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Sharad Pawar wonders if his Z-plus security is an attempt to spy on him Sanjay Kumar

Mumbai, August 23: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has said that the Z-plus security cover accorded to him could be an arrangement to get "authentic information" about him as Maharashtra assembly polls are around the corner.

PM Modi presents BHISHM Cubes as gift to Ukraine

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, August 23: India has decided to gift four Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM) Cubes, a mobile hospital aimed at providing emergency medical care, to Ukraine, officials on Friday said.

and drone). In fact, the mini cubes can be carried by a person as their maximum weight is 20 kg. burns, fractures, shock, apart from managing initial triage and classification. It also has the ability



One cube, the officials said, has the ability to handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergency situations such as trauma, bleeding, to support basic surgeries and can also generate its own power and oxygen in limited amounts and duration, they added.

JNU students take out march to education ministry, stopped by police outside campus

New Delhi, August 23: Members of the JNU students' union on Friday took out a march to the Ministry of Education to press for their demands, including increase in scholarship amounts, but were stopped by police just outside their campus.

Withdraw cases against Badlapur protesters, or we have to hit the streets: Uddhav Thackeray

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, August 23: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded the withdrawal of cases against those who had protested in Badlapur against the alleged sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls, warning that the opposition would have to hit the streets if it is not done.



Thackeray said the August 24 'Maharashtra Bandh' called by the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is not political but against "perversion" and urged people cutting across caste and religion to participate in it.

Bombay High Court restrains political parties from calling Maharashtra bandh on August 24

Mumbai, August 23: The Bombay High Court on Friday restrained political parties or even individuals from calling for a Maharashtra bandh. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance has called for a shutdown across the state on August 24 to protest against the alleged sexual assault of two kindergarten girls at a school in Badlapur in Thane district.

BJP formidable entity, Cong-NC alliance good idea: Iltija Mufti

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Srinagar, August 23: The PDP is yet to announce any alliance. Iltija spoke to HT about the chances of aligning with other parties, her party's goals, and her political leap New Delhi: The Jammu and Kashmir elections next month will see a third-generation member of the Mufti family contest from the family borough of Bijbehara.

the valley during the scrapping of 370 rejected charges that regional parties are nepotistic. Honestly, I have to admit that this is not my decision. The party felt it was best for me to contest because there's been a complete vacuum since



the past five years. The current state of affairs in Kashmir is such that the party feels that we need voices that are going

to be strong and, more importantly, truthful. And they felt that I've been very vocal since 2019, after the scrapping of Article 370. And obviously, Ms (Mehbooba) Mufti also had quite a big role to play in this. I've always been a very political being... when you grow up in a political family where your breakfast, lunch, dinner, and conversations all revolve around politics.

Kerala government under fire over delayed release of report on sexual harassment in Malayalam film industry

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Chandigarh, August 23: The Justice K Hema Committee report on sexual abuse and harassment in the Malayalam film industry has sparked a major political controversy, with the opposition criticising the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala government for its delayed release and alleged inaction.

accounts of sexual abuse, including of child artistes, and casting couch instances, prompting Kerala State Human Rights Commission to call for a thorough investigation and explanation.



demanding a police investigation and the formation of a special investigation team (SIT) comprising senior women IPS officers to address the issues highlighted in the report.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy. The policy aims to create a society where women and men have equal access to resources, opportunities, and benefits, but the report reveals a contrasting reality in the Malayalam film industry.

HC order against bandh is slap for Opposition, will implement: CM Shinde

Mumbai, August 23: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said the Bombay High Court's order restraining any person or party from calling for a Maharashtra bandh over the Badlapur incident was a "slap" for the Opposition, and the government will implement the directive.



steps. Speaking at a gathering here to launch the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, Shinde said the Badlapur incident - where two kindergarten girls were allegedly sexually assaulted in the school washroom - was a "blot on humanity."

24 killed, 16 injured as Indian passenger bus plunges into river in Nepal

Naresh Malhotra

Kathmandu, August 23: At least 24 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra for a 10-day tour were killed and 16 others injured after a tourist bus veered off the highway and fell into fast-flowing Marsyangdi river in central Nepal on Friday, police said.

lage in Jalgaon district. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday morning.

Madhav Prasad Paudel, chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said that most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives. A list of names of the 43 passengers who were in the ill-fated bus has been released.

appointed to coordinate the relief work. Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner GS Naveen

Maharashtra, including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into river Marshyandi in Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal.

The statement added, "The UP government has sent SDM Maharajanjanj to the incident site. The MEA is coordinating the search and rescue operations with local authorities."



Kumar in a press statement said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11:30 am, a bus with registration number - UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 43 passengers from

News box

In Mumbai, 25-year-old gets 20 years RI for gang-raping 16-yr-old

MUMBAI. A special Poeso court on Thursday convicted and sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl in 2017, reports Rebecca Samervel. Two other accused in the case who are minors will be tried by Juvenile Justice Board. Among the dozen-odd witnesses was the victim.

The court found the accused guilty of the offence of gang rape under Indian Penal Code. Additionally the accused was also convicted for offences under Poeso Act.

"He is sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 20 years and also a fine of Rs 50,000...in default of payment of fine, to suffer three months rigorous imprisonment for the offence punishable under Section 376D (gang rape) of IPC," the judge said.

The judge further said after deposit of fine amount by the accused, Rs 50,000 be paid to victim, after appeal period is over. "In addition to above, the District Legal Service Authority, Mumbai shall determine the compensation of victim...The accused is undertrial prisoner since date of arrest...and therefore, set off... be given to him for the period undergone by him during the investigation, inquiry or trial," the judge said.

Maharashtra cyber police arrest hacker from Bengaluru for breaching Dream11 data, demanding ransom

MUMBAI. In a significant crackdown on digital extortion, Maharashtra Cyber police have arrested a man in Bangalore for allegedly hacking into the data source of Dream11, a popular fantasy sports platform with over 20 crore users.

The accused, identified as Abhishek Pratap Singh, not only breached the company's systems but also sent a threatening email demanding payment in exchange for not releasing the stolen data on the dark web.

The incident came to light when Sporta Technologies Private Limited, the company behind Dream11, received an alarming email on August 11th from an unknown Gmail account.

The hacker claimed that over 1,200 repositories from Dream11's GitHub account had been compromised. To prove his point, he attached samples of the stolen data and warned that he would sell the entire data set on the dark web if his demands were not met. The email read: "I want to bring to your attention that your GitHub account has been compromised, and over 1,200 repositories are accessible. For your reference, I have attached some examples of the compromised repositories and included the names of others for verification.

Review the attached information and let me know if you would like to take action to prevent these repositories from being uploaded to the dark web."

Weekend wanderlust: Janmashtami break witnesses surge in road trips

Ahmedabad. This Janmashtami long weekend, road trips seem to be the go-to choice for vacationers from Gujarat, with many taking advantage of the extended break from Saturday through Monday. Many are setting out on Friday evening or early Saturday morning, heading towards popular tourist spots in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and within Gujarat. A combination of self-driven trips, stable hotel rates, and diverse options — from private villas to direct flights to long-haul destinations — are contributing to a dynamic travel season. Bookings are reportedly consistent with last year's trends.

Rajasthan remains a top choice, with Udaipur, Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur, Mount Abu and Jhadol attracting many tourists from the state. Within Gujarat, religious sites like Dwarka and Somnath will draw pilgrims, while coastal getaways such as Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Silvassa and Diu are popular among those looking for a quiet downtime.

Travel industry estimates suggest that the average cost for a three-night, four-day stay per couple ranges from Rs 30,000 to 50,000.

Ankit Bajaj, owner of a travel company in Ahmedabad, said, "High demand for the long weekend has raised concerns about the availability of rental cabs. Hotel tariffs have remained relatively stable, with ample room availability across various budgets, making bookings steady. Private villas have emerged as a popular choice, especially among families, offering a blend of privacy and comfort."

Travel operators also observed that many seasoned travellers, who typically avoid peak season crowds and prefer peace and quiet to explore new places at their own leisure, have chosen this weekend for short international trips as well.

NGT bins Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board memo allowing brick kilns

CHENNAI. The southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set aside a memo issued by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), which inadvertently gave immunity to illegal brick kilns from the union environment ministry's siting criteria.

The criteria for brick kilns, released in 2022, mandated a minimum distance of 800m from habitations and fruit orchards, and one km from existing brick kilns to avoid clusters in an area. The pollution control boards were also asked to make siting criteria stringent.

However, a memo issued by TNPCB on February 14, 2023, interpreted the notification stating that the guidelines would only apply to new brick kilns and not those in existence. Using this,



illegal brick kilns in Thadagam valley, which were operating without any statutory approvals, applied for consent to operate

(CTO) from TNPCB. This was challenged by M Manickaraj, a resident of Thadagam in Coimbatore, before the NGT.

The green tribunal, after hearing all parties, passed the order on Thursday saying the impugned memo from TNPCB, if allowed, would facilitate illegal brick kilns to continue without any check. "Hence the same is not permissible and the impugned clarification is set aside as not proper. TNPCB is directed to issue appropriate directions to its officers down the state to follow the MoEF&CC notification in its proper perspective," the tribunal said and disposed of the application.

In March this year, the Madras high court had also passed similar orders related to TNPCB's memo.

Illegal mining of earth and operation of brick kilns in the Thadagam valley has resulted in severe damage to the sensitive ecosystem of the region, disrupted elephant corridors and caused severe pollution. People living in villages were subjected to severe air and water pollution and truck movements posed serious damage to rural infrastructure and safety of the people.

Thadagam valley in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats was ravaged by more than 145 brick kilns, which were illegally operating without consent and shut down after proceedings in courts. These issues are pending consideration before the NGT, including the issue of remediation of the damage caused.

Heavy rain hits Vijayawada, causing traffic chaos, waterlogging

VIJAYAWADA. A sudden downpour in Vijayawada on Thursday evening brought relief to residents suffering from sweltering heat but caused significant disruptions across the city. The heavy rain, which lasted over two hours, led to waterlogging on major roads, including Eluru Road and Besant Road, causing traffic jams at key junctions like Benz Circle. Several low-lying areas were inundated, and commuters, particularly those on two-wheelers, struggled to navigate the flooded streets.

The stretch from Benz Circle to NTR Circle became heavily clogged due to rainwater accumulation. Same is the situation at Auto Nagar, Currency Nagar,



Ramavarappadu Junction, Machavaram, Prasadampadu, Satyanarayanapuram, Chittinganagar and Jakkampudi YSR Colony. "Pedestrians and motorists faced

inconveniences due to waterlogged roads and traffic snarls. It took more than 30 minutes to reach Benz Circle from PNBS as the entire stretch was jam-packed with vehicles due to traffic jams on Varadhi bridge," said a resident of Labbipet, Venkat. Following the rain, VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanchandra inspected the affected areas, including Pandit Nehru Bus Station and the low bridge near KR Market. He instructed officials to prioritize clearing waterlogged areas and restoring traffic flow, while coordinating efforts across departments to minimize disruption for residents.

Probe on against trader selling fake Puma bags in Kochi

KOCHI. After knockoff products of Apple and Rado were seized from Kochi, now German firm Puma SE has complained about fake bags and apparel bearing its label being sold in shops at Broadway.

Following a complaint by Puma SE representatives, police registered a case and started an investigation against traders. The case was registered following the complaint of a senior manager and Intellectual Properties attorney of Puma SE in India. According

to police, Puma representatives visited several shops in Broadway after receiving information that products carrying the emblem of Puma SE were sold illegally in Kochi. "Currently, they complained about a shop named Aysha Traders located at Cloth Bazar inside the Broadway market. It is a wholesale trading firm. It is learnt that such copy products are being supplied by the trader to shops in other parts of the state in large quantity," a police officer told. The case was registered by the police for

violating the Copyright Act and Trade Marks Act. "We have seized numerous bags from the shop. Similarly, we are collecting information about manufacturers of these products carrying names of national and global brands. The probe reveals that they were supplied from other states in the country," the officer said. In June, following a tip-off from a company possessing the patent of Casio, Rado, and Tissot in India, officials seized over 600 knockoff products from shops in Broadway.

Telangana: Standing Committee approves revised estimates for elevated

HYDERABAD. The GHMC Standing Committee, chaired by Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi, met on Thursday and approved revised estimates of Rs 565 crore (excluding land acquisition costs). The new estimates reflect an increase of Rs 139 crore over the original cost sanctioned under the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP).

The funds are allocated for the construction of a four-lane bidirectional elevated corridor from Indira Park to VST main road, crossing NTR Stadium junction, Ashok Nagar cross road junction, RTC cross road junction and Baghlingampally junction" and construction of three-lane bidirectional grade separator from Ram Nagar to Baghlingampally, crossing VST main road at the second level and passing through The Indian Hume pipe Co. Ltd land and Vazir Sultan Tobacco land.

The revised administrative sanction by the state government was ratified by the Standing Committee on Thursday. Other approvals by the Standing Committee include inviting quotations from travel agencies for a study tour for GHMC corporators, scheduled in three phases from September 1 to 30, 2024, with 50 persons per phase. The committee also approved income and expenditure details for GHMC from March 2024 to May 2024.

Additionally, the committee approved the adoption of Gurunath Cheruvu lake in Miyapur by Malligavud Foundation for development and rejuvenation under a CSR initiative. GHMC will sign a six-month MoU with the Foundation. The committee also approved Rs 9.88 crore for the renewal and maintenance of 15 IT modules for GHMC from November 2023 to October 2026.



Residents of Kannappar Thidal shelter resort to protest seeking free houses

CHENNAI. Over 100 residents of the corporation-run shelter at Kannappar Thidal, who have been staying there for over 20 years now, took to the streets on Thursday, demanding houses. They were detained briefly by the city police and let off later in the day. Residents whom spoke to said they had been awaiting house allotments for several years now.

As many as 128 families are lodged in the corporation shelter at present. One hall at the home has been divided into small compartments. They said the space available to each family is scant, and in some compartments, they can't even stretch their legs. The families were originally pavement dwellers and were brought to the shelter in 2002. Even the talks to allot them houses in the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) tenements at Moolakothalam had hit a



roadblock. The allotment of houses included a beneficiary contribution component that worked out to around Rs 4 lakh per household.

Three men, including dad, held for raping Class 10 girl in Chennai

CHENNAI. Three persons, including the father of a Class 10 girl, have been arrested under sections of the Poeso Act for allegedly raping the minor girl near Kolathur. The issue came to light when the minor was rescued from a man, who allegedly abducted her to Chengalpattu on August 19. Upon receiving a missing complaint from the child's mother, the police traced her mobile network and rescued her from a house in Chengalpattu. She was brought back to Chennai for questioning, and Ruben (27) was arrested on the charges of abducting and raping her.

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News box

Gurgaon labourer dies in hit & run on Nh8

GURGAON. A 35-year-old labourer died after being hit by a car on NH8 at Manesar on Tuesday night. A case was registered on Wednesday based on complaint of one of his relatives. In his complaint, Sandeep Kumar, who was from Rohwas in Rewari, alleged that he and his cousin, Baljit Singh, a tyre repair shop owner, came to Aliyar village in the city to meet their sister. The duo deboarded from a private bus at IMT Chowk in Manesar at around 8.30 pm on Aug 20. "We were walking along the roadside after crossing NH 8 when an Ecco Sports car hit Baljit from behind. I asked the car driver to take Baljit to Siddhi Hospital in Dharuhera. After examining Baljit, the doctor advised us to take him to the govt hospital in Bhiwadi immediately. I arranged for an ambulance to take him there, as the car driver had fled from the scene," the complainant said. According to SI Balraj Singh, Baljit was declared dead at the hospital, and the car driver is absconding. Based on Sandeep's complaint, a case was registered under BNS sections 106 (causing death due to negligence) and 281 (rash driving in a public way) against the unknown car driver on Wednesday. In another case, a 27-year-old private security guard, Pintu Kumar from Nawada in Bihar, was working at an airline company office in Sector 44. On Aug 14 night, an unknown vehicle hit him while he was crossing the road at IFFCO Chowk. He was shifted to Civil Hospital in Sector 10, and from there, he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital on Aug 15, said an officer. "Later, my son was shifted to ESI hospital in Faridabad. While undergoing treatment there, he succumbed to injuries on Aug 21," said Pintu's father, Mithlesh Kumar. Based on Mithlesh's complaint, police registered a case on Wednesday night under BNS sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash or negligent driving on public ways).

Cash flow in assembly polls to be tracked by I-T department

GURGAON. The Income Tax department has set up a 185-member Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) to monitor and track the movement and uses of cash in the Haryana assembly election. The unit will work in coordination with the district election officers. According to officials, to address the complaints received, the department has deployed teams of officers and officials in each district of Haryana. These teams, comprising 185 officers and officials, will closely collaborate with the District Control Room of the District Election Officer and other agencies at the district level. They will investigate the authenticity of the information received and take necessary action to seize cash or other valuables as per the law. "The department closely monitors individuals, locations, and activities that may be associated with handling unreported cash during the election process. An Air Intelligence Unit operates at Chandigarh Airport, maintaining a strict watch on cash movements by air, including chartered flights. Cash movements through railways are also monitored," said an official. The Directorate of Investigation will also examine the affidavits of candidates declaring their assets and liabilities. If any suppression of information comes to notice, the same will be reported to the Election Commission (EC) in due course. Similarly, if any incriminating information relating to the election expenses by candidates is gathered, it will also be reported to the EC.

Haryana: You can apply for voter ID card till September 2

GURGAON. People, who turned 18 years old on or after July 1, can apply for voter identity cards till Sept 2, district election officer and deputy commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav said. The final voter list for assembly elections will be released on August 27 and polling will be held on Oct 1. "If the names of those who turned 18 by the cut-off date are not included in the list, they can contact their area's booth level officer (BLO) and fill up Form 6 to register for the same," the DC said, adding that the young voters will have one week after the publication of the final voter list to get their names added. The nomination for the polls will begin on Sept 5 and the last date for submitting nomination is Sept 12, the DC said. Young people can also register online through the National Voters' Services Portal (NVSP). According to the election commission, the eligibility date for voter registration was earlier set every year on January 1, however, the date is now set four times a year - on Jan 1,



April 1, July 1, and Oct 1. During the voter verification campaign, 18,013 new applications for voter registration were received by Aug 16. Of these, 5,204 names have been added to the voter list and 269 rejected.

Come up with plan, timelines to clear garbage in Gurgaon, Centre tells MCG

GURGAON. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has directed MCG to prepare an action plan with well-defined timelines for efficient waste management. The civic body is required to submit the action plan as an affidavit to the Supreme Court and provide copies to MoEFCC and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). According to MCG officials, they are currently formulating an action plan that will include specific timelines for initiating decentralised waste processing and completing the processing of legacy waste at Bandhwari landfill. The plan will also outline the strategies and methods MCG intends to employ to achieve these objectives. In a meeting held recently to discuss



waste management in Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Noida, the urban local bodies (ULBs) of the cities were directed to formulate the action plan. The next hearing of the Supreme Court on a matter related to the disposal of solid waste in Delhi-NCR is scheduled for Sept 6. "The ministry has directed us to provide an action plan, in the form of an affidavit, outlining our strategies and timelines for clearing legacy waste and implementing decentralised waste processing. The plan should also include details on the quantity of waste that will be managed by bulk waste generators and the specific timelines for achieving this. The ministry sought a clear roadmap for the progressive management of waste by bulk waste generators, starting from

20% and gradually increasing to 100%, along with the corresponding timelines for each milestone," said a senior MCG official. "The ministry also asked for a detailed explanation of our commitment to clear the legacy waste at Bandhwari by Dec this year. They have requested a comprehensive plan for

compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, with steps we will take to accomplish this goal on time," he added. In the meetings held on Aug 1 and 7, MCG informed MoEFCC and MoHUA that the legacy waste at Bandhwari is anticipated to be remediated by Dec. The civic body added that according to an MoU signed with NTPC Vidut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NNVL) on July 20, a torrefied charcoal plant will be established with a projected operational date of Nov 2026. The plant will address the waste processing deficit. "All the ULBs (Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Greater Noida) are to develop short-term action plans with details of immediate measures being taken for better solid waste management in the cities, covering collection, segregation, transportation, and processing. Covering the management of fresh as well as legacy waste, the action plan should have concrete actions with timelines that will be implemented immediately and monitored continuously," read the minutes of the MoEFCC meetings held on Aug 1 and Aug 7.

Mpox: Govt asks dists to set up isolation facilities & appoint nodal officers

GURGAON. The Haryana health department on Thursday directed all districts to be on high alert and emphasised the importance of sensitising healthcare professionals and conducting screening and testing of suspected measles cases. The screening is to be done through targeted surveillance for sites identified by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for men who have sex with men and female sex workers as well as through hospital-based surveillance in dermatology clinics, STD clinics, medicine, and paediatrics OPDs.

The department also advised all districts to identify isolation facilities and appoint nodal officers for efficient patient management and districts were advised to ensure availability of required logistics such as sample transport material, PPE and gloves. The districts were instructed to perform screening at red zones and promptly isolate suspected patients, particularly those exhibiting symptoms such as fever, rash, or a history



of contact with confirmed monkeypox cases, upon their arrival. Staff members were told to adhere to personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols while interacting with suspected measles cases

transport material, PPE, and gloves. Moreover, the department encouraged the districts to organise meetings with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), specifically engage with paediatricians, dermatologists, and physicians, to spread awareness.

"...the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is presently low for India. However, the possibility of a few imported cases being detected in the coming weeks is not entirely ruled out," stated an advisory by director general health services, Haryana. "All hospitals in Gurgaon have been instructed to remain vigilant, and if any suspected cases come to their attention, they are to promptly inform the integrated disease surveillance programme (IDSP) unit. The incubation period for those infected is 7 to 14 days but it can also range from 5 to 21 days, and the patient is usually contagious during this period," said Dr. Virender Yadav, chief medical officer of Gurgaon.

Lift has free fall for 3 floors, 11-yr-old girl fractures ankle in Gurgaon

GURGAON. A 11-year-old girl suffered an ankle fracture after the lift she boarded allegedly fell three floors in Raheja Vedantaa society in Sector 108. According to her parents, the incident happened on Tuesday afternoon when Hiranyaa boarded the lift on the third floor of Tower H to attend her tuition class. In a complaint to the RWA, her parents claimed the lift had a free fall from the

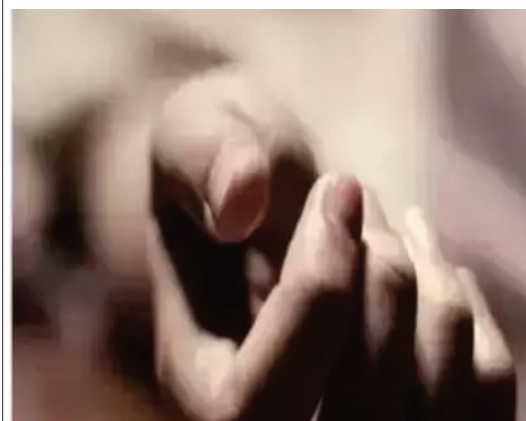
distress upon arriving home, Hiranyaa's mother Himika Khurana said: "She was crying profusely and was in severe pain due to the fracture. The RWA is neglecting maintenance of the lifts in the society. The lift has a history of frequent malfunctions, including strange noises and sudden jerks, which have been reported to the society's RWA and facility management numerous times." Despite this, no meaningful action

demand immediate action, not just for the repair of the lift, but for a comprehensive review of the safety measures in place for all residents, especially children," she added. On Wednesday, the family informed police about the incident. A police team came to the society but left after the RWA's assurances that the matter would be looked into. No police complaint has been filed so far. Raheja

Delivery executive strangles wife in Gurgaon, stuffs her body in sack and dumps it

GURGAON. Police arrested a 32-year-old grocery delivery executive from UP's Vrindavan on Wednesday for allegedly strangling his 27-year-old wife at their house in Sector 53 on Aug 17.

On Aug 18, Biltu stuffed Shefali's body in a sack and dumped it in front of Rohan Motors, an automobile service centre, in Sector 52. "Biltu and Shefali, who are West Bengal's Malda, had been living in Sector 53. Upset with his alcohol addiction, Shefali had gone to her hometown and returned to Gurgaon recently. On Aug 17, Biltu smothered her with a pillow to death after she threatened to leave him due to his addiction," ACP (crime) Varun Dahiya said. "Security employees at Rohan Motors informed police after spotting the sack on Aug 18 morning. Our team visited the spot and found the body. A case has been registered under BNS Section 103 (1) (murder) at Sector 53 police



station after the Rohan Motors security guard filed a complaint on the same day," the ACP said. Shefali's family approached the police

Withdrawal of security of women wrestlers a 'miscommunication'

New Delhi, August 23: The Delhi Police on Friday informed a court here that it has rectified the earlier "miscommunication" about the withdrawal of security of the women wrestlers who are set to testify against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot had asked the city police to file a detailed report by Friday regarding the reasons for the withdrawal of the security cover of a woman wrestler who is to testify against Singh. Earlier on Thursday, the court had passed an interim order directing the city police to immediately reinstate the security of the female wrestler who has accused Singh of sexual harassment.

Name Change
I, NO-14859434P, Rank-LINK, Name-MOHD ADIL KHAN residing at H NO-227B, ROAD NO-07, KRISHNA NAGAR, IZZAT NAGAR, BAREILLY, UP-243122 have changed my father's name from MOHD ASLAM KHAN to MOHAMED ASLAM KHAN for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 23/08/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

Name Change
I, Abhishek Bidhuri S/o Shri Ramkesh Bidhuri R/o House No. C-51, Tekhand Village, New Delhi-110020 have changed my Minor Daughter Name from Redhi Bidhuri to Ridhi Bidhuri for all the purpose. Her Mother's Correct Name is Nirmala.

Name Change
I, Bharti Taneja W/o Chirag Gaba R/o H.No-823, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my Name To Bharti For Future Purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed that Mr. Radhey Shyam is the owner of the built-up property bearing No. A-514, Block-A, Eastern Fortin of Khata No. 29, measuring 100 sq. yds., situated in the area of Sadhora Kalan, Colony known as Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052. This property was originally purchased by Mr. Ram Kishan from Mr. Kartar Singh through a Sale Deed dated 15.03.1963. Subsequently, Mr. Ram Kishan passed away on 02.09.1982, and Sita Rani also passed away, leaving behind legal heirs: Mrs. Nirmala Devi, Mrs. Meena Devi, Mrs. Rajrani, Mrs. Nina Devi, Mrs. Reena Sharma, Anil Kumar and Mr. Radhey Shyam. Thereafter, Mrs. Nirmala Devi, Mrs. Meena Devi, Mrs. Rajrani, Mrs. Nina Devi, and Mrs. Reena Sharma relinquished their undivided shares to Mr. Radhey Shyam through a Relinquishment Deed dated 05.08.2019. Subsequently, Anil Kumar passed away, leaving behind legal heirs Mrs. Mamta Rani and Mr. Chetan Sharma. They also relinquished their shares to Mr. Radhey Shyam through a Relinquishment Deed dated 24.10.2019. Please note that the Surviving Certificates related to the said property are not available. The same property is now going to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Branch Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE
MY CLIENTS SMT. SONIE DEVI W/O SH. RAMDEEN SINGH AND SH. RAMDEEN SINGH S/O LATE SH. RAMJI LAL R/O H.NO.124/1988, SANGAM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110080, HAVE SEVERED ALL RELATIONS AND DISOWNING THEIR SON DINESH KUMAR AND HIS WIFE PINKI DEVI FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ASSETS OF HIS/HER FREE WILL AND CONSENT AS DUE TO CERTAIN ISSUES, PERSONAL DIFFERENCES, IRREGULAR ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND IS/WERE NOT ACCORDING TO HER/HIM THE ABOVE NAMED SON/Daughter WIFE WERE BEYOND HIS/HER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION. ANY ACT DONE BY THEM WHICH EVEN INCLUDE MONEY, PROPERTY, EMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IS NOT RELATED TO US. WE ARE NOT LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CLAIM MADE BY THEM OF ANY KIND.
KULDEEP KR. GUPTA
ADVOCATE
Office at-K-1293/16,
Gali No. 19, Sangam Vihar,
New Delhi-110080

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that the political party by the name of GLOBAL REPUBLICAN PARTY (name of the party) with headquarters at 71, Third Floor, Matru Ashish Apartment, Tribhuvan Nagar, Infront of Akhandanand College, Ved Road, Surat, Gujarat-395004 (give full address of party office), registered with the Election Commission, proposes to change its name to REPUBLICAN PARTY OF INDIA (BHMIRAO AMBEDKAR). If anyone has any objection to the proposed new name they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication.

Name Change
I, GYANARANJAN NAYAK S/O DWARIKANATH NAYAK residing at 308-A H-31 SECOND FLOOR TANDORI CHOWK TIHAR VILLAGE TILAK NAGAR DELHI-110018 have changed my name to GYAN RANJAN NAYAK permanently

Name Change
I, HUKUMPAL SINGH Father No. 15449027F, Rank-SEP, Name-VIKAS SINGH residing at VILL-PURE LAXMI NARAYAN, GOPALPUR, PO-PARSHADEPUR, PS-DEEH, TEHSIL-SALON, DISTT-RAEBARELI, UP-229129 have changed my name from HUKUMPAL SINGH to HUKUM PAL SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 23/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, Bharti Taneja W/o Chirag Gaba R/o H.No-823, Sector-4, Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my Name To Bharti For Future Purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Bijendra Singh Tomar S/o Mahipal Singh Tomar and Smt. Satyawati Tomar W/o Bijendra Singh Tomar both R/o Plot No.2A/9, Flat No.5, Kishan Garh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 have disowned/debarred their son Mukul Tomar from their all moveable/immovable properties/assets and severed relations with them, my clients shall not be responsible for any acts done by them in future.
AJAY SHARMA ADVOCATE
Ch.No.478, Lawyers Chamber Block, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to all public at large that my client Sh. Nitin/So. Sh. Chander Mohan, R/o. F-1/3, Police Staff Quarter, Police Station Model Town, Delhi-110009, states that he has changed his minor son's name as BHAVYM from ANSH. My client's son's correct Aadhar card number is 7280-5949-6645. It is further submitted that in future the name BHAVYM should be mentioned, known and written instead of ANSH in all the relevant documents i.e. Birth Certificate, Aadhar Card, School records and etc., forever from today onwards for all the purposes.
Harjeet Singh Sidhu ADVOCATE
Ch. No T-40 Lawyers Chambers
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

1 Name of Work with its Location	Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Auto Tension Devices (ATDs) over DLI Division.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 3,33,83,636.22
3 Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,16,900/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.09.2024 (00:00 Hrs.) to 17.09.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.09.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
6 Fund Allocation	070-410-32
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 28-TRD-NDLS-2024-25, Dated: 22.08.2024 2631/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Name Change
I, VANDANA BHATI D/o Rajkumar R/o 885, Sector-9, Near St.Anthony School, Faridabad, Haryana-121006, Have Changed My Name To Vandana Singh For All Future Purpose

Name Change
I, SUMAN SINGH Mother of No-15449027F, Rank-SEP, Name-VIKAS SINGH residing at VILL-PURE LAXMI NARAYAN, GOPALPUR, PO-PARSHADEPUR, PS-DEEH, TEHSIL-SALON, DISTT-RAEBARELI, UP-229129 have changed my name from SUMAN SINGH to SUMAN DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 23/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Ompal Yadav is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot, area measuring 195 Sq. Yards i.e 163 Sq. Mtrs out of Khaska No. 444, Situated in the Village of Kulesra Pargana Dadrri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. By Virtue, Sale Deed dated 23.01.2023 which is duly registered in the office of Sr. Sadar Greater Noida as Document No. 2011, Book No. 1 Volume No. 42279 on Pages No. 319-338 dated 23.01.2023., initially Mrs. Purn Singh, Mr. Naruwa Singh, Mr. Meek Singh, Mr. Hari Singh and Mr. Chob Singh all S/o Mr. Rishal Singh were the absolute owner by virtue of Sale Deed dated 29.06.1996, thereafter Mr. Chob Singh died, thereafter her legal heirs executed Sale Deed in favour of Mr. Ompal Yadav., now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Incred Financial Services Limited.: Branch C.P. New Delhi. If any person is having objection/ right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
(NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA)
ADVOCATE
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09558871432

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed that Mr. Radhey Shyam is the owner of the built-up property bearing No. A-514, Block-A, Eastern Fortin of Khata No. 29, measuring 100 sq. yds., situated in the area of Sadhora Kalan, Colony known as Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052. This property was originally purchased by Mr. Ram Kishan from Mr. Kartar Singh through a Sale Deed dated 15.03.1963. Subsequently, Mr. Ram Kishan passed away on 02.09.1982, and Sita Rani also passed away, leaving behind legal heirs: Mrs. Nirmala Devi, Mrs. Meena Devi, Mrs. Rajrani, Mrs. Nina Devi, Mrs. Reena Sharma, Anil Kumar and Mr. Radhey Shyam. Thereafter, Mrs. Nirmala Devi, Mrs. Meena Devi, Mrs. Rajrani, Mrs. Nina Devi, and Mrs. Reena Sharma relinquished their undivided shares to Mr. Radhey Shyam through a Relinquishment Deed dated 05.08.2019. Subsequently, Anil Kumar passed away, leaving behind legal heirs Mrs. Mamta Rani and Mr. Chetan Sharma. They also relinquished their shares to Mr. Radhey Shyam through a Relinquishment Deed dated 24.10.2019. Please note that the Surviving Certificates related to the said property are not available. The same property is now going to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Branch Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, U.P.

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAINS
It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 05671/05672 Guwahati-Anand Vihar T.-Guwahati Special as per details given below:-

Train No.	From	To	Days of Run	Notified up to	Period of Extension
05671	Guwahati	Anand Vihar T.	Wednesday	21.08.24	28.08.24 & 04.09.24
05672	Anand Vihar T.	Guwahati	Friday	23.08.24	30.08.24 & 06.09.24

Rest all the instructions will hold good.
For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of other stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTEs App.
Please join us on
RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad Website:-
www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
2632/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

News box

Australia's new 'right to disconnect' law allows 'ignoring' bosses after work

Sydney. Australian employees will from Monday have the right to ignore their bosses outside working hours thanks to a new law which enshrines the "right to disconnect." The law, which passed in February, protects employees who refuse to monitor, read or respond to contact from their employers outside work hours. Similar laws giving employees a right to switch off their mobile devices are already in place in France, Germany and other countries in the European Union. As the law moved through parliament earlier this year it drew criticism from employer groups who called the legislation rushed and flawed. The law allows for certain circumstances where an employee's right to refuse is unreasonable, depending on their role, the reason for the contact, and how it is made, among other factors.

Six-year-old Vietnamese boy rescued alive after five days lost in dense forest

World. A six-year-old boy who was missing for five days has been found deep in a forest in Vietnam. Dang Tien Lam, a resident of Van Yen district in Yen Bai province, disappeared on August 17 while playing in a stream with his nine siblings. Lam was discovered on Wednesday by a local farmer, Ly Van Nang, who found the boy in a weakened state and unable to stand. Lam was located sitting among cassava bushes approximately 6 km from where he had gone missing. "I'm so tired, I can't stand up. Please carry me," Lam reportedly said, according to 52-year-old farmer Ly Van Nang, as cited by BBC News. During his ordeal, Lam survived by eating leaves, wild fruits, and drinking stream water. Local authorities had mobilised around 200 people, including police, soldiers, and volunteers, to search for the child.



The intensive search included reviewing CCTV footage to determine if Lam had been abducted. After ruling out kidnapping, rescuers checked streams and even emptied fish ponds to investigate the possibility of drowning. Just before noon on Wednesday, while farmer Ly Van Nang was returning to his tent in the forest for lunch, he heard the child's cries. Nang promptly carried Lam down the hill, where he was reunited with his parents and subsequently taken to a medical facility for a health check-up.

Thailand Plane Crash: All 9 on board believed dead



World. The names of those on board were not immediately available. However, the spokesperson said they included five Chinese tourists from Hong Kong, two Thai female crew and the Thai pilot and co-pilot.

The cause of the crash is not yet known. According to the reports, Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand said the turboprop plane, a Cessna Caravan C208B operated by the Thai Flying Service Company, had departed Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport at 2:46 p.m. (0746 GMT). Air traffic control lost radio and radar contact with the aircraft 11 minutes later, when it was at estimated 35 kilometers (22 miles) southeast of the airport. It had been headed to Trat, a coastal province about 275 kilometers (171 miles) southeast of the Thailand's capital, AP reported. Video from the scene showed highly fragmented pieces of the plane in water in the middle of a wooded area. A rescuer could be seen in muddy water up to his chest. The Chachoengsao provincial spokesperson said further searches were going slowly because it was already dark and the rising tide had flooded the crash site with more water.

At DNC, Kamala Harris to accept nomination in biggest speech of her career

Kamala Harris will be the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to accept a major party's presidential nomination, and if elected, she would be the first female US president.

Chicago. Vice President Kamala Harris will tell voters they have a chance to chart a "new way forward" as Americans this November, as she looks to introduce herself to voters and prosecute her case against Republican Donald Trump Thursday night as she accepts her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention. Harris' address in Chicago caps a whirlwind eight

weeks in American politics and manifests the stunning reversal of Democratic fortunes just 75 days until Election Day. Party leaders, who had publicly despaired over President Joe Biden's candidacy after his disastrous debate against Trump, were jubilant both at the historic nature of Harris' candidacy and their buoyed hopes for this November. "With this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past," Harris will say, according to excerpts released by her campaign. "A chance to chart a New Way Forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans." Harris will be the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to accept a major party's presidential nomination, and if elected, she would be the first female US president. And when she takes the stage, she will be looking out across a sea of female delegates and Democratic supporters wearing white — the colour of women's suffrage — the movement that culminated



with American women securing the right to vote in 1920. A festive mood filled the United Center before Harris appeared onstage, with a packed audience including running mate Tim Walz dancing and singing along to a mix of pop and classic rock. Two of Harris' young grandnieces were brought onstage by actress Kerry Washington to remind the convention how to correctly pronounce her first name. At the girls' direction, one side of the arena shouted "comma" and the other "la." Just a month after Biden ended his reelection bid and endorsed her to replace him atop the

Democratic ticket, Harris will look to make the most of her chance to define herself to voters on her own terms before an audience of millions. Harris will share her background rising from a middle-class family to protect others as a prosecutor, contrast her "optimistic" vision with Trump's "dark" agenda and evoke a sense of patriotism, according to a campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive speech preparations. Harris spoke briefly to the convention on Monday, when she thanked Biden and celebrated his record as president, and again on Tuesday, when the beginning of her rally in Milwaukee was streamed into the convention hall after Democrats reaffirmed their nomination of her with a state-by-state roll call. Among others who will speak before Harris on Thursday were Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, civil rights leader Al Sharpton and Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

11 cops killed, several injured in rocket attack in Pakistan's Punjab

According to officials in Pakistan, dacoits armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed a police convoy in Punjab province, killing at least 11 officers and wounding others.

Lahore. At least 11 policemen were killed and several injured when outlaws attacked them with rockets in Punjab province of Pakistan on Thursday, police said. Many police personnel were also taken hostage in Rahim Yar Khan district, some 400 kilometres from Lahore when two police mobile vans got stuck in a muddy roadway at Macha Point. "Meanwhile dacoits (outlaws)



reached there and attacked them with rockets. At least 11 cops were killed in the attack on the spot while some of them were taken hostages and remaining were injured," a spokesperson for the Punjab

police said. He added the death toll might increase as the condition of some of the injured was critical. The outlaws managed to flee after the attack. The spokesperson said a heavy contingent of police reached the spot and shifted the injured to Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan following the incident.

Taking strict notice of the incident, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz ordered IG Police Dr Usman Anwar to rush to the spot and launch an operation to recover the policemen taken hostage by the outlaws. She said the outlaws' rule in kacha areas (suburbs) of such districts will not be tolerated.

Russian ambassador says US plans to give Ukraine carte blanche on weapons

Moscow. Russia believes that the United States will at some point remove all restrictions on the use of weapons supplied to Ukraine, the RIA news agency cited Russian ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Antonov as saying on Friday. "The current administration behaves like a person who extends one hand and holds a dagger behind their back with another one," Antonov said, describing Washington's recent comments about Kyiv not being allowed to use U.S. weapons for strikes deep into Russian territory as "goading." "They are, essentially, laying ground (for a decision) to simply remove all the



existing restrictions at a certain point, without much thought." The United States has provided Ukraine with more than \$50 billion worth of military aid since 2022, but has limited the use of its weapons to Ukrainian soil

and counterfire, defensive crossborder operations. Antonov said serious dialogue with the US would only become possible if it ends its "hostile" policy towards Russia, which includes the support of Ukraine and the implementation of sanctions against Moscow. Antonov said a meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken appeared unlikely during the United Nations General Assembly session next month. He also said Moscow had no plans to interfere in the US presidential elections.

Andrew Tate ordered to be put under house arrest in Romania: Report

A Romanian court has decided internet personality Andrew Tate should be placed under house arrest, his representative said in a social media post on Thursday.

Bucharest, Romania. A Romanian court has decided internet personality Andrew Tate should be placed under house arrest, his representative said in a social media post on Thursday. Prosecutors have requested that Tate be detained for 30 more days after he was among six people taken into custody in an investigation into human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Romanian prosecutors earlier requested that Andrew Tate be detained for 30 more days, the internet personality's representative said on Thursday. The former professional kickboxer and his brother Tristan were among six people detained on Wednesday for an initial 24 hours after Romania's anti-organised crime prosecuting unit DIICOT conducted four home searches in Ilfov county and the Bucharest municipality. He was already indicted in mid-2023 along

with his brother and two Romanian female suspects for human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women, allegations they denied. "The Tate brothers have been issued a proposal for 30 days preventative arrest by the Romanian DIICOT," Tate's representative said in a statement, adding that a hearing to decide on the detention would be held at 1200 GMT in Bucharest. The representative did not address the fresh allegations against Tate in the statement and did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Before their latest detention the brothers had been subject to a travel ban, under which they were free to travel within Romania but not leave the country. A self-described misogynist, social



media influencer Tate has gained millions of fans by promoting an ultra-masculine lifestyle that critics say denigrates women. A post on Tate's account on social media platform X said "All they try to do is damage my name with complete bullshit", without specifying who was being referred to. DIICOT said in a statement that it had ordered the detention of six people for crimes including forming an organised criminal group, human trafficking,

trafficking of minors, sexual intercourse with a minor and money laundering. It said that it had requested that three of the detained defendants remain in custody while another one be put under house arrest. According to DIICOT, two of the accused used the "loverboy" method, which involves convincing victims that they are in a romantic relationship, to force 34 victims into making pornography which they then sold online for proceeds of over \$2.8 million and 887,000 tokens. DIICOT alleges that one of the defendants forced a 17-year-old minor to produce pornography in Britain and Romania creating profits of \$1.5 million. It also alleges that the same defendant repeatedly had sexual relations with a 15-year-old victim.

Iceland volcano erupts, spewing lava fountains from Reykjanes peninsula

Copenhagen. A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted on Thursday, the meteorological office said, spraying red-hot lava and smoke in its sixth outbreak since December. The total length of the fissure was about 3.9 km (2.42 miles) and had extended by 1.5 km in about 40 minutes, the Icelandic Met Office, which is tasked with monitoring volcanoes, said in a statement. Livestreams from the volcano on the Reykjanes peninsula showed glowing hot lava shooting up from the ground, their bright-yellow and orange colours set in sharp contrast against the dark night sky. "The impact is limited to a localized area near the eruption site. It does not present a threat to life and the area nearby was evacuated," Iceland's ministry for foreign affairs said on social media X. The lava was not flowing towards the nearby



Grindavik fishing town, whose nearly 4,000 residents have been mostly evacuated since November, the Met office said. The eruption took place on the Sundhnukar crater row east of mountain Sylingafell, partly overlapping

the other recent outbreaks on the Reykjanes peninsula, in a volcanic system which has no central crater but erupts by opening giant cracks in the ground. Studies had shown magma accumulating underground, prompting warnings of new volcanic activity in the area located just south of Iceland's capital, Reykjavik. The most recent eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula, home to some 30,000 people or nearly 8% of the country's total population, ended on June 22 after spewing fountains of molten rock for 24 days. The eruptions show the challenge faced by the island nation of nearly 400,000 people as scientists warn that the Reykjanes peninsula could face repeated outbreaks for decades or even centuries. In response, authorities have

constructed man-made barriers to redirect lava flows away from critical infrastructure, including the Svartsengi power plant, the Blue Lagoon outdoor spa and the town of Grindavik. Flights were unaffected, Reykjavik's Keflavik Airport said on its web page, but the nearby Blue Lagoon luxury geothermal spa and hotel said it had shut down and evacuated its guests. Volcanic outbreaks in the Reykjanes peninsula are so-called fissure eruptions, which do not usually disrupt air traffic as they do not cause large explosions or significant dispersal of ash into the stratosphere. Iceland, which is roughly the size of the U.S. state of Kentucky, boasts more than 30 active volcanoes, making the north European island a prime destination for volcano tourism - a niche segment that attracts thrill seekers.

News box

Vehicles used in bootlegging to be auctioned before verdict

Gandhinagar. The Gujarat assembly has passed a bill to amend the prohibition act, empowering the govt to auction vehicles used to transport liquor and other intoxicants even before a court pronounces its final order in the case. This decision was made with a majority vote despite opposition from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the suspension of all Congress MLAs for the day.

The Gujarat Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2024, revises Section 98(2) of the Gujarat Prohibition Act, 1949. Vehicles seized in prohibition cases currently cannot be released until a court pronounces its final order in the case. With the amendment, the govt will be able to auction such vehicles with the permission of a court.

The bill specifies that a deputy superintendent of police will be the competent authority responsible for conducting these auctions. Minister of state for home Harsh Sanghavi, while tabling the bill, assured that if the court later acquits the accused, the govt will refund the vehicle's auctioned value along with 5% interest to the owner.

This bill replaces the Gujarat Prohibition (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024, which was introduced in July. The statement of objects of the bill said, "Vehicles so confiscated cannot be returned to the owners and they remain unused in the police station or in the court compound till the final judgment of the case and in these circumstances, the condition of the vehicles becomes deteriorated. To overcome this situation, the state govt considers it necessary to amend said subsection (2) so as to dispose of such vehicles by way of auction." Minister Sanghavi emphasized the growing use of high-tech vehicles by bootleggers, making it essential to seize them.

IFSCA and Labuan Financial sign MoU

Ahmedabad. The International Financial Services Centers Authority and the Labuan Financial Services Authority have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise institutional cooperation for mutual benefit and growth. The MoU was signed by K Rajaraman, chairperson, IFSCA, and Dato' Wan Mohd Fadzmi bin Che Wan Othman Fadzilah, chairman, Labuan Financial. The MoU will facilitate knowledge sharing and adopting best practices on the development, regulation and supervision of financial markets in respective jurisdictions. The MoU will also facilitate exchange of information regarding laws, rules, etc. Tripura signs MoU with IIM Calcutta for skill development and industrial growth. Tripura Institution for Transformation and IIM Calcutta signed an MoU on the 78th Independence Day, focusing on knowledge exchange, capacity building, and research. The partnership aims to drive industrialization and skill development in Tripura, leveraging expertise and resources in collaboration with national institutions to foster economic advancement and empower the local workforce.

Raipur city may get light Metro train, MoU signed in Moscow. Raipur Municipal Corporation and Russia's Ministry of Transport have signed an MoU to introduce a light metro train in Raipur. Signed during the International Transport Summit in Moscow, the project focuses on improving the city's transport system, with a priority on environmental benefits. A Moscow team will visit Raipur to prepare essential reports and surveys. BEML signs MoU with Indian Navy to enhance indigenous marine engineering capabilities. BEML and the Indian Navy's Directorate of Marine Engineering signed an MoU to collaborate on the indigenous design, development, and manufacture of crucial marine equipment. This partnership seeks to enhance self-reliance in defence production and minimize the dependence on foreign imports, bolstering India's maritime capabilities and supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Ankita enters QF of Vigo meet

Ahmedabad. Ankita Raina, India's highest-ranked female tennis player, advanced to the quarterfinals of the ITF W35K tournament in Vigo, Spain, on Thursday with a commanding straight-sets victory.

The Ahmedabad-born player, aged 31, overcame Cadence Brace of Canada 6-4, 6-2 in a round-of-16 clash in a match lasting 1 hour and 47 minutes. During the encounter, Ankita capitalized on five out of ten break point chances on her opponent's serve while fending off six of the eight break points she faced on her own delivery. Despite a disastrous beginning, which saw her drop her first two service games and fall behind 0-4, Ankita managed to regroup and win six games in a row to secure the first set 6-4. In the second set, both players held their opening service games before Ankita surged ahead to a 4-1 lead. She eventually clinched the match by winning the second set 6-2.

Twelve teams to play 3-day invitation tournament. Twelve teams representing various associations will fight it out in the third season of the GCA-Reliance Men's U-19 All India Invitation (3-Day) Tournament 2024-25. The matches will be played at Ahmedabad, Anand and Nadiad. Gujarat-1, Gujarat-2, Baroda, Saurashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Kerala, Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab are the teams that will participate in the event.

Tragic fire at Pharma SEZ claims 17 lives, families grieve in Visakhapatnam

A grieving pregnant woman faces an uncertain future after her husband's death in the Anakapalle district tragedy.

VISAKHAPATNAM. A pall of gloom descended on the families who have lost their loved ones in the tragic fire at Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited in Atchutapuram SEZ of Anakapalle district. The major accident, which claimed 17 lives on Wednesday, has left families in deep sorrow as they gathered at King George Hospital (KGH) in Visakhapatnam to receive the bodies of their loved ones on Thursday.

Among the grieving families was a young woman named Neeladevi, four months pregnant. She lost her husband, J Chiranjeevi, in the accident. "We were married just six months ago, and I am four months pregnant," she said with her voice trembling with grief. "I am devastated by the news of my husband's death."

I don't know what to do or how to face the future without him," she rued. Chiranjeevi (24), from Darlapudi in Anakapalle district, was working as a fitter since November 2023 in the unit. Relatives of M Satish, a senior executive and a native of Pasarlapudi in East Godavari district, voiced their frustration over the lack of communication and support from the company. "We found out about the incident through the media. We tried calling Satish's phone but could not reach



him. The company authorities did not provide any updates on their condition. We are shocked at how irresponsible the company has been in handling this tragedy," the relatives said.

Trade unions and local leaders raised concerns and outrage over the incident, criticising the lack of accountability and safety measures in the SEZ. "The industries find it easier to pay compensation and ex-gratia than to undertake safety audits and protocols. It is even worse in this case because none of the authorities or owners came forward to express condolences," they averred and emphasised the need for stricter safety measures. "Every time there is an incident, ex-gratia is announced, and everything is

left hanging. No proper measures have been taken to conduct safety audits in the SEZ or outside it," they claimed. They highlighted the lack of medical facilities in the SEZ. "A few of those who died were on their way to the hospital. In spite of being a large SEZ, it does not have a hospital. A hospital should be built inside the SEZ premises immediately for first aid and to treat the injured," they suggested. "It is high time for industries to take responsibility and for the government to enforce strict safety protocols," they added.

Four workers from East Godavari district killed

The tragic incident at Escientia Pharma in Atchutapuram SEZ of Anakapalle district claimed the lives of four individuals from the former East Godavari district. The deceased were Challapalli Harika (22), a chemical engineer from Kakinada who joined as a trainee in September 2023; Kopparti Ganesh Kumar (30) from Bikkavolu, and Mariseti Satish (31) from G Mamidikuduru, both senior production executives; and Samalkot resident Mondy Nagababu (56), an Assistant Manager. Ganesh, Satish, and Nagababu, all married, leave behind families. Harika, unmarried, was the primary breadwinner for her family.

Patients turned away, services hit at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

Source said, more than 300 surgeries were either cancelled or deferred due to the strike by the resident doctors.

BHUBANESWAR. Health services were crippled at AIIMS Bhubaneswar as the protest by junior doctors here entered the 11th day on Thursday.

Although AIIMS authorities had restricted OPD services by almost 50 per cent owing to the non-cooperation from the protesting doctors, patients, who were given tickets, had a harrowing experience due to slow pace of consultation. AIIMS has a daily footfall of over 3,500 OPD patients and it conducts around 75 planned surgeries a day. Source said, more than 300 surgeries were either

cancelled or deferred due to the strike by the resident doctors. Executive director of AIIMS Dr Ashutosh Biswal said the faculty were doing their best to attend to patients in the OPD and conducting all emergency surgeries, but the process was taking more time due to the shortage of doctors. RDA representative Dr Deepak Ghuge said they have called off the strike, but will continue silent/symbolic protest by wearing black badges till their demands like justice for the victim and implementation of the Central Protection Act are met.



Bengaluru minister mandates strict adherence to eco-friendly Ganesha idols

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed district administrations to enforce a ban on Plaster of Paris idols and promote eco-friendly alternatives during the Ganesha festival.

BENGALURU. Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Thursday directed all district administrations to ensure that the use of eco-friendly Ganesha idols and the ban on Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols are strictly implemented this festive season. He said criminal cases under the Air and Water Acts will be filed against those violating the orders and polluting water bodies.

He said that so far, only directions were being given. But now, government orders have been issued well in advance. Holding a meeting with all district administrators, along with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Khandre also ordered the formation of committees under the district commissioners to promote eco-friendly idols and the use of green crackers.

Pointing to the landslides that occurred in Shirur and Wayanad recently, Khandre



said it is each one's duty to protect the environment. The government has banned manufacture, sale, storage and transportation of PoP idols, yet there have been instances where they are found to be in use. Thus to take stern action, directions

have been issued to the environment department and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to work in coordination with the police, transport and commercial taxes department. Khandre also directed DCs that while giving written permission for public idol installation, they must mention that no PoP idols will be used, no crackers will be burst, and the idols will be immersed in an eco-friendly manner.

Meanwhile, on the directions of the forest minister, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Brijesh Kumar Dikshit issued orders to all forest staffers in the state that none below the rank of range forest officer should sign FIRs being filed in wildlife cases.

Andhra CM Naidu orders stern action after fatal fire at Visakhapatnam pharma unit

VISAKHAPATNAM. Asserting that stern action will be taken against companies that fail to adhere to safety protocols, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday emphasised that though Andhra Pradesh needs industries and investments, it is equally important for companies to adhere to safety protocols.

Naidu arrived in Visakhapatnam on Thursday afternoon to visit the workers who suffered injuries in the fire mishap at a unit of Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited in Atchutapuram SEZ in Anakapalle district on Wednesday. The incident claimed lives of 17 people and left 36 others injured. Among them, 10 are severely injured, while 26 have sustained minor injuries.

Rambilli Police in Anakapalle have registered cases against Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited under Sections 106(1), 125(b), and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Chief Minister interacted with the injured workers and their families at Medicover Hospital, and with the kin of the deceased at King George Hospital (KGH). He later visited the



pharmaceutical company's unit and inspected the accident site. Speaking to mediapersons after reviewing the situation with officials, Naidu expressed deep concern over the tragedy. He revealed that the explosion, caused by a vapour cloud, could have been avoided if proper Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) had been followed. "One of the victims sustained 57 per cent burns, another 24 per cent burns, while others suffered 17 per cent and 10 per cent," he said.

Naidu announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore to the families of the deceased,

Rs 50 lakh to those severely injured. CM calls for high-level inquiry, says 119 incidents reported at SEZ in 5 yrs

A sum of Rs 25 lakh was announced for those with minor injuries. "We can extend monetary support to the families, but cannot fill the void or bring back the deceased family member. The damage cannot be reversed, but we are committed to ensuring that such incidents do not repeat and that public safety is prioritised," he stated.

Pointing out that 119 incidents had occurred within the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the past five years, resulting in the deaths of 120 individuals, Naidu directed all industries, particularly those classified under the 'Red Category,' to promptly conduct internal safety audits to prevent further tragedies.

The Chief Minister called for a high-level inquiry into the incident and promised to take stringent action against the management, if negligence is found to be the cause of the tragedy. "Once the report is submitted, I will take serious action against those responsible for the major mishap," he averred.

Homeopath assaulted in row over 30k loan

Ahmedabad. A homeopath doctor from the Vasna area of the city accused his neighbour of attacking him with a washing bat over the payment of Rs 30,000. The victim, Vikram Chavda, 31, a resident of Swati Apartments near Rajwadu restaurant, filed an assault complaint against his neighbour, Krish Christian, on Thursday.

According to police, the incident occurred on Wednesday night when Chavda, along with his friends Chirag Vegda, Pruthvi Rabari and Christian, were sitting near their apartment building.

Chavda said that he had lent Rs 30,000 to Christian about 10 days ago and had been asking him to return it. Chavda stated that Christian was aggrieved as he was constantly asking for repayment of the loan amount. On Wednesday, Christian raised the money issue and started abusing Chavda to which the latter objected. Christian picked up a washing bat and attacked Chavda. Rabari and Vegda, who were present there, rescued Chavda. Before leaving the place, Christian threatened Chavda with dire consequences. Rabari and Vegda rushed Chavda to a nearby private hospital where a medico-legal case was filed.

We also published the following articles recently
These areas of Trichy, suburbs to face power cut on Wednesday. Power outages will occur in many Trichy areas on Wednesday due to maintenance at Thennur, Varaganeri, and Thuvakudi substations. Affected areas include Mahalakshmi Nagar, Thillai Nagar, and Bhel Township among others, from 9.45am to 4pm. For issues related to electricity distribution, residents can call the toll-free helpline 94987-94987. 112629782

Mumbai: Cop assaults cabbie outside CSMT over parking row. A police constable allegedly assaulted a taxi driver with a baton outside Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus over a parking issue. The driver, who was waiting for a passenger, claimed to have valid documents. Police have started an investigation and requested the constables suspension.

Couple hands over baby bought for Rs 2L to police; infant reunited with mom

CHENNAI. Upon realising that the newborn boy they had received through mediators earlier this month, was taken away from his mother without her knowledge, a couple handed over the baby to Vyasarpadi police. The child was reunited with his biological mother on Thursday. Police said Sathya Das, an auto rickshaw driver, allegedly sold his four-day-old son for Rs 2 lakh on August 6 to a couple, who had married 15 years ago. When Das's wife Shyamala inquired about her baby while getting discharged from the hospital, he claimed that the child was retained in the hospital for some treatment. Shyamala continued to prod him for details and Das eventually confessed to selling the child. The woman lodged a police complaint and Das was arrested on August 14. On Wednesday, Mahendran (43) and Revathi, the couple who had bought the baby, learnt that the police were searching for the baby that was sold to them. They handed over the child to Vyasarpadi police the next day. Mahendran was placed under arrest and the baby was handed over to his biological mother. Based on the information provided by Mahendran, the police arrested Kumudha, the mediator, and her accomplices Bhavani and Ganesh. Another accomplice, Saranya is yet to be arrested, the police said.

YouTuber booked for tossing money into air in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD. Videos of a YouTuber and social media influencer tossing money into the air on Hyderabad's main roads have resurfaced on the internet.

The youth, Power Harsha alias Mahadev on Instagram, was filmed throwing cash into the air at Kukatpally in Cyberabad, causing significant traffic disruption as people scrambled to collect the money.

As the videos, which were uploaded more than a month ago, were being widely circulated on social media on Thursday, several people expressed concerns that such stunts could lead to accidents.

The YouTuber also reportedly asked his followers to join his Telegram channel and assured of giving rewards for those who guess the amount of money he plans to throw in the

upcoming videos. According to sources, the Kukatpally police have registered a case against the



YouTuber on charges of rash driving, public nuisance and traffic offences.

Unease of doing research in India

THE Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IITD) and a few other top-ranking research and academic institutions have received notices for payment of Goods and Services Tax (GST) for research funding they received in the past five years. The amount for IITD, with interest and penalties, is said to be Rs 120 crore. While the academic and scientific community has not reacted to the issue openly, entrepreneur and investor TV Mohandas Pai has called it "tax terrorism at its worst". Just a month ago, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman increased the customs duty on lab chemicals from 10 per cent to 150 per cent in the Budget. Enzymes, reagents and chemicals of high purity are crucial for research and they are usually imported. The bizarre move sent the scientific community into a tizzy as this overnight increased the cost of ongoing and future projects. The steep hike was rolled back in response to an outcry by scientists in the media and on social media platforms. These are not isolated incidents that one could brush aside as bureaucratic oversight, but seem to be part of a process to undermine public-funded research and higher education. The tax notice on research funding comes a couple of years after the increase in GST rates on technical tools from 5 per cent to 18 per cent. This made the procurement of scientific and technical instruments, equipment, accessories and consumables very costly. Worried at the likely impact on scientific research, the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) sent a note to the government mentioning that "while the private organisations may gradually absorb the impact of rate changes, there is a limited space for public-funded organisations to absorb the impact". The Ministry of Finance tried to pacify the PSA, promising additional allocation of funds to cover the actual impact of the GST hike. Still, the government has done little to ease the situation, as is clear from the recent GST notices and the (now withdrawn) customs duty hike on lab chemicals.

Research and innovation can flourish in an environment where the government adequately funds research, encourages collaboration and creates a suitable ecosystem (regulation, taxation, etc.) to boost research and development. On all these counts, India is doing badly.

India's funding for R&D is very low — below 1 per cent of the GDP. The much-touted umbrella research funding agency, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), has been in the making for the past five years. The government has repeatedly claimed that it has substantially increased the funding available for R&D, citing in successive Budget speeches an 'outlay' of Rs 50,000 crore over five years for the new agency. The 'outlay' is a misnomer. It has been clarified that government funding will only be 30 per cent of this and the rest 70 per cent will be raised from the private sector. If this is so, the state funding will come to a minuscule Rs 3,000 crore a year — which is substantially lower than the current budget of science-related departments. The Ministry of Science and Technology has been allocated Rs 16,628 crore for 2024-25. The ANRF is a clear move to shift the burden of R&D to the private sector, but there is no pathway visible for doing so. Along with the fund crunch, researchers face red tape in terms of accessing funds, dealing with tax requirements, delays in disbursement of scholarships and fellowships and meeting mandatory conditions like procuring equipment that fulfils 'Make in India' requirements. "How will you focus on research if you have to do firefighting all the time?" commented a scientist from IIT-Kanpur on social media platform X. There are other issues that stifle research, such as restrictions on international travel grants and conferences at a time when research in critical areas is becoming increasingly collaborative. Last year, the Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST) surveyed researchers of 10 top-ranking institutions to gauge the level of 'Ease of Doing Science' (EoDS) — a phrase coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015. Only 6 per cent of the respondents rated any parameter as 'very good' for EoDS.

Don't lower the bar in pursuit of excellence

Affirmative policies should be aimed at enabling the disadvantaged to achieve highest standards possible

ONE of the most difficult challenges for any society, but especially a developing society, is achieving the right balance between the pursuit of excellence and the demand for equity and inclusion. The pursuit of excellence demands high standards and merit-based selection. A policy of inclusivity leads to affirmative action to elevate the opportunities for disadvantaged sections of society. Ideally, such affirmative policies should be aimed at enabling the disadvantaged to achieve the highest standards possible through preferential education, skilling and training support. This may be more challenging but in the longer run more rewarding both for society and the individuals concerned. This would also engender intangible gains in enabling these individuals and the communities they come from to enjoy enhanced respect and self-esteem. The politically easier route to follow is to aim at greater inclusivity through lowering of entry standards in a wide range of professional institutions and activities, including those engaged in imparting education and capacity-building. This invariably sets in motion a cumulative downward dynamic of falling standards and lowered entry requirements at each successive stage. Since a modern economy with advancing technological imperatives cannot do without a highly qualified workforce, one ends up with establishing islands of excellence either exempt from the observance of affirmative policies or which have token representation of disadvantaged communities.

Creating and running such islands of excellence may deliver good results in the short term, but they tend to remain islands, minus an ecosystem of high-quality education, training and skill acquisition. India's highly acclaimed space and nuclear programmes are zones of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. This may also be the fate of the currently celebrated Global Capability Centres mushrooming in India. In India, affirmative policies are rightly the responsibility of the state. The private sector has so far been able to avoid having to follow similar policies. In the public sector, we have already witnessed the downward dynamic referred to earlier. When I joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1970, the age requirement for entry was the 21-32 bracket, with two chances for appearing in the civil service examinations. The personal interview was given much greater weightage — 400 marks in the case of the IFS and 300 for the IAS. Even if a

candidate passed with high marks in the written exams, a below-the-passing-grade in the interview for the IFS meant disqualification. For the reserved categories, the marking was separate from the general category. They did not compete with the latter. Currently, the age bracket in the general category is 21-32, with six attempts allowed within this limit. For the OBC category, the age limit goes up to 35 and with nine attempts allowed. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the upper age limit has been raised to 37, with unlimited attempts permitted.



The personal interview has lost its relevance since even a zero grade would not disqualify a candidate as long as he has sufficiently high grades in the written exams. There are no studies or data to show whether the progressive lowering of entry conditions both for the general and reserved categories has served the objective of greater inclusion and social equity. Anecdotal evidence points to mounting economic and social inequalities and persistent caste and gender discrimination. There has been a steady decline in the quality of state capacity and governance. A civil servant joining any of the All-India or Central Services at the age of 32 is unlikely to be moulded into the culture and ethos of the civil services. The wide age disparities among the entrants does not encourage the kind of bonding that the younger entrants developed while training together. What would a 21-year-old have

in common with a 37-year-old colleague? In the state civil service, the situation is worse. The age bracket is from 21 to the ripe old age of 40! The government and the public sector play the most critical role in managing a country of the complexity of India, facing challenges that demand exceptional skills and abilities. The current policies are neither delivering social justice nor good governance. That is short-changing the country and its people. Human resource is the most important resource a country has. This is not a cliché. It is the only resource which grows as it is expended. During the turbulent Cultural Revolution (1966-76) in China, Mao encouraged the denigration of intellectuals, scientists and experts. It was "better to be Red than an Expert". Educational institutions were closed and intellectuals and professionals and students were all sent down to the countryside to learn from the masses. An entire generation was lost to the country. One of the first reforms that Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping introduced when he assumed power in 1976 was to reopen educational institutions, rehabilitate intellectuals and professionals and begin sending thousands of Chinese youth, year after year, to the best universities in the West. China's own educational institutions eagerly sought the services of top foreign academics and teachers to educate the incoming generation of the Chinese. Several Indian-American scientists and academics were also invited to spend part of the academic year in China, paid generous compensation and enabled to carry out teaching and research in the manner they were accustomed to do in the US. In India, they are not particularly welcome. Thanks to the pragmatic policies it adopted, China today has a pool of talent and scholarship that is second only to the US. India has fallen behind.

So, what needs to be done? First, it is not enough to set up more universities, institutes of technology and centres of excellence. Greater effort is needed to provide universal high-quality primary and secondary education which will then feed into tertiary institutions. Second, children entering the education stream need to have good nutrition and healthcare so that they are not stunted both physically and mentally. Without this strong base, the top-heavy structures we create will topple over eventually. And three, the state sector must strive to be the most capable, dispensing high-quality governance through the best and the brightest the country has to offer.

32 years later

The enduring trauma of rape victims

THE 1992 Ajmer rape case, in which around 100 schoolgirls were sexually assaulted and blackmailed, points to the deplorable state of justice in India. The sentencing to life of four accused on Tuesday, 32 years after the heinous crime, underscores the systemic failures that allow such atrocities to persist. Despite the existence of stringent laws meant to protect women and deter sexual crimes, the grim reality is that justice remains elusive for many victims. This case was part of a horrifying racket that preyed on young school- and college-going girls in Ajmer. They were blackmailed and sexually exploited by men wielding significant influence, political and financial. Among the most notorious of these predators were Farooq Chishti and Nafis Chishti, Youth Congress leaders who brazenly used their power to silence the girls. Their ability to manipulate the system led to attempts to erase evidence of their



crimes, complicating the pursuit of justice. Traumatized, some victims even died by suicide.

Much like the recent Kolkata incident where a doctor was brutally raped and murdered, echoing the infamous Nirbhaya case, the Ajmer case is another symbol of the pervasive culture of violence against women. The delay in delivering justice in these cases not only exacerbates the trauma for the victims but also erodes public trust in the legal system as perpetrators manage to evade culpability for years, if not decades. The real change will come when these laws are enforced promptly, when the culprits are held accountable without delay and when the victims' voices are heard and respected. The pursuit of justice must not be an afterthought, but a priority, to ensure that such tragedies are curbed, even as our society is today rattled by protests over the doctor's rape-murder and the sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls in Badlapur, Maharashtra.

Constitutional morality is getting short shrift

Constitutional morality is not only for our constitutional authorities and other leaders; it must pervade the entire community.

DO our constitutional authorities believe in constitutional morality? Some perhaps don't. Time and again, we learn of some unexpected and strange developments at the instance of a constitutional authority. The trouble is that such developments are not confined to one or two constitutional authorities, but are more or less across the board and frequent. The question is: who will advise them? They damage the constitutional spirit and virtually mock at our Constitution framers and the faith they had in the character and integrity of our leaders of the future.

It could truly be said that in the past as well, our leaders abused the Constitution, but that cannot be reason or justification for the present-day abuse. The attempt should be to avoid a downward spiral rather than create a whirlpool. Constitutional morality requires the authorities to do the right thing rather than avoid it; it requires the authorities to adhere to the rule of law rather than circumvent it; it requires maintenance of high ethical standards rather than looking for the lowest common multiple. Let's consider a few examples.

In Maharashtra, the state government advised the Governor to nominate members to the Legislative Council. The Governor took no action on the recommendations for as long as eight months — he neither rejected nor accepted them. He simply shelved the advice. This led to a public interest litigation in the Bombay High Court. While deciding the case, the high court made a public law declaration that the Constitution obliges the Governor to either accept or return the recommendations within a reasonable time and eight months is beyond reasonable. It was further held that to subvert the aims set by the Constitution, it would be eminently desirable if the obligation is duly discharged without undue delay. Guess what? The Governor still took no action. Was it the right thing to

do? Subsequently, the government fell and the new government made different recommendations which were promptly accepted by the Governor. Constitutional morality had been thrown out of the window. There are many such instances from the recent past and some are playing out even as you read this. Some of our Governors have delayed assent to Bills passed by the state legislature; others have unreasonably withheld assent for months and years, compelling at least two state governments to approach the Supreme Court to interpret the power of the Governor in such matters.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in Manipur, also a constitutional authority, gave no importance to constitutional morality. He did not take any action for more than three years on alleged violations of the anti-defection law contained in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. One of the persons against whom the allegations were made was a minister in the Cabinet. The Speaker is expected to be non-partisan, but he took no decision, thereby favouring the minister. Could the Speaker indefinitely delay taking a decision? The Supreme Court answered it in the negative and required the Speaker to take a decision within a month, which the court thought was reasonable, considering the passage of time. The Speaker did not do so and asked for an extension of time; he later assured the court that a decision would be taken by a certain date. No decision was taken. Was it the right thing to do, especially after an assurance given to the apex court? In view of the extraordinary circumstances presented, the court was compelled to pass a direction preventing the minister concerned from entering the Legislative

Assembly. That's when matters came to a head. By the way, this Speaker is not alone in such a misadventure. The Chief Minister of a certain state is also guilty of disregarding constitutional morality. In West Bengal, a minister continued to hold office



despite having been arrested and put in jail. The CM did not sack him for three months. In Tamil Nadu, the CM did not sack a minister who was in jail for eight months. The minister eventually resigned a day before the issue was raised in the Madras High Court. In Delhi, the CM sacked a minister only after he had spent nine months in jail. Ironically, now the CM himself is in jail and has not resigned, unlike his counterpart in

Jharkhand. These are some instances where constitutional morality has been disregarded. Is it good for our country? BR Ambedkar understood constitutional morality as "a paramount reverence for the forms of the Constitution". Understandably so. The

Constitution is not and cannot be in the nature of a standard operating procedure. If the forms of the Constitution are not treated as sacred, all will be lost. Perhaps that is why Rajendra Prasad said that our country needed leaders of character and integrity. Constitutional morality is not only for our constitutional authorities and other leaders; it must pervade the entire community. Otherwise, an obstinate minority may stymie the working of an institution, even though it may not be strong enough to gain ascendancy. This can happen in any institution. As far as Parliament or state legislatures are concerned, constitutional morality does not permit a complete disruption of proceedings by a vocal minority. Such a disruption cannot be and should not be sanctified as legitimate parliamentary strategy, as canvassed by a former minister. It goes against the grain of constitutional morality. Similarly, calls for love jihad, land jihad and flood jihad are all constitutionally unacceptable transgressions. Garlanding rapists and murderers cannot be the right thing to do. We are passing through somewhat troubling and difficult times. We must respect our Constitution and its spirit and ethos as well as the rule of law. If we don't, we will be creating that whirlpool that will take us to the depths of the Indian Ocean.

Tips to ensure your linen lasts really long

Everyone loves to wear linen, and for good reasons too. Said to be one of the most durable materials around, it's soft and also has a high level of penetration for colours and dyes.

However, there's a lot of myth surrounding it too. For one, it's often said that linen cannot be washed at home, and needs to be dry-cleaned. Needless to add, there are ways beyond dry-cleaning to make linen last longer and be as soft as possible. Here's what you should keep in mind to do that: Only oxygen-type bleaches should be used for white linen laundering.



Bleach-free detergents must be used for washing coloured linen articles. Also remember to always use lukewarm water for the purpose. Do not wring out linen before

drying. Lay out your laundered item, pull it into shape and pat it flat to minimize wrinkles and thereby, save your ironing time.

If you postpone ironing your linen items until some time later, put laundered items in a plastic bag and place it in the refrigerator or a freezer for six to 24 hours. It will help them remain damp and prevent mildew formation.

If there is a stain on your linen blouse or trousers, find out if it is water based or oilbased first. If it's water-based, try to blot the stain using a damp white cloth and then wash it with a mild detergent. If the stain is oil based, then you get it done by experts.

How you store your linen also plays a big role in making it last longer. So, wherever you decide to store it, just avoid plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

Simplest ways to decorate your Bachelor pad

Living in a bachelor pad doesn't always mean a lot of mess, you can decorate your bachelor home with simple steps, those that will fit your budget too.

Going against the popular notion that living in a bachelor pad means living in a lot of mess is not only simple, but also a lot of fun. Now you can surprise your friends and even girlfriend by decorating your man-place with simple ways, steps that will not only will make your house look great and welcoming but also will fit your budget.

Decide the usability

Decide what your apartment needs to be for. Whether you want it to be an entertainment zone or more like a hangout/chill out zone. Go according to your need.

Light and lamp

While yellow light is almost out of the vocabulary now, even florescent light is old fashion. Experiment with different coloured lights, use lamps to bring some more impact and 'atmosphere' into your pad. But make sure you have at least one main light that you can switch on when needed.

Change and upgrade

We all know washing them or sending them to the laundry is too unlike men. So instead, get a few pairs of bedsheets, which can be changed every few days. Running out of them will automatically hit the panic button in you to put them to laundry. Make sure the colours are dark. Anything light or white will not suite the apartment. Same goes for towels and napkins. Darker shades will always work better.

Make a 'sound' purchase

Having a good sound system always works well for any occasion. Whether you simply want to relax or have a party, a good sound system will always come in handy.

Invest in glass

And we are not only talking about the mirror, but also in some good glasses. Having a party and serving in disposables is alright, but good glasses will always add a bit more shine to your party.

Additional somethings

Get a pair of curtains for your living room. Buy a few paintings, and no need to feel guilty if they are not originals. Empty your dust bin often. Having a book shelf is a good idea. If you are experimental enough, paint your rooms with colours that bring some flamboyance. Reds and oranges are good shades.



This whole month, online sales will loom large on the horizon. People in your office, your friends, family members and even fellow travelers on your local commute will be seen discussing a great buy they clinched or they heard someone else get, or some buy they just lost.

Guide to shopping on 'Cyber Monday' Sales



away. Check websites that give you information on when the sales start.

Many a times, big-ticket retailers themselves leak the information to these websites to attract more customers a month in advance.

Cash on delivery: If you spot a deal and are not registered on that particular website, a good idea is to enter your shipping details and ask for a cash-on-delivery option instead of paying by card. Of course, the biggest advantage is that you completely cut the risk of not getting the product that you have paid for and you don't need to chase the online retailers. Also, it saves you time since you don't have to enter payment details from your card; a process which is manual most of the times and could easily take as much as three to 10 minutes. Also, it's a lot safer, because you are not entering any sensitive credit card information.

Stick to the list

While shopping online, one can follow the same rules that one follows in a shopping mall. The reason is, one can always get lured by glitzy advertising and indulge in impulse buys which one is then stuck with, as most of these websites don't have the option of a refund. So, if you want to avoid wasting money on buying things you would later regret, make a shopping list first. If the product you wanted isn't on that list, strike it off and move on to the next item. This will help you budget well and avoid unnecessary purchases.

What is cyber monday Sale?

- Cyber Monday is a marketing term for the Monday after Thanksgiving in the United States first used in 2005.

- In India, 12 December, 2012 was when the first Cyber Monday was held - According to research, most people shop from their work places on Cyber Mondays, with the main reason being to indulge in shopping away from the eyes of family members!

- The biggest Cyber Monday sale in history was on 27 November 2006 in USA, when customers spent \$610 million dollars in 24 hours.

- According to research, most people shop heaviest around 3 pm on these sales, as Monday is a workday



It's obvious you'd want to be a part of the sale zeitgeist. However, a lot of times it happens that people buy on these sales just for the sake of getting a cheap deal but end up spending on useless things for which they pay almost the same. So here's a handy guide to get a bang for your buck

Make a WishList:

Tech blogger Abhimanyu Ghoshal says that a good idea to shop wisely is to make a wish list beforehand, so that you don't end up getting overwhelmed by the number of products being offered on a discount. "A wishlist is a feature where you can select those things which you always wanted to buy but are waiting for the prices to become affordable. During these mega sales, you can always check your wishlist, which will show you if the product is being offered on sale." This way, you won't be buying for the sake of it and getting what you actually want. Another benefit is that you don't have to search for what you want to buy, because the stocks get over rather quickly, at times within minutes.

Shop on apps:

Almost all the websites that promote online shopping have a mobile app. While the speed of your internet connection

remains the same, their interface is less cluttered and it can help you get to your product much easily. Also, the checkout time is lesser than it is on websites.

Sahanand Agarwal, who paid less than 70% for a high end mobile phone on a recent sale said it was the app that helped him make the purchase so quickly. "The phone I wanted was sold out literally within minutes because it was too good a deal to resist. But because I had browsed the app before, I knew just how to reach the phone. It took me less than ten seconds to make the purchase," he beams. This is very much like knowing the inside of a store and making a dash for something that is literally flying off stands.

Browser extensions:

If you are shopping on your computer, another nifty trick is to use browser extensions to help you make a good choice. Ghoshal says that he regularly uses these lightweight extensions as they help him avoid blinkered purchases and gather more knowledge about where the product is available cheaply. "These extensions tell you if the product you are buying is available on any other site for cheap. This way, you can avoid all the marketing gimmicks and cut to the chase and see

whether the thing that you're buying is actually on a discount or are the rates simply being jacked up, which happened in a recent online sale."

Subscribe earlier: What a lot of people waste time on is when they put in their address and other shipping details right when they make the purchase. This could result in the thing you're purchasing quickly going out of stock as thousands of people are literally clicking away furiously trying to buy the item. At a recent online sale, a similar thing happened with Nausheen Virani, a Navi Mumbai based resident who was trying to buy an electronic gadget. "When I clicked on the gadget, it was in stock, but I took ten or 15 minutes in putting my shipping and card information. On the checkout screen I got to know that the item was already out of stock," she rues. So, it's best to register your address and card information beforehand.

Time your purchase:

In big ticket online sales, timing is of utmost importance. With thousands of people trying to buy the same thing at the same time, the best deals get over within matter of minutes, at times even seconds. So, be alert when there is a big online sale coming up. Know what time the deals start rolling. Very often, these sales start early in the morning, and if you're up at the time, you can get some incredible deals right

Tips to declutter refrigerator



Organise your refrigerator to ensure that you know what's in your fridge, what's in date and what you need to get rid of.

Keep the items you use most at the front of the fridge: Having a streamlined fridge can make a positive difference to someone on a busy day, given the number of times we go in there - for that morning cup of tea, when making breakfast, lunch and dinner and everything in between. Having the items you use most to hand as soon as you open the fridge door can make a lot of difference.

Make the food items more visible: With such busy lives how could we be expected to remember every single item we own or have bought. The easier the contents of your fridge are to see, the less likely you are to be saddled with out-of-date products.

Keep what you want to eat most in front: If you're trying to eat more healthily, then make sure your fresh fruit and vegetables are the first thing you see when you open the fridge and hide the chocolate as much as possible.

Store childrens' items at the lowest possible height: It might involve creating their own area so that items they are allowed to help themselves to are within easy reach and then placing the 'treats' higher up or hidden away so they can't just help themselves.

Make the most of flexible storage: You can often move your refrigerator shelves up and down. So, adjust to suit what you are storing to ensure you don't have any dead space



Champai Soren's new outfit, BJP's benefit

Champai Soren's new political outfit is likely to benefit the BJP more than him. The saffron party would prefer the former Jharkhand CM to focus on the Kolhan Division and eat into Hemant Soren's JMM vote bank.

New Delhi: For three days in Delhi, camera crews were stationed outside a posh hotel, waiting for a glimpse of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren. A meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and top Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders was anticipated. However, Champai Soren left Delhi without any publicised meetings with the BJP. When he returned to his home constituency, Saraikela in Jharkhand, the "Tiger of Kolhan" announced that "a new chapter of his life has started" and hinted at either launching a new political outfit or joining hands with a "sathi" (friend) in this new journey. However, a source close to Champai Soren told India Today that the former Chief Minister would soon launch his new faction. "He will be launching his own faction ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly polls," top sources said. They further added that Soren returning to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's

(JMM) fold is out of the question. Notably, those close to Champai Soren maintain that the JMM stalwart-turned-rebel "doesn't intend to break up the JMM for his new faction". However, sources indicated that



certain JMM leaders are in touch with Champai Soren. Rebels like MLA Chamra Linda could be part of the new faction, sources claimed.

WHY BJP WANTS THE 'TIGER' FOCUSED ON KOLHAN

Champai Soren is the most senior tribal leader in the JMM after party patriarch

Shibu Soren. His stature within the JMM was evident when Hemant Soren stepped down as Chief Minister of Jharkhand due to an ED arrest, and Champai Soren was chosen over his cabinet colleague Joba Majhi to assume the office. After his release from Ranchi jail on July 4, Hemant Soren returned to the CM office, and Champai Soren was accommodated in the Jharkhand Cabinet as the new Education Minister. However, this didn't sit well with the "Tiger of Kolhan". Now, Champai Soren reiterates that he had decided to start the new adhyay (chapter) of his life on July 3.

Champai Soren insists that he will soon launch his own party or join hands with a "friend" in his journey to "build the Jharkhand of his dreams". What would be a better proposition for the BJP in this scenario? Having a former Jharkhand Chief minister join the BJP or assisting him in creating a new outfit? The obvious

answer would be: a new political outfit led by the JMM rebel, with the BJP not forging any alliance with this new faction in the upcoming 2024 Jharkhand polls. Kolhan division has 14 assembly segments. The BJP was crushed by the Hemant Soren-led Mahagathbandhan in the 2019 elections in this division. The saffron party failed to open its tally in Kolhan, and its sitting Chief Minister Raghubar Das faced a humiliating defeat at the hands of BJP rebel Saryu Roy.

Through this tribal-dominated belt, the JMM cemented its victory in the 2019 assembly polls. Despite the Modi wave and the Ram Mandir wave, Hemant Soren's JMM won 11 of the 14 assembly segments, and two were clinched by the Congress. These numbers ensured that the JMM recorded its best-ever electoral performance in Jharkhand polls.

Champai Soren's stronghold in the Kolhan belt has a long history. He is often hailed as a leader of the working classes who fought

for the cause of a separate Jharkhand state under 'Guruji' (what Shibu Soren is popularly called). He takes pride in having ensured that over 10,000 youths from local villages in this belt secured jobs in industrial establishments like the Tata Group. If Champai Soren enters the 2024 electoral fray alone, the BJP is expected to gain more. With limited resources, the former Chief Minister would likely focus on Kolhan division assembly seats. While one might hope that Champai Soren could retain the Saraikela assembly segment and possibly win one more assembly seat for his new outfit, it would come at the cost of the JMM. Moreover, Champai Soren could aim to deliver what Chirag Paswan's LJP faction did to the Janata Dal United (JDU) in Bihar in 2021. The LJP fought alone, and its candidates are believed to have eaten into the JDU vote bank. While Chirag Paswan's party managed to win only one seat, it played a crucial role in the defeat of the JDU on several assembly seats.

Assam girl, 14, gang-raped, found on road in semi-conscious state

New Delhi: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men in the Nagoan district of Assam. The survivor was rescued by police in a semi-conscious state on a road in Dhing area of the district on Thursday. The police rescued the survivor after receiving a tip off from a passerby. The accused are yet to be identified. The rescued minor girl has been admitted to Dhing medical unit in Nagoan district of the state. The Student Union has called a Bandh in the area today in lieu of the incident.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma strongly condemned the incident, describing it as a "crime against humanity". Taking to X, the Chief Minister expressed his outrage over the incident and vowed to bring the accused to justice. "The horrific incident at Dhing, involving a minor, is a crime against humanity and has struck our collective conscience. We will NOT SPARE anyone & BRING the perpetrators to JUSTICE," Sharma wrote. He also added that he has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam, to visit the site of the crime and ensure swift and decisive action against those responsible. "I've directed DGP Assam Police to visit the site and ensure swift action against such monsters," he added.

Kolkata rape accused has 'animal-like instinct', showed no guilt: Psychoanalytic test

New Delhi: The psychoanalytic profile of Sanjay Roy, the prime accused in the Kolkata rape-murder case, indicated that he was addicted to pornography, had "animal-like instincts" and showed no remorse for the crime, an officer of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Thursday. The CBI on August 18 had ordered experts from CFSL to carry out a psychoanalytic profile of Roy. A civic volunteer with Kolkata Police, Roy was arrested the day after the body of the 31-year-old trainee doctor was found at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. The man showed no repentance and narrated the entire episode giving every minute detail without hiccups. It



appeared that he had no remorse," the CBI official told news agency PTI on Thursday.

Before the investigation was handed over to the CBI by the Calcutta High Court, the local police had found a trove of pornographic content on the mobile phone seized from Roy. The CBI officer also highlighted that both technical and scientific evidence "very much support" that Roy was present at the crime scene. Based on the CCTV footage collected from the hospital, Roy could be seen near the chest department ward at around 11 am on August 8. Sources had revealed earlier to India Today that Roy also visited a 'red light area' in North Kolkata after midnight on August 8. He was also intoxicated and later asked a random woman for her nude photograph. "Footage showed him entering the same building again at around 4 am on August 9. Certain technical and scientific evidence corroborated that," the officer added. In his interview with PTI, the officer refused to divulge any information about the DNA tests conducted on Roy or comment on the gang rape rumours.

Roy's residence in Bhowanipore was also visited by CBI officers where they spoke with his family, neighbours and his colleagues in the Kolkata Police force.

Exclusive: Why CBI wants polygraph test on 3 Kolkata hospital doctors, staffer

New Delhi: New details have emerged in the ongoing investigation into the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata. The CBI will conduct polygraph tests, also known as lie detector test, on four hospital employees to determine if they were involved in the crime, sources said. The victim, a postgraduate trainee (PGT) doctor, was found dead in a seminar hall at the hospital on August 9. The accused, Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police, was arrested the day after the incident. According to sources, Roy entered the seminar hall around 4:03 a.m. while the victim was sleeping. He allegedly raped and killed her before leaving the hall around 4:40 a.m. The victim is believed to have died between 4:15 AM and 4:40 AM.



The CBI is conducting polygraph tests on two first-year PGT doctors whose fingerprints were found in the seminar room. They were on duty with the

victim the night of the incident and had dinner together before retiring to the seminar room. Also undergoing polygraph tests are a house staff member who was seen on CCTV footage going to the third floor from the first floor emergency, and an intern who was on the same floor and interacted with the victim before she went to rest. While medical reports, including DNA evidence from the victim's body, do not conclusively link these four individuals to the crime, the CBI wants to determine if they played any role in tampering evidence or were involved in a conspiracy, sources said.

The sequence of events on the fateful night, according to statements from the four individuals, is as follows: The two first-year trainee doctors had dinner with the victim around 12 a.m. and then watched the Olympics Javelin Final in the seminar room. The three decided to rest in the seminar room, as the sleep room was being used for a polysomnography test. The first-year doctors went to the sleep room after the test ended, around 1:30-2:00 a.m., in case they needed to attend to patients. The victim remained in the seminar room. The house staff member was on duty in the emergency on the first floor. He went to the third floor around 2:45 a.m. and returned between 3:30 and 3:45 a.m. The intern was in a separate room on the third floor. According to the statements, none of the four heard anything from the seminar room. The victim's body was discovered by the first year doctor the following morning, who alerted hospital authorities.

Army's swift efforts save 27 lives after bus falls into gorge in Ladakh

New Delhi: The Indian Army personnel, deployed near Ladakh's Durbuk, provided crucial assistance and saved as many as 27 lives after a bus, taking staff members of a school to a wedding function, fell into a gorge on Thursday. At least seven people died and several others, including three children, were injured in the accident. The accident was noticed by the Army personnel, who were deployed in the area, following which they rushed to the scene and initiated the evacuation of the passengers. According to a statement by the Army,



as many as 27 passengers were rescued and sent to nearby medical facilities. The injured were initially evacuated to the Military Hospital and Primary Health Centre at Tangste,

where they received urgent medical attention, the statement said. The Army deployed helicopters to move 22 injured people to Military Hospital in Leh. As many as 14 sorties were conducted by the Army's Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Cheetal Helicopters to airlift the injured passengers, the statement added. Following initial examination and treatment, 20 of the injured were transferred to Sonam Norbu Memorial (SNM) Hospital in Leh for specialised care.

First parliamentary committee meet on Waqf bill features heated debates

New Delhi: The first sitting of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf Bill took place on Thursday with heated exchanges with decibel levels remaining high as members argued for and against the contentious proposal. The proposed bill aims to centralise the regulation of the numerous Waqf boards across the country, allowing a non-Muslim chief executive officer and at least two non-Muslim members to be appointed by the state government to the Waqf boards at the state level. The 31 member committee met in parliament annexe and deliberated over the bill with each member sharing their viewpoint. The opposition members made it clear that they were against the proposal and that it should be rejected. There was heated debate in the meeting as members were upset with the presentation by the Ministry of



Minority Affairs, finding it unsatisfactory. "The secretary had not come prepared, and the presentations lacked details of the history, the present and why the bill was needed at all," said one member. AIMIM chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi submitted a fourteen-page letter in which he cited arguments against the background note circulated on the bill. He demanded his dissent be included in the final report. "All members were in agreement that the government had put up a shoddy presentation and that temperatures went soaring," another member added. The opposition's main concern to the bill was on the grounds that the basic nature of the bill was against the spirit of equality, freedom of religion and right to form and maintain religious institutions.

Other reservations about the bill included the level of state intervention that dilutes the powers of the Waqf Board. Another concern pertained to giving the collector over-arching powers to adjudicate matters regarding Waqf properties. As one of the most overburdened functionaries in the administration, it was the consensus that the collector would not be able to spare the time to deal with Waqf disputes.

Manipur High Court Cancels 'Default Bail' Granted To Man Charged Under UAPA In "Republic Of Kukiland" Case

Mark Thangmang Haokip was arrested on May 30, 2022 on charges of waging war against India and working against the nation to create an "independent Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Kukiland", according to the chargesheet

Imphal/New Delhi: A special court's order granting 'default bail' to an accused charged under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA has been set aside by the Manipur High Court. The high court on Thursday rejected the accused's claim that the chargesheet against him was

"incomplete". "Default bail" refers to the relief available to an accused if officials do not complete investigation within a specified period. A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Manipur's capital Imphal had granted 'default bail' to the accused Mark Thangmang Haokip, 39, on the grounds that the investigators did not take the prosecution's sanction while filing the chargesheet, thus making it "incomplete". Mark Thangmang Haokip was arrested on May 30, 2022 on charges of waging war against India and working against the nation to create an "independent Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Kukiland", according to the First Information Report (FIR) and the chargesheet. He conspired with others to this end and had also started collecting funds, the chargesheet stated. Mark Thangmang Haokip called himself "president" of the "People's Democratic Republic of Kukiland" in a statement on October 23, 2019 which appealed to "neighbouring countries" to



"respect the sovereign rights of the Kukis." "While the website 'kukigovt.com' and 'KukiGovt' social media handles are no longer active, in its communication to the public it described itself as "a human rights based non-violent political government of the Kuki nation."

High Court Cites Supreme Court Judgment

The Manipur High Court, however, said chargesheet filed without the prosecution's sanction is not necessarily an "incomplete" chargesheet, citing an order of the Supreme Court on May 1,

2023 in a NIA case against Punjab resident Judgebir Singh who faced a terror-related case. The high court bench of Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice A Guneshwar Sharma said the Imphal special court (NIA) judge "erred grossly" in granting 'default bail' to the accused, who faced charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA. "It is now a settled proposition of law that chargesheet filed without prosecution sanction order cannot be treated as an incomplete chargesheet... We are of the view that the learned special judge (NIA), Imphal West, erred grossly in holding that the subject chargesheet filed without prosecution sanction order from the competent authority is an incomplete chargesheet and the accused is entitled to be released on bail," the Manipur High Court said. The high court said the chargesheet was submitted on November 25, 2022, the 'default bail' application was filed on March 18, 2023, and the default bail was granted on March 28, 2023.

Brighten up your house with vibrant Colours

Monsoons are obviously not a very good time for refurbishing your home, when it comes to things like painting or doing up the house. However, small changes and additions can do the trick of brightening up your house, while the weather outside is dull and dark. Here's your guide on how to make your home bright!

Colours like pink, orange, red, yellow, etc. go very well to brighten up your interiors during the monsoons. For a quick makeover, bright coloured curtains and cushion covers do the trick. "Since painting is not an ideal thing during monsoons as the weather outside is wet and so as the walls, hence experimenting with soft furnishings, wall papers and decoratives will make a significant difference," say experts.

Wallpapers:



Getting a wall highlighted with bright coloured textured wallpapers can be a good option. You can choose from colours like fuschia pink, yellow, orange, turquoise, etc would look very attractive and bright during this dull weather. Similarly, you can also put up artistic murals or paintings on light coloured walls to make them look bright.

Pop-colour your home:

Try experimenting with pop colours, be it curtains, cushions, artefacts, wall papers, bed linen, etc, a sudden hint of bright colour will give your home that bright look. Colourful cushions can make a simple house look glow; make sure you choose silk or shining fabrics for cushion covers.

Goretro:

While, many people like to move away from the conventional styles of

home decor, and love to experiment with something funkier. Retro style home furnishings are doing rounds these days; they come in bright colours and look uniquely innovative. Be it lampshades, chairs, stools or tables; these retro style furniture and home furnishings are sure to enhance the look of your house.

Play with lights:

Moreover, playing with lights is the best thing to do refurbish your home, using warm colours like yellow or orange at neglected corners would make your home look mysteriously gorgeous. Different shaped lights like a swan, dew drop, a petal or any artistic shape when placed anywhere in the living room stands out as a statement. Interestingly, 3D carpets are the newest attraction in the market. Available in pastel colours, the designs will leave you in an optical illusion when laid on the floor.



5 appliances every cook must have

Take a look at some of them...

A paring knife

This is the basic one, needed to cut small vegetables and fruits. You can easily slice fruits with it, cut the peels of potatoes and other thick skins, devein shrimp, de-seed and section fruits, etc. Always look for one with a comfortable handle.

Measuring cup

It's not always possible to cook saying, 'take a handful of this or that'. Every kitchen must have a

measuring cup or jar to measure liquids like milk or stick or even dry ingredients like sugar, before cooking. It's better to get a transparent plastic one that allows you to see what you are measuring.

Bnderle

A blender and hand blender are must-have appliances in the kitchen. The electric blender is used to mix foods and liquids like summer mocktails and soups and is available in different sizes. Blenders with a jug make it more convenient.

Vegetable peeler

Vegetable peelers or potato peelers are a most utilised appliance. They can get the skin off

carrots and apples quickly and make the cooking process effortless. There are several designs available, like the Y or straight type. You can also use the peeler to cut slices of cheese or make thin ribbons of chocolate.

Garlic press

This nifty little gadget is most useful as we Indians uses a lot of garlic in cooking. The press pushes the cloves through holes to get the peels. So you need not mince the garlic with a knife anymore, if you have this.



Planning to cook? Then there is a list of appliances that you must have in your kitchen.

How to take care of artificial Jewellery

Avoid spraying deodorant/perfume on the jewellery while getting ready. After removing your jewellery, store it in a soft zip up pouch so that dust doesn't easily get to it. Don't use tissues to cover them as they might cause scratches.



Do not wear your jewellery while taking a shower. If you have to clean your jewellery, try and use only warm water. Clean your jewellery with a soft cloth and mild detergent with warm water if required. Don't clean any jewellery piece that is broken or damaged since cleaning it might damage it more. Inspect your jewellery at regular intervals to ensure that it isn't tarnished.

How to organize your dresser

We always focus on organizing our closet, which is definitely a vital storage area to keep clean and organized for easy dressing, but your dressers are important too. Here are a few tips for getting your dresser drawers clutter-free.

Overhauling: Every month, take everything out of your drawers and refold them. It will also help you to pull out stained or torn clothing to throw away and set aside clothes you haven't worn in awhile.
Avoid stacking: Rather than stacking T-shirts, try organizing them according to their colour. This will easily help in getting to that item, stacked at the bottom, without disrupting the rest of the clothing.
Use containers: Use containers in your drawers to hold the small stuff, like a box for watches and necklaces, plus a large bowl to hold bow ties.
Pick dividers: If you have a particularly large drawer, consider picking up dividers or organizers.
Store Candles: Whether it's a new or even just a little nub of a mostly burned one, a candle placed in your drawer will keep your clothes smelling lovely. You can also use bars of soap.



News box

Gurgaon labourer dies in hit & run on Nh8

GURGAON. A 35-year-old labourer died after being hit by a car on NH8 at Manesar on Tuesday night. A case was registered on Wednesday based on complaint of one of his relatives. In his complaint, Sandeep Kumar, who was from Rohwas in Rewari, alleged that he and his cousin, Baljit Singh, a tyre repair shop owner, came to Aliyar village in the city to meet their sister. The duo deboarded from a private bus at IMT Chowk in Manesar at around 8.30 pm on Aug 20.

"We were walking along the roadside after crossing NH 8 when an Ecco Sports car hit Baljit from behind. I asked the car driver to take Baljit to Siddhi Hospital in Dharuhera. After examining Baljit, the doctor advised us to take him to the govt hospital in Bhiwadi immediately. I arranged for an ambulance to take him there, as the car driver had fled from the scene," the complainant said. According to SI Balraj Singh, Baljit was declared dead at the hospital, and the car driver is absconding. Based on Sandeep's complaint, a case was registered under BNS sections 106 (causing death due to negligence) and 281 (rash driving in a public way) against the unknown car driver on Wednesday. In another case, a 27-year-old private security guard, Pintu Kumar from Nawada in Bihar, was working at an airline company office in Sector 44. On Aug 14 night, an unknown vehicle hit him while he was crossing the road at IFFCO Chowk. He was shifted to Civil Hospital in Sector 10, and from there, he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital on Aug 15, said an officer. "Later, my son was shifted to ESI hospital in Faridabad. While undergoing treatment there, he succumbed to injuries on Aug 21," said Pintu's father, Mithlesh Kumar. Based on Mithlesh's complaint, police registered a case on Wednesday night under BNS sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash or negligent driving on public ways).

Cash flow in assembly polls to be tracked by I-T department

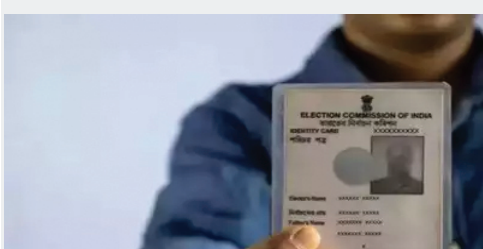
GURGAON. The Income Tax department has set up a 185-member Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) to monitor and track the movement and uses of cash in the Haryana assembly election. The unit will work in coordination with the district election officers. According to officials, to address the complaints received, the department has deployed teams of officers and officials in each district of Haryana. These teams, comprising 185 officers and officials, will closely collaborate with the District Control Room of the District Election Officer and other agencies at the district level. They will investigate the authenticity of the information received and take necessary action to seize cash or other valuables as per the law. "The department closely monitors individuals, locations, and activities that may be associated with handling unreported cash during the election process. An Air Intelligence Unit operates at Chandigarh Airport, maintaining a strict watch on cash movements by air, including chartered flights. Cash movements through railways are also monitored," said an official.

The Directorate of Investigation will also examine the affidavits of candidates declaring their assets and liabilities. If any suppression of information comes to notice, the same will be reported to the Election Commission (EC) in due course. Similarly, if any incriminating information relating to the election expenses by candidates is gathered, it will also be reported to the EC.

Haryana: You can apply for voter ID card till September 2

GURGAON. People, who turned 18 years old on or after July 1, can apply for voter identity cards till Sept 2, district election officer and deputy commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav said. The final voter list for assembly elections will be released on August 27 and polling will be held on Oct 1.

"If the names of those who turned 18 by the cut-off date are not included in the list, they can contact their area's booth level officer (BLO) and fill up Form 6 to register for the same," the DC said, adding that the young voters will have one week after the publication of the final voter list to get their names added. The nomination for the polls will begin on Sept 5 and the last date for submitting nomination is Sept 12, the DC said. Young people can also register online through the National Voters' Services Portal (NVSP). According to the election commission, the eligibility date for voter registration was earlier set every year on January 1, however, the date is now set four times a year - on Jan 1,



April 1, July 1, and Oct 1. During the voter verification campaign, 18,013 new applications for voter registration were received by Aug 16. Of these, 5,204 names have been added to the voter list and 269 rejected.

Come up with plan, timelines to clear garbage in Gurgaon, Centre tells MCG

GURGAON. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has directed MCG to prepare an action plan with well-defined timelines for efficient waste management. The civic body is required to submit the action plan as an affidavit to the Supreme Court and provide copies to MoEFCC and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). According to MCG officials, they are currently formulating an action plan that will include specific timelines for initiating decentralised waste processing and completing the processing of legacy waste at Bandhwari landfill. The plan will also outline the strategies and methods MCG intends to employ to achieve these objectives. In a meeting held recently to discuss

waste management in Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Noida, the urban local bodies (ULBs) of the cities were directed to formulate the action plan. The next hearing of the Supreme Court on a matter related to the disposal of solid waste in Delhi-NCR is scheduled for Sept 6. "The ministry has directed us to provide an action plan, in the form of an affidavit, outlining our strategies and timelines for clearing legacy waste and implementing decentralised waste processing. The plan should also include details on the quantity of waste that will be managed by bulk waste generators and the specific timelines for achieving this. The ministry sought a clear roadmap for the progressive management of waste by bulk waste generators, starting from



20% and gradually increasing to 100%, along with the corresponding timelines for each milestone," said a senior MCG official. "The ministry also asked for a detailed explanation of our commitment to clear the legacy waste at Bandhwari by Dec this year. They have requested a comprehensive plan for

compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, with steps we will take to accomplish this goal on time," he added. In the meetings held on Aug 1 and 7, MCG informed MoEFCC and MoHUA that the legacy waste at Bandhwari is anticipated to be remediated by Dec. The civic body added that according to an MoU

signed with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NNVL) on July 20, a torrefied charcoal plant will be established with a projected operational date of Nov 2026. The plant will address the waste processing deficit. "All the ULBs (Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Greater Noida) are to develop short-term action plans with details of immediate measures being taken for better solid waste management in the cities, covering collection, segregation, transportation, and processing. Covering the management of fresh as well as legacy waste, the action plan should have concrete actions with timelines that will be implemented immediately and monitored continuously," read the minutes of the MoEFCC meetings held on Aug 1 and Aug 7.

Mpox: Govt asks dists to set up isolation facilities & appoint nodal officers

GURGAON. The Haryana health department on Thursday directed all districts to be on high alert and emphasised the importance of sensitising healthcare professionals and conducting screening and testing of suspected measles cases. The screening is to be done through targeted surveillance for sites identified by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for men who have sex with men and female sex workers as well as through hospital-based surveillance in dermatology clinics, STD clinics, medicine, and paediatrics OPDs.

The department also advised all districts to identify isolation facilities and appoint nodal officers for efficient patient management and districts were advised to ensure availability of required logistics such as sample transport material, PPE and gloves. The districts were instructed to perform screening at red zones and promptly isolate suspected patients, particularly those exhibiting symptoms such as fever, rash, or a history

of contact with confirmed monkeypox cases, upon their arrival. Staff members were told to adhere to personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols while interacting with suspected measles cases



and the need for meticulous contact tracing for 21 days from the last exposure was stressed. Timely referral, proper patient management, utilisation of dedicated vehicles for suspected or confirmed Mpox cases etc. were advised. All districts were told to ensure availability of essentials like sample

transport material, PPE, and gloves. Moreover, the department encouraged the districts to organise meetings with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), specifically engage with paediatricians, dermatologists, and physicians, to spread awareness.

"...the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is presently low for India. However, the possibility of a few imported cases being detected in the coming weeks is not entirely ruled out," stated an advisory by director general health services, Haryana.

"All hospitals in Gurgaon have been instructed to remain vigilant, and if any suspected cases come to their attention, they are to promptly inform the integrated disease surveillance programme (IDSP) unit. The incubation period for those infected is 7 to 14 days but it can also range from 5 to 21 days, and the patient is usually contagious during this period," said Dr. Virender Yadav, chief medical officer of Gurgaon.

Lift has free fall for 3 floors, 11-yr-old girl fractures ankle in Gurgaon

GURGAON. A 11-year-old girl suffered an ankle fracture after the lift she boarded allegedly fell three floors in Raheja Vedanta society in Sector 108. According to her parents, the incident happened on Tuesday afternoon when Hiranyaa boarded the lift on the third floor of Tower H to attend her tuition class.

In a complaint to the RWA, her parents claimed the lift had a free fall from the third floor. Within a few seconds of Hiranyaa boarding the lift, there was a jerk, causing her to lose balance and fall on its floor, fracturing her ankle. When the lift came to a halt, she crawled out of it and boarded the service lift to reach home on the third floor, they said. CCTV footage from the lift showed her falling suddenly to the floor. She can be seen holding her ankle and crying out in pain before crawling out. Describing her daughter's

distress upon arriving home, Hiranyaa's mother Himika Khurana said: "She was crying profusely and was in severe pain due to the fracture. The RWA is neglecting maintenance of the lifts in the society. The lift has a history of frequent malfunctions, including strange noises and sudden jerks, which have been reported to the society's RWA and facility management numerous times." Despite this, no meaningful action has been taken to address the issue, she added. "The society management has consistently ignored our concerns. We pay a huge amount in maintenance charges, yet only superficial checks are carried out, and that too only when we press the issue," she further said. Himika said despite the severity of the situation, the RWA refused to acknowledge their complaints. "My child is in pain, and her studies and health are being affected. We

demand immediate action, not just for the repair of the lift, but for a comprehensive review of the safety measures in place for all residents, especially children," she added. On Wednesday, the family informed police about the incident. A police team came to the society but left after the RWA's assurances that the matter would be looked into. No police complaint has been filed so far. Raheja Vedaanta comprises nine towers, where over 350 families are residing. The RWA, meanwhile, refuted claims of negligence and stated that they acted swiftly when the incident came to light. "On the same day of the incident, we informed the lift manufacturer who holds the annual maintenance contract (AMC) for the lifts. Their team visited the society and conducted a preliminary check of lifts in Tower H.

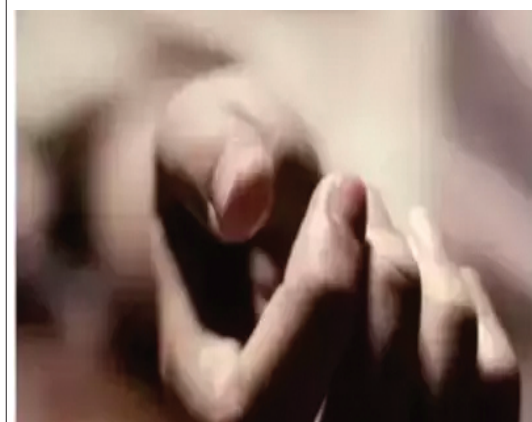
Delivery executive strangles wife in Gurgaon, stuffs her body in sack and dumps it

GURGAON. Police arrested a 32-year-old grocery delivery executive from UP's Vrindavan on Wednesday for allegedly strangling his 27-year-old wife at their house in Sector 53 on Aug 17.

On Aug 18, Biltu stuffed Shefali's body in a sack and dumped it in front of Rohan Motors, an automobile service centre, in Sector 52.

"Biltu and Shefali, who are West Bengal's Malda, had been living in Sector 53. Upset with his alcohol addiction, Shefali had gone to her hometown and returned to Gurgaon recently. On Aug 17, Biltu smothered her with a pillow to death after she threatened to leave him due to his addiction," ACP (crime) Varun Dahiya said.

"Security employees at Rohan Motors informed police after spotting the sack on Aug 18 morning. Our team visited the spot and found the body. A case has been registered under BNS Section 103 (1) (murder) at Sector 53 police



station after the Rohan Motors security guard filed a complaint on the same day," the ACP said. Shefali's family approached the police after they could not contact either her or Biltu. They identified her body on Wednesday morning. They expressed doubt about the involvement of Biltu, who was missing earlier. Police tracked Biltu's mobile phone and traced his location to Vrindavan after examining the CCTV footage at Rohan Motors, which showed a man on a two-wheeler dumping the sack in front of the automobile service centre.

Sariska tiger spends six days in Haryana's Jhabua forest, caught on cam for second time

GURGAON. Sariska tiger ST-2303 was spotted again on a camera trap on Thursday morning, marking the second sighting since it wandered in a forest in Rewari's Jhabua. This is the second time this year that the three-year-old male tiger wandered out of Sariska National Park in Rajasthan, likely in search of new territory. It had previously returned to Sariska in Jan after a similar foray. The young tiger's pugmarks were initially discovered in the Jhabua reserve forest on Saturday, 125km away from Sariska. On Monday, it was spotted on a camera trap. Forest officials also spotted fresh pugmarks of ST-2303 in the vicinity of a water hole. Experts have raised concern about the safety of the big cat and locals. They recommended tranquilising the tiger at the earliest as the 800-acre reserve forest is too small for the tiger. The proximity of nearby villages increases the risk of man-animal conflict if the tiger remains in the area, they said. The forest department, however, said tranquilising the tiger won't be easy. "As it has been raining in Rewari for the past two days, our team is unable to venture deep into the forest area. We have spotted the tiger on camera for the second time. Tranquilising hasn't been feasible due to the weather conditions and also the fact that the tiger is in dense scrub forest," Rewari divisional forest officer Deepak



Patil told TOI. Experts emphasised that authorities need to promptly devise a plan to relocate the tiger to a secure location. "There are several methods to entice the tiger out of the dense forest. The first is to place fresh meat or a live animal in a secure trap to attract the tiger. The second is to use recordings of

female tigers to lure the tiger out. Tigers are territorial and may respond to the vocalisations of other tigers. Officials can also create a scent trail using the urine or scent glands of female tigers. This can lead the tiger out of the forest as it follows the trail," said Dinesh Durani, one of the founding members of Sariska Tiger

Foundation, an NGO. Moreover, experts also pointed out that large areas of Sariska are not conducive for tiger habitat, and thus young tigers are dispersing. "Rewari can't be a suitable home for the tiger as the forest is not expansive enough. Also, leaving the tiger there for a prolonged period might lead to conflicts with people, resulting in injuries and even fatalities. On the other hand, a significant portion of Sariska remains degraded with inadequate prey populations, so many tigers can't be accommodated there. It is also natural for older tigers with established territories to drive the younger tigers out, which then disperse to new habitats where available," said Ghazala Shahabuddin, an ecologist and biodiversity expert.

"Tiger reintroduction programs such as in Sariska require long-term management plans to address such eventualities arising due to increasing tiger populations," she added. Asked about chances of ST-2303 repeatedly entering Rewari, she said, "If this phenomenon persists, the tiger might lose its fear of humans and attack people and livestock frequently in Rewari. We need to prevent such a situation. The National Tiger Conservation Authority could consider relocating it to another tiger reserve where numbers of the big cat are still low."

NEWS BOX

Umrans Malik focused on Duleep Trophy after recovering from Dengue

New Delhi Young India fast bowler Umrans Malik is focused on Duleep Trophy after recovering from Dengue. Notably, Duleep Trophy is all set to begin from 5th September 2024 in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh and M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. Malik has been put in Team C alongside Suryakumar Yadav, Rituraj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar among others. Recently, the 24-year-old opened up on his preparations for the domestic tournament and hoped to do well for his team in the tournament. "I am feeling better and now I am fully focused on the preparation of the Duleep trophy at NCA. I hope, I will be doing good in this season for my team," Malik told ANI. Malik didn't have a memorable outing in the previous domestic season picking just four wickets from five matches at an average of 38.50 in the Ranji Trophy 2023-24 for Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, he failed to leave his mark in the Syed



Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023 with six wickets from seven matches at an average of 35.83 and an economy of 8.26. Malik had a forgettable time in the Vijay Hazare Trophy as well, where he went wicketless in the only game he played leaking 68 runs from eight overs. In the Indian Premier League 2024 (IPL 2024), the speedster featured in just one game and was hammered for 15 runs in the solitary over. The 24-year-old has featured in ten ODIs and eight T20Is for India and picked 24 wickets across both formats.

Umrans Malik's First Class Numbers

In the 12 first-class matches, Malik has picked 16 wickets from 17 innings at an average of 44.62 and an economy of 4.14. He will be eager to bring his 'A game' to the fore in the Duleep Trophy and put on match-winning performances for his team.

India are due to tour Australia in November later this year, Malik's pace could prove to be handy on the bouncy surfaces in Australia. However, the speedster will have to prove his mettle in domestic cricket to earn his maiden India Test call up for the blockbuster series.

Paulo Dybala rejects big-money Saudi Pro League move and commits to AS Roma

New Delhi Argentinian attacking midfielder Paulo Dybala has reportedly rejected what was speculated to be a big-money move to Saudi Pro League side Al Qadisiyah in favor of staying with Serie A club AS Roma. The proposed transfer, speculated to be worth €75 million over three years, has been the subject of intense speculation. However, in a surprising last-minute decision, Dybala chose to stay in Italy, having seemingly put an end to weeks of speculation about his future. Dybala's situation has been a hot topic in recent weeks, particularly after he trained separately from the Roma squad and missed their Serie A opener against Cagliari. These developments had led many to believe that a move to Saudi Arabia was imminent. However, Dybala's decision to remain with Roma appears to be firm, much to the delight of the club's supporters. Adding to the speculation was a recent Instagram post by Dybala, in which he shared a photo with the



caption, "Thank you Rome... See you on Sunday." This message has been widely interpreted as confirmation that he will remain with the Giallorossi, further quashing rumors of a departure to Saudi Arabia. Since joining Roma from Juventus in 2022, Dybala has become a cornerstone of the team, scoring 34 goals and providing 18 assists across 78 appearances. His performances and dedication have made him a beloved figure amongst Roma fans, who had vocally expressed their desire for him to stay with protests in front of the club's training ground over the past few days.

The decision to reject Al Qadisiyah's offer, despite its financial allure, underscores Dybala's commitment to Roma. As he enters the final year of his contract, which includes an automatic extension if he plays at least 15 official matches this season, Dybala is set to continue as a key player for the club.

Tristan Stubbs recalls tough T20 World Cup final loss: Tried my best to forget

South Africa all-rounder Tristan Stubbs revealed that he still has a tough time forgetting his side's tough loss to India in the recent T20 World Cup final and that he doesn't want people to ask him about it.

New Delhi South Africa's promising all-rounder Tristan Stubbs revealed that he is still grappling with the emotional aftermath of his team's narrow defeat to India in the T20 World Cup final on June 29. While the Rohit Sharma-led India side clinched their long-desired title with the T20 World Cup trophy, ending their 13-year ICC trophy drought, the Proteas only saw their own wait extend further. In a recent interaction with IOA, Stubbs revealed that the loss

continues to weigh heavily on his mind, making it difficult for him to move on from that day. South Africa had been in a strong position during the final, played at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. With only 26 runs needed from 24 balls and six wickets in hand, the Proteas seemed poised to claim the title. However, a stunning display of death bowling by India's Jasprit Bumrah, supported by Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, turned the tide, resulting in a heartbreaking 7 run defeat for South Africa.

"T20 WC Final results come up when you don't want it to. I've tried my best to forget, but it's not easy. Someone the other night told us about this and you're like, 'you don't have to tell us, if you feel bad for us'... Some things you don't want to remember," Stubbs told IOA. For Stubbs, the defeat was particularly painful, as he had been instrumental in South Africa's journey to the final. Throughout the tournament, he showcased his hard-hitting abilities, especially when his team needed it most. Batting in the middle order, he managed to



score 196 runs in 11 matches at a strike rate of 101.03, proving his worth as a crucial member of the squad. Despite some impressive performances by the Proteas throughout the tournament, Stubbs

explained that it is hard to forget the final match specifically because of how close his side got to their first major trophy. He has expressed that the memory of the loss frequently resurfaces.

Ultimate Table Tennis: Harmeet, Liu power Athlead Goa to win over Jaipur Patriots

Harmeet Desai and Yangzi Liu led Athlead Goa Challengers to victory in the opening tie of IndianOil Ultimate Table Tennis 2024, defeating Jaipur Patriots after a strong comeback in mixed doubles at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.



Chennai. Harmeet Desai bounced back in style after an early setback, partnering Yangzi Liu to success in the mixed doubles round, and helped reigning champions Athlead Goa Challengers beat debutants Jaipur Patriots in the first tie of IndianOil Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium. Goa Challengers won the toss and served first (Men's Singles), with captain Harmeet securing the maiden point of UTT 2024. The Indian star paddler raced into a 5-0 lead and took the first game by a whopping 11-2

scoreline. Cho Seungmin, however, retaliated in the second game, mirroring Harmeet's efforts from the first; the debuting South Korean amassed a massive lead quickly and closed out the game 11-1. The debutant maintained his assertive shots in the deciding game and emerged victorious, 2-1. The indomitable Liu turned the tables around in the second match (Women's Singles), propelling Goa Challengers into the lead by defeating the experienced

Suthasini Sawettabut 3-0. Harmeet, Liu, and Suthasini returned to the table and were joined by Ronit Bhanja for the Mixed Doubles. Harmeet and Liu, playing their first tie together, showed incredible coordination to take the first game 11-1. While Suthasini and Ronit recovered in game two, Harmeet and Liu took the match by edging the Jaipur Patriots pair in the deciding game. Ronit faced Athlead Goa Challengers' Mihai Bobocica in the fourth match (Men's Singles), with the Italian making his league bow aged 37. Two-time Olympian Bobocica came from behind to win 2-1, increasing his team's lead to eight points and giving them a tie win. Match five (Women's Singles) between Yashaswini Ghoshale and Nithyashree Mani witnessed the first Golden Point of IndianOil UTT 2024, which the latter claimed en route to securing a 2-1 win. Debutants Ahmedabad SG Pipers will begin their IndianOil UTT 2024 campaign with the first tie of tomorrow's double header against Purni Palta Table Tennis at 17:00. Later, PBG Bengaluru Smashers will play hosts Chennai Lions.

Shreyas Iyer offers his seat to Rohit Sharma at Ceat Cricket Rating Awards

New Delhi Star India batter Shreyas Iyer was spotted giving up his seat for captain Rohit Sharma at the Ceat Cricket Rating Awards event held in Mumbai on Tuesday, August 21. Notably, several big names of Indian and world cricket were felicitated at the event.

The 29-year-old led KKR to their third title win after 10 years beating SRH in the final. Virat Kohli was also adjudged ODI batter of the year. The right-handed batter scored 1377 runs from 24 innings at an average of



India captain Rohit Sharma was bestowed with the honour of Men's international Cricketer of the Year for his outstanding leadership and prolific run with the bat in the previous year. While many big names of the cricketing fraternity took the limelight at the star-studded event, Shreyas Iyer won people's hearts with his heartwarming gesture for the India skipper. In a viral video, Iyer can be seen getting up from his seat and offering it to Rohit which even left the India captain amused. However, the opening batter made him sit in his place and sat one row behind exhibiting great camaraderie between the two. Apart from Rohit, Shreyas Iyer was also honoured at the event for Outstanding Leadership in IPL.

72.47 and a strike rate of 99.13 with six hundreds and eight fifties. The 35-year-old also had a record-breaking campaign at the ODI World Cup 2023 scoring a massive 765 runs from 11 innings at an average of 95.62 and a strike rate of 90.31 with three hundreds and six fifties. Mohammed Shami bags ODI bowler of the

India batter Shreyas Iyer was spotted offering his seat to captain Rohit Sharma in a heart-warming gesture at the Ceat Cricket Rating Awards.

Year award Fast bowler Mohammed Shami was adjudged Men's ODI bowler of the year for his exploits 50-over format throughout the year. The right-arm speedster finished as the highest wicket-taker of the ODI World Cup 2023 with 24 wickets to his name from just seven innings at an average of 10.70 and an economy of 5.26. Meanwhile, former India head coach Rahul Dravid was bestowed with Lifetime Achievement Award. Ravichandran Ashwin, Harmanpreet Kaur, Shafali Verma, Yashasvi Jaiswal among others were also felicitated at the event.



better from the Indian ace as he got back into the top 3 with an 83.21 m throw. The third throw from Neeraj was only 83.13 m as he was now in danger of slipping further down in the rankings. However, he remained in top 4 but the throws still remained well-below his standards. The 5th attempt saw Neeraj get his best throw in and hit 85.58 m to move into the top 3. The final attempt would have only the top 3 and Peters finished off in fine style as he shattered the meeting record with 90.61 m throw. Neeraj would then produce his season best with an 89.49 m throw and Weber to the second spot. leapfrog One could hardly guess from Neeraj's reaction, that his final throw at Lausanne was also the second-best throw of his entire career.

Chelsea take 2-0 lead over Servette in Europa Conference League qualifier leg-1

Chelsea clinched a convincing 2-0 win over Swiss side Servette in their Europa Conference League qualifier first-leg on August 23, which saw both Nkunku and Madueke get their names on the scoresheet at Stamford Bridge.

victory over Swiss Super League side Servette on August 22. The win in the first leg of their qualifier at Stamford Bridge has given the Blues a crucial head start in their quest for European competition. In what turned out to be the side's first major win under new coach Enzo Maresca, Chelsea struggled in the first half, failing to gain control over the game both in terms of possession and gameplay. Servette, determined and organised, managed to keep the Premier League side at bay, frustrating the home crowd and stifling Chelsea's attempts to break through. However, the second half saw a dramatic shift in momentum. Just five minutes after the restart, Chelsea finally broke the deadlock when Christopher Nkunku converted a penalty, his fourth goal



for the club. The spot-kick, won after a handball in the box, gave Chelsea the lead and the confidence to push forward. As the game progressed, Chelsea began to assert more control, pinning Servette back and

creating more opportunities. The breakthrough came again in the 74th minute when Noni Madueke doubled Chelsea's lead, finishing off a well-executed pass from Enzo Fernandez. This goal effectively put Chelsea in a commanding position for next week's second leg, making their path to the group stages much clearer.

The victory was a much-needed boost for Chelsea, especially after a disappointing 2-0 loss to Manchester City in Maresca's debut game as head coach. With this win, Chelsea will head into the second leg with confidence, knowing they have one foot firmly in the group stages of the Europa Conference League, but face Servette again for the second-lead on August 30.

Shraddha Kapoor

on Why She Never Worked With SRK, Salman or Aamir: 'I'm Very Clear About...'



Shraddha Kapoor has given several hit films but the actress has never worked with either of the Khans – Shah Rukh, Salman or Aamir. In a recent interview, Shraddha opened up about the same and revealed that she hasn't yet had the opportunity to work with the 3 Khans of Bollywood. Shraddha shared that even though she was offered films with SRK, Aamir or Salman in the past, she could not get on board for several reasons. "Many times you are offered a film, but if you feel the character isn't exciting enough or the role doesn't challenge the artiste in you then you let go off that role. I'm very clear about the kind of work that I choose," Shraddha said during a podcast with Shubhankar Mishra, as quoted by IANS.

"I want to be part of good films, engaging films with good stories, work with good directors, and do good work. If the by-product of all of this is the opportunity to work with good actors or huge stars, I'm happy to say yes to it," the actress added.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha Kapoor is currently enjoying the success of Stree 2. Also starring Rajkumar Rao, Aparshakti Khurana, Abhishek Banerjee and Pankaj Tripathi, the film hit theatres on August 15 and impressed audiences. Directed by Amar Kaushik, Stree 2 sees Rajkumar and Shraddha reprise their roles from the original. The sequel continues the eerie tale in the town of Chanderi, now haunted by a new terror, Sarkata. The townspeople once again turn to Stree for salvation. The film also features several surprise cameos, including Varun Dhawan as Bhediya, who shares a special song with Shraddha Kapoor.

Stree 2 clashed at the box office with Akshay Kumar and Taapsee Pannu's Khel Khel Mein and John Abraham's Vedaa. Despite this, Stree 2 managed to gather audiences' attention. According to Sacnilk, Stree 2 has collected Rs 254.55 Cr (net, early estimates) as of Day 6. The film is charging towards surpassing the lifetime box office collection of Kalki 2898 AD's Hindi version. Stree 2 is likely to beat that record by this weekend.



Prabhas' Next, Fauji, Introduces Viral Dancer Imanvi Esmail As Female Lead



After the massive success of Kalki 2898 AD and with Raja Saab in the pipeline, superstar Prabhas recently announced his film with director Hanu Raghavapudi. The film will star Mithun Chakraborty, Imanvi Esmail and Manvi in the prominent roles. The film is produced under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers. The film is tentatively titled Fauji. The much-anticipated project was launched with a puja ceremony in Hyderabad on August 17. Mythri movie makers shared the pictures from the Puja Ceremony which took the internet by storm. It featured the lead pair-Prabhas and Imanvi Esmail posing together for the pictures. The shooting of the film is reportedly set to begin on August 24. With the puja ceremony photos online, the makers have also announced the lead heroine of the film. The makers have roped in dancer and debutant actor Imanvi to feature as the female lead. The Instagram sensation is best known for her dance cover of the Tamil song 'Tum Tum. This comes just a day after it was announced that veteran actors Mithun Chakraborty and Jaya Prada will feature in the film. The fans are buzzing with the excitement of Prabhas's new film.

Imanvi Esmail also shared the snaps from the puja ceremony. She was seen posing with Prabhas and director Hanu Raghavapudi. Take a look at the post, Debutant Imanvi Esmail is a dancer and content creator with more than 8 lakh followers on Instagram. Imanvi Esmail has a huge Indian fanbase. In 2020, her choreography for the song Ramta Jogi from Taal surfaced on the internet creating a massive buzz on social media. In 2023, her other dance performance in the song Tum Tum from Enemy also went viral which helped her to receive several acting opportunities. Imanvi Esmail is from Los Angeles but presently resides in New Delhi.

Amitabh Bachchan Praises Granddaughter Navya Nanda For Her Women's Welfare Initiatives: 'From Her Own Earnings...'



Amitabh Bachchan returns to captivate audiences with the 16th season of the iconic quiz show, 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. As a seasoned host, the legendary actor continues to enchant viewers with fascinating stories from his life and career. This season, he shared a touching moment on the show involving his granddaughter, Navya Naveli Nanda.

In a recent episode, contestant Nareshi Meena took the hot seat, revealing her dream of becoming an Investigation Officer. However, her aspirations were challenged when she was diagnosed with a brain tumor during medical examinations. Despite this setback, her determination remained unshaken.

Moved by Nareshi's story, Amitabh Bachchan announced that he would cover the costs of her Proton treatment, commending her strength and bravery. He empathized with her situation, acknowledging the courage it took to share her struggle publicly, and encouraged her to focus on her recovery rather than worrying about the prize money. He remarked, "Badi himmat honi chahiye ek mahila mein. Ek toh sarvajanik roop se yeh baat kehna, iske liye bohut himmat ki zarurat hoti hai. Aur khaas toh jis tarah ki avastha hal uske baare mein baat karna hi mushkil hota hai. Kahin na kahin apne apne mann ke andar yeh rakh rakha hai, yeh thaan ki main aaj KBC main aayi hoon aur main dhanrashi jeet kar jaungi aur iska ilaaj ho sakta hai. Aapke dhairyay ke liye hum aapko dhanyawaad karte hai. Lekin iss or jo aapka dhyaan hai, ab woh apne dimag se hata lijiye aur jo aapka chhipa hua tumour hai, woh bhi nikal jayega (It takes immense courage for a woman to speak openly about such matters. You've held onto the hope that winning on KBC could fund your treatment. Your resilience is admirable, but let go of those worries—your hden tumor will be taken care of too)." The conversation then shifted to Nareshi's work, where she supports women facing domestic violence. She highlighted various schemes by the Rajasthan Government aimed at empowering women.

Tamannaah Bhatia

Exudes Divine Charm As Modern-day Radha In Peach Designer Saree

Tamannaah Bhatia's name is synonymous with not just acting and dancing but with an impeccable styling game as well. The actress keeps redefining fashion and leaves her fans in awe of her ethereal beauty. Recently, Tamannaah shared a video clip, giving a glimpse of her photoshoot. The video shows Tamannaah dropping water on herself from a pitcher. Tamannaah has styled her look on the idea of Radharani- the Hindu goddess of Vrindavan, and she looks ethereal, to say the least. Social media users could also get a glimpse of an actor dressed as Lord Krishna.

Tamannaah Bhatia looked drop-dead gorgeous in a peach designer saree with intricate embroidery patterns; she paired it with a purple blouse. Flaunting her well-toned body for the cameras, she opted for a flawless base with contoured cheeks

for the makeup. She accessorised her looks with earrings and maang tika, and left her hair in soft waves. In the caption, she also talked about how as per the Bhagavad Purana, Lord Krishna is the epitome of love. In yet another string of pictures, Tamannaah posed as Radharani waiting for Lord Krishna in Kunjavan. She also held a Mor Pankh for her few photographs, adding further allure to her post. In the caption, she talked about infatuation.

Tamannaah was last seen in the Stree 2 track Aaj Ki Raat. She is now working on a web series, Daring Partners. Created by Mithun Gangopadhyay and Nishant Nayak. The series features Tamannaah, Jaaved Jaferi, Diana Penty and Nakuul Mehta. With a narrative based on real events, Karan Johar's production house, Dharmatic Entertainment has backed this thriller. Tamannaah Bhatia has several projects in the pipeline which include Ashok Teja's directorial Odela 2. She will also act in the Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer film Bole Chudiyaa.

