is free from the clutches of white flour, sugar, artificial colours, additives, preservatives, chemicals, pesticides and even microwaves or non-stick ware.

A surgery and a strict diet that followed is what got Nikita Sanjay Narang to look at healthy baking seriously. "A dietitian told me that I was to have no food with preservatives, flour, sugar, etc.

But I had a sweet tooth and a passion to bake. So, after six months of experimenting, I finally started coming up with healthy recipes. However, when I market my cakes as no flour, no butter and no sugar and no egg, people think it will have no taste. Though I struggled earlier, the demand is definitely on the rise now."

Karen Lobo Dutta's sweet cravings during her pregnancy prompted her to look up healthy options. Today, she aims to train the next generation to eat healthy even when they are indulging. Simran Oberoi Multani shares those views. "I started healthy baking for my son, who is a toddler now. Even if he snacks on my cakes on a daily basis, I wouldn't worry. The passion to bake healthy also led me to devise an oats and almond biscuit containing flaxseeds and jaggery, which helps young mothers in lactating better." However, for Jeeva Anna George, it was a question of survival. "In 2010, I was diagnosed with celiac -a disease in which the small intestine is hypersensitive to gluten, leading to difficulty in digesting food. I was put off most food items as gluten is in almost every product with a shelf life. So I started baking my own stuff," she says, adding that schools for children with special needs are part of her clientele.

Clever ways to use your ice

Cube tray



How to use your ice cube tray
Use fruit cubes for your party: Fruit-infused ice cubes are a great idea for a party. Choose fruit like watermelon, strawberries and cherries (de-seed them). Put some fruit into each tray and cover with water. Freeze. You can also do this with different shaped cubes. With this, bid goodbye to artificial drinks and say hello to an enticing, flavourful treat.

Freeze herbs for cooking: Don't fret over herbs going stale anymore. Just store your thyme, oregano and rosemary in ice trays. Select fresh herbs. Chop them up neatly and place them in the different compartments. Add a little olive oil in each till it fills to the top. Cover with a plastic wrap and freeze. Remove the cubes and use them whenever needed.

Store edible flowers: Using edible flowers in cooking is a top trend for the year and now you can freeze your roses and lavender in ice cube trays to add to your chilled drinks. Simply toss a few cubes into your glass of water and enjoy the refreshing change. You can also store zucchini flowers for your ricotta, drumstick flowers for pungent chutneys and lavender for desserts, biscuits and

other bakes. Make coffee ice cubes: Here's something to add to your chilled coffee. Just pour warm coffee into the ice cube tray and let it freeze. Use these for enhanced flavour to your glass.

6 foods that are dangerous for your teeth

Who doesn't want healthy teeth which translate into a bright smile? While there are many healthy options to get a glowing batch of teeth there are also some foods that mean disaster to your teeth. Here's what you should avoid -

Sweet candy

Candy sweets, especially hard candies have tons of sugar which is bad for tooth health since the sweet can cause cavities and get stuck in the crevices causing more bacteria.

Tea and coffee

The tannic acids in coffee and even in some teas can wear down enamel and stain your



teeth brown. While you cannot give up tea or coffee completely, try to keep it to the minimum and opt for green tea too.

Pickles

We all find pickles tasty and great as accompaniments to our meal, but the combination of super-acidic vinegar and sugar is a recipe for enamel erosion.

Citrus fruits

Lime, Lemons, Oranges, and Grapefruit, they all are loaded with citric acid which can cause enamel erosion and tooth decay. If you cannot completely avoid them, try to minimize it by avoiding too

much of acidic foods and drinks through the day. The best way to find out an acidic food is to see if any food or drink easily stains the teeth.

Soda

Top 5 real estate destinations to invest in 2016

Prop Tiger

Beat the heat this summer with a trip in Australia

Recommended By Colombia

Soda has a combination of sugar, acids, and carbonation which is too bad for teeth since it leads to tooth erosion and decay. While studies show a glass of red wine every once in a while can be good for the heart and cholesterol levels, the beverage can stain teeth quite easily. The acids in red as well as white wine wear down the surface of teeth, which is why stains are so common.

'Indulge' fest to treat capital's whisky, cigar lovers

Indulge, a whisky and cigar festival to be held here next month, will feature an array of the greatest whiskies paired with a selection of cigars.

Dramz Whiskey Bar and Lounge will host the fest February 6-7. In its maiden edition, Indulge will feature 46 labels, 20 distilleries and eight experts around the world who will talk about cigars and whiskies.

Some of the prominent whiskies that the patrons could relish include the likes of Glenfiddich (21, 18, 15 and 12 years), Balvenie, Glenlivet (25, 21, 18, 15, Founders Reserve and 12), Royal Salute 21, range of Chivas Regal, Old Pulteney,

Balblair, Cardhu, Oban, Tomatin, Mackmyra Preludium 06 from Sweden and more.

These whiskies will be paired along with some cigars that boast of names like Beenacudo, Padron, Bespoke, Campessino, Costa, to name a few, from The Smoke Company.

"Being an ardent lover and collector of fine whiskies and single malts, I have been working on the concept for more than a year. A festival like this creates a platform where I could share the same with all those who love great whiskies," Sunil Aggarwal, owner of Dramz and director of Indulge, said in a statement.



Delhi Teenager Touches Iron Pole While Playing Cricket, Electrocuted

New Delhi: A 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution when he came in contact with a live wire while playing cricket in Delhi on Saturday afternoon, police said. The police said that he was playing on a ground in West Delhi's Kotla Vihar Phase 2 and was electrocuted when he went to get the ball. He got an electric shock from an iron pole carrying electric wire to a cow shed situated in a corner of the ground, the police said.

He was immediately taken to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital but was declared brought dead. The police have registered a case under section 106(1) (death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Earlier last month, a 12-year-old boy died of electrocution after coming in contact with a live wire in southwest Delhi's Bindapur area. He was returning home from a tuition class when the

incident occurred on July 31. In another incident, a 28-year-old man died of electrocution at his home in southeast Delhi's Mithapur area.

Human Rights Body Notice To Delhi Over Electrocution Cases

The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) has issued notices to the Delhi government, Delhi police commissioner, vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and other senior officials in connection with reported incidents of drowning and electrocution in Delhi. The reported incidents, as in the recent past, are indicative of the "negligence by the civic authorities, which is a matter of concern", it said in a statement on August 3.

The NHRC said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that at least 13 lives were lost in Delhi-NCR including six due to electrocution and four due to drowning after falling into overflowing

drains amid heavy rain "magnifying the creaky infrastructure and civic negligence". The Commission also said it would like to know about the steps taken or proposed by the authorities to ensure that such painful incidents do not recur.

Compensation For Electrocution Cases

Power regulator Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has announced financial assistance of ₹ 7.5 lakh in case of loss of life and ₹ 5 lakh on more than 60 per cent disability due to electricity-related mishaps in the national capital. The regulations stipulate a range of compensation for loss of life, injuries to people as well as loss of milch and draught animals, birds, and poultry.

If an electricity-related accident causes 40-60 per cent injury to any person, he will get ₹ 1 lakh as compensation, ₹ 25,000 on hospitalisation for over a week, and ₹ 10,000 in case of less than a week of hospitalisation, the regulations lay down.



How An Alert From Track Heat Detection Device Averted Train Accident In UP

New Delhi: An alert from an automated track device averted a train accident in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur as it warned officials of a hot wheel axle in a Seemanchal Express coach when it crossed over the heat detection equipment. Railway officials said the real-time alert was sent from the hot axle box detector at the Chunai station. "When the train (going to Delhi from Jhansi in Bihar) was crossing the station around 10 am on Saturday, very high temperature in the wheel axle of a sleeper coach number S-3 was detected," North Central Railway



Chief Public Relation Officer Shashi Kant Tripathi told the news agency PTI. "The train was stopped at the next station, Jhansi, and the coach was detached from the train after moving passengers in other coaches," he said and added that when the Seemanchal Express reached Prayagraj, a new coach was attached. At several points on the railway track, a device known as a hot axle box detector is installed. It measures the temperature of axle and provides an alert. The device fitted at the Chunai station provided a timely alert and corrective action was taken," Chand Mohammed, National Working President, All India Railway Track Maintainers Union, said.

Rains Wreak Havoc In Himachal Pradesh, 135 Roads Closed

Himachal Weather: Heavy rains lashed parts of Himachal Pradesh as 135 roads remained closed in the state following landslides and flash floods. Reports of damages due to heavy rains, landslides and flash floods have poured in Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and Sirmour districts but no casualty was reported. The Lahaul and Spiti police have issued an advisory for residents and travellers to exercise extreme caution and not to cross Jalahan nallah where the water level is rising rapidly. The regional Met office has also issued an 'orange' alert, warning for heavy to very rainfall at isolated places in five districts of Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmour accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning on Saturday and a 'yellow' alert for heavy rain throughout the state till August 16. Heavy rains lashed parts of the state with Nahan in Sirmour recording the highest rainfall of 168.3 mm since Friday evening, followed by 106.4 mm in Sandhole, 93.2 mm in Nagrota Surian, 67 mm in Dhaulakuan, 62.2 mm in Jubbarhatti and 45.6 mm in Kandaghat. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, 135 roads including 42 in Sirmour, 37 in Kullu, 29 in Mandi, 17 in Shimla, five in Kangra, four in Kinnaur, one in Lahaul and Spiti district are closed while 24 power and 56 water supply schemes have been disrupted due to the rains. The Met department also warned of a low to moderate flash flood risk in isolated parts of Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour and Shimla districts till Sunday morning. The weather department has cautioned of the possibility of damage to plantations, crops, vulnerable structures and 'kutch' houses due to strong winds and waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, rescue operations to trace about 30 people who went missing after the flash floods triggered by cloudburst in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla district on July 31 midnight continued on Saturday but there was no major success. So far, 28 bodies have been recovered in this tragedy, officials said. In view of an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rain in Hamirpur district on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Amarjit Singh appealed to the residents to take precautions and avoid going near rivers and streams.

Opposition Slams SEBI Chairperson Amid Fiery Hindenburg Allegations, Congress Demands JPC Probe

New Delhi: The Opposition has sharply criticized the recent Hindenburg Research report, which has levelled serious allegations against Madhab Puri Buch, the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and her husband. The Congress party and other opposition leaders have called for an immediate investigation into these allegations.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh, speaking on behalf of the party, highlighted SEBI's "strange reluctance" to investigate what he referred to as the "Adani MegaScam." In a statement issued on X (formerly Twitter), he said, "SEBI's strange reluctance to investigate the Adani MegaScam has been long noted, not least by the Supreme Court's Expert Committee. That Committee had pointed out in its report that SEBI had

in 2018 diluted and, in 2019, entirely deleted the reporting requirements relating to the ultimate beneficial (i.e. actual) ownership of foreign funds,"



Ramesh said in the statement.

Ramesh further questioned two 2022 meetings between Gautam Adani and Buch, which occurred shortly after she assumed her role as SEBI chairperson. He called for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the matter

thoroughly. The Congress party has further alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conspiring to protect Gautam Adani, whom they refer to as his "best friend." In a statement, the party claimed that the investigation into the Adani mega scam was compromised because the SEBI chief herself is implicated. The statement asserted that only a JPC could properly investigate this "mega scam," but accused the Modi government of obstructing such a probe. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said on Sunday that the shocking revelations of the Hindenburg Report do not just expose the "cozy relationship" between the SEBI chief and the Adani group, they show how appointments to watchdog institutions are made in this government.

S Jaishankar Inaugurates India-Funded Water, Sanitation Project In Maldives

Male: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday handed over a major water and sanitation project worth USD 110 million to the Maldives, funded by India. The project spans 28 islands.

S Jaishankar, who is in Male on a three-day official visit from August 9-11, virtually inaugurated the projects during the event.

While addressing the virtual inauguration, S Jaishankar stated that the development partnership between India and the Maldives is focused on meeting the needs and priorities of the Maldivian people and government. "Our development partnership is driven by the needs and priorities of the people and the Government of Maldives and is a judicious mix of grants, loans, budgetary support, capacity building and training assistance. We are now entering a phase where many of these projects are getting realized on the ground, delivering tangible benefits to the common people," said S Jaishankar.

Further, S Jaishankar highlighted the challenges posed by climate change, particularly for small island developing states like the Maldives adding emphasized the importance of addressing freshwater resource availability and access. He also noted that this initiative aligns with India's own programs, "Har Ghar Jal" (Water to Every Home) and "Swachha Bharat" (Clean India). "In our efforts to expand the scope and benefits of development cooperation, we are mindful of the challenges posed by climate change, especially, for small island developing states such as the Maldives, which are even more vulnerable to the vagaries of rising sea levels. One of the immediate concerns is the availability and access of freshwater resources," said S Jaishankar. "It has been our objective to provide ecologically sustainable low-cost solutions to our development partners so that they are not only able to access drinking water but also have the capability to treat sewage, thereby, protecting the delicate ecology of these islands and atolls. This finds resonance in our own initiatives in India of 'Har Ghar Jal' and 'Swachha Bharat' i.e. 'Water to Every Home' and 'Clean India,' he added.

This project has brought safe drinking water to so many islands, to 32 islands and introduced a sewerage system in 17 islands. "I am happy to note that this has directly impacted the lives of 28,000 Maldivians I believe. Under this project, the latest technologies have been used to provide clean drinking water and safe sewerage disposal. In addition, the buildings are also equipped with solar energy providing support to the island grids. With a total funding of USD 110 million, this is the largest climate adaptation implemented in Maldives with international collaboration," the EAM said.

Delhi-NCR Rain Alert: IMD Predicts Heavy Downpour Until August 15

New Delhi: The weather has shifted dramatically across many parts of India due to persistent heavy rainfall over the past few days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continuous rain in Delhi-NCR throughout the day today. The IMD has also issued an alert, warning of heavy rainfall that could potentially cause disruption in several states until August 15.

The downpour on Sunday brought a refreshing change to the weather in many areas of Delhi-NCR. However, the IMD has issued a yellow alert for the region today, anticipating more rain. The rainfall has also led to a noticeable drop in temperature across Delhi, although it caused traffic disruptions and waterlogging in several parts of the city. The IMD predicts cloudy skies and more rain in

Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. In the hilly regions, Jammu and Kashmir could experience heavy rainfall on August 11, with Uttarakhand and Rajasthan expected to see heavy rain until August 15. Rain is also likely in Saurashtra and Kutch until August 10.

Rain Havoc in Himachal and Uttarakhand:

In Himachal Pradesh, heavy rains have resulted in the closure of 128 roads due to landslides, land subsidence, and floods. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for heavy rainfall across different parts of the state. Flood risks are high in Mandi, Sirmour, Shimla, and Kullu districts. More than 100 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Himachal from June 27 to August 9.

Delhi today. Here's a look at the states where the IMD has predicted rainfall from August 11 to August 15. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for the national capital, with rain expected to continue until August 13.

Heavy Rain Expected in Multiple States Until August 15:

Heavy rainfall is forecasted in various parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. In the hilly regions, Jammu and Kashmir could experience heavy rainfall on August 11, with Uttarakhand and Rajasthan expected to see heavy rain until August 15. Rain is also likely in Saurashtra and Kutch until August 10.

Delhi Court Acquits Man Of Dowry Death Citing Insufficient Evidence

New Delhi: Delhi's Dwarka Court recently acquitted a man of charges related to dowry death, citing benefits of the doubt. There is a long distance between "may be true" and "must be true", the court said in the judgement.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sharad Gupta acquitted the accused, Satender Gautam, of offences under Section 498A IPC (cruelty for dowry) and Section 304B IPC (dowry death). The court concluded that the prosecution failed to prove its case against accused Satender Gautam by leading convincing or cogent evidence. "Prosecution case may be true but criminal jurisprudence says that prosecution case must be true. There is a long distance between "may be true" and "must be true," the court said. It is a cardinal principle of criminal jurisprudence that an accused is presumed to be innocent. The burden lies

on the prosecution to prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. The prosecution is under a legal obligation to prove each and every



ingredient of an offence beyond any doubt, unless otherwise so provided by any statute. This general burden never shifts, it always rests on the prosecution," ASJ Gupta said in the judgement passed on July 29. The court held that the prosecution has not been able to bring on

record any material to show that the accused had instigated the victim to die by suicide by any instigation or active act or omission. The prosecution's version is that there was a quarrel between the victim and the accused one day before the death of the victim.

The court said that fights between husband and wife are a normal part of domestic wear and tear and are a part of everyday life. It could not be said that the accused by quarrelling with the victim had intended to abet the suicide of Poonam Sharma. "This is especially more so as there is nothing on record except the testimony of the deceased's friend regarding the said fight and even she

in her examination in chief stated that she thought it to be a normal quarrel between husband and wife. Hence even the offence under Section 306 is not made out in the facts of the present case," the court said.

Gautam was charged in the case after an FIR was filed against him at Noida police station in 2011. The FIR was filed following a complaint by Kamlesh Devi, who alleged that her daughter had committed suicide due to harassment and dowry demands by Gautam. Advocate Pujya Kumar Singh argued that the allegations levelled against the accused are not true and he is falsely implicated in this case. The accused stated that after the death of his wife, he came to know that her parents and other family members used to harass her over phone calls for inter-caste marriage between her and the accused. The accused also stated that he had been falsely implicated since Poonam's family was unhappy with his marriage with her. Poonam Sharma had died by suicide on November 26, 2011. She had married Gautam in 2009 in Noida, UP, in a love marriage. They were residing in Noida at the time of her death.



10 lipstick rules every Woman must know

Who doesn't desire a well-painted kissable pout? It's the thought of applying the wrong shade that many of us dread. The thought of getting the right colour and the right pout is no ordinary task, unless you follow these easy but important steps for the perfect pout.

1) EXFOLIATE WITH A LIPBALM

Treat your lips just like you would treat your face. Ex-foliate lips, moisturise with a balm. Repeat the regimen daily.

2) KEEP YOUR MAKEUP MINIMAL

It's always safe to highlight only one feature of your face. If you are going for bold lips then better keep the rest of your face makeup minimal for perfect balance.

3) AVOID TOO MUCH SPARKLE

"Shimmer can look cheap," says make-up artist Troy. Look for lipsticks with a creamy finish. "Light reflection should come from moisture in the formula, not metallic pigments," he says.

4) CHOOSE RIGHT COLOUR

Finding the right shade is important. Different colours work differently on various complexion types, so try on a bunch of shades before zeroing down on the most suitable one. Advice: go for a shade that complements your skin tone. Lighter shades of reds and burgundy look fabulous with warm skin

tones, while pinks and true reds work brilliantly for fairer skin.

5) USE PRIMER

Always use primer before you start

applying the lipstick. Because - it will give the lipstick shade a better colour contrast.

- it will help your lipstick last longer (throughout the day).

In case you run out of primer or you don't have one, you can use foundation instead.

6) PICK A LIP LINER

They say liner can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Either case liner has a significant role in achieving the perfect pout. Just find the right lip liner, probably a shade that's closest to your lip colour, and outline your lips before applying the lipstick. This will give the required shape to your lip, either making them fuller or thinner. It also keeps your lipstick from feathering. FYI: Opting a much darker



10. RED LIPSTICK

shade than your lipstick is the worst makeup disaster.

7) START IN THE MIDDLE

Always. Start your lipstick applying session from the centre of your lips and then spread outward with the help of lip brush. Experts always use lip brush when applying lipstick because it leaves less room for mistakes as compared to applying it directly from the tube.

8) SOFTEN THE EDGES

Just smudge the border of your lips slightly so as to get a natural, not-overly-done look.

9) BLOT! BLOT! BLOT!

After you are done applying lipstick, blot it with a tissue, then apply another layer. Blotting removes excess oils and emollients from the first layer of lipstick while leaving the pigments largely intact. "Blotting will create a base, and the second coat adds shine and coverage," says Troy. Adding a second layer of lipstick after blotting increases the pigment concentration in proportion to the creamy ingredients that are the enemies of lipstick longevity.

10) WASH OFF LIPSTICK & EXFOLIATE

Always take it off before you go to sleep. You don't want lipstick stain all over your pillowcase, do you? And don't forget to exfoliate after you wash off your lipstick.



Know the complete truth about your fairness Cream

India market is considered the biggest market for beauty products specially fairness solution. Among Indian society there is an absurd statement and phenomenon of beauty.

Thanks to our high list of endorsement start, both men & women need variety of fairness creams. In spite of existing multimillion dollar market of fairness products in country, the question of how impactful these products are? Keep dwindling in consumer's mind. Our skin colour is determined by our race and genetic lineage which in turn decides the amount and structure of melanin. Fairness creams can only work to a certain extent. As per dermatology studies, achieving fairness up to 20% is possible, but not more than that. The fairness creams only block sun rays and prevent secretion of melanin. Thus help in reducing tan and restoring natural skin.

Side Effects of Fairness Creams

Extreme use of fairness creams can rather lead to severe skin damage. Fairness creams contain harmful bleaching agent such as hydroquinone, mercury, lead, nickel, chromium and high levels of steroids that cause following problems:

- Thinning of skin
- Discoloration of face
- Capillaries become prominently visible
- Severe acne
- Hypersensitivity to sun
- Rebound paradoxical pigmentation
- Unwanted facial hair growth
- Skin allergy
- Skin cancer

Thus these creams should always be used judiciously only under the supervision of a certified

dermatologist.

Do's and Don't What to do -Apply moisturiser daily during day and before going to bed

-Wash your skin with clean water at least thrice a day

-Use sunscreen lotion to prevent tanning and harsh UV rays damaging skin

-Use fairness cream preferably aloe based. It works well for inflammation and tanned skin for Asian weather.

-Usage external barriers like umbrella and shades while going out.

-Drink 6-8 glasses of water every day

-Have anti-oxidant rich fruits

-Increase the intake of Vitamin C. It increases cell turnover, helps protect against sun damage, and boosts the production of collagen and elastin, the two vital component of healthy and glowing skin.

-Exfoliation is one of the most important steps in maintaining your youthful glow.

We recommend weekly exfoliation to brighten the skin tone. Regular use of an exfoliation removes the oldest dead skin cells that cling to the skin's outermost surface, or epidermis. It is an important part of both facials and body treatments.

What not to do

-DO NOT support the common trend of fair skin and the stigma of being dark

-Avoid excessive bleaching in alternate weeks. Comprising of Ammonia and hydrochloric acid primarily these ingredients can cause both minor and severe burn.

-Avoid Products that Encourage Acne Breakouts

The truth is we don't need white skin to show our beauty, if you have healthy,

Benefits of using shikakai on your skin

The enriching benefits of using shikakai on hair has been proved long ago and has made it a trusted natural product in Indian households. But very few know about its benefits on the skin.

In fact, shikakai works magically for the skin, too. Here are a few ways to use this wonder herb on your skin:

- Effective in treating scabies You can use shikakai to treat skin ailments like scabies. To reap maximum benefits, you can make an antiseptic body wash using shikakai and turmeric. Soak raw turmeric in hot water and then grind it

to make a paste. Burn shikakai pods till they turn black, grind them to form powder. Mix the turmeric paste and shikakai powder with milk. Strain and use as a body wash.

- Use shikakai to treat spots

Take half a teaspoon of shikakai powder and mix it with a tablespoon each of cream, almond powder and turmeric. Add two tablespoons of honey and use it as a body scrub.

This mixture helps in eliminating dead cells and gives your skin a natural glow.

- To treat minor cuts and boils on your scalp Burn shikakai pods, grind them. Mix with a teaspoon of neem powder, make a paste using cold water. Apply on summer boils to help them heal.



beautiful
1, dark complexion,
learn to love yourself.
Your healthy and
shiny skin is
everything to
impress whosoever
will notice you. Do
not trust every
advertisement
blindly, stay happy &
smiley.

5 facials you must try out in your Lifetime



Facials you must try out in your lifetime.

Anti-aging Telomere Facial

What it is: Telomere is the real fountain of youth. The skin looks brighter, smoother and more translucent, as it's massaged with a replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption. Specialised masks are used for the flower power thermotherapy face lift that irons out lines and wrinkles, making the skin more firm and youthful.

USP: Anti-aging, stops wrinkles

Plant Stem Cells Facial What it is: Another breakthrough in anti-aging treatments is plant stem cell - it rejuvenates the skin powerfully. When plant stem cells are introduced into the skin during the facial, they repair dead and damaged skin cells. The skin looks tighter, firmer and younger. The products used contain active plant stem cells of the Edelweiss flower, collagen, elastin, ceramides and powerful anti-oxidants. Once the mask is washed off, the skin is toned and cold compress is given.

USP: Gives a soft glow

Platinum Facial What it is: This facial starts with a cleanser, scrub, cream, mask, serum and moisture mist. The face is first cleansed with the cleanser, followed by vegetable peel and platinum scrub. A lymphatic massage is also done to purify the skin and add radiance.

USP: Cleanses all pollutants

Diamond Facial What is it: This is for those who want to defy age. In Ayurvedic

skin care, the oxidised diamond or 'bhasma' is used, while diamond powder is used for exfoliation. This facial uses extracts of lotus, basil, dates, orange oil, carrot seed and vetter (khush).

USP: Improves skin's vitality

Pearl Facial This is for those who need hydration. It's based on a 4,000 year old Ayurvedic and Oriental tradition of using the powder of natural pearls. Pearls influence the transfer of melanin (natural pigment) to the skin surface, preventing tanning and pigmentation.

USP: Removes pigmentation

Unhappy neighbours, and poor diplomacy

NEW DELHI Exactly two years ago, in August 2022, Sri Lanka's President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa and 2 security guards fled the country hours before he was slated to resign. His first stop was the Maldives. The Rajapaksa family left behind waves of street protests and a gutted President's residence.

The same parallels have played out in Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina, who ran what we all thought was a stable regime, has fallen to weeks of intense student protests, and has fled to India. What's shocked political observers is the suddenness and the intensity of the uprising. What started as an anti-reservation agitation against quotas in government jobs for so-called freedom fighters, snowballed into an 'Oust Hasina' campaign.

For India, there is genuine concern as the country's large 8% Hindu minority faces a backlash. The contours of the new interim government – with Begum Khalida of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and Jamaat-e-Islami elements – has a decidedly anti-India ring. 'India Out', a popular slogan of the agitators, has a Maldives echo, where the pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu has asked India's small army contingent to leave. What does long-time ally Sheikh Hasina's ouster spell for India? In recent months, there have been a series of regime changes among our neighbours not favourable to India. Our credibility as a reliable ally is being questioned. What has gone wrong?

Anti-India ring

Sheikh Hasina started her third term in office in January this year after an election that was seen to be neither free nor fair. While many Western countries questioned her re-election and called for restoration of democracy, India chose to remain silent. This created considerable resentment against India. In the recent months and weeks, Hasina has come to be hated for her repressive measures and for the over 300 students killed; and India is seen as a collaborator. Besides the anti-India slogans, there has been months of a social media campaign to boycott Indian goods.

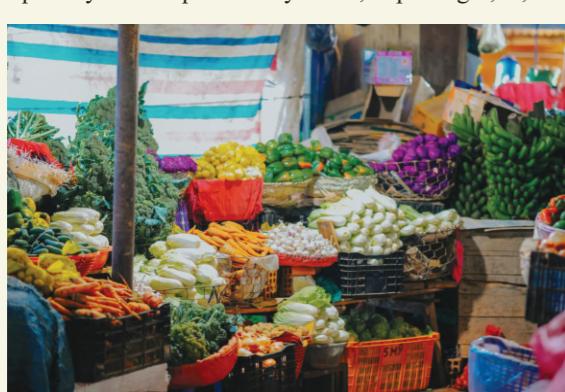
The significance of Bangladesh can't be overstated. India has a 4,000 km boundary with her eastern neighbour and a significant trade of nearly \$13 billion a year in two-wheelers, medical services and tourism. Trade figures don't reflect it, but Bangladesh is India's largest manpower provider. India's bottom-of-the-pyramid jobs are performed by immigrants, many of whom cross over illegally.

Food market likely to grow 47% to USD 1.3 billion

NEW DELHI: The domestic food market is likely to grow by more than 47% to \$1,274 billion by 2027, a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry and supported by Danfoss India said. The food processing industry sees innovative start-ups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report titled 'Food Processing Sector in India - Potential for Southern States' and released by CII, CII FACE (Confederation of Indian Industry -- Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence) and Danfoss India, said.

Danfoss India is a leader in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning and is the subsidiary of Denmark-headquartered engineering major Danfoss.

Some of the key highlights of the report include the potential that southern states hold for food processing industry. "Tamil Nadu leads India's export of processing fruits, juices and nuts, with a 33 per cent share by quantity and 27 per cent by value, exporting 2,08,370



metric tonnes worth USD 220.81 million in 2023-24," the report said. The food processing industry in India sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report said. The study carries insights on emerging trends, technologies and export opportunities enabling businesses to make informed decisions and tap into the sector's potential. South India's food processing sector is on the cusp of a revolution, with innovative segments like millets, ready-to-eat and plant-based dairy alternatives unlocking a treasure trove of economic opportunities for farmers.

Inside Hindenburg's claims: SEBI chief's alleged conflicts of interest and offshore funds tied to Adani probe

MUMBAI: US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research on Saturday alleged that SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, held hidden stakes in the same 'obscure' offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of billionaire Gautam Adani, in what is described as the 'money siphoning scandal'. Hindenburg suggested that this is why India's capital market regulator was not keen to thoroughly investigate the Adani Group.

In January 2023, Hindenburg published a critical report accusing the Adani Group of stock manipulation and accounting fraud, which led to a significant decline in the company's stock price. The Adani Group has consistently denied these allegations, and the Supreme Court has supported its stance. Last year, the Apex Court noted that SEBI had not achieved significant results in its investigation into the Adani matter.

"We suspect SEBI's reluctance to take meaningful action against suspected offshore shareholders in the Adani Group may be due to Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's involvement with the same funds used by Vinod Adani," the short-seller stated in a new report released late on Saturday.

Recycling of discredited claims: Adani Group on latest Hindenburg charge

NEW DELHI. Adani Group has strongly rejected the latest allegations by Hindenburg Research, calling them "malicious, mischievous and manipulative". The US-based short-seller firm on Saturday claimed that whistleblower documents show Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had a stake in the obscure offshore entities used in the "Adani money siphoning scandal". In its statement, the Adani Group called Hindenburg's report a "calculated deliberate effort to malign" their standing.

THE HINDENBURG REPORT

The Hindenburg report claimed, "We had previously noted Adani's total confidence in continuing to operate without the risk of serious regulatory intervention, suggesting that this may be explained through Adani's relationship with Sebi Chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch". It alleged, "What we hadn't realized: the current Sebi Chairperson and her husband, Dhaval Buch, had hidden stakes in the exact same obscure offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds, found in the same complex nested

thoroughly investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in January 2024," Adani Group said in a statement. In its statement, the Adani Group called Hindenburg's report a "calculated deliberate effort to malign" their standing.

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entity used in the 'Adani money siphoning scandal'". The latest allegations by Hindenburg are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions for personal profiteering with wanton disregard for facts and the law. We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been



and her husband Dhaval Buch first appear to have opened their account with IPE Plus Fund 1 on June 5th, 2015 in Singapore, per whistleblower documents. A declaration of funds, signed by a principal at IIFL states that the source of the investment is 'salary' and the couple's net worth is estimated at \$10 million".

SEBI CHIEF REJECTS ALLEGATIONS

Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, too, rejected the allegations levelled against them by Hindenburg Research, calling it an

attempt of "character assassination". In a joint statement, Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch said the allegations were "baseless" and "devoid of any truth", and asserted that their finances were an open book. "In the context of allegations made in the Hindenburg Report dated August 10, 2024, against us, we would like to state that we strongly deny the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report. The same is devoid of any truth. Our life and finances are an open book," the statement read. "All disclosures as required have already been furnished to Sebi over the years. We have no hesitation in disclosing any and all financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them," it said.

The Sebi chief and her husband said they would issue a detailed statement soon "in the interest of complete transparency".

Sebi chief on Adani link claims in Hindenburg report: Character assassination

NEW DELHI, Hindenburg Research on Saturday released a report alleging that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch had stakes in 'obscure' offshore entities linked to the 'Adani money siphoning scandal'. The latest development comes after the US-based short-seller posted a cryptic message hinting at a possible new India-centric report. The report claims that documentation from whistleblowers indicates their involvement in these offshore entities. Hindenburg claimed this is why SEBI did not conduct a thorough investigation into the conglomerate. "We suspect SEBI's unwillingness to take meaningful action against suspect offshore shareholders in the Adani Group may stem from Chairperson Madhabi Buch's complicity in using the exact same funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani," the report claimed. The Adani Group, on Sunday strongly refuted the latest allegations made by Hindenburg Research, describing them as "malicious,

mischievous, and manipulative." In an official statement, the conglomerate accused Hindenburg of selectively using publicly available information to reach pre-determined conclusions for personal gain, without regard for facts or the law.



The Adani Group categorically rejected the claims, stating that these allegations are merely a recycling of discredited accusations that have been thoroughly investigated, proven baseless, and dismissed by the Supreme Court of India in January 2024.

The statement emphasized that the Adani Group's overseas holding structure is fully transparent, with all relevant details disclosed regularly in public

documents. The company also clarified that Anil Ahuja, mentioned in the allegations, was a nominee director of three investment funds in Adani Power from 2007 to 2008 and later served as a director of Adani Enterprises until 2017. "The Adani Group has absolutely no commercial relationship with the individuals or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing," the company asserted. It reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

The statement also took aim at Hindenburg Research, describing the firm as a "discredited short-seller" under investigation for multiple violations of Indian securities laws. The Adani Group dismissed Hindenburg's allegations as "red herrings" thrown by a desperate entity with "total contempt for Indian laws." Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband also rubbished the allegations levelled against them by Hindenburg as "baseless" and asserted that their finances are an open book.

NEW DELHI, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband have rejected the allegations levelled against them by US short-seller Hindenburg that they had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the 'Adani money siphoning scandal', calling it an attempt of "character assassination".

In a joint statement, Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch said the allegations were "baseless" and "devoid of any truth", and asserted that their finances were an open book. "In the context of allegations made in the Hindenburg Report dated August 10, 2024, against us, we would like to state that we strongly deny the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report. The same is devoid of any truth. Our life and finances are an open book," it said. "All disclosures as required have already been



furnished to Sebi over the years. We have no hesitation in disclosing any and all financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them," it added. The Sebi chief and her husband said they would issue a detailed statement soon "in the interest of complete transparency". Criticising the report, the couple said, "It is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research against whom Sebi has taken an Enforcement action and issued a show cause notice has chosen to attempt character assassination in response to the same."

Hindenburg Research, on Saturday, cited whistleblower documents to allege that Madhabi Puri Buch, in charge of probing allegations of malfeasance and stock manipulation in the Adani Group of companies, and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning case, raising questions of conflict of interest related to the market regulator.

In a blog post, Hindenburg said 18 months since its damning report on Adani, "Sebi has shown a surprising lack of interest in Adani's alleged undisclosed web of Mauritius and offshore shell entities.

Banks need to focus on deposits: Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW DELHI. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday stressed upon the importance for the banks to focus on their primary banking activities, specifically in terms of collecting deposits and providing loans to those in need of financial assistance. Speaking to the media following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) board meeting, the minister said deposits and lending are akin to the two wheels of a cart, noting that "the deposit is moving slowly." To address the imbalance between deposits and lending, Sitharaman urged the banks to develop "innovative and appealing" deposit schemes to attract funds from the public. Meanwhile, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated that interest rates are deregulated, allowing banks to increase deposit rates to draw in funds. "Banks are free to decide on their

interest rates," he noted. "...More portfolios are available for more returns on money, that's why retail investment in markets has gone up. When they have so many options, banks also have to make use of innovative portfolios for attracting investment and deposit mobilisation," Sitharaman said. The central bank's governor pointed out that although interest rates are deregulated, banks frequently raise deposit rates to draw in funds. He mentioned that banks have increasingly relied upon short-term non-retail deposits and other financial instruments to address the growing demand for credit. In addition, Sitharaman expressed her intent to have further discussions with the banks, focusing on priority sector lending and methods to improve deposit collection. "I will be meeting

with the banks for various reasons, to take up the government's priority sector lending areas, emphasise on some of the government schemes, and also in that process talk to them about how it is important for them to go back to collecting deposits the old fashioned way," the finance minister stated.

Regarding the Sovereign Green Bond, the Governor announced that trading of these bonds is set to begin at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat in the latter half of the current fiscal year. "We are in discussion with the IFSC, it will be operationalised very soon. I think in the second half of the current fiscal, it will be possible," Das added.

When asked about the lukewarm response from investors to the issuance of green bonds, the RBI governor stated.

Hindenburg claims Sebi chief had stake in offshore funds linked to Adani scandal

Hindenburg's new report alleges 'Sebi chairperson had stake in offshore entities used in Adani scandal'.

NEW DELHI. US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research on Saturday claimed that whistleblower documents show Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had a stake in the obscure offshore entities used in the "Adani money siphoning scandal". "We had previously noted Adani's total confidence in continuing to operate without the risk of serious regulatory intervention, suggesting that this may be explained through Adani's relationship with Sebi Chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch," the Hindenburg report claimed. What we hadn't realized: the current Sebi Chairperson and her husband, Dhaval Buch, had hidden stakes in the exact same

offshore entities used in the "Adani money siphoning scandal". The latest allegations by Hindenburg are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions for personal profiteering with wanton disregard for facts and the law. We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been

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OPPOSITION SLAMS SEBI

The Opposition was quick enough to pick up the Hindenburg report with Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra taking a swipe at Sebi. "This is both Conflict and Capture of SEBI. Chairperson of SEBI is an opaque investor in Adani Group. Samdhil Cyril Shroff is on Corporate Governance Committee. No wonder all complaints to SEBI fall on deaf ears," Moitra posted on X. Even Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi reacted to the report. "Now we know why our letters went unanswered and unacknowledged," she said. The recent claims by the US short-seller came hours after it hinted at another revelation involving an Indian company. "Something big soon India," it had posted on X. In January 2023, Hindenburg levelled serious allegations against billionaire Gautam Adani's sprawling ports-to-power conglomerate, accusing it of stock market manipulation and financial misconduct. However, Gautam Adani has on multiple occasions categorically rejected all the allegations levelled by the short-selling firm.

NEWS BOX

Inspired by India athletes, Jemimah Rodrigues raring to take part in LA Olympics

New Delhi. India women's cricketer Jemimah Rodrigues said that she would love to wear the national jersey in the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. Last year, in October, it was announced that cricket (men's and women's T20s) would be one of the new sports in the quadrennial event, along with squash, lacrosse, baseball/softball and flag football. Cricket was last a part of the Olympics in Sydney 2000, when Great Britain and France were the only two participants. Jemimah, who has played three Tests, 30 ODIs and 100 T20Is for India, praised the Indian athletes for putting whole-hearted efforts in Paris. "Loved wearing this current Indian Olympic jersey. Can't wait to play Cricket for India at the Olympics soon!! Man, what a feeling that'd be. Also, our Indian athletes have shown tremendous passion, commitment, persistence and grit! Win or lose, we're proud of you," Jemimah wrote. India currently have six medals to their name in the Paris Olympics 2024. Manu Bhaker started India's medal hunt by winning bronze in the individual and mixed team event. Thereafter, Swapnil Kusale brought India their first medal in the Men's 50 m rifle three positions.



Paris Olympics 2024: India Schedule | Full Coverage | Medal Tally

Indian hockey team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, bagged bronze after beating Spain 2-1 in the third-place playoff match. On Thursday, Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in men's javelin with a best throw of 89.45 metres. Although he could not defend his Olympic crown, Neeraj garnered praise from every nook and corner of the country. Aman Schrawat won bronze in the men's 57kg freestyle category in wrestling. Meanwhile, India are waiting on a verdict on Vinesh Phogat. She confirmed at least a silver medal, but was disqualified before her gold-medal bout against Sarah Hildebrandt. Vinesh was found 100 grams more than the permissible limit after which she was disallowed.

Olympics 2024: USA beat France to win fifth consecutive gold medal in basketball

New Delhi There was no "Miracle on the Seine" at the Paris Olympics on Saturday as the United States men's basketball team did as expected by grinding out a 98-87 win over France to claim a fifth consecutive gold medal.

With the French sporting spotlight locked on the Bercy Arena, the American showmen crushed Gallic hearts led by Stephen Curry and a fired up LeBron James, the "King" wearing shiny golden sneakers to mark the occasion. "I'm just living in the moment," said 39-year-old James, the NBA's all-time leading scorer. "I'm super humbled that I can still play this game." Play it at a high level. Play with 11 other great players with a great coaching staff and then and go out and do it for our country. It was a great moment."

"Each player has his emotions"

The result was the same as three years ago in the Tokyo Olympic gold medal game but for the French this loss cut a little deeper coming on home hardwood in front of a captivated nation. "It's their incredible talent that ended up marking the difference," said France coach Vincent Collet. "It's a final against the Americans, in Paris, you can say it as much as you want, each player has his emotions, we tried to use them but it wasn't possible here." France will get another shot at hoops glory on Sunday but the women's team will be even bigger underdogs against the mighty Americans who have not lost in the Olympics since 1992 and are chasing an eighth straight gold. Just downstream from Notre Dame cathedral on the banks of the Seine the French faithful, including President Emmanuel Macron, gathered at the Bercy like pilgrims to Lourdes believing anything is possible and so it seemed until the final moments of an enthralling final. As you would expect from a gold medal game there was jaw-dropping skill, raw emotion, tension and a touch of nastiness to provide spice. James got the show started with a thundering dunk to kick-start a fast-paced affair that the Americans controlled behind a workmanlike effort building a 14-point third-quarter lead. But the U.S. would need nearly all of that advantage as Les Bleus, turbo-charged by a rafter-rattling home crowd, clawed their way back chopping the deficit to 82-79 with three minutes to play.

Then with the crowd on their feet and France poised to do the unthinkable, Curry - as he did in a nail-biting semi-final win over Serbia - came to the rescue for the U.S.

Olympics: Shelby McEwen reveals why high jump gold wasn't shared like Tokyo 2020

New Zealand's Hamish Kerr was not interested in sharing gold medal with USA's Shelby McEwen in the high-jump final at Paris Olympics

New Delhi. August 11, 2024 marks the 4-year anniversary to the time when an Olympic gold medal was shared. Just a day before that, a similar situation arose, but this time no one wanted to share the gold medal. Three years ago, Mutaz Barshim and Gianmarco Tamberi decided to go 50-50 for first place in the men's high jump at the Tokyo Games rather than jump-off for it. This time, USA's Shelby McEwen and New Zealand's Hamish Kerr were in a similar position but decided to work it out the old-fashioned way with a jump-off. McEwen almost had the gold medal in his kitty. A draw sounded pretty good to him. Kerr, nicknamed the "Flying Kiwi," had a different view: He had decided long before Saturday night that if he faced double gold,



he would decline and jump-off. It was learnt that it was Kerr who was not interested in sharing the gold medal with McEwen. "We walked and talked to each other," McEwen said. "He was like, 'Let's jumpoff.' I was like, 'I'm all for it.'"

"He said it first, and I agreed to it," McEwen said. "At some point, I kind of got fatigued. I maybe would have shared it with him, for sure. But I agreed to it, and it was all good." McEwen rejoices his silver. Whatsoever, McEwen had no regrets, even as

Lakshya Sen back to base after Paris heartbreak: The fire burns brightly within me

Paris Olympics: Lakshya Sen fell agonisingly short of winning a medal, and he intends to return to training with full intensity at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy.

New Delhi. Indian badminton sensation Lakshya Sen has returned to his home base at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bangalore, ready to resume his training after a memorable journey at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Lakshya, who made history by reaching the semi-finals in the men's singles event, expressed his gratitude to his mentors, coaches, and sponsors who have supported him throughout his career. In a heartfelt message, Lakshya acknowledged the crucial role the academy has played in his growth as



a person and an athlete. He thanked his mentors, Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar, his father, and the entire staff at the academy, including the physios and coaches. He also extended his gratitude to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and others for their support in fuelling his Olympic dream. "I'm back in Bangalore and all set to resume my training at my home base at the @ppbaindia after a memorable Olympic journey. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I have literally grown up as a person and an athlete at the academy," Lakshya wrote in a post. "I would like to thank my mentors Prakash sir and Vimal sir, my father, all the

other coaches, the physios and other staff members at @ppbaindia and CSE, and am grateful to SAI, Infosys Foundation, @redbullindia, YONEX and @OGQ_India for supporting PPBA and me, and for playing an important part in fuelling my Olympic dream," Lakshya said. "Family my biggest strength" Lakshya emphasized the significant contribution his family has made to his success, stating that they remain his biggest strength. Despite the disappointment of not winning a medal at the Olympics, Lakshya remains determined and motivated, with the fire burning brightly within him to continue learning and contributing to the sport of badminton. "There are no words to express the role my family has played and they remain my biggest strength. I have so much more to learn at PPBA and, hopefully, lots more to offer this beautiful sport of badminton. The fire burns brightly within me," Lakshya added. Lakshya lost the semi-final against Viktor Axelsen in straight games despite getting his Danish opponent on the mat.

WI vs SA: South Africa dominate but rain pushes opening Test towards draw



New Delhi South Africa have dominated for most part of the opening Test against West Indies in Port of Spain, but with only one day left, a draw is on the cards, although there is also a chance for the Proteas to pull off a heist at the Queen's Park Oval. At

Stumps on Day 4, the visitors led by 154 runs with all their 10 wickets in hand. After taking a lead of 125 runs in the first innings, South Africa showed intent in their second, scoring 30 runs off five overs. Earlier, they bowled the Caribbean team out for 233 after

rain washed away the first two sessions of Day four. Keshav Maharaj was the pick of their bowlers after he finished with figures of 40-15-76-4. Kagiso Rabada also chipped in with three wickets. West Indies batters got into 20s, 30s and 40s, but none of them could get a big score. Had Jomel Warrican not scored a quick-fire 35 off 32 balls lower down the order, the hosts would have conceded a much bigger lead. Warrican came to bat with the score at 192 for eight, and he built a couple of handy partnerships with Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales. While Warrican played his shots, Roach and Seales held one end up. In the end, Lungi Ngidi cleaned up Seales to pull the curtains down on the West Indies innings. With chances of rain even on the last day, South Africa would be looking to add some more runs to their lead before having a crack at the opposition batters. Tony de Zorzi and Aiden Markram were their overnight batters. For West Indies, they will be looking to eke out a draw and avoid conceding a 1-0 lead to the opposition.

USA basketball called themselves 'world champions' after the Olympics medal win. Fans trolled them saying Germany were the world champions. USA basketball's dig was aimed at Noah Lyles.

New Delhi The USA basketball team has got trolled for their "World Champions" tweet after winning the gold medal at the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 10, Saturday. USA

defeated hosts France 98-87 in the final to make it 5 gold medals on the trot as Steph Curry starred with 8 3-pointers during the match. However, the tweet after the win has found the USA being trolled online. After the win on Saturday, the USA basketball's official X account posted a tweet asking "are we the World Champs now?" This was a direct shot at Noah Lyles, who had questioned why the NBA champions call themselves as 'world champions.' The tweet from USA basketball received both type of reactions, with some trolling them for making the tweet. Many of the fans were of the opinion that the true world champions are the Germany basketball team, who won the FIBA World Cup in 2023.

You can see the reactions of the fans below:



Lyles had questioned why the NBA winners are called as the world champions. "You know the thing that hurts me the most is

a silver medal hung around his neck. Kerr beat McEwen in a competition, which saw Barshim and Tamberi becoming the first jumpers to share gold three years ago. "At the end of the day, he wanted to jumpoff," McEwen said. "At that point, I wasn't going to go back and forth with it and argue with him. He wanted to jumpoff, and I was all in for it." "I came up short of the gold," McEwen said. "But I'm still thankful for what I got." They both missed at 2.38 in the first round of the jump-off, another two misses at 2.36 and McEwen missed at 2.34 before Kerr finally ended the contest.

Kerr didn't want to share a gold medal. Kerr felt that he also would have been proud of himself even if he had come second in the jump-off and his aim was to create history.

"That was such a special moment to share as a high jump fraternity," Kerr said. "It's cool to etch our history in a different way.

For me, I would have been so proud to come in second in jumpoff - probably prouder than sharing a gold medal knowing that had already happened. That was the big thing for me: Trying to add to that history in a different way."

Kieron Pollard's brutal assault on Rashid Khan with five sixes in a row

New Delhi. Kieron Pollard might have announced his retirement from international cricket as well as the IPL, but the West Indies powerhouse showcased he still has a lot of fuel left in his tank. Pollard launched a brutal assault on wrist-spinner Rashid Khan during The Hundred contest. Southern Brave's Pollard smashed Rashid of Trent Rockets for five consecutive sixes in an over. Pollard delivered a game-changing performance to help Southern Brave chase down 127 runs with just one ball to spare at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on August 10, Saturday.

Rashid was very economical in his first 15 deliveries, having conceded 10 runs with one wicket as well. Pollard went on to dismantle his bowling figures in a single over and turned the tide in his team's favour when they needed 49 runs in 20 balls. The West Indies batter smashed the first two balls in the cow corner



and long-off region. This was followed by a straight hit back over Rashid's head and a powerful shot over deep mid-wicket and another six towards long-off to top it all off. This assault reduced the run-requirement to just 19 from 15 balls.

Pollard guides his team towards win

Despite being in the losing position, Pollard's quick-fire 45 off 23 shifted the momentum in Southern Brave's favour. Pollard hit two fours in the next set before he was run out by Calvin Harrison. With Chris Jordan into bat, he hit a four off the penultimate ball of the innings to secure the win. Pollard wasn't too impressed by the situation his team had brought themselves into before his rescue act.

"Hopefully some lessons learnt and we won't put ourselves in such a situation next time around," he said after the game. Reflecting on his performance against Rashid Khan, Pollard acknowledged their shared history and familiarity with each other's play. "I've played a lot against him, and he's gotten me out many times. But I knew the lines and lengths he was likely to bowl," Pollard said. "I just backed myself - if he bowled short, I was going across; if he went full, I was going to hit straight."

USA basketball gets trolled for 'World Champions' tweet after Olympic medal win

that I have to watch the NBA Finals and they have 'world champion' on their head. World champion of what? The United States? Don't get me wrong, I love the US - at times - but that ain't the world," Lyles said.

"We are the world. We have almost every country out here fighting, thriving, putting on their flag to show they are represented. There ain't no flags in the NBA," said Lyles.

The comment didn't sit well with the basketball stars Kevin Durant, Draymond Green and Devin Booker hitting out at Lyles on social media.



Hansika Motwani

Early Fame, Controversies And Success In South Films

Hansika Motwani, a name we are all familiar with. She entered the movie industry as a child actor. She was seen in famous series like Shaka Laka Boom Boom in 2000 and also appeared in Ekta Kapoor's popular serial, Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi. In 2003, Hansika Motwani also appeared in Hrithik Roshan and Preity Zinta-starrer blockbuster, Koi Mil Gaya. After the release of this movie, she took a break and went abroad with her family. After 4 years, Hansika made her comeback to the silver screen, with her Telugu movie Desamuduru in 2007 along with Allu Arjun. The film was a hit, and Hansika won the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut – South. During this time, Hansika was accused of using hormonal injections for her sudden change in appearance. Her mother was also accused of giving her those injections. Hansika has consistently denied these rumours and stated that her physical development was natural and that the accusations were baseless. She said that she cannot take an injection or get a tattoo done because she is scared of needles to date.

When it comes to controversy, Hansika Motwani has been a victim of it many times. She again made headlines when she was seen romancing Himesh Reshammiya, who was 18 years older than her, in the film Aap Kaa Surroor. The actress was not even an adult when she romanced this successful Bollywood music director. She was again on the controversy radar when she tied the knot with her now husband, Sohail Kathuria on December 4, 2022, in Mundota Fort, Jaipur. Her husband Sohail Kathuria was previously married to a woman named Rinky and she was a good friend of Hansika as well. Even the actor attended Sohail and Rinky's wedding in 2014. She was accused of "stealing" her friend's husband and received a lot of backlash for her decision. Apart from this, she was also involved in the MMS leak controversy. In 2015, a MMS video of a girl went viral on the internet. The video was claimed to be Hansika's. Later, Hansika herself clarified that it was not her but some other girl who resembled her. Although Hansika started on the small screen, today she is a big name in the South film industry. She has done more than 60 films in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam languages. Apart from being a successful and critically acclaimed actress, she has been in the limelight for her controversies.



Rashmi Gautam

Raises Her Fashion Game In Her Magenta Colour Ruffled Maxi Dress

Rashmi Gautam is one of the most popular actresses in the Telugu film industry. She came into the limelight after showcasing her anchoring skill with the popular Telugu show, Jabardasth. In the last 20 years of her illustrious career, she cemented a special position as an established actress. Apart from acting and anchoring, the diva has also won the hearts of her fans with her beauty. Recently, she posted a couple of photos from her latest photoshoot session, which has set the internet on fire. In the latest pictures, Rashmi is seen slaying in a magenta-coloured ruffled maxi dress. She chose subtle makeup, including brown eyeshadow, perfectly lined eyeliner, perfectly contoured cheeks, and nude lip shade. She left her hair open in soft curls and completed her look with a pair of nude heels. Rashmi looked pretty as always. Take a look at the post: The photographs went viral in no time. While her fans showered compliments in the comment section. One of the users commented, "You look like Angle." Another one added, "You look so good." While many dropped red heart emoticons in the comment area. A few days back, the actress shared another couple of photos from her photoshoot diaries. In the picture, she is seen wearing an orange and blue collared wrap dress. She chose soft makeup, left her hair open, and rounded her look with matching orange heels. On the professional front, Rashmi was last seen in the Telugu version of the film Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare. The film was titled Boys Hostel, where Rashmi Gautam and Tharun Bhascker replaced Ramya and Diganth, respectively. The Kannada-language black comedy film is directed by Nithin Krishnamurthy in his directorial debut and presented by Rakshit Shetty under the Paramvah Pictures banner. The film stars debutants Prajwal BP, Manjunath Nayaka, Rakesh Rajkumar, Srivatsa, and Tejas Jayanna Urs, while Rishabh Shetty, Pawan Kumar, Shine Shetty, and Ramya make cameo appearances.



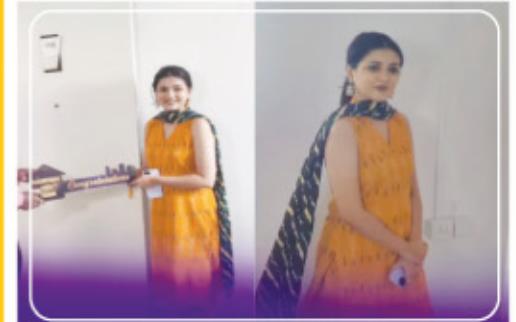
Kritika Malik Will NOT Participate In Bigg Boss 18, Payal Malik Reveals 'Hamare Poori Family...'



After Armaan Malik's second wife, Kritika Malik emerged as the 4th runner-up of Bigg Boss OTT 3, several reports claimed that she is also likely to be a part of Bigg Boss 18. However, Payal Malik has finally clarified that no member of the Malik family is going to participate in the controversial reality show ever again. In one of her recent vlogs, Payal mentioned that their married life become a talking point in Bigg Boss OTT 3 and therefore they will not participate in any future season of the show. However, she also clarified that they are open to do other reality shows. "Kuch log aise hai jo abhi bhi hume pyar karte hain aur hume dekhna chahte hai Bigg Boss 18 mein. Par hamare poori family mein se koi bhi, kisi bhi Bigg Boss mein nahi jaana chahta. Wahan pe na jo insaan accha kar raha hota hai usko koi dekhna pasand nahi karta. Aap insaan ko as individual ko nahi dekhte, uske game ko nahi dekhte. Sirf yeh dekhte ho hamare family mein 3 log hai, Armaan ne do shaadi ki hai (Some people still love us and want to watch us in Bigg Boss 18. But we would not like to participate in the show. People don't prefer to watch the goodness of a person in that show. They don't see him as an individual or pay attention to his game. Rather, they are only interested in the fact that Armaan married twice)."

"Aab humme yahi socha hai koi bhi Bigg Boss mein nahi jaaeinga. Aur koi reality show ka aaega toh zaroor jaaiinga (We have now decided not to participate in Bigg Boss. We might consider doing other reality shows)," she added. Armaan Malik entered the Bigg Boss OTT 3 house in June this year with both his wives, Payal and Kritika. While Payal was the first one to get eliminated, Armaan walked out of the show during the finale week. Kritika was one of the finalists on Bigg Boss OTT 3. However, the three faced hatred for their participation in the controversial reality show and were accused of promoting polygamy. They were brutally trolled on social media and were even grilled by the media during the press conference.

Marathi Actress Dnyanada Ramtirthankar Buys Dream Home, Gives Fans A Virtual Tour



Dnyanada Ramtirthankar is a popular face in the Marathi television industry. The actress, known for her role as Appu in the Marathi series Thipkyanchi Rangoli, is currently making headlines for a significant personal milestone. Dnyanada has recently bought her dream home in Thane, and the first glimpses of her new abode are already making waves on social media.

The video shared by Dnyanada shows the actress giving a tour of her new house. She first showcases her kitchen, which features a large window with a beautiful view. She then gives her fans a glimpse into the other rooms. The actress looked lovely in a yellow salwar suit set paired with a dark green dupatta. Her fans and followers flooded the comment section with love and praise for her achievement. One user wrote, "Congratulations Appu di, I'm very happy," while another user mentioned, "What a fabulous sweet Home...so proud of you Dnyanada." A video captures her posing with a "Congratulations" sign, after which her father conducted the opening ceremony of the house.

After impressing audiences with her performance as Appu, Dnyanada's career has seen a rise, and this latest achievement is a testament to her success. Dnyanada started her television career with the Marathi show Sakhy Re in 2017. She played the role of Vaidehi in the show. Following this success, she appeared in several other television shows, including Zindagi Not Out, Shatada Prem Karave, and Year Down. Later, she made her debut in 2020 with the film Dhurala. She has also made notable appearances in Hindi serials like Year Down and Shaadi Mubarak. Dnyanada was last seen in the Hindi web series Commander Karan Saxena. Her performance in this series has been met with positive reviews, further solidifying her versatility as an actress. The show also features Gurmeet Choudhary in the lead role. In her upcoming project, Dnyanada will appear in a new Marathi film titled Mumbai Local, where she will share screen space with actors Prathamesh Parab and Prithvik Pratap.