

Supreme Court closes contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved, Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, August 13: The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed contempt proceedings against Patanjali Ayurved and its co-founders Baba Ramdev and his close aide Acharya Balkrishna in the misleading advertisements case after they undertook to cease issuing misleading advertisements and claims regarding the company's products. A Bench led by Justice Hima Kohli said the contempt proceedings were being closed accepting the apology tendered by the parties after they took steps to rectify their mistake. The Bench – which also included Ahsanuddin Amanullah



— however, warned them against repeating their past conduct, saying it would reopen the proceedings if they did anything in future in violation of its orders. The top court had initiated contempt proceedings against Patanjali Ayurved, Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna on a petition filed by Indian Medical Association (IMA) against Patanjali's advertisements attacking allopathy and making claims about curing certain diseases. On March 19, it had ordered the personal appearance of Ramdev and Balkrishna after being told that the replies to the contempt notice were not filed. Ramdev and Balkrishna had assured the court on November 21, 2023, that they would not make any "casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy, or against any system of medicine". But the very next day Ramdev held a press conference and said remedies for blood pressure were "lies spread by allopathy". On December 4, the company had issued a similar advertisement, inviting the wrath of the top court. The court had on February 27 this year issued a contempt notice to Patanjali Ayurved, its managing director Balkrishna and Ramdev for flouting earlier orders and taking the entire country for a ride. The top court had temporarily restrained Patanjali Ayurved from advertising or branding its products meant to address diseases/disorders specified in the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

**Bangladesh interim government sets up hotline, urges people to provide info about attacks on temples**

Sanjay Kumar

Dhaka, August 13: Bangladesh's interim government has set up a hotline asking people to provide information about attacks on Hindu temples, churches or any other religious institutions, amid reports of vandalism of religious places, businesses and properties of minorities following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has requested to provide information about attacks on religious institutions, Bengali language daily Prothom Alo reported on Tuesday. "If a temple, church, pagoda or any other religious institution is attacked by miscreants, it is requested to report its information by calling this mobile number 01766-843809 or by sending a small message," the paper reported, citing a notification issued by the ministry on Monday. Religious Affairs Adviser to the interim

government AFM Khalid Hossain has condemned recent attacks on religious institutions belonging to minorities. During a press briefing at the secretariat on Monday, Khalid confirmed that complaints had been received about attacks on minority homes and religious sites. He assured ongoing support for these communities. Hossain announced that deputy commissioners are compiling a list of damages. On Tuesday, interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus reached out to the distressed Hindu community members and assured them that his government would punish those responsible for attacks on the minorities. Yunus, 84, who took charge as the Chief Advisor on Thursday, visited the Dhakeshwari National Temple where he urged the people to "exercise patience" before judging his government. "Rights are equal for everyone."

## CBI takes over Kolkata doctor rape-murder case

Naresh Malhotra

Kolkata, August 13: The CBI on Tuesday took over investigation in the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor in a medical college in Kolkata, officials said. The agency swiftly completed all the formalities within hours of the Calcutta High Court order directing the state police to hand over the case documents to the central probe agency. A team of CBI officials from Delhi along with forensic scientists and medical experts will visit Kolkata on Wednesday, they said. Earlier, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of probe into the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital from the Kolkata Police to the CBI. A widespread agitation by junior doctors has crippled state health care services for the fifth day, with the functioning of even emergency and outdoor departments coming to a halt in most state-run hospitals. The high court directed the city police to hand over the case diary to the central probe agency by this evening, and all other documents by 10 am on Wednesday. The direction was passed in the wake of a petition moved by the victim's parents praying for a court-monitored probe and multiple other PILs seeking probe transfer to the CBI. The

interim order came five days after the gruesome incident had come to light and five days ahead of the probe deadline of Sunday issued to the police by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, beyond which she had vowed to hand over investigations to the central agency. The body of the postgraduate trainee with severe injury marks all over was found inside the seminar hall of the state-run hospital's chest department on Friday morning. The preliminary autopsy report suggested she was subjected to violent sexual assault. Despite the Kolkata Police arresting a civic volunteer named Sanjay Roy, in this connection on Saturday, the move failed to silence the claim of our allegations of a botched up investigation and evidence tampering which have now snowballed into an outrage of junior doctors spreading across medical campuses of the state and

beyond. The state's joint platform of doctors has called for strike at Out Patient

obligation" on their part to treat patients who come to government hospitals. Junior doctors and interns across West Bengal

continued their cease-work on Tuesday, protesting against the incident and demanding adequate security for hospital staff. The probe transfer order was passed following the court's observation that no significant progress in investigations was made by the police in the past five days, a conclusion that the bench reached after going through the case diary it had summoned to court and hearing arguments of all parties involved.

The bench further observed it was disheartening to note that the role of the RG Kar Medical College principal, Sandip Ghosh, was not proactive where he or the hospital superintendent took no initiative to file a murder complaint for the gruesome death which happened inside the campus and not on the streets outside. The state had earlier submitted that the police registered an unnatural death case instead of rape and murder since there were no immediate complaints.



Departments in all government and private hospitals of the state on Wednesday to protest the RG Kar Hospital incident. On Tuesday, a Calcutta High Court division bench presided by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam also urged agitating doctors in the state to call off their cease-work, maintaining that there is a "pious

Indian visa centre in Dhaka resumes 'limited operations'

Dhaka, August 13: The Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) here resumed "limited operations" on Tuesday, days after Bangladesh saw violent clashes which led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India last week following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. In a press release, IVAC announced the resumption of limited operations in its Dhaka centre. "IVAC (JFP) Dhaka has resumed limited operations. Messages will be sent to individual applicants regarding (the) collection of passports," the press release said. "Because of limited operations, the process may take longer. We request your understanding," it said. Last week, the IVAC announced the closure of all visa centres in the country until further notice due to the unstable situation after the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government, Somoy TV news channel reported. The National Emergency Hotline Service has been restored as of Tuesday, according to the Dhaka Tribune newspaper. From Monday, police officers returned to different police stations and traffic police personnel also went back to work.

## Sirs Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim walks out of jail on 21-day furlough

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Chandigarh, August 13: Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim on Tuesday walked out of Rohtak's Sunaria jail on a 21-day furlough. He was released after Rohtak Divisional Commissioner passed an order in his favour. During his temporary release period, the Dera chief will go to Baghpat ashram in Uttar Pradesh. On August 9, the Punjab and Haryana High Court disposed of the SGPC's petition which challenged the grant of temporary release to Ram Rahim, observing that a plea for temporary release be considered by the competent authority without any "arbitrariness or favouritism". Ram Rahim in June this year had moved the high court, seeking directions to grant him a 21-day furlough. On February 29, the high court had asked the Haryana Government not to grant further parole to the Dera Sacha Sauda chief without its permission. Ram Rahim is serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples. He was granted a 50-day parole on January 19. The Dera chief and three oth-

ers were also convicted in 2019 for the murder of a journalist more than 16 years

ago. In May this year, the high court had

acquitted Ram Rahim and four others in the 2002 murder of sect's former manager Ranjit Singh, citing "tainted and sketchy"

investigations in the matter. A special CBI

court had sentenced them to life imprison-



## Congress to launch national campaign demanding SEBI chief's resignation, constitution of JPC

Navdeep Singh Saini

New Delhi, August 13: The

Congress would launch a national campaign around various issues including the demand for resignation of the SEBI chief and constituting a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the link between the market regulator SEBI and the Adani Group. This was decided in a meeting of AICC general secretaries, in-charges and Pradesh Congress Committee presidents, held here on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. "The shocking revelations of nexus between SEBI and Adani needs to a thorough investigation. The money of small investors in the stock market can't be jeopardised. Modi Govt must immediately seek the resignation of

SEBI chairperson and constitute a JPC in this regard", Kharge said in a message posted by him on the X

wrote. Kharge wrote that continued

attack on the Constitution by the

BJP and the demand for a caste cen-

sus would also promi-

nently feature in the

campaign. The

Congress would continue

its fight in demand-

ing legal guarantee of

MSP for farmers. The

Agnipath Scheme

imposed on our patriotic

youth must be scrapped,

Kharge wrote under-

scoring two more impor-

tant demands raised by

the party. "Train derail-

ments have become a

norm, as crores of pas-

sengers suffer. Climate

related disasters and collaps-

ing infrastructure is also a cause of con-

cern", the Congress chief said,

adding that a nationwide protest is

being planned by the party around

these demands.

**Money-laundering charges framed against TMC MP Saket Gokhale**

New Delhi, August 13: A special PMLA court in Ahmedabad has framed criminal charges, under the anti-money laundering law, against TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale on Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate said. The money laundering case against Gokhale stems from a Gujarat Police FIR in connection



with alleged misuse of money he had collected through crowd-funding. "The 1st Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ahmedabad (Rural) and designated Special Court PMLA, Ahmedabad, today framed criminal charges against Saket Gokhale, MP Rajya Sabha and national spokesperson of All India Trinamool Congress under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002..." the ED said in a statement. It said a charge sheet was filed against the 31-year-old MP under the anti-money laundering law last year. "Charges against him for the scheduled offence in the police case (Gujarat Police) had also been framed," it said. The special court had also rejected the application filed by Gokhale under Section 309 of the CrPC for keeping the proceedings under PMLA, 2002 in abeyance till the case of scheduled offence registered against him is decided by the court, the ED said. The state police had arrested Gokhale from Delhi in December 2022 in a case of alleged misuse of money he had collected through crowd-funding. The ED had informed the court that "huge amounts of money collected through crowd funding (by Gokhale) have been splurged on speculative share trading, wining and dining and other personal expenses which appear to be extravagant in nature". Gokhale, however, had denied that he misused these funds.

## News box

### Thiruvananthapuram: Woman helps husband abuse minor; couple held

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a bizarre crime, a woman facilitated her husband's abuse of a minor girl in their neighbourhood to save their marriage. The husband forced the woman to help him after he discovered her extramarital affair. The Attingal police on Monday arrested a young couple for sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl for the past four years, since April 2021.

The couple was booked under relevant sections of the Poiso Act and remanded to judicial custody. The man forced his wife to groom the girl for him to take vengeance, the police said. Goaded by her husband, the woman befriended the girl and brought her in touch with him.

"After discovering that the wife had an extramarital affair, her husband forced her to facilitate the abuse of the girl. He threatened her, saying that was the only way to save their marriage."

After being continually pressed by her husband, the woman agreed to cooperate with his scheme. She developed a deep friendship with the girl and lured her into the trap. She escorted the girl to their house and helped her husband abuse her on multiple occasions," a police officer said.

The harrowing episode had a telling effect on the girl's mental health. She became reticent and gloomy and the teachers of her school noticed the changes in her. It was on the insistence of one of her teachers that a counsellor was brought in to handle the matter. During the counselling session, the girl revealed her ordeal, following which the police was apprised of the happening. The couple confessed to their crime during questioning, police sources said.

The husband forced the woman to help him after he discovered her extramarital affair.

### Overcrowding: Passengers protest after three women faint on board Palaruvi Express

KOCHI. The issue of overcrowding in the trains operating within the state once again came to light on Monday after three women passengers fainted on board the Tirunelveli-Palakkad Palaruvi Express when the train made a 30-minute stop at Mulanthuruthy station to make way for the Vande Bharat service.

Of the three women who fainted, two were accommodated in the disabled coach while the other was offered a seat in the guard compartment. The disabled coach was later opened up to accommodate more female passengers, owing to overcrowding in the ladies' compartment.

Following the incident, disgruntled passengers staged a protest at Ernakulam Town railway station due to the frequent prolonged halts at Mulanthuruthy. "Out of the 14 coaches in the Palaruvi Express, only 10 are available for regular commuters, as the rest are reserved. This leads to severe overcrowding, especially during rush hours," says Ajay Vadakkedam, executive member of Friends on Rails.

Passengers also pointed out the lack of train services in the time slot between Palaruvi Express and Venad Express, leading to both trains operating beyond their maximum capacity. "Forget seating, it is a miracle if we get room to stand," he says.

According to Ajay, the passengers' main demand is to increase the number of coaches and consider halting the train at Tripunithura instead of Mulanthuruthy. They believe that introducing a MEMU service in the one-and-a-half-hour gap between Palaruvi Express and Venad Express would resolve the issue.

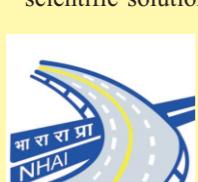
### Moolepadam Road to get 'push-through' culverts soon

KOCHI: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is set to commence the construction of a 'Push-Through' culvert on Moolepadam Road in Kalamassery. The initiative is expected to put an end to the long-standing issue of waterlogging that has been plaguing the area for over 30 years.

"The measure is part of efforts to find a scientific solution to the issue. The culvert

construction has been taken up after the PWD completed the renovation of the bylane road and a culvert at the Moolepadam Nagar.

This is the first of the three culverts that the NHAI is constructing on the highway stretch," said Industries Minister P Rajeeve, who visited the area on Monday. The construction of the culvert, being taken up at a cost of 3.5 crore, is expected to be completed in six months. Minister Rajeeve also highlighted the need for the construction of a railway culvert as the next step in achieving a comprehensive solution. "The water will seep into railway lines once the culvert on the national highway gets completed. We're hoping to get the nod of the railways at the earliest," the minister added.



# Greater Cochin Development Authority to undertake urgent repairs worth Rs 13.40L at Mundamveli flats

**The repairs aim to address issues such as building leaks and septic tank overflows.**

KOCHI. Following numerous complaints about the poor construction quality at the Mundamveli flat complex, where former residents of the P&T Colony have been relocated, the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) is set to undertake urgent repairs valued at Rs 13.40 lakh.

These repairs aim to address issues such as building leaks and septic tank overflows. "After our engineering team conducted inspections, we've outlined repair works worth Rs 13.40 lakh. The Thrissur District Labour Contract Society (TDLC), the original contractor, will carry out these repairs under the terms of the agreement, within the defect notification period," a senior GCDA official said.



A special GCDA team is scheduled to inspect the Mundamveli flat complex on Tuesday to finalise the repairs. "The work will address

leaks in the flats and toilets, add shades to open areas, and include the installation of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), pending final approval from the state government," the official added.

In parallel, GCDA has initiated proceedings to terminate the contract with TDLC due to substandard construction. "We've decided to terminate the contractor this week. However, they will still be required to perform the temporary repairs, while the GCDA will oversee the permanent solutions," the official said.

Additionally, the formation of a sub-committee comprising representatives from multiple agencies, including the GCDA and

Kochi Corporation, to inspect and report on the Mundamveli issues, is still pending. Meanwhile, Kochi Corporation plans to undertake tress work of the entire complex to prevent further leakage. "When we were relocated from the old P&T Colony in Kammatipadam in January, we had high hopes, but the current situation is far worse. Water leaks from upper-floor flats whenever those residents use their bathrooms, making it difficult for some of us to even cook," said Abhilash P Parameshwaran, president of the P&T Apartment Residents Association.

However, the most pressing issue is the overflowing septic tanks. "Currently, the GCDA clears the septic waste every third day, but this is not sustainable. We need a permanent solution," he added. The new flat complex at Mundamveli, constructed under the LIFE Mission project, houses 77 former residents of the P&T Colony in Kammatipadam.

### Win-win for beneficiaries, co-ops: Scores of women save part of Urimai Thogai in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI. Of the nearly 10 lakh beneficiaries receiving a monthly honorarium of Rs 1,000 through cooperative banks under the Kalaigar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme, about 60% of them have not been withdrawing the full amount within the same month, indicating a healthy trend among these women to save part of the money for future use, official sources from the cooperative department said.

According to officials, about 50,000 of these KMUT beneficiaries have opened recurring deposit (RD) accounts with their respective cooperative banks, with monthly savings ranging from Rs 300 to Rs 500. RDs offer higher interest rate than regular savings accounts. Cooperative banks are also offering 8% interest on RD accounts for KMUT beneficiaries, compared to the usual 7% offered to other RD account holders. A senior official said, "We found that nearly 60% of KMUT recipients did not withdraw their entitlements in full every month. A chunk of them withdrew funds partially once in two months or three to six months. So, we encouraged them to transfer these funds to RD accounts, which offer 8% interest compared to the 4% earned in savings accounts."

He further said accumulating funds in RD accounts over one or two years can provide significant financial support for these families.

'Interest on RD indirect benefit of govt scheme for households'

Especially for families that often borrow from usurers in emergencies, the official added.

"This (interest from RD accounts) has turned out to be an indirect benefit of the KMUT scheme for women households. We are planning to open two lakh RDs through KMUT recipients," he said.

The cooperative banks, owned by the state government, mobilise funds through public deposits and extend credit for agricultural and non-agricultural activities. The minimum deposit amount for RD accounts has been reduced to 100 per month.

## Where Shamsia bats life's curve balls with new determination

**A native of Thodupuzha, Shamsia suffers from brittle bone disease and is a wheelchair user but the disease hasn't doused her spirit to fight for her right to live a dignified life.**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Kerala and India as a whole is a challenging space for persons with disabilities. However, what happens if the system and the government agencies that should aid persons with disabilities turn villain? Shamsia Fathima Moideen has been facing such a situation over the years.

It is not as if she is ineligible! "I am a post-graduate degree holder in commerce and also have a Diploma in Computerised Professional Accounting Course (CPAC)," says Shamsia. A native of Thodupuzha, Shamsia suffers from brittle bone disease and is a wheelchair user. But the disease hasn't doused her spirit to fight for her right to live a dignified life. "I have 70 per cent disability. And the government does provide people with disabilities with job reservations. But if you are to take a survey of the government departments in the state, you won't find people like me working in any capacity," says Shamsia.

Shamsia's bad luck began when she applied for jobs advertised by the government departments. "I would clear the tests and then get the interview call letter. However, at the interview, they would tell me that I was not suitable for the job. The reason? I won't be able to go around and pick up files!" Another issue they highlighted was that if they were to appoint her, they would have to create another post — a helper to aid her in daily work. "It would be an additional financial burden on the company or department. Hence, they would reject me," she adds.

This was not a situation that she faced in a single job interview. "It happened many



times and over the years," says the 38-year-old whose never-say-die spirit has made her forge ahead by overcoming all the hurdles that life threw her way.

She says, "All of my acquaintances knew about my bitter experiences. One day, a friend called me up to inform about a job opportunity he came across on Instagram about a company. And he managed to get connect me to the owner of the firm. He even talked to the owner about me."

However, at that time work-from-home option was not available, she adds. "The owner promised that if an opportunity arrived, he would consider hiring me. So, my friend sent in my CV. After going through my CV, the CEO and MD of the

startup company Jaffar Sadique and Fazal Rehman, head of Operations (India), called me and offered me the job," says Shamsia. She recounts how her parents are her rock. "My father, who retired from the BSNL, used to drop me off at the school and pick me up every day. This continued even during my college days," she says. However, she says that the fact that her parents were government employees always backfired. "I was deemed ineligible for grants and even quota," she says adding that if this job hadn't come her way she was planning on launching a venture. Shamsia is now preparing for PSC test to land a government job.

## Seizure at airport leads sleuths to 'dense jungle' in Chennai's Kolathur

**In coordination with the WCCB and the wildlife warden, the sleuths managed to secure details of an address in Kolathur in connection with the case.**

CHENNAI. In one of the biggest crackdowns on wildlife trafficking in the city, officials from airport customs and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) along with the Tamil Nadu Wildlife Warden seized as many as 22 animals belonging to seven exotic species that reached Chennai airport from Thailand. The seizure further led them to a two-storey house in Kolathur where several hundreds of other animals were stored.

It all began when Mohammed Meera Sardharali arrived in Chennai on Air Asia flight FD 153 at 11.10 pm on Saturday. Air Customs sleuths interrogated him and in his checked-in bag, they found 22

exotic animals, including one Siamang Gibbon (monkey native to Indonesia and Thailand), two Sunda flying lemur (a bat-like mammal native to Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand), one red foot tortoise, five Indo-chinese box turtles, nine four-eyed turtles, one keeled box turtle, two green pythons and one white-lipped python.

Except for the lemur, all the other species are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act and the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).



Customs sleuths arrested Sardharali and a receiver named Mohammed Ithris from outside the airport. In most cases, this is where

the customs probe concludes.

However, in coordination with the WCCB and the wildlife warden, the sleuths managed to secure details of an address in Kolathur in connection with the case. They raided the house on Sunday, and to their utter shock, the two-storey house contained hundreds of native and exotic species of animals like star tortoise, Indian roofed turtle, tricarinate hill turtle, black pond turtle and royal ball pythons. No human was found in the house.

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Editor-in-Chief:  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : [www.thesikhtimes.in](http://www.thesikhtimes.in)

Email : [sikhtimesindia@gmail.com](mailto:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com)

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#### Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid

Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh

Advocate Manish Sharma

Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

## Tamil Nadu CM Stalin opens new fish market along Marina loop road, 332 stalls allocated

**Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J Kumaragurubaran told that there are requests to increase the number of stalls from 366 to 500 from vendors who claim to be left out.**

CHENNAI. Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday inaugurated a fish market on Marina Loop Road near Nochikuppam. The market, built at a cost of Rs 9.97 crore, comprises 366 stalls, of which 332 have been allocated to fish vendors, on the basis of an enumeration in 2019. Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner J Kumaragurubaran told TNIE that there are requests to increase the number of stalls from 366 to 500 from vendors who claim to be left out. An enumeration will be

conducted to assess the needs of any remaining vendors from the area. He added that corporation-owned land along the stretch could be utilised to construct a second complex if the need arises. Corporation officials also said that contracts are to be awarded for the operation and maintenance of the fish market.

The corporation took up the market's construction following a court directive to remove encroachments by fish vendors

along Marina Loop Road. The facility now includes a dedicated fish cleaning area and a parking lot that could accommodate more than 100 cars. It also has an effluent treatment plant, toilets, and drinking water facilities.

The corporation had been facing stiff opposition from the fisherfolk community ever since it initiated the construction of the new complex. Last year, a group of fishermen took to the streets with their boats noting that the structure was being

constructed without consultations with residents of the fishing hamlets and was not in line with their needs.

K. Bharathi, President of South Indian Fisheries Welfare Association told that a meeting will be held with people from the fishing villages in the area on Tuesday evening.

"Officially, we have not been informed what the rents are going to be. We will also discuss maintenance and allocation," Bharathi said.



## News box

## The New York Times says it will stop endorsing candidates in New York elections

The New York Times editorial board will stop endorsing candidates in New York elections, the paper's opinion editor said on Monday. The editorial board, which operates independently from the paper's newsroom, will continue to make endorsements in presidential elections. In a statement, Kathleen Kingsbury, head of opinion at The New York Times, did not explain a reason for the decision on the New York endorsements but said "Opinion will continue to offer perspective on the races, candidates and issues at stake." The paper reported the change would take effect immediately, with the editorial board not endorsing candidates in New York congressional or Senate races this fall, or in next year's mayoral race. Many newspapers have stopped endorsing political candidates in recent years for various reasons, including concerns over alienating readers as well as dwindling staff and resources, among other things.

An endorsement from the Times has been covetted by generations of politicians, particularly in New York City. The endorsement process has also often resulted in informative interviews between the editorial board and political candidates hoping to secure the slot. The Times has made an endorsement in every race for New York City mayor since 1897, the paper said.

## Resignations of Bangladeshi officials close to Hasina are legal: Muhammad Yunus

**DHAKA, Bangladesh.** The head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, says the high-profile resignations of authorities close to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders who organized protests against Hasina's government issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally ... all the steps were taken," Yunus, 83, told a group of journalists Sunday night.

The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days, part of a dramatic transformation after weeks of protests against a quota system for government jobs turned into a mass uprising. Hasina resigned and fled to India last week. Yunus said a key priority of the interim government is to restore the independence of the judiciary. He called former chief justice Obaidul Hassan "just a hangman." Syed Refaat Ahmed was appointed the new chief justice on Sunday after his name was proposed by student leaders of the protests. Students' vow to cleanse the political system of Hasina's rule, which they have denounced as autocratic. More than 300 people, including students and police officers, were killed in the weeks of violence. Yunus took over on Thursday after student leaders reached out. He said the students told him he was the only one they could trust. He said he accepted "because these are the guys who broke the local government," describing it as a "student-led revolution." "It's not my dream, it's their dream. So I'm kind of helping them to make it come true," Yunus said. The interim government is expected to announce a new election, but it is not clear when it will be held.

## Pakistan: Met Department predicts more monsoon rains from Aug 14

**ISLAMABAD.** The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted more monsoon rains in the country from August 14 to 18, Geo News reported.

The weather department has forecast rain showers accompanied by storms and lightning, adding that monsoon winds are expected to enter upper and middle areas of the country. The Met Office further said that the coastal areas of Sindh are anticipated to have a partially cloudy atmosphere as light rains may possibly occur. Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other areas of Punjab will likely experience rain from August 14 till August 18. According to Geo News, rain along with strong winds is expected in Murree, Galyat, Chakwal, Gujrat, Gujranwala. Apart from these areas, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Sahiwal, Jhang, Nankana Sahib, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narowal, Okara and Pakpattan will also experience rain showers. Additionally, the met office said that rain with thunder and lightning is likely in Kasur, Khushab and Sargodha. Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will experience rain showers with thunder and lightning from August 14 to 18. The weather office said that Chitral, Dir, Swat, Bajaur, Buner, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Hangu, Kurram, Orakzai, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan may also receive rain showers. The PMD has forecast a wetter-than-usual monsoon season for Pakistan even when waterlogging woes continued in several parts of the country. It remains one of the countries experts say is most vulnerable to extreme weather being spurred by climate change, Geo News reported.

**► The United States has confirmed that it would resume sales of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, as concerns over human rights in the kingdom's Yemen war give way to US hopes for it to play a role in resolving the conflict in Gaza.**

**Washington.** The United States confirmed Monday it would resume sales of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, as concerns over human rights in the kingdom's Yemen war give way to US hopes for it to play a role in resolving the conflict in Gaza. More than three years after imposing limits on human rights grounds over Saudi strikes in Yemen, the State Department said it would return to weapons sales "in regular order, with

appropriate congressional notification and consultation." Saudi Arabia has remained a close strategic partner of the United States, and we look forward to enhancing that partnership," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters. US President Joe Biden took office in 2021 pledging a new approach to Saudi Arabia that emphasized human rights, and immediately announced that the administration would only send "defensive" weaponry to the longtime US arms customer. The step came after thousands of civilians -- including children -- were estimated to be killed in Saudi-led airstrikes against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who have taken over much of Yemen. Geopolitical considerations have, however, changed markedly since then. The United Nations, with US support, brokered a truce in Yemen in early 2022 that has largely held. Since the truce, "there has not been a single Saudi airstrike into Yemen and cross-border fire from Yemen into Saudi Arabia has largely stopped," Patel said. "The Saudis



since that time have met their end of the deal, and we are prepared to meet ours," Patel said.

### Saudi role in Gaza war

It is now the United States, Britain and recently Israel that have been striking Houthi targets in Yemen, with Saudi Arabia content to watch from the sidelines. The Houthis have been firing missiles at commercial ships in the vital Red Sea in professed solidarity with Palestinians, who have been in the crosshairs of Israel since the October 7 attack by Hamas. In a bid to find a long-term solution, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has

repeatedly traveled to Saudi Arabia to discuss a package of US incentives if the kingdom recognizes Israel. Saudi Arabia has sought US security guarantees, a continued flow of weapons and potentially a civilian nuclear deal if it normalizes with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made normalization with Arab states a top goal and no prize would be as big as Saudi Arabia, guardian of Islam's two holiest sites. But Saudi Arabia says it cannot act without progress on a Palestinian state, an idea pushed by the Biden administration as it seeks a diplomatic way out of the Gaza conflict, but bitterly opposed by Netanyahu and his far-right allies. Representative Joaquin Castro, a progressive member of Biden's Democratic Party, said that Saudi Arabia still had a "troubling track record" on human rights. "I supported the Biden administration's initial decision to pause offensive arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and I hope to see compelling evidence that Saudi Arabia has changed its conduct," he said.

## Elon Musk claims over '200 million' tuned in to interview with Trump

**World** Global internet traffic on Elon Musk and Donald Trump's interview on X, formerly known as Twitter, went past 200 million.

"Almost all of the legacy media will trash the Trump conversation, thus driving total listeners probably past 200 million," Elon Musk posted on X. The interview, which was delayed by 45 minutes due to a technical glitch, went around for over two hours. As the interview proceeded, Trump's X handle "received over 200 million impressions," said Collin Rugg, co-owner of Trending Politics.

In a highly anticipated interview, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump shared a blend of grievances, personal attacks, and bold claims, while tech mogul Elon Musk occasionally offered subtle nods of encouragement.

Kicking off the conversation, Donald



Trump claimed that Joe Biden's exit from the US presidential election race was a "coup." "I beat Biden so badly in the debate that he was forced out of the race — one of the greatest debate performances ever. Biden's exit was a coup," the 78-year-old told the tech billionaire. Recalling the assassination bid

against him, the former US President told Musk that it was "not pleasant." "It was a hard hit. It was very, I guess you would say, surreal, but it was not surreal. You know, I was telling somebody, you have instances like this where you feel it's a surreal situation. And I never felt that way. I knew immediately that it was a bullet," Trump responded to Musk's question about what the shooting was "like for you." Earlier, ahead of the interview, Donald Trump returned to X, leaving his Truth Social behind for the first time in nearly a year.

He posted a collage of him and Musk with the caption, "Donald J. Trump and Elon Musk live on X with a footer, 'Monday 8 pm ET/5 pm PT,' with the former POTUS' winky caption, 'Enjoy!.'

## UN chief calls for Africa's permanent seat in UNSC, highlights under representation

**world.** During a recent high-level debate at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said that UNSC has failed to keep pace with a changing world.

Advocating for a permanent seat for Africa, Guterres said, "We cannot accept that the world's preeminent peace and security body lacks a permanent voice for a continent of well over a billion people" according to Al Jazeera.

He emphasised that Africa's perspectives on peace and security, both within the

continent and globally, are undervalued under the current arrangement.

The UNSC currently consists of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power — China, France, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The remaining ten seats are non-permanent, distributed regionally, with three allocated to African states. Meanwhile, the UN general assembly President Dennis Francis said, "The fact that Africa continues to be manifestly underrepresented on the

Security Council is simply wrong, offending as it does both the principles of equity and inclusion," he said.

"It runs counter to the principle of sovereign equality of states and calls for the urgency to reform this institution to reflect the world as it is now, rather than what it was nearly 80 years ago," Francis added. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) demanded in May that African nations take a larger role in addressing global security and development challenges.

## Israel keeps up strikes in Gaza as fears of wider conflict in West Asia grow

**Israel continued its offensive operations near Gaza's Khan Younis, which led to the death of 18 people and injuries to several others. The attack by Israel led to the evacuation of**

**Cairo, UPDATED** Israeli forces pressed on with operations near the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis on Monday amid an international push for a deal to halt fighting in Gaza and prevent a slide into a wider regional conflict with Iran and its proxies.

Palestinian medics said Israeli military strikes on Khan Younis on Monday killed at least 18 people and wounded several. Meanwhile, more families and displaced persons streamed out of areas threatened by new evacuation orders telling people to clear the area. Later, an Israeli airstrike killed five people in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City, and two others were killed in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, medics said. As fighting continued, Hamas reacted sceptically to the latest round of Egyptian and Qatari-brokered talks due on Thursday, saying it had seen no sign of movement from the Israeli side. The group said on Sunday that mediators must force Israel to accept a ceasefire proposal based on ideas from US President Joe Biden, which Hamas had accepted, "instead of pursuing further rounds of negotiations or new proposals that would provide cover for the occupation's aggression". Two sources close to Hamas told Reuters the group was convinced the

new call for talks was coordinated beforehand with Israel to deter responses from Iran and Hezbollah to the assassination of the group's chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran and a top Hezbollah leader in Lebanon. "It is a mild rejection you can say. Should Hamas receive a workable plan, an Israeli positive response to the proposal it had accepted, things may change, but so far Hamas believes Netanyahu isn't serious about reaching a deal," said one Palestinian official close to the mediation effort. Hamas' reaction to the talks came as preparations for a larger scale confrontation grew, with Washington ordering a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and the Abraham

Lincoln strike group accelerating its deployment to the region. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Barack Ravid, a normally well-sourced reporter for Axios News, reported on Twitter. Israel has been braced for a major attack since last month when a missile killed 12 youngsters in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Israel responded by killing a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut. A day after that operation, Haniyeh, the political leader of Hamas, was assassinated in Tehran, drawing Iranian vows of retaliation against Israel. The potential escalation underlined how far the Middle East has been thrown into turmoil by the Gaza war, now in its 11th month. Hamas-led attack on Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip on October 7 killed some 1,200 people, with more than 250 taken into captivity in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies, in one of the most devastating blows against Israel in its history. In response, Israeli forces have flattened Gaza, displaced most of the population and killed around 40,000 people, according to the Palestinian health ministry, in a war that has caused horror around the world.



new call for talks was coordinated beforehand with Israel to deter responses from Iran and Hezbollah to the assassination of the group's chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran and a top Hezbollah leader in Lebanon. "It is a mild rejection you can say. Should Hamas receive a workable plan, an Israeli positive response to the proposal it had accepted, things may change, but so far Hamas believes Netanyahu isn't serious about reaching a deal," said one Palestinian official close to the mediation effort. Hamas' reaction to the talks came as preparations for a larger scale confrontation grew, with Washington ordering a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and the Abraham

## Nearly 50,000 deaths reported in Europe in 2023 due to heat: Study

**According to a report by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), more than 47,000 people have died in Europe due to heat in 2023, with countries in the region's south hit the hardest.**

**Madrid.** More than 47,000 people died in Europe due to scorching temperatures in 2023, with countries in the region's south hit the hardest, according to a report by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) published on Monday.

Last year was the world's hottest on record.

As climate change continues to increase temperatures, Europeans live in the world's fastest-warming continent, facing growing health risks stemming from intense heat. The 2023 death toll - below the more than 60,000 heat-related deaths estimated for the previous year - would have been 80% higher without measures introduced in the past 20 years to help people adapt to rising temperatures, such as early warning systems and healthcare improvements, according to the report by the Spanish research centre. Researchers used death and temperature records from 35 European countries. They estimate that 47,690 died from causes related to high temperatures. Adjusting the data for population, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain were the countries with the highest mortality rates related to heat.



## News box

### Thiruvananthapuram: Journalists manhandled by staff at Secretariat

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** Media persons, who had entered the Secretariat premises to cover an event on Monday were allegedly manhandled by the staff. The journalists and crew belonging to the Media One channel were assaulted when they were recording a brawl between the canteen staff and the employees of the sub-treasury.

The media persons had entered the secretariat premises to cover the press meet of Local Self Government Minister M B Rajesh.

It was while returning that they spotted the fracas and tried to record it. The unruly staff threatened the journalists and manhandled them. The Kerala Union of Working Journalists (K U W J) and Thiruvananthapuram Press Club condemned the incident and called for strong action against those who assaulted the journalists. The media fraternity, meanwhile, filed a complaint with the Chief Minister seeking strong action.

### MCH to soon have multi-discipline research unit in Thiruvananthapuram



**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The health department has decided to set up a multi-disciplinary research unit with equipment such as digital PCR and stereo microscope at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram. The project, being implemented with the support of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is expected to improve pathogenic disease surveillance.

The district has reported eight confirmed cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis, and over 40 people are under observation. Earlier, the district reported an outbreak of cholera as well. Molecular-level testing facilities are key in identifying various pathogenic infections.

Thiruvananthapuram GMC principal Dr Linette J Morris said the new multi-research laboratory would enhance the diagnostic capabilities of the GMC. She, however, said the existing lab facilities are capable of diagnosing amoebic meningoencephalitis.

The project is expected to cost Rs 1.6 crore. The digital PCR unit, a high-performance liquid chromatography and stereo microscope with fluorescence would cost around Rs 40 lakh each.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) has announced plans to establish a diagnostic facility on its Thiruvananthapuram campus in response to a surge in amoebic meningoencephalitis cases in the state.

### CM Pinarayi Vijayan to inaugurate renovated Changampuzha Park on September 12

**KOCHI.** Come Onam, the Changampuzha Park, will be once again become a hive of activities after a gap of nearly three months. The park, which has been renovated at a cost of Rs 4.31 crore, will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on September 12.

"The CM has tentatively given the nod on September 12. However, we're waiting for the written confirmation which will take another three days," said K Chandran Pillai, Chairman, Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA). The agency gave approval to the week-long cultural fest, suggested by the Changampuzha Cultural Centre (CCC), which is managing the park. It also gave a nod to the wishlist of artists, proposed by the centre.

"We're trying to rope in renowned artists to the likes of Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna, actor Manju Warrier and mohiniyattam exponent Methil Devika," said CCC president P Prakash.

The festival will see various events -- dance, classical music, kathakali (including the play 'Duryodhanavadham'), stage plays, musical evening and cinema debate. The first event will be the stage play 'Olivile Ormakal' (Memories in Hiding), under the banner of Kerala People's Art Club (KPAC) on August 25. It will be held as a one-off event as part of the state conference of the 'Purogamanam Kala Sahitya Sangam'.

Set up in 1977, the Changampuzha Park has since grown as the city's cultural hub. Its renovation was carried out by the GCDA in collaboration with the Cochin Smartcity Mission Limited (CSML).

The work was originally scheduled to be completed in February 2024. Till May, the refurbishment work was held while simultaneously organising cultural events. However, the park was completely closed for the last three months to facilitate the quick completion of the work.

## NIRF ranking: Anna University first among state-funded institutions

**CHENNAI.** Anna University is the best state government funded university in the country as per the NIRF rankings 2024, released by the union education ministry on Monday. The rankings introduced three new categories: Open Universities, Skill Universities and State Public Universities (state government funded government universities) this year and in the introductory edition. Anna University is ranked as the top state public university in the country followed by Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and Savitribai Phule University, Pune. In fact, 10 state funded universities from Tamil Nadu are placed in the top 50 state public universities in the country. Bharathiar University is ranked 8th while University of Madras is ranked 12.

This is the sixth year that IIT-Madras has maintained its top position in both the 'overall' and 'engineering' categories in the rankings. It has been ranked first in the engineering category every year since the inception of the rankings in 2016. However, apart from this, the NIRF report has nothing new for the state to cheer about as there is not much improvement in the performance of the higher educational institutes in state. In the overall category, 18 institutions from

Tamil Nadu are in top 100 and in the universities category, 22 from the state feature in the top 100 list. The figures are similar to last year, but performance of the majority of the state funded universities have dropped this year.



There are nine state-funded universities in the top 100 university category, but only four of them have managed to better their performance. Anna University is ranked 13 this year against last year's 14, while University of Madras' ranking has improved to 39 against last year's 50.

Similarly, Bharathidasan University has bettered its ranking from 41 to 36 this year while Periyar University has moved from 59 to 56th position this year. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is ranked 7th, Vellore Institute of Technology is 10th while Sreeetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences and SRM Institute of Science and Technology have secured 11th and 12th rank respectively in the university category. However, the major disappointment is in the college category as Presidency College has dropped to 13th rank this year. For the last two years, Presidency was ranked as the third best college in the country.

In the innovation category, IIT-M is in the second rank while Anna University has secured the 10th position while in the research category Anna University's position has dropped to 17th rank against last year's 13.10 state unis in top 50 IIT-M has been ranked first in engineering category every year since the inception of NIRF rankings in 2016. Ten state funded universities have been placed in the top 50 state public universities in the country.

## Jail tunnel case: After 11 years, two get bail

**AHMEDABAD.** The Gujarat high court on Monday granted regular bail to two accused persons in the 2013 Sabarmati prison-break attempt case. They, along with 22 others, all accused in the 2008 serial blasts case, had allegedly dug a 213-foot tunnel to escape.

The two men who were granted bail on Monday — Nasir Ahmed Patel and Nadeem Sayeed — are among the three who were acquitted two years ago in the 2008 serial blasts case and arrested in the tunnel digging incident. The third person, Raziuddin Nasar from Hyderabad, was granted bail by the SC in Jan. After their acquittal in the serial blasts case, in which 49 were convicted, Patel and Sayeed applied for bail. However, their request was rejected by the court citing the gravity of the offence.

After filing successive bail pleas, their counsel Musaib Shaikh contended that the accused have been behind bars in the case for 11 years and there is no

possibility of a trial soon. This is because all the accused persons had been in jail and available for the trial, but certain legal tangles delayed it. Besides taking the long pendency of the trial and incarceration into consideration, Justice Nirzar Desai also considered the demand for benefit of parity as the apex court had granted regular bail to an accused in a similar case earlier this year. After the jailbreak effort came to the notice of the Sabarmati central jail authorities, Ranip police lodged an FIR and launched a probe. Twenty-four accused persons lodged in the jail in connection with the serial blasts case were charged for the jailbreak attempt and criminal conspiracy. At a later stage, the police invoked Section 130 of IPC for aiding the escape of 'state prisoners' or 'prisoners of war'. This made the case grave with a punishment provision of up to life imprisonment, and the case was shifted to a sessions court for trial. Invocation of this section was a bone

of contention, and a legal battle lasted for over seven years with the HC staying the trial until it rejected the prisoners' discharge pleas in 2022. MSID:

Delhi liquor policy corruption case: Supreme Court grants bail to Manish Sisodia The Supreme Court granted bail to AAP leader and former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases related to the scrapped Delhi liquor policy. Despite CBI and ED's pleas, the SC rejected imposing additional conditions on Sisodia.

SC grants Sisodia bail, says trial yet to even commence The Supreme Court granted bail to Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases tied to Delhi's excise policy changes. After 17 months in jail, the court cited the prolonged trial and violation of his fundamental rights. Conditions like surrendering his passport were imposed, rejecting prosecutorial claims of delay by Sisodia.

SC grants Sisodia bail, says trial yet to even commence The Supreme Court granted bail to Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases tied to Delhi's excise policy changes. After 17 months in jail, the court cited the prolonged trial and violation of his fundamental rights. Conditions like surrendering his passport were imposed, rejecting prosecutorial claims of delay by Sisodia.

Achievers Dialogue event at Techno India University celebrated Indian talents educated in the UK. Organized by NISAU UK, the British Council India, and the UK Government, it featured keynote addresses, employability masterclasses, and panel discussions. Dignitaries included Dr Andrew Flaming and actress Anasuya Sengupta. The event underscored strong India-UK educational ties.

700 migrants cross Channel to Britain in small boats Over 700 migrants in small boats crossed the Channel to Britain on Sunday, the highest single-day number since PM Keir Starmer took office. Two migrants died during the journey. Within days of taking power, Starmer scrapped a plan to deport migrants to Rwanda and pledged to combat people-smuggling gangs.

## Gujarat eyes Olympic boost from Britain

**GANDHINAGAR.** British high commissioner Lindy Cameron engaged in discussions with chief minister Bhupendra Patel on how Gujarat can benefit from Britain's expertise in organizing Olympic Games.

Cameron, who was on her first visit to Gujarat since assuming office, was warmly welcomed by the CM in Gandhinagar.

Patel highlighted Gujarat's leading role in the renewable energy sector, mentioning the construction of the world's largest hybrid energy park in Kutch and the state's growing global presence in emerging fields like green hydrogen.

Discussions also covered Gujarat's potential to benefit from Britain's expertise in cybersecurity, with details provided about the collaboration with National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in this domain. Meanwhile,

NFSU became a part of Interpol's Global Academy Network. NFSU officials said that the move will help enhance regional and global police capacity as well as foster collaboration among law enforcement agencies worldwide.

**PARIS OLYMPICS:** Britain's Keely Hodgkinson wins women's Olympic 800m gold Keely Hodgkinson, a 22-year-old British athlete, triumphed in the women's 800m final at the Paris Olympics, finishing in 1:56.72. Displaying remarkable composure, she maintained her lead throughout the race. Tsige Duguma of Ethiopia claimed silver, and Kenya's Mary Moraa took bronze, making Hodgkinson the third British woman to win gold in this event. 112302633

A celebration of Indian talents with educational expertise from the UK

## 1k units to stop ops for megaline check

**AHMEDABAD.** Around 1,000 units have been asked to halt operations for 57 hours from Thursday as the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) plans to check illegal connections in the megaline, which carries effluent from Naroda, Odhav and Vatva. Close to 1,100 units send their effluent discharge to Naroda, Odhav and Vatva common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) which is then redirected into the megaline.

The megaline association, which discovered 155 illegal



connections in the past two and a half years, has asked member CETPs and units to not send effluent from 10pm on Aug 15 to 7am on Aug 18.

The megaline was laid in 2002 to discharge effluent from industries in Naroda, Odhav and Vatva. A special purpose vehicle, the Ahmedabad Mega Clean Association (AMCA), was established with CETPs, the industries commissionerate and the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. The megaline has a capacity of 90 MLD and effluents account for 60 MLD.

Shailesh Patwari, advisor to AMCA, said, "There is a need to check illegal connections in the megaline. We have asked our member CETPs and their member units to stay away from operations for around 57 hours. AMC will also check if any CETP is

discharging effluent during this period. We have asked CETPs to carry out required maintenance as regular operations will be put on hold."

He added that they have seen a reduction in the megaline's outflow after AMC declared it would inspect it. "We inform AMC and GPCB whenever we catch an illegal connection in the megaline. We believe AMC will find all the illegal connections and resolve the matter," he said.

"Units that have effluent storage facilities can continue their operations, but CETPs will not accept effluents for two days. These 1,100 units produce chemicals worth around Rs 100 crore per day," AMCA officials said.

Google has 'killed' this hardware product after 10-plus years and over 100 million units sold Google has ended production

of its Chromecast streaming device after more than a decade and over 100 million units sold. The tech giant will replace it with a new Google TV Streamer, featuring enhanced capabilities. Google will continue providing software and security updates to recent Chromecast models for the time being.

Four prolific filmmakers unite for an anthology The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, the largest Indian cinema celebration outside India, announced "My Melbourne" as its opening film for the 15th edition. The festival, running from August 15-25, 2024, features a unique Indo-Australian collaboration with four Indian filmmakers exploring themes of race, gender, sexuality, and disability through short films set in Melbourne.

Discover Top Smartwatches with Call Function That Are the Future of Connectivity Smartwatches, mixing convenience with connectivity, have gained popularity. Several models, such as the Apple Watch SE (2nd Gen) and Amazfit Active 42mm Smartwatch, were highlighted for their unique features. They offer calling functions, fitness tracking, and various compatibility options. With detailed reviews, the article helps users choose a smartwatch that fits their needs without extensive research.

## Tamil Nadu: Groundwater comes to aid, kuruvai cultivated in 3.32 lakh acres in delta

### TIRUCHY/THANJAVUR/NAGAPATTINAM.

Despite uncertainty in getting enough Cauvery water, 3.32 lakh acres of kuruvai has been cultivated in delta districts this season, thanks to the availability of groundwater. While 1.30 lakh acres were covered under kuruvai in Thanjavur, highest among delta districts, 92,500 acres were covered in Tiruvarur. The total kuruvai area may go up after the final count, sources said.

The kuruvai target in both districts was achieved mostly by using groundwater for irrigation as the cut-off date for kuruvai sowing was fixed as July 31. As the water from Kallanai was released only on July 31, the Cauvery water could be used only as a supplementary source for irrigation in addition to the groundwater, official sources said.

In Tiruchy, against the target of 16,250 acres for kuruvai paddy set by the agriculture department, 16,105 acres have been covered. As the groundwater level has improved in the district following the copious flow of water in both the Cauvery and Kolliam rivers for nearly a week, officials said that they have surpassed the targeted area of cultivation this kuruvai season.

Since water was released from Mettur reservoir on its customary date of June 12 in 2023, farmers took up kuruvai cultivation in around 15,000 acres against the 13,000 acres covered during 2022 in Tiruchy district.

While several farmers cultivating kuruvai relied solely on filter point borewells, a considerable number of them from Anthanallur, Musiri, Thottiam and Tiruverumbur irrigate their paddy fields using 14 canals, including Uyyakondan, which receive water from Cauvery, officials said.

"Most of the kuruvai cultivation in Tiruchy is in areas primarily irrigated by filter point borewells. However, the rise in groundwater level due to recent flow in the rivers have encouraged the farmers who rely on Cauvery to undertake kuruvai this season, particularly from Anthanallur, Tiruverumbur, and Pullambadi.

"We have exceeded our target in these areas," joint director M Sakhivel said. In the case of Mayiladuthurai, the targeted area of 90,000 has been achieved. In Nagapattinam, farmers have raised kuruvai paddy in around 3,750 acres.

## Five SpiceJet flights, 17 others delayed

**AHMEDABAD.** Low-cost carrier SpiceJet faced major operational disruptions in its flight movements on Monday — five flight departures from Ahmedabad were delayed by three to seven hours, leaving passengers in a state of frenzy. The airline's Dubai-bound flight was delayed by seven hours, while domestic operations to Delhi, Ayodhya and Goa were also delayed.

SpiceJet operates two daily flights from Ahmedabad to Delhi, one of which was delayed by three hours and the other by six-and-a-half hours. The flights to Ayodhya and Goa were also delayed by at least seven hours. Similar was the situation for the arriving flights as well. "A Goa-Ahmedabad SpiceJet flight, scheduled to land at 10.35am, arrived by 5.19pm. Similarly, a Delhi-Ahmedabad flight scheduled to arrive here by 11.45am arrived by 6pm. The flight from Ayodhya was also delayed by about 7 hours," a source said.

Responding to TOI's query, a SpiceJet spokesperson attributed the delay in SpiceJet's flight movements to "operational issues (grounding of an aircraft)". "There was no commotion at the airport as most passengers were informed in advance. The early morning flight to Goa departed in the afternoon. Flight operations of the airline have been affected across India for the past couple of days," said a source.

Industry sources also cited non-payment of timely salaries to employees as a potential factor leading to operational challenges.

On Monday, 22 flights departing from Ahmedabad airport were delayed by at least one-and-a-half hours. These include domestic flights to Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Jaipur, Rajkot, Pune, Chennai, Aurangabad, Goa and Hyderabad. Meanwhile, an international flight to Sharjah was also delayed for departure.

According to FlightRadar24, an online aircraft tracking platform, 65% of the flight departures from the SVPI airport were delayed. Besides the reported delays in SpiceJet's operations, bad weather conditions across India hampered flight operations leading to rotational delays and delay in arrivals. As a result, some of the departures were also delayed. Fake bomb threat by passenger at Kochi airport delays flight to Thailand A fake bomb threat by a passenger during a security check at Cochin International Airport delayed a Thai Lion Air flight by two hours and led to the passenger's arrest. The Bomb Threat Assessment Committee conducted thorough inspections before declaring the threat non-specific. The flight departed after delays from the comprehensive checks. SpiceJet Mumbai airport dues: Flights won't be hit, says airline Mumbai airport and SpiceJet clashed on social media over the airline's pending dues. An advisory by the airport about disruptions in SpiceJet's operations was deleted. SpiceJet assured normal operations and attributed the issue to a minor financial matter, now resolved. The airline has faced delays in salary payments and has a low on-time performance rate at Mumbai airport. Minor financial matter; resolved SpiceJet says after Mumbai Airport warned of flight disruptions SpiceJet faced mounting financial troubles, struggling to raise funds and pay employees and stakeholders. Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) alerted about a potential flight disruption on Aug 13. The alert was later retracted as the issue was resolved.

## All on 'account' of cash in rural bank branch

A job in a rural branch of a bank offered a variety of interesting experiences. It was a privilege for me to reside in a village amidst simple, earnest and affectionate people during the early 1980s. Joining straight after college, a couple of months before the completion of my post-graduation degree, I felt secure and comfortable. Some of the situations that I encountered were quite amusing and they taught me a lot about human nature. I was the lone clerical staff member in that branch; the branch manager was the sole supervisory officer. The presence of both of us was necessary to run the branch. The manager used to send me, along with the subordinate staff, for remitting excess cash or receiving the required cash from a bigger branch after finishing the day's work in the afternoon. Once, when the cash box was being taken out of the branch, a local customer got suspicious and felt disturbed. He went on to question the manager as to how the hard-earned money deposited by the public was being 'irresponsibly' shifted elsewhere. The manager had to take pains to convince him that the public sector bank truly owed back the liability and would not default on payment to any customer. On another occasion, an unscheduled payment of Rs 25,000 was to be made to a customer around 11 am. Unfortunately, our opening cash balance was much below that, and more deposits were unlikely to be made in our branch that day. I suggested that the manager himself go to secure cash from the branch situated about 9 km away. He thought of a short cut. He called up a current



account holder, a wealthy textile merchant, and asked him if he could spare Rs 25,000 for the bank's urgent need. His idea was to make him deposit the amount in his account and the cash received thereby could be used to clear the payment pending at my counter.

The customer was kind enough to agree, and his son turned up within five minutes in front of me, not with the cash, but with a cheque signed by his father! I asked him why he had brought the cheque. Pat came the reply from the young son of the valued customer: 'My father has told me that the bank can take the required amount from his account.' The shocked manager thanked him with folded hands, and he left.

We realised that the innocent customer had misunderstood our communication. After having a hearty laugh, the manager hurriedly left along with the subordinate staff to get the cash from the nearby branch. And our requirement had now gone up due to the cheque that was staring us in the face.

### Ousted Bangladesh PM Hasina's 'forward-looking vision' needs to be 'tied down' by India so that the genie of religion-based politics does not derail bilateral ties.

DO the recent events in Bangladesh require the jettisoning of the strategic outcomes of the December 1971 war that led to the emergence of an independent nation? What are India's broader strategic incentives in the light of these changes? At least four major strategic outcomes of the war remain relevant for India at a time when international relations are in a period of unpredictable churn. First, the war proved the hollowness of the two-nation theory on the basis of which the British government partitioned India in August 1947. The war was triggered by the refusal of Pakistan to accept the outcome of its 1970 national elections, which had given the mandate to the Awami League, a political party based on linguistic rather than religious identity. The refusal of the Pakistani army to accept the swearing-in of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Muslim leader of the Awami League, as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, led to the political dismemberment of Pakistan through the war. The strategic outcome for India's interests in independent Bangladesh that emerged from East Pakistan has been acknowledged. The dramatic transformation of the India-Bangladesh bilateral relationship is credited to the 'forward-looking vision' of ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister and Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina. It is this vision that needs to be 'tied down' by India now to ensure that the genie of religion-based politics or terror does not derail India-Bangladesh relations. India has assiduously built up a range of interlocutors in Bangladesh, particularly during the past 15 years that Hasina was in power, to calibrate this effort in a coherent manner. Second, the war proved that India could act to intervene militarily in the former East Pakistan to create "conditions of stability and wellbeing which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations" (Article 56 of the UN Charter) between India and Bangladesh. India concluded its armed campaign on December 16, 1971, and withdrew its military forces from Bangladesh by March 12, 1972, illustrating how humanitarian intervention can work in practice in international relations. This strategic outcome has provided the foundation for the sustainable development of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and security spheres. Major outcomes in recent years, apart from frequent high-level political exchanges which have been of mutual benefit to the people of both

countries, illustrate this well. Connectivity projects have made Bangladesh an important strategic partner for India's links with its north-eastern states through Bangladesh. This has had an impact on India's Act East Policy as well. About \$8 billion in three lines of credit have been extended by India to Bangladesh in recent years for specific connectivity projects. These include the construction of the Akhaura-Agartala rail link, the dredging of inland waterways in Bangladesh and the

inspection of boundary pillars and joint boundary demarcation, including of riverine boundaries, which impact on security and migration issues.

In July 2014, the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) had awarded Bangladesh an area of 19,467 sq km, four-fifth of the total area of 25,602 sq km disputed maritime boundary with India in the Bay of Bengal. India's swift acceptance of the award provided the impetus for generating mutual trust and confidence with Bangladesh. It also led to the dynamic growth of regional cooperation, with the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) establishing its Secretariat in Dhaka.

Third, following the unconditional surrender of the Pakistani army on December 16, 1971, to India, strategic conditions were created in South Asia for asserting the primacy of resolving disputes through bilateral treaty-based negotiations. The Simla Agreement, signed in July 1972 as a bilateral treaty, was negotiated and signed by the elected governments of India and Pakistan. It was registered with the United Nations as a legal framework that can be invoked "before any organ of the United Nations" under Article 102 of the UN Charter.

This strategic outcome has served India's interests well. It has ensured that an undemocratic and unreformed UN Security Council has not succeeded in reopening the Kashmir issue after the war. India has prioritised applying bilateral frameworks to address its disputes with its neighbours rather than issues into ineffective multilateral

taking such frameworks.

Fourth, the war established India's ability to act invoking the principle of 'strategic autonomy'. India put its national interests above international attempts to dictate terms to India through the UN in December 1971. The most striking illustration of this was the rebuff to the display of a nuclear-armed maritime force by the USS Enterprise in the Bay of Bengal to try and prevent India from achieving its objectives in the war.

At a time when international relations are being increasingly subjected to the dictates of major military powers, including the imposition of unilateral sanctions, 'strategic autonomy' is a strategic outcome of the 1971 war that India has a strong incentive to build upon as it transitions into a major power.



## Hindenburg at it again

Market regulator SEBI's credibility at stake



transfer the case to a special investigation team. The faith reposed in SEBI by the apex court had raised eyebrows;

after all, had the court trusted the board unquestioningly all along, why would it have set up a separate expert panel to look into regulatory lapses in the wake of Hindenburg's January 2023 report?

At stake here is SEBI's credibility, even as knives are again out in the political arena. The Congress has reiterated its demand for a joint parliamentary committee to investigate the scam in its entirety. Repeatedly accused of going the extra mile for leading corporates, the government needs to do much better than to just allege that the main Opposition party and Hindenburg are in cahoots. Transparency is a must to clear the air; the impression that SEBI is reluctant to complete its probe in all respects ought to be dispelled. Hindenburg might not be completely above board itself, but its claims cannot be conveniently brushed aside; they need to be countered with indisputable facts. The sooner the better, failing which the government's pro-investor push will suffer a big jolt.

## Time running out to preserve cultural heritage of Punjab

Cultural heritage forms the bedrock of our collective identity. It connects us to our past, enriches our present and influences our future.

WHY has Punjab not been able to use its cultural heritage to its advantage and boost its economy? Is it because of our disconnect with our heritage or a lack of vision on the part of successive governments?

Punjab's heritage can become a major source of attraction for tourists from all over the world if the right steps are taken at the right time. Several invaders passed through Punjab to reach the rest of India. Many wars were fought on this land. This is the land of the Sikh Gurus, who made sacrifices for the cause of humanity. Regarded as the food bowl of India, the state made a significant contribution to the struggle for Independence and suffered the most during Partition.

The cultural heritage of Punjab is so rich that many of its gems are yet to be studied by scholars and historians. Unfortunately, several heritage structures in the state are in a pathetic state. And if efforts are not initiated immediately to conserve or restore them, they may be irretrievably damaged. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and globalisation, the preservation of cultural heritage has become both more challenging and more crucial than ever. Cultural heritage — encompassing tangible assets like monuments, artefacts and sites as well as intangible aspects such as traditions and languages — forms the bedrock of our collective identity. It connects us to our past, enriches our present and influences our future. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt contemporary advancements to ensure the preservation of heritage for future generations. Cultural heritage is not just a repository of history but a living embodiment of community values, beliefs and experiences. It fosters a sense of belonging and serves as a source of inspiration. Further, it significantly contributes to economic development through tourism and mass

media, enhancing social cohesion and intercultural dialogue.

The integration of contemporary advancements in cultural heritage is not just about adopting new technologies but also promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and inclusive practices. By bringing together experts from various fields, such as archaeology, material science and digital technology, we can develop a holistic approach to preservation. Besides, it is crucial to address ethical considerations to make sure that digital and technological interventions respect the authenticity and significance of cultural heritage. By balancing innovations with traditions, we can create sustainable strategies that honour our past while embracing the future.

The need of the hour is to integrate modern elements thoughtfully into traditional settings. Modern architecture can be designed to complement historical landmarks without overshadowing them. Incorporate modern amenities and infrastructure into historical areas in a way that suits the existing architecture and ambience. This could be done using traditional building materials or designs in a new construction. Besides, we must preserve and restore our older buildings, which facilitate natural cooling in the torrid heat of the northern plains.

It is imperative to identify and protect key historical sites that represent the legacy of our past. There is a need to restore and maintain them by using modern techniques. Further, we should consider the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings for contemporary purposes, such as museums, cultural centres or boutique hotels. This can breathe new life into historical structures while preserving their heritage



value. We need to have a sense of pride in our culture and heritage. And we should acknowledge the importance of preserving cultural heritage. Traditions, customs, languages and historical sites often embody the identity and values of a community or society. Punjab has the grit to overcome all the challenges and bring about a positive change. Societies evolve, and modernisation often brings progress in terms of technology, infrastructure, healthcare and education facilities. We should embrace these advancements to improve the quality of life and meet the current challenges. Frame policies that balance development goals with heritage preservation. This might take the form of zoning laws, heritage protection regulations and incentives for the adaptive reuse of historical buildings. Implement modernisation projects that are sustainable and environment-friendly. And use green technologies and practices to minimise the impact on heritage sites and their surroundings. Letting local communities have a say in decisions related to the

development of these sites will be a step in the right direction. Their inputs can ensure that modernisation efforts are made while taking into consideration our cultural values and traditions. The impact of modernisation on heritage sites and traditions will have to be regularly assessed. Policies and practices must be adjusted to maintain balance. It can help society make sure that modernisation enhances our cultural heritage instead of diminishing it. Notably, the originality of the Jallianwala Bagh got compromised to an extent during the restoration of the memorial three years ago.

The government must come up with an awareness campaign that targets students in schools and colleges. Organising events that celebrate local traditions and culture at educational institutions will not only help preserve our heritage but also encourage tourism and economic development.

By taking these measures, society can navigate the complex interplay between heritage and modernisation, so that both aspects contribute to a vibrant and sustainable future. Maintaining a balance is crucial for preserving cultural identity while progressing with the times. Volunteers of INTACH, working at the state and district levels, possess expertise in preservation and conservation. The government must take full advantage of it.

Preserving our cultural heritage in the face of modern challenges requires a forward-thinking approach that harnesses contemporary advancements. By embracing digital technologies, data analytics, material science and community engagement, we can protect and celebrate our shared heritage. It is our collective responsibility to safeguard the cultural treasures that define us.

**1. Inspired you to be the real you:**

Do you ever wonder why 99% of your workforce puts up facades of themselves at work that are very different from who they are in their personal lives? Why is there this dichotomy? Your energies should be focused on the market, your employer's competition, managing your time well, the opportunities and risks at work not within yourself. When you work for an organisation that connects with your authentic self, you not only do your best, but also inspire others around you.

**2. Focuses on a mission close to your heart:**

The best jobs allow you to do work you believe in and enjoy. Successful start-ups in particular are often characterised by the collaboration of inspired individuals who could not imagine doing any other work. This type of environment allows people who are creatively oriented and talented to work with organisations that match their passion and push the boundaries of technology and innovation.

**3. Honours merit over tenure; ideas over hierarchy:**

**At every stage in your career, the decision of where to work is in many ways life-shaping beyond just the immediate tangible financial impact. Unfortunately, not many realise this until well into their career. Where you work is a choice of how and on what you want to spend your time and what you want to receive in return for that invaluable investment. While ultimately where to work is each individual's choice based on their priority and needs, in my opinion, there are five key criteria to look for in a company.**

Apple's legendary co-founder firmly believed companies that want to retain great employees have to let them make decisions. Enlightened leadership teams ask employees to contribute ideas because they recognise managers and executives don't have all the answers. Leaders should also encourage debate

and action on ideas. In 2006, IBM invited 150,000 employees, family members, business partners and clients to an online brainstorming session called 'Innovation Jam'. Participants from 104 countries responded, and their ideas led to \$100 million in investments by IBM on suggested projects.

**4. Offers prospects to continue****your educational journey:**

Look for an environment where you can challenge the status quo, even unlearn past assumptions and misplaced beliefs, and ultimately learn a set of new skills and principles that enable you to continuously stretch and raise the bar for yourself.

**5. Provides a pace to enjoy the journey:**

Individuals with clear goals achieve far more in a given time frame than those who lack such clarity



The basic sequence for success in different walks of life begins with desire, backed by sincere efforts and goal directed actions. A desire to do something gives us the intent, plan and purpose, but it is the 'will' that activates and energises us to act and keep pursuing till we achieve our desired goal.

In our journey, even if

and will power is to be backed by an intense sense of commitment, seriousness and sincerity to achieve the set goals. By committing ourselves to accomplish the goals, we take the most crucial and decisive step in our pursuit for excellence. The power of thoughts backed by commitment and determination transforms dreams into reality. It is dedication to work for well-defined goals that helps in taking steps towards excellence and achieving success. Thus, success is for those who use the power of thought, will power and commitment in pursuit of their well-defined goals.

we fail to achieve the ultimate goal, what matter the most are the lessons learnt, enjoyment derived while working and determination to keep working towards the goal. The power of commitment

should be well-defined.

Clarity about goals constitutes around 80 per cent of success, achievement and joy in life. It is lack of clarity, which results in frustration and underachievement. Individuals with clear, written goals, achieve far more in a given time frame than those who lack such clarity. The power of thought and will, if channelised intentionally in a focused manner, generates an abundant flow of energy to overcome and respond to challenges, obstacles and difficulties that come in the way of achievement of our goals.

# 5 characteristics of a great Workplace



With mobile phones, a constantly connected world, a growing number of virtual offices and global teams that make collaborating across time zones critical to success, the boundaries between work and home life are now blurred. A good organisation will allow employees to take from this the benefits and leave behind the disadvantages. You want to be able to transition seamlessly between work and home life without it seeming like you have a strained wall of defined separation from your "home you" and your "work you".

While every individual needs to strive hard to hit the upper echelon of their potential, the path to get there should always be enjoyable and fun or it will always feel like hard work and make it even more difficult to achieve. A workplace that offers you the environment where the journey is just as exciting as the destination is a must in my book.



## The key to successs

Individuals with clear goals achieve far more in a given time frame than those who lack such clarity



## Tips on how to impress your mom-in-law

**1. Do your homework first:**

Ask your fiance what she likes and dislikes. What are her hobbies and how she likes to unwind. Once you know what kind of a person she is and what really makes her happy, then it becomes easy for you to break the ice even in the most difficult situation.

**2. Dress to impress:**

Whether you notice or not but your mother-in-law will notice the way you have dressed. We aren't asking you to dress like a princess but clothes that aren't ironed or clothes that are out of place and doesn't suit the occasion might not go down well with her. So put that little extra time and dress well so that she's impressed.



So he proposes you in the most romantic way ever and you have said a 'yes.' And with that you have started to think, plan and fix a lot of things in order to get the ball rolling for your D-day.

Before and after marriage meet her often and spend time with her. Try and make a bond just like the one you shared with your mom.

**5. Be open in communication:**

Always keep the door of communication open when talking with her. Talk her as much as possible and keep her updated about what's going on in your life.

**3. Seek her advice:**

Yes, you are an independent woman and have taken all your life decisions on your own, but there's no harm in taking your mom-in-law's advice or suggestions. After all she has seen the world more than you and who knows her advice can help you to make a better decision.

**4. Meet her often:**

# In New Strategy, Manipur Chief Minister Looks To Redraw District Boundaries, End "Political Convenience"



**Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in the state assembly on Monday blamed past governments for leaving behind a mess by slicing up districts to create new ones for "political convenience", and not "administrative convenience"**

**Imphal/Guahati/New Delhi.** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has indicated the state government will work with all communities and civil society organisations to discuss redrawing district boundaries based on "administrative convenience" and not on "ethnic lines".

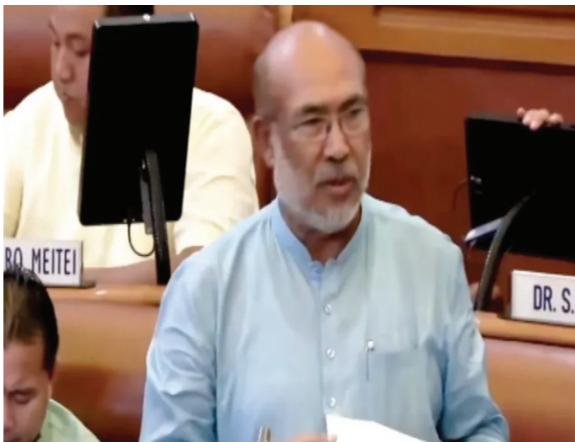
Mr Singh in the state assembly on Monday blamed past governments for leaving behind a mess by slicing up districts to create new ones for "political convenience", and not "administrative convenience".

"Everyone keeps saying what's happened has happened. I say we should discuss what's happened and correct mistakes so that the future generations don't suffer. The districts created in the name of administrative convenience, for example, Sadar Hills and Kangpokpi, it reaches all the way to Bishnupur. If a fire or some incident happens, how are the fire officers or the police going to

reach Bishnupur from Kangpokpi?" Mr Singh said in the house. "The districts were created not for administrative convenience, but for political convenience."

He called it "most unfortunate" that there's an assumption in Manipur that districts have been created based on ethnic lines, "as if one district has been created for a particular community and given to them, forgetting what India is all about, what Manipur is all about."

The Kuki-dominant Kangpokpi district headquarters lies 45 km to the north of the state capital Imphal. Kangpokpi district was created in 2016. The district's long, inverted U-shaped area surrounds Imphal valley from the north, east and west, leaving the south open till it reaches Bishnupur district in the valley, 75 km away. In the hills on the flank of Bishnupur, Kangpokpi also



joins with another Kuki-dominated district, Churachandpur, which lies south of Bishnupur. The Manipur Chief Minister's comment that "political convenience" led to drawing district boundaries on "ethnic lines"

was seen as one example referring to the expansion of Kangpokpi district - and the troubles the state is facing today, Manipur BJP sources said.

"This (ethnic division) fault has existed for a long time, and it will not be easy to correct it today. Our inability to proudly say we, together, are the people of Manipur - Manipuri Tangkhul, Manipuri Meitei, Manipuri Pangal, Manipuri Thadou or Manipuri Paité - is a serious, chronic disease. It will take time to cure this, but cure we must," Mr Singh said in the assembly.

"To rework district boundaries based on administrative convenience and not on ethnic lines would be a good step... It seems some have started thinking they are kings of their districts. Despite living together for

generations, suddenly there are complaints about taking 'tax', about being checked or stopped while entering a district... these are not compatible with the democratic set-up of the country... So we need reorganisation of the districts, for which we should sit together and discuss," the Chief Minister, who belongs to the ruling BJP, said in the assembly.

Mr Singh's proposal, however, has been criticised by some of the 10 MLAs from the Kuki tribes and also the Opposition Congress as a way to divert attention from more immediate issues linked to the ethnic violence between the Meitei community and the Kuki tribes. The 10 Kuki MLAs are not attending the assembly session. Manipur Congress unit leader Lamthiathang Haokip in a post on X reminded the Chief Minister that he was a part of the same government when the districts were created.

**Delhi Lt Governor's instructions to implement new criminal laws with transparency**

**Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena conducted a review meeting on the implementation of three new criminal legislations in the national capital. He instructed the officials to implement the new criminal law with transparency.**



**New Delhi.** Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena conducted a review meeting on the implementation of three new criminal legislations in the national capital, stressing a collaborative and streamlined approach to ensure justice and transparency across all departments.

Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot attended the meeting, while Law Minister Atishi was absent due to a family medical emergency. LG Saxena instructed officials to set specific timelines for ongoing projects related to the new laws.

The discussions in the meeting included training health department nodal officers for the MedLeaPR portal, with all central government hospitals in Delhi now onboarded with the portal. MedLeaPR is a web-based reporting system to capture the Medico-Legal Report (MLR) and Post-Mortem Report (PMR) for the Directorate of Health Services in Delhi. A total of 186 Delhi government and 32 Central government doctors are registered, generating 81 reports on the portal.

The meeting also covered the procurement of mobile forensic vans, infrastructure for video conferencing in all 691 courts in Delhi, and the filling of 165 junior scientific assistant vacancies at crime scenes, with a target completion date of September 21. Besides, recruitment rules for vacant posts in the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and Directorate of Prosecutions were discussed, along with plans for a new building for the Directorate. The three legislations — Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita (BNS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — which replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act, have been in effect since July 1.

## 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Caller Tune Back To Encourage People To Hoist Tricolour

**New Delhi.** As India prepares to celebrate its 78th Independence Day, come August 15, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' caller tune is back. To encourage more people to hoist the 'Tricolour', the iconic caller tune greets us whenever we place a phone call. Similar campaigns were run in the past few years as well.

Launched under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2022, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign urges people to take the national flag home and hoist it. The third edition of the campaign is being celebrated from August 9 to 15 this year to mark the 78th Independence Day. In the past few years, people were greeted with the message of sharing their photographs with the 'Tricolour' on the official Har Ghar Tiranga website, whenever they made a phone call. "As this year's Independence Day approaches, let's again make #HarGharTiranga a memorable mass movement. I am changing my profile picture and I urge you all to join me in celebrating our Tricolour by doing the same. And yes, do share your selfies on harghartiranga.com," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on social media site X on August 9. On Tuesday, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar flagged off a 'Tiranga Bike Rally' from the Bharat Mandapam in the national capital. He said that the campaign showed India's commitment towards 'Viksit Bharat', adding it's "India's century".

The bike rally started from the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan and reached the Major Dhyani Chand Stadium, passing through India Gate. Those who wish to take part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign can raise the national flag atop their home and share a selfie with it on the website harghartiranga.com.

To download the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' certificate, open the "click to participate" tab on the official website and fill in the required details.

## "He's So Powerful...": Principal Sent On Leave In Doctor Rape-Murder Case

**Kolkata.** The Calcutta High Court has ordered Dr Sandip Ghosh, the former head of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital - where a doctor was raped and murdered last week - to go on long leave. Dr Ghosh - under scrutiny for comments seen as victim-blaming and failing to ensure staff safety - resigned Monday, declaring "the girl who died was like my daughter... as a parent, I am resigning", but was re-appointed as Principal of the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital 24 hours later.

The court, which also asked tough questions of the state's handling of this horrific crime, including keeping the doctor's parents waiting for information and possibly even protecting Dr Ghosh, observed the tragic circumstances of the woman's death did not seem to have much affected him. "The Principal is the guardian of all doctors working there... if he doesn't show any empathy who will show? He should be at home not working anywhere..." a division bench led by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam said, also wondering how it happens that a government lawyer is arguing for Dr Ghosh. "If the principal stepped down owing 'moral responsibility', (it is) rather serious that he is rewarded, within 12 hours, with another appointment. This Principal will not function... let him go on long leave. Otherwise we pass an order," the court said when told Dr Ghosh had been posted elsewhere.

"Why Do You Protect Him..."

The High Court this morning was hearing a clutch of petitions, including one by the doctor's parents seeking a court-monitored probe into their daughter's death. The parents claimed gross insensitivity in state authorities' handling of the aftermath of the crime, arguing, "We were told at 9.30 pm she was unwell... then (told) she committed suicide. The hospital did not allow me to see my daughter." The parents sought impleading of Dr Ghosh, which turned the court's attention on him. "He was the principal... he cannot shrug off the responsibility and must be impleaded as accused," they argued. "No man is above the law..." the court thundered, "How did he step down and then be rewarded with another responsibility?" The court, which demanded the police's case diary by 2 pm, also directed Dr Ghosh's resignation letter be filed, observing, "... we want to see what he has written."

## "Accept Apology, However...": Top Court Relief For Ramdev, And A Warning

**New Delhi.** Yoga guru Ramdev and his aide Balakrishna today got some relief in a misleading ads case related to Patanjali products after the Supreme Court closed contempt proceedings against them. The court, however, warned them against violating court orders in the future.

The bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Sandeep Mehta said in their order that the court accepts the apology of Ramdev and Balakrishna. "However, we expressly and strictly warn them that they will not do any thing in violation of the court orders like it has happened earlier in this case. We have come down heavily and we warn that this should not be done in future," the order said.

"The affidavits tendered before this court should be done with full truth. We close the contempt proceedings initiated against the party with the warning of



adhering to the orders passed by this court in this case. The notice issued to present contemnor also stands discharge and closed," the court added.

The Supreme Court had come down heavily on the Yoga guru and his aide for misleading ads of Patanjali products.

The matter dates back to the Covid years. Patanjali launched a drug, Coronil, in 2021 and Ramdev described it as the "first evidence-based medicine for

COVID-19". It also claimed that Coronil had certification from WHO. Indian Medical Association disputed this claim, saying it was a "blatant lie".

In a subsequent video, Ramdev was heard saying that allopathy was a "stupid and bankrupt science". The IMA sent a legal notice to him and sought an apology. Patanjali Yogpeeth responded that Ramdev was reading out from a forwarded WhatsApp message and has no ill-will against modern science. Then, in August 2022, IMA moved a petition against Patanjali after it published an advertisement in newspapers titled 'Misconceptions Spread By Allopathy: Save Yourself And The Country From The Misconceptions Spread By Pharma And Medical Industry'. The ad claimed that Patanjali drugs had cured people of diabetes, high blood pressure, thyroid, liver cirrhosis, arthritis and asthma.

## Call To Kolkata Doctor's Family Said She Died By Suicide. Police Probe Why

**Kolkata.** The father of the 31-year-old doctor, who was raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, got a phone call Friday morning. The caller said his daughter had died by suicide. When he rushed to the hospital, he learnt that his daughter's body was found in the seminar hall, half-clothed and with bruises. The investigation later revealed that the doctor had been raped and murdered.

The Assistant Superintendent of chest medicine department called and said, 'your daughter died by suicide'. And then we saw the reality when we reached the hospital," the woman's father told the media, adding that the official did not name himself during the call. The father's remarks have triggered allegations that the college administration attempted a cover-up



after the woman doctor's body was found. According to the probe, she had dinner on Thursday night with four other colleagues on night duty. Police are also speaking to them, among others, to get to the bottom of the matter.

Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer who frequented the hospital, has been arrested and police said if more

culprits are involved, they would be taken into custody over the next four-five days.

**Top Doctors Summoned**

The Assistant Superintendent and Head of the Chest Medicine wing of the state-run hospital have been summoned to find out why the woman's family were told she died by suicide. The woman's mother has told the media that even after they reached the hospital, they were not allowed to see the body. "I fell at their feet, begging them to let me see my daughter. But they did not. No one understands what I went through. They let us see her at 2 pm."

The family members have told the media that the victim called her mother that night and told her to have dinner. "We were planning her wedding next year," a relative said.

## PM Modi's Pakistani sister all set to tie him rakhi in Delhi this Raksha Bandhan

### Qamar Sheikh has been tying 'rakhis' on PM Narendra Modi's wrist for over two decades. This year she is ready to do it for the 30th time.

**Ahmedabad.** Qamar Sheikh, who has been adorning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wrist with a 'rakhi' for over two decades, is once again preparing to travel to Delhi to do the same for Raksha Bandhan on Monday, August 19. This will be the 30th consecutive year when



Sheikh will tie a rakhi to the Prime Minister's wrist. Qamar Sheikh was born into a Muslim family in Karachi and was married to Mohsin Sheikh in 1981. Since then, she migrated and settled in India. Sheikh has been in touch with PM Modi for the last 35 years, since 1990.

She considers PM Modi her brother, and he reciprocates the sentiment.

Every year for Raksha Bandhan, Sheikh makes rakhi for him with her own hands and the PM gets it tied on his wrist by her 'sister'.

Raksha Bandhan is on Monday, August 19.

Naturally, Sheikh has already prepared 8 to 10 Rakhis. She told Aaj Tak she does not buy rakhis from the market. "I make many Rakhis with my own hands every year before Raksha Bandhan and in the end I tie the Rakhi that I like the most on his wrist," she added. For the 30th year of this ritual, Sheikh said she is preparing something special.

"The rakhi I have prepared this year, I have

too, Sheikh hopes for an invitation for the Raksha Bandhan celebrations.

As a sister, she said, she is praying for the good health of her brother. She added that PM Modi will continue the public welfare work he has done for the last decade. Sheikh recalled meeting PM Modi for the first time in 1990 through the late Dr. Swaroop Singh, who was the then Governor of Gujarat.

She went to meet Singh who was leaving the airport. Narendra Modi was also present there at that time. Singh had then told Narendra Modi that he considered Kamar Sheikh his daughter. Hearing this, PM Modi replied saying that from that onwards Kamar Sheikh would be his sister. "Since then, I have been tying Rakhi to him at the festival of Raksha Bandhan," said Sheikh. Sheikh reminisces how when she first met him, PM Modi was only a worker of the



## 5 signs you are working in a happy Workplace

### Communication's the word:

In a happy workplace, communication is free flowing. You don't feel that the atmosphere is prison/war room like. There's a sense of openness and willingness to share information. And most importantly everybody knows (from top to the bottom) what's happening on the work front.

**A** happy and healthy marital trust each other is the first and foremost condition - to trust each other. People want to feel safe and confident with the elements which it maintains. The belief that someone is always with you and his behavior will not hurt you. Is believed to be the most important long-term relationships.

### A - The second focus

People who spend long experience of married life that now is being given too much emphasis on autonomy and independence. Live with each other - talk is about to get up, but this dependence should not be negative polarity. In such cases they do not understand is no harm in joining them. He felt that the balance of power among themselves - dependent and - other than taking care of the remains.

### Living with each

Maintaining long term relationships, couples - would feel all the pleasures of being with each other. His Abhirucan and activities are slightly different than usual and had a - to strengthen ties with other partners felt. Even when they live together, one - has considerable interest in the other.

### vein of experience Sey

The texture is the most important part of the history of the partnership relationships. Couples sharing the same experiences also refers to the future. have increased. To face the future with confidence power. - Second confidence grows and builds strong relationships.

### Consider yourself lucky

Many couples said their relationships remain major roles such luck. She also felt themselves lucky that they found such a partner with which they can move forward. The journey of life they themselves fortunate to be relatively easy experience.

### Ability wife welcome

Some men came to the position that his wife suddenly started



Garden  
are occupied Life..

going to work, because the wife felt the need to raise revenue. Leigh was a great event that some of these people, because they were accustomed to seeing the family as the axis. Yet while admitting he needs a creative twist positions and wife welcomed the move. People happy married life has spent so long that he felt the need to change it, he felt no fear. They change as the end of the relationship, not just seen as a situation that was overcome, the strength of the relationship was the most important for them.

### Live with differences

You are a supporter of the party and supporters of the other spouse. He can not change his political views, you must learn to live with these differences. According to psychologists, "such a little - little things are wrangling Do not burn bridges with your sweat and time. Entangled in the same things you can win jointly. This does not mean that you ignore the important issues. The intent is simply to accept the differences as essential truth of life, the habit of living with them. Do not marry the person with whom one can not live without you, but the person with whom you can live with."

### The notion of stability

They know that the household is the same as driving, sitting silently on the other is not. He is trying his behalf.

Are you working in a happy space? Do you look forward to go back to work on a Monday? There are five simple ways to know that you are working in a happy space

### Involved professionals:

Everybody feels that he/she is a part of the team. And that every single member of the team counts in the larger picture and they are not just cog in the wheels. When people feel involved in their work place, they are naturally happy and ultimately this makes it a happy work zone.

### Opportunities to grow:

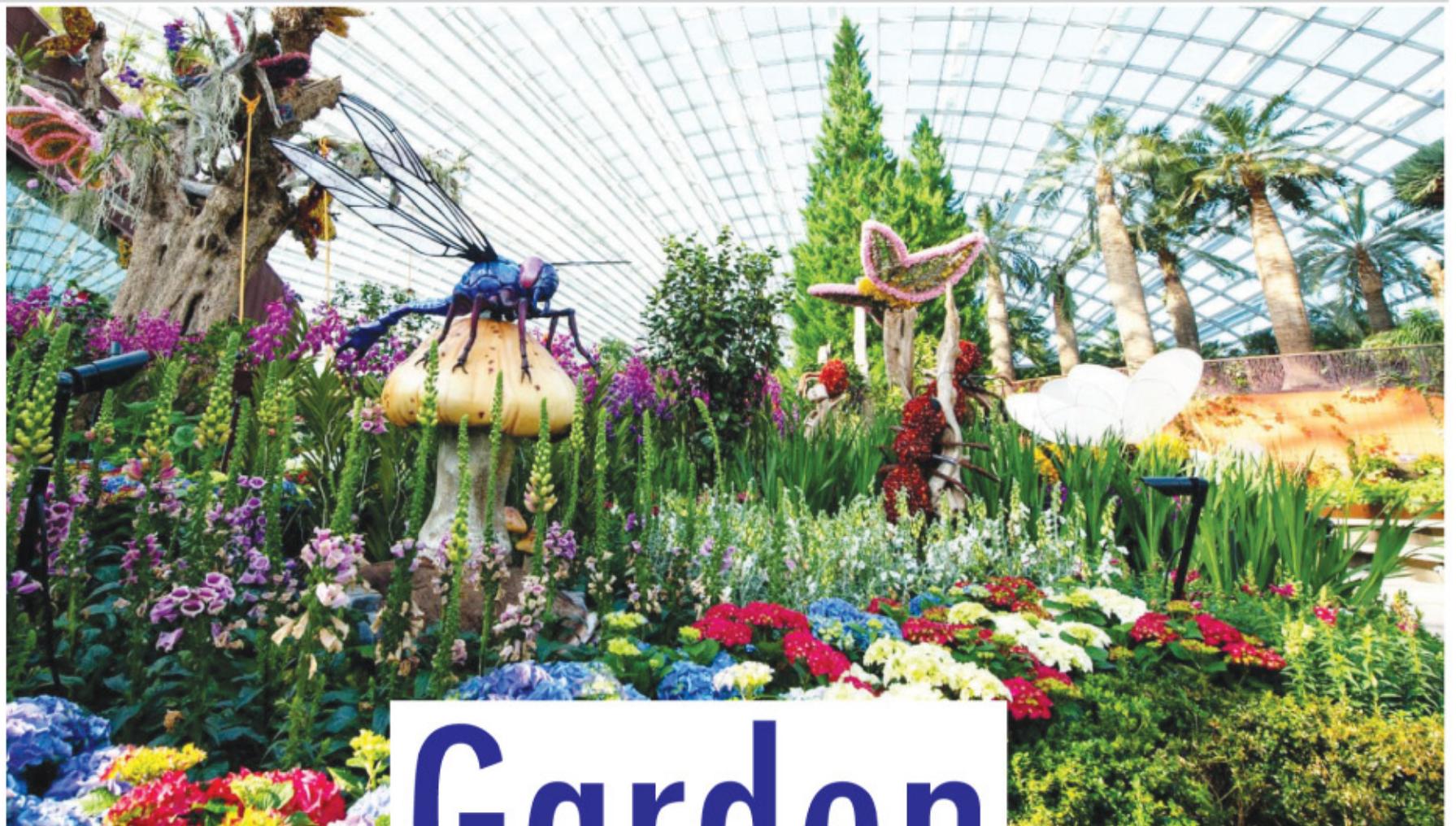
In a happy workplace, team leaders and top bosses provide everyone with the opportunity to advance and grow. They believe in the art of delegation rather than the concentration of power, authority and responsibility. The employees are encouraged to push their creative boundaries and regular opportunities are given for growth.

### Upbeat mood:

If you are looking forward to come to work on Mondays then you are definitely working in a happy space. A happy work place exudes positive energy and instead of grumpy faces, you will notice happy people working, chatting and laughing. It's difficult to miss this kind of warmth.

### Embracing change:

One of the most important factors of a happy workplace is the ability to welcome change. The team should have faith in their ability to be in sync with the changes of their industry or sector. And the top authorities are also equipped to understand the dynamics of change and encourage the team to think differently.



## RVNL, Dixon, Vodafone Idea among stocks in focus today. Know why

**New Delhi** Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), Vodafone Idea, Dixon Technologies, Zydus Lifesciences, Prestige Estates, Oracle Financial Services and Oil India are seven stocks in focus today. While shares of RVNL, Dixon Technologies, Oil India and Oracle Financial Services have gained in early trade, the other three are trading in the red. All the above-mentioned stocks have been added to the MSCI India Domestic Index in the latest rebalancing for August. These changes will be effective after the market close on August 30, 2024.

What do analysts say?

Analysts are predicting that this rebalancing could lead to significant passive inflows into these stocks, potentially bringing up to \$3 billion into the Indian market.

Among the stocks, Dixon Technologies could see the highest passive inflows, with an estimated \$281 million, which would translate to roughly two million shares.

Vodafone Idea is expected to attract \$278 million in inflows, equating to around 1,450 million shares. Oil India and Zydus Lifesciences could also see substantial inflows, with estimates of \$238 million and \$230 million, respectively. RVNL is projected to attract \$219 million in inflows. Prestige Estate Projects and Oracle Financial Services are also expected to benefit, with anticipated inflows of \$181 million and \$170 million, respectively. On the flip side, Bandhan Bank may see outflows of \$170 million due to its exclusion from the index. MSCI also announced the inclusion of eight stocks in the MSCI India Domestic Smallcap Index, such as Bosch, PB Fintech, Phoenix Mills, and others, while 27 stocks have been added to the MSCI ACWI Index globally. The largest additions to the MSCI World Index include companies from Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden, while the MSCI Emerging Markets Index will see new entries from Brazil, China, and the UAE.

## GST Council to meet on Sept 9, to start discussion on rate rationalisation

**NEW DELHI.** The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on September 9. "The 54th Meeting of GST Council will be held on 9th September, 2024 at New Delhi," the Council said in a post on X. The GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, is the apex decision-making body with regard to Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The meeting is expected to start discussion on rate rationalisation, reducing tax slabs, besides removing duty inversion under GST. After the previous Council meeting on June 23, Sitharaman had said the next meeting of the GST Council the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation under Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Suman Chaudhary, will give a presentation on the status of the work and aspects covered by the panel and work pending before the panel. "There will be a presentation by the GoM irrespective of whether the report is draft and then Council will start the discussion on rate rationalisation in the next meeting," Sitharaman had said.

## RBI eases capital requirements for housing finance firms by capping risk weights on undisbursed loans



**MUMBAI.** In a relief to housing finance companies, the Reserve Bank has tweaked the risk weights by capping it for undisbursed loans at par with that of disbursed loans. This is likely to release growth capital that was locked for undisbursed loans and make mortgage loans cheaper. "To address a potential anomaly in the computation of risk-weighted assets for undisbursed amounts of housing loans/other loans vis-a-vis that for an equivalent disbursed amount of similar exposures, it's been decided that the risk-weighted assets computed for undisbursed amounts of housing loans/other loans shall be capped at the risk-weighted asset computed on a notional basis for an equivalent amount of disbursed loans," the RBI said in a circular Monday.

At the same time, the regulator segregated risk weights for standard and stressed commercial real estate-residential buildings. The central bank said the risk weight for commercial real estate-residential buildings classified as standard would continue to be 75 percent. For exposures under this category, which are not classified as standard, the risk weight shall be 100 percent. According to industry experts, if the risk capital that an HFC needs to maintain against housing loans is reduced, it can increase their ability to lend more. As a result, home loans can become more accessible and affordable for buyers.

Premature deposit withdrawal from NBFCs

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank has mandated non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to pay 100% of the deposit amount within the first 3 months of accepting it if the depositor seeks a withdrawal, citing an emergency but without any interest. Issuing the revised regulations governing NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) Monday, RBI said the new norms will be applicable from January 1, 2025. But the depositor will not get any interest if the money on premature withdrawals.

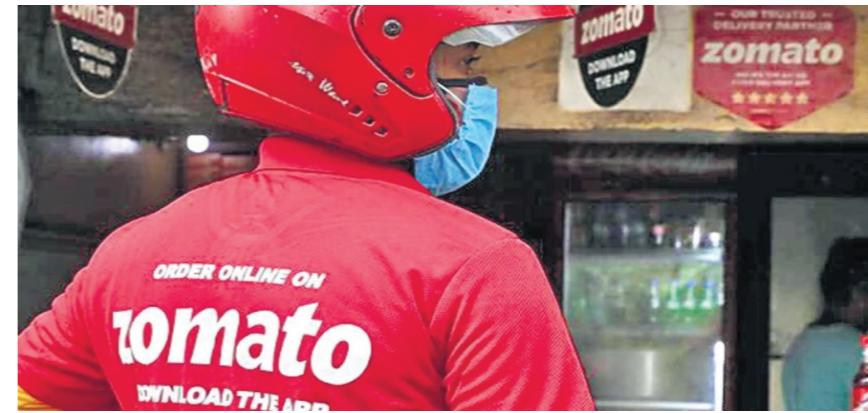
# Blinkit expands quick commerce offerings with new categories, services

## Blinkit now offers up to 25,000 unique SKUs, including LEGO sets and passport photo delivery in select locations.

**BENGALURU.** Zomato's quick commerce platform Blinkit, which has been diversifying its offerings, will continue to invest in newer categories. In the past six quarters, Blinkit has launched products in electronics, beauty & makeup, pet care, and toys & games. The platform announced that it will deliver passport-sized photos in 10 minutes for Delhi and Gurugram customers. Albinde Dhindsa, founder and CEO, Blinkit, in a post on X announced "LEGO sets are available on blinkit! "We have been focused from the beginning to increase selection for customers and offer it in most efficient way to them... we are now

able to offer up to 25,000 unique SKUs (stock keeping units) to our customers in some locations," he said in a letter to shareholders. A large part of this expansion in selection has happened outside traditional grocery segments of FMCG, fruits & vegetables and staples, he added. The CEO said they have been adding SKUs over last four quarters. "Some of our categories have become a major percentage of the platform. As a result, they are now starting to contribute meaningfully to growth number," he said in Q1 earnings conference call. Blinkit aims to raise its dark stores to 2,000 by 2026.

"Our average GOV (gross order value) throughput per store has grown from Rs 6 lakh per day per store when we were at 383 stores a year ago to Rs 10 lakh today when we are at 639 stores. For our top 50 stores today, this number is Rs 18 lakh per day per store and growing," he said. Dhindsa added that their preference



is always to open larger stores. "Our attempt is to make sure that every new store that we open is eventually run by a local partner," he said. Blinkit wants to stick to delivering all assortments in 10 minutes. He said the platform's GOV is made up of incremental growth in consumption. "Our model is able to

deliver products that have been otherwise harder to access for customers. For instance, we believe, of the sales that we generate in ice-creams, 2/3rd is incremental. This is the demand that would have gone unaddressed if we hadn't built capabilities to deliver ice-creams in minutes," he added.

## Firstcry shares list at 40% premium over issue price: Should you hold or sell

**New Delhi** Firstcry IPO made a strong market debut listing at a premium of 40% over its issue price on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday. Shares of Brainbees Solutions (Firstcry) opened at Rs 651 on the NSE, at a premium of 40% over its issue price of Rs 549. On the BSE, the shares opened at Rs 625, a premium of 34.4%. The shares had a GMP of Rs 84 ahead of the listing. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd said that Firstcry, India's leading online retailer for baby and child care products surpassed even the optimistic pre-listing expectations reflected in the healthy grey market premium. She further said that the IPO was moderately subscribed at 12.22 times, indicating decent investor interest. However, the strong listing performance reflects a renewed confidence in the company's growth prospects, despite the ongoing profitability challenges. While Firstcry's market leadership and strong brand position are undeniable, investors should remain cautious about the company's path to profitability. The reliance on third-party manufacturers and negative cash flows remain areas of concern that require close monitoring.



said Nyati. The initial public offering (IPO) of Brainbees Solutions (Firstcry) saw decent interest from investors with the issue getting subscribed over 12 times on the final day. She further said that the IPO was moderately subscribed at 12.22 times, indicating decent investor interest. However, the strong listing performance reflects a renewed confidence in the company's growth prospects, despite the ongoing profitability challenges. "While

Firstcry's market leadership and strong brand position are undeniable, investors should remain cautious about the company's path to profitability. The reliance on third-party manufacturers and negative cash flows remain areas of concern that require close monitoring," said Nyati. The initial public offering (IPO) of Brainbees Solutions (Firstcry) saw decent interest from investors with the issue getting subscribed over 12 times on the final day.

**New Delhi** In a big development for Adani Group investors, MSCI has announced the lifting of restrictions on the treatment of Adani Group stocks, particularly concerning their free float status. The update is part of the August 2024 Index Review, following a period of uncertainty triggered by concerns raised in February 2023. MSCI had previously halted certain adjustments to Adani Group securities, citing doubts about the free float status due to the nature of certain investors in the group's stocks. This move had led to the suspension of potential changes to the number of shares for affected securities and the postponement of non-neutral corporate events, pending further review.

Key restrictions lifted

As of August 12, 2024, MSCI has resumed normal operations concerning Adani Group stocks, which include changes to the Number of Shares (NOS), Foreign Inclusion Factor (FIF), and Domestic Inclusion Factor (DIF). These changes will be implemented at the close of August 30, 2024, with the regular implementation of corporate events starting on September 2, 2024. The proforma FIF and DIF for Adani Group securities have been announced as part of this review.

What it means for Adani Group stocks?



This decision impacts several key Adani Group stocks within the MSCI Global Standard Index, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Adani Green, Adani Power, and Ambuja Cements. It may be noted that the MSCI has reduced the weightage of Adani Enterprises and Ambuja Cements in its Standard Index.

Despite lifting the restrictions, MSCI will continue to closely monitor the Adani Group and issue further communications if any developments related to the free float arise.

## Unicommerce eSolutions IPO lists at 118% premium: Hold

**New Delhi** Unicommerce eSolutions Limited made a blockbuster debut on Dalal Street, turning multibagger, with the shares listing at a premium of 118% on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The shares opened at Rs 235 on the NSE, marking a premium of 117.59% over its issue price of Rs 108. The shares made a stellar debut on the BSE as well, listing at Rs 230, with a premium of 112.96%. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd said that the listing of Unicommerce eSolutions blockbuster performance far exceeded pre-listing expectations, fuelled by the massive oversubscription of 168.35 times and a robust grey market premium. "The company's strong market position as a leading e-

commerce enablement SaaS platform, coupled with its proven track record of profitable growth, solidified investor confidence. While challenges like competitive pressures and negative cash flows remain, the initial market response highlights the immense potential of Unicommerce eSolutions in the burgeoning e-commerce ecosystem," she added. She further aid that this exceptional listing underscores the company's strong fundamentals and growth prospects. "However, investors are advised to consider some profit booking at this level, and those who want to hold it may keep a stop loss at 210," advised Nyati. Unicommerce eSolutions' IPO was open for bidding from August 6 to August 8. The company priced its

shares between Rs 102 and Rs 108, with a minimum lot size of 138 shares. It successfully raised Rs 276.57 crore through an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 2,56,08,512 equity shares. The IPO was oversubscribed by 168.39 times overall. Non-institutional investors (NIIs) heavily drove this demand, with their portion subscribed 252.48 times. Qualified institutional bidders subscribed 138.75 times, and the retail investor segment saw a subscription rate of 131.15 times during the three-day period. Founded in February 2012, Unicommerce eSolutions is a SaaS provider specialising in e-commerce operations for brands, sellers, and logistics firms, offering software solutions to streamline post-purchase e-commerce management.

## Trend Alert: Gold Prices Remain Strong; Crude Witnesses Sharp Up-move

**New Delhi** Gold and crude oil prices have experienced a significant uptick. The precious metal has extended its gains, solidifying its position as a safe-haven asset amidst global economic uncertainties. Simultaneously, crude oil has witnessed a sharp increase, primarily driven by supply concerns and robust global demand. Rising gold prices often reflect investor concerns about inflation and economic instability. Conversely, a soaring oil price can fuel inflationary pressures while also impacting consumer spending and business costs. As these trends unfold, it is crucial to monitor their impact on various sectors and markets.

Prathamesh Mallya, DVP- Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, shared trend insights on gold, base metals and crude prices.

**Gold** Gold prices surged over 1% on Monday, reaching their highest level since August 2, as safe-haven demand increased amid global geopolitical tensions and anticipation of key U.S. inflation data.

The ongoing conflict between Israeli forces and militants near Gaza, coupled with a

surprise Ukrainian military advance into Russia's Kursk region, has heightened concerns about potential wider regional conflicts involving Iran and its proxies. Investors are closely watching upcoming U.S. producer and consumer price data, which could provide further insights into the Federal Reserve's interest rate trajectory. In this environment, gold is attracting attention as a traditional hedge against geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty, particularly as lower interest rates tend to boost the appeal of non-yielding assets like bullion. Outlook: Gold prices are expected to remain strong, driven by heightened geopolitical tensions and anticipation of key U.S. inflation data that could influence the Federal Reserve's rate decisions.

**Crude** Oil prices surged by over 4% on Monday, marking their fifth consecutive day of gains, as escalating tensions in the Middle East raised concerns about potential disruptions to global crude supplies.

The U.S. Defense Department's decision to deploy a guided missile submarine to the region underscores the seriousness of the



situation, with fears growing that Iran and Hezbollah might retaliate against Israel, potentially widening the conflict. Such an escalation could lead to U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil exports, threatening to remove approximately 1.5 million barrels per day from the market.

Additionally, expectations of U.S. interest rate cuts, driven by signs of cooling inflation, have also supported oil prices, as lower rates typically boost economic activity and energy demand.

Investors are also closely monitoring upcoming U.S. consumer price data, which could influence future monetary policy decisions. Meanwhile, stronger

than-expected consumer price increases in China, the world's largest oil importer, provided further support to crude prices, signalling robust demand in the key Asian market. Outlook: Crude oil prices are expected to remain elevated as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continue to fuel concerns over potential supply disruptions.

### Base Metals

Copper prices rose on Monday as traders covered short positions, anticipating that prices may have reached a bottom ahead of crucial economic data from China and the United States. Last week, recession fears in the U.S. led to a broad sell-off in equities and commodities, but stronger-than-expected U.S. job data helped stabilise the markets. Traders are now focused on upcoming Chinese data, including new yuan loans, industrial production, and urban investment, as indicators of future demand for industrial metals like copper. Additionally, U.S. consumer price data due on Wednesday could influence the timing of Federal Reserve interest rate cuts, potentially weakening the U.S. dollar and boosting demand for dollar-priced metals.

## NEWS BOX

## After Ben Stokes injury, ECB pulls Chris Woakes out of The Hundred



**UPDATED** The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has pulled all-rounder Chris Woakes out of The Hundred, bearing in mind the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka. Woakes was set to play for the Birmingham Phoenix in their last two league matches against Manchester Originals and Trent Rockets. On Monday, August 12, the Phoenix announced that Stokes had been made "unavailable for the remainder of the competition". However, the ECB said that withdrawing Woakes was not linked to Ben Stokes' injury. On Sunday, Stokes pulled his hamstring while playing for Northern Superchargers in their match against the Originals. He was trying to take a run when he felt some discomfort on his leg. After getting treated, Stokes was carried off the park.

Later, he was taken off on a stretcher towards an ambulance, but he returned to the dugout later on crutches. Harry Brook, the skipper of the Superchargers, had said that Stokes' injury "doesn't look great". With less than 10 days remaining for England's three-match Test series against Sri Lanka, Stokes is fighting against time to get fit.

Birmingham Phoenix yet to be in playoffs Woakes missing out could hurt the Phoenix, who are still some distance away from securing their berth in the top three. The Phoenix, however, are on a three-match winning streak, having beaten the Rockets in their previous match. The Brave are currently placed third in the table with 10 points and a net run rate of +0.324 thanks to wins in five out of seven games in the tournament. England's opening Test against Sri Lanka starts on Wednesday, August 21 at the Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester. The iconic Lord's and Kennington Oval will host the other two Tests.

## Olympics 2024: Neeraj Chopra saving grace for India in athletics at Paris

**New Delhi** Expectations were high from India in athletics, since they had sent a contingent of 29 members, their highest ever in the history of the Olympics. Back in 1900, Norman Pritchard brought home two silver medals for British India. But since independence, India hasn't quite made a name for themselves in the world of athletics.

Last year, for the first time, India went past the tally of 100 medals at the Asian Games. Out of them, the athletics team won 29 medals, including six golds, 14 silvers and nine bronze. With the number of participants going up in track and field events, India were expected to do better than previous editions of the Olympics. But the story wasn't any different from the previous editions.

How did India perform in the Paris Olympics? The focus was on Neeraj Chopra, who won the gold medal in Tokyo with a best throw of 87.58 metres. He became the second Indian after Pritchard to win a medal in athletics. He had also joined Abhinav Bindra as one of the two athletes from India to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics. Having won medals in the World Championships and the Diamond League, India's golden boy was again expected to step up. Hence, eyes were on him and his performance at Stade de France. Out of his six throws, five turned out to be fouls, and it was evident that he was not at his very best.

But it needed only a solitary throw of 89.45 metres in his second attempt to put him into a silver-medal winning position. Arshad Nadeem's Olympic record of 92.97 metres turned out to be insurmountable for Neeraj, who is yet to cross the 90-metre mark. Apart from Neeraj, none of the athletes could make a mark. Post independence, India are still looking for their second medalist in athletics apart from Neeraj. They have to wait for four years when the Los Angeles Olympics takes place to determine if India can broaden their horizons in athletics.

Any improvements from the Tokyo Olympics? Back in the Tokyo Olympics, India had a smaller contingent, 16 in track and field events and two relay teams. Apart from Neeraj, only discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur made an impact after qualifying for the final. She finished in sixth spot with a best throw of 63.70 metres. This time in Paris, keeping aside Neeraj, it was only Avinash Sable who took part in the finals of an event. Sable finished fifth in the heats of the men's 3000-metre steeplechase. In the finals, he finished 11th with a timing of 8:14:18.

**The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Scotland have begun talks about fielding Great Britain Cricket Team at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.**

**New Delhi** The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Scotland are in talks about fielding a collective Great Britain cricket team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028. Notably, cricket will mark its return to Olympics after a massive 128 years. The sport last featured at the Games way back in 1900 where Great Britain beat France by 158 runs to win the gold medal.



begun talks with Cricket Ireland.

"With the Los Angeles Olympics four years away, it's very early stages, but we're talking to Team GB and Cricket Scotland about the next steps we need to take. We look forward to working together to compete when cricket returns to the Olympic stage in 2028. Along with England and Wales hosting Women's and Men's [T20] World Cups in 2026 and 2030, it's another great opportunity to grow the game and inspire more people to develop a love for cricket," an ECB spokesperson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Scotland are in talks about fielding a collective Great Britain cricket team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028. Notably, cricket will mark its return to

2030, it's another great opportunity to grow the game and inspire more people to develop a love for cricket," an ECB spokesperson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Scotland are in talks about fielding a collective Great Britain cricket team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028. Notably, cricket will mark its return to

## Losing to Vinesh Phogat, Japan's Yui Susaki vows to win Olympic gold in LA 2028

**Paris Olympics: Yui Susaki was disappointed after she failed to win the gold medal, but vowed to make a strong comeback in Los Angeles four years later.**

**New Delhi** Japan's Yui Susaki pledged to win a gold medal when she returns to take part in the Olympics in Los Angeles to be held in 2028. The Japanese wrestler won the bronze medal in Paris after beating Ukraine's Oksana Livach 10-0 via technical superiority in the third-place playoff match. But she looked a tad disappointed after not being able to finish on top. Susaki went into the women's 50kg category event as a favourite as she had an 82-0 record at the international level. But in the Round of 16, she lost to India's Vinesh Phogat 2-3. After missing out on gold, Susaki vowed to work hard and put in a strong performance when the showpiece event returns four years



later. "I had the honour of winning the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics! First of all, thank you so much for all your support. It has really helped me out! I wanted to see my family, teammates, and fans who have fought with me for the past three years to win

the gold medal, but I couldn't do it, and I'm so sorry and frustrated that I committed a betrayal," Susaki wrote.

### Willing to keep going hard again

After losing to Vinesh, Susaki qualified for the bronze-medal match as the Indian made her way through to the finals. Back in 2021, Susaki bagged the gold medal in the same category, but could not defend her crown in Paris. The 25-year-old said she would look to get rid of the frustration by claiming the top prize in Los Angeles. "Despite the loss, encouraging words from all over the world and words that they still believe in me and will continue to support me, I wasn't able to reply, but I read every message, one by one, and I can't measure how much it touched my heart, how much it saved my heart, and how much it made me want to keep moving forward. Thank you so much! As long as there are people who still support me and believe in me, I am strongly willing to keep going hard again to achieve my goal of becoming an Olympic champion," she added. Apart from her success at the Olympics, Susaki also won 13 gold medals at the World Championships, Asian Championships and other tournaments.

**New Delhi** Pramod Bhagat will not be a part of the Paris Paralympics 2024 after being found guilty of breaching the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) anti-doping regulations. The BWF confirmed the news on Tuesday, August 13. Back on March 1, the Anti-Doping Division of the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) found the badminton player in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months.

### Pramod Bhagat's historic feat

Pramod made history by winning the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. It was the first time an Indian had won a gold medal in badminton at the Paralympics. Born in 1988, Bhagat developed polio at the age of five, leading to a disability affecting his left leg. Despite this, he was drawn to badminton at the age of 13 and



went on to become a professional player. Bhagat's journey to the gold medal was marked by his determination and strategic thinking. He defeated Great Britain's Daniel Bethell, the second seed, in the final with a score of 21-14, 21-17. Throughout the tournament, Bhagat demonstrated his dominance, winning all his matches and only dropping one game against compatriot Manoj Sarkar in his opening match.

The victory not only brought India its fourth gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics but also marked a significant milestone in Indian para-badminton history. Bhagat's achievement is a testament to his hard work and dedication, and he has become an inspiration for many aspiring athletes.

## Neeraj Chopra is like a son to her mother: Manu Bhaker's father on marriage rumours

**New Delhi** Manu Bhaker's father, Ram Kishan Bhaker, opened up on the marriage rumours of his daughter with Neeraj Chopra. Recently, a video went viral on social media where Manu's mother can be seen talking to the Indian javelin thrower, giving rise to memes with some also speculating a wedding of the two athletes. Manu's father, however, dismissed any chances of her marriage, saying that she is "still very young" and not of "marriageable age".



He also said that Neeraj is like a son to Manu's mother. "Manu is still very young. She is not even of marriageable age. Not even thinking about it right now," Kishan Bhaker told Dainik Bhaskar. Manu's mother considers Neeraj like her son," he added. On Neeraj's wedding rumours, his uncle said, "Just as Neeraj brought the medal, the entire country got to know about it. Similarly, when he marries, then everyone

will know."

Manu, Neeraj make India proud

Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra are amongst

thereafter, she won another bronze in the team event along with Sarabjot Singh.

She had a brilliant chance of winning three

medals when she took part in the finals of the

women's 25m Pistol event. But

she fell short after finishing fourth following her defeat to Veronika Major. Manu, in the meantime, became the first Indian woman to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Olympics. She was also a flag-bearer for India in the Closing Ceremony.

As far as Neeraj is concerned, he won the gold medal in Tokyo and hence, expectations were high from him. However, he could not defend his crown after winning silver in Paris. In his second attempt, he threw 89.45 metres behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who set an Olympic record with a throw of over 92 metres.

## Alexei Popyrin ends Australia's 21-year-long wait with Canadian Open win

**Canadian Open 2024: Alexei Popyrin beat Andrey Rublev in the final 6-2, 6-4 and became the first Australian man since Lleyton Hewitt in 2003 to win an ATP 1000 title.**

**New Delhi** Alexei Popyrin's victory at the Canadian Open is certainly one of the most unexpected triumphs in recent ATP Masters 1000 history. The 25-year-old Australian, ranked World No. 62 at the time, delivered a startling performance by defeating World No. 6 Andrey Rublev in the final with an impressive count of 18 forehand winners.

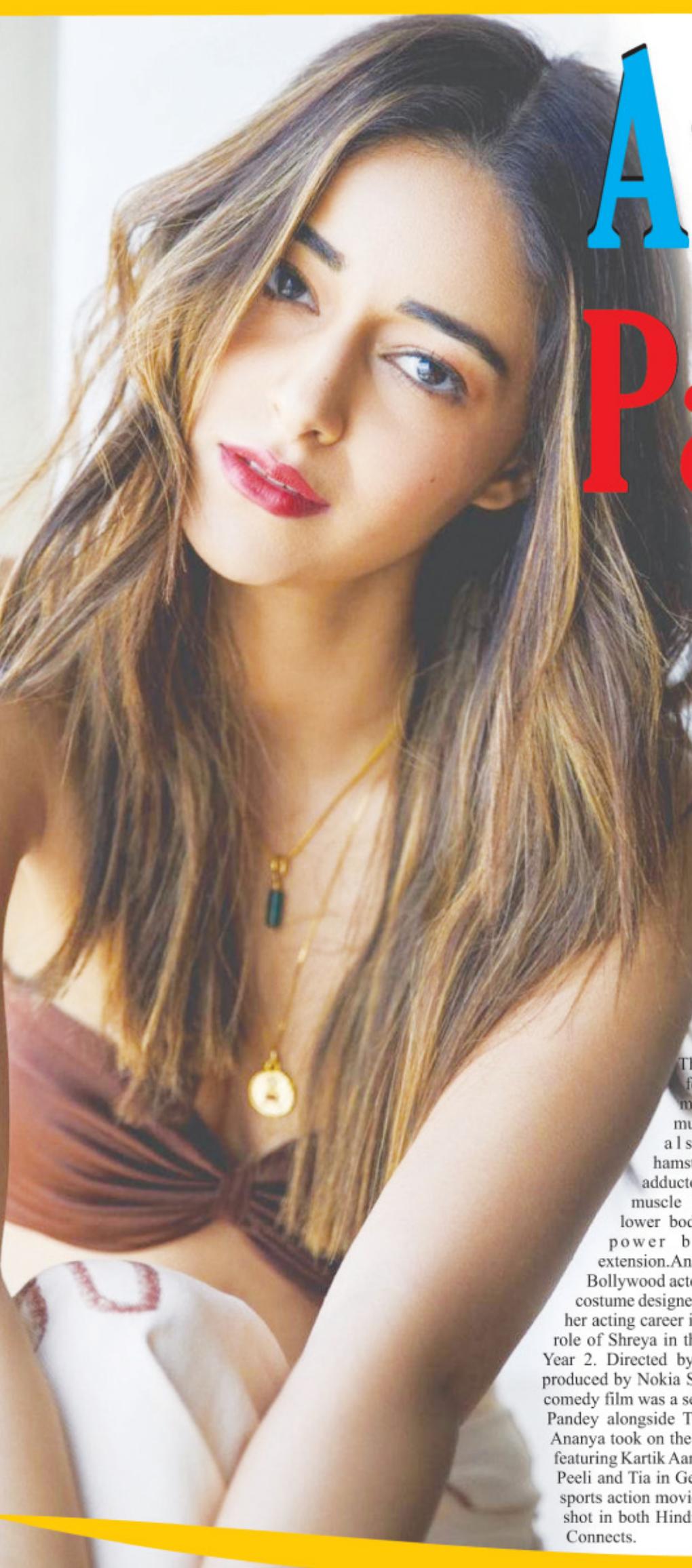
Having recently competed at the Paris Olympics on clay, Popyrin's journey to the title was nothing short of remarkable. Along the way, he conquered three Top 10 players and ended the eight-match winning streak of the Washington champion, Sebastian Korda. Notably, he also defeated World No. 14 Ben Shelton in the second round, signaling his formidable form. Popyrin also became the first Australian man since Lleyton Hewitt to win an ATP 1000 title since Lleyton Hewitt achieved the feat back in 2003. "It means the world, for all the hard work I've put in over the years, all the sacrifices I have made," Popyrin added. Not just me, but my family, my girlfriend, my team, everybody around me. They have sacrificed their whole lives for me and for me to win this for them is just amazing," Popyrin added.

Adopting a powerful "Big-Man Tennis"



advantage. This victory propelled Popyrin to a career-high No. 23 in the ATP Rankings. His dominant game-play, evident in saving all four break points in the first set, showed his tenacity. Even after losing serve in the second set to level scores at 3-all, he rebounded by breaking back immediately, showcasing his resilience.

With this win, Popyrin now holds a 2-1 lead in his head-to-head record with Rublev and has maintained an impeccable record in ATP Tour finals. This latest achievement adds to his tournament victories in Singapore in 2021 and Umag in 2023, solidifying his reputation as a player to watch in the coming years.

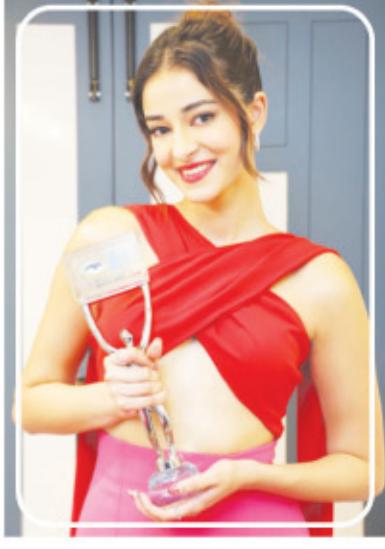


# Ananya Pandey

## Shares Glimpse Of Her Rigorous Workout Routine

Bollywood stars are synonymous with fitness nowadays with everyone vying for a body to die for. Actors often need to shape their bodies according to the demands of the role that they are playing and they are often also seen as fitness icons by the youth. Time to time, workout and training montages of actors and actresses go viral and fans are left impressed by the physical prowess of their favourite stars. Ananya Pandey recently shared a video of her workout regimen on her Instagram story, where she is seen working out her glutes. In the video, she is seen wearing a black tank top and matching shorts. Ananya Pandey is seen performing weighted hip thrusts, aided by her trainer in the gym. She is seen lifting a total weight of 120 kilos through hip thrusts. She captioned the video, "What does not kill you makes you you".

The hip thrust exercise focuses on the gluteus maximus, the largest muscle in the body. It also engages the hamstrings, quadriceps, and adductors. Strengthening this muscle can enhance overall lower body strength, size, and power by targeting hip extension. Ananya is the daughter of Bollywood actor Chunky Pandey and costume designer Bhavana. She started her acting career in 2019 by playing the role of Shreya in the film *Student of the Year 2*. Directed by Punit Malhotra and produced by Nokia Studios and Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, the romantic comedy film was a sequel to the 2012 movie *Student of the Year*. It starred Ananya Pandey alongside Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, and Aditya Seal. Following this, Ananya took on the role of Tapasya in the romantic comedy *Pati Patni Aur Woh*, featuring Kartik Aaryan and Bhumi Pednekar. She also appeared as Pooja in *Khaali Peeli* and Tia in *Gehraiyaan*. Ananya made her Telugu film debut with the 2022 sports action movie *Liger*, written and directed by Puri Jagannath. The film was shot in both Hindi and Telugu and produced by Dharma Productions and Puri Connects.



# Priyanka Chopra

## and Nick Jonas' Daughter Malti Marie Adorably Says 'Oh My God' In Viral Vide

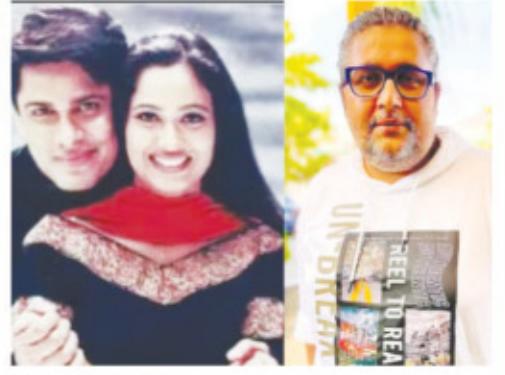
Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra are relishing every moment of parenthood. Since their enchanting wedding in Jodhpur in December 2018, the couple has been enjoying life as a family, especially after announcing the arrival of their daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, via surrogacy in January 2022. Recently, Nick shared an adorable series of videos and photos featuring little Malti, capturing her charming moments. Among the highlights is a sweet selfie of Nick, Priyanka, and Malti, along with a heartwarming video where Malti adorably says "oh my God" before shyly turning away from the camera. In another endearing clip, Malti is seen playfully 'cutting' her dad's hair with a toy scissor. Nick also shared a tender moment of Priyanka hugging crew members from her upcoming film 'The Bluff,' and a precious photo of Malti sound asleep during a flight. Nick captioned the post with a simple red heart emoji and the word "Lately..." perfectly capturing the essence of these cherished family moments.

Priyanka and Nick have been open about their journey as parents, frequently sharing glimpses of their life with Malti on social media. Recently, Priyanka wrapped up filming for her Hollywood project 'The Bluff,' and shared, "It's a picture wrap on The Bluff!!! ... and to do it with my family by my side and the incredible people that made this movie possible is such a privilege. This one truly has been a labour of love and couldn't have come together without the faith of @agbfilms and @amazonmgstudios in our fearless leader Frankie E Flowers. To be able to work with this remarkable crew in gorgeous @australia with a cast that's so talented was so much fun!"

The caption read further, "Also, I really lucked out on the locations lottery this year. NICE... GOLD COAST... LONDON... here's to the next stop... but in the meantime.. a quick (snoring emoji) back home. As much as I loved making this movie here I'm sooooo happy to be going home." Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra's love story is a modern fairy tale that captivated the world. The couple tied the knot in a lavish and culturally rich wedding ceremony in Jodhpur, India, in December 2018. The celebration was a beautiful blend of their respective traditions, featuring both Hindu and Christian ceremonies, showcasing their deep respect for each other's cultures.



Scriptwriter Mahesh Pandey Arrested For Allegedly Duping Producer Of Rs 2.65 Crore



Mahesh Pandey, a prominent scriptwriter in Indian television, has been detained by Mumbai police on charges of defrauding a film producer of Rs 2.65 crore. Mahesh Pandey, widely recognised for his work on the hit TV show *Kasautti Zindagi Kay*, is now at the centre of a legal scandal that has caused a stir in the entertainment world. Reports indicate that he was arrested after Jatin Sethi, a film producer, filed a complaint against him. Sethi claimed that Pandey breached the terms of a contract between their companies, resulting in a financial loss of Rs 2.65 crore. Following this complaint, the Mumbai police initiated a case of fraud and detained Pandey on Wednesday. The complaint details that Pandey's company was supposed to pay Sethi Rs 2.65 crore according to their agreement, but he allegedly failed to do so. This breach has led to a significant legal dispute, with Pandey now facing severe accusations of financial misconduct. Sethi alleges that Pandey gave multiple excuses for the delay and even went as far as creating a fake email account. This fake account was reportedly used to forge communications with a broadcaster, falsely claiming that the payment was in progress but delayed due to unexpected issues.

After the complaint was filed, the Mumbai police acted promptly, arresting Mahesh Pandey and presenting him in court. He was then placed in judicial custody. The seriousness of the allegations against him could potentially have serious consequences for his career and reputation. The legal proceedings will now assess the extent of his involvement and whether he is truly guilty of the charges. Mahesh Pandey has penned numerous television serials, beginning his career with *Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki*. He went on to write other popular shows such as *Kasautti Zindagi Ki* and *Kasam Se*. Pandey has produced and directed several Bhojpuri films, including *Gabbar Singh*. This film, produced by Ekta Kapoor, is a Bhojpuri remake of the classic *Sholay*.

**Kalki 2898 AD: Did Keerthy Suresh Turn Down Deepika Padukone Or Disha Patani's Role In Prabhas's Film?**



Keerthy Suresh, known for her close collaboration with director Nag Ashwin in the critically acclaimed 'Mahanati' (2018), recently revealed that she turned down a 'human' role in his upcoming sci-fi epic 'Kalki 2898 AD.' In an interview with Galatta Plus, Keerthy shared that she was initially offered a different role before being cast as the AI bot Bujji. Keerthy explained that she wasn't entirely sure about the original role offered to her, though she was keen on being part of the film in some capacity. "Nagi offered me another role in the film, which I wasn't sure of. It was a human role. I'm glad I said no to it now," she said. Later, Nag Ashwin suggested a smaller role to her, jokingly asking if she'd like to "peep through the wall." Keerthy was thrilled at the opportunity to voice Bujji, an AI droid, and embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. She also clarified that the role she turned down was not the one played by Anna Ben, who portrayed the rebel character Kyra. Keerthy went on to describe her experience voicing Bujji, sharing how she enjoyed the process of dubbing in multiple languages and experimenting with different modulations to find the perfect voice for the character. She shared, "I didn't understand initially when he said he wanted me to voice an AI bot. I dubbed for Bujji & Bhairava (on Amazon Prime) before I worked on the film. I had a ball dubbing for the role in multiple languages, giving 5-6 modulations in each language to see which would suit it best. Dubbing for a film is normally easier." In 'Kalki 2898 AD,' Keerthy's character BU-JZ-1, aka Bujji, is an AI droid brought to life by Bhairava, played by Prabhas. The animated prelude 'Bujji & Bhairava' introduced this futuristic world and its characters, including Deepika Padukone's SU-M80, Kamal Haasan's Supreme Yaskin, and Amitabh Bachchan's Ashwatthama.