



@thesikhtimes



facebook.com/
thesikhtimes



instagram.com/
qaumipatrika

PUBLISHED FROM
Delhi, Haryana, Uttar
Pradesh, Punjab,
Chandigarh, Himachal
and Jammu

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT:
www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 16 No. 98

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Tuesday, 20 August 2024

sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

9654077232

12 pages ₹ 3

Haryana 'first' to give award money to Paris Olympics medalists

Sanjay Kumar

Chandigarh, August 19: Haryana has become perhaps the first state in the country to transfer award money to its Paris Olympics medalists. The award money was transferred to the bank accounts of the medalists well before the imposition of the model code of conduct for the October 1 Assembly polls in Haryana on August 16. The beneficiaries included Vinesh Phogat, who was assured of all incentives accruing to a silver medalist by the state government even after being disqualified in the 50 kg wrestling finals for being overweight. However, the ceremonial function to felicitate the medal winners and participants, which was scheduled for August 17, was put off in the backdrop of the Imposition of model code of conduct on August 16, sources said. Haryana awards a maximum of Rs 6 crore to gold medal winner, Rs 4 crore to silver medalist and Rs 2.5 crore for bronze medalist as per its much-touted sports policy. As many as 25 sportspersons from Haryana participated in the Paris Olympics with seven players—four in individual sports and three team sports (hockey) winning medals for the country.

Kolkata murder case: CBI gets nod to conduct polygraph test of accused

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Kolkata, Aug 19: CBI has got permission to conduct polygraph test of the arrested accused in Kolkata hospital rape-murder case. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday was granted permission to conduct polygraph test of Sanjay Roy, the prime accused in the brutal rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. On Saturday, the CBI carried out the psychoanalysis test of the accused Roy, who is now in the agency's custody. The Kolkata Police had arrested him a day after the post-graduate trainee doctor's body was found in the seminar hall of the chest department of the RG Kar Hospital between 3 am and 5 am on Friday. Roy joined the Kolkata Police as a civic volunteer in 2019. The police alleged that he was married at least four times and was a "womaniser". A PTI report stated that the accused is a trained boxer and got close to a few senior police officers over the

years. Junior doctors, trainee doctors and medical students protest against the sexual assault and killing of a post-graduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, in

ed at the police outpost at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. According to an Indian Express report, the autopsy report stated that the woman died due to manual strangulation associated with smothering. Several media reports had said that autopsy concluded there was evidence of "forceful penetration/insertion in her genitalia", which indicates sexual assault. As per the report, there were 16 external injuries on the victim's body, including abrasions on the cheeks, lips, nose, neck, arms and knees. The CBI, which is probing the murder case, interrogated the college's ex-principal Sandip Ghosh for the fourth consecutive day. Ghosh was asked to specify his role after getting the news of the death of the doctor, who he had contacted and why he made the parents wait for nearly three hours, an official told. The ex-principal was also questioned who had ordered the renovation of the rooms near the seminar hall at the emergency building of the hospital after the incident.



Kolkata (PTI) Junior doctors, trainee doctors and medical students protest against the sexual assault and killing of a post-graduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, in Kolkata (PTI) He was moved to the Kolkata Police Welfare Board and post-

Antilia bomb scare case: Waze's plea questions UAPA provisions, probe

New Delhi, August 19: Antilia bomb scare case: Waze's plea questions UAPA provisions, probe; HC seeks NIA response Dismissed policeman Sachin Waze has moved Bombay High Court challenging provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the National Investigating Agency (NIA) probe into the Antilia bomb scare case and the death of businessman Mansukh Hiran. A division bench of Justices Bharati Dange and Manjusha Deshpande on Monday directed NIA to file its affidavit in response to the petition filed by Waze, who is in jail in connection with the two cases. The bench quipped that the 185-page petition filed by Waze from jail was more like a thesis. "Is this a petition or a thesis? It has quoted Oscar Wilde and all. This seems like a thesis for a PhD," the court said. Senior counsel Aabad Ponda, appearing for Waze, said the accused is in jail with nothing to do but this. Waze, in his plea, has sought immediate release pending hearing of the petition. Ponda argued UAPA provisions have been wrongly invoked in the case and that the NIA had begun its probe even before the Act was applied in the case. "The provisions of UAPA cannot be applied in cases all and sundry. This is just a case of gelatin recovered outside someone's residence in Mumbai. There was no terror caused," Ponda said. The NIA's competency is also under challenge as the agency had begun its investigation even before an order was passed by the Centre, Ponda said.

Relief for CM Siddaramaiah as Karnataka High Court defers special court proceedings till August 29

ST Correspondent

Bengaluru, August 19: The Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the special court for people's representatives, slated to hear complaints against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', to defer its proceedings till the next date of hearing on



August 29. "No injunction has been granted," said Justice M Nagaprasanna, who heard a writ petition filed by the Chief Minister challenging the legality of the August 16 order of the Governor, who accorded sanction against him under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. In the petition, the Chief Minister submitted that the sanction order was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India. Siddaramaiah contended that the Governor's decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by extraneous considerations, and thus, he has preferred the writ petition seeking to quash the impugned order amongst other reliefs. The Governor had issued the order after Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna had submitted to him petitions requesting sanction for prosecution of the Chief Minister in connection with the alleged irregularities in the allotment of alternative sites to his wife Parvathi by MUDA. Abraham and Krishna have moved the special court for public representatives, and the case was slated to come up on Tuesday and Wednesday. "Since the matter is being heard by this court and the pleadings are yet to get complete, till the next date of hearing, the concerned court shall defer its proceedings," Justice Nagaprasanna said. Senior advocate and Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi and the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta appeared on behalf of the Chief Minister and Governor, respectively.

Article 370, J-K's statehood restoration among 12 guarantees in NC manifesto

Srinagar, August 19: Restoration of Article 370 and Jammu and Kashmir's statehood as well as implementation of the autonomy resolution passed by the erstwhile assembly in 2000 are among the National Conference's 12 guarantees announced in its manifesto for the upcoming polls. In June 2000, the National Conference government under Farooq Abdullah passed a resolution in the Assembly seeking to restore the pre-1953 constitutional position in the state. It was, however, rejected by the Union Cabinet headed by then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. The Narendra Modi Government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Releasing the manifesto at a press conference here, NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said the party is making only those promises it can deliver. He described the manifesto as the NC's vision document and a roadmap for governance. The manifesto makes 12 broad promises, including striving for the full implementation of the Autonomy Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2000.

Man charged under NSA for murdering 2 women, sexually assaulting their bodies in UP

Barabanki (UP), August 19: The district administration here has invoked the National Security Act against a man accused of murdering two women and engaging in sexual activities with their bodies, officials said on Monday. The NSA was invoked on Saturday against Amrendra Rawat (26), who was arrested last year for the women's murder in the Ramsanehi Ghat area, Additional Superintendent of Police (South) Akhilesh Narayan Singh said. He was also booked under the Gangsters Act in May last year, the police added. Singh said the NSA was invoked considering the heinous nature of the crime, which would make it difficult for the accused to get bail. "Rawat has confessed before us of murdering the women and then performing sexual acts with the bodies," he further said. According to police, a strangled and dishevelled body of a 60-year old woman was discovered in a nearby forest in the Ramsanehi Ghat police station area on December 29, 2022. "During investigation, it was found that the woman was raped after murder," Singh said, adding it was also found that a similar incident was reported earlier in December 2022.

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti to make electoral debut from Bijbehara

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Srinagar, Aug 19: Iltija's mother Mehbooba Mufti had also made her electoral debut from Bijbehara in 1996, a constituency known as a stronghold of the Mufti family. Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's daughter, Iltija Mufti, will contest the upcoming assembly polls from the Bijbehara constituency. Iltija Mufti, daughter of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti (PTI) Iltija's name appeared in the list of eight candidates released by the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday. She gained prominence during the time her mother was detained following the revocation of Article 370. It is reported that Mehbooba Mufti will not contest the assembly polls, and her daughter Iltija, 37, will be the party's face in South Kashmir. Mehbooba Mufti had also made her electoral debut from Bijbehara in



at her Srinagar residence. Iltija was granted permission to leave the Valley and sought the Supreme Court's approval to visit her mother, which was ultimately approved. Following Mehbooba's release,

Iltija regularly accompanied her during media interactions and meetings. In June 2022, she started a fortnightly video series on X called "Aapki baat Iltija ke saath" (conversations with Iltija), aimed at discussing issues and decisions that impact the people of Jammu and Kashmir. A political science graduate from Delhi University, Iltija earned her master's degree in international relations from Warwick University in the UK. Among the other candidates, the party has fielded senior leader Abdul Rehman Veeri from Anantnag East and Mufti's uncle Sartaj Ahmad Madani from Devsar. Former Lok Sabha MP Mehboob Beg will be contesting from Anantnag, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura from Charar-i-Sharief, and Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani from Watchi. The party's youth leader, Waheed Para, who contested the recent Lok Sabha elections from the Srinagar constituency and lost to the National Conference's Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, has been fielded from Anantnag.

Lateral entry attack on Dalits, OBCs, adivasis: Rahul Gandhi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, August 19: Upping the ante over the lateral entry issue, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday called it an attack on Dalits, OBCs and adivasis, and accused the BJP of seeking to snatch reservations from 'bahujans'. The Congress has strongly criticised the government after the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued a notification for recruiting 45 joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries through lateral entry — referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments. "Lateral entry is an attack on Dalits, OBCs and adivasis," Gandhi said on X. "The BJP's distorted version of Ram Rajya seeks to destroy the Constitution and snatch reservations from bahujans,"

the former Congress chief said. Government sources have said the concept of lateral entry was first introduced under the Congress-led UPA regime and



was strongly endorsed by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission established by it in 2005. Also, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said the Congress's criti-

cism of the lateral entry system in senior bureaucracy shows its "hypocrisy", and asserted the BJP-led NDA government has created a transparent method to implement the concept developed by the UPA dispensation. In a post in Hindi on X on Sunday, Gandhi had termed the government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry an "anti-national step", alleging that the reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such an action. "Reservation of SC, ST and OBC classes is being openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries of the central government," Gandhi had said. The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step" that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Gandhi had said. "Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he had said.

'I only pay attention to what Mahayuti leaders say': Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

Mumbai, August 19: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday said he was not bothered by criticism by others and was only concerned about what the leaders of the ruling Mahayuti alliance said. Pawar's remarks came a day after a group of BJP workers led by the party's Junnar chief, Asha Buchake, waved black flags at his convoy. "I have nothing to do with what other people say. I pay attention to the key people — CM Eknath Shinde of Shiv Sena;



Chandrashekhar Bawankule; and Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP," Pawar told reporters during his Jan Sanman Yatra in Mumbai. The Nationalist Congress Party, led by Pawar, had demanded that Fadnavis, who also hold the Home portfolio, clarify whether he approved of the behaviour of his BJP workers. Asha Buchake had claimed that the NCP was trying to promote its candidate for the Junnar seat for the forthcoming assembly polls. "They are trying to strangle us. Therefore, we have adopted an aggressive stand," she told reporters after the protesters raised slogans against Pawar. An official meeting was organised on tourism development in Junnar on Sunday; however, the BJP was not invited for it, she said. "If we are part of Mahayuti, why were the pictures of CM Shinde and Deputy CM Fadnavis not put up in the meeting hall?" she added. Asked if he will get a 'Rakhi' tied on his wrist from estranged cousin Supriya Sule on Raksha Bandhan, Ajit Pawar said, "I will do it if she is in Mumbai today." Pawar last week expressed his regret for making his wife Sunetra Pawar contest against his cousin Supriya Sule in the 2024 General Election. Sule won the election. Pawar had accepted that he made a mistake and said.

No talk yet with Champai Soren on his joining to BJP

Naresh Malhotra

Ranchi, August 19: Jharkhand BJP president Babul Marandi on Monday said that no talk was held yet with Champai Soren regarding his joining the saffron party. Marandi said that Champai is a seasoned politician and he would himself decide his own path. Amid speculation about a potential switch to the BJP, Champai reached Delhi on Sunday afternoon. Later in a social media post, Champai Soren said that he experienced "bitter humiliation" as chief minister, which compelled him to seek an alternative path. "No talk was held yet with Champai Soren. He is a seasoned politician and has been part of the separate Jharkhand movement. He will himself decide his own path," Marandi said. Mentioning Champai's post, he said, "It indicates that he was deeply hurt. He felt humiliated the way he was removed from the CM's post." Champai highlighted in the post that he had been asked to resign during the meeting of party legislators on July 3. He was taken aback, as his self-

respect was hurt. The ex-CM said he had announced in the meeting, "a new chapter in my life is going to begin from today". He fur-



ther said he had three options. First to retire from politics, second to float a separate outfit, and third, if find any ally, to carry forward with them. "From that day until now, and through the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections, all options are open for me in this journey,"

Champai said. Speaking over chief minister Hemant Soren's allegation that BJP poaches MLAs, Marandi said, "It means he (Hemant Soren) is saying his MLAs are 'Bikao' (ready to be sold). If you term all MLAs as 'Bikao', who will want to stay with you (CM). If any MLA expresses his grief, you (CM) should listen to him," Marandi said. During a government function in Godda on Sunday, Chief Minister Hemant Soren accused BJP of poaching MLAs. "Forget about society, these people work to break families and parties. They poach MLAs. Money is such a thing that it doesn't take long for politicians to move here and there," he said. Marandi said that if senior leader like Champai Soren quit, it would impact the party. Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Pratul Shaddeo said that if Champai Soren expresses willingness to join BJP, then the party leadership would take a decision. "Champai Soren is a big leader and he tried to change the image of Hemant Soren's corrupt party...So, our leaders personally respect him," Shaddeo said.

News box

Telangana girl seeks help to perform mother's last rites, KTR responds

Hyderabad. In a heart-wrenching turn of events, a young girl in Telangana's Nirmal district on Sunday was seen asking for monetary help after her mother died. The girl was seen seeking financial assistance from neighbours in her village, so that she could perform the last rites of her mother, who took her own life, police said. Earlier, the girl's father had passed away due to illness. Unable to cope with the ensuing financial hardships, her mother committed suicide by hanging herself.

Struck by the double tragedy, the girl was left with no choice but to seek help from the villagers to perform the final rites of her mother. The villagers, moved by the tragedy that struck the girl's family, then came forward to offer their support with whatever they could. Meanwhile, Bharat Rashtra Samiti leader KT Rama Rao responded to the developments in Bell Tharoda village of Tanur Mandal and promised assistance to the girl as soon as possible.

"I've spoken to our BRS leaders of Mudhole constituency as soon as I saw this video (of the girl begging). They will attend to the young girl immediately", KTR said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Pune Porsche Crash: Accused Minor Completes 15-Day Safe Driving Programme

Pune: The minor accused of killing two persons after ramming his Porsche car in an inebriated state into a motorcycle in Pune on May 19 has undergone a 15-day safe driving programme as mandated by a court, a Regional Transport Office (RTO) official said on Sunday. Two IT professionals from Madhya Pradesh were killed in the incident, which took place in Pune's Kalyani Nagar and triggered massive outrage nationwide, partly because of the accused getting bail from the Juvenile Justice Board on lenient terms and due to a police probe finding attempts by his family and some doctors to cover up the crime. While being released on bail by the JJB, among the conditions placed on him were writing a 300-word essay on road accidents as well as taking help of the RTO to study traffic rules and regulations.

The juvenile accused completed the safe driving programme with the RTO. With respect to the guidelines of the court, the operation was kept discreet as it could have led to issue of privacy of the juvenile, a top RTO official said. "The training programme included road driving safety measures, importance of driving licence, meaning of road signals and symbols and other activities. During the process, the juvenile was also taken for on-field training," the official added.

Man Kills His Father For Refusing To Massage His Feet In Nagpur, Arrested: Police

The accused, Kushal alias Inga Shende, was arrested following the incident on Saturday evening in Nawabpura area, an official said.

Nagpur: Enraged by his 62-year-old father's refusal to massage his feet, a 33-year-old man allegedly beaten him to death in their house in Nagpur city, police said on Sunday. The accused, Kushal alias Inga Shende, was arrested following the incident on Saturday evening in Nawabpura area, an official said. ushal, who has a criminal past, kicked and punched his father Dattatreya Shende in his chest, stomach, ribs, and head after the



latter turned down his request to massage his feet, the official said. Shende's elder son, Pranav, unsuccessfully tried to intervene but was threatened by Kushal. Pranav rushed to his neighbour's house to seek help, but when he returned, the old man was lying unconscious with severe injuries. He was rushed to Mayo Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival, the official added.

Kushal was arrested on the charge of murder. A court remanded him in police custody till Monday.

Prioritise underdeveloped areas to set up AIIMS: Union Minister Suresh Gopi

Pointing out the potential boost to the local economy, including real estate and rental markets, he highlighted the importance of creating new zones for development.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Calling for a "strategic approach" in establishing the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kerala, Union Minister Suresh Gopi has said that underdeveloped areas should be prioritised for the setting up the national institution as it could spur economic growth and infrastructure improvement. Speaking at an interactive session organised by the Fraternity of Trivandrum Professionals on Sunday, Suresh Gopi stressed the need to prioritise locations that would benefit most from the development rather than focusing solely on major cities like Thiruvananthapuram. "I won't say AIIMS should come to Thiruvananthapuram. We should be level-headed. Places like Thiruvananthapuram are already equipped with healthcare services. AIIMS should

come at a place that has been totally sabotaged with strikes as it will be a basis for major development," Suresh Gopi said.

Pointing out the potential boost to the local economy, including real estate and rental markets, he highlighted the importance of creating new zones for development. "For that, if AIIMS is a requirement of Kasaragod, it will come," he said. Further, he said the viability of Kochi Metro could be increased by extensions and that only allied installations can bring collective outcomes.

He also stressed on the construction of a four-lane road from Madurai — via Cumbum, Theni, in Tamil Nadu, and Vandiperiyar, Mundakkayam, Kanjirappally, Kumarakom,



Vaikom and Muhamma in Kerala — connecting Alappuzha to the national highway passing through Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country. He said development should benefit the entire state, not just major cities or the interests of politicians and administrators. Instead, he called for a thorough audit of funds. He also suggested the creation of a consortium for

Wayanad, supervised by the High Court, to ensure transparency.

Will court be answerable if dam collapses?

T'Puram: At a time when the Wayanad landslides have reignited debates over the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Tourism Suresh Gopi sought to know who would be answerable if the 128 year-old dam collapses. "Will the court be answerable? Or will those who obtained a favourable verdict from the court to continue in the present state be answerable," he asked on Sunday. Suresh Gopi said the dam's safety looms like "thunder" over people's hearts. "We cannot afford to drown in tears again," he said, referring to the landslides.

Gundrevula project yet to take off to end water woes of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA: The recent heavy inflows into the Srisailem project from both the Jurala on the Krishna River, and Sunkesula Barrage on the Tungabhadra River, and later heavy inflows, when one of the gates of Tungabhadra Dam in Hosapete was washed away, which was closed later with the stop-lock-gate, have once again brought to the fore a major drawback of Kurnool district — lack of holding reservoirs. Though there is a major irrigation project — Srisailem Dam, the people of Kurnool are unable to utilise its water fully as it is meant to cater to the needs of the regions downstream in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. There is no other project on Tungabhadra in Kurnool district, besides the Sunkesula Barrage, through which the Kurnool-Cuddapah (KC) Canal gets water. Sunkesula's storage capacity of 1.2 TMC is not sufficient for its irrigation needs. Despite heavy rains from time to time in the river basin, due lack of adequate storage capacity, the water cannot be retained. Speaking to TNIE, M Subbarayudu, a retired irrigation engineer, said, "Gundrevula Balancing Reservoir with a capacity of 15-20 TMC is a perfect solution to the problem. It will not only serve the irrigation needs of KC Canal farmers but also quench the thirst of hundreds of villages in the western mandals of Kurnool district."

The proposal for the Gundrevula project was submitted to the State government on April 13, 2011. The project proposed at Gundrevula village in C Belagal mandal of Kurnool district, is totally a gravity-based one. In November 2013, the then

government gave administrative sanction for Rs 54.95 lakh for preparing the Detailed Project Report. Subsequently, the ARVEE Association had prepared the DPR. On November 19, 2015, the then District Collector Ch Vijaya Mohan wrote a letter to the then Principal Secretary (Water Resources) Adityanath Das explaining the importance of the project, and sought administrative sanction. Once



completed, the project will give a full assurance to the KC Canal ayacut of 2,65,628 acres in Kurnool and Kadapa districts for both Kharif and Rabi. The project was estimated to cost Rs 2,400 crore, excluding land acquisition. A total of 4,464 hectares of land in Kurnool, 2,371 hectares in Mahbubnagar of Telangana, and 2,525 hectares of river portion would be submerged under the

project. The issue was raised by the people of Kurnool time and again, whenever ministers and chief ministers visited the district. In 2018, just before the elections, a GO was issued according in-principle administrative sanction for the project.

The subsequent government headed by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also promised to take up the project. However, the project has remained a non-starter. During the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) meeting in Hyderabad in November 2023, the Telangana government had included the Gundrevula project as an agenda item. But the issue was not discussed as the then government of Andhra Pradesh did not evince any interest in the project. "There is a need for a political will to construct the Gundrevula project which benefits generations to come," opined an irrigation official. Now, the people of Kurnool are hopeful that the TDP-led NDA government headed by N Chandrababu Naidu will take up the Gundrevula project, fulfilling its promise made in 2018.

Project can irrigate over 2.5 lakh acres

Once completed, the project will give a full assurance to the KC Canal ayacut of 2,65,628 acres in Kurnool and Kadapa districts for both Kharif and Rabi, apart from meeting the drinking water needs of Kurnool and adjoining villages all along KC Canal. The project was estimated to cost Rs 2,400 crore, excluding land acquisition.

Agra education official caught red handed taking Rs 3 lakh bribe, arrested

SP Vigilance Shagun Gautam said that Ajay Pal Singh, assistant teacher at DC Vedic Inter College, Agra, filed the complaint against Rampratap Sharma for demanding a bribe.



Agra. The Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Department on Sunday arrested Rampratap Sharma, Joint Director of Education for the Agra division, on charges of accepting a Rs 3 lakh bribe, officials said. The arrest, which was made following a complaint from a local teacher, has sent shockwaves through the education department. SP Vigilance Shagun Gautam informed India Today that Ajay Pal Singh, assistant teacher at DC Vedic Inter College and a resident of Sector 3, Awas Vikas Colony, Agra, filed the complaint.

Singh had been accused of a fraudulent appointment, and Sharma allegedly demanded a Rs 10 lakh bribe in

exchange for a favourable report in Singh's case. To trap the official, the Vigilance Department initiated a covert operation, recording Sharma's phone conversations. Ajay Pal Singh was instructed to deliver Rs 3 lakh as the first instalment. On Saturday, Singh arrived at the Director's office with the money, and as Sharma accepted the bribe and got into his car, the Vigilance team swooped in, catching him red-handed and recovering the bribe.

During the arrest, Sharma's driver and peon attempted to intervene, but upon realising it was a Vigilance raid, they stepped aside. Sharma is scheduled to be presented in the Meerut court on

Monday and will likely be remanded in custody. Sources revealed that RP Sharma had stalled Singh's file since February but had summoned him to the office with the phrase "bring sweets," a euphemism for a bribe. Ajay Pal Singh, speaking to India Today, disclosed that despite receiving a clean chit from the then-BSA during the investigation into his appointment, Sharma halted the approval process and demanded Rs 10 lakh through his stenographer. Singh had recorded these conversations as evidence. In a related development, two other teachers have also accused Sharma of demanding Rs 2.5 lakh in bribes.

Withdraw GO on self-finance seats in medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh: Parents

VIJAYAWADA: The Parents Association of Andhra Pradesh demanded the withdrawal of the notification issued by NTR Health University regarding admissions to self-financed MBBS seats in five government medical colleges. Association president, Narahari Shikhara, emphasised that this move would reduce opportunities for poor, middle-class, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward classes, and minority students. In a letter to Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Sunday, Narahari appealed for the reconsideration of the cancellation of GO No. 108, which pertains to self-financed MBBS seats. He urged the government to revise the policy

to ensure justice for marginalised communities. Shikhara also called for setting up a task force to improve non-teaching facilities essential for quality medical education. He demanded a white paper on the state of medical education, expressing concern that declining educational standards are affecting public health. He noted that the State now has 37 medical colleges, but the lack of professors and facilities has led to a decline in standards. He pointed out that no college in the State is fully adhering to National Medical Commission (NMC) norms. Shikhara said students should be cautious while selecting colleges as the application process for convener quota

seats is underway. Parents are increasingly worried about the quality of education, and he urged the government to focus on improving standards in both government and private colleges. He also highlighted the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that revealed 56% of the faculty positions in government medical colleges are vacant, where 70% of faculty positions are unfilled in private colleges. He claimed that some colleges list professors only on paper. Despite the introduction of Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), fraudulent practices persist. Some colleges even close early, leaving patients unattended.



NEWS BOX

Van rams truck on KMP Expressway, driver injured

GURGAON. A driver suffered severe injuries when his van rammed into a truck travelling on the KMP Expressway on Sunday morning.

He remained stuck in the van's cabin for more than half an hour. Fire department personnel moved the two vehicles using a crane and pulled him out of the mangled cabin. The driver was rushed to the Civil Hospital in an ambulance and his condition is said to be critical.

According to police, at around 11am, a van carrying milk packets from Gurgaon to Palwal hit a container truck from behind on the KMP Expressway near Pataudi toll. Due to the high-speed collision, the cabin of the milk van remained stuck with the container.

"The driver of the van suffered injuries and he was stuck in the mangled cabin. We received a rescue call at 11am by passersby. IMT Manesar fire station staff reached the spot with spreading tools and carried out the rescue operation. A crane was also called to the spot and the two vehicles were pulled apart," Manesar fire officer Lalit Kumar said.

Police teams visited the spot and worked along with the fire department officials to rescue the man. "We have no further details about the man at this moment," SI Lokpal said. Police have not registered any case. This year so far, six people lost their lives in two separate road accidents on the KMP Expressway in Gurgaon.

Farmers set to meet, discuss protest over land grabbing in Gurgaon



GURGAON. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, a coalition of farmer unions, will meet in Bhiwani on Tuesday to form a strategy to protest against the alleged attempt by a developer to take over a farmer's land in Ghamroj village of the city. Farm leaders said on Sunday they will block toll booths and launch a 'Jail Bhara Andolan' if their demands were not met.

State president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Tikait), Ratan Mann, said on Sunday that govt has not refrained from acting against farmers.

BKU, one of the constituents of SKM, had protested at the Sohna toll plaza earlier this week and handed over a memorandum to sub-divisional magistrate Sonu Bhatt with their demands.

"Police, under pressure from the builder, are still conducting raids to arrest the farmer. Even his children, women of the family, and relatives are being subjected to torture. After discussions at the SKM meeting, a befitting response will be given to the govt for this oppression. We will block toll booths and roads, and launch a Jail Bhara Andolan," said Mann.

Gurgaon election update: Expenditure limit set at Rs 40 Lakh for candidates

GURGAON. The district election officer and deputy commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav on Sunday announced that the maximum expenditure limit for a candidate in the election has been set at Rs 40 lakh.

Candidates are required to maintain a detailed account of their election expenses throughout the campaign.

He also said each candidate will be required to submit a security deposit of Rs 10,000 to participate in the elections, while candidates from Scheduled Castes (SC) will need to deposit Rs 5,000. Yadav stated the code of conduct has already been enforced following the announcement of the elections. The nomination process will commence on Sept 5, with candidates from the Pataudi, Gurgaon, Sohna, and Badshahpur Assembly constituencies filing their papers at the respective offices of the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO). Nominations will not be accepted on Sunday, Sept 8. Candidates can submit their nomination papers until Sept 12, following which scrutiny will be conducted on Sept 13. The deadline for candidates to withdraw their nominations is Sept 16 by 3pm, following which election symbols will be allocated to the candidates from all four constituencies on the same day.

Man strangled, body found stuffed in drum at Gurgaon's greenbelt

GURGAON. A 25-year-old man was strangled, and the body was stuffed in a plastic drum at a greenbelt near IMT Manesar on Saturday evening. Police said the body was noticed by workers of an automobile factory when they were clearing bushes in the greenbelt. Around 4.30 pm on Saturday, security staff of an automobile company at Sector 8 in IMT Manesar hired two migrant workers, Mohit of Amethi and Nand Kishore of Bihar, to prune trees in the greenbelt area near gate no. 1 of their company close to Aliyar Chowk. While pruning trees and clearing waste, the workers noticed a stench from a plastic drum found in the stormwater drain abutting the greenbelt. They informed the security guard, who alerted cops. Police reached the place and took out the blue drum from the drain. "When we opened the lid of the drum, the body of a man was found wrapped in a cloth in it. An electric wire was tightly wrapped around his neck," said SI Ishwer Singh of IMT Manesar police station. Based on the complaint of Sohan Singh, the security in-charge at the automobile company, a case was registered under BNS sections 103 (1) (murder) and 238 (a) (causing disappearance of evidence) or giving false information to screen offender) on Saturday night.

Snag sparks water shortage, tempers rise in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok 2 as taps sputter

GURGAON. Though it has been raining almost every other day over the past month, residents of Sushant Lok-2 have been grappling with scarcity of water, with around 1,000 families struggling to do their household chores daily.

Residents said the worst hit areas are A and A1 blocks. They said on Sunday that the blocks get water supply just once a day, and for the remaining hours, they rely on a tubewell to make up for some of the shortage.

Last week, a bout of heavy rainfall in the city caused a short-circuit in the tubewell's motor, cutting off this supply too, they said, adding that the motor was repaired by Friday, but it wasn't reinstalled. Despite repeated calls and messages to MCG, residents said their pleas and complaints were ignored.

"GMDA's water supply has been unreliable for weeks, but we managed with the tubewell and only got water once a day. Now, even that has failed us.



It's as if they are deliberately ignoring us. I have been calling and messaging

since the problem began, but nothing has been done," said Vinita Sinha, president

of Sushant Lok-2 RWA (A and A1 blocks).

With no reliable supply, residents are paying Rs 800-1,200 for private water tankers. "We are being forced to live without water. Even the quality of water from the tubewell is poor and poses a health risk. Now, even that is unavailable. Our colony is at the far end, and both GMDA and MCG are doing nothing to resolve the issue," said Digvijay Singh, RWA vice-president.

"It's not just the water supply — sewage is overflowing, roads are broken and there is no permanent solution in sight," said Naveen Sharma, another resident.

On Sunday, a GMDA official said there was no disruption in supply from their end and issue could be because of internal distribution. A senior MCG official said the motor was repaired and electrical panel replaced. "Supply was restored by our team on Friday. But I will ask official to check," the official said.

Haryana: Major reshuffle in DTCP ahead of assembly elections

GURGAON. In a significant reshuffle in the department of town and country planning (DTCP), a series of high-level transfers were executed late Friday night, coinciding with the imposition of the election code of conduct.

These changes come as the state is gearing up for elections, necessitating a reorganisation of key administrative positions.

Among the major changes, Rajesh Kaushik, previously the district town planner (DTP) in the city, has been promoted to senior town planner (STP) and assigned to the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority

(HRera).

Praveen Kumar, who was the DTP in Panipat, will take over Kaushik's former role as DTP Planning for Gurgaon. Other notable changes include the promotion of Sanjeev Maan, the STP at GMDA, who has been made the chief town planner (CTP) and posted at the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIDC) in Panchkula. Dharambir Khatri, previously DTP at GMDA, is now the STP at MCG.

Additionally, Dinesh Singh has been promoted from assistant town planner (ATP) to DTP Narnaul, while Sumit,

formerly DTP planning at MCG, has been transferred to Fatehabad with an additional charge of Sirsa. Anchal Rohilla, previously ATP in Gurgaon, has been transferred to the Sirsa DTP Office.

Three new ATPs - Naveen Bharua, Jyoti Yadav, and Rahul Dabra - have been appointed to the DTP planning office in Gurgaon, and Anish Grover has been newly appointed as ATP in the DTP enforcement office.

This reshuffle is part of the state govt's effort to realign administrative roles to ensure smooth operations in the town planning department during the election period.

A brand-new experience at Delhi airport's Terminal 1

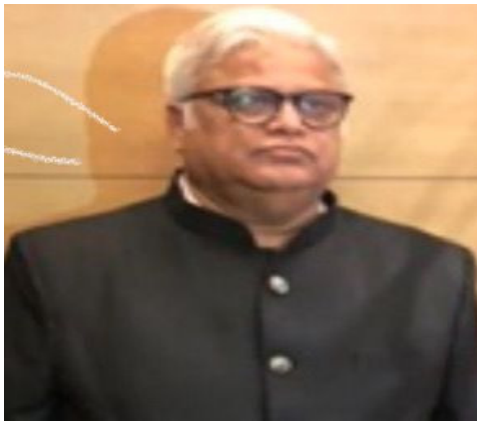


NEW DELHI. There is a buzz at India Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, with its newly constructed Terminal 1 building starting operations from Saturday. Officials say the terminal efficiently handled 13 flights on its opening day. Delhi

-- Deepak Kumar

New Delhi, August 19: Every intellectual got into worry on coming to know from news on television on 05 August 2024 that Sheikh Hasina had come to India after submitting her resignation, and on knowing the state of affairs actually prevailing in Bangladesh. But, from the very next day, news became to pour in that sanatani Hindus were being massacred, their property was being looted, and rapes were being committed, and also that, Hindus were gathering at the borders to save their life. As per the details that came out after holding of emergency meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security of the Indian Govt, it was learnt that there was silence on the state of affairs in Bangladesh and that the situation was being closely monitored, as per the standard diplomatic language. And then, social media was abuzz with comments on the issue, and statements were circulated that the opposition parties were mute on the issue and were refraining to speak on it. Those who are running this campaign fail to understand that who, in fact, is running the government—they themselves or the opposition parties? Those organizations who dub themselves as pro-Hindus and their saviours were also silent on the issue. At

first, statement of their former All India functionary came to light. Their top officer bearers commented after passage of 4-5 days that may be their chintan (contemplation) was completed in 4-5 days, perhaps. One of my friends who is a BJP leader asked me as to what the govern-



ment should do in the matter? I said, "a lot." When he told me to comment further, then I replied that, first we should try to create an atmosphere that if these killings do not stop, we might have to consider the option of military action, and secondly, we should have declared publicly that, we were willing to give political asylum to Sheikh Hasina. The effect of this step would have been that the

Bangladesh Army and President would have been compelled to think umpteen number of times about their acts and additionally, the morale of Hindus and the Indian lobby would have increased manifold. Thirdly, the Hindu fleeing the country should have been allowed to cross the border and kept in refugee camps, and when they would have returned back, then the Bangladesh Govt. was to be forced to compensate for the losses incurred by these refugees and also the Indian Govt. We should have immediately called for convening of the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council and should have approached the Human Rights Commission. The Indian Navy should have been put on a high alert to impose "naval blockade," if necessary. Furthermore, a unit of the Indian Army should also have been posted at the Indo-Bangladesh border. Besides this, the religious leaders belonging to the Muslim community should have been called upon to issue statements on the issue. Moreover, a demonstration was required to be held before the High Commission of Bangladesh. I reminded him of the fact that, when atrocities were unleashed on the Hindus in 1971, the Jan Sangh had held a massive demonstration of 10 lakh Hindus at the Boat Club, Delhi.

I remarked that, "Sir, had there been a non-BJP govt. at the Centre, you people would have shook the whole nation." The Bangladesh Govt. should have suggested that all the Hindus in the country should be asked to gather at one place in order to provide them with security in all possible way. Jagmohan, during his tenure in Kashmir, exactly did this. I would like to say to my friends that, when their opponents were in power earlier, they fulfilled their duty. The then government had brought, on a safe passage, Dalai Lama who was 6597 kms afar, from Lhasa to Tawang in India, on 31 March 1959. Merely 20 days after his arrival in India, the Dalai Lama Exile Govt. was set up here with headquarters at Mussoorie. On 14 November 1962, Special Frontier Force was established in which Tibetans were recruited, and they were imparted military training. This Force exists even today. In the same way, not only one crore Hindu refugees were given shelter in India in 1971 but also the exiled government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was set up that was headquartered in India. And thus, the geography of the Indian subcontinent was altered by giving birth to a new country in world. We do not require a '56-inch chest,' but rather, leadership like that of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gurgaon's metro expansion on right track with sector 56 to panchgaon route; all you need to know

GURGAON. The Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) is planning another metro line for the city - a 36km link from Sector 56 to Panchgaon with 28 elevated stations, including an interchange with Rapid Metro. Officials said this metro extension was discussed at a meeting of HMRTC board, chaired by chief secretary TVSN Prasad, in Chandigarh on Tuesday. They said HMRTC consultant RITES had already come up with a route plan and will complete the detailed project report (DPR) by the end of this month. "We are assessing the projection of passengers on this proposed route, which is crucial for designing and sustaining the metro project. Various factors, including current and future population density, employment hubs, residential areas and traffic patterns will be taken into account. The report is expected to be completed soon," an HMRTC official told TOI. The proposed route, the official said, is likely to be linked with the existing Rapid Metro line through an interchange station at Sector 56. Officials said that the HMRTC board also discussed the steady growth in ridership and revenue for Rapid Metro this year. According to their data, the number of passengers using Rapid Metro grew from 12.2 lakh in April this year to 13.8 in May. Apart from the Sector 56-Panchgaon link, the corporation is in the initial stages of planning another metro line from Gurgaon to Faridabad. HMRTC is reviewing a feasibility study to link the two neighbouring NCR cities of Haryana. A third metro line - from Millennium City Centre to AIIMS-Jhajjar and onwards to Badli in the district - is in the works.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar

N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, T/O, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhetimes.in

Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

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

Name Change
I, Vibhuti Patthak Patel D/o Manish Mukundbhai Sapariya R/o Tower-1516 B, The Magnolias, DLF City Phase-5 DLF Golf Links, Sector-42, Gurgaon Haryana-122009, have changed my Name Vibhuti Patel for all purposes.

Name Change
I, MD FAIZ MALIK S/O AMIR MALIK residing at H.NO-689, GALI NO-6A, OLD MUSTAFABAD, DELHI-110094 have changed my name to MOHD FAIZ MALIK for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, RAMBHOOOL S/o Godhu Ram R/o Flat No.204, GH 33 ASK Greens Sector-1, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122052, Have Changed My Name To Ram Bhoool Bukkal

Name Change
I, Amaan Ahmad Khan S/o Nayaz Ali Khan R/o H-111A, Block-H, Batta House, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my Name Amaan Ahmed Khan for all purposes.

Name Change
I, TAEYAN ALI S/O SK GYASUDDIN Residing at C-418, BLOCK-C, JAHANGIR PURI, N S MANDI, DELHI-110033 have changed my name to TAIYAB ALI for all future purpose.

Name Change
I, GYASUDDIN S/O DEBURUDDIN Residing at UTTAR PARA, PUR-BANGSHO, BAMANKHALI SAGAR, DAKSHIN-24, PARAGANA, WEST BENGAL-743373 have changed my name to SK GYASUDDIN for all future purpose.

Name Change
I, Inder Pal Singh Pahwa S/o Narain Singh R/o Flat 702, Tower 8, The Close South, Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, Have Changed My Name To Indra Pal Singh Pahwa

Name Change
I, JITENDRA SINGH father of NO-15800722A Rank-NK Name-PRINCE KUMAR SINGH R/O VILL-MOKHTARPUR, PO-MAHNAR, TEH-MAHNAR, P.S-MAHNAR, DIST-VAISHALI, BIHAR-844506 have changed my name from JITENDRA SINGH to JITENDRA KUMAR SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 19/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, USHA Mother of No. 4581319Y Rank-LINK Name-MANE YOGESH ASHOK Presently residing at VPO-SHIRDHON, TEH-KOREGAON, DIST-SATARA, MAHARASHTRA-415501 have changed my name from USHA to MANE USHA ASHOK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 19/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, VIVA DEVI mother of NO-15800722A Rank-NK Name-PRINCE KUMAR SINGH R/O VILL-MOKHTARPUR, PO-MAHNAR, TEH-MAHNAR, P.S-MAHNAR, DIST-VAISHALI, BIHAR-844506 have changed my name from VIVA DEVI to BIBHA DEVI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 19/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE
I, MOUSUMI GHOSH, Wife of No-15779149Y HAV BROJO GOPAL GHOSH, residing at VILL-MONAI KANDRA, PO-KULLI KANDI, TEHSIL-KANDI, DIST-MURSHIDABAD, WEST BENGAL-742168, in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly written as 10/07/1988 instead of my correct date of birth as 17/05/1992 vide Affidavit dated 19/08/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

Name Change
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS GUJINDER SINGH ALIAS GAJINDER SINGH SON OF SH SURINDER SINGH RESIDING AT 553, GALI NO 20 WZ BLOCK SHIV NAGAR, DELHI - 110058, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS GUJINDER SINGH BHASIN. IT IS CERTIFIED THAT I HAVE COMPLIED WITH OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS CONNECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Tek Bahadur Thapa S/O Dhan Bahadur Thapa is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, AVINASH S/O NEELAKANTA holder of Indian Passport No M4300758 issued at BANGALORE on 13/12/2014, permanent resident of 4/10/2, SEETHA COMPOUND NEAR GRAMA SANGA, KULAI, MAGALORE CITY, PIN 575019, KARNATAKA, INDIA and presently residing at AL REYADH PLASTIC INDUSTRIES LLC, 29 Al Waraq St., Abu Dhabi Industrial City - ICAD1, ABU DHABI, do hereby change my name FROM AVINASH TO AVINASH NEELAKANTA DEVADIGA with immediate effect.

Name Change
It is for general information that I, MOHAMMED KABUL, S/o KALIMU DDIN R/o H.No-91, 3rd Floor, Gali No.-9, D - Block, Wazirabad Buri, North Delhi, Delhi-110084 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as RUNUFA KHATOONI in the minor son namely MOHAMMED SAHIN aged 15 years in his school record. The actual name of my wife is RUNUFA KHATUN which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as SARJO GUPTA alias SARJO BALA GUPTA D/O GIAN CHAND GUPTA W/o JAI BHAGWAN GUPTA residing at BG-6/125-B, Pashchim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi - 110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARJO BALA GUPTA.

News box

Tropical storm Ernesto regains hurricane strength, heads towards US East Coast

UPDATED Tropical Storm Ernesto became a hurricane again Sunday as it churned away from Bermuda and headed further out in the northeastern Atlantic, sending powerful swells toward the US East Coast, generating rip currents associated with at least one death and prompting many rescues.The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Ernesto's maximum sustained winds were 75 mph (120 kph), just barely Category 1 strength.More strengthening was forecast before Ernesto weakens and becomes a post-tropical cyclone on Tuesday, the hurricane center said. The storm was centered about 520 miles (840 kilometers) south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was expected to pass near southeastern Newfoundland late Monday and early Tuesday.Swells generated by Ernesto were affecting portions of the Bahamas, Bermuda, the US East Coast as well as the Canadian Atlantic coast. Life-threatening surf and rip current conditions are likely in these areas during the next couple of days, the hurricane center said.The National Weather Service posted a coastal flood advisory and warned of a high risk for rip currents along the Atlantic Coast through Monday evening, saying they "can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water."A warning extended from Florida to the Boston area and portions of Maine.

In periods of high risk, rip currents become more likely and potentially more frequent, posing a danger to all levels of swimmers, not just inexperienced ones, said meteorologist Mike Lee in Mount Holly, New Jersey."It's going to be really dangerous out in the water today," he said.

At Manasquan Inlet in New Jersey, officials said a fisherman was washed off the north jetty Saturday but was quickly rescued by lifeguards. The victim had knee and back injuries and a possible concussion and was taken to a hospital, Lifeguard Chief Doug Anderson told NJ Advance Media, and lifeguards rescued at least five other people.

In Ventnor to the south, Senior Lt. Meghan Holland of the city beach patrol said eight people were rescued.Forecasters, citing local emergency management, said a 41-year-old man drowned Saturday in a rip current at Surf City, North Carolina.

Philippine vessel 'deliberately collided' with Chinese ship, claims Beijing

Beijing. China's Coast Guard said a Philippine vessel that had ignored its repeated warnings "deliberately collided" with a Chinese vessel in an "unprofessional and dangerous" manner in the disputed South China Sea, according to statements on Monday.A short video of the incident posted on China Coast Guard's social media showed the collision happened around 3:24 a.m. on Monday (1924 GMT on Sunday) and labelled the Chinese vessel as a coast guard vessel.In one of the statements, China's maritime security said the same Philippine vessel then entered waters near Second Thomas Shoal after being prevented from entering Sabina Shoal waters.Two Philippine Coast Guard vessels "illegally intruded" into waters adjacent to Sabina Shoal without permission in the early hours on Monday, according to the China Coast Guard spokesperson Gan Yu.

"The Philippines has repeatedly provoked and caused trouble, violated the temporary arrangements between China and the Philippines," Gan said, referring to Philippines' supplies missions to a vessel grounded on Second Thomas Shoal.

A Philippines Coast Guard spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.China's Coast Guard said it took control measures against the Philippine ships in accordance with the law in the incidents early Monday, and warned the Philippines to "immediately stop infringement and provocation" or "bear all consequences".

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza kill 29 as Antony Blinken looks to seal peace deal

Gaza Strip. Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 29 people, including young quintuplets, overnight and into Sunday, health officials said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel to try to seal a cease-fire deal that could help ease soaring regional tensions.The US and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar have said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha, with Israeli officials expressing cautious optimism. But Hamas in a statement on Sunday accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of setting new conditions, including his refusal of a complete withdrawal of forces from Gaza.The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its October 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war fought between Israelis and Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.The war has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, displaced the vast majority of the territory's 2.3 million residents and led experts to warn of famine and the outbreak of diseases like polio.

Cholera outbreak kills 22 in Sudan, more than 350 infected

Cairo.Sudan has been stricken by a cholera outbreak that has killed nearly two dozen people and sickened hundreds more in recent weeks, health authorities said Sunday. The African nation has been roiled by a 16-month conflict and devastating floods.Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim said in a statement that at least 22 people have died from the disease, and that at least 354 confirmed cases of cholera have been detected across the county in recent weeks.Ibrahim didn't give a time frame for the deaths or the tally since the start of the year. The World Health Organisation, however, said that 78 deaths were recorded from cholera this year in Sudan as of July 28. The disease also sickened more than 2,400 others between January 1 and July 28, it said.Cholera is a fast-developing, highly contagious infection that causes diarrhoea, leading to severe dehydration and possible death within hours when not treated, according to WHO. It is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

The cholera outbreak is the latest calamity for Sudan, which was plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare across the country.The conflict has turned the capital, Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields, wrecking civilian



infrastructure and an already battered health care system. Without the basics, many hospitals and medical facilities have closed their doors.

It has killed thousands of people and pushed many into starvation, with famine already confirmed in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the wrecked northern region of Darfur.Sudan's conflict has created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 10.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organisation for Migration. Over 2 million of those fled to

neighbouring countries.The fighting has been marked by atrocities, including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the UN and international rights groups.

Devastating seasonal floods in recent weeks have compounded the misery. Dozens of people have been killed and critical infrastructure has been washed away in 12 of Sudan's 18 provinces, according to local authorities. About 118,000 people have been displaced due to the floods, according to the UN migration agency.Cholera is not

uncommon in Sudan. A previous major outbreak left at least 700 dead and sickened about 22,000 in less than two months in 2017. Tarik JaAareviÄš, a spokesman for WHO, said the outbreak began in the eastern province of Kassala before spreading to nine localities in five provinces.He said in comments to The Associated Press that data showed that most of the detected cases were not vaccinated. He said the WHO is now working with the Sudanese health authorities and partners to implement a vaccination campaign.Sudan's military-controlled sovereign council, meanwhile, said Sunday it will send a government delegation to meet with American officials in Cairo amid mounting US pressure on the military to join ongoing peace talks in Switzerland that aim at finding a way out of the conflict.

The council said in a statement the Cairo meeting will focus on the implementation of a deal between the military and the Rapid Support Forces, which required the paramilitary group to pull out from people's homes in Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.The talks began August 14 in Switzerland with diplomats from the US, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the African Union and the United Nations attending. A delegation from the RSF was in Geneva but didn't join the meetings.

Bangladesh will maintain support for Rohingya refugees, says Muhammad Yunus

Dhaka. Bangladesh will maintain support both for its immense Rohingya refugee population and its vital garment trade, Nobel laureate and new leader Muhammad Yunus said Sunday in his first major policy address.Yunus, 84, returned from Europe this month after a student-led revolution to take up the monumental task of steering democratic reforms in a country riven by institutional decay.

His predecessor Sheikh Hasina, 76, had suddenly fled the country days earlier by helicopter after 15 years of iron-fisted rule.Setting out his priorities in front of diplomats and UN representatives, Yunus vowed continuity on two of the biggest policy challenges of his caretakeradministration.

"Our government will continue to support the million-plus Rohingya people sheltered in Bangladesh," Yunus said."We need the sustained efforts of the international community for Rohingya humanitarian operations and their eventual repatriation to their homeland, Myanmar, with safety, dignity and full rights," he added.

Bangladesh is home to around one million Rohingya



refugees.Most of them fled neighbouring Myanmar in 2017 after a military crackdown now the subject of a genocide investigation by a United Nations court.The weeks of unrest and mass protests that toppled Hasina also saw widespread disruption to the country's linchpin textile industry, with suppliers shifting orders out of the country.

"We won't tolerate ay attempt to disrupt the global clothing supply chain, in which we are a key player," Yunus said.Bangladesh's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85 percent of its \$55 billion in annual exports.Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering work in microfinance, credited with helping millions of Bangladeshis out of grinding poverty.

He took office as "chief adviser" to a caretaker administration -- all fellow civilians bar two retired generals -- and has said he wants to hold elections "within a few months".Before her ouster, Hasina's government was accused of widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killing of her political opponents.

South Korea, US begin military drills; North calls it 'practicing invasion'

Seoul US and South Korean troops kicked off a large-scale exercise Monday aimed at strengthening their combined defence capabilities against nuclear-armed North Korea, which again accused the allies of practicing an invasion.The annual summertime exercise comes amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula as the pace of both North Korea's weapons demonstrations and the US-South Korea combined military exercises have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.The exercise began hours after North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement repeating the North's contention that such exercises are "provocative war drills for aggression." It said the North's nuclear ambitions are thus justified, adding that it is crucial to "constantly maintain the balance of power for preventing a war by stockpiling the greatest deterrence."The United States and South Korea described their joint drills as defensive in nature and have been expanding and upgrading their training in recent years to cope with the North's evolving threats.The US and South Korean militaries did not immediately react to the North Korean Foreign



Ministry statement.The Ulchi Freedom Shield drills, which continue for 11 days, through August 29, include both computer-simulated war games and more than 40 kinds of field exercises, including live-fire drills. The allies said this year's program is focused on enhancing their readiness against various North Korean threats, including missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks and will also reflect lessons learned from recent armed conflicts.About 19,000 South Korean military personnel will participate in the drills, which will be held concurrently with civil defence and evacuation drills from Monday through Thursday that will include programs based on North Korean

nuclear attack scenarios.The US military has not confirmed the number of American troops participating in the drills or said whether they will involve US strategic assets. The United States in recent months has increased its regional deployment of long-range bombers, submarines and aircraft carrier strike groups to train with South Korean and Japanese forces.The drills could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which has been flaunting its growing weapons program and issuing verbal threats of nuclear conflict against Washington and Seoul.Earlier this month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un staged a huge ceremony in the country's capital, Pyongyang, to mark the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units and called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear program.The event added to concerns about Kim's weapons program as he demonstrates an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and claims that his military could react with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat.

Record rain in Austria causes severe damage, traffic chaos, affect rail services

UPDATED Heavy rains lashed Alpine regions of Austria and left parts of Vienna under water at the weekend, causing severe damage in parts of the country and disrupting road and rail transport, authorities and local media said.Fast-moving torrents of muddy water swept cars through the ski resort of St. Anton, in western Austria, on Friday, footage posted on social media showed. Meanwhile record rainfall hit parts of Vienna in the east of the country on Saturday, state broadcaster ORF said.A woman was dragged under a bus by the force of flooding in the Doebling area in the north of the city on Saturday, ORF said. She



was taken to hospital in a critical condition, it added.Fire services in the capital were called out more than 450 times on Saturday as the downpours

caused traffic chaos and disrupted rail transport, according to ORF.

"Heavy storms have done great damage in many parts of Austria," Chancellor Karl Nehammer said on X, thanking officials who were working to clear up the damage.In Vienna's Doebling district, officials registered 110 litres of rain per square metre, which ORF Vienna meteorologist Kevin Hebenstreit said was a record for August rainfall in the city.A large proportion of Vienna's average summer rainfall hit on Saturday in just one hour, according to weather data firm UBIMET.On average in

August it rains a total of 68 litres per square metre, with the all-time record being 139 litres on May 15, 1885, according to ORF.

Ukraine's push into Russia's Kursk to create buffer zone, says Zelenskyy

It was the first time Zelenskyy clearly stated the aim of the operation, which was launched on August 6. Previously, he had said the operation aimed to protect communities in the bordering Sumy region from constant shelling.

Kyiv. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday the daring military incursion into Russia's Kursk region aims to create a buffer zone to prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border.It was the first time Zelenskyy clearly stated the aim of the operation, which was launched on August 6. Previously, he had said the operation aimed to protect communities in the bordering Sumy region from constant shelling.Zelenskyy said "it is now our primary task in defensive operations overall: to destroy as much Russian war potential as possible and conduct maximum counteroffensive actions. This includes creating a buffer zone on the aggressor's territory -- our operation in the Kursk region," he said in his nightly address.This weekend, Ukraine destroyed a key bridge in the region and struck a second one nearby, disrupting supply lines as it pressed a stunning cross-border incursion that began August 6, officials said.

Pro-Kremlin military bloggers acknowledged the destruction of the first bridge on the Seim River near the town of Glushkovo will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges. Ukraine's air force chief, Lt. Gen. Mykola Oleschuk, on Friday released a video of an airstrike that cut the bridge in two.Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Oleschuk and Russian regional Gov. Alexei Smirnov.As of Sunday morning, there were no officials giving the exact location of the second



bridge attack. But Russian Telegram channels claimed that a second bridge over the Seim, in the village of Zvannoe, had been struck.According to Russia's Mash news site, the attacks left only one intact bridge in the area. The Associated Press could not immediately verify these claims. If confirmed, the Ukrainian strikes would further complicate Moscow's attempts to replenish its forces and evacuate civilians.Glushkovo is about 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) north of the Ukrainian border, and approximately 16 kilometres (10 miles) northwest of the main battle zone in Kursk. Zvannoe is located another 8 kilometres (5 miles) to the northwest.

Kyiv previously has said little about the goals of its push into Russia with tanks and other armoured vehicles, the largest attack on the country since World War II, which took the Kremlin by surprise and saw scores of villages and hundreds

of prisoners fall into Ukrainian hands. The Ukrainians drove deep into the region in several directions, facing little resistance and sowing chaos and panic as tens of thousands of civilians fled. Ukraine's Commander in Chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, claimed last week that his forces had advanced across 1,000 square kilometres (390 square miles) of the region, although it was not possible to independently verify what Ukrainian forces effectively control.

Buffer Zones Sought By Both Sides

In his remarks on creating a buffer zone, Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces "achieved good and much-needed results."Analysts say that although Ukraine could try to consolidate its gains inside Russia, it would be risky, given Kyiv's limited resources, because its own supply lines extend deep into Kursk would be vulnerable.The incursion has proven Ukraine's ability to seize the initiative and has boosted its morale, which was sapped by a failed counteroffensive last summer and months of grinding Russian gains in the eastern Donbas region.For his part, Russian President Vladimir Putin said while visiting China in May that Moscow's offensive that month in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region was aimed at creating a buffer zone there.That offensive opened a new front and displaced thousands of Ukrainians. The attacks were a response to Ukrainian shelling of Russia's Belgorod region, Putin said."I have said publicly that if it continues, we will be forced to create a security zone, a sanitary zone," he said.

News box

Former Kerala HC acting chief justice V P Mohan Kumar passes away at 84

KOCHI: Former acting chief justice of Kerala High Court and acting chairperson of the Kerala State Human Rights Commission Justice V P Mohan Kumar, 84, died in Kochi on Sunday. He breathed his last around 5pm at his residence 'Sanjay' at Panampilly Nagar in Kochi. The funeral will be held at Ravipuram public crematorium at 2pm on Monday. Mohan Kumar was appointed as a judge at the Kerala HC in 1994, but was transferred to the



Karnataka HC the same year. He was the acting CJ of the Kerala HC for a period from May 25, 2002, before his retirement. He also led the commission that inquired the 2000 Kalluvathukkal hooch tragedy. He is survived by wife Omana Mohan Kumar, daughter Dr Sangeetha Kodoth (USA) and son Jayesh Mohan Kumar, a lawyer at the Kerala HC. Mohan Kumar was born to Kanhangad native Kumaran Nambiar and V P Karthyayani Amma. He enrolled as a lawyer in 1962 after pursuing a law degree from Government Law College, Ernakulam.

Sexual assault at Tamil Nadu 'NCC camp', 7 arrested

KRISHNAGIRI: A day after an NTK member was booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a Class 8 girl during an unauthorised NCC camp at a private school near Bargur, seven persons, including the correspondent and principal, were arrested on Sunday for allegedly not reporting the crime and conducting the camp without permission. NTK had dismissed A Sivaraman (28) of Kaveripattinam after police booked him under sections 5, 6, 9 and 10 of the Pocco Act and section 238 of BNS act. Sivaraman is on the run. The 13-year-old victim stayed at her relatives' house in Bargur. Her school conducted an NCC camp from August 5 to 9 and Sivaraman was one of the coordinators. A total of 41 students, the victim among them, attended the camp. Sources said the Class 8 girl was asked on August 9 to meet Sivaraman at a particular place, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.

On the same day, the child spoke about the assault to another student. They alerted a few other friends, and they took the matter to the principal, A Sathish Kumar (39) of Thirupattur.

"However, he asked them not to take the matter seriously," a police source said. It was also alleged that Sivaraman allegedly sexually harassed another 12 girls at the camp. On Friday night, the victims' parents lodged a police complaint. The school education department and district child protection unit also initiated inquiries the following day. Sathish Kumar was arrested for trying to conceal the crime.

Wearing dark shirt, driving car? AI cams in Karnataka fail to spot seatbelt, fine many

BENGALURU: A wave of traffic fines for seatbelt violations has swept Bengaluru, Mysuru and other parts of Karnataka, with many drivers claiming that they were wrongly penalised by AI surveillance cameras. Several drivers have taken to social media to express their frustration over receiving challans, despite wearing seatbelts. The challans were issued by the traffic department's new artificial intelligence system, which monitors compliance with safety regulations independently with the help of latest technology. A Facebook profile, going by the name *siliconcity.bengaluru*, complained, "Bengaluru traffic AI cameras are issuing false seatbelt ticket challans. The false tickets are due to the similar colour of the seatbelt and shirt or coat one is wearing. The issue arises from the cameras' inability to distinguish the two." Another netizen, Prithvi Chandrashekar, said, "I request people driving cars in Mysuru to check their challans. After seeing this post, I checked my car's challan and, to my surprise, even I have a challan for not wearing a seatbelt from ITMS Udaya Ravi Road (AI-based)." "I never drive a car without a seatbelt, and if I try to, my car will not allow me to drive. I believe it's a false challan and request everyone to check theirs. If many are getting such challans, it has to be brought to the attention of the authorities and action should be taken," Prithvi Chandrashekar said.

113 leptospirosis deaths in Kerala so far this year

The disease is spread by leptospira, a bacteria present in the urine of several animals.

KOCHI: With Kerala receiving heavy rain and several areas witnessing waterlogging this monsoon, there has been a steady rise in the number of leptospirosis cases and related deaths. Many as 113 people have died of the bacterial infection so far this year, the highest in the state in the past five years. More than 50% of the fatalities were reported over the past two months. Kerala reported 1,812 confirmed cases of leptospirosis till August 16 in 2024.

According to Directorate of Health Services (DHS) data, 93 and 103 leptospirosis deaths were reported in the state in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The disease is spread by leptospira, a bacteria present in the urine of several animals. "Chances of leptospirosis spread increase during monsoon because of heavy rain and waterlogging. The rise in cases also indicates poor waste management that leads to an increase in the population of rats and other animals. It needs to be addressed," said Dr Dipu T S, associate professor of infectious diseases in the department of internal medicine at Amrita School of Medicine.

'Early diagnosis important in preventing rat fever deaths'

Dr Althaf A, professor with the department of community medicine at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, said the number of leptospirosis cases and deaths in the state has been increasing since



2022. "The leptospira bacteria enters the body through wounds and mucus membrane. Wearing protective gear can help. People also need to maintain personal hygiene to avoid the infection," Dr Althaf said.

Dr Dipu said the state government should launch more initiatives to create public awareness on preventive measures. "When a leptospirosis (rat fever) death is reported, the health department should alert the respective local body to take measures to contain its spread.

Preventive medicines (doxycycline) are

available at health centres across the state. The public, especially those at high risk due to exposure to wet soil and water as part of their jobs, should be educated on the preventive measures," he said. Individuals suffering from leptospirosis may experience fever, myalgia (muscle pain) and headache, along with red flag signs and symptoms like tachypnoea (rapid breathing), hypotension, jaundice, etc. Dr Althaf said early detection is important in preventing deaths and more studies should be conducted on the spread of the disease.

Hyderabad: HYDRAA razes 40 illegal buildings in Gandipet

HYDERABAD: Continuing their demolition drive, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) demolished around 40 illegal structures constructed in full tank level (FTL) of Gandipet lake on Sunday. Based on the complaints of local people that buildings were constructed illegally in the FTL, HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath directed staff to remove them. The officials of Municipal, Police, Revenue and HMWS&SB participated in the demolition drive. According to officials, the Grama Panchayat accorded permissions to the construction of buildings in 2009. However, the then sarpanch also gave permissions to other buildings with old dates, which was illegal. The HYDRAA said that action will be taken against officials who granted permissions for such buildings in the recent past. These permissions were invalid, said officials.

They advised people to take permissions from municipal officials as per the latest rules, adding that by allowing illegal structures within the FTL of Gandipet, the lake was being polluted by the waste generated by the people living in those illegal structures. If the Gandipet lake is polluted, the people of Hyderabad will have to face drinking water shortage, the officials said.

They further advised against constructing buildings with old dates and taking up any construction activities within the FTL. The HYDRAA further cautioned that people should not buy such illegal constructions.

A long road ahead for the upgradation of government ITIs in Telangana

The construction of ATCs has already begun at the ITIs of the three nodal centres — Mallepally campus, Hyderabad, Nizamabad and Khammam — in the state.

HYDERABAD: Although the state government has announced its plan to upgrade 65 public Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) as Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), the route to development for most ITIs in the district seems longer. In June, the government signed a 10-year MoU with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) to upgrade 65 ITIs as ATCs in the state with a total investment of Rs 2,324.21 crore. Of this total amount, the state contributed Rs 307.96 crore (13.26 %) and Rs

2,016.25 (86.74%) crore was contributed by TTL.

The new course in the ATCs launched by the Department of Employment and Training (DET), under the Ministry of Labour Employment Training & Factories, is set to have six trades with the latest technologies inducted in the coursework. This is to provide hands-on training to the candidates on the world standard technology, against the traditional methods on manual machineries. These trades include

Manufacturing Process Control Automation, Industrial Robotics and Digital Manufacturing, Artisan using advanced tools, Basic designer and Virtual Verifier (Mechanical), Advanced CNC Machining Technician, and Mechanic Electric Vehicle. There will reportedly be 40 seats in each trade, with a total intake of 240 seats in each ITI. After completing the one-year course, candidates will receive the ITI certification with the specific trade they opted for. It will be the same as the

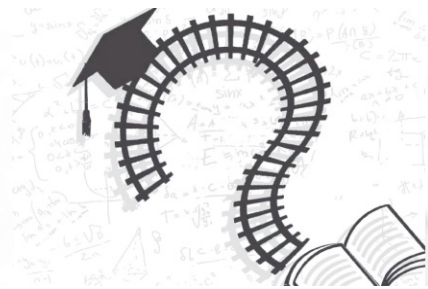
certification given for the already existing ITI courses, by the Directorate General of Training (DGT) of the Centre. However, the implementation of the upgrade plan has several roadblocks before the courses start.

As a part of the MoU signed by the state government with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL), every ITI will have a new ATC attached to it, constructing a new facility with the establishment of new equipment and machinery for the trades.

Tribal kids' education hit as NRSTCs yet to reopen in Andhra Pradesh

VISAKHAPATNAM: Despite the academic year starting two months ago, 81 children from several hilltop tribal villages in Anakapalle district have remained without access to formal education due to the delayed renewal of the Non-Residential Special Training Centres (NRSTCs) for 2024-25. The affected hilltop villages include Buddepadu in Golugonda mandal, Anuku in Kotauratla, Mitras Colony in Mungapaka, and Pitrugedda in Rolugunta. The NRSTCs, crucial for providing primary education to children living in remote villages, are normally renewed annually. However, the training centres have not been reopened yet this year, leaving the tribal children without regular classes.

Tribals deplore undue delay in renewal of training centre



Although these children are enrolled in a mandal-level school, and continue to receive mid-day meals, the lack of appointed teachers due to the pending renewal of NRSTCs, has left them without access to education for the past two months. The situation has sparked concern among the tribal communities, leading to protests. On Saturday, tribals of

Pitrugedda and Neellabandha, two hilltop villages in Arla panchayat, staged a protest, urging the authorities to renew the NRSTC in Pitrugedda. These villages are home to 15 families, with 12 children in the age group of 5-10 years. For these children, attending school means a demanding 20 km round trip to Arla, the nearest village with a functioning school. Last year, after several appeals, a training centre and a teacher were allotted to Pitrugedda. Tribal leader K Govind Rao led the protest. Parents of the affected children expressed their concern over the undue delay in renewing the NRSTC. "It has been two months since the academic year started, but the centre has not been renewed. Our children are receiving mid-day meals, but they are not getting education.

Public hearing for OMDC's Belkundi mines held in Andhra Pradesh

The Odisha government has recently allowed a public hearing for the mines, which had been delayed for eight years.

VISAKHAPATNAM: In a significant development, the public hearing of Belkundi Iron and Manganese mines in Barbil, operated by Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC) was successfully held on Saturday. The Odisha government has recently allowed a public hearing for the mines, which had been delayed for eight years. The successful public hearing is likely to secure a consistent supply of iron ore to the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), addressing a long-standing issue for the steelmaker.

According to OMDC officials, the successful conclusion of the public hearing is the result of years of persistent effort. The Belkundi mines, have a production capacity of 1.8 million tonnes per annum. This development is seen as a crucial step in resolving the iron ore supply challenges faced by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL). RINL holds a 26% indirect stake in OMDC through its 51% ownership of Eastern Investment Ltd (EIL), which in turn owns a 51% stake in OMDC. The successful reopening of the Belkundi mines is expected to significantly benefit

RINL, helping to stabilise its raw material supply," said Steel Executives Association (SEA) president Katam SS Chandra Rao. The Belkundi mines have had a troubled history. In 2012, the



Odisha government refused to renew the lease for the mines, leading to a "700 crore fine by the Supreme Court for legal violations and exceeding production limits. Despite paying the fine, OMDC's subsequent attempts to renew the lease were unsuccessful until now. "The recent success is largely attributed to the concerted efforts of RINL's management, particularly the Director of Projects and

Operations, Project & Works Division, and the dedicated officers of OMDC. Special recognition is given to UN Behera, General Manager (D&E) In-Charge of OMDC, and his team, who have been actively engaging with the Odisha government, local leaders, and organisations to ensure the success of the public hearing," stated SEA general secretary KVD Prasad. He further explained that following the hearing, the Odisha government is expected to formally communicate the application minutes to the Union Government and the Ministry of Steel (MoS). "The next steps will involve seeking forest and environmental clearances, a process that may take up to nine months. Once completed, this development will represent a significant asset for RINL," he noted. Chandra Rao and Prasad elaborated on the importance of this development, emphasising that it will play a key role in securing the raw material needs of the Vizag Steel Plant, bringing much-needed stability to its operations.

Special trains from Bengaluru to Belagavi, Vijayapura

BENGALURU: To clear the extra rush of passengers for the upcoming festive season, South Western Railway will run special trains between Yesvantpur and Belagavi, and SMVT Bengaluru to Vijayapura stations from September 5. Train No 06555 Yesvantpur-Belagavi-Yesvantpur Special Express, will leave Yesvantpur on September 5 at 7.30 pm and reach Belagavi the next day at 7.15 am. Train No 06556 will leave Belagavi on September 6 at 8.45 am and reach Yesvantpur the same day at 8 pm, halting at Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, Haveri, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar, Londa, and Khanapur stations in both directions.

Train No 06557 Yesvantpur-Belagavi-Yesvantpur Special Express will leave Yesvantpur on September 6 at 10.15 pm and reach Belagavi the next day at 10.15 am. Train No 06558 will leave Belagavi on September 8 at 5.30 pm and reach Yesvantpur the next day at 4.30 am, stopping at all afore mentioned stations. Train No 06577 SMVT Bengaluru-Vijayapura-SMVT Bengaluru Special Express will leave Bengaluru on September 5 & 7 at 9 pm and reach Vijayapura the next day at 2.05 pm.

Thiruvananthapuram corporation special squad seizes unauthorised septage collection lorry

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A special squad under the City Corporation has seized a vehicle involved in the illegal collection and disposal of septage waste in the state capital. The vehicle was compounded after it disposed of septage collected from Uday Suites Hostel into a drain near Vellar around midnight on Saturday. According to civic authorities, the vehicle - registered under the name of Uday Sky Kitchen - has been operating by falsely claiming to be registered with the city corporation. According to officials, the vehicle has been conducting such activities for the past few days. The squad identified the illegal operations of the vehicle during a GPS check of licensed septage vehicles. Following directions from the civic body, the squad conducted an on-site inspection and compounded the vehicle. The civic body will be handing over the vehicle to the district collector after completion of legal procedures.

Currently, the civic body has established a system in place where residents can avail the septage removal services by paying a fee through Smart Trivandrum mobile application or the website. A licensed vehicle will collect the waste at the scheduled time.

There are 36 tankers deployed for the service. The civic body has also granted permission for hotels and establishments to have their own septage collection vehicles, which are permitted to operate under the same system, transporting the waste to Muttathara STP for processing after paying a specified fee to the corporation.

The curious case of brown bears in Kargil and Kashmir

In the spring of 2016, I embarked upon a trek in the mountains of Drass to look for and, if possible, photograph the elusive brown bear. As the Wildlife Warden of Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir (now in Ladakh), I had received reports of cattle depredation by the bears around Drass and we were tasked with compensating the losses. Although bear appearances — often in the shape of night raids on the feebly secured cattle sheds — were frequent in the villages, a worthwhile daytime sighting in the ‘wild’, which I was interested in, was still a big ask. My guide, the local Ranger, well versed with the area, was confident though. Weighing up to 300 kg, brown bear is the largest land carnivore in the world. The Himalayan brown bear, inhabiting the western Himalayas from Kargil through Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand, is smaller than its cousin — the Grizzly Bear of North America and Europe — and rarer to sight. A decade back, it was so difficult to see a Himalayan brown bear in the wild in our part of its range, that you could count those who had done so on your fingers!

We had started at daybreak and after a two-and-a-half-hour trek up a hill, in arguably the world’s second coldest inhabited place, we arrived at a plateau, which I was told was the best location to sight the brown bear. I scanned the area with my binoculars and could see a vast tract of green meadows interspersed with patches of snow from the past winter, but no trace of the bear. We sat down beside a large rock to shield ourselves from the morning chill while we had our breakfast. Just as I rose up after finishing mine, and glanced casually over the rock, I saw, what appeared to my naked eye, a small herd of cattle grazing at the far end of the meadow. The uniform brownish colour of all the individuals in the herd made me curious and when I picked my binocs to have a better look, I was stunned to see as many as eight brown bears, three adults and five young ones of different age groups, grazing nonchalantly! I grabbed my camera to capture this spectacle, but the bears somehow sensed our presence and took off at an astonishing pace. I still managed to get six of them in the frame. Back then, I could not have imagined that the image, which through social and print media was flashed across the country, would be a precursor in turning Drass into a favourite destination for the brown bear seekers, as it has become today. Around the same time, brown bear sightings also started to become common in the Kashmir valley. During my journey from Kargil to Srinagar a few weeks later, I saw a mother bear with two cubs crossing the highway near Sonamarg. In the summer of 2017, when I was posted in south Kashmir, my staff rescued a cub from a langar camp en route to the Amarnath cave. The young one had stuck its head in a discarded ghee canister, which had to be torn open to free the poor fellow. In the following years, while Drass became a famed hotspot for brown bear viewing, sightings in Kashmir, from north to south, were reported like never before.

A camera trap installed in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary in Shopian district captured a female with two cubs on a sheep carcass. A friend of mine, an avid nature lover, clicked a prime male while birding in the forests of Budgam and another recorded a huge one on his cellphone cam on a garbage dump in Gurez, Bandipora.

Increased brown bear sightings across Kargil and Kashmir over the past seven to eight years may seem to be an encouraging sign, but conservationists would advise you to take it with a pinch of salt. As I noticed in Drass later, the bears were attracted to a roadside landfill site where a local Army camp dumped its kitchen refuse. The animals would take the same route to visit the site almost every night and return to the forest by dawn. They were so punctual that you certainly would encounter one, if you were on their trail about sunrise. In Sonamarg, as also in Gurez, it’s the garbage, primarily the biowaste from hotels and restaurants, that is responsible for a high bear ‘encounter rate’.

Seldom have I seen so much anger and political disturbance all over the world than at present. I cannot think of any part of our planet where major upheavals, riots, wars and natural disasters have not brought immense suffering. In our own corner, how can we ever consider ourselves safe if virtually every country around us is teetering on the edge of collapse? Similarly, Europe is being drawn into a deeper abyss as the Russia-Ukraine war spreads, offloading refugees and asylum-seekers on neighbouring countries unable to deal with this unending stream of unwanted guests. Central Asia, England and the waiting-to-explode US are all in a deep mess. Africa and South America, which the world has so often forgotten as a part of the human community, bring us faces of starving children, famines, trigger-happy grinning militia who shoot for pleasure.

In just a few decades, the world order has changed so radically that we will have to find explanations and urgent solutions. Many of these movements have been spearheaded by the young, who are fed up with the political leaders who hold their destiny in their hands. Of course, their anger is justified but once these revolutions are infiltrated by others, the course of the movement changes. Forget Bangladesh for the time being as the context of this remark and remember our own Naxal movement, the Assam uprising that threw up the militant ULFA, the Uttarakhand students who started the movement for a separate state, and last but not least, Kashmir. Remember also that the Arab Spring in Africa was triggered by young people, but only succeeded in replacing one form of dictatorship with another cast of fascists. The point I’m trying to make is that the enormous energy vital to stir up the common polity is one thing, but the maturity that is needed to channel that movement towards good governance is another thing altogether. Look nearer at

Kolkata Rape and Murder Case: Women’s Safety a Farce in West Bengal

Mamata Banerjee’s political rhetoric is meaningless when women in Kolkata continue to live in fear, exposed to violence and exploitation. Enough with the empty promises—what Bengal needs is real action

The recent rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College is a damning indictment of West Bengal’s hollow claims of safety for women. This atrocity, committed within the walls of a medical institution, lays bare the state’s failure to protect its citizens. Despite Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s repeated assertions that West Bengal is the safest state for women, this horrific crime exposes the administration’s blatant incompetence and disregard for women’s safety.

The police response has been nothing short of disgraceful, marked by glaring discrepancies in their actions. The Calcutta High Court’s order for an immediate CBI probe underscores the state’s despicable attempts to shield the real culprits. The police didn’t even inform the victim’s family of the rape and murder initially, instead concocting a false narrative and allegedly trying to “settle” the matter internally. This is not just negligence; it is a wilful betrayal of justice. Mamata Banerjee’s political rhetoric is meaningless when women in Kolkata continue to live in fear, exposed to violence and exploitation. The state’s safety measures are a cruel joke, fostering a culture of impunity where criminals walk free and victims suffer in silence. Enough with the empty promises—what Bengal needs is real action. The state government must overhaul its approach to women’s safety, from enforcing stringent law enforcement to providing a robust support system for victims.

This tragedy cannot become another statistic in India’s grim record of gender-based violence. The public demands justice, not just for this victim, but for a safer future for all women. The question remains: will the government act decisively, or will it continue to fail its people? The clock is ticking. On August 9, 2024, the body of a postgraduate trainee doctor was tragically found in a seminar room at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The young doctor had been brutally assaulted, with an autopsy later confirming that she had been raped and murdered. Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer associated with the Kolkata Police, was arrested the following day after police reviewed CCTV footage from the hospital. The autopsy revealed the horrific nature of the attack. The victim had multiple injuries, including severe trauma to her face, abdomen, throat, and genitals. There was evidence of bleeding from her eyes and mouth, and shards of glass were found in her eyes, indicating the sheer brutality of the assault. Additional injuries were noted on her belly, neck, left leg, right hand, and ring finger, along with deep nail marks on her back. The investigation suggested that the murder took place in the early hours of August 9.

Sanjay Roy, who had a history of violent behaviour and was

reportedly addicted to pornography, confessed to the crime. He struck the victim with such force that her glasses shattered, driving shards into her eyes. After committing the heinous act, Roy returned to a police barrack and slept until the next morning. Police reconstructed the crime scene and gathered crucial evidence, leading to Roy’s swift arrest. This shocking incident has ignited widespread outrage and protests among junior doctors, trainee doctors, and



medical students, all of whom are demanding stronger security measures and justice for the victim. The case has also cast a harsh light on the safety of women in West Bengal, raising serious questions about the effectiveness of the current administration’s efforts to protect them.

BOTCHED UP POLICE INVESTIGATION

The heinous crime has sent shockwaves across the nation, laying bare the grotesque ineptitude of the police investigation. This travesty has not only failed the victim and her family but also exposed the systemic rot within the law enforcement agencies. From the outset, the investigation was a catastrophic mess, marred by staggering negligence and incompetence. The police’s failure to secure the crime scene promptly allowed crucial evidence to be potentially tampered with. The arrest of Sanjay Roy was based on flimsy CCTV footage and a dubious confession extracted under the influence of alcohol. The lack of rigorous forensic analysis and reliance on circumstantial evidence raised serious doubts about the investigation’s integrity.

The police’s inability to provide a coherent timeline of events further eroded their credibility, with conflicting statements from hospital authorities and the police adding to the confusion. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) seemed more focused on damage control than uncovering the truth. The Calcutta High Court’s decision to transfer the case to

the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was a scathing indictment of the local police’s abject failure. The court’s criticism of significant lapses by hospital authorities and the police’s handling of the case highlighted the need for a competent and impartial investigation.

The people have no doubt that the police investigation was a botched and nonsensical exercise, characterised by mishandling of evidence, reliance on weak circumstantial evidence, and a lack of coherent strategy. This has not only delayed justice but also eroded public trust in law enforcement agencies. It is imperative that the CBI conduct a thorough, transparent, and impartial investigation to ensure justice is served and such lapses are not repeated.

A CASE MARRED BY NEGLIGENCE AND ALLEGATIONS OF A COVER-UP

Allegations have emerged suggesting that the authorities may have attempted to shield the real culprits, further eroding public trust. The hospital administration, too, has faced scrutiny. Students have accused officials of neglecting repeated calls for enhanced security, with the removal of the hospital superintendent viewed as a reactionary measure. The swift reappointment of the former principal, amidst protests, has fuelled suspicions of a cover-up.

The TMC government’s reluctance to transfer the case to the CBI until public and judicial pressure mounted only deepens these concerns. As the case now moves to the CBI, there is an urgent need for a thorough and impartial investigation to restore public confidence.

MAMATA BANERJEE’S POLITICAL RHETORIC MUST STOP

The tragic rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee doctor has exposed a grim reality in West Bengal: the failure of the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government to ensure safety in the state’s institutions. Instead of confronting the grave lapses in security and governance, Mamata Banerjee and the TMC have resorted to political rhetoric and blame-shifting, further aggravating public outrage. Banerjee, who holds dual responsibilities as chief minister and health minister, has a direct duty to protect citizens, especially within state-run institutions like RG Kar Medical College. Yet, her response to this horrific crime has been to deflect blame and downplay the systemic failures under her administration. This strategy of political deflection cannot absolve Banerjee of responsibility. As the leader of the state, she must acknowledge the shortcomings in her administration, take decisive action to prevent such incidents in the future, and restore faith in her leadership. Anything less is a betrayal of the trust placed in her by the people of West Bengal.

Polls in J&K

Vital to ensure peaceful campaigning and polling

JAMMU and Kashmir’s decade-long wait for the Assembly polls is over, with the Election Commission announcing a three-phase polling schedule for the state-turned-UT. President’s rule, abrogation of Section 370, bifurcation of the state — J&K has seen it all. The delimitation exercise necessitated by the reorganisation has altered the electoral landscape — the Jammu region’s seat count has risen sizeably from 37 to 43, while the number of Assembly constituencies in Kashmir has gone up from 46 to 47. This will have a bearing on the election outcome and pre- or post-poll alliances.

The upcoming poll battle will be held against the backdrop of a series of terror attacks and encounters in the Jammu region. Terrorists have changed tack: they are targeting Hindu-dominated areas, while Muslim-majority Kashmir is no longer the epicentre of turbulence. In view of this shift, there is greater pressure on the BJP-led Central Government to ensure peaceful campaigning and polling. Elements inimical to India will try to disrupt the proceedings. The key is to create an environment



conducive for the voter to come out and vote without fear. It will be a straightforward contest between the BJP and the Congress in Jammu. In contrast, the field is wide open in Kashmir, where the Abdullahs’ National Conference and the Muftis’ PDP will be in the fray along with Sajjad Lone’s J&K People’s Conference, Altaf Bukhari’s J&K Apni Party and former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad’s Democratic Progressive Azad Party; independents with radical leanings can make the fight tougher.

In poll-bound Haryana, where the BJP has been in power for a decade, the Congress is looking to capitalise on the anti-incumbency factor. Both are fancying their chances, having won five seats each in the state in this year’s Lok Sabha elections. If the mandate is not decisive, things will boil down to the support of parties such as the Indian National Lok Dal and the Jannayak Janta Party. The kingmakers will then come into play.

Touchstones: What of the enemy within

High-minded slokas and mantras are a shortcut we have adopted to replace moral science



your own family or clan where the older generation can rule by dictating rules and regulations only up to a point. If parents do not try and understand the reasons for the children revolting against these inflexible boundaries, the result is misery all around. Sitting down with such angry children and being receptive to their voices shows wisdom that few parents display. I have so many cousins and friends who say they don’t understand how their children can be so difficult when the truth is that very often, they are the ones who are more pig-headed than their progeny.

August 15 is always a good time to remember Gandhiji. As I look around the angry world, I cannot help

recalling Einstein, who said of him that generations later, the world will not believe that such a man walked the earth. As children, we all sang ‘De di hamein azadi bina khadag bina dhal, Sabarmati ke sant tune kar diya kamaal’ lustily on each Independence Day. However, non-violence is now almost a forgotten lesson even in the land Gandhi practised it, so what can one say of others. Taking grievances to the streets is a call every party gives to its followers and then looks on as they wreck public property, homes and religious places. For the time that they are part of a mob, individual identity is subsumed into that of a collective anger and a red cloud of rage in their eyes.

Yet, I often wonder how soldiers who shoot women and children, pilots who bomb cities, rapists, mass murderers or assassins and such goons sleep at night. Are they not haunted by the images of destruction that flash as soon as they shut their eyes? Whether they are ever caught and punished by law or whether they escape into anonymity, never forget that crime and punishment are bound by their own cycle of retribution. As my mother wrote once, there is no spirit so free whose feet are not bound by the chains of one’s own conscience. In Christianity, a dying man is offered the choice of a last confession before a priest, so that he can die with a clear conscience after confessing and atoning for any wrongs he may have committed. Even as we hoist the National Flag at every home, lustily shout ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai!’, wave party flags to terrorise our neighbours and teach the young to hate the enemy out there, what about the enemy within? Are lessons of truth, ethics, civics, respect for all forms of life, reasonableness and helpfulness even taught in most schools now? High-minded slokas and mantras are a shortcut we have adopted to replace moral science. Selfishness, greed and envy are a severe handicap as they deal with the fiercely competitive life that we pitch our young into. Helping someone before grabbing your share, being kind to strangers, treating the elderly and weak with compassion — these are values children learn by seeing their family and peer groups in school. They have to be practised before they can be preached. Gandhiji instilled these values in all the people whose lives he touched, because he himself never deviated from the tough standards he expected of his followers. What is unfolding in Kolkata — ironically in a hospital in the heart of a city that worships the Devi in every corner for nine days each year — is unacceptable. Any society that allows such crimes is sick beyond repair.



Your guide to body-polish treatments

Stress, pollution and constant pressure at work not only take a toll on your health but your skin as well. Read on to know how body polishing can pamper and energise your skin.

Body polish is a treatment for skin which is normally done by using natural abrasive products that are massaged, scrubbed and rubbed onto your skin. "A body polish is a popular body treatment that exfoliates and hydrates your skin, leaving it smooth and soft," says Dipikka Topiwala, beauty expert says. "It's like a spa where you scrub your body and remove the dead skin cells," she adds. This in turn rejuvenates your skin making it look healthy and supple. Body polish treatments stimulate blood and lymphatic circulation. They help improve your skin texture and complexion.

Consider your skin type

One of the most important aspects of body polishing is to ensure that you select the right polish depending on your skin type. Choosing the one that suits your skin will ensure that your skin is well-hydrated and will avoid buildup of rashes and acne.

For dry skin: A brown sugar based polish is ideal for your skin. It involves a gentle moisturising scrub treatment for the body. The scrub contains moisturising and hydrating properties. Blended with fresh scents of sandalwood, rose aroma oils and

geranium — the antibacterial properties also help in revitalising your skin.

For sensitive skin: "Those with sensitive skin, should ideally opt for a gentle and soothing body polish. Shea butter blended with Chamomile or lavender aroma oils will give a calming effect on your skin, as well as your mind." You can also choose one that contains vitamins A, E and C or anti-inflammatory and natural healing properties."

For oily skin: If you have oily skin, opt for treatments with sea salts. Sea salt exfoliates your skin while killing bacteria that causes acne. It also contains vital minerals like potassium, sodium, calcium and chloride which help the skin stay healthy, young and glowing. Essential oils like lemon, tea tree, basil and eucalyptus also help due to their anti-bacterial and germicidal effects.

For normal skin: Coffee grounds, rice bran, pecan hulls and sugar work best for those with normal skin. Mix these ingredients with massage oils that contain avocado, grape seed, sesame and other aromatic essential oils. Says Mohd. A mjad, "Some key ingredients like real fruit pulp (papaya or pineapple) can be used along with rose petals to enhance your body polish." Fruits are especially



blended to moisturise and nourish your skin. The natural fruit acids cleanse and detoxify the body to give you a radiant and glowing complexion.

Benefits of body polish

Not only are body polishing sessions relaxing and rejuvenating, the experience leaves you with healthier, smoother and glowing skin. It is also an effective way to treat sun-damaged, dry and dehydrated skin, clogged pores and acne conditions. The aim of a body polish treatment is to exfoliate dead skin cells from head to toe and oxygenate your skin to encourage new cell growth.

It is also often used before a massage or other therapeutic treatments such as a body wrap.

Make your own polish at home

Says K. Veena, beauty expert, "Body polish treatments with oatmeal scrub, yoghurt milk or cream and jojoba oil works wonders for your skin. Also, it is extremely easy to make your own body polish at home using ingredients which are easily available in the market."

Brown sugar and oatmeal polish

Mix three tablespoons of brown sugar with three tablespoon of olive oil and

one teaspoon of instant oatmeal. Stir all ingredients until evenly distributed. Apply all over your body. Massage it for about five minutes in circular motion slowly. Then rinse.

Sea salt polish

Mix one cup of pure fine sea salt, ½ cup honey, 10 drops of tea tree oil and two tablespoons of aloe vera gel. Apply the mixture on your skin, leave it on for 10 minutes and then rinse.



Home remedies for supple, pretty feet

Beauty expert Shahnaz Husain gives you easy tips that you can use to maintain them

Foot lotion: Mix together three tablespoons of rose water, two tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon pure glycerin. Apply on your feet and leave on for half an hour.

Cooling foot bath: Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak your feet in it. This method cools, cleans and removes odour.

Cooling massage oil: Take 100 ml olive oil and add two drops of eucalyptus oil, two drops rosemary oil and three drops khus, or rose oil. Mix together and keep in an airtight glass jar. Use a little of this for a foot massage. It cools and protects the skin.



Post workout skin care

Everyone follows a morning and before bed skin care routine, but do you have a after gym routine? Here are some ways you can take care of your skin post workout

Workout without make-up

Make sure you are not exercising with make-up on. Not only will you end up looking ridiculous but also it will keep your pores blocked while you are exercising. Thus, skip the make-up and arrive at the gym bare-faced. Be ready to get all sweaty from your workout and don't worry about how you look with all the perspiration on your face!

Don't use hot water

After a workout, your muscles are sore and you are already very exhausted. Even though washing your face or taking a shower with hot water might ease your muscles, but it will also strip your skin of vital oils, leaving you dry and itchy.

Re-hydrate your skin

The best time to re-hydrate your skin is when you are right out of the shower. Take a few minutes and apply a generous dollop of your moisturiser and body lotion. This will keep your skin supple and moist.

Be gentle

If you've been sweating for the past hour, you might be tempted to scrub yourself from tip to toe to feel clean, but it could only spell disaster for you! Use a gentle shampoo and cleanser which will ensure that you stay clean and your skin stays soft.



For smooth and itch-free armpits

We suggest some ways to keep your armpits smooth and free from itchy rashes

There are some parts of our body, which are sensitive to a lot of things, especially areas where hair removal is a common practise, including armpits and private areas. Certain people get rashes when they use a deodorant near their armpit because of the chemicals. Here are certain tips for sensitive armpits that can keep you comfortable and irritation free.

Razor

If you are a regular user of razors then pay a little more attention to the blades. Try and get the best ones. Disposable razors or blades work best for people who are sensitive. When you use a normal razor hair and soap gets stuck in the blade and become a breeding ground for bacteria. So it's advisable to change the blade every week.

Wax

Waxing is the best method for people who have sensitive armpits. Since you only have to wax every four to six weeks, you will not be irritating the skin in the armpit between sessions.

Deodorant

Chemicals from deodorants and antiperspirants can further irritate sensitive armpits. If you know that deos do not suit you, consult a doctor. Otherwise, using a talcum is the best option.

Fungus

Sweating leaves the armpits moist and warm, which may result in fungal growth in that area. You should dry your armpits well after showering and try not to keep them wet to avoid any infection.



Trinamool claims BJP 'hijacking' Kolkata murder protests to topple government

Kolkata rape case: The Trinamool Congress alleged that BJP was running a "sinister" toolkit campaign to topple the West Bengal government amid outrage over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

NEW DELHI. The Trinamool Congress on Monday alleged that the BJP had "hijacked" the protests over the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. MP Saket Gokhale alleged that a "sinister toolkit" campaign was aimed at toppling the West Bengal government over the incident. In a long post, Gokhale claimed that BJP's IT cell was running an "organised campaign", calling for the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He said the party made 'Mamata must resign' trending on social media after the CBI took over the case on August 15. "BJP has unleashed a sinister toolkit in Bengal. The agenda is focused - to topple the government. There's an organised campaign being run by BJP by trending 'Mamata Must Resign'. A genuine protest has been hijacked entirely by BJP,"

Gokhale tweeted. The Trinamool Congress leader said there were "zero updates" from the CBI after taking over the case. He alleged that BJP leaders and workers had "hijacked" the protests over trainee doctor's rape and murder by replacing "genuine protesters". "It's been 5 days since CBI took over the case and there's zero updates. But not a single protest has been done against the CBI. Genuine protesters have now been replaced by BJYM and BJP workers on the streets of Kolkata," he said. Gokhale claimed that BJP trended the 'Mamata Must Resign' hashtag and said that "more than two lakh posts were made in four days", using the hashtag, "with a reach of over 91 million". He alleged that people or



"genuine protesters" were not using the 'Mamata Must Resign' hashtag and claimed that such figures attained were "impossible for ordinary accounts". "In their own words: the only agenda is toppling the government. The hashtag BJP has been trending is 'Mamata Must Resign'," he tweeted.

Sharing a screenshot of the spike in traffic over the use of hashtag by various accounts, Gokhale alleged that the hashtag was being amplified by using bot accounts in various countries.

He claimed that nearly 45 per cent of posts having 'Mamata Must Resign' hashtag were from the US and from other countries, including Russia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Colombia and Suriname. Accusing the CBI of being hand-in-glove with the BJP to "hijack" the protests, Gokhale said the Trinamool Congress will give a befitting reply to what he called the saffron party's "conspiracies".

"The BJP has hijacked the protests and turned them into an agenda for toppling the Bengal government. The CBI has been silent for five days just to

help BJP run conspiracies. This 'toolkit' of BJP+CPM to destabilise Bengal will get a befitting response. We will not allow justice to be derailed," he alleged.

KOLKATA TRAINEE DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER

The semi-naked body of the trainee doctor, who was a second-year postgraduate student at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, was found in the seminar hall of the hospital on August 9. An accused, Sanjoy Roy, a civil volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was arrested in connection with the gruesome incident. Protests broke out in Kolkata and other parts of the country soon after, demanding capital punishment for the culprits and measures to improve the security of doctors working in hospitals. The CBI took over the case from the Kolkata Police after intervention by the Calcutta High Court.

AIADMK claims 'hidden pact' in Tamil Nadu on Karunanidhi Centenary coin release

A political showdown is brewing in Tamil Nadu as, ahead of M Karunanidhi's Centenary Year coin release, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) has alleged a 'hidden pact' between the ling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the BJP. Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisamy said that as a part of the hidden pact between the DMK and BJP, Chief Minister MK Stalin's party agreed to participate in Governor's high tea for Independence Day in return for the BJP taking part in the coin release ceremony.

"DMK announced that it will not take part in High Tea. But when Annamalai said that he would take part in the coin release function and asked DMK to take part in high tea, immediately, Stalin participated while DMK released a statement claiming that he was representing the Tamil Nadu Government and not DMK.

Isn't this funny as Stalin is the Head of DMK and Duraimurugan, who is the General Secretary of DMK participated. So, this is only showing the 'two-faces' of the party. This only shows their relationship", Palanisamy said in a briefing to the media in Salemve said this many times. It was being said that there was a secret relationship between DMK and BJP, even our administrators were saying so. Now the media has also started to raise this question. So it has come to light that the BJP and DMK have a secret relationship", Palaniswamy added.

Even a post on X by AIADMK's IT cell said, "Tamil Nadu BJP state president said we are attending the coin launch ceremony and you attend the Governor's tea party and the DMK left the boycott decision and participated in the party. DMK is a party playing a double role. DMK's secret relationship with BJP is evident from this".

Doctor at Rohtak medical college arrested after student alleges kidnap, assault

New Delhi: A dental student at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Haryana's Rohtak has alleged that she was kidnapped and assaulted by a resident doctor. Police filed a case, and arrested the accused. Speaking with India Today TV, Rohtak's Deputy Superintendent of Police, Virendra Singh, stated that a first-year BDS student from PGIMS lodged a complaint on Sunday night, alleging that she was kidnapped and physically assaulted by the doctor, an MD (anatomy) student.

According to the student's complaint, on August 16, the accused kidnapped her from PGIMS and took her to



Ambala and Chandigarh, where he assaulted her. No evidence of sexual harassment or rape has emerged from the victim's statement or the investigation until now, the police stated.

In a video that emerged on social media platform X, the woman is seen crying and showing the wounds on her body caused by the alleged assault. In the video, she claimed that the resident doctor has been harassing her for the last seven months. She also alleged that the accused threatened her with dire consequences if she raised the issue with college authorities. According to reports, PGIMS expelled the accused doctor and debarred him from entering the college premises. The incident comes amid nationwide protests by doctors and the medical fraternity after the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a state-run hospital in Kolkata.

Ex-Army chief General Sundararajan Padmanabhan dies in Chennai

Born on December 5, 1940, in Trivandrum, Kerala, General Padmanabhan had a remarkable career that spanned over 43 years, culminating in his tenure as Chief of Army Staff from September 30, 2000, to December 31, 2002.

NEW DELHI. General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, the 20th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, took his last breath in Chennai, leaving behind a legacy of distinguished military service. Born on December 5, 1940, in Trivandrum, Kerala, General Padmanabhan had a remarkable career that spanned over 43 years, culminating in his tenure as Chief of Army Staff from September 30, 2000, to December 31, 2002. An alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun and the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Khadakwasla, Pune, General Padmanabhan was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery on December 13, 1959, after graduating from the Indian Military Academy (IMA). Throughout his career, General Padmanabhan held several prestigious command, staff, and instructional positions. He



commanded the Gazala Mountain Regiment, one of the oldest artillery regiments of the Indian Army, and served as Instructor Gunnery at the School of Artillery in Deolali. He also held the position of Brigade Major of an infantry brigade during its raising and was the Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division, where he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) for his meritorious service.

Known affectionately within army circles as "Paddy," General Padmanabhan commanded an

Independent Artillery Brigade, a Mountain Brigade, and an Infantry Brigade at Ranchi, Bihar, and Punjab. He was the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of an Infantry Division in Punjab and later served as Chief of Staff, 3 Corps. His tenure as the Commander of the 15 Corps in Kashmir from July 1993 to February 1995 was particularly notable, as the Army made significant gains over militants in the region, earning him the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM). Following his success as the Director General of Military Intelligence (DGMI), General Padmanabhan was appointed GOC of the Northern Command at Udhampur and later served as GOC of the Southern Command before becoming Chief of Army Staff. General Padmanabhan retired on December 31, 2002, after more than four decades of service, leaving an indelible

Delhi security guard stabbed to death after altercation, accused on the run

NEW DELHI. A security guard was stabbed to death in a road rage case that unfolded in Central Delhi's Karol Bagh area, police said on Sunday. According to police, the incident occurred in Karol Bagh's Regar Pura locality. After the stabbing, the accused fled the spot. "The police control room first received information about the stabbing at around Saturday midnight. Immediately after receiving the information, a police team reached the spot and took the injured victim Manoj



Sharma to a nearby hospital where he died during treatment", police said. As per the information, the Delhi Police has registered a case under relevant

sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) including murder.

Manoj Sharma worked as a security guard and at around midnight on Saturday, he was going to an eatery to have food, riding his scooter. When Manoj Sharma reached Regar Pura area, his scooter touched a person. Both of them got into an argument over this, following which the accused stabbed the victim and fled the spot. According to police

sources, the accused has been identified, and the police team is continuously raiding different areas to arrest him.

"Makes Muslim Women's Condition Pathetic": Centre On Triple Talaq In Supreme Court

The counter-affidavit was in response to a petition arguing that since the Supreme Court had invalidated the practice of 'triple talaq' there is no need to criminalise the same.

New Delhi: The practice of 'triple talaq' is "fatal for the social institution of marriage" and "makes Muslim women's condition very pathetic", the government argued Monday in an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court. The government said the top court's setting

aside of the practice - that had been held valid among certain Muslim communities - in 2017 had "not worked as a sufficient deterrent in bringing down the number of divorces by this practice" among members of those communities.

"Victims of 'triple talaq' have no option but to approach the police... and the police were helpless as no action could be taken against husbands in the absence of punitive provisions in the law. In order to prevent (this) there was an urgent need for stringent (legal) provisions," the government said.

The government's affidavit was in response to a petition arguing that since the Supreme Court had invalidated the practice of 'triple talaq' there is no need to criminalise the same.

The original affidavit was filed earlier this month by the Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, which describes itself as "an association of eminent Sunni scholars". Among other points, the petitioner called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights

on Marriage) Act, 2019, is unconstitutional.

The petitioners argued that the Act violates fundamental rights, including those that guarantee Indian citizens equality before



law and prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion. In a detailed response made public this morning the government firmly dismissed the petitioners' claims, arguing that the practice of 'triple talaq' "violates fundamental rights and rights of equality guaranteed to women under the

Constitution". "The Parliament, in its wisdom, enacted the impugned Act to protect rights of married Muslim women being divorced by 'triple talaq', and the law in question helps ensuring the larger constitutional goals of gender justice and equality of married Muslim women, the affidavit added. The government also pointed out the Supreme Court itself has held in the past that it cannot go into the wisdom of laws passed by Parliament or enter into discussions as to what the law should be. "It is the function of the legislature alone to determine what is and what is not good and proper for the people of the land and they must be given widest latitude to exercise their functions within the limit of their powers else all progress is barred..." the government argued. "Whether or not a particular type of conduct ought to be criminalised, and what punishment is to be imposed for such conduct is to be determined by the legislature in light of prevailing.

Are you wearing the right bra size?



A century after the invention of the bra, most women are still wearing the wrong size. Here's how to get the perfect fit.

A bra that doesn't fit well can spoil the look of the most expensive dress in your wardrobe.

3 Simple steps to the perfect fit

1. Throw away your measure tapes
Measuring your bust is not the key to getting a great fit. Stand by the mirror and start by taking a look at how your bra fits you and then consider whether you need to adjust your back size or cup size following steps 2 and 3.

2. Find the right back size (28-40)
The back size relates to how the bra fits around your body. The band around your body provides most of the support, so it should be firm but comfortable. It should be horizontal and not ride up at the back at all. If it is loose, or it rides up at the back, try a smaller back size (but remember to increase your cup size). Your bra will stretch with wash and wear, so we recommend a new bra that fits you when fastened on the loosest (outside) hook.

3. Find the right cup size (D-L)
The cup size relates to the volume of your breasts. The wires at the front should lie flat against your rib cage and should not dig in, rub or poke out at the front. Your breasts should be enclosed in the cups and you should have a smooth line where the fabric at the top of the cup ends and meets your bust. You shouldn't have any ridge or bulging over the top or sides of the cups, even if you are wearing a balconette style or lower cut shape.

Why you should choose a well-fitted bra
When your bra back or cup size are right, you will get great support that will give your upper body a good shape and protect your neck, shoulder and back muscles

7 Classic bra faux pas

The Quadra-boob
Q: Are your breasts spilling over the cups?
A: The cup size of your bra is too small. You could try a bigger cup size.

The Superdrooper
Q: Do you feel your breasts aren't getting the support they deserve?
A: The back of your bra is too big and your straps may be too loose.

Try a smaller back size.

The Ledge
Q: Does your bra give you over uplift transforming your breasts into something that resembles a shelf?
A: It's likely the bra cups and back size are too small. Try a size bigger.

The side boob
Q: Are the wires in the side of your bra cup sitting on your breast rather than your ribcage?
A: It's likely that the cup size is too small. Try a cup size bigger.

The big stand off
Q: Does the front of your bra not sit flat on your sternum or breastbone?
A: The back size of your bra is too big. Try going down a size.

The high rider
Q: Is the back of the bra riding up?
A: The back size of your bra is too big. A small backsize should help this.

Saggy cups
Q: Do you have too much fabric creating wrinkly cups?



We know it's difficult to buy time for your beauty procedures when you're fidgeting between work, kids and home.

After returning from work, going to a parlour seems like a Herculean task. Now you don't need to spend a fortune on facial packs and beauty treatments or keep looking out for discounts on spa and parlour deals to get a facial, when it is possible to make them easily and with ingredients you probably have in your kitchen right now. We tell you how to treat yourself to a homemade facial today.

Cleaners
Cleansing is the first step to clear and resplendent skin. Everyday, your face is exposed to dirt and harsh sunlight, which robs your skin of its luster. So it is the most important part of your skin care regime to cleanse!

- Cut of the jelly in an Aloe Vera stick, mix it with 2 tsp milk and apply it on your face.

- Apply 1/2 cup of curd with 1/2 cup of honey. Apply on your face, neck and wash off with cold water after few minutes.

- You can also create a toner using a grated peel of grapefruits mixed with vitamin C tablet in a cup of boiling water. Cool and strain and use it regularly.

- Or simply wash off your face with lemon juice or raw milk. Then apply a mask made of besan mixed with water. Rub off to remove dead cells. Wash off with water.

Steam with herbs

The process of steaming can help you clean your skin of dirt that is lodged into the skin's pores. It is the dirt that we accumulate during the day that actually clogs up your pores and decreases circulation. You can make this a part of your everyday routine. You can boil some water in a pot and use a towel to steam your face. Regular usage will make your skin look clearer, cleaner and softer.

If you want to make your steaming experience more beneficial, you should add some herbs to the water. Adding chamomile will do wonders. But restrict your exposure to twenty minutes only. This ensures that



Rejuvenating homemade facial treatments

the blackheads emerge out of the pores.

Green tea is the most effective in controlling pimples and acne that you may have. Mix four tbsp of green tea in water, add six tbsp of chopped ginger, boil, cover your head with a towel and steam your face.

If you have flaky patches or dry skin apply a thin layer of moisturizer before steaming.

Exfoliate dead cells
Exfoliation removes dead skin cells, but it also unclogs the oil and dirt that lives in your pores and can cause breakouts.

- Oatmeal serves as a wonderful exfoliant and also absorbs and removes surface dirt and impurities while leaving your skin nourished and hydrated. Combine 1 tbsp of ground oatmeal with 1/4 teaspoon of salt, granular cleansers stimulate cell renewal, add 1 teaspoon of water to make it into a paste. Gently rub it onto your skin in circular motions, let sit for five to 10 minutes and rinse.

- Add your moisturizers like olive oil or jojoba oil to your bowl of scrub. In fact you can add your daily lotion to it. In case you have oily skin adds a smashed banana to the scrub.

- Remember your lips need scrubbing too. Mix two tsp of sugar with honey, make a nice consistent paste and apply it to your lips. Rub it and let it stay for a while, rinse.

Apply a mask
Everything that you eat can be applied on the face too! It can be a banana, watermelon, and mango anything! The best is honey. It contains mild alpha hydroxy acids, increase elasticity, balance out oily skin, stimulate collagen production, and minimize lines and wrinkles, making

you look younger.

You can also opt for the tried and tested Multani mud. Available in all stores you can literally play with the mud. Add milk/ cream, rosewater and it acts as a superb face pack. Let it dry and then wash off.

For dry skin

Nothing can work better than your milk cream. You are not allowed to eat it but you can apply it to your skin. It is a natural moisturizer. Mix a few drops of lime, milk and milk cream and rub onto your face and lips. Opt for a hot shower later and you will see the effect immediately.

For oily skin
Homemade scrubs are very effective in getting rid of the excess oil from the surface of the skin.

An effective scrub for oily skin can be prepared with almonds and honey. Almonds have the natural skin whitening property. Hence, it also serves the purpose of eliminating blemishes from your skin.

Mix egg white with oatmeal in a bowl and make a scrub. Apply it on the skin and leave it till it dries.

For sensitive skin
Sensitive, acne-prone skin can benefit from the exfoliating power of alpha hydroxy acids (AHA's), which peel away layers of dead skin cells. Many home ingredients contain like milk, vinegar, apple juice, lemon juice, oranges, pineapples, tomatoes and grapes. These gentle fruit acids can be harnessed to make a great natural facial cleanser that can help sensitive skin.

Out with dresses and killer heels. The latest 'it' accessory that's making waves on global ramps is British model Cara Delevingne's super brows. The Briton's fame catapulted after she scorched ramps for big design houses like Burberry, Chanel and Stella McCartney. Her confident strut and powerful glance has a magnetic appeal, all because of that thick line of hair that frames her peepers. Good news for ladies who believe in being low maintenance (read lazy)! Just toss the eyeliner, drop a coat of mascara, boldly bare your lips and let your eyebrows do the talking.

The en vogue thick eyebrows can be difficult to shape and maintain. Makeup expert Cory Walia says, "Naturally groomed eyebrows with careful plucking that emphasizes the arch are in. For this, you have to grow out the top. Never thread the top of your eyebrow. The bottom has to grow out line by line and the natural arch must always be retained. People with sparse eyebrows can create thick eyebrows through makeup."

Beautician Prairna Khuller advises, "First, comb the brows with a clean mascara wand at a slightly upward angle. Then, fill the first half of your brows with powder-based eyebrow filler so that it looks nice and full. Set with a clear brow gel."

Bushy eyebrows suit naturally feminine delicate features. Heart-shaped and oval faces, coupled with sharp, slim noses (think Deepika Padukone) are bestsuited for the trend. Square or broad faces will

The perfect brow job!

Brit model Cara Delevingne let her powerful browline do the talking on global catwalks. Ditto for our desi gals who have stood by the trend without raising an eyebrow. TOI does a style check.

look masculine with bushy eyebrows.

While Brooke Shields and Elizabeth Taylor rocked the trend in their heydays, Emma Watson, Natalie Portman, Kiera Knightley and Rachel Weisz are seen sporting it now. Closer home, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Alia Bhatt have stood by it. Gangs of Wasseypur girl Richa Chadda, who also sports full brows, says, "I have naturally full brows and I like it this way. They don't need much plucking too. Pencil thin brows look fake and gives you that surprised expression."

How to create full brows with makeup
Comb out brows with a clean mascara wand. Examine brows for any sparse spots. Select a soft pencil which is a shade lighter than your brows and a powder which matches the colour of your brows.

Fill in the sparse spots with short, feathery strokes in the direction of hair growth.

Use angled brush or a clean mascara wand in eyeshadow. Brush the powder along the brows.

To keep brows in place, spray hairspray on your finger and brush onto the brow.

Share your views



Gold, silver price Precious metals record hike on MCX

NEW DELHI Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, August 19, 2024. Gold futures, maturing on October 4, 2024, stood at Rs 71,590 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 215 or 0.30 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 71,375. Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on September 5, 2024, witnessed a marginal hike of Rs 609 or 0.73 per cent and were retailing at Rs 83,634 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 83,025. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices eased on Monday and hovered around key \$2,500 level, as traders locked in profits following bullion's climb to an all-time peak in the previous session on expectations of a U.S. interest rate cut next month, news agency Reuters reported.

According to the latest metal report, spot gold dipped 0.2 per cent to \$2,502.78 per ounce by 0352 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures gained 0.2 per cent to \$2,541.80.

TMB appoints Salee S Nair as new MD & CEO

BENGALURU. Private sector bank Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has announced the appointment of Salee S Nair as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO). He comes with over 35 years of experience in the banking and financial services industry. Prior to this appointment, he served as Deputy Managing Director & Chief Credit Officer at State Bank of India. Salee is a post graduate in Applied Electronics, and started his banking career in 1987 when he joined SBI as a Probationary Officer. Salee said, "I look forward to working closely with the Board, the management team, and all employees to build on the strong foundation laid by my predecessors and to drive the bank's strategic priorities forward." "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.

The Kaiser and his link to balanced advantage funds

New Delhi, Franz Beckenbauer was among those rare footballers who won a World Cup, both as a player and as a coach. The 'Kaiser' as he was known as was the first to add an angle of offense to the conventional defensive position of a sweeper on the football field. He was that rare 'all rounder', who had both, the ability to move forward to attack as well as fall back to defend. Investing in many ways is no different and Balanced Advantage Funds (BAFs) offered by mutual funds are the investment equivalents of mid-fielders.

The underlying theme that emerges is that be it the football field or that of investments, it is necessary to blend caution with aggression and respond appropriately based on the situation. In the past, Balanced Funds (now renamed Hybrid Equity Funds) gained in popularity and rewarded investors seeking the risk profile it offered, fairly well. But the fact remained that with no upside equity holding restriction, some AMCs were running it literally like a pure equity fund thus exposing investors to higher risk than they had signed up for. SEBI's classification of funds helped address this issue to an extent.

But, in more recent years and post the creation of this new category of hybrid funds more than half a decade ago, Balanced Advantage Funds (BAFs), which are inherently open-ended dynamic asset allocation funds, have also become popular. It seeks to use time-tested mechanisms using a hybrid investment model to capture equity upsides even while casting a safety net on the downside. The corpus of a BAF is allocated dynamically between equity and debt securities, based on certain pre-determined market valuation and analysis tools. Some AMCs use the Price to Earnings (P/E) Ratio while others use the Price to Book (P/B) Ratio as their base for determining the asset allocation mix. Then there are some that use a kind of hybrid model, incorporating both, boosted further by trend analysis. For the sake of easier comprehension, let us assume that a BAF starts off by investing 33% in pure equity and 33% in arbitrage to keep gross equity investments at or above 65% while investing the rest in debt securities. Their long-term gains thus attract Equity taxation of 10% as against Debt taxation of 20% (with indexation).

Why building risk appetite needs education

NEW DELHI. There is a visible increase in your participation in equity markets. The latest data on ownership of Nifty 500 index companies shows that individual investors, who are not promoters, own 8.7% of the total market cap of over R400 lakh crore. In addition, domestic mutual funds now own 9.6% of that value. While direct individual ownership has remained the same over the past three years, the data shows an increase in the ownership of mutual funds in the Nifty 500. That shows that you directly and indirectly control a sizeable chunk of the equities market. The rising inflows in the systematic investment plans (SIPs) pushed by mutual funds create a cushion for share prices. The money designated for equity markets will be invested based on the valuation parameters. Active managers can hold back putting in the money if valuations are too high. But not for long. They must eventually deploy it. That ensures that you will have mutual funds or local investors picking up equity shares at every sharp fall in equity markets due to a global selloff. If you are not familiar with the world of finance, it would be hard for you to connect the dots. You can imagine that even someone who comprehends English cannot quickly understand all the information. The National Stock Exchange monthly bulletin highlighted that we now have ten crore unique investors in the stock market.

RIL plans to make JioCinema its only OTT platform post Disney merger: Report

New Delhi Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is planning to operate just one over-the-top (OTT) platform—JioCinema, following the proposed merger with Star India's Disney+ Hotstar, reported The Economic Times. This decision by RIL is seen as a move to consolidate content and resources into a single, more robust platform, streamlining its services.

Currently, Disney+ Hotstar, owned by Walt Disney's Star India, is one of India's most popular streaming services, with over 500 million downloads on the Google Play Store. In comparison, JioCinema, under Viacom18 (a company controlled by RIL), has over 100 million downloads.

Despite Disney+ Hotstar's larger user base, RIL is considering combining its content with JioCinema to create a stronger, unified platform. The idea behind this is to reduce operational costs and enhance efficiency by not running two separate streaming services. The combined platform would be better positioned to compete with global giants like YouTube, Netflix, and Amazon Prime Video. This development comes after RIL and Walt

Disney signed a deal earlier this year to merge Star India and Viacom18, forming a media conglomerate valued at around \$8.5 billion. The merged entity would control over 100 TV channels and two OTT platforms, but RIL appears to favour focusing on just one platform—JioCinema. The merger is still awaiting regulatory approval from bodies such as the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). To mitigate concerns about the new entity's market dominance, RIL is also open to the idea of shutting down some Hindi and regional language TV channels. According to RIL's 2023 annual report, JioCinema had an average of 225 million monthly users, while Disney+ Hotstar had 333 million active users in the last quarter of 2023.

However, Disney+ Hotstar has seen a significant drop in its paid subscriber base, falling from 61 million at its peak to



35.5 million as of June 2024. This decline is partly attributed to the loss of streaming rights for popular content, including the Indian Premier League (IPL) and HBO shows. Despite the challenges faced by Disney+ Hotstar, JioCinema has been rapidly gaining traction, especially after securing digital rights to the IPL, which brought record-breaking viewership to the platform. RIL's chairman Mukesh

Ambani has pointed to this success as evidence of JioCinema's potential to attract large audiences quickly. Should the content from Disney+ Hotstar be merged into JioCinema, the latter could emerge as India's largest streaming service, offering a vast library of over 125,000 hours of entertainment, sports, and Hollywood content. This new platform would include important sports rights, such as the IPL, along with content from major studios like Disney, HBO, NBCUniversal, and Paramount Global. RIL has a history of consolidating its digital assets to strengthen its market position. For instance, the company previously merged other streaming services, like Voot, into JioCinema. Recently, JioCinema was transferred to Viacom18 following a court-approved deal that also involved a Rs 15,145 crore investment from RIL and Bodhi Tree Systems into Viacom18.

Ola Electric shares hit upper circuit again. Will rally continue

Stock of the EV player was locked in at the 10% upper circuit limit, reaching Rs 146.03 during Monday's trading session.



Shares of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd continued their strong performance on Monday as the company hit the upper circuit for the day, driven by renewed buying interest following its debut on Dalal Street on August 9. Stock of the EV player was locked in at the 10% upper circuit limit, reaching Rs 146.03 during Monday's trading session. This pushed the company's total market capitalisation to over Rs 64,400 crore. In the previous session on Friday, the stock had closed at Rs 123.76. Ola Electric Mobility's shares have surged

92% in just six sessions since their listing on August 9. The stock was initially listed at Rs 76, the same as its issue price. Since then, the stock has hit the upper circuit in four out of the six trading sessions. Ola Electric reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 347 crore for the quarter ending June 30, 2024. This represents a 30% increase in losses compared to Rs 267 crore in the same quarter last year.

Despite the losses, the company saw its revenue from operations rise by 32.3% year-on-year, reaching Rs 1,644 crore for the quarter. The company's EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest,

Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation) loss for the quarter stood at Rs 205 crore.

Will the rally continue?

Global brokerage firm HSBC recently initiated coverage on Ola Electric following its Q1 results and subsequent conference call. HSBC gave a positive outlook on the company's future, issuing a 'buy' recommendation. The firm believes that the cost of manufacturing electric vehicles (EVs) could decrease significantly by FY27/28, while the cost of internal combustion engine (ICE) scooters may increase due to stricter emission standards. HSBC also noted that while the barriers to switching to electric two-wheelers (e2-wheelers) may decrease, Ola's battery venture could be a key factor in the company's success. The brokerage firm views Ola Electric as a promising opportunity, given the ongoing regulatory support, potential cost reductions, and a favourable risk-reward profile for the battery venture.

Sensex, Nifty open in green on energy stocks rally; BPCL gains 3%

New Delhi, Benchmark stock market indices maintained their momentum from the last trading session and opened higher on Monday driven by gains in energy stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex gained 166.14 points to 80,602.98, while the NSE Nifty50 added 70.30 points to 24,611.45 as of 9:50 AM. Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that the 397 point rally in the Nifty last Friday reinforces the resilience of the ongoing bull market and the consistent success of the buy on dips strategy. "The fact that this ability of the market to bounce back is happening when valuations are elevated is significant. It is also important to note that all corrections in this rally have been brief unlike in the past when corrections have been prolonged. The complete dominance of the DII and retail investors over the



market is the single major factor driving this bull run even though there are fundamental factors supporting the rally. Investors should keep this in mind," he added. Hindalco emerged as the top gainer, surging by 2.93%. Following closely was BPCL with a 2.86% increase. Shriram Finance also showed strong performance, rising by 1.90%. ONGC and NTPC rounded out the top gainers, advancing by 1.88% and 1.81% respectively. Mahindra and Mahindra led the losers, dropping 1.60%. Apollo Hospitals experienced a

decline of 1.06%, while HDFC Life fell by 1.00%. Axis Bank and Tata Consumer Products also saw declines, with their shares decreasing by 0.86% and 0.85% respectively. The sharp dip in the dollar index to 102.4 might nudge the FIIs to invest in India but the lofty valuations have been forcing them to sell. How the FIIs will address this contradiction remains to be seen. The sharp rally in gold prices is positive for gold jewellery and gold loan companies," said Vijayakumar. The Nifty Midcap100 index showed a modest gain of 0.31%, indicating a slight uptick in medium-sized companies. Small-cap stocks performed even better, with the Nifty Smallcap100 index rising by a more substantial 1.37%. Meanwhile, the India VIX, often referred to as the fear gauge of the market, increased by 1.31%.



savings. Additionally, guiding her on risk management and periodic portfolio rebalancing could make a substantial difference in her financial journey. Siddharth Maurya, Founder & Managing Director of Vibhavangal Anukulakara Private Limited, said, "This Raksha Bandhan, consider gifting your sister financial knowledge and skills. Instead of traditional presents, help her become familiar with personal finance, including SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans), stocks, and diversified investment portfolios. SIPs are a disciplined way to create wealth by investing small amounts each month, letting them grow into a significant corpus over time." "Show her the potential of the stock market for long-term gains, but also emphasise the importance of research and risk management. You might even gift her shares of a company she likes or set up a SIP for a promising mutual fund. The most valuable financial gift isn't just money; it's the ability to grow and manage it wisely. By empowering your sister with financial knowledge, you're helping her secure her future, which is the true essence of Raksha Bandhan," he added.

BSNL likely to launch 4G services in October

NEW DELHI. State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is set to launch 4G services in the country soon, as the telco has completed trials in all circles.

According to a senior official, BSNL could launch its much-awaited 4G services for customers sometime in October 2024, as the trial results have been quite satisfactory. So far, the telco has set up around 25,000 4G towers across the country. Additionally, BSNL has started dispatching 4G SIMs to its customers.

"We have successfully trialed our 4G network in all circles and major cities, and the results have been promising. It is now time to launch our commercial 4G services. We will conduct a few more trials before formally launching the 4G services," said the senior official. While private telecom providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea Limited are rolling out their 5G services, BSNL has primarily been offering 2G and 3G networks.

Consequently, the telco has been losing subscribers to private operators. The telco lost 18 million customers in the last fiscal year, bringing its customer base to 88.06 million. The market share of BSNL has also decreased to 7.46% as of April 2024,



while its competitors, private telecom operators, are cementing their position. The delay in BSNL's 4G rollout is attributed to the government's directive for the company to use an indigenous network or India's own 4G stack.

A consortium led by the Tata Group received a Rs 15,000 crore order from BSNL in May 2023 to install 4G sites

nationwide, with Tejas Networks and government-backed C-DoT providing the necessary equipment and technology.

BSNL has also rolled out pilot 4G services in Punjab using indigenously developed technology from IT company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the C-DoT-led consortium, onboarding around 800,000 subscribers. The company is

currently in the process of deploying one lakh towers for 4G and 5G services across India. In February 2024, the BSNL Employees Union (BSNLEU) urged the government to temporarily use Vodafone Idea Limited's network to provide 4G services, attributing the delay to issues with TCS in supplying or installing 4G equipment. Last month, the Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said he is closely monitoring BSNL's 4G launch progress, with daily targets set for the project. "We are forming a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will set daily targets, which will be monitored by the Secretary and myself. I assure you we are working to expedite the process," said Jyotiraditya Scindia. State-run BSNL lost 18 mn customers in FY24

While private telecom providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea Limited are rolling out their 5G services, BSNL has primarily been offering 2G and 3G networks. Consequently, the telco has been losing subscribers to private operators. The telco lost 18 million customers in the last fiscal year.

NEWS BOX

Real Madrid's problem mental, not physical: Ancelotti slams team after draw

New Delhi Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was left visibly frustrated after his team's lacklustre performance in their 1-1 draw against Mallorca in the LaLiga season opener. Ancelotti attributed the team's struggles to mental lapses rather than physical fitness issues. Ancelotti said his players lacked focus after taking an early lead through Rodrygo in the 13th minute but allowing Mallorca to rescue a point with a Vedat Muriqi header after the break. "Today I am not happy. I think we could have been done much better," Ancelotti said in a post-match press conference. "We need to be more concentrated, work better as a group... It's not a fitness problem, it was mental. I don't want to make excuses for anything. We had to do better and show more attitude."

Real Madrid vs Mallorca: Match Report Ancelotti was particularly critical of his team's defensive performance, emphasising the need for a more disciplined approach. He suggested that Real could have easily lost due to their own blunders and urged his players to learn fast from Saturday's mistakes. "We started the game well, we took the lead and we had chances to score the second, but in the second half we lacked



balance," he noted. "It was a game we could have lost because we didn't have balance. It wasn't a good game. We are a very attacking team and defensive balance is a fundamental part of the way we are built." The coach highlighted the importance of collective commitment in defence, stating that the team's inability to win the ball back and press after losing possession was a key issue. "When we talk about defending, we are talking above all about collective commitment. The balance is found with the players thinking about the same thing. When we have to win the ball back we have to think about it all together," Ancelotti explained. Ancelotti's comments underscored the need for Real Madrid to quickly address these mental and tactical issues if they are to succeed in the season ahead.

Rohit Sharma chills with Abhishek Nayar, Dhawal Kulkarni in off season

New Delhi India captain Rohit Sharma is spending some much-needed downtime during the off season. The Indian men's cricket team have a long break between their assignments and that means players have gone back home to spend some time with their families. India captain Rohit Sharma was pictured with his friends - former India cricketer Dhawal Kulkarni and assistant India coach Abhishek Nayar on Sunday, 18 August. Dhawal Kulkarni posted a photo of the group on his social media account where they were seen sharing a meal. The Indian team toured Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka before going on a break. After winning the T20I series against both nations, India faltered in the ODI format, losing the series 2-0. It was not a good start for Indian in the Gautam Gambhir era as the team failed to play the Sri Lankan spin bowlers, losing wickets in bunches. India captain Rohit Sharma batted well in all three matches of the series scoring two half-centuries. In



fact Rohit was the highest scorer of the series, hitting 157 runs in 3 games. Sharma and the team will hope to regroup well before they start their home season against Bangladesh and New Zealand. India will play Test and T20I series against the two nations before flying out to Australia to play the Border Gavaskar Trophy. The tour of Australia will be the showpiece bilateral series for India in this season as they will look to maintain their dominance over the BGT.

In the previous bilateral Test series against Australia, India won at home, clinching the 4-match series 2-1. Before that, India won two back to back Test series in Australia, once under the captaincy of Virat Kohli and then under Ajinkya Rahane.

The Hundred: Saqib Mahmood stars as Oval Invincibles defend men's

Oval Invincibles became back-to-back champions of the Hundred cricket competition with a 17-run victory over Southern Brave.

New Delhi Oval Invincibles became back-to-back champions of the Hundred cricket competition with a 17-run victory over Southern Brave at Lord's on Sunday, 18 August. With Brave set a target of 148 for victory, the game was in the balance before three wickets in six balls from Saqib Mahmood ripped the energy out of the run-chase and saw Invincibles become the first team to register four trophies across the men's and women's competitions.

Mahmood removed Leus du Plooy, Kieron Pollard and Laurie Evans between the 72nd and 78th balls and when Chris Jordan followed them back to the pavilion four balls later, the game was settled as a contest. The Invincibles scored 147-9 with Southern



Brave finishing on 130-7. The dramatic over saw Mahmood get hit for a boundary in the very first ball of the set. After getting hit over cover by du Plooy, Mahmood kept his nerve and stayed true to his stump to stump line. With du Plooy backing away, the slight inward movement from Mahmood beat the bat of du Plooy with the ball crashing into his stumps. After du Plooy's dismissal, Mahmood kept on badgering Kieron Pollard with his seam movement. His sharp inswinger caught Pollard in the front of the stumps which was adjudged an LBW. In a

space of two balls, Mahmood trapped a set Laurie Evans (16 off 10) at covers to put Southern Brave in deep trouble. "Amazing, had a 5-ball interval at the timeout, spent time with the coach and got Polly out. Just attack and bring the stumps into play and that's what I have tried to do. Sam Curran at mid-on told me, keep it simple and don't overdo it. We have kept the core of our squad the same, I missed the last two years with injuries but I was there the first year. To repay that faith of being retained feels nice," Saqib Mahmood said while accepting the match

hero award on Sunday. Sam Curran was judged the Most Valuable Player of the tournament this season. The all-rounder lauded the team environment at the Invincibles behind their back-to-back title wins. "The environment we have had over the last 4 years has really helped. Similar faces, similar staff and when we walk into work with a smile it helps. Don't care, back to back winners. We won't hear the end of it tonight, really glad for Tom. He came out and pleased to see him perform for us. Everyone has stood up for us, really pleased we get the trophy and feeling really happy," Curran said at the post match presentation ceremony.

Earlier Sunday, London Spirit successfully chased down a target of 116 to beat Welsh Fire and claim the women's Hundred title in front of a record 22,008 spectators at Lord's. London Spirit scored 118-6 off 98 balls in reply to Welsh Fire's 115-8.

In a tense finale, it was left to Deepti Sharma and Charlie Dean to get their team over the line, with allrounder Sharma finishing off with a six over long-on with just two balls left. Sharma's strike hung in the air and briefly appeared to be heading to Shabnim Islam on the boundary, but there was enough power to go all the way and bring an end to a topsy-turvy encounter.

Mohun Bagan captain Subhasish Bose leads unprecedented march in Kolkata

Kolkata. Keeping their bitter rivalry aside, and braving relentless downpour, thousands of fans of Kolkata's 'Big Three' football clubs -- Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting -- came together to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, here on Sunday. Unprecedented scenes were witnessed outside the Saltlake Stadium as India defender and Mohun Bagan captain Subhasish Bose, accompanied by his wife Kasturi Chetri, and All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey joined the protest march, "demanding justice" for the RG Kar victim. "I've come here as a commoner. Justice is needed to ensure that this incident is never repeated. The culprits should receive proper punishment. We will continue our protests until justice is served," said Bose while his wife was seen showing a placard with 'We want justice. Justice for RG Kar'. "For the first time, fans of Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, and Mohammedan Sporting have come together to fight for justice. I am grateful to everyone. This fight is not just for Bengal, but for the entire country."

Bose continued: "Together, we will fight so that no one dares to commit such a heinous act again. I'm a footballer, and the ground means everything to me. But if our mothers and sisters don't feel safe in our state or country, there is nothing more important than addressing that. "We all have to come together and fight for their safety. We must protect them and show them respect. I'm here as a common person, without any political affiliation." Asked about his feeling on the cancellation of Durand Cup derby match against East Bengal earlier scheduled to be played on Sunday, he said: "No one would have been happier than me if the match had taken place. I always want to play in as many derbies as I can. But this was the government's decision, and they felt it was necessary. "However, the bigger cause is justice for RG Kar, and I will always stand for that," he said.

The fans started assembling around 4pm in front of the VIP Gate of the Saltlake Stadium where the Durand Cup derby match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal was scheduled but only to be called off by the administration, fearing security concerns. But the fans kept their date with the 'derby' and were also joined by the supporters of the city's other century-old club -- Mohammedan Sporting. Never before in the history of Kolkata Maidan, the fans of the three rival clubs were seen together fighting for a common cause as they were also seen held up and put inside a lock-up van by the police.

DPL: West Delhi Lions edge past North Delhi Strikers after all-round brilliance

- West Delhi Lions beat North Delhi Strikers by 3 wickets
- Akhil Chaudhary's 4/20 with the ball set the tone for West Delhi Lions
- Ankit Kumar's 39 off 15 balls also played a key role for West Delhi Lions

New Delhi Akhil Chaudhary's 4/20 and Ankit Kumar's blistering 39 off 15 balls powered the West Delhi Lions to a three-wicket victory over the North Delhi Strikers in the third match of the Adani Delhi Premier League T20 at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday. Akhil Chaudhary's 4/20 with the ball set the tone for West Delhi Lions as they restricted North Delhi Strikers to 144/8 in 20 overs. West Delhi Lions then chased down the target in 18.3 overs. The West Delhi Lions started their chase of 145 with explosive intent as they crossed the 50-run mark in just 3.1 overs, thanks to Ankit Kumar's quick-fire 39 off 15 balls. His

innings ended when he was caught and bowled by Anirudh Chowdhary on the very next delivery. Meanwhile, Shivam Gupta (12 off 8), who had supported Ankit well, was dismissed in the following over by Suyash Sharma, and Anmol Sharma (17 off 18) was trapped LBW by Manan Bhardwaj in the



eight over. Despite losing wickets in quick succession, West Delhi Lions remained in a commanding position at 76/3 after eight overs. Ekansh Dobal (27 off 24), who came in as an impact player built a solid partnership of 38 runs off 36 balls with Dev Lakra (13 off 22). However, both Lakra and Dobal were dismissed in the 14th and 15th over respectively, leaving the Lions needing 24 runs from 30 balls. The North Delhi Strikers managed to take two late wickets in the 18th over, dismissing Hrithik Shokeen (9 off 10) and Tishant Pawan Dabla (4 off 2),

but it wasn't enough as the West Delhi Lions chased down the remaining runs with nine balls to spare. After opting to bowl first, West Delhi Lions bowlers did well to contain the North Delhi Strikers from scoring big. By the end of the powerplay, the North Delhi Strikers were 48/2, having lost Sarthak Ranjan (1 off 6) and Yash Dabas (10 off 11). Vaibhav Kandpal had gotten a decent start but was trapped LBW by Hrithik Shokeen after scoring 29 off 22 balls. With 50/3 after seven overs, Yash Bhatia and Vaibhav Rawal steadied the ship with timely boundaries as they constructed a crucial partnership of 74 runs in 55 deliveries, bringing the team's total to the 100-run mark in the 14th over. As the Strikers attempted to accelerate, Rawal was dismissed in the 16th over for 36 off 29 balls. His partner Bhatia followed in the next over, scoring 37 off 28, leaving North Delhi struggling at 126/5 after 17 overs.

From there on, West Delhi Lions were in the driving seat, scalping three quick wickets. Pranshu Vijayran (3 off 8) fell cheaply in the 18th over to Navdeep Saini. Akhil Chaudhary, who had earlier removed Ranjan and Bhatia, finished his quote with impressive figures of 4/20, dismissing Siddhant Sharma (6 off 3) and Pranav Rajvanshi (1 off 3) in the 19th over. Saini bowled a tight last over as West Delhi Lions restricted North Delhi Strikers to 144/8 in 20 overs.

Kylian Mbappe, Bellingham draw blanks as Real Madrid drop points in opener

New Delhi, Real Madrid's highly anticipated LaLiga title defence got off to a disappointing start as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Mallorca, with Vedat Muriqi's second-half header cancelling out Rodrygo's early strike and spoiling Kylian Mbappe's eagerly awaited domestic debut. Real Madrid started strongly, taking the lead through Rodrygo's fine curling strike in the 13th minute, assisted by a back-heeled pass from Vinicius Jr. However, Mallorca began to create counter-attack opportunities as Real grew frustrated, dominating possession but lacking ideas up front.

Mbappe and Jude Bellingham, key signings in Real's "Ne3aw Galacticos" lineup, were largely ineffective, with Vinicius Jr being the only notable threat against a disciplined



Mallorca defence. Vinicius had several heated exchanges with rivals and was reprimanded by the referee after reacting to taunts from the local fans, who had previously racially abused him in February 2023. Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made several crucial saves to maintain the lead, but was powerless against Muriqi's powerful header from a corner in the 53rd

minute, which levelled the score for Mallorca. Despite Mbappe's late efforts, including two angled strikes denied by Mallorca goalkeeper Dominik Greif, Real were unable to regain the lead. The match ended with Real down to 10 men after defender Ferland Mendy received a straight red card for a sliding tackle deep into added time. This draw, combined with Barcelona's 2-1 win over Valencia the previous day, suggests that Real Madrid may need to work harder to integrate Mbappe into their squad and mount a successful title defence. The club will hope to regroup as they face Valladolid on 25 August is their first home game of the season. Carlo Ancelotti and his men would hope to put up a better show in front of their home fans after a good run in the pre-season matches.

Ireland Women's stun Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka to bag ODI series 2-0

Ireland's women's cricket team secured a series win over Sri Lanka with a dominant performance in the second ODI, achieving a 2-0 lead. Key contributions from Amy Hunter and Leah Paul sealed the victory.

New Delhi Ireland's women's cricket team secured an impressive series win over the reigning Women's Asia Cup champions, Sri Lanka, with a commanding performance in the second ODI on August 18, 2024. With this win on top of an all-round brilliance, 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series, with one match still left to play. Batting first after being sent in by Sri Lanka,



Ireland faced early challenges as they lost both openers to Achini Kulasuriya's new-ball spell. The situation worsened when Orla

Prendergast, the centurion from the first ODI, was dismissed by Kavisha Dillhari, leaving Ireland at 77 for 3. However, the Irish

middle order showed resilience and determination. Amy Hunter led the recovery with a well-crafted 71-ball 66, forming a crucial 57-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Leah Paul. Hunter's dismissal, just when she seemed set for a bigger score, was a setback, but Ireland did not falter.

Leah Paul, who played a pivotal role in stabilizing the innings, found an able partner in Rachel Stokell. The duo forged a match-defining partnership of 114 runs off 112 balls for the fifth wicket. Paul was eventually dismissed for a well-made 81 off 101 balls in the final over, while Stokell remained unbeaten on 53 off 61 balls, ensuring Ireland posted a competitive total.

Sri Lanka, despite a maiden ODI century from Samarawickrama, could not chase down Ireland's total. The Irish bowlers maintained pressure, ultimately leading to a memorable victory that sealed the series to their name. The final match of the series on August 20, will now be an opportunity for Ireland to complete a clean sweep.

Mouni Roy

Flaunts Her Bombshell Body In A Gold-Sequined Outfit

Mouni Roy, who launched her acting career with the popular television show 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', has since made a successful transition into films and music videos, capturing attention with her stunning looks and captivating performances. Her Instagram account, brimming with fashionable posts, frequently goes viral, setting major fashion goals with her vacation snapshots. Keeping up with her trendsetting ways, Mouni made the most of her Sunday by sharing a sizzling video, once again dazzling her followers with her impeccable style. In the video, Mouni Roy can be seen posing elegantly, dressed in a glamorous, gold-sequined outfit that shimmers under the light. The top part of her outfit features fringes, adding a touch of drama, while the bottom part is a long, high-waisted skirt with a zigzag pattern. Mouni is posing with one arm raised above her head and the other hand resting on her waist, exuding confidence. The caption accompanying the image



reads, "Take the drama one notch down Juliet!"

Mouni Roy has come a long way ever since she made her television debut with Ekta Kapoor's Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi. She became a popular name after she starred in Naagin. Mouni made her Bollywood debut with Akshay Kumar's Gold in 2018. Last year, Mouni was seen in Ayan Mukerji's magnum opus, Brahmastra. Recently, she was also seen in a music video titled 'Dotara' along with Jubin Nautiyal. Mouni Roy was also seen in the web-series Sultan of Delhi. She was last seen in

Emraan Hashmi-starrer Showtime.

In a recent interview, Mouni shared that it is projects like Sultan of Delhi and Brahmastra which changed people's perception of her as an actor. "Brahmastra was absolutely different. When you see Gold, RAW and Made In China, I had played very Indianised characters. Maybe after Naagin and Sati, people could only see me as a 'saree-clad Indian character'. So, for Milan sir to think of me as this cabaret dancer Nayantara, at a time when Brahmastra had not even released. I think it is an exciting time to be an actor where makers can visualise you in different roles. Such great parts are being written. I really feel fortunate to be offered these parts and be able to play them on screen," she told.

Kiara Advani

to Perform Intense 'Commando Fight' in Hrithik Roshan-Led Film, Details Inside

Kiara Advani is rapidly establishing herself as one of Bollywood's most reliable stars, and her upcoming projects are only adding to her rising popularity. Among the most anticipated is Ayan Mukerji's 'War 2', where she will star alongside Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR. Fans are buzzing with excitement, especially after a recent report revealed that Kiara will be involved in an intense 'commando fight' sequence in the film. The much-awaited sequel to the 2019 hit 'War' promises to be an action-packed spectacle. According to a report from 'Dainik Bhaskar', Kiara and Hrithik have already shot their introduction scenes, with Hrithik battling Japanese antagonists at the iconic Shaolin Temple, and Kiara showcasing her combat skills in a high-octane fight scene set in a shopping mall. This thrilling scene was filmed over four days at Infiniti Mall in Malad, Mumbai.

The report also hints at Jr NTR's planned grand entry, which was to take place aboard a ship at Yash Raj Studios. However, due to the actor's recent injury, the set is being dismantled, with filming expected to resume in October.

A source close to the project revealed to PinkVilla that Ayan Mukerji and producer Aditya Chopra have carefully crafted War 2's script to stand out in the YRF Spy Universe. The film is set to be darker and grittier than its predecessors, promising an action spectacle unlike anything seen before. "Ayan Mukerji and Aditya Chopra have meticulously worked on the script of War 2 to differentiate it from all that has been done in the YRF Spy Universe till date. War 2 will be an action spectacle like never before, and as suggested by the post-credit sequence of Kabir, this one will be a little darker and grittier." War 2 will be the sixth installment in YRF's Spy Universe, following hits like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan', and 'Tiger 3'. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film is slated for release on August 14, 2025, just in time for India's Independence Day celebrations.



Gulshan Devaiah Blames Janhvi Kapoor's 'Nasty' Trolling on 'Botched' Reddit AMA: 'Nobody Deserves...'



Actor Gulshan Devaiah recently shared his thoughts on nepotism in the film industry, talking about the curiosity that audiences have about star kids. During a chat with Galatta, he also said that he has no idea why his Ulajh co-star Janhvi Kapoor gets trolled on social media. Gulshan suggested that this backlash might stem from a "botched" Ask Me Anything (AMA) session on Reddit, which did not go as planned. Despite this, he said he is perplexed by the level of negativity directed toward her and said that nobody deserves it. Talking about the privileges star kids come with, Gulshan said, "Maybe they have a few advantages but, in many cases, it doesn't work out as an advantage. Yeah, maybe some of these people get more opportunities, but they also fail. A lot of them fail because audiences are excited by you in the beginning, but then, 2-3 films down the line, we are not so excited. There are so many of them who don't work anymore."

When the host spoke about Janhvi Kapoor getting trolled on Reddit, Gulshan dubbed it 'nasty'. "I have no idea why she gets like trolled so much. I know that one botched AMA was there, but apart from that I feel that it's a bit on the nasty side. I don't know if anybody deserves such nasty trolling," he said, adding that his AMA on Reddit went very well.

Gulshan Devaiah's statement on 'not vibing' with Ulajh co-star Janhvi Kapoor had taken the internet by a storm, not long back. In fact, in an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, he had said that he doesn't want to put the blame on her for the same. "I'm not saying it's my or Janhvi's fault. There are other ways of getting the job done. I never felt a lack of connect with her while doing a scene. Aisa kuch nahi tha ki mujhe uska muh nahi dekhna tha (laughs)! But you can't expect a family-like situation on every set," he had told us.

Kangana Ranaut Says She REJECTED Films with Ranbir Kapoor, Akshay Kumar: 'Didn't Want to Be...'



Kangana Ranaut revealed she turned down offers of films starring Ranbir Kapoor and Akshay Kumar in the lead. The actress, who has not worked with several A-listers in Bollywood, admitted it was a conscious decision to work with the Khans, Kumar, and Kapoor. She added that this was her way of setting an example that actresses can make a mark in Bollywood without doing films with Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar, and Ranbir Kapoor. In a recent podcast, Kangana opened up about her film choices when she proudly revealed she has not worked with the five A-listers. She added that the films starring these stars usually feature a template wherein women are reduced to a few scenes and a couple of songs, and she did not want to play such parts.

"I refused Khan-led films. All Khans are very nice to me, they are very kind to me, and they have never misbehaved with me. Yes, there are people who have misbehaved with me but Khans were not one of them. But I said no to their films because their films are prototypes wherein the heroine will have two scenes and one song. So I said I don't want to do that. I want to be an example of a woman who is an A-lister, the top-most actor who has not worked with Khans," Kangana said in a podcast with Raj Shamani. "I wanted to do my best for women who were going to come after me and no Khans can make you successful, no Khans can make you successful, no Kapoor can make you successful. I said no to Ranbir Kapoor's films, I said no to Akshay Kumar's films. I didn't want to be the prototype that only a hero can make a heroine successful. Aisa nahi hai, you can be successful on your own as well. I set that example," the actress added. She warned that at the beginning of your career, do whatever good work that comes your way.