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## Centre to form security panel; IMA's 24-hour strike cripples OPD services nationwide

**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, August 17: The Central Government on Saturday said a committee will be formed to propose safety measures for healthcare professionals even as OPD services were hit across the country as doctors joined the 24-hour nationwide strike called by the IMA to protest the alleged rape and murder of a trainee medic in Kolkata. Resident doctors at government hospitals in different parts of the country, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Haryana among others, have been protesting since Monday. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) had given a nationwide call for the withdrawal of non-emergency services for 24 hours from 6 am on Saturday to protest the gruesome rape and murder at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and the subsequent vandalism at the facility. The IMA also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in realising their five demands, including a central law

to check violence against healthcare personnel and declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory security entitlements. On Saturday, the Union health ministry said

malaria cases. Representatives of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA), IMA and resident doctors' associations of government medical colleges and hospitals of Delhi met the Union health minister in the wake of the Kolkata incident. Reacting to the development, the IMA said it is studying the statement released by the health ministry assuring doctors of all possible efforts to ensure their safety and offering to form a committee to suggest measures for the same. The IMA said it will respond to it after careful consideration of all aspects and consultations with its



representatives of all stakeholders, including the state governments, will be invited to share their suggestions with the committee as it urged the doctors to resume their duties in the larger public interest and in view of the rising number of dengue and

state branches. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said everyone was concerned about the rape and murder of the doctor in Kolkata and not just the healthcare fraternity. Rijiju was speaking to reporters at the Bhubaneswar airport in

Odisha. In West Bengal, the epicentre of the protest, the former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital Dr Sandip Ghosh appeared before the CBI for questioning for the second consecutive day on Saturday in connection with the horrific incident. Ghosh reached the CBI office for the second time a little before 10.30 am. During his first round of questioning on Friday, the former principal was asked about his first reaction after getting the news of the doctor's death whom he instructed to inform the family and how and who contacted the police. Meanwhile, doctors in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Mizoram, and Nagaland among other states joined the 24-hour strike called by the IMA. In the national capital, major private hospitals shut down their OPDs, elective surgeries and IPD services. Resident doctors in the capital have been on an indefinite strike since Monday. As the strike entered its sixth day on Saturday, private hospitals also joined the protest alongside government hospitals.

### Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar to share dais with Rahul Gandhi at Congress rally in Mumbai

Mumbai, August 17: Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar will share the stage with Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi in Mumbai to mark the birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi on August 20. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC in-charge for Maharashtra, Ramesh Chennithala, will also attend the rally to be organised at Bandra Kurla Complex, the party stated on Saturday. The Congress has planned several programmes in Mumbai, the birthplace of Rajiv Gandhi, to mark his birth anniversary. MVA constituents — the Congress, NCP (SP), and Shiv Sena (UBT) — had declared to contest the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections together. Deliberations for the sharing of seats are yet to gather momentum. A meeting of MVA allies was held on August 16 in which Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray demanded the alliance declare its chief ministerial face in advance without waiting for the scorecard of each constituent in the assembly elections, due in October-November. MVA trounced the Mahayuti alliance in Lok Sabha elections by bagging 30 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, with BJP losing 14 constituencies of the 23 it had won in 2019.

## 'In last 10 years, no class left that has not been cheated by BJP': Randeep Surjewala

**Navdeep Singh Sahni**

New Delhi, August 17: Congress MP Randeep Surjewala accused the BJP-led Haryana government of cheating the people of the state ahead of Assembly polls in the state in October. "The 10-year tenure of atrocities of the Bharatiya Janata Party has come to an end. In the last 10 years, there is no class left that has not been cheated by the BJP," said Surjewala. "The people of Haryana are going to initiate the end of the Bharatiya Janata Party on October 1", he added. The Assembly elections for Haryana will be held in a single phase on October 1 and the polling in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases from September 18 to October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 4. Earlier, on Friday, following the announcement of the Haryana Assembly election, former Haryana Chief Minister



and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar asserted that the BJP will form the government for the third time in the state as the public has lost faith in Congress. "I welcome the announcement and our workers were already preparing to con-

test the elections. And of course, just like the government has been formed at the Centre under the leadership of PM

Narendra Modi, in the same way, the BJP will form the government for the third time in Haryana. The public has lost faith in Congress and the people of Haryana will not trust them," Khattar told reporters. Bhupinder Hooda who is the face of the Congress campaign in Haryana however, is confident that this time the Congress will wrest the state from the BJP. "Congress is ready and people of all sections have decided to bring Congress to power," said Hooda. The term of the current government in Haryana will end on November 3, 2024, and elections will take place in 90 legislative Assembly constituencies in the state. After the 2019 elections, the BJP, with 40 seats in the 90-member Assembly, formed a coalition government with the JJP. The JJP had won 10 seats, while the Congress had won 31 seats. The BJP-JJP alliance broke earlier this year. In 2024, Haryana is likely to see a four-way contest between the BJP, the Congress, the JJP, and the AAP.

## 3,000 more posts of Anganwadi workers to be created: CM Mann

**Tejinder Kaur Babbar**

Barnala, August 17: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said his government will create 3,000 new posts of Anganwadi workers in the state. Addressing a gathering during a state-level function to mark the festival of 'Raksha Bandhan' here, Mann said the state government has already started the process in this regard and soon recruitment for these posts will be started. This is a step forward towards empowering women by opening new avenues of employment for them, he said. Mann further said the state government is also actively and sympathetically considering the genuine demands of HA (accredited social health activist) workers. He said the state government is making concerted efforts for women empowerment. Six districts of the state are having

female officers as Senior Superintendent of Police and eight districts have women Deputy Commissioners, he informed. Mann, according to an official release, said



concerted efforts are being made for the welfare of the girls in the state and these initiatives are producing desired results. Required amendments are being made in the rules for changing physical criteria for

recruitment of women in the firefighting department, he said. The Chief Minister said that none of the previous governments had bothered to change these rules because they were least bothered about people and their problems, adding Punjab will be the first state in the country to recruit women as firefighting staff. On his government's other initiatives, Mann said the state government has launched the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, a dedicated 'Sadak Surakhya Force' to ensure enhanced security and to save precious lives on the state and national highways. The newly recruited 1,597 personnel, including women, are acting as the backbone of this force who have been provided with the latest, fully equipped 144 vehicles, he said. Since its launch in February this year, this force has saved around 1,300 lives in road accidents, besides returning valuables and money of people worth Rs

90 lakh, who get injured during road accidents. Mann said the force has been deployed all along 4,200 km of highways, prone to traffic accidents, adding in addition to patrolling in the assigned areas, they act as a deterrent for traffic violations and more. The state government has so far handed appointment letters to more than 44,700 youth in various departments, said Mann. The chief minister said this recruitment has been purely done on merit by adopting a completely transparent process. This has increased the faith of youth in working for the state government due to which they have shunned the idea of moving abroad and are preparing for government jobs here, he added. Extending warm greetings to all Punjabis across the globe on the auspicious occasion of 'Raksha Bandhan', Mann said this festival celebrates the sacred bond of love, care and protection between brothers and sisters. He exhorted the people to celebrate 'Raksha Bandhan' with full fervor and gaiety.

### Modi Government's biggest push to lateral entry

**ST Correspondent**

New Delhi, August 17: Forty-five specialists will soon be joining key posts of joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries in different central ministries as part of the Modi Government's ambitious plan to infuse fresh talent to further improve ease of governance. Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services—the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IfoS)—and Group A services, among others. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday advertised 45 posts—10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries—to be filled through the lateral entry mode on contract basis. It is the biggest tranche of lateral recruitment being undertaken by the Centre, an official said. "The government of India has submitted the requisitions for lateral recruitment of joint secretary and director/deputy secretary level officers. Accordingly, online applications are invited from talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building to join the government at the level of joint secretary or director/deputy secretary..." reads the advertisement. The vacancies in different ministries/departments with headquarters at New Delhi, are to be filled on contract basis (on deputation for officers of states/UT cadres, public sector undertakings (PSUs), autonomous bodies, statutory organisation, universities, recognized research institutes) for a period of three years (extendable to five years depending upon performance) through website <https://www.upsconline.nic.in> by September 17, it said. The 10 posts of joint secretaries are in Home, Finance and Steel ministries among others. Thirty-five posts of director/deputy secretary-level will be filled in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Civil Aviation and Information & Broadcasting among others. The latest induction through the lateral entry mode—referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments—is aimed at bringing fresh talent and perspective into the governance.

### Mobile internet suspended in Rajasthan's Udaipur after school stabbing sparks communal tension

**Sanjay Kumar**

Jaipur, August 17: Mobile internet was suspended for 24 hours in several areas of Rajasthan's Udaipur and all schools were ordered to remain closed after a Class-10 student allegedly stabbed another boy at a government school, triggering communal violence in the city. The incident took place on Friday, they said, adding that the student injured in the attack is undergoing treatment at the district hospital while the accused is under detention. The

shut until further orders in view of the law-and-order situation, Collector Arvind Poswal said. A team of three doctors has been sent from Jaipur to Udaipur by a special plane for the treatment of the injured boy, the collector said, adding that his condition is stable. Divisional Commissioner Rajendra Bhatt issued an order suspending mobile internet services for a period of 24 hours from 10 pm on Friday in Udaipur city, Bedla, Badgaon, Bleecha, Debari, Eklingpur, Kanpur, Dheekli and Bhuwana area. The collec-



house of the accused boy has been razed by the district administration using JCB machines, the officials said. The demolition was carried out in the presence of police personnel. All government and private schools in Udaipur have been ordered to remain

tor appealed to people to ignore rumours being spread regarding the incident. On Friday, a mob set cars on fire and pelted stones amid communal tension following the stabbing incident outside a government school at Bhattiyani Chohatta.

## Karnataka Governor grants sanction to prosecute CM in MUDA 'scam'

**Naresh Malhotra**

Bengaluru, August 17: Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday accorded sanction for prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', giving a major jolt to the nearly 15-month-old Congress Government. Hours later, the Karnataka Cabinet, at a specially convened meeting this evening under the leadership of Siddaramaiah, condemned the Governor's decision, termed it "politically motivated", and vowed to wage a legal fight. Following the backing of the Cabinet and the party, the Chief Minister questioned as to why he should resign, and said the Governor has to quit, because he acted like a "puppet" in the hands of the Government of India. The Governor accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of activists Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna. The Governor's sanction is expected to pave the way for investigating agencies to initiate a probe into the allegations against the Chief Minister. In the MUDA 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the

MUDA. The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Under the controver-



sial scheme, MUDA allotted 50 per cent of developed land to the land losers in lieu of undeveloped land acquired from them for forming residential layouts. Opposition and some activists have also claimed that Parvathi had no legal title over 3.16 acres of land. BJP leaders have claimed that the

MUDA 'scam' is of the magnitude of Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore. Shivakumar slammed the Governor's move as 'unconstitutional' and 'undemocratic', and asserted that the entire party and the government solidly stood behind Siddaramaiah as he categorically dismissed BJP's demand for Chief Minister's resignation. "The INDIA bloc has also expressed its solidarity with the CM. These are false allegations and we will fight it legally and politically," he said. Siddaramaiah too ruled out his resignation and said he has done no wrong to step down. Stating that such a decision by the Governor, who is "functioning like a puppet in the hands of the Central Government", was expected, the Chief Minister said, adding, it will be questioned in the court, and that he will battle it out legally. Later speaking to reporters after the special Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said that the Cabinet has condemned the Governor's decision to sanction prosecution against him as "illegal and anti-Constitution." "The Governor has functioned as the representative of the Central Government and the Cabinet condemned it," he said. "Tell me why I should resign. According to me the Governor has to resign, because he acted like a puppet in the hands of the Government of India.... Tell me, what is the offence that I

have committed?" he questioned. Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge said "BJP-appointed" Governors are creating trouble for non-BJP-ruled States. He, however, maintained that he had to see why Gehlot granted permission to prosecute Siddaramaiah. Congress workers and supporters of Siddaramaiah staged protests in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya and several other parts of the state against the Governor's move. In Bengaluru, a massive protest was organised by Congress workers and members of 'Karnataka Pradesh Kurubara Sangha' demanding removal of the Governor. Raising anti-Gehlot slogans, they burnt his effigies and carried placards saying "Remove Governor, Save State". Several of Siddaramaiah's Cabinet colleagues jumped in his defence, as they targeted the Governor and demanded his "call back". The opposition BJP, which has been agitating in the State for weeks targeting Siddaramaiah on the issue, on Saturday reiterated its demand for his resignation, with its state president B Y Vijayendra saying it would allow a transparent and unbiased investigation. Granting sanction, the Governor said it is very necessary to conduct a neutral, objective, and non-partisan investigation, adding that he is prima facie "satisfied" that the allegations and the supporting materials disclose commission of offences. Gehlot also termed as "irrational" the decision taken by the Council of Ministers advising him to withdraw his show-cause notice to the Chief Minister and to reject the application seeking prosecution sanction.



## News box

## 20-year-old man caught stealing vehicle batteries

**Ahmedabad.** The Bopal police arrested a 20-year-old man from Sanand for his involvement in stealing batteries from cars and rickshaws. Police seized 10 batteries from Hitesh Dantani, who was caught during routine surveillance in the city on Wednesday night. One of the batteries, reportedly stolen from an electric vehicle, was worth Rs 75,000. All vehicles that Dantani targeted were in the Bopal and nearby areas.

Police are trying to find out to whom Dantani sold the batteries.

**OnePlus Watch 2R:** Go for display and battery. OnePlus launched its OnePlus Watch 2R, an affordable smartwatch blending performance and wearable functionality. Priced at Rs 17,999, it features a modern design, comprehensive health tracking, and a long-lasting battery. The smartwatch supports Bluetooth calling, houses multiple sensors, and offers over 100 sports modes. Its standout features include a vivid display, accurate activity tracking, and sleek design.

**Amara Raja plans to set up battery plant in North India.** Amara Raja Group, a battery manufacturer, aimed to establish a 6-million units per annum lead acid battery plant in North India. This initiative was part of their strategy to diversify business risks and better serve the North and West Indian markets. The announcement was made during the inauguration of its 1.5GWh Lion battery plant and groundbreaking ceremony for cell manufacturing.

**Pregnant actress Skai Jackson ARRESTED** for domestic battery following altercation with boyfriend; fans react. Skai Jackson was arrested for domestic battery following an altercation with her boyfriend at Universal CityWalk.

## Congress, KCR's party face off in Telangana, MLA's office vandalised

Tension prevailed in Telangana's Siddipet on Friday midnight after a face-off between Congress and Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti (BRS) workers during which BRS legislator T Harish Rao's office was vandalised.

The situation escalated after Congress activists put up banners demanding the resignation of Siddipet MLA Harish Rao. A heated exchange ensued after BRS workers arrived to remove the banners.

The verbal altercation intensified near the MLA's camp office, where Congress activists were staging a protest. The MLA alleged that Congress workers vandalised his office amid the high-voltage drama.

Police reached the spot as the situation turned violent, and members from both parties were detained. A video shared by MLA Rao shows a group of people, purportedly Congress workers, destroying a flex board placed at his office. He also claimed that the Congress workers broke locks and vandalised the property.

Harish Rao responded through a post on X, saying, "Breaking locks and vandalising property in such a manner is not only undemocratic but also raises serious concerns". He added, "The police, rather than intervening to prevent this attack, seemingly protected the perpetrators. If an MLA's residence can be targeted so brazenly, what assurance do citizens have about their own safety? The destruction of government property in the presence of police is utterly unacceptable."

## 2 groups clash in Meerut after loudspeaker falls on children during procession

**Meerut.** A dispute broke out between two groups of different communities late Friday in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut after a loudspeaker box fell on two children during a procession.

The conflict arose when a loudspeaker box from the music system used in the Avanti Bai Lodhi Jayanti procession fell on two children, injuring them. There were also reports of stone-pelting, with a video of the incident emerging. The incident took place in the Dehli Gate police station area of Meerut, where a procession was being held on Friday evening to celebrate Avanti Bai Lodhi Jayanti, or the birth anniversary of the Lodhi Rajput queen ruler who participated in the 1857 rebellion against the British East India Company. The procession, which began in Brahmajpuri and was to end at Bacha Park, had a DJ set up in a tractor trolley. Suddenly, one of the speaker boxes fell, hitting two passing children and injuring them.

The children were immediately taken to the district hospital, but by then a crowd had gathered, leading to a confrontation between the two groups, who belonged to different communities. The situation became tense as both sides faced off, leading to a commotion. Upon receiving a report of communal tension, police quickly arrived at the scene to defuse the situation. SP City Ayush Vikram, along with police from several stations, reached the spot and brought the situation under control. Currently, a police force has been deployed at the spot.

## Udaipur tense after student's stabbing, internet snapped, schools closed

The decision to shut down the internet, and educational institutions was taken in light of the law and order situation, according to the Udaipur district administration.

**Jaipur.** The Udaipur administration on Friday suspended internet services in the city for 24 hours following communal violence after a class 10 student was allegedly stabbed by a fellow student at a government-run school. The accused student was subsequently detained by the police.

The decision to shut down the internet was taken in light of the law and order situation, according to the official notification issued by the administration. Meanwhile, Udaipur district collector Arvind Poswal has ordered all the schools and colleges in the city to remain closed on Saturday until further orders. Calling it a "tragic incident," BJP's MLA Phool Singh Meena stated, "The situation in Udaipur has escalated into a riot. We should demolish the accused's house

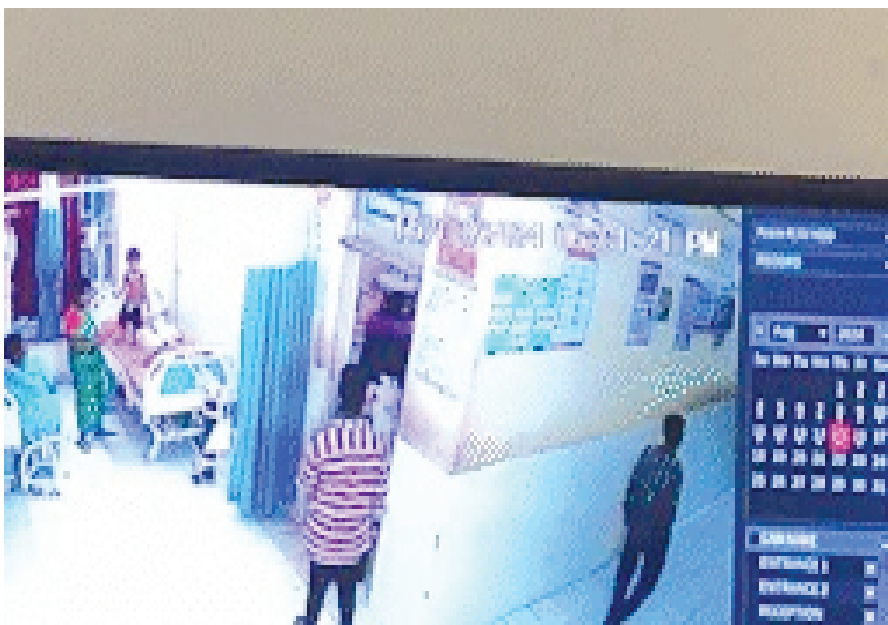
with a bulldozer. It's crucial to prevent such incidents. The government will take action against those responsible for the crime. We've seen a similar outcry in Udaipur as we did during the Kanhaiyalal murder case."

Speaking with India Today over the phone, Arvind Poswal said, "There were some complications in the boy's kidney for which expert doctors from private hospitals have been called in." Poswal stated that the police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for the violence that took place on Friday, adding that prohibitory orders have been imposed in the district. "The Internet has been shut down in parts as a precautionary measure," he stated. Further investigation into the stabbing incident is underway.



## Woman attacks Telangana hospital nurse, staff go on strike in protest

The incident unfolded when Neelam Bhargavi, a woman who visited the hospital seeking a vaccine after being bitten by a dog, allegedly attacked a staff nurse named Asha.



**Hyderabad.** At a time when doctors across the country are anguished over the rape and murder of the trainee doctor in Kolkata and the violent attack at RG Kar hospital and are holding nationwide protests, a case of assault on a medic has been reported from Telangana.

In the Shadnagar area of Telangana's Ranga Reddy district, a group of nurses staged a protest by boycotting their duties alleging assault on one of their colleagues on Friday. The incident unfolded when Neelam Bhargavi, a woman who visited the hospital seeking a vaccine after being bitten by a dog, allegedly attacked a staff

nurse named Asha.

Bhargavi got upset when the hospital staff did not attend to her promptly. In a fit of anger, she verbally abused and physically assaulted nurse Asha, who was on duty at the time. In response to the attack, the medical staff gathered in front of the hospital, demanding immediate action against the accused woman.

They expressed their anger and concern, insisting on strict measures to ensure the safety and dignity of healthcare workers. The protest caused significant disruption to hospital services as the nurses refused to return to work until their demands were

➔ **Woman patient attacks hospital nurse named Asha**  
➔ **Woman upset with staff for not attending to her promptly**  
➔ **Hospital staff go on strike, demand action against accused woman**

addressed.

The protest in Shadpur came on a day when the Centre directed all healthcare institutions to file a case within six hours in case of violence against healthcare professionals. In a memo to all healthcare institutions, the Ministry of Health said the sole responsibility to file the FIR lies with the head of the institution.

The directive comes amid widespread protests by doctors across the country demanding the implementation of legislation to protect healthcare professionals against violence in the aftermath of the murder of the 31-year-old doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

## Mumbai woman jumps off bridge, saved by cab driver grabbing her hair

The rescue was captured on CCTV, showing the driver and traffic police personnel pulling the woman to safety.



**Mumbai.** A woman who tried to jump off the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, also known as Atal Setu, was saved by a cab driver and police officers on Friday evening. The rescue was captured on CCTV, showing the driver and traffic police personnel pulling the woman to safety.

The police have identified the woman as 56-year-old Reema Mukesh Patel, who is a resident of Mulund.

In the video, the woman can be seen sitting on the edge of the Atal Setu's safety barrier. With a solemn resolve, she tosses an

unknown object into the churning sea below. In a heart-stopping moment, the driver, acting swiftly, catches her just before she jumps off the bridge.

The scene unfolds further as a patrolling vehicle comes to a halt, its lights flashing as it rushes to assist. A tense minute of high-stakes rescue follows, with four cops, Lalit Shirshat, Kiran Matre, Yash Sonavane, and Mayur Patil, along with the cab driver, working in unison to pull her back from the brink. The combined efforts of the rescuers culminate in a dramatic save, pulling the woman to safety

and averting a tragic outcome.

"After police was alerted about her presence, a patrolling vehicle rushed to the spot. When the police approached her, she lost balance and was about to plunge into the sea. But a cab driver and the traffic police personnel held her just in time and managed to save her," a police official stated, news agency. "She said she lost her balance in panic after seeing police approach her. Nhava Sheva police is probing further," the official stated.

The woman is a homemaker, and the police are currently investigating the matter.

## Hospitals limit services as docs protest

**Ahmedabad.** In response to the recent rape and murder of a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, the Junior Doctors Association (JDA) at BJ Medical College initiated an indefinite strike on Friday. Interns and resident doctors will only handle emergency cases.

The JDA members said they will withdraw the strike after the demands of doctors at the national level are met.

The striking doctors shouted slogans, demanding justice for the victim and stronger laws to ensure safety for doctors. "The need for protection is long overdue and should be gender-neutral. We shouldn't have to wait for tragedies like Kolkata to make these demands," said a striking doctor.

Many patients were caught unawares as authorities tried to handle the increased workload. Dr Rakesh Joshi, medical superintendent of Civil Hospital, said that

OPDs were not affected much as the workload was distributed among the senior doctors and professors. "However, planned surgeries went down from 80-90 a day to 61. We have also devised a similar duty chart for Saturday," he said. Dr Deepika Singhal, medical superintendent of Sola Civil Hospital, said that the hospital work was not affected much.

IMA-AMA members to hold silent protest march

Dr Tushar Patel, president of the Ahmedabad Medical Association (AMA), announced a silent protest march from the AMA office to the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Income Tax Circle, with a candlelight vigil planned for later.

"We condemn the blatant attack on the resident doctor in Kolkata and demand security, especially in the light of the fact that nearly half the medical students now

are women," he said. Dr Mona Desai from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said, "The condition of doctors' rooms is deplorable. Hospitals must ensure safer working environment and CCTVs to prevent attacks on doctors." Over 30 prominent hospitals will limit services to emergencies on Saturday.

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: Resident doctors' strike leads to disruptions in medical services at Lucknow hospitals. A strike by resident doctors at KGMU, SGPGI, and RMLMS in Lucknow has caused significant disruptions in outpatient services and elective surgeries, following the death of a doctor in Kolkata. The protests, led by FORDA, demand better security for doctors, leaving many patients distressed and without treatment options.

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## NEWS BOX

## Gurgaon: Skill training sessions for village youths

**GURGAON.** Starting this Sept, students of govt educational institutions and rural youth will receive skill training at Vikas Sadan. Applications are open until August 31. Additional deputy commissioner Hitesh Kumar Meena, who also serves as the chairman of the Sevak Building Centre, held a meeting with officials to review the program on Friday. The initiative aims to make them economically self-reliant by equipping them with market-demanded skills. In May, ADC Meena signed MOUs with six industrial and educational institutions to facilitate this training.

"The three-month course will be free of charge, with a registration fee of Rs 100. Upon completion of the course, students will be required to take an exam. Those who pass will receive a diploma, while others will receive certificates," said an official.

## 7 years on, Haryana govt allots Rs 60 crore for new Civil Hospital building



**GURGAON.** The state govt has disbursed Rs 60 crore to the central public works department (CPWD) as the initial instalment for the construction of the new Civil Hospital building in the city. The department on Friday initiated the tender process for the project.

The apportioned sum represents 6% of the total sanctioned budget of Rs 989.8 crore for the new building, which will supplant the Civil Lines govt facility that was razed three years ago due to the structure's five-decade age and six incidents of roof collapse between 2015 and 2016. "CPWD has floated a tender process as govt has allocated the minimum requisite amount," a senior official said. The 10-storey hospital will be instrumental in delivering advanced healthcare amenities and infrastructure to the city. The facility is engineered to accommodate a significant patient volume, including 3,000 out-patient department (OPD) visitors per day. In 2015, the ceiling of the hospital's maternity ward collapsed thrice. A year later, the ceiling of the ICU ward also collapsed. The Public Works Department recommended the demolition of the entire building to prevent further mishaps in 2017. The project encountered an obstacle as it necessitated the acquisition of two acres of land near the hospital. The land was transferred to the health department in Jan 2021, after which demolition of the building began.

## Two abduct and thrash man after tiff, arrested in Gurgaon

**GURGAON.** Two men were arrested on Thursday for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a 35-year-old paying guest (PG) accommodation operator from Sector 45 after a minor argument. According to police, Sunil Kumar ran the facility from a property owned by Gulshan Yadav's father in Kanhai. On the night of Aug 13, Gulshan and his associate Arjun allegedly asked Sunil to meet them near the community centre of Sector 45. "Gulshan and Arjun forced me into their car. They punched and kicked me inside the vehicle and threatened to kill me," said the complainant, adding that he somehow managed to escape from the car.

## Gurgaon: 2 years on, MCG takes over upkeep of Mayfield Gardens

**GURGAON.** MCG has taken over most of Mayfield Gardens, a private colony, on the directions of chief minister Nayab Singh Saini. The takeover process involved the acquisition of 291 acres (90%) of the colony's 327 acres earlier this week. In a grievance committee meeting held on June 27, CM Nayab Singh Saini directed MCG to take over the colony and attach the developer's properties if it didn't pay development charges. MCG's partial takeover of the colony won't affect maintenance and other services that will now be handled by the civic body, as the remaining 36 acres the developer is yet to hand over consists of vacant land with no residents. MCG commissioner Narhari Singh Banger on Friday told TOI that the corporation will promptly commence providing maintenance services to the colony. "We have partially taken over Mayfield Gardens on the directions of the honourable CM. We have now taken over 291 acres of the colony and have also informed the state govt. We will now take charge of maintenance," Banger said. Deputy commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav could not be reached for a comment despite repeated attempts. A representative of the builder said they handed over most of the colony after completing deficient infrastructural work. "We have handed over the infrastructure and services of 291 acres for upkeep and maintenance to MCG. Infrastructural services in the remaining 36 acres, which are currently uninhabited, shall be completed by us and handed over to MCG," said Ajay Shokeen, general manager (marketing), Mayfield Projects. The developer is likely to apply for a completion certificate of the entire colony after developing sewerage and stormwater drainage, water supply and road networks in the vacant land. After it obtains the full completion certificate, the remaining land is expected to be handed over to MCG. Spread across sectors 47, 50, 51, 52 and 57, Mayfield Gardens was developed by a group of builders that stopped its maintenance around five years ago. Since then, residents have been pooling funds to meet their basic needs.

## Conning in India, trained by Chinese: A crime trail from Rajasthan's Churu to Colombo

**GURGAON.** Police have uncovered more evidence of cybercrime -- a more sophisticated and organised version of it than the frauds perpetrated from Jamtara and parts of Nuh -- being directed from abroad and it's not Cambodia.

Chasing an investment fraud whose thread ran from Manesar to Jalandhar, a city police team arrested a Churu (Rajasthan)-based owner of a mobile phone shop who, they found, was part of a network of Indians being directed by Chinese handlers from abroad. The accused said he had visited Colombo to meet the handlers in person. This case, police said, was similar to another cracked earlier this month when a Vadodara-based man, who allegedly gave access to seven bank accounts to Chinese handlers in Dubai. In that case too, the accused told cops he had visited Dubai. "Gangs led by foreigners operate from neighbouring countries as it is easier to meet Indian gang members there. Active bank accounts in India are key for them to execute the frauds and they are achieving this by transferring defrauded amounts into multiple bank accounts, making it difficult to trace the

amount. They also evade potential arrest from Indian police this way. So far, not a single Chinese national has been arrested from abroad by Indian agencies in cybercrime cases," a senior Haryana police officer told TOI on Friday. The crime committed by the man from Churu was reported to the cops in Feb by a Manesar resident who lost Rs 28 lakh. "The complainant, a self-employed man, was offered handsome returns on investments in the stock market. Believing the fraudsters, he transferred the amount into bank accounts provided by them. He realised the fraud when he tried to withdraw his returns. Fraudsters had blocked his access to the virtual platform and went intocommunicado," ACP (cybercrime) Priyanshu Dewan said. Based on his complaint, an FIR was registered under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code on Feb 8. Investigators made their first arrests on June 26. Neeraj, a private employee from Jalandhar, and his associates Amir Ahmed (Jalandhar) and Nand Kishore Shakia (Hanumangarh, Rajasthan) were arrested. Neeraj, cops said, was the



original account holder who gave its details to Ahmed. It was Neeraj's account in which money had been transferred by the Manesar resident. "Nand Kishore told police he was in touch with the mobile shop owner, Murzad Singh Shekhawat (44). Nand Kishore said Shekhawat had told him to send bank account kits with details of e-banking login, PIN code, etc, through a courier to Colombo," the ACP said. Police started keeping track of Shekhawat's movements and arrested him near KMP Expressway in Sonapat on Thursday. Shekhawat told police he was in touch with Chinese handlers for several

months. "We found details of four Chinese nationals in Shekhawat's cellphone. He came in contact with them through a Nepali national on WhatsApp. And he used to get in touch with them through Telegram," a senior police officer said. According to his statement, Shekhawat flew to Colombo in May 2024 and stayed with the four Chinese men in a house till July. There, he was told to find associates in India who would help him get bank accounts. "Shekhawat provided four current accounts to the handlers. He also got 1.5% of the defrauded amount that lands in the bank accounts provided by him," the ACP said. Police have seized a passport, three mobile phones, and SIM cards of Nepal and Sri Lanka from Shekhawat. He is on three-day police remand. Before this case, Gurgaon police on Aug 6 arrested Tarif Hussain Malik, a 33-year-old from Vadodara, for allegedly helping Chinese cybercons in Dubai. Investigation began after a complaint was filed in Nov 2023 for Rs 10 lakh lost in an investment fraud.

## Centre for Independence and Partition Studies, held on 14th August 2024

Simranjit Singh Makkar

New Delhi: In the year 2021 Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the sheer human tragedy and the intensity of savagery that accompanied the Partition of India. He emphasized that while we joyously celebrate the 15th of August every year as a symbol of Independence, we also need to revisit and remember the horrors endured by fellow Indians in the wake of the Partition. He further appealed to the people of the country that the 14th of August be celebrated as "Partition Horrors' Remembrance Day" to honour the pain and sufferings of partition victims. In accordance with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the University of Delhi celebrated the 'Partition Horrors' Remembrance Day' on 14th August 2024, under the aegis of the university's Centre for Independence and Partition Studies. To celebrate the occasion a National Seminar on the theme of 'Unravelling the Partition of India' will be held in the Conference Centre of the university from 10 am onwards. The seminar was preceded by the inauguration of a photography exhibition, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), on the theme of 'Unravelling the Partition of India'. Besides showcasing the various facets of tragedy and suffering which the Partition of India entails, the exhibition also aimed to highlight the sheer callousness of the British officials who despite being unfamiliar with the cultural terrain of India very hastily drew-up the new borders of the nation, owing to their eagerness to hurriedly move out of India. Government of India's Minister of Law and Justice Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the program, and Prof. Kapil Kapoor (Former Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha) delivered the keynote address. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi Prof. Yogesh Singh presided over

the event. The event was also attended by Director South Campus Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Director of Centre for Independence and Partition Studies Prof. Ravinder Kumar. Hon'ble Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal was felicitated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble

Minister of Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram congratulated Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for his vision of launching the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies. He highlighted how there are many unsung heroes and unseen facets of Partition which require in-depth study,



Prof. Singh was felicitated by Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, and Prof. Ravi Teckchandani was felicitated by Prof. Ravinder Kumar. As part of the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies' endeavour to truly unravel the reality of the tragedy of partition of the nation, Partition survivors shared their lived experiences of the Partition of India, in the form of a short-film. They were felicitated by Chief Guest Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. The National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL) and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) were the collaborating partners for the event. In his address Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh highlighted how Partition of India was an event which unfolded at the bidding of a handful of politicians. It was not a fate which the common man of the country chose for themselves and yet it was imposed on the entire nation. But no one in the political circles spoke out against this catastrophe. Hon'ble

and the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies will play a pivotal role in this area. On this occasion the newly set-

<b>Name Change</b> I, ABHIRAMY CK Sister of NO-15447233M NK ABHIJITH C K Presently residing at CHAN-DARUKANDIYIL-HOUSE, VPO-KARKKODI, DISTT-KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673611 have changed my name from ABHIRAMY CK to ABHIRAMI C K for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.	<b>Name Change</b> I, SHILPA ABHIJITH Wife of NO-15447233M NK ABHIJITH C K Presently residing at CHAN-DARUKANDIYIL-HOUSE, VPO-KARKKODI, DISTT-KOZHIKODE, KERALA-673611 have changed my name from SHILPA ABHIJITH to SHILPA P K for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.
<b>Name Change</b> I, ASHA wife of JC-332208P SUB MAJ RAMESH KUMAR residing at VILL-BASS, PO-ACHINA, TEHSIL-CHARKHI DADRI, DISTT-CHARKHI DADRI, HARYANA-127307 have changed my name from ASHA to ASHA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 17/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.	<b>Name Change</b> I, MANISH BANSAL S/o J.K. BANSAL, R/o AB-602, Plot No. 21, Mayank Apartment, Sector-6, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, have changed the name of my minor son ROHAN aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as ROHAN BANSAL.
<b>Name Change</b> I, PARAMJEET SINGH S/O AMRIK SINGH R/O D-163A, ARYA SAMAJ ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI - 110059, have changed my name from PARAMJEET SINGH to AMARJEET SINGH for all future purpose.	<b>Name Change</b> I, AMARJEET KAUR W/O PARAMJEET SINGH R/O D-163A, ARYA SAMAJ ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI - 110059, have changed my name from AMARJEET KAUR TO AMARJEET KAUR for all future purpose.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
Name of work: Upgradation of mandatory facility of pre-cooling cum battery charging (PBCB) points at ACC/NDLs of Electrical Coaching LDI Division under DRML LS Plan Head-42 (2023-24).	
Tender No.	30-Elect-3T-Chg-2024-25
Approx cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 80,46,325/-
Cost of tender form	NIL
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,60,900/-
Period of completion of work	04 Months
Date & time of submission of tender	05.09.2024, 15:00 hrs.
And opening of tender	05.09.2024 at 15:00.
Website & notice board	www.reps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI
2521/2024	

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NANI RESORTS & FLORICULTURE PVT. LTD. Corporate Office: ROF Group, Building No. 80, First Floor, Sector-44, Gurugram-122003, Ph.0124-4399399	

Applications are invited from general public out for booking of residential apartments in the Affordable Housing Project "ROF AMALTAS" being developed by M/s. **NANI RESORTS & FLORICULTURE PVT. LTD.**

On first come first serve basis at **Sector 92, Gurugram, Haryana (License No. - 37 of 2019 dated: 06.12.2018)** which have been either surrendered by the applicants or allotment of which has been cancelled by the Developer due non-payment or any other reason in terms of the Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 dated 19.08.2013 (as amended):

Application No.	Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)	Apartment No.
1835	1 BHK, TYPE-2 (312.47 SQ.FT.)	F- G-011

\* Payable as per payment plan.

The Applications forms containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from our office situated at **First Floor, Building No. 80, Sector-44, Gurugram-122003**

For **Nani Resorts and Floriculture Pvt. Ltd.**  
Place: Gurugram (Haryana)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all public that my client sh. Babu Lal, aged about 63 years old age s/o Late Sh. Mool Chand and Smt. Badami Devi w/o Sh. Babu Lal both r/o C-1635, G/F, JJ Colony Tigr, New Delhi-110062, have severed all relations with his son namely Manoj Kumar s/o Sh. Babu Lal and his wife Rishni Bhasim disowned them from all their immovable and movable properties due to their disobedience and bad behaviour. My clients shall not responsible for their any acts and deeds in any manner whatsoever.
<b>NISCHAL SHARMA ADVOCATE</b> OFF: 101, CENTRAL MARKET DAKSHIN PURI NEW DELHI-110062

Lost & found
LASHOK KUMAR GROVER, S/O MANOHAR LAL GROVER, HAVE LOST BUILDER AGREEMENT COPY OF OUR SHOP ADDRESS G/O SAHYOG BUILDING, 58 NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI 110019, FINDER, PLEASE CON. TACT., 9811605055,9711605055.

Name Change
I hitherto known as VINOD MUNSHI I hitherto known as VINOD KUMAR MUNSHI S/o AMAR NATH MUNSHI, R/o D05- 202, Crescent Parc Royal Green, Sare Homes, Sec-92, Wazirpur(115), Gurgaon, Haryana-122505, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VINOD KUMAR MUNSHI.

Name Change
I, DEEPAK KUMAR VERMA S/O SATPAL residing at PLOT NO-314A, 2ND FLOOR, FLAT NO-4, SECTOR-3A, VAISALI, I.E. SAHIBABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201010 have changed the name of mine and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK KUMAR ARORA.

Name Change
I, KAVITA W/O Army No. - 2800092L HAV NAVEEN YALLAPPA SAMBHAIJCHE R/O VILL- Kathanthavi POST- Bambarge TEH- Belgavi DIST - Belgavi PIN 591143 have checked my name from KAVITA TO KAVITA Namdev sambhajiche for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 05/08/2024 before notary public. UP

Name Change
I, Mayank Taneja S/o Ved Prakash R/o A-41, Tagore Garden Extn., New Delhi-110027, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as MAYANK and VED PRAKASH TANEJA in my 10th class education documents. The actual name of mine and my father are MAYANK TANEJA and VED PRAKASH.

CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH
I, PREMLATA Wife of NO-3202337N Rank-NK Name-DEEPAK KUMAR R/O VILL-AJAROI, PO-SASNI, DIST-HATHRAS, UTTAR PRADESH-204216, in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 20/09/1989 instead of my correct date of birth as 20/07/1990 vide affidavit dated 17/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH
I, AMMINI Mother of No. 16112303Y HAV ARJUN KUMAR S Permanent address is KARUKACHIRA HOUSE, OORUKARY (PO), RAMANKARY, ALAPPUZHA (DISTT), KERALA-689595, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1955 vide affidavit dated 17/08/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.



News box

Putin aide says US-led Nato and West helped Ukraine attack Russia

**Moscow,UPDATED** An influential aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that the West and the US-led Nato alliance had helped to plan Ukraine's surprise attack on Russia's Kursk region, something Washington has denied.The lightning incursion, the biggest into Russia by a foreign power since World War Two, began on August 6 when thousands of Ukrainian troops crossed Russia's western border in a major embarrassment for Putin's military.Ukraine said the incursion was needed to force Russia, which sent its forces into Ukraine in February 2022, to start "fair" peace talks.But the United States and Western powers, eager to avoid direct military confrontation with Russia, said Ukraine had not given advance notice and that Washington was not involved, though weaponry provided by Britain and the US is reported to have been used on Russian soil.Influential veteran Kremlin hawk Nikolai Patrushev dismissed the Western assertions in an interview with the Izvestia newspaper."The operation in the Kursk region was also planned with the participation of Nato and Western special services," he was quoted as saying, without offering evidence."Without their participation and direct support, Kyiv would not have ventured into Russian territory."

The remarks implied that Ukraine's first acknowledged foray into sovereign Russian territory carried a high risk of escalation.

Putin chaired a meeting of Russia's Security Council, including Patrushev, and said the discussion would focus on "new technical solutions" being employed in what Russia calls its special military operation.

Row over planned Ram Mandir float at upcoming India Day Parade in New York

**New York.** A carnival float featuring a Hindu temple that is planned for an upcoming India Day Parade in New York City has sparked controversy, with a number of groups calling it anti-Muslim and saying it should be removed from the event.The float depicts a temple to the Hindu god Lord Ram, which was consecrated earlier this year on a site in Ayodhya, India, believed to be his birthplace. But the temple site has long been bitterly contested between Hindus and Muslims, and in the early 1990s a mosque that stood there was razed by a Hindu fundamentalist mob.Some US-based organisations have written a letter to New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York Governor Kathy Hochul, calling the float anti-Muslim and saying it glorified the mosque's takedown.Among the groups who signed the letter were the Council on American Islamic Relations, the Indian American Muslim Council and Hindus for Human Rights."This float's presence represents these groups' desire to conflate Hindu nationalist ideology with Indian identity, but India is a secular country," the letter said.The Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, which is organising the float, says it represents a Hindu place of worship and aims to glorify a deity seen as an important part of Indian and Hindu identity. The Hindu American Foundation said it was an exercise of free speech.The Federation of Indian ssociations, which runs Sunday's event, said the parade represents India's cultural diversity and will feature floats from a range of communities.There's no room for hate," Adams said at a press conference earlier this week. "If there is a float or a person in the parade that's promoting hate, they should not."Adams' office later told the Associated Press that the US Constitution's First Amendment right to free speech prevents the city from denying a permit or requiring that a float or parade's message be changed simply because it does not agree with the content.

Bangladesh actor Rokeya Prachi attacked by mob, goes underground

**Dhaka** Popular Bangladeshi actor Rokeya Prachy was allegedly attack by a violent mob on August 15 when she was on her way to 32 Bangbandhu Road to pay respects to country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rehman on his martyrdom day.

Speaking exclusively to India Today TV, Prachy said that during the attack, an angered mob tore down posters, and talked about killing her."They were all supporters and workers of BNP and Jamaat Islami. They wanted to kill me. They danced after beating and throwing me out. The clothes were ripped, women were physically harassed," Prachy recalled.The famous Bangladeshi actress is a recent victim of the growing wave of violence that has engulfed Bangladesh over past few weeks.The crisis has become increasingly dangerous for the leaders of the Awami League and those who voiced their support for the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled the country on August 5 amid violent student protests.Many of the leaders of the former ruling party have gone underground in fear of their lives. Notably, this impediment is not only limited to politicians but has now also reached actors."I don't know if I am going to be safe tomorrow. I don't find anything meaningful with this new-found independence," Prachy said.To paint a better picture of the current situation, Prachi drew comparisons to Bangladesh's situation in 1971.

Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana can be extradited to India: US court

**Washington.**In a major setback to Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, who is sought by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled that he is extraditable to India under the extradition treaty between the two countries.

"The (India US Extradition) Treaty permits Rana's extradition," the court said in its ruling on August 15.Ruling on an appeal filed by Rana, a panel of judges of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California's denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate judge's certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai.Under the limited scope of habeas review of an extradition order, the panel held that Rana's alleged offence fell within the terms of the extradition treaty between the United States and India, which included a Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) exception to extraditability "when the person sought has been convicted or acquitted in the Requested State for the

offence for which extradition is requested". Relying on the plain text of the treaty, the State Department's technical analysis, and persuasive case law of other circuits, the panel held that the word "offence" refers to a charged crime, rather than underlying acts, and requires an analysis of the elements of each crime.The panel of three judges concluded that a co-conspirator's plea agreement did not compel a different result. The panel held that the Non Bis in Idem exception did not apply because the Indian charges contained distinct elements from the crimes for which Rana was acquitted in the United States.In its ruling, the panel also held that India provided sufficient competent evidence to support the magistrate judge's finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes. The three panel of judges were Milan D Smith, Bridget S Bade, and Sidney A Fitzwater.Rana, a Pakistani national, was tried in a US district court on charges related to his support for a terrorist organisation that carried out large scale terrorist attacks in Mumbai. A jury convicted Rana of providing material support to a foreign terrorist



organisation and conspiring to provide material support to a foiled plot to carry out terrorist attacks in Denmark.However, the jury acquitted Rana of conspiring to provide material support to terrorism related to the attacks in India. After Rana served seven

years in prison for those convictions and upon his compassionate release, India issued a request for his extradition to try him for his alleged participation in the Mumbai attacks.Before the magistrate judge who initially decided Rana's extraditability (the extradition court), Rana argued that the US extradition treaty with India protected him from extradition because of its Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) provision. He also argued that India did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate probable cause that he committed the charged crimes.The extradition court rejected Rana's arguments and certified that he was extraditable. After Rana raised the same arguments in a habeas petition in district court (the habeas court), the habeas court affirmed the extradition court's findings of facts and conclusions of law.In his appeal, Rana argued that he cannot be extradited based on conduct for which he was acquitted in the United States because the word "offence" refers to underlying acts. The US government argued that "offence" refers to a charged crime and requires an analysis of the elements of each charged crime.

First case of polio confirmed in 10-month-old child in Gaza: Officials

**Gaza city.** Palestinian health officials on Friday reported the first case of polio in an unvaccinated 10-month-old child in the Gaza city of Deir al-Balah, the first case in years in the coastal enclave that has been engulfed in the Israel-Hamas war since October 7.

After discovering the child's symptoms, tests were conducted in Jordan's capital of Amman and the case was confirmed to be polio, the health officials said.The potentially fatal, paralysing disease mostly strikes children under the age of 5 and typically spreads through contaminated water. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the spread of polio has never been stopped.The World Health Organization did not immediately respond to requests to confirm the case. However, UN health and children's agencies have called for seven-day pauses in the fighting, starting at the end of August, to vaccinate 640,000 Palestinian children against polio.They said the polio virus had been discovered in wastewater in two major cities last month in Gaza, which has been polio-free for the last 25 years, according to the United Nations.The humanitarian community has warned of the re-emergence of polio since the latest war erupted when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostage. Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive has killed more than 40,000 people in Gaza in the 10-month-long conflict and created a dire humanitarian situation, which health officials say has created a public health emergency.In July, WHO said a variant of type 2 was discovered in wastewater samples from southern Khan Younis and central Deir al-Balah, linked to a variant of the polio virus last detected in Egypt last year.While WHO did not confirm the polio case, it said earlier on Friday that three children in Gaza were found with acute flaccid paralysis — the onset of weakness or paralysis with reduced muscle tone, a common symptom of polio.

US Supreme Court junks plea for LGBT student protection in 10 Republican states

**Washington** The US Supreme Court declined on Friday to let President Joe Biden's administration enforce a key part of a new rule protecting LGBT students from discrimination in schools and colleges based on gender identity in 10 Republican-led states that had challenged it.The justices denied the administration's request to partially lift lower court injunctions that had blocked the entirety of the rule expanding protections under Title IX, a law that bars sex discrimination in federally funded education programs, while litigation continues.The lower court decisions had prevented the US Education Department from enforcing the new rule, announced in April and set to take effect on August 1, in Tennessee, Louisiana and eight other states.The administration had sought to restore a key provision of

clarifying that discrimination "on the basis of sex" encompasses sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the rule's numerous other provisions that do not address gender identity.Biden's administration had asked the Supreme Court to intervene on an emergency basis in a lawsuit by Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Idaho, and numerous Louisiana school boards, and another lawsuit by Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, West Virginia and an association of Christian educators."These final regulations clarify Title IX's requirement that schools promptly and effectively address all forms of sex discrimination," US Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon said when the rule was announced. "We look forward to working with schools, students and families to

prevent and eliminate sex discrimination."Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill called the rule a federal overreach that would eviscerate Title IX, and criticized what she called Biden's "extreme gender ideology.""This is all for a political agenda, ignoring significant safety concerns for young women students in pre-schools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across Louisiana and the entire country," Murrill said of the federal rule when she announced the state's lawsuit."These schools now have to change the way they behave and the way they speak, and whether they can have private spaces for little girls or women. It is enormously invasive, and it is much more than a suggestion.

Congo's humanitarian crisis helped mpox spiral again into a global health emergency

**GOMA, Congo:** Sarah Bagheni had a headache, fever, and itchy and unusual skin lesions for days, but she had no inkling that her symptoms might have been caused by mpox and that she might be another case in a growing global health emergency.She also has no idea where to go to get medical help. She and her husband live in the Bulengo displacement camp in eastern Congo, a region that is effectively ground zero for a series of mpox outbreaks in Africa. This year's alarming rise in cases, including a new form of the virus identified by scientists in eastern Congo, led the World Health Organization to

declare it a global health emergency on Wednesday. It said the new variant could spread beyond the five African countries where it had already been detected — a timely warning that came a day before Sweden reported its first case of the new strain.In the vast central African nation of Congo, which has had more than 96% of the world's roughly 17,000 recorded cases of mpox this year — and some 500 deaths from the disease — many of the most vulnerable seem unaware of its existence or the threat that it poses. "We know nothing about this," Bagheni's husband, Habumuremyiza Hire, said Thursday about mpox. "I watch her

condition helplessly because I don't know what to do. We continue to share the same room."Millions are thought to be out of reach of medical help or advice in the conflict-torn east, where dozens of rebel groups have been fighting Congolese army forces for years over mineral-rich areas, causing a huge displacement crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people like Bagheni and her husband have been forced into overcrowded refugee camps around Goma, while more have taken refuge in the city.Conditions in the camps are dire and medical facilities are almost nonexistent.

Hurricane Ernesto slams into Bermuda, causes power cuts, flooding

Hurricane Ernesto hit Bermuda late Friday with heavy winds and rain after officials in the tiny British territory in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean opened shelters and closed government offices.

**Bermuda,UPDATED** Hurricane Ernesto bore down on Bermuda on Friday as a Category 2 storm, threatening the British island territory with strong winds, a dangerous storm surge and potentially deadly flooding.

Ernesto, centered about 95 miles (150 km) south-southwest of the archipelago at 8 pm Atlantic Standard Time (0000 GMT on Saturday), was producing sustained winds of up to 100 mph (155 kph) and had the potential to drop up to 9 inches (230 mm) of rain, the US National Hurricane Center said.The center of Ernesto is expected to pass near or over Bermuda on Saturday morning, making conditions ripe for storm surges and flash flooding by the afternoon."Folks, be under no illusion. This storm is the real deal," said Michael Weeks, Bermuda's national security minister, at a press conference on Friday.He warned Bermudians to brace for 36 hours of hurricane- and tropical storm-force winds starting Friday afternoon.The winds had knocked out power for 5,400 of Bermuda's 36,000 customers, the power utility Belco said. The company added it had called its repair crews back from the field because it was too dangerous to work.Warren Darrell, 52, of Smith's Parish, said he had stocked up on



groceries for his family, battened down the hatches and removed furniture from the lawn in preparation for Ernesto's arrival."I'm ready to play games with my daughters and wait," he said. "I'm a bit worried, a little bit worried, but I think we'll overcome. I think we'll be fine."Winds, torrential rains and rip currents began picking up just before noon at John Smith's Bay on Bermuda's Main Island. The government planned to close a causeway bridge linking it to St. George's Island on Friday night. A number of tourists and locals were seen roaming around the south shore, while a person was windsurfing as waves grew in size before 2 pm.Bermuda, a

collection of 181 small islands clustered more than 600 miles (965 km) off the Carolina coast, can expect hurricane conditions to persist until Sunday, National Hurricane Center Director Michael Brennan said in an online briefing.Fewer than a dozen hurricanes have made direct landfall on Bermuda, according to records dating to the 1850s.

PUERTO RICO POWER OUTAGES

Earlier this week, Ernesto grazed Puerto Rico as a tropical storm, bringing heavy rainfall to the US Caribbean territory and cutting power to about half of its 1.5 million customers.About 250,000 homes and businesses remained without power as of Friday morning, according to LUMA Energy, the island's main electricity distributor.

Puerto Rico's power grid is notoriously fragile. The island has experienced prolonged power outages in recent years when weather systems much more powerful than Ernesto rolled through.

Ernesto is the fifth named Atlantic storm of what is expected to be an intense hurricane season. Slow-moving Debby hit Florida's Gulf Coast as a Category 1 hurricane just last week before soaking some parts of the Carolinas with up to 2 feet of rain.

Blood on Turkey parliament floor as lawmakers trade punches

The Turkish parliament descended into chaos as lawmakers were involved in a brawl as they fistfought with each other over the move to strip parliamentary immunity to a jailed opposition leader. The brawl left two MPs injured.

**Ankara,Ankara.** Dozens of lawmakers became embroiled in a fisticuffs brawl in Turkey's parliament on Friday (local time) as they argued over a jailed opposition deputy stripped of his parliamentary immunity this year.The 30-minute ruckus, which left at least two lawmakers injured, forced the suspension of the hearing. Deputies eventually returned for a vote that rejected an opposition move to restore the parliamentary

mandate of lawyer and rights activist Can Atalay.The parliamentary turmoil erupted after ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) member Alpaz Ozalan launched into Ahmet Sik, a member of the leftist Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) who had condemned the government's treatment of Atalay.It's no surprise that you call Atalay a terrorist," he said."All citizens should know that the biggest terrorists of this country are those seated on those benches," he added, indicating the ruling majority.Ozalan, a former footballer, walked to the rostrum and shoved Sik to the ground, said an AFP journalist in parliament.Whilst on the ground, Sik was pounced several times by AKP lawmakers. Dozens of lawmakers joined the fight.Footage posted online showed the brawl and then staff cleaning blood stains from the parliament floor. A deputy from the Republican People's Party



(CHP) and one from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy (DEM) party suffered head injuries.Ozgur Ozel, the head of the main opposition CHP party, denounced the violence."I am ashamed to have witnessed this situation," he added.The parliament speaker said the two deputies at the origin of the brawl would be sanctioned.COURT

**BATTLE** Atalay was deprived of his seat following an ill-tempered parliamentary session in January, despite efforts by fellow leftist deputies to halt the proceedings.He is one of seven defendants sentenced in 2022 to 18 years in prison following a controversial trial that also saw the award-winning philanthropist Osman Kavala jailed for life.From prison, Atalay, 48, campaigned for a parliament seat for the earthquake-ravaged Hatay province in a May 2023 election.He was elected as a member of the leftist TIP, which has three seats in the parliament.The win led to a legal standoff between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's supporters and opposition leaders that pushed Turkey to the verge of a constitutional crisis last year.Parliament's decision in January to oust Atalay came after a ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeals that upheld.



## News box

## 1st indigenous chip to be made in Gujarat: CM

**Gandhinagar.** Speaking at the state-level Independence Day celebration in Nadiad on Thursday, chief minister Bhupendra Patel said that India's first indigenously developed semiconductor chip will be manufactured in Gujarat. "We have so far attracted an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore in the electronics and semiconductor sector," Patel said.

He announced an increase in the monthly income limit set earlier by the state govt for people wanting free ration under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMKAY). At present, a family with a monthly income of Rs 15,000 is eligible to get free food grain under the scheme. "I announce to increase the monthly income limit from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000," he said in his speech.

Patel also announced Rs 5,017 crore for road infrastructure.

1.3 lakh eligible for Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in MumbaiThe Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana drew significant participation, with 1.7 lakh applications from women in Mumbai City District, and 1.3 lakh deemed eligible. Mumbai City Collector, Sanjay Yadav, established 75 help centres for processing applications and urged more women to apply.112464703

State finance department cautions about road scheme hike to Rs 37,000 croreThe Maharashtra government approved a Rs 28,500 crore project to build 6,000 km of roads, which later changed to cement-concrete, raising costs by Rs 8,464 crores to Rs 36,964 crores. The finance department expressed concerns due to fiscal limits. The project, led by MSIDC, will see phased implementation to manage the financial burden.112532345

At 23,000 crore, monthly SIP flows hit new peak in JulyIn July, retail investors' trust in mutual funds increased, achieving a monthly SIP contribution record of Rs 23,332 crore. Driven by a resilient economy amidst global volatility, the total assets under management in the MF industry reached nearly Rs 65 lakh crore. Despite slightly lower net inflows, equity and debt funds continued to attract significant investments.

## Gwalior man kills 19-year-old daughter over inter-caste affair



**Gwalior.** A man allegedly killed his daughter after a fight with her over her relationship with a young man from another caste in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, police said on Saturday. The man has been detained. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Gajendra Singh Vardhaman said the murder was committed under the Girwai police station limits. The man's daughter was in love with a youth from another community, but he and his other family members were opposed to it.

There was a fight on Friday between the father and daughter over her relationship, during which the man strangled her, the police official said. After being informed, police reached the spot and detained the man, he said, adding that a probe is underway.

## Telangana girl, 14, dies on spot after witnessing violent attack on father

**A teenage girl in Telangana's Suryapet died after witnessing three men attacking her father with sticks and iron rods during a violent land dispute.**

**Hyderabad.** A 14-year-old girl in Telangana's Suryapet district died on the spot after witnessing three men attacking her father over a land dispute, police said.

The father, Kasam Somayya, was assaulted in front of his daughter, Kasam Pavani, by three men with sticks and iron rods as a land



dispute escalated into violence. Upon witnessing the attack on her father, the girl collapsed and died on the spot. The attackers were identified as Kadari Saidulu, Kadari Somayya and Kasam Kalingam, and a case was registered against them.

Police Circle Inspector Raghuvir Reddy and Sub-Inspector Ailaiah stated that a probe was underway and assured strict action against those responsible for the violence.

## Row over massive reshuffle of Bengal doctors amid Kolkata rape-murder protest

**Among the 42 transferred are two doctors who were posted at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where the trainee doctor's semi-naked body was found on August 9, and triggered nationwide protests.**

**Kolkata.** A controversy erupted after the West Bengal government transferred 42 professors and doctors working in various medical colleges and hospitals across the state amid protests over the rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Among the 42 transferred are two doctors -- Dr Sangeeta Paul and Dr Supriya Das -- who were posted at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where the trainee doctor's semi-naked body was found on August 9. The state health department has not reacted to the reason for their transfer.

The state government's massive reshuffle triggered a backlash from the doctors' associations and the opposition BJP, calling it a conspiracy and an attempt to "scare" senior healthcare professionals.

"We strongly condemn the @MamataOfficial @BengalGovernor unjust transfer of faculty members who supported our protest. These punitive measures will not silence our demands for justice and security. We stand united and resolute in our fight," the United Doctors Front Association tweeted.

The response came as the Indian Medical Association (IMA) called a 24-hour

nationwide cease-work protest, halting most health services from Saturday 6 am to Sunday 6 am, demanding justice for the trainee doctor's rape and murder and improved working conditions for doctors. Reacting to the transfer orders, a protesting



doctor, Dr Kinjal Nanda, questioned the need for such a decision at a time when protests against the gruesome incident were going on.

"Senior professors and doctors were transferred. Those who were supporting our protest were transferred. We have raised our voices against this move. We don't know what the conspiracy was. Those senior professors who were with us were from various universities and had supported us," Dr Nanda said.

"We have seen the notification. Dr Sangeeta Paul was with us. She came here and supported us. But we don't know why they were transferred. This is not clear to us. We are raising our voices and we want justice," the doctor added.

## BJP SLAMS DOCTORS' TRANSFER ORDERS

Criticising the transfer orders of doctors and professors, BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya accused the West Bengal government of making a "desperate attempt to scare the senior doctor community into submission".

"On August 16, West Bengal government's Health Ministry has issued an eight-page long list of transfer orders, adding to the already chaotic situation. On Mamata Banerjee's target is Medical College Kolkata and Calcutta National Medical College. These two are the epicentre of protests against her fascist regime," Malviya tweeted.

"So far, five professors from these two prestigious institutes have been transferred out to colleges in Siliguri, Tamuk, Jhargram etc. This is a desperate attempt to scare the senior doctor community into submission.

## Radioactive material found in Lucknow airport's cargo area: Sources

**Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport said an alarm for radioactive material went off while scanning a medical consignment.**

**Lucknow.** Panic gripped Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport after radioactive material was found in the cargo area on Saturday. The area was immediately evacuated and the NDRF was called to the spot.

In a statement, the airport said an alarm for radioactive material went off while scanning a medical consignment. The incident has, however, not impacted airport operations.

"The National Disaster Response Force was called in to ascertain the cause of the alarm. There was no threat to life or injury. Airport operations have not been impacted," the airport said in a statement.

The alarm was received while scanning a box containing cancer medicine, a report said. Last week, 50 gm of a "radioactive substance" worth crores was recovered in Bihar's Gopalganj and three persons were arrested.

"Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed all the three from the Balthari area under the jurisdiction of Kuchaikot Police station. During interrogation, 50 gm of expensive radioactive substance 'californium' and four mobile phones were recovered," a police statement said.

Californium is generally used in nuclear reactors, coal power plants, treatment of cancer and oil drilling.



## Maharashtra man flashes woman, she injures his private parts with metal spatula

**New Delhi.** As the country reels under the Kolkata rape and murder case, a 26-year-old woman took matters into her own hands to stop a man's unwanted advances by injuring his private parts with a metal spatula in Maharashtra's Thane district, news agency reported, while citing an official.

The man, identified as 30-year-old Anil Satyanarayan Raccha, was rushed to the hospital and is currently receiving treatment. The official stated that the accused was intoxicated when he attempted to misbehave with the woman at her residence in the Bhiwandi area. As per the police, both the man and woman knew each other.

The incident took place at around 4:30 pm



on Friday when Raccha went to her house and tried to make sexual advances. He also allegedly flashed her.

To protect herself from the unwanted

overtures, the woman raised an alarm, rushed to her kitchen, and picked up a metal spatula. She hit Raccha with the spatula and injured his genitals, the official stated, citing the FIR.

Wounded Raccha, ran out of her house to seek medical assistance. He has been hospitalised, the official stated. Based on a complaint by the woman, the Bhiwandi police have lodged a case against Raccha for outraging the modesty of a woman, sexual harassment, and trespass under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS). The accused has not been arrested as he is still in the hospital, the police official stated.

## MAUD Principal Secretary criticises GHMC for poor road maintenance, garbage management

**HYDERABAD.** MAUD Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore conducted surprise inspections of frequent Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) in Jubilee Hills on Friday and expressed anger towards civic authorities for not taking up the patch works and leaving the potholes unattended in Journalist Colony.

"Whenever stretches are damaged, road restoration should be taken up and completed from time to time," he said. He asked GHMC officials to identify waterlogging points and find a suitable area for constructing rainwater-holding structures.

As vector-borne diseases are likely to rise due to rains, Kishore advised GHMC to pay special attention to major garbage dumping points in Jubilee Hills and inspected these areas.

He asked GHMC to take measures to collect garbage in two shifts in such areas. "If there are any problems at the field level, the sanitation workers should inform superiors. Workers must wear uniforms and gloves during working hours and follow protective measures," he added.

## Stone pelting, clashes in Nashik during protest over attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus

**Tensions escalated in Maharashtra as protests against violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh turned violent. In Nashik, clashes erupted during a bandh, resulting in injuries to 18 police officers. Stone-pelting incidents also occurred in Jalgaon during a protest march. The situation remains tense but under control, with heavy police presence in both cities.**

**New Delhi.** Tensions prevailed across two cities in Maharashtra on Friday as protests against the atrocities committed against Hindus and minorities in Bangladesh took a violent turn.

In Nashik, two groups collided during a bandh called by the 'Sakal Hindu Samaj'. The skirmish led to the stone-pelting, which left 18 cops and several people injured. The clashes took place in the Bhadrakali area, where police fired tear gas shells and used force to disperse the mob.

Currently, the situation in the city is tense but under control, the police stated.

Speaking with news agency PTI, Nashik police commissioner Sandeep Karnik stated, "Six tear gas shells and one rubber bullet were fired to disperse the crowd. Around six police officers were injured. Police personnel, including State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) jawans, were deployed in the area to maintain peace."

The unrest began in the afternoon when members of the Sakal Hindu Samaj took out a protest march along with a motorbike rally. As the demonstration turned its way to Bhadrakali, tensions flared when the protesters noticed that some shops had defied the bandh and remained open. What started as verbal arguments between the two sides quickly escalated into full-blown clashes, with stones being pelted. The chaos resulted in damage to several vehicles, adding to the turmoil that had already gripped the area.

VIOLENCE IN JALGAON



In Jalgaon, stones were pelted at a vehicle showroom when the Sakal Hindu Samaj conducted a protest march.

"The incident occurred in Jalgaon city this morning during a protest march by the Sakal Hindu Samaj against anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh. Some unidentified persons hurled a few stones at a two-wheeler showroom," an official told.

According to the official, the situation was tense for some time, but it was brought under control following the



intervention of the police. As a precautionary measure, several police personnel were deployed in the city.

The protests were ignited by reports of escalating violence against Hindu communities in Bangladesh following the fall of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5. Since then, attacks have surged, with the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance reporting incidents and threats against the minority group in 278 locations across 48 districts.



## Trysts and Turns: Humanism on the Olympic scale

FOR me the biggest takeaway from the Paris Olympics was the voice of two women — two mothers, one an Indian and the other a Pakistani. Raziah Parveen, whose son Arshad Nadeem bested our hero Neeraj Chopra for the gold in the javelin throw, on being informed that her son had won the contest, said Neeraj was also her son and she would have been equally happy if the result had been the other way round.

That was a brave thing for a mother to say. But the other woman, too, expressed something similar. Suraj Devi, Neeraj's mother, said Arshad was also her son. Two mothers from two neighbouring countries, separated by a barricaded border and mutual hostility built up over 77 years or so, were not merely happy and proud of their respective son's performance at the Games but, even more importantly, exhibited a dignity and grace that only wisdom and gentility can evoke. Arshad and Neeraj have given their nations a lot to cheer about ahead of their respective Independence Days. If common citizens of the two perpetually warring countries can unite and drive some sense into the thoughts and actions of their rulers, poverty and misery — which is presently the lot of a sizeable proportion of their respective population — can be fought and conquered. Such a transformation may not result in top positions in the comity of nations but will certainly be good enough to assure both of a place at the high table. India, with a stronger economy, would most certainly get there. Parveen has invited Neeraj to her home at Mian Channu village in Khanewal district of Pakistani Punjab. Will the government of Pakistan give him a visa if he does accept the offer? That is a million-dollar question, very difficult to answer. Pakistan's Ambassador in Romania during my tenure there had a schoolgoing daughter whom I had met when my wife and I were invited for dinner at their home. Thirty years later, I received an e-mail from the girl saying that she was employed in a foreign country where she met and married a Hindu colleague from India. They wanted to meet the parents of their spouses but were finding it difficult to obtain visas. Could I help? I wrote to then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. She was an old acquaintance of mine from my Punjab days. A gracious lady, she replied the very next day that she had instructed her ministry to expedite the process. I heard nothing about that request thereafter, neither from the ministry nor from my young Pakistani friend.

Moving on to Bangladesh, micro-credit wizard Muhammad Yunus, now tasked with the difficult task of running a government in his native land, knows that his primary task is to restrain the proclivities of the religious extremists intent on decimating the minority Hindus. He has inducted their representative in his interim administration, probably to humour the hotheads. I doubt if that will work. Religious extremists of all creeds are a menace in any country and the Bangladesh ones find themselves unchained after 15 years of Sheikh Hasina's rule. That makes them doubly dangerous. The Nobel laureate has his work cut out. It is emotionally gratifying to humanists the world over that when these extremists threatened to destroy Hindu temples and homes, the students who propelled the ouster of India's friend Hasina took it upon themselves to mount a vigil and deployed volunteers to defend the temples, homes and shops from religion-inspired vandalism.

The student protesters of Bangladesh alleged that Hasina was an autocrat, a minor dictator who favoured her own party operatives with jobs in the government. These are as prized in Bangladesh as they are in ours. Government jobs ensure security of tenure even while the quality of service rendered is well below par. Many commentators from Bangladesh mentioned the close relations between their country and India as a grouse against Hasina! That comment was not well received in India. Here, the common man's view has always been that Bangladeshis should perpetually be beholden to India for helping them achieve independence from Pakistan.

## The return of the Foreign Hand

The focus has to be on good governance rather than the search for an alibi to explain domestic failures

FROM Hindenburg and George Soros to international human rights organisations to an assortment of spooks and spies, the Foreign Hand is allegedly back in India. Despite the popular basis of the protests and the mass mobilisation by young persons that sent former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina packing, there have been allegations that a Foreign Hand was behind her ouster. To be sure, South Asia may well be a playground in an unfolding New Cold War, as it was during the Old Cold War, so to speak. Many countries, big and small, have acquired a stake in the region. So, it would be tempting to see shadowy forces operating, more so when cataclysmic events like a regime change occur. However, more often than not, the sources of the problems countries in South Asia are having to deal with lie at home.

Every now and then, the Foreign Hand makes its appearance in Indian political discourse. In the run-up to the 2024 General Election, none other than the Prime Minister himself spoke about global threats to India's internal stability and progress and emphasised the need for a 'strong and stable' government with overwhelming parliamentary majority. In the event, the electorate did not take that threat seriously and gave him a sub-optimal result. Many political analysts have often remarked that Narendra Modi has borrowed much from the political toolkit of Indira Gandhi. Blaming the Foreign Hand for his political problems is one such borrowed idea. Except, that Indira was operating in an era wherein heads of government were bumped off by shadowy elements. Her media adviser, the late HY Sharada Prasad, has left behind notes suggesting that she may well have imposed Emergency rule in 1974 fearing that she was the next target of a Foreign Hand, after Chile's Salvador Allende was assassinated in 1973. Both Fidel Castro and Leonid Brezhnev had allegedly warned her as much. The 1960s and 1970s, the high noon of the Cold War, was indeed the era of the Foreign Hand. Both the US and the Soviet Union were seeking allies and puppets to bolster their own power. India was then on the wrong side of western powers. Today, India sees itself as a 'strategic partner' and a 'non-NATO ally' of the US. Yet, paranoia and the politics around the Foreign Hand, in which even the US is suspect, have not gone away.

With the end of the Cold War, the talk of a Foreign Hand subsided, though it never disappeared. With the implosion of the Soviet Union, India drifting closer to the US and a surge in the numbers of Indians heading West and seeking citizenship of Anglophone countries, the Foreign Hand receded from public discourse. It would make its appearance every now and then, as it did in 2012 when even a sober leader like then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh felt compelled to see the Foreign Hand behind the protests targeting the Russian-aided nuclear plant at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.



Given this background, it is not at all surprising that a political party like the BJP, under a leader like Modi, should see Foreign Hands behind every problem and challenge. For a decade now various agencies of the state have hounded all manner of organisations ranging from the Ford Foundation to the Centre for Policy Research alleging plots hatched by Foreign Hands. So, it is not surprising that many within the ruling dispensation in India see a Foreign Hand not just behind Hasina's ouster but also behind stock market analyst Hindenburg's research into the financial operations of the Adani Group. Maybe there are many Foreign Hands at work in India, just as Indian 'hand' are at work overseas. That allegations about Indian agents being involved in assassination plots overseas are being taken seriously around the world point to the coming of age of the Indian hand. Even if elements outside a country are conspiring against one, the bottomline has to be that the government of each such country should look inwards and ask what actions it may or may not have taken that have helped Foreign Hands a play. In an uncertain and rapidly changing world, a major power like India must focus on internal security and governance so as not to create situations that open up space for the Foreign Hand to play around. It is easy to



divert attention from misgovernance at home by alleging that a Foreign Hand is responsible for everything that goes wrong. The fact is that Hasina laid the foundation for her ouster. The fact also is that arbitrary actions of various institutions in India, from investigative agencies to regulatory ones, are responsible for questionable decisions. There is no denying that the Cold War era has left behind the memory of the unfriendly Foreign Hand destabilising the country. It is also understandable that in a post-colonial society that still has the memory of the East India Company morphing into the British State, the Foreign Hand is seen not merely in the suspected and alleged actions of spooks and fifth columnists but also in the actions of those in the corporate and financial world. However, India has moved on. With the exception of less than a handful of countries, there are no others that would want to see India remain weak, backward and underdeveloped. Western powers have recognised that a developed and self-confident India is in their interests. Even as our foreign policy seeks an external environment conducive to the country's economic development, at home the focus has to be on good and transparent governance rather than the search for an alibi to explain domestic failures and bad governance

## Bail under UAPA

Apex court rules in favour of personal rights

THE Supreme Court has been repeatedly asserting that 'bail is the rule and jail is the exception'. However, law enforcement and investigation agencies, in their occasional overzealousness, have apparently been under the impression that this legal principle is somehow not applicable to special statutes like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967. Clearing the air conclusively, the court has granted bail to a man who was booked under UAPA on the charge of being an active member of a banned organisation. The SC Bench has rightly stated that even if the allegations against the accused are serious, courts have the duty to grant bail when the conditions laid down under the law for the purpose are satisfied. There should be no quarrel with this argument. Considered draconian particularly by human rights activists, UAPA has often been associated with highhandedness and repression. It was in August 2019 that the Central Government amended the Act to



include the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist. Prior to that, only organisations could be given

the 'terrorist' tag. This important change has led to many individuals being booked for allegedly aiding and abetting terrorism. What's glaring is the poor conviction rate under UAPA — barely 3 per cent. In nearly every case, the accused are acquitted as the prosecution fails to prove their guilt. The acquittal, however, comes only after the persons have spent three or four years behind bars. At times, the trial begins several years after the arrest.

All these distressing factors make bail under UAPA highly significant. In the instant case, the court punched holes in the chargesheet, saying that there were no reasonable grounds to conclude that the charge of commission of offences punishable under the Act was prima facie true. The grant of bail is virtually a warning to the agencies that they should not misuse the dreaded UAPA. Hopefully, invoking the contentious Act at the drop of a hat will no longer be the norm.

## Between philosophy and practise of reservation

The visible social inequalities and the fight for social justice underscore the need for reservations while the practice has often left a lot to be desired.

The Lok Sabha elections drew a sharp debate on reservation policies in general and caste census in particular. After the results, the formation of a coalition government with at least one key player, JD(U), having been supportive of a caste census, and the Lok Sabha leader of opposition's unequivocal statement on such a census kept the spotlight on the issue. Further, the Supreme Court recently placed both caste census and reservation on the Centre-state scale. One needs to add a caveat here. The demand for a caste census has distinctly different overtones as compared to the Supreme Court's stand on reservations, especially among the Scheduled Castes. This narrative focuses much more on the caste census and its linkages with the debate on Other Backward Classes' reservation.

To capture the public mood in the issue, we can draw on data from the Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey done during the run-up to the 2024 elections. When respondents were asked whether they thought the Congress and its allies were serious about a caste census or merely wished to use it as a political tool, around half the respondents felt there was a seriousness in the move. Close to a third (31 per cent) felt it was being taken recourse to as a political tool. The rest were either unaware of the demand or did not take a stand on it. Looked more closely, there was a clear lens of partisanship with which the issue was viewed. More than a third of those who supported the Congress and its allies felt the parties were serious about the census. Among those who said that they would vote the BJP, over four of every 10 felt it was a political tool employed to garner OBC votes. Among the OBCs themselves, more were likely to say it was being harnessed politically rather than representing genuine sincerity. This trend is also linked to the wider support base for the BJP in the 2024 elections among the OBCs as compared to the Congress. Three other



points merit attention, too. When it comes to reservation, one needs to make a categorical distinction between the philosophy of reservation and its practice. The visible social inequalities and the fight for social justice underscore the need for reservations. It is another matter that their practice has often left a lot to be desired.

This is especially true for OBC reservations. The Constitution permitted this reservation once the necessary steps were taken to identify who the OBCs were. The southern states took the initiative much

earlier than the rest of the country. In many cases, this reservation preceded independence and the adoption of the Constitution. Providing OBC reservation at the national level took much longer and involved more than one backward class commission and intervention by the courts. Backward caste reservations were done on the basis of an extrapolation from the last caste census done close to a century ago in 1931. Further, the list of OBCs varies between the central government and states. Thus, a particular community may well be included in a state list and excluded in the national list.

The argument for a caste census is made in the light of an absence of authentic numbers on the relative population of different OBC groups.

Second, the Supreme Court's 1992 judgement clearly underscored the need for excluding the creamy layer among the more socially, economically and educationally advanced OBCs. While the central and some state governments came out with criteria for defining the creamy layer, much of it has been whittled down over time or not been seriously adhered to. As a result, there are serious questions raised about the way in which reservation policies have been implemented. Third, a logical extension of the creamy layer concept has been the expectation that the benefit of a particular level of OBC reservation should be prioritised for a first-generation beneficiary; a similar point was made by one judge in the recent Supreme Court ruling. The argument is that in the absence of such a limit, the same set of families could continue to enjoy the benefits of reservation generation after generation. It is also felt that an 'elite capture' of reservation benefits has adversely impacted the true realisation of the goals of social justice, deepening the long years of social inequality.

I return to the principal argument this analysis began with. Does the route to social justice lie in ensuring meaningful justice to those who remain backward and have not benefited from reservation because of the policies' implementation? Would a caste census help identify such groups? Would the elite within each caste group favour the spread of reservation benefits to those who have been denied till now? The issue raises a complex web of challenges with no quick-fix solution. Sandeep Shastri | Political scientist, National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network, and Director (academics) at the NITTE Education Trust





Women prefer smaller competitions, whereas men seek larger competitions, which are typically associated with higher monetary rewards, the study said.

# Women prefer Jobs that have fewer applicants

When applying for a job, women seek positions with fewer applicants than men - a factor that could partly explain why we see fewer of them in the corporate boardrooms, new research suggests.

The size of a competition - such as the number of applicants to a particular job or the number of people vying for a monetary reward - shapes who enters the competition. Women prefer smaller competitions, whereas men seek larger competitions, which are typically associated with higher monetary rewards, the study said.

"These patterns of findings can contribute to a better understanding of gender inequality in the workforce," said Kathrin Hanek, the study's lead author from University of Michigan in the US.

"The gender difference in preferences may in part explain pay gaps and the underrepresentation of women in particular fields or at the helm of large organisations," Hanek noted.

The findings appeared in the Journal of Applied Psychology.

The difference between the genders can be partially attributed to women feeling more comfortable in smaller competitions.

The researchers found consistent gender differences in the preference for smaller versus larger competitions across a variety of different competition contexts.

For instance, one study examined women's and men's real decisions to enter a small (10 competitors) or large (100 competitors) word-formation task competition.

The results indicated that 53 percent of women but only 41 percent of men preferred the small competition.

"This research by no means blames women for gender inequality but rather uncovers a novel environmental factor that might contribute to inequality, beyond the well-documented effects of gender biases and discrimination," Stephen Garcia, associate professor University of Michigan.

## Fairness at work can boost Employees' health



Fairness at work is likely to bring you positivity as well as good health, says a new research, indicating that an organisation is rated on the basis of the health of its employees.

The findings showed that when perceptions of fairness changed, the self-rated health of employees also changed. Those who experienced more fairness on average reported better health.

"People who feel fairly treated are not only more likely to be motivated at work and go the extra mile for their organisation, but they are also more likely to be healthy, have an active lifestyle and feel positive," Eib added.

Further, the health status of employees may also affect how employees feel treated at work.

The results are detailed in the Journal of Work, Environment and Health.

The team investigated whether perceptions of what they call 'procedural justice', such as the processes in place to decide on rewards, pay, promotion and assignments are related to employees' health.

The findings can help raise awareness among employers and authorities that fairness at work but health is important to consider increasing satisfaction, well-being and productivity in the workplace and wider society, the researchers said.

The study, focused on more than 5800 people working in Sweden. Participants were asked to rate their general state of health on a scale from one to five, one being 'very good' and five being 'very poor'.

"Our study provides a thorough examination of how fairness at the workplace and health of employees is related over time," said Constanze Eib, lecturer at Britain's University of East Anglia.

Also, fairness at work is a crucial aspect of the psychosocial work environment and that changes towards greater fairness can improve employees' health.

## 10 types of people who get Better jobs

Research says the following 10 types are most likely to be gainfully employed. Do you see yourself here?

**The cheerleader:** What's a good sport without a happy bunch of cheerleaders? All work and no promotion, makes the company disappear in the market. So your small law firm maybe known in the circles, but a little push from a marketing guru will make the world aware of your facilities, capabilities, which will result in acquiring more clients. The marketer works in tandem with the founder to position the company that suits his or her vision and build the brand. This personality type is highly assertive, understands urgency and is willing to gamble (even when the founder develops cold feet).

**The multi-tasker:** So your company is tiny and everyone is a bit stretched. There are some who just can't handle the pressure, but there are few who can grin and bear it all, and can put their hands in several puddings all at once - be admin one day, and a creative executor the next. These multi-taskers serve as real assets to smaller firms whose budgets are meagre and manpower a handful. Young entrepreneurs are constantly on the look out of talent that not only can juggle many roles, but also switch parts as and when required.

**The obligator:** What's the difference between an accommodator and multi-tasker?? The former is a 'willing personality', while the latter is just blessed to focus on too many things at the same time. But as an owner of a small business, you need an accommodator in your squad, too. Read: These personalities are not spineless 'yes minister' kinds, but understand when they need to up their game, and do whatever it takes to work with impossible demands and deadlines.

**Reverse role player:** Small firms have a strong tendency and leaning to employ people who are like-minded, but HR officials reckon that a personality whose views and beliefs are opposite of that of the company would do the latter good and result in growth. He/she would bring in the perspective and insight that owners would fail to notice. Sometimes, they'll also serve as mock rivals, thus further enhancing the chances of success and productivity.

**The decision maker:** When an entrepreneur has just started off in the business, he/she is always a bit averse to taking big risks and making concrete decisions. They are constantly turning to people who can use their own judgment and give them sound advice. Remember, they need someone who is not afraid to pull the trigger in times of distress. If you're a firm decision maker, then you are just the person your boss needs by his/ her side.

**The cautious player:** Likewise, if you're the kind of entrepreneur who has a tendency to run with his /her dreams, an employer who likes to play it carefully is always a good hand in the team. You need this type of personality as a counterbalance to risk takers. They are risk-averse, but sometimes you need such people to bring in stability and caution you from getting too excited and taking on more than your resources can manage.

**The planner:** A person skilled in drafting policies and planning the next action the company must take is a key member to have in the team. Many serve as efficient executors, but few as effective planners (who essentially run the ship). These are the guys who can identify long-term goals, have a vision for the future and can work on a calculated measure to get there.

**The organiser:** It's one thing to be a good strategist, and another to pull it all together. The best ideas go for a toss if you do not have someone who is task-oriented to put them into action. So if you are a master at organising, then it's imperative to add that in your CV.

**The analyser:** While the strategist and organiser have their own skill sets to execute the idea into action, it takes an observant kind - who has one eye firmly on the markets and another on the rivals - to help you weigh the pros and cons and work accordingly.

**The helper:** If you have wetted your hands in the hospitality business, and are looking to make a switch, be sure you retain the 'service-oriented' trait in your next job, too. A person who has a willingness to help others always makes for a great team player. They balance administrative qualities, understand urgency and have the patience to deal with finicky clients.





# 'Wasn't the night Shampa's too?' Bengal Police post on hospital mob attack slammed

The West Bengal Police shared a picture of their woman constable who was injured while she was on duty during a midnight march held in protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

**New Delhi.** The West Bengal Police was criticised by social media users following a post on its woman constable suffering injuries during vandalism at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital while she was on duty when a midnight march was held in protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the state-run hospital. Late on Wednesday night, unidentified miscreants, around 30-40 people, entered the hospital during the 'Reclaim the Night' protest and vandalised property. Police personnel fired teargas and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the mob. In a tweet on Friday, the West Bengal Police said the woman constable, Shampa Pramanik, was on duty during the midnight protest, when a brick, thrown from the crowd, hit her, and resulted in injuries to her face. "It was meant to be a night for women, when they reclaimed the streets demanding

safety at the workplace, in memory of a young woman who fell victim to a horrifying tragedy at her own workplace," the tweet read. The police said the incident occurred in the city's Baguiati area and five people were arrested in connection with the incident. "Our colleague, Constable Shampa Pramanik, of the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, was in Baguiati on the night of August 14, ensuring the safety of those walking the streets," it said. "Suddenly, unprovoked, several bricks came flying from the crowd toward the police, one of which hit Shampa in the face. The accompanying photo was taken in the minutes immediately after she was hit," it said. "We have arrested five people in the case, and will try to ensure punishment for them, but this is peripheral information. The main question is: Wasn't the night Shampa's

too?" the police further said. 'PLAYING VICTIM CARD' Social media users slammed the West Bengal Police's post on the woman constable and accused the police force of playing the victim card. "Hoping for her swift recovery, but why resort to playing the victim? The police were responsible for safeguarding both the protesters and their own officers. It failed at both. Women are demanding safety, and it is your obligation to ensure that. Instead, you play the victim and lay bare your incompetence so poetically," one user wrote. "Your priorities are sorted! Instead of



safeguarding citizens and helping the victims, you are crying victim yourself!" another tweeted. "Shameless police force. You guys intimidate common citizens for posts, cannot manage law and order in your state, and want to play victim? Leave your job if you can't do it," another user said.

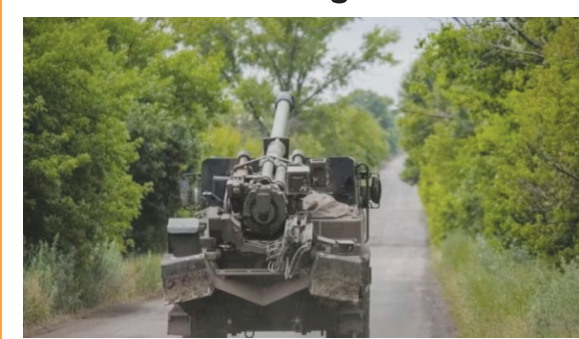
## ABOUT KOLKATA

### RAPE-MURDER

On August 9, the semi-naked body of a 31-year-old post-graduate trainee doctor was found in the seminar hall of the hospital. A civic volunteer, Sanjoy Roy, linked to Kolkata Police was arrested.

A postmortem report revealed that the trainee doctor was raped and throttled to death. Her thyroid cartilage was broken due to strangling and a deep wound was found in her private parts, the four-page autopsy report said. Injury marks were found on her belly, lips, fingers, face and left leg. The rape-murder has sparked widespread outrage, with doctors and nurses leading protests in Kolkata and other parts of the country, demanding capital punishment against the accused and steps to improve doctors' security. The Calcutta High Court has handed over the case to the CBI for further investigation. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) called a 24-hour nationwide cease-work protest, halting most health services from Saturday morning to Sunday, demanding justice for the trainee doctor's rape-murder and improved working conditions for doctors.

## Army issues Rs 6,500 crore tender to buy 400 Indian-made howitzer guns



**New Delhi.** As part of its major modernisation plan with regard to defence equipment, the Indian Army on Friday issued a tender worth around Rs 6,500 crore to buy 400 new howitzers (artillery guns). As per the tender issued, the Army will buy the guns in the Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) category from Indian firms. The purchase would provide a major boost to the domestic firms in the defence sector, top defence sources told. A number of new howitzers have been procured by the force in the last decade, including gun systems like the Dhanush, Sharang, Ultra Light Howitzer (ULH) and K-9 Vajra Self Propelled Guns. The Dhanush Guns are an electronic upgrade of the Bofors Guns, while the Sharang Guns have been upgraded from 130 mm to 155 mm calibre. The Seven and Five regiments have already been equipped with Self-Propelled guns. 155 mm will be the standard calibre of all artillery guns in the future, with automated systems and assemblies. The emphasis is on the development of new technologies in sighting systems, ammunition manufacturing, metallurgy, and networking of guns, the sources added.

## India rubbishes Pak's claims of seizure of radioactive material

**New Delhi.** Days after Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesperson raised concerns over the seizure of alleged 'radioactive' material in India, the MEA on Friday said relevant Indian authorities had investigated the matter and found "no radioactive substance". The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) asserted that those making "baseless comments" are advised to desist from their "propaganda". In response to a question at his weekly briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has a "robust legal and regulatory framework" for safety and security of radioactive material and its non-proliferation track records speak for itself. On August 9, officials said the Bihar Police arrested three people from the state's Gopalganj district and recovered 50 gm of a "radioactive substance" worth crores of rupees from their possession. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in a statement on Tuesday had raised concerns over, effectiveness of the measures taken by New Delhi to ensure the safety and security of nuclear and radioactive materials, following the arrest. The MEA spokesperson was asked to comment on the statement issued by Baloch in this connection. "On the question regarding the spokesperson of Pakistan's foreign ministry, yes, we have seen those reports, and also seen some of the comments that were made. Relevant Indian authorities have subsequently investigated the matter, and they have found no radioactive substance, as was claimed in the statement," Jaiswal said. In fact, India's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has "issued a statement", he said, and urged journalists to have a look at it. "Those making baseless comments are advised to desist from their propaganda, for which obviously there are no takers. We also want to emphasise once again that India has a robust legal and regulatory framework for the safety and security of radioactive material. Our non-proliferation track record speaks for itself. As of those making these baseless allegations, the less said the better," the MEA spokesperson said. It is learnt that the DAE has said in a report that there was no presence of radioactivity around the seized substance.

## Delhi Lt Governor calls on Assembly Speaker to act on pending reports from CAG

The Delhi government has yet to table these crucial reports on domains including state finances, pollution mitigation, liquor regulation, appropriation accounts, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and social and general sectors.

**New Delhi.** In a letter addressed to Delhi Assembly Speaker, Ram Niwas Goel, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena on Friday raised serious concerns regarding eleven pending reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi has yet to table these crucial reports, which span various domains including state finances, pollution mitigation, liquor regulation, appropriation accounts, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and social and general sectors. Additionally, a performance audit report on children in need of care and protection is also awaiting presentation. Several of these reports have been pending since 2022, with the "Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi" for 2017-18 to 2021-22, submitted to the Delhi Government on March 4, 2024, remaining with Delhi Finance Minister Atishi Marlena since April 11,



2024. This particular report holds significant importance due to the AAP Government's controversial excise policy that was marred by allegations of corruption and eventually retracted by the Kejriwal administration. The LG's office revealed that the Controller of Accounts, GNCTD, had, on July 18, 2024, confirmed all the aforementioned CAG reports are awaiting action from Atishi Marlena. In his letter, dated February 22, 2024, Saxena had previously addressed the issue with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, urging expeditious laying of

these reports. Reminding the constitutional mandate, Saxena cited Article 151 of the Constitution, Section 48 of the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991, and Regulation 210 of the Regulations on Audit and Accounts, 2007, to stress the importance of tabling these reports. He highlighted that the delay in presenting the CAG reports not only evades legislative and public scrutiny but also undermines democratic accountability. Saxena's letter also alludes to past instances where critical reports on the performance of entities like the Delhi Jal Board and private power distribution companies were deliberately delayed by the AAP Government, leading VK Saxena to flag the issue. The LG has called on Assembly Speaker Goel to ensure these reports are laid before the Delhi Legislative Assembly without further delay, underlining the urgency and the constitutional obligation involved.

## Man scales wall, enters Parliament Annexe premises, arrested

**New Delhi.** In a major security breach, a man in his early 20s scaled the wall and jumped inside the Parliament Annexe building premises on Friday afternoon, official sources said. A purported video of the incident has also surfaced where the suspect, wearing a pair of shorts and a T-shirt, is seen being held by armed Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel. Nothing incriminating was found from the man during frisking. He has been handed over to the Delhi Police, sources in the CISF said. They said the incident took place near the Imtiaz Khan Marg. The suspect scaled the wall and jumped inside the Parliament Annexe building premises around 2:45 pm. The man has been identified as Manish, a resident of

Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. The CISF personnel, who look after the security of the Parliament complex, made a PCR call after spotting the man inside the premises and informed the local police. A police team rushed to the spot and took the man to a nearby police station, where he was questioned by officials. "We are trying to find out how he scaled the wall and went inside the premises", a senior Delhi Police officer was quoted as saying by news agency. The CCTV footage is being checked, the officer added. He said the man appeared to be mentally "unsound" as he could not tell his name properly. He was also questioned by central security agency officials, though nothing

suspicious has come to light so far, an official source said. In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery on December 13 last year and opened canisters that emitted a yellow-coloured smoke, triggering panic among the MPs. After this incident, the Delhi Police and the CRPF were removed from the internal security of the Parliament complex but the police still have the responsibility to ensure safety from outside. The internal security of the complex, which houses the old and new Parliament buildings and their associated structures, including the annexe, is managed by the CISF.

## Marak was admitted to the Holy Cross Hospital on August 8, 2024 and was shifted to the Tura Civil Hospital on August 12.

**New Delhi.** Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Salseng C Marak passed away aged 83 on Friday, August 16. Marak died due to age-related ailments at the Tura Civil Hospital in West Garo Hills district. Marak was admitted to the Holy Cross Hospital on August 8, 2024 and was



shifted to the Tura Civil Hospital on August 12. According to his family members, the veteran Congress leader from Garo Hills had been grappling with poor health for the last few weeks and became very weak, leading to his hospitalisation. His mortal remains have

been taken to his home constituency of Resubelpara in North Garo Hills, where he will be laid to rest on Saturday. Marak was also known as 'Mr Clean' for his relentless pursuit of a corruption-free and progressive Meghalaya. He was the chief minister of the state from 1993 to 1998,

## 22 coaches of Sabarmati Express derail in UP after engine hits 'object on track'

**Sabarmati Express Train Derailed: According to the Railways, Sabarmati Express 19168 derailed after hitting a boulder, causing significant damage to the engine's cattle guard.**

**New Delhi.** Twenty-two coaches of the Sabarmati Express, en route from Varanasi to Sabarmati, derailed on Saturday morning near Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, triggering panic among passengers. The mishap occurred shortly after the train departed Kanpur, with the derailment taking place near Bhimsen. North Central Railway (NCR) senior public relations officer Shashikant Tripathi told news agency PTI that the incident took place at 2:30 am. The passengers were asleep when the train halted after a loud noise. Emergency teams, including police and administrative personnel, are present at the site. All passengers were safely rescued, and no casualties were reported.

Taking to X, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated, "The engine of Sabarmati Express (Varanasi to Amdavad) hit an object placed on the track and derailed near Kanpur at 02:35 am today. Sharp hit marks are observed. Evidence is protected. IB and UP police are also



working on it." However, the route has been completely blocked. This section is a key route for trains travelling from Kanpur towards Mumbai. "Shortly after the train departed from the Kanpur railway station, we heard a loud noise and the coach started shaking. I got very scared, but the train stopped," one of the passengers, Vikas, told. The Railways stated that seven trains have been cancelled and three diverted due to the derailment. Indian Railways has dispatched buses to the location to facilitate the passengers transfer to Kanpur. According to Railways, Sabarmati Express 19168 derailed after hitting a boulder, causing significant damage to the engine's cattle guard. The Indian Railways are currently probing the incident. Meanwhile, Railways has issued emergency helpline numbers for the concerned stations: Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi Junction can be reached at 0510-2440787 or 0510-2440790. For Orai, the contact number is 05162-252206. Banda can be contacted at 05192-227543, and for Lalitpur Junction, the number is 07897992404.

- **Salseng C Marak dies of age-related ailments**
- **Marak admitted to Tura Civil Hospital on August 12**
- **Marak be laid to rest in Resubelpara on Saturday**

becoming the first leader to serve a full 5-year term without changing party. He became the Chief Minister when the state was going through political instability during the early 1990s, when regional forces were at the forefront of government formations and takedowns. Despite multiple attempts to bring down his government by regional forces, he completed a full term as Chief Minister. Marak graduated from Kolkata's Scottish Church College. He was also made the president of Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) in 2003.



• Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person.

• In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial.

# Tips for a Personal Interview



Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person. In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial. When human beings communicate directly with each other, much more information is communicated. The nature of words used, facial expressions & body language- together contribute in judging a person. According to Meha Bhargava, an Image Management professional, you must keep the following in mind while going for an interview.

**Do the Research**  
Extensively research not just about the profile you are interviewed for, but the company profile, their achievements, their story of success, their products&services,their targetmarket etc.. All this will make you confident enough to answer every question diligently.

**Look sharp**  
Being smartly and elegantly dressed not only makes you feel good but also has a strong impact on the interviewer. Like the mantra 'The way you dress, defines the way you think, act and how other's react'

**Listen carefully**  
Giving full attention to not only what is said but also to what is not said will make you know about what they have in store for you. Sometimes important things are left unsaid between the lines, make sure you catch up to every bit.

**Show enthusiasm with body language**  
A firm handshake, smile, eye contact and positive responses ensure that the interviewer feels confident in you and your abilities to be hired. What you feel reflects by your body language. Even if you are nervous, don't let it show. Sit in a correct, firm and comfortable posture avoid fidgeting with your legs, or hands. This distracts the interviewer and gives an impression of a feeble personality.

**Answer only what is asked**  
Do listen carefully what you are being asked, if you don't understand confirm it again and while answering do not deviate from one thing to another. Straightforward

and to the point answers are only what they love to hear.

**Ask questions**  
Don't be blank at the end of the interview, ask questions, be it on your profile, about the company, pay working hours etc. No questions give an impression of disinterest in the company and the job. But make sure your questions are appropriate.

# Skill vs degree

**What works for you?**  
In India, we place too much emphasis on what is often just a piece of paper, instead of the knowledge or skills one should acquire to earn it. If a student is looking for higher education, a degree is the normal study route. There are numerous careers and fields of work that require advanced knowledge and skills training. However, all students may not and sometimes cannot take advanced courses and prefer to develop skills that do not necessarily require the rigour of a degree curriculum. In other words, every person with skills may not receive a degree. Similarly, there are many graduates who have theoretical knowledge but no practical experience. A number of jobs and careers require various skills -for example, in the computer and IT sector. So, without worrying if it is a degree or not, many students can study a course that would help them find work. The government's skill development programme is attempting to change students' attitude towards skills that can earn them jobs. However, there needs to be greater synergy between prospective employers and the skills training centre so that students are well-placed with salaries that can attract other youngsters. Also, often, employers ask for a degree irrespective of how adequately trained such a candidate may be. Therefore, students prefer to pursue a degree without a job in sight, rather than skill themselves through training that can better provide a job. The solution is to analyse what a student is made for -a degree or a skill-based programme -and which one would work best for him/her. Usha Albuquerque, Career Counsellor, Delhi

**College prepares you**  
When students decide on a career path, it is essential for them to understand the importance of a degree and how it contributes to their future. A degree programme makes a student's 'generalised' approach more focused. At the college level, applicants pick a stream and then study a specific field such as engineering, medicine, commerce, science, humanities, law, architecture, etc. The student learns about things ranging from the finer points of a particular discipline to communication and people skills. Students must opt for a degree course since it trains them to understand - through guest lectures, industry visits, etc -how industry functions. They, thus, know what employers expect. They develop a world view of the field they would work in, explore it in-depth and be ready to face challenges in their professional lives.



# Why you need a 'disconnected' break

Taking your laptop along on your upcoming holiday? Do a rethink, for you might be committing a huge mistake, which might actually add more stress that you imagines. Experts warn how one should not cart along work and stay rooted to any social networking sites and microblogs, while on a getaway. The 'digital detox break' is being considered as the ideal 'me time'. The idea has taken root so much so that packages are being tailor-made to force stressed folk to wean away from all their gadgets. Here's how it benefits you:  
"What we're doing here is providing evidence that how people relate to God matters for their commitment and satisfaction at work," Kent noted.

**You see the world differently**  
You might throw fleeting glances to what's going around you if you're stuck to your smartphone screen. But being away from it allows you to view the world minus distraction.

**It builds better interpersonal relations**  
How many people actually remember a good old-fashioned conversation? With no gadget around you can communicate face-to-face better.

**You become less aggressive**  
Being answerable to someone on the opposite end means that you are having to answer to a demand all the time, which causes a sense of hostility and repressed anger in you. Take away such feeling by simply unplugging.



## Windfall tax on crude petroleum reduced to Rs 2,100 per tonne

**NEW DELHI.** The government has slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 2,100 per tonne, from Rs 4,600 per tonne with effect from Saturday. The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from August 17, an official notification said. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

## RBI tightens P2P lending norms to bring transparency

**MUMBAI.** Citing some instances of violations of norms by some entities, the Reserve Bank has tightened regulations for peer-to-peer (P2P) non-bank lending platforms with a view to improve transparency and compliance, and to address concerns over their practices violating the 2017 guidelines. The revised guidelines come into force with immediate effect.

A P2P platform should not promote P2P lending as an investment product with features like tenure-linked assured minimum returns, liquidity options, etc, the RBI said Friday in the revised master directions.

As per the revised master direction, a non-banking P2P platform should not cross-sell any insurance product, which is in the nature of credit enhancement or credit guarantee. No loan should be disbursed unless the lenders and the borrowers have been matched/mapped as per the board-approved policy framed, it added. RBI had first issued P2P lending guidelines in 2017. A P2P platform acts as an intermediary providing online platform to the participants involved in P2P lending.

"It is observed that some of these platforms have adopted practices, which were violative of provisions of direction 2017," RBI said. "Such practices include violation of prescribed funds transfer mechanism, promoting P2P lending as an investment product with features like tenure linked assured returns, providing liquidity options and at times acting like deposit takers and lenders instead of being a platform," it added.

## Manoj Govil appointed as expenditure secretary

**NEW DELHI.** In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the government has changed several secretaries in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce.

The government has also appointed Manoj Govil, currently secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as the new expenditure secretary. Govil will replace TV Somanathan, who has been recently appointed as the cabinet secretary. Govil is a 1991 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer who belonged to the Madhya Pradesh cadre. He has also served as principal secretary finance and Principal Secretary Commercial Taxes, government of Madhya Pradesh. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, a 1993-batch MP cadre IAS, would take Govil's place in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Current secretary, department of financial services, ministry finance, Vivek Joshi has been shifted to Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pension as secretary, department of personnel and training. Joshi would be replaced by Nagaraju Maddirala, who is currently additional secretary at the Ministry of Coal. Maddirala is a 1993 batch Tripura cadre officer.

## Acquisitions are key ingredient in growth path: Happiest Minds



**BENGALURU.** Acquisitions are a key ingredient in Happiest Minds' growth path, as it in Q1 alone acquired PureSoftware Technologies for Rs 779 crore and also US-based Azure native digital product engineering company Aureus Tech Systems. Talking about these acquired companies, Venkatraman Narayanan, MD and CFO, Happiest Minds told ETNE they expect in the next quarter bit more of a perk up in both BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance) and healthcare verticals because both these acquired companies are largely BFSI. Through the acquisition of Aureus, the firm has strengthened its domain capabilities in insurance & reinsurance, healthcare and life sciences and strong product & digital engineering services (PDES) business. The acquisition strengthens the firm's presence in the US. In case of PureSoftware, it helps augment the firm's presence in the US, UK and India, and it will get a near-shore presence in Mexico and offices in Singapore, Malaysia, and Africa. Happiest Minds' profit after tax stood at Rs 51 crore in Q1, down 29.1% sequentially. Revenue in Q1 stood at Rs 464 crore, up 11.2% sequentially. "Our revenue in constant currency grew YoY 17.8% while EBITDA grew 13.3%. Variations in PBT and PAT are primarily on account of non-recurring expenses in the current quarter versus a large exceptional write-back in the previous, and increased amortisation and financing costs arising from acquisitions," Narayanan said.

# Anti-dumping probe against Vietnam steel imports

## The Indian Steel Association (ISA) has raised concerns that imports from Vietnam could jeopardise local manufacturers.

**NEW DELHI.** The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has initiated an anti-dumping probe into imports of hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel from Vietnam, following an application

filed by the Indian Steel Association (ISA) on behalf of domestic steel producers, JSW Steel and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India. Probe was initiated after claims that imports of certain steel products from Vietnam are being sold at dumped prices, reportedly inflicting harm on domestic industry. The Indian Steel Association (ISA) has raised concerns that imports from Vietnam could jeopardise local manufacturers. The probe focuses on hot rolled flat products that are neither clad nor plated, with thicknesses reaching up to 25 mm and widths of up to 2,100 mm. This category includes a range of forms like coils and cut-to-length pieces including automotive production, oil and gas pipeline construction, general engineering, and building projects. Petitioners assert there are no major differences between the products produced in India and those

imported from Vietnam. They argue both types of steel are interchangeable, sharing similar physical and chemical characteristics, manufacturing processes, and end-use applications. Consequently, domestic producers are seeking recognition of imported steel as 'like articles' under Anti-Dumping Rules. The DGTR has expressed prima facie satisfaction that JSW Steel and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel constitute eligible domestic industry involved in production of these products. Political instability in Bangladesh will impact the industries dependent upon Indian steel raw material (sponge iron and pig iron), as per experts. Nearly 80% of steel exports to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka is done to Bangladesh, as per experts. The Authority has considered the period of probe as January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.



## Buyback tax rules inequitable: Industry

**NEW DELHI.** Industry representatives have recently submitted representations to the finance minister, urging a reconsideration of new taxation rules concerning the buyback of shares. The 2024 Union Budget imposed up to a 39% tax on shareholders who sell their shares back to the companies, treating this transaction as dividend income.

Previously, companies would face a buyback tax of 23%, but new provisions have shifted tax burden onto individual shareholders, which the industry claims to be unfair and inequitable. Experts argue new tax rate is disproportionately higher as against long-term capital gains tax (LTCGT) of 12.5% and short-term capital gains tax (STCGT) of 20%, which apply when shares are sold to other buyers.

The Direct Tax Committee of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has raised key concerns regarding implications of the new buyback tax. As per them, there is a major issue concerning tax classification. Share buyback is currently classified as a transfer of a capital asset, and many



believe it should be taxed as capital gains rather than as income. This view holds that taxing buybacks as dividends contradicts established tax principles.

Another concern is unequal treatment of shareholders. The stark difference in tax rates is troubling; shareholders face up to 39% tax when selling shares back to the company. This discrepancy makes the buyback option less attractive for investors. "Income realised consequent to shares being bought back should have been treated

as capital gains income; this would align with underlying nature of transaction," said Lokesh Shah, partner, IndusLaw. He adds that in current framework to treat buyback as dividend, cost of share acquisition is available as deemed capital loss for shareholder. "Deemed capital loss is available for offset against eligible gain (long term/short term) that may be recognised in the future. In the event, no such gains occur to shareholder in next eight years, the loss recognised consequent to the buyback is a lost cost." "... the provision that in such a case the purchase price of 100 shall be treated as long-term/short-term capital loss to be offset against future capital gains is unjust and unfair because the person may not have any capital gains in future and may be too old to live long enough to earn the capital gains to offset his such capital loss," argued PHD Chambers of Commerce.

## Fed rate cut hope triggers rally in equity market

**NEW DELHI.** On the back of strong global cues, the Indian equity market rallied sharply on Friday with the benchmarks - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 - surging nearly 2% each. The Sensex added 1330.96 points, or 1.68%, to close at 80,436.84, while the Nifty50 advanced 397.40 points, or 1.65% to settle at 24,541.15.

In the broader market, BSE MidCap and SmallCap indices surged over 1.5% each. Investors added Rs 7.30 lakh crore on Friday as the market cap of BSE-listed firms rose to Rs 451.6 lakh crore. The rally was attributed to fresh hopes of an interest rate by the US Federal Reserve after consumer inflation in the economy fell to a 3-year low of 2.9% in July and retail sales grew stronger-than-expected in the same month. Domestically, the Indian CPI inflation rate also fell below the estimate, signalling optimism. Tech-



heavy NASDAQ advanced 2.5% on Thursday. US benchmarks - Dow Jones and the S&P 500 - gained about 1.5% each. Stability in Yen prompted a rally in Asian markets. Japan's Nikkei rose 3.6%, Kospi and Taiwan were up 2% each. "Stability of Japanese Yen has been instrumental in driving a global market recovery. Strong US retail sales and a fall in weekly jobless claims have helped alleviate fears of a US

recession. Further, the market sentiment has improved due to a decrease in US CPI inflation. On the backdrop of these, the Indian IT firms exhibited strong buying interest," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services. Nair said challenges such as a drop in WPI inflation, weak IIP, and lukewarm Q1 corporate earnings suggest market gains may be limited, which is reflected by FII's maintaining a net seller position. In the coming week, market will keenly watch Fed chair speech in Jackson Hole and FOMC minutes.

The major beneficiaries of an improving US economy were IT shares. The Nifty IT index rallied 3% on Friday with top gainers being Wipacis, L&T Technology Services, Wipro and Tech Mahindra. The heavyweights - Infosys and TCS - gained 2% and 3% each.

## How Global Capability Centres are powering India's job market

**NEW DELHI.** Once they were considered back offices catering to Fortune 500 companies. But that was then. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) have since emerged from the shadows, expanding their sphere of influence within the Indian tech landscape. They have evolved into tech powerhouses, seamlessly integrating with their parent enterprises and becoming strategic assets providing access to digital talent at scale. This has reshaped the perception of GCCs within the Indian tech industry. From peripheral centres, GCCs have emerged as global hubs of strategic operations. Nearly 40 years after India's GCC poster boy, Texas Instruments, made Bengaluru its home for R&D operations, Indian GCCs have created a compelling story for global companies to acknowledge India's enviable tech talent pool. This has, a) created more tech jobs in India; and b) solidified India's position as a hub for advanced technological development. 6 lakh new jobs in 5 years

Just consider these numbers: India now has about 1,600 GCCs. This is estimated to go up to 1,900 by next year. According to a Nasscom-KPMG report, their combined market size now is \$60 billion. In 2014-15, it was \$19.6 billion, which more than doubled to \$46 billion in 2022-23, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.4%. GCCs added over 6 lakh new jobs between 2018-19 and 2023-24, taking the total job count to over 16 lakh or 1.6 million. If this sounds good, here's some better news for the sector. The latest Economic Survey was upbeat about the future of GCCs. By 2030, the Survey projects, GCCs will contribute a total revenue of \$121 billion - roughly 3.5% of India's current GDP. Of this, \$102 billion will come from exports.

Take JPMorganChase, for instance. Its headcount in India grew to over 55,000 from 34,000 in 2018. Deepak Mangla, CEO, corporate centres, India, and Philippines at JPMorganChase, in a recent interaction with TOI, said its India operations are a microcosm of all lines of businesses and functions, not just technology. "We consider ourselves a technology-driven bank.

## RIL layoffs raise concern over hiring in retail

**BENGALURU:** The recent layoffs within Reliance's retail division (about 38,029 job cuts) have raised many questions, especially the future of hiring with regards to retail opportunities.

As per the company's annual report, RIL has cut about 42,052 jobs (38,029 in retail alone) during FY24. Its total number of employees in retail arm stood at 2,07,552 in FY24 as against 2,45,581 in the previous fiscal. The annual report states that it hired 1.71 lakh new employees (1,05,047 in Reliance Retail) across diverse businesses in FY24. In FY23, the number of new hires in retail was 1,79,971. Total number of new hires in Reliance was 2,62,558 in FY23.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD & CEO of CIEL HR, said the impact of RIL's layoffs will likely be multifaceted. "In the short-term, we might see a shift in operational dynamics, with a greater focus on efficiency and adoption of technology-driven solutions to maintain service levels. However, this creates opportunities for the remaining workforce to upskill and adapt to new roles within the evolving retail landscape," he



said. Reliance Retail recorded gross revenue of Rs 3,06,848 crore, a growth of 17.8% over last year. In the report, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD, RIL, said Reliance Retail's vision of inclusive development for millions of consumers and merchants, coupled with unprecedented growth of the Indian marketplace, has resulted in marquee names investing in RRVL at a \$100 billion valuation milestone.



FY24 from Rs 5,837 crore a year ago. However, net profit fell to '62 crore last fiscal from Rs 104 crore a year earlier. JM Financial Ltd, Axis Capital, Citigroup Global Markets India, DAM Capital Advisors, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Jefferies India, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company and SBI Capital Markets are responsible for managing the company's IPO process. Ecom Express files for Rs 2,600 cr IPO

**NEW DELHI:** Ecom Express has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 2,600 crore through an initial share-sale. The company's initial public offering (IPO) comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,284.50 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued Rs 1,315.50 crore by promoters and other shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Proceeds from the fresh capital to the tune of Rs 387.44 crore will be used for setting up new processing centres with automation and new fulfilment centres.



NEWS BOX

### Carlos Alcaraz shatters racket in rage after losing in Cincinnati Open

New Delhi. Carlos Alcaraz was spotted in a fit of rage as he destroyed his racquet after losing against Gael Monfils in the round of 32 game at the Cincinnati Open on Friday, August 16. Notably, the match resumed on Friday after the rain had halted play on Thursday with Alcaraz leading Monfils 6-4, 6-6(1/3). However, the Frenchman made a brilliant comeback the next day to hand Alcaraz just the eighth defeat of the year by 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-4. Following his loss, the Spanish player looked visibly frustrated and let his emotions get the better of him as he repeatedly smashed his racquet at the court to break it. Speaking after the game, Alcaraz called it the worst match of his career and said that he will try to move on and focus on the upcoming US open. "I felt like it was the worst match that I've ever played on my career. I've been practicing really well. I was feeling great. But I couldn't play. I want to forget it and try to move on to New York," said Alcaraz after the game.

Further speaking ahead, the 21-year-old opened up on expressing his raw emotions and said he failed to control his feelings and admitted his frustration. "It never happened before, because I could control those feelings. Today I couldn't. I was feeling that I



was not playing any kind of tennis. It was really frustrating for me. At some point, I didn't want to be on the court anymore," he added. Djokovic beat Alcaraz in Paris Olympics to clinch gold. Alcaraz recently lost in the final of men's singles at the Paris Olympics against Novak Djokovic who won by 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2). Despite that the Spaniard has had a phenomenal year having won back-to-back grand slam titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. The World number 3 will now shift his focus on the US Open set to begin from August 26.

The 21-year-old won his first major singles title in New York in 2022 and became the youngest man and first male teenager in the Open era to top the singles rankings. Alcaraz will be eager to repeat his heroics to add another feather cap in the ongoing year.

### Vinesh Phogat arrives in India after Paris heartbreak, breaks down in tears

New Delhi. Indian wrestling star Vinesh Phogat arrived in India for the first time since her Paris Olympics heartbreak, and the star was given a grand reception which even reduced her to tears. After what had been a tumultuous and anxious week for the wrestler, Vinesh touched down at the Delhi International Airport on August 17, and was welcomed with loud cheers. Upon her witnessing the reception, Vinesh could not help but get emotional. Even ahead of Vinesh reaching back to Delhi, the Indian wrestler's fans, friends and family had already gathered in large numbers outside the Delhi



International Airport. Vinesh was also welcomed on her India return by former wrestler Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, who greeted the Paris Games star with a hug. In what was an emotional moment, both Vinesh and Sakhi Malik could be seen reducing to tears while they exchanged a hug outside the airport.

The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) finally denied Vinesh Phogat's appeal for a shared silver medal after the decision faced a deadline-deadly three times. The CAS ultimately released its operative verdict on Wednesday, 14 August, where it decided to uphold the decision of the International Olympic Committee. The wrestler had earlier appealed for a joint silver medal at the Paris Olympics after she was dismissed on the day of her gold medal match. Vinesh had weighed in at 50.100 kgs, which was 100 grams over the weight limit for her final bout. Vinesh's Paris Olympics campaign saw her showcase some tremendous grit, and shock everyone from the very get-go after defeating Yui Susaki, one of the greatest modern-day wrestlers from Japan, and also the defending champion. After her disqualification, Vinesh had also called time on her wrestling career, but the speculations are still strong for the wrestler to reverse her decision.

## Premier League: Manchester United beat Fulham 1-0 after late Zirkzee debut goal

**Manchester United ensured a winning start to their Premier League campaign with a slender 1-0 win over Fulham in their league opener on August 17, courtesy to a late goal by debutant Joshua Zirkzee.**

New Delhi. The Premier League 2024-2025 opener saw Manchester United carve out a positive start to their campaign on top of a narrow 1-0 win over Fulham on August 17 at the Old Trafford stadium, courtesy of a late goal from the side's new signing, Joshua Zirkzee. After what had been a majorly tight game, United's new number 11, Zirkzee netted a goal in the 87th minute of the game to give Erik ten Hag's side a win over Marco Silva's Fulham. As far as the positives are concerned for the Red Devils, the match saw United boast a much more poised possession



play in the match which Ten Hag had long been aiming to implement in the squad. United also featured their other two big summer signings, Noussair Mazraoui, who started the match at the left-back position, and also Matthijs De Ligt, who came on in the 81st minute of the game.

**Ten Hag still mixing things up**  
On the other hand, United showcased a lack of

clinical finishing to their game against Fulham, which saw them come close to scoring multiple times across the full-length of the game but struggle right in front of the goal. Surprisingly, Ten Hag had only brought on Zirkzee, their major forward option in the squad, only in the 61st minute of the game. Till then, United had been playing with Bruno Fernandes enjoying the

more central attacking role along with the occasional Marcus Rashford filling in from the left. This might make one wonder whether Erik ten Hag is yet to have full trust in using Zirkzee as a starting option, specifically with Rasmus Hojlund yet to make a return from injury.

**Defensive resilience**  
United boasted a rather composed backline, with the likes of Harry Maguire being the true standout of the match. After a couple of tumultuous years at United, Maguire seemed to have finally found his element under Erik ten Hag. Maguire often became the final and the most trustworthy man at the United defence against Fulham, and was also significantly impressive with his occasional forward runs. Although, United's other centre-back, Lisandro Martinez, did produce a few slips at the back in the match, the backlog was often covered by none other than Casemiro, who certainly started off his redemption journey on a strong foot forward. De Ligt, despite his short time on the field against Fulham, managed to show some promising touches. With Leny Yoro out injured, this United defence has given a good and confident highlight for coach Ten Hag to take breather out of.

### Want her to win Olympic medal: Vinesh Phogat's brother on star's retirement call

**Vinesh Phogat's brother Harvinder Phogat revealed that the family will try to convince the India wrestler to reverse her retirement decision, which she took after her Paris Olympics disqualification. Vinesh is set to arrive in India for the first time since her tumultuous end at the Paris Games.**

New Delhi. Vinesh Phogat's brother, Harvinder Phogat, told India Today in an exclusive interaction that their family will try to make the Indian wrestling star reverse her decision to retire from the sport after her return to India. As a significant number of Vinesh's fans, friends and family waited at the Delhi International Airport to welcome the wrestler on her India return, Harvinder acknowledged the love and support the family had received. After what had been an anxious few days for not only Vinesh Phogat, but the entire sports fraternity of



India, the wrestling star is finally set to make a return to her home from her disappointing end at the Paris Olympics. Amongst the long list of speculations around the future of Vinesh Phogat's career since the Court of Arbitration for Sports's (CAS) verdict went against her favour, her call to take retirement from the sport has definitely been at the top. However, Harvinder Phogat ensured that the entire Phogat family would try to explain to Vinesh, and make her reverse the call for the greater good.

"We will sit and explain to her. To come back from so close to being on the Olympic podium, it is difficult. But the entire family will try and explain to her. We all want to see Vinesh go on for long, we want to see her win

an Olympic medal, so let's see what happens now," Harvinder told India Today. "I haven't had a talk about this with Vinesh. The frustration of being so close to a medal and missing out, that pain will stay for a long time. But, the sympathy and recognition and love from the people will help Vinesh's motivation for a long time going ahead," Harvinder added. Harvinder Phogat also revealed the excitement that fans have shown on welcoming Vinesh Phogat back to India, and how that means a lot to the wrestler's confidence. "Everyone is excited. The entire India is waiting for Vinesh to return. Everyone is excited and also a bit gutted, but everyone has arrived at the airport to show their support for Vinesh and make her feel better so that she can perform well in the future and gain some confidence. That feels really good," Harvinder added. The wrestler had earlier appealed for a joint silver medal at the Paris Olympics after she was dismissed on the day of her gold medal match. Vinesh had weighed in at 50.100 kgs, which was 100 grams over the weight limit for her final bout.

### Julian Alvarez aiming to find his 'best version' with Atletico Madrid challenge

Madrid. Atletico Madrid's new blockbuster summer signing, Julian Alvarez, believes that the La Liga giants will help him find a better version of himself and explained that his move from Manchester City was aimed to find the best version of himself. Ahead of Atletico Madrid's La Liga 2024-2025 season opener against Villarreal on August 19, Alvarez revealed that he is all set to take the most out of his new challenge in Spain.

Argentina's 2022 FIFA World Cup winning power striker Julian Alvarez completed his long-anticipated transfer from Premier League giants Manchester City to La Liga's Atletico Madrid on August 12. Alvarez signed for the Diego Simeone-managed Spanish side for a whopping £82 million (\$104.2 million), on a six-year-contract. Despite all his success with Pep Guardiola's City, Alvarez had been actively vocal about his desire to play more minutes. The 24-year-old

explained at his Atletico Madrid presentation ceremony that despite his trophy-filled couple of seasons with City, Alvarez is eager to level-up his individual



career. The Argentine believes that the best place to make that happen is Deigo Simeone's Atletico Madrid. "I felt I needed a change in my career, looking for a new challenge, and I feel this is a club

that gives me the space to have my best version as a footballer... My objectives are to try to achieve my best version and to grow as a person as well as to help win," Alvarez said. "I'd like to play, I'm always available in any position and as long as I'm on the pitch to help the team I'll be happy... You always dream of winning; you like to win and compete. I don't feel like a superhero for winning the World Cup... I'm here to do my bit and to fight for all the competitions," Alvarez added. Ever since his move to Manchester City from River Plate back in 2022, Alvarez has gone on to win the Premier League twice and the Champions League, one FA Cup, one UEFA Super Cup and a Club World Cup under Pep Guardiola. Now, Alvarez will be seen trying his feet at La Liga, which has already started to build up a strong hype after new names like himself and Kylian Mbappe have come into it.

## Steve Smith sets sights on IPL comeback after prolific run in MLC

**Star Australia batter Steve Smith has set his sights on making a comeback in the Indian Premier League after having a prolific run in the Major League Cricket 2024.**

New Delhi. Star Australia batter Steve Smith is eyeing a return to the Indian Premier League (IPL) after his prolific run with the bat in the Major League Cricket (MLC) 2024. Notably, Smith finished as the second-highest run scorer of the tournament with 336 runs to his

name from nine innings at an average of 56 and a strike rate of 148.67 with three half-centuries. Leading Washington Freedom in the tournament, the right-handed batter played a match-winning knock of 88 (52) helping his team win their maiden MLC title. Following his remarkable run in the tournament, the 35-year-old is looking for an opportunity to play in the IPL.

"I'd certainly love another opportunity at IPL. I'll be throwing my name in the ring, and we'll see how we go. I feel like in every opportunity I've had in T20 cricket recently and franchise stuff, I've played quite nicely. So hopefully I just keep putting my name up there and enjoying it," Smith was quoted as saying by FOX Cricket.

Notably, Smith last played in the IPL in 2021 for Delhi Capitals and didn't have a memorable outing in the tournament. He could only amass 152 runs from eight



matches at an average of 25.33 and a strike rate of 112.59. As a result, the star batter went unsold in the last two auctions. Smith comments on his T20I snub in his IPL career, Smith has scored 2485 runs from 103 matches at an average of 34.51 and a strike rate of 128.09 with one hundred and 11 fifties. Further speaking ahead, the Sydney-

born cricketer commented on his snub from the T20I side and said that he's quite unsure of what's happening there but he will keep on improving himself. "In terms of international T20s, I don't know what's going on there. They've obviously got some people they want to bring in, and that's fine. I understood the way that they wanted to stack up for the World Cup, with all the strong guys that smack it miles. I understood that. I'm not that fussed. I'll just go about my business, keep trying to improve and get better," he added.

Smith last played a T20I back in February against New Zealand and missed out on the squad for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tours of Scotland and England. He has 1094 runs to his name from 67 matches in the shortest format at an average of 24.86.



He could only amass 152 runs from eight matches at an average of 25.33 and a strike rate of 112.59. As a result, the star batter went unsold in the last two auctions.

Smith comments on his T20I snub  
In his IPL career, Smith has scored 2485 runs from 103 matches at an average of 34.51 and a strike rate of 128.09 with one hundred and 11 fifties. Further speaking ahead, the Sydney-born cricketer commented on his snub from the T20I side and said that he's quite unsure of what's happening there but he will keep on improving himself. "In terms of international T20s, I don't know what's going on there. They've obviously got some people they want to bring in, and that's fine. I understood the way that they wanted to stack up for the World Cup, with all the strong guys that smack it miles. I understood that. I'm not that fussed. I'll just go about my business, keep trying to improve and get better," he added. Smith last played a T20I back in February against New Zealand and missed out on the squad for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tours of Scotland and England.





# Raashii Khanna's

## Black Crop Top Is Perfect Party Wear

Raashii Khanna is one of the promising actresses in the film industry with the film Madras Cafe and gradually established herself as a leading actress. She is also known for her sartorial choices and recently left social media users impressed with her looks. She shared her pictures on Instagram wearing a black crop top and colour-coordinated pants. The Madras Cafe actress opted for a no-makeup look in these pictures from her dance rehearsals and left her tresses loose. Flaunting her toned body in the pictures, she wrote in the caption, "I promise, I rehearsed. Sort of. Mostly, I just laughed a lot and hoped for the best. Behind the scenes of the onstage chaos at the 69th SOBHA Filmfare Awards South 2024." She attached the song On The Floor by Jennifer Lopez to the photos.

Raashi's fans flocked to the comments section and praised the actress. "Hottest girl on earth", wrote one of the followers. "National Crush", read another comment. Others dropped heart emoticons in the comments. Some time back, the Madras Cafe had dropped a bunch of pictures that set the internet abuzz. In the photos, she can be seen donning a three-piece denim set including a coat, bralette and skirt. The 33-year-old girl accessorised the outfit with a pair of exquisite earrings and funky bangles. She opted for a subtle makeup look with pink eye makeup, mascara-laden eyelashes, contoured nose, perfectly drawn eyebrows, blush, and a shade of nude lipstick. Finishing it off, she let her tresses flow.

The caption of the post reads, "Painting the town blue". Followers have filled in the comment section with praises and adulation. One user wrote, "Just looking like a wow". Another user commented, "Most beautiful lady in the world". The third fan added, "What a look". "Stunning Looks," added another.

Raashii Khanna last acted in The Sabarmati Report directed by Ranjan Chandel. This film starred Vikrant Massey, Ridhi Dogra and others in important roles. Backed by Balaji Motion Pictures and Vikir Films Production, this film was scheduled to be released at the cinemas on August 2, 2024. She will next act in Talaakhon Mein Ek, written and directed by Bodhayan Roychaudhury.

# Anushka Sharma

## REACTS To Brutal Rape And Murder Of Female Doctor in Kolkata: 'What's Your Excuse...'


Anushka Sharma has condemned the horrifying rape and murder of a female trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. She took to her Instagram stories and expressed her outrage. Anushka shared a post referring to the incident. To note, the incident has shocked the nation as other celebrities are also seen condemning the brutal crime. Taking to her Instagram stories, Anushka Sharma shared a post that says 'what's your excuse this time or is it her fault, because men will be men, right? On Thursday, Alia also shared an Instagram post. "Another brutal rape. Another day of realisation that women are not safe, anywhere," she wrote, drawing a direct comparison to the Nirbhaya tragedy that shook India over a decade ago. Despite the nationwide outcry and subsequent legal reforms, Alia emphasised that little has changed in terms of women's safety.

The actress supported her statement with alarming statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2022 report. She pointed out that 30% of India's doctors and 80% of the nursing staff are women, making them particularly vulnerable in an environment where violence against medical personnel is on the rise. She also highlighted the grim reality that since 2022, there has been a 4% increase in crimes against women, with over 20% of these involving rape and assault. Alia's post further noted that nearly 90 rapes were reported daily in India in 2022, underscoring the pervasive nature of the violence.

Indo-Canadian Punjabi sensation AP Dhillon has expressed his anger and disappointment over the horrific rape and murder of the 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata. Dhillon took to his Instagram stories on Friday morning and wrote, "woke up today wanting to let my thoughts out the only way I know how..." along with a clip with a tribute song with heartbroken emojis. In the song, the "Excuses" hitmaker asked for justice for the victim and talked about the innate power of women and how society continues to fail.




### Happy Birthday, Saif Ali Khan: Why Star's Children Cannot Reportedly Inherit His Pataudi Palace



Handsome hunk, Nawab and exceptionally talented actor – these words are synonymous with Bollywood star, Saif Ali Khan. On August 16, the actor rang in his 54th birthday. His family and fans have been pouring out their love for the actor. Saif Ali Khan is the 10th Nawab of Pataudi, a title he inherited from his late cricketer father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. While he is one of the richest celebrities in India, he also owns the Pataudi Palace and an ancestral home in Bhopal. Generally, properties or assets are inherited by the children. In his case, all his four children from two separate marriages cannot stake claim to the Pataudi Palace. Do you know why? Reportedly, Saif Ali Khan has two ancestral properties, including the famous Pataudi Palace, items which belong to the Pataudi Palace, and an ancestral home in Bhopal. The entire amount of both the properties and everything that belongs in the Pataudi Palace costs Rs 5,000 crore. The actor cannot divide his property among his four children – Sara Ali Khan, Ibrahim Ali Khan, Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan.

As per reportedly, Saif Ali Khan's House of Pataudi falls under the Enemy Dispute Act, 1968 of the Government of India. Reportedly, nobody can claim the right over these properties and hence cannot be inherited. In fact, all the items in the luxurious palace come under this act. As per the act, all the immovable assets of those who went to Pakistan after the partition and took citizenship have been declared as Enemy Dispute Property. A person can go to the High Court, Supreme Court or President of India to claim the property, but it would be quite challenging.

### Shabana Azmi Reveals Javed Akhtar Suggested 'Jwala Ali' As A Name for Richa Chadha-Ali Fazal's Baby Girl



Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha joyfully welcomed their baby girl on July 16. Shortly after her birth, actors Shabana Azmi, Urmila Matondkar, Tanvi Azmi, and Dia Mirza visited the new parents, and photos of their visit quickly went viral on social media. Reflecting on the experience, Shabana Azmi shared details of the visit in a recent conversation, revealing that her husband, Javed Akhtar, suggested the name 'Jwala Ali' for the newborn, inspired by Richa's fiery personality. However, the couple had already chosen a beautiful name for their daughter, "Javed suggested they name her Jwala Ali. When I asked him why, he said Richa herself is such a firebrand, her daughter should have an equivalent name. But they have given her a beautiful name already," revealed Shabana Azmi.

Shabana also mentioned that Richa is part of a close-knit group called 'Dher Sara Pyaar,' which includes herself, Tanvi, Urmila, Dia, Vidya Balan, and Konkona Sen Sharma. Although some members were unable to attend, the visit felt like a family gathering filled with love and joy. Shabana Azmi recalled during an interview with Hindustan Times, "On that day, (actors) Sandhya Mridul, Konkona Sen Sharma and Vidya Balan were missing, as they weren't in town. We wanted to have a baby shower for Richa, but that couldn't happen. So, this was just a visit to see the child. This group is like a family.

The joys that you get with family is what you get in this group." Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal, who tied the knot during the pandemic, later hosted a grand reception in 2022 for their family and friends. Now, two years later, they are celebrating the arrival of their daughter, expressing their happiness in a joint statement, "We are tickled pink with joy to announce the arrival of a healthy baby girl on 16.7.24."

In a recent interview with HT City, Richa opened up about her aspirations for their child's upbringing. She shared her vision for the values and qualities she hoped to instill in their little one, emphasizing the importance of nurturing a well-rounded character.