

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

The Sikh Times National Daily

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

Vol. 16 No. 104 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Monday, 26 August 2024 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

Omar Abdullah mocks Mehbooba Mufti's 'offer' for J&K polls

Sivkan Singh

Srinagar, Aug 25: Omar Abdullah's remarks came a day after Mehbooba Mufti said the PDP would leave all seats for Congress-NC coalition if it accepts her party's agenda.



"They (PDP) said if the NC-Congress alliance accepts their agenda, they will not put up candidates. You have put all our agenda in your manifesto," Abdullah said while addressing party workers in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Chirag Paswan re-elected as Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief for 5 years

Ranchi, August 25: Union minister Chirag Paswan was re-elected as the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president for five years at its national executive meeting here on Sunday.

Ghulam Nabi Azad's DPAP releases 1st list of 13 candidates for J-K Assembly polls

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Srinagar/Jammu, August 25: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Sunday released its first list of 13 candidates for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.



Rajpora, Mir Altaf Hussain from Anantnag and Qaiser Sultan Ganai (Jin) from Ganderbal. Further, it said Ghulam Nabi Bhat would contest from Eidgah, Amir Ahmed Bhat from Khanyar, Nisar Ahmed Lone from Gurez and Peer Bilal Ahmed from Hazratbal.

Assembly elections. The DPAP said DDC member Bilal Ahmed Deva will be its candidate from Anantnag West, Ghulam Nabi Wani (Nellora) from recently contested the Lok Sabha polls from Srinagar but was unsuccessful.

'U' in UPS stands for Modi govt's U-turns: Congress's dig over pension scheme

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, August 25: The Congress on Sunday took a jibe at the Centre over its announcement of the Unified Pension Scheme, saying the 'U' in UPS stands for the Modi government's 'U-turns'.



"In many states, the upper age limit for government jobs for reserved category is 40. In UPSC, this limit is 37. Under the unified pension scheme, it is mandatory to render 25 years of service to get a full pension," Khera

said. In such a situation, how will Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes employees avail this facility, he asked. "Now the government should tell whether it wants to end the upper age limit facility available to the underprivileged or wants to deprive them of full pension?"

Crimes against women unpardonable sin: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Jalgaon (Maharashtra), August 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed crimes against women an unpardonable sin, adding the guilty should not be spared.

ment or police system, at whatever level negligence occurs, everyone should be



held accountable. "The message should go from top to bottom. This sin is unpardonable. Governments will come and go, but protecting life and women's dignity is a big responsibility of all of us, both as a society and as a government," Modi said.

done by all the previous regimes since Independence. "Till 2014, less than Rs

25,000 crore loans were given to women self-help groups but in the last 10 years, Rs 9 lakh crore help was given," Modi said. Modi, who interacted with 'Lakhpati Didis' at Jalgaon, released the Rs 2,500 crore revolving fund benefiting 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh self-help groups. The Lakhpati Didi scheme is not only about boosting the income of women, but also about empowering future generations, Modi said.

every home and every family. However, there was no one to guarantee help for the women," he said. Women didn't have property in their name, and if they had to take a loan from a bank, they could not avail it, he said. In such a situation, they were not able to build their own small business, he added. "Therefore, I, your son and brother, resolved to ease your lives. We took decisions in the interest of women year after year," Modi said.

Sexual offenders should be castrated: Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

Yavatmal (Maharashtra), August 25: Amid the outrage over the Badlapur sexual assault incident, Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said those guilty of offences against women should be castrated. He was speaking at an official programme about the Mahayuti Government's flagship 'Ladki Bahin' scheme for women at Yavatmal in eastern Maharashtra.

Kolkata rape-murder: Main accused Sanjay Roy undergoing lie detection test at Presidency Jail

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, August 25: The lie detection test on Sanjay Roy, the main accused in the alleged rape and murder of a RG Kar Medical College trainee doctor, is under way at Kolkata's Presidency Jail where he is lodged, officials said on Sunday.

with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department in the morning of August 9. A civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police was arrested the following day. The Calcutta High Court on



August 13 ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation on August 14. CBI officials on Sunday conducted searches on the premises of for-

mer principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh, ex-MSVP Sanjay Vashisth and 13 others in and around Kolkata in connection with their probe into alleged financial irregularities at the institute, officials said. The anti-corruption unit of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also searched the residences and offices of those engaged in supplying materials for the management and care of patients. At least seven officers of the Central probe agency have been questioning Ghosh at his Beliaghata residence since 8 am, while others were grilling Vashisth, the former medical superintendent and vice-principal of the hospital, and another professor of the forensic-medicine department of the medical establishment, among others, they said.

॥ श्री सतगुरु देवाय नमः ॥



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News box

Bengaluru Science gallery hosts Sci560 expo

BENGALURU: To cultivate a strong connection between the people, and the research institutions in Bengaluru, Science Gallery Bengaluru (SGB) unveiled a new exhibition titled 'Sci560' highlighting Bengaluru's role as India's leading military-industrial-academic hub. Minister for Science and Technology NS Boseraju inaugurated Sci560 on Saturday. Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Boseraju highlighted the exhibition's significance, stating that it is not just a chronicle of past achievements but a reminder of the power of scientific research to shape our future. Through a series of curated exhibits, Sci560 aims to foster cultural conversations around research, by showcasing pivotal scientific milestones that have shaped the city. Key exhibits include the historical Kolar Gold Fields neutrino experiments, the 'Bheja Fry' brain experiment, the Bangalore Torpedo developed by Madras Engineer Group, and three generations of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), alongside old-fashioned ballot box. The exhibition is designed as a hybrid experience, with public programs scheduled every weekend. The opening weekend will feature a quiz titled 'Bangalore Bytes' guided walkthroughs in Kannada and English, and a public lecture on 'Map is not the territory.'

The exhibition is a collaborative effort between ten institutions and SGB. The name 'Sci560' reflects Bengaluru's pin code prefix, 560, combined with 'sci' to emphasize the exhibition's focus on science. The exhibition is also a tribute to the city's scientific past and future exploring and innovating.

Spurious liquor made with Pundy arrack sold in Tasmac bar, Two held

CHENNAI: The Enforcement Bureau CID of Tamil Nadu police on Friday busted a racket involved making spurious liquor made with arrack sourced from Pudukchery and mixing it with colouring agents, and selling it through a Tasmac bar in Thanjavur. Police said Syed Ibrahim (46) was arrested from his house in Kumbakonam when he was loading 500 bottles of spurious liquor in his car.

On investigation, the team led by inspector J Raman found that the accused had purchased arrack from Pondicherry in bulk, mixed it with a colouring agent, bottled it in empty IMFL bottles and gave it to Tasmac shops with fake labels and holograms. Based on his interrogation, police also arrested Anbuselvan (39) for assisting Syed. Police found that the liquor was being distributed to Kolanjirajan who was running a bar attached to a Tasmac shop in Thanjavur. The police seized 125 litres of arrack, 90 litres of black pearl brandy, 300 bottle caps, one corking machine, 500 empty bottles, 500 holograms, 80 black pearl labels, two packets of colour powder and a car. TN police has requested the public to provide any information regarding illicit liquor to the toll free number 10581 or CUG No. 9498410581. Strict confidentiality will be maintained, they assured.

Refilling old bottles

On investigation, police found that the accused had purchased arrack from Pondicherry in bulk, mixed it with a colouring agent, bottled it in empty IMFL bottles and gave it to Tasmac shops.

SMCs being revamped; phase 3 polls for higher secondary schools across TN held

CHENNAI: The school education department is reconstituting school management committees (SMCs) in government schools across the state after their two-year tenure ended. The elections for high and higher secondary schools were completed on Saturday, whereas for the primary schools, the elections were held in two phases on July 10 and 17. The elections for nearly 8,000 middle schools are scheduled for August 31, according to officials from the school education department. Further, the department has introduced model identity cards and letterheads for SMC chairpersons and members.

SMC observers have noted an increase in awareness among committee chairs and members regarding their roles and responsibilities. Though the friction between teachers and parents persists in some schools, the observers said the number of such cases has gone down. "In several schools, teachers now feel they can rely on the SMC members to handle issues such as drinking water shortage and requests for infrastructure improvements, allowing them to focus more on teaching," said an SMC observer. The SMC meetings, originally conducted once a month, are now held quarterly, after protests from teachers' associations. However, parents and activists have urged the department to return to monthly SMC meetings. S Natraj, an education activist, said, "To institutionalise the committees, it is essential that the members meet monthly and follow up on issues.

It helps them understand their roles and responsibilities. In several schools, the SMCs are proactive and contribute to improving the learning environment. Reducing the frequency of meetings goes against the government's aim to increase community participation in education."

Kerala: Amicus curiae recommends disaster management plan for NHAI after Shirur tragedy

The report filed in Kerala High Court pointed out that the construction particulars vary from hilly areas to plains and marshy lands. It is doubtful whether the NHAI has put in place any disaster management plans.

KOCHI: Citing the Shirur incident which led to significant environmental disasters and loss of lives, the amicus curiae appointed by the Kerala High Court has recommended that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) be directed to implement a disaster management plan and take effective steps to prevent frequent landslides during the construction of national highways in the state. The NHAI oversees the construction of a 600-km stretch of national highway from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram. The report highlights that in the Shirur area, hills were cut horizontally without any support from retaining walls, causing massive landslides. Similar methods of hill cutting have been observed in Kerala as well.

The court appointed senior advocate Ranjith Thampam as amicus curiae to assist the court in a suo motu case registered for the prevention and management of a national disaster in Kerala in the wake of the Wayanad landslide. The report filed in Kerala High Court pointed out that the

construction particulars vary from hilly areas to plains and marshy lands. It is doubtful whether the NHAI has put in place any disaster management plans. Hence, there is a need for disaster



preventive measures in the construction of national highways. The amicus curiae further suggested that a directive should be given to Union and state governments to consider the possibility of providing ex-gratia relief to the affected persons as well as the families of the deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF).

As per the guidelines in this regard, an

amount that can be paid for fully damaged houses is only '1,30,000 per house. Around 500 houses which have moderately decent facilities were fully damaged or destroyed during the landslide.

The state government decided to give '4 lakh for reconstruction of houses that are fully damaged. Apart from this, '2,70,000 is being paid from the CMDRF. However, no amount is being paid further.

The report also pointed out that the disaster management department had informed the Union government that there are only very few automated rain gauges in the state and the data regarding the rainfall is obtained in 28 stations in the state. The temperature observations are provided only by seven observatories. This is highly inadequate and is in contravention of the responsibilities of the Nodal Department tasked with weather observation and early warning system. Hence, the court may direct to set up and maintain automated weather stations at all sites and provide concurrent weather observations in the state, stated the report.

Illegal slaughtering on rise in Thiruvananthapuram as modern abattoir project drags on

According to official sources, only 70 per cent of the work has been completed and the work on many key components is yet to take off.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Illegal slaughtering and improper disposal of waste are becoming a growing concern in the state capital as the ambitious plan to establish a modern abattoir is dragging on inordinately. It has been nearly six years since the city corporation roped in KEL (Kerala Electrical and Allied Engg Co Ltd) for the execution of the abattoir project. Even after missing several deadlines and ultimatum, KEL is yet to complete the project. According to official sources, only 70 per cent of the work has been completed and the work on many key components is yet to take off. Recently,

Mayor Arya Rajendran held a meeting with the officials giving yet another ultimatum for the completion of the project. The modern abattoir, which is estimated to cost '10 crore, will have an outlet selling fresh meat, rendering plant which will help treat slaughter waste scientifically and convert it into numerous by-products including cosmetics and pharmaceutical items. As per rough estimates, around 20,000 kg of beef (200 cattle) and 2640 kg of mutton (200 goats) are being consumed daily in the state capital. However, the civic body has failed to ensure safe meat to the public for more than a

decade now. According to officials, it is impossible to curb illegal slaughtering and meat trade because there is no alternative facility to meet the demand of meat. Kunjalumoodu, Vallakadavu, Beemapally, Poonthura, Valiyathura, Attakulangara, Vellayani, and Karamana are some of the hotspots where illegal slaughtering is rampant in the capital. The airport authorities have also raised the issue of increased bird-hits on planes seeking intervention from the civic body. "The work on the bio-filter is yet to take off and the work on many other components is also pending.

They were supposed to hand over the completed abattoir in 2021 and we have been extending the deadlines for them. KEL has sub-contracted the works and the Lok Sabha elections also caused some delay," said an official source. KEL has procured '6.5 crore-worth machinery to be installed at the abattoir. The official said that KEL has promised to complete the installation of bio-filters within three months and the rest of the work will be completed within a month. "It is a modern facility and first of its kind in the state. We are hoping to make the abattoir operational at least by December end.

Silk showroom beda': Signature campaign to save heritage veterinary hospital in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: The members of CJ Memorial Trust on Saturday started a signature campaign to save the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) hospital land, on Queens Road, from allegedly being acquired for the creation of a silk showroom. The members pointed out that this is one of the few government land parcels left in Bengaluru, for the treatment of animals and birds.

In the petition, members stated that land parcels in other places like Jeevanahalli and Chamarajpet have already been lost. "We were perturbed when acres of heritage vet hospital in Chamarajpet was transferred to the minorities commission for schools. Citizens and the courts stopped this action. Also, earlier AHVS land at Mallewaram was given on rent, while the government clinic occupied a small space in the basement. Many critical government

veterinary clinics were shut down and vets transferred back. We are also losing about 10,000 sqft of heritage super speciality veterinary hospital on Queens Road to



Karnataka Silk Board department for a silk store and office. Land designated to aid sick animals are being re-purposed to sell fashion."

However officials from Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) and AHVS

rubbished the claims. Managing Director of KSIC Zahera Naseem said that a showroom and office is coming up on Queens Road but not on the land belonging to the veterinary hospital. "We are not touching any land in the hospital premises. We are undertaking construction in the space opposite the hospital, and the two spaces are not related." Adding to this, Director of AHVS Dr Manjunath S Palegar said that inside the hospital, construction of a two storey building has been undertaken to admit ailing and injured animals. "In the first phase of construction, OPD, operation theatre, clinic and office space has been completed. Now work is on to construct a dog spa, laser and X-ray treatment rooms and house super speciality treatment equipment. There seems to be confusion among people with the ongoing constructions," he said.

Man arrested for sexually assaulting six-year-old daughter in Chennai

CHENNAI: A 45-year-old man was arrested by the Chennai police on Saturday on charges of sexually assaulting his six-year-old daughter. Police said that on Thursday night, the girl was brought to the government children's hospital in Egmore for injuries sustained on her head. However, during a detailed check-up, doctors found some injuries on her private parts as well. The doctors immediately alerted the concerned jurisdictional all women police station. The district child protection unit also came into the picture, and based on their investigation they found that her father had sexually assaulted her. Cops from AWPS went to the victim's house for a probe and questioned the father. He denied the allegations initially, but later accepted it. He was immediately arrested after a case was booked under the PocsO Act and sent to prison. The child's mother is an anganwadi worker, police said. On Saturday evening, the political party Puratchi Bharatam, in a statement, said that the accused was removed from their party three years ago, after some media publications and social media handles projected him as a party functionary.

HYDRABAD demolishes Nagarjuna's Rs 400 crore lake convention

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Disaster Relief and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAD) razed the high-profile N-Convention Centre, owned by Tollywood actor Akkineni Nagarjuna, early morning on Saturday. Located in Madhapur, the centre was allegedly encroaching upon the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zone of Thammidi Kunta lake. The structure, spanning 3.3 acres and whose estimated market value is around Rs 400 crore, was reportedly erected without the requisite building permissions. The convention centre, known for its state-of-art infrastructure and technology, has been a focal point of controversy for over a decade due to its location in the lake's FTL and buffer zone. In response to the demolition, Nagarjuna called the action unlawful and claimed that it was patta land and added that not "even an inch of tank plan is encroached". "Stay was also granted on previous illegal notice for demolition. We were not issued any notice before the demolition this morning. It is not proper to do this

while the case is in court," Nagarjuna said on X. HYDRAD Commissioner AV Ranganath later made it clear that there were "no stay orders from any court" and noted that N-Convention, built in the FTL/buffer zone, had no building permission. "N-Convention has



been clearly manipulating the systems and process and continuing their commercial activities through the unauthorised structures built in the FTL and buffer zones," he said. The centre had encroached 1.12 acres in FTL and 2.18 acres in the buffer zone without building permission and attempts to regularise the unauthorised structures under Building Regularisation Scheme were rejected by the authorities, he

added. After the demolitions began, Nagarjuna's N-Convention approached the Telangana High Court in the morning. The court then granted interim stay on the demolition by afternoon, by which time the structure had already been completely razed. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, when he was in the TDP, questioned the then BRS government on why the convention centre was allowed to function though it had encroached on the FTL and buffer zone.

HYDRAD chief: Waterlogging due to rampant encroachments

The HYDRAD commissioner said that unchecked encroachments around Thammidi Kunta lake and connecting nalas have led to severe waterlogging in the areas around Madhapur and Hitec City. The lower reaches of Thammidi Kunta Cheruvu are regularly inundated during heavy rains due to the lake's capacity being reduced by more than 50-60 percent. "Many house of lower and middle class people are getting submerged.

Asifabad police ramp up cybercrime awareness among students

ADILABAD: When technology first entered our homes and workplaces, we clapped for the inventions humankind came up with over just a few decades. But today, technology seems to be puppeteer and we, the puppets. This is what the Kumurambheem Asifabad police have been telling students through their special programmes on cybercrimes in all government and private educational institutions for the past month.

DSP P Sadaiah said awareness is regularly created about cybercrimes among school and college students. He added that Bharosa and She teams are working hard for the protection and safety of women and children. At these schools and colleges, they also create awareness on ragging, eve-teasing, POCOS, good touch-bad touch, child marriage and dowry laws, taking action

against those who harass women and children. "Through community policing, we help people more closely. If you have a problem, dial 100 or inform local police officers. Strict action will be taken," said the DSP.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

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NEWS BOX

'You've got a new phone': 3 nabbed for cyber fraud in Gurgaon

GURGAON. Three cyber frauds were arrested on Friday for impersonating officials from Samsung and luring individuals on the pretence of new mobile phones. The accused, identified as Mani Chaubey from Bihar's Kaimur district, Khushwant Goit from Nai Basti in Dehradun, and Rohit Singh from New Seemapuri, Delhi, were arrested from Sector 24. ACP (cyber crime) Priyanshu Diwan said, the accused used a deceptive modus operandi to lure their victims. Mani Chaubey, the mastermind behind the scam, would impersonate a Samsung official and contact individuals, promising them a new Samsung mobile phone. He would then ask the victims to transfer a certain amount to a bank account to avail an offer. Once the money was received, he would transfer the funds to the bank accounts of his accomplices, Khushwant Goit and Rohit Singh. The trio would then proceed to block the customers' phone numbers, leaving them with no means to contact or trace them. Gurgaon police's cyber crime division managed to trace and apprehend the three through technical tracking. A case has been registered against them at the cyber police station under Section 318(4) (cheating) of BNS. The police have recovered one mobile phone and one SIM card from the possession of the accused. "We are pursuing leads to uncover any further ramifications of this scam and to ensure that all those involved are brought to justice," said the officer. The police have issued an advisory urging people to remain vigilant and cautious, requesting them to report any suspicious or fraudulent activities to the cyber crime helpline number 1930.

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Interior designer was abducted & murdered over affair; 3 nabbed

Ghaziabad. Three persons were arrested for the alleged murder of a 34-year-old interior designer in Morta village of Bulandshahr last week. Six other accused involved in the case are currently at large.

According to police, the deceased is Tarun Panwar — a resident of Raj Nagar Extension — and he was reported to be missing on Aug 16. Parts of his body were found in a river near Morta village in Bulandshahr. The arrested accused are Pawan and Vansh of Bibinagar and Anjali from Raj Nagar extension. Others on the run are Deepanshu, Ankur and Ankit from Bibinagar, Akshay from Loni, Jeete from Shahdara and Manoj — Panwar's landlord.

Police said that on August 17, Panwar's family filed a missing complaint at the Nandgram police station, explaining that the previous day he had received a call in the morning following which he went to Morta village. When he did not return home till late night and stopped responding to the family's calls, they began calling his friends but he was found nowhere, they told the cops. Later, his phone's location was traced to Morta village and his car — a Kia Sonet — was found near Yashoda Hospital. A case was registered under Section 140 (1) (kidnapping for murder) of the BNS. Further investigation revealed that Panwar had been killed and his body parts were dumped in the river. Pawan, Vansh and Anjali were traced and arrested and a car and weapons used in killing the interior designer were recovered from the accused's possession. Pawan told the cops that Panwar had become close to Anjali, who allegedly had relations with both Akshay and Pawan. When both the men got to know of Tarun's relation with Anjali, they decided to kill him and made a plan with the rest of the accused. Anjali is separated from her husband while Panwar is survived by a wife and a 7-year-old son.

Colleague lures woman to convert religion, arrested

Ghaziabad. A 49-year-old man was arrested on Friday for allegedly luring a married woman to convert to another religion. The woman's husband filed a complaint at Kavinagar police station and a case was registered under relevant sections of BNS and UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. The complainant has alleged police inaction despite repeated complaints over the past few months. Rakesh Kumar (name changed) alleged that the accused, Faisal Khan — a resident of Masuri and an HR executive in a company — met his wife Savita (name changed) in June 2023, while working part-time in a school where she teaches. Kumar began coming across messages on Islam and Arabic writing on his wife's mobile phone. He also said that Savita went missing for 2 to 3 days in Nov last year and Jan this year. He claimed that in both instances, she was found in a disorientated condition. Kumar suspected Khan's involvement in this and police interrogated the latter based on the complainant's claims. However, nothing concrete came out of the questioning. The complainant began receiving letters about his wife, urging him to leave her, which he suspected were sent by Khan's wife Ghazala. Based on Kumar's complaint, Khan was arrested on Friday. Police later found that he was also implicated in a case of forced religious conversion in 2021. "Khan revealed he had given her a phone and the two spoke every day. He began sending her messages about Islam and asking her to convert. She had begun to follow some practices once he was able to convince her," ACP Abhishek Srivastava said.

5 Noida projects face insolvency, Rera asks allottees to file claims with IRP

Ghaziabad. Homebuyers of five residential projects in Noida, which are undergoing corporate insolvency resolution process, can now file their claims with the interim resolution professional, UP Rera chairman Sanjay Bhooresreddy said.

Earlier this year, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave its nod to initiate insolvency proceedings against five developers, including Supertech Realtors Pvt Ltd's Supernova (phase 1, 2, 3 and 4) and Supertech Township Projects Ltd; Golf Country (phases 1, 2, 3 and 4); Ajnara Realtech Ltd's Le Garden Prime Tower (tower P), Le Garden (phases 1, 2, 3 and 4) and Le Garden (towers A, B and C); Rudra Buildwell Construction Pvt Ltd's KBNOWS Apartments; and Gayatri Hospitality Ltd's Gayatri Aura.

"After CIRP is initiated against a project, UP Rera informs all allottees of such projects to file their claims with the IRP so that they do not suffer losses on account of any delay or non-filing of claims," the Rera chairman said. As per the rule, once a project is admitted into CIRP, no court

or tribunal can take up complaints or cases against a debtor company. The real estate regulator has also revoked the registration of 72 projects across UP on various grounds of violations under section 7 of the Rera Act. Of these, 63 are in GB Nagar and three in Ghaziabad.

Section 7 of the Act states the regulatory authority can revoke the registration of a project if it fails to meet the requirements of the Act, rules, or regulations, violates the terms or conditions of the approval, or is involved in unfair practices or irregularities. For non-compliance with its orders, the regulatory authority has imposed a penalty of Rs 37.5 crore against 115 developers. It also imposed a Rs 9 crore fine against 120 developers for misleading advertisements and a Rs 18 crore penalty for non-filing quarterly progress reports in connection with 1,048 projects. Meanwhile, about Rs 10 crore in fines has been recovered from 225 promoters for violation of section 3 of the UP Rera Act. According to Rera officials, 60% of the total 54,730 complaints were filed in e-courts from GB Nagar. "We



also ensured the settlement of properties of the allottees worth Rs 600 crore in nearly 1,500 cases through the conciliation forum," said the official. We also published the following articles recently: Rakesh Singh is K-RERA chairman The Karnataka government appointed Rakesh Singh as chairperson of K-RERA following a high court interim order restraining Naveen Raj Singh from acting as chairperson. The court had indicated it's not advisable for Naveen to continue due to lack of provisions in the

rules. Singh has a background in water resources, BBMP, and urban development. NMC acting chief approves projects worth 25 crore The acting commissioner of Nashik Municipal Corporation, Jalaj Sharma, approved projects worth Rs 25 crore. Highlights include road works in Nashik East and Nashik Road divisions, costing Rs 20 crore, and acquiring 3,000 tree guards for Rs 1.6 crore. Sharma emphasized timely completion of infrastructure projects during the recent general body meeting to expedite pending civic works. 112688179 N Muruganandam is new chief secretary; Shiv Das Meena to head RERA Tamil Nadu appointed chief secretary Shiv Das Meena as chairman of TN RERA. N Muruganandam will replace him as chief secretary. The RERA chairperson position had been vacant for six months after K Gnanadesikan's tenure ended. Meena was chosen after a selection committee's recommendations. Meena will assume charge on Monday, despite two months left for his superannuation.

Bogus call centre operating from 3 flats busted in Gurgaon, 20 held

GURGAON. A total of 20 people were arrested after police raided a bogus call centre operating from three flats on the same floor in a housing society in Sector 33 of Sohna with the arrest of 20 people. The centre targeted foreign nationals by offering fraudulent tech support for \$100 to 500. The call centre, which was operational for the last three months, is the ninth to have been busted this year. On the intervening night of Aug 23-24, Inspector Madan Lal from Cyber South police station received a tip about the illegal operation at Flat A-20, A-21, and A-22 in Flora Avenue, Sector-33 Sohna. Under the initiative "Operation Endgame" by the cyber police, the raiding team discovered the centre. The accused lured victims with pop-up ads with toll-free numbers that connected to their VOIP system. They then posed as technicians from a reputed company, obtained remote access to the foreign nationals' computer systems using the Ultra



Viewer application, and convinced them that their computer was hacked. Victims were then coerced into buying gift cards worth 100-500 US dollars, which were redeemed and converted into cryptocurrency. Cops seized 16 laptops, 25 mobile phones, and 50,000 rupees from the suspects.

A case has been registered under sections 318(4) (cheating) and 319 (punishment for cheating) of BNS and sections 43 (penalty and compensation

for damage to computer), 66 (computer-related offences), 66D (punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource), and 75 (act to apply for offence or contravention committed outside India) of the IT Act at Cyber Crime South police station.

Mahendra Singh, the manager of this call centre, has also been arrested, cops said. The arrested people include Ashish Ojha from West Bengal, Minlun and Vikhombou Chawang from Manipur, Vidanwang, Namchumbo, Maobe Sangtam, and Achele from Nagaland, Laboi Haokip, Athihri Lohri, and Minbaite from Manipur, K. Lalbizuali from Mizoram, Shreya and Palak from Jammu & Kashmir, Mahendra Bajrang Singh from Gujarat, Manish Kumar from Uttar Pradesh, Ramesh Gurung, Vinod Sharma, and Shiv Bahadur Thapa from Nepal, and Monu Kumar from Delhi.

Survey finds mosquito larvae in 8k homes in Gurgaon

GURGAON. A door-to-door survey by the health department found mosquito larvae in 8,491 houses of the 15.38 lakh it screened. The survey was initiated after the city reported 23 cases of dengue since June this year. Those who are showing symptoms of a viral infection were also tested for various vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya at their nearest primary health centre. As many as 7,712 notices were issued to defaulters for failing to implement protective measures against vector-borne diseases. As part of precautionary measures, health officials pinpointed five hotspots for the disease- Wazirabad, Bhargola, Nakhrola, Badshapur, and Bhondsai and put them under surveillance.

The department also plans to geo-tag all positive larvae bases to establish a comprehensive database. All private hospitals in the city were mandated to establish a separate ward dedicated to dengue cases and collect samples from designated flu corners where individuals exhibiting symptoms can be screened. "This is an ongoing process. We are conducting a survey to identify suspected cases and provide prompt

FIR registered after YouTube channel claims minister dead

Ghaziabad. An FIR was registered against the creator of a YouTube channel — LIVE TV — on Saturday after a video falsely claiming that Union defence minister Rajnath Singh had died was uploaded on it. The case was registered at Shalimar Garden police station following a complaint by Rajesh Singh, a resident of Sahibabad. The FIR was filed under BNS sections 197 (publishes false or misleading information that could endanger India's unity, sovereignty, integrity, or security) and 353 (spreading false and misleading information), and Section 66 of IT Act. Singh alleged that the video had "caused anger and opposition among people against the

Navi Mumbai businessman duped of Rs 33.3 lakh by woman he met on dating app Thane, August 25: A 53-year-old businessman from Navi Mumbai was allegedly cheated of Rs 33.3 lakh by a woman who befriended him on an online dating application, police said on Sunday. Based on a complaint by the businessman from Ghansoli, a case was registered at the Cyber police station on Friday under Sections 319(2) (cheating by personation) and 318(4) (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Information Technology Act, an official said. The complainant has alleged that a woman who identified herself as Pragati Dahiya contacted him on a dating app.

Name Change
I, MOHAMMED RASHID S/O MOHAMMAD IDRIS Residing at A-139/4, BLOCK-A, SHAHEEN BAGH, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-2, JAMIA NAGAR, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD RASHID for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ashi w/o Late Mohd. Javed R/O 11607, Gali Anndheri Chilli Gagar Jama Masjid Delhi-6 declare that I have debarred my son namely Mohd. Yasir date of birth 12-5-2002 from my moveable and immovable property hereafter. He shall be responsible for any illegal activities solely in future or any time.

Name Change
I, No-4371904F Rank-HAV Name-PULAI KHANGAM Father of C MERCY KHANGAM R/O VILL-PONGCHAU, PO + PS-FONGCHAU, DIST-LONGDING ARUNACHAL PRADESH-792131 have changed my minor daughter's name from C MERCY KHANGAM to MERCY KHANGAM for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, CHOTI DEVI Mother of No. 3201289K Rank-HAV Name-MULTAN RAM CHOUDHARY Presently residing at VILL-GHODAWATI, TEH-PIPAR CITY, DIST-JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN-342901 have changed my name from CHHOTI DEVI to CHHOTI DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, HAFIZ MOHAMMED IDREES S/O ISMAIL Residing at BEHAT ROAD, RERHI, MOHUDDINPUR, TAJPURA, SAHARANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-247120 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD IDRIS for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, JASSA RAM CHOUDHARY Father of No. 3201288K Rank-HAV Name-MULTAN RAM CHOUDHARY Presently residing at VILL-GHODAWATI, TEH-PIPAR CITY, DIST-JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN-342901 have changed my name from JASSA RAM CHOUDHARY to JASARAM for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as RAMESHWAR RAM alias DHURUP RAM S/O BHAGERAN RAM R/O D-130, JJ COLONY, PAPAN KALA, DWARKA SEC-1, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHURUP RAM.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as ANITA BENIWAL D/O RAM CHANDER BENIWAL W/O SANJEEV SOLANKI R/O 109, RAJINDER GARDEN EXTN-1, SAHIBABAD, PASCHIM VIHAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110063 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANITA SOLANKI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Sarita Mittal W/o. Late Sh. Virendra Kumar Mittal R/O. 2C DCA Flats (MG), Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 have disowned/ debarred her son Rajesh Mittal and his wife Shalini Mittal from all her moveable/immovable properties/assets and severed all her relations with them due to their misbehavior/misconduct towards my client. Both Rajesh Mittal and Shalini Mittal residing at: S, Selbourne Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU47JP, U.K., if anybody deals with them in any manner will do so at his/hers/their own risk and responsibility. My client shall not be held responsible for any kind of act done by them.

RISHAB OSTWAL ADVOCATE
310, COMPETENT HOUSE F-14, MIDDLE CIRCLE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI-110001

Name Change
I, JC-390069F, Rank-SUB, Name-SHINDE SATISH VILAS residing at VPO-JARANDI, TEH-TASGAON, DIST-SANGLI, MAHARASHTRA-416311 have changed my mother's name from NANDA to NANDA VILAS SHINDE for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/05/1955 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/08/1957 vide affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Suman Tomar Kochar, D/O Jagram Singh, Ex. wife of Sumit Kochar residing at 1671, Third floor, Multani mohalla, Rani Bagh, Sarwasati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide court decree No. 780/2024 dated 20/03/24. Further, I have changed the name of mine suman Tomar Kochar and my minor daughter namely Nitya Kochar aged 13 years. We shall hereafter be known as SUMAN and NITYA respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as Sonu Teotia D/O Kishan Teotia R/O Plot no 969, Flat/F0-3, Shalimar Garden Extn-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ayushi Teotia.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as SHALINI alias NISHA KUMARI D/O ARVIND KUMAR R/O C-14/88, SANGAM VIHAR, MEHARALI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110082 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NISHA KUMARI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is informed that my Client Shri Akash son of Late Shri Rajendra Kumar & Neha wife of Shri Akash have severed all their relations with their son Lakshu due to his bad habits. My client have also disowned and debarred their said son from all their moveable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Lakshu will do so at his/hers/their own risk and responsibility and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by them.

MADHUR AGARWAL ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO. B-3, OLD S.D.M OFFICE COMPOUND, NANGLOI NEW DELHI-41

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, JC-390069F, Rank-SUB, Name-SHINDE SATISH VILAS residing at VPO-JARANDI, TEH-TASGAON, DIST-SANGLI, MAHARASHTRA-416311 have changed my mother's name from NANDA to NANDA VILAS SHINDE for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/05/1955 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/08/1957 vide affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, hitherto known as Sonu Teotia D/O Kishan Teotia R/O Plot no 969, Flat/F0-3, Shalimar Garden Extn-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ayushi Teotia.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Notice no.54/2024 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), N.E. Railways Iztanagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work:
S.N. 1: Description of works: Earthwork in connection with PQRS depot at Hempur ismile station along with Construction of Gate lodge under ADEN/KPV section. (Note:- Earth is from Private Land) Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 1,75,97,120.43, E.M.D Money(Rs.): ₹ 2,38,000/- Cost of Tender Forms Rs.NIL. Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 03 months.
1-On line e-tender can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs of dated 13.09.2024. 2-For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Iztanagar
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NAME CHANGE
I, YESODA C Mother of No. 16112975L, Rank-HAV Name-DEBU C R/O ELAYADATTA-1416311 have changed my father's name from VILAS to VILAS VITHOBA SHINDE for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1950 instead of his correct date of birth as 15/10/1951. Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, YESODA C Mother of No. 16112975L, Rank-HAV Name-DEBU C R/O ELAYADATTA-1416311 have changed my father's name from VILAS to VILAS VITHOBA SHINDE for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1950 instead of his correct date of birth as 15/10/1951. Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, YESODA C Mother of No. 16112975L, Rank-HAV Name-DEBU C R/O ELAYADATTA-1416311 have changed my father's name from VILAS to VILAS VITHOBA SHINDE for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1950 instead of his correct date of birth as 15/10/1951. Affidavit dated 24/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Smt. Sudesh Sharma is the owner of Freehold Residential House No. 1093, on Ground Floor, measuring 80 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 1568, Situated in Village Bassai Darapur, Delhi. By virtue, Regd. WILL dated 31.10.1977 vide Doc No. 635, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. Probate order of Regd. WILL dated 31.10.1977 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property and same property sold to be Mr. Vijay Kumar and same has been financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Dwarka 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 be undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaisali Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09959871432

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement systems)
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	02241299B	MEASURING MONITORING RELAY (HT MTR)	2999 NOS	17-09-24
02	11242046	SOLID MIG/MAG WELDING FILLER WIRE	26108 KGS	19-09-24
03	16243690	LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERY	624 NOS	20-09-24
04	77249007	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR SPRING SETTING DEVICE (SSD)	450 SET	23-09-24
05	19240742	FIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT ALONG WITH CONNECTOR	29 NOS	23-09-24
06	02242210	AUTOMATIC VOLTAGE REGULATOR	21 NOS	23-09-24
07	19242928	DRAFT GEAR ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING DRAFT GEAR FOLLOWER	55 NOS	07-10-24
08	01241815	COMPOSITE BRACKET INSULATOR	2515 NOS	14-10-24
09	07241077A	REAR COVER FOR AXLE BOX	14656 NOS	17-10-24
10	07240463	OVER HAULING KIT FOR BRAKE CYLINDER	1357 SET	17-10-24

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 44/2024-2025 Dated:- 23.08.2024 2634/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

News box

US military official makes surprise visit to Middle East amid regional tensions

World The top US general began an unannounced visit to the Middle East on Saturday to discuss ways to avoid any new escalation in tensions that could spiral into a broader conflict, as the region braces for a threatened Iranian attack against Israel. Air Force General C.Q. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, began his trip in Jordan and said he will also travel to Egypt and Israel in the coming days to hear the perspectives of military leaders. The top US general began an unannounced visit to the Middle East on Saturday to discuss ways to avoid any new escalation in tensions that could spiral into a broader conflict, as the region braces for a threatened Iranian attack against Israel. Air Force General C.Q. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, began his trip in Jordan and said he will also travel to Egypt and Israel in the coming days to hear the perspectives of military leaders. At the same time, as I talk to my counterparts, what are the things we can do to deter any type of broader escalation and ensure we're taking all the appropriate steps to (avoid) ... a broader conflict," Brown told Reuters before landing in Jordan. US President Joe Biden's administration has been seeking to limit the fallout from the war in Gaza between Hamas and Israel, now in its 11th month. The conflict has leveled huge swathes of Gaza, triggered border clashes between Israel and Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement and sparked attacks by Yemen's Houthis on Red Sea shipping. Meanwhile, US troops have been attacked by Iran-aligned militia in Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

Ex-Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's close aides placed on remand in murder cases

Dhaka. A court on Saturday placed Salman F Rahman, private industry affairs adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former law minister Anisul Huq, former social welfare minister Dipu Moni and two others on different terms of remand for interrogation in four murder cases. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim passed the orders in the cases, Daily Star newspaper quoted a sub-inspector working in the court as saying. Apart from the three, former chief whip ASM Feroz and former army officer Major General Ziaul Ahsan were also placed on remand in murder cases. Salman, Anisul and Ziaul were placed on a fresh 10-day remand in two murder cases filed with New Market and Lalbagh police stations. Dipu Moni was placed on a four-day remand in a case filed with Badda Police Station and Feroz was placed on a seven-day remand in a case filed at Bhatara Police Station. Cases have been filed against many officials or ministers of the ousted Hasina-led government after she resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against the quota reform system in Bangladesh. Many Hasina-led Awami League party members are in jail after the new interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge on August 8 following the fall of the previous government.

US's ex-Covid advisor Anthony Fauci infected with West Nile virus: Spokesperson

USA. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former top US infectious disease expert, spent time in the hospital after being infected with West Nile virus and is now recovering at home, a spokesperson confirmed on Saturday. Fauci is expected to make a full recovery, the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity due to security concerns. West Nile virus is commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people don't experience symptoms, about 1 in 5 can develop a fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhoea, or rash, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal,



illness. CBS News' chief medical correspondent, Dr. Jonathan LaPoock, wrote in a social media post that he spoke Saturday with Fauci, who said he was likely infected from a mosquito bite that he got in his backyard. "Dr. Fauci was hospitalised about ten days ago after developing fever, chills, and severe fatigue," the post on X said. It said Fauci spent a week in the hospital. As chief White House medical adviser, Fauci was the public face of the US government during the Covid-19 pandemic, a role that made him both a trusted voice to millions and also the target of partisan anger.

Venezuelan opposition candidate summoned in criminal probe after disputed polls

World Citizen Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia is summoned "on August 26 at 10 am for an interview," prosecutors said Saturday, as part of an investigation into the opposition's publishing of electoral records which it claims show Maduro was clearly defeated. Attorney General Tarek William Saab, a Maduro ally, had foreshadowed the summoning Friday, saying Gonzalez Urrutia would have to explain his "disobedience." Saab said the opposition's website, where it has posted a detailed breakdown of election results, had "usurped" the powers of the Maduro-aligned CNE electoral council. Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was defiant, calling in a post on X for Venezuelans to take to the streets again on Wednesday. "One month after our glorious victory, in which Edmundo Gonzalez was elected President, Venezuelans again take to the streets," she said, calling for supporters to come "with family, with your children, with your grandchildren and with your voting record in hand." The CNE declared Maduro the winner of the July 28 election with 52 percent of votes cast, but has refused to publish detailed results, claiming hackers

had corrupted the data. An observer mission from the US-based Carter Centre said there was no evidence of a cyberattack. The polling station-level results published by the opposition show that Gonzalez Urrutia, a 74-year-old retired diplomat, defeated Maduro with 67 percent of the vote. Maduro has called for the arrest of Gonzalez Urrutia, who has not been seen in public since he led a march on July 30 with Machado. Machado, banned from running in the election, is also in hiding. She has demanded that Maduro enters into transition negotiations, which he has rejected outright. On Saturday, she said in a televised Fox News interview that Maduro had unleashed a brutal "campaign of terror." She pledged to "keep on fighting, peacefully protesting, increasing pressure domestically and internationally, until Maduro understands that his best option is to accept the terms of a negotiation that would bring us to a transition to democracy." **SUPREME COURT RULING** Venezuela's top court, widely regarded as loyal to Maduro, on Thursday certified his reelection to a third, six-year term, and



reprimanded Gonzalez Urrutia for not appearing as ordered. The opposition candidate refused to attend the hearings, saying doing so would risk his freedom. Protests following the disputed vote left 27 people dead, including two military members, and nearly 200 injured. More than 2,400 people have also been arrested in the wake of the election, including some high-profile opposition members. The United States, European Union, several Latin American countries and multilateral bodies have refused to recognize Maduro's victory claim without

seeing the detailed results. Mexico, Brazil and Colombia have been promoting negotiations to find a way out of the Venezuelan crisis. The leaders of Brazil and Colombia on Saturday issued a joint statement reiterating a call for the CNE to release detailed vote results, while saying they "take note" of the Supreme Court ruling. "Both presidents remain convinced that the credibility of the electoral process can only be restored through the transparent publication of disaggregated and verifiable data," the statement said. The EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell on Saturday reiterated that the CNE is the Venezuelan "body legally and constitutionally responsible" for publishing results. "Only complete and independently verifiable results will be accepted and recognized to ensure that the will of the Venezuelan people is respected," he said in a statement. "The Venezuelan people have to decide their own destiny. Their will must prevail."

Zelenskyy calls Putin 'sick old man' during Independence Day address

World President Volodymyr Zelenskyy touted a newly developed Ukrainian "drone missile" on Saturday that he said would take the war back to Russia and scornfully derided Russia's Vladimir Putin as a "sick old man from Red Square". As Ukraine marked 33 years of post-Soviet independence, Zelenskyy said the new weapon, Paliantsia, was faster and more powerful than the domestically made drones that Kyiv has so far used to fight back against Russia, striking its oil refineries and military airfields. "Our enemy will ... know what the Ukrainian way of retaliation is. Worthy, symmetrical, long-ranged," he said. "Our enemy will ... know what the Ukrainian way of retaliation is. Worthy, symmetrical, long-

ranged," he said. Zelenskyy said the new class of Ukrainian weapon had been used for a successful strike on a target in Russia, but did not say where. He used derisive language to describe Russia's 71-year-old president and the nuclear rhetoric coming out of Moscow. "A sick old man from Red Square who constantly threatens everyone with the red button will not dictate any of his red lines to us," he said in a video on the Telegram messaging app. Russia, which has attacked Ukraine with many thousands of missiles and drones since it invaded in February 2022, has derided Ukraine's drone attacks as terrorism. Moscow's troops are advancing in Ukraine's east and occupy 18% of the country. Zelenskyy has been pressing

Kyiv's allies to allow him to use Western weapons deeper in Russian territory, such as to strike airbases used by Russian warplanes that pound Ukraine with missiles and glide bombs. "I want to stress once more that our new weapon decisions, including Paliantsia, is our realistic way to act while some of our partners are unfortunately delaying decisions," Zelenskyy told a news conference. Ukrainians say the word "Paliantsia", a type of Ukrainian bread, is too difficult to pronounce for Russians and it has been used - sometimes humorously - during the war as a way to tell Ukrainians and Russians apart. "It will be very difficult for Russia, difficult to even pronounce what exactly has hit it,

Gaza ceasefire, hostage release talks resume in Cairo; deadlock remain

World Gaza ceasefire and hostage negotiators discussed new compromise proposals in Cairo on Saturday, seeking to bridge gaps between Israel and Hamas, but there was no indication of progress after hours of talks. The talks in Cairo didn't make any progress. Israel is insisting on keeping eight positions along the Philadelphia corridor, one Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the subject. The Cairo talks came as the humanitarian situation in Gaza deteriorated, with malnutrition soaring and polio discovered in the Palestinian enclave. Israeli military strikes in Gaza killed 50 people on Saturday, Palestinian health authorities said, with victims trapped under rubble or lying on roads where fighting continued. A Hamas delegation had arrived in Cairo on Saturday to be nearer at hand to review any proposals that emerged in the main talks between Israel and mediators Egypt, Qatar and the United States, two Egyptian security sources said. A US official said negotiators from the United States met with Egypt, then with Egypt and Qatar on Saturday, and believed that representatives from Egypt and Qatar were meeting with Hamas. The Hamas delegation returned to Doha, Qatar, after the briefing on the round of talks ended, the Palestinian official said. Months of on-off talks have failed to produce a breakthrough to end Israel's devastating military campaign in Gaza or free the remaining hostages seized by Hamas in the militant group's October 7 attack that triggered the war. The Egyptian sources said the new proposals include compromises on outstanding points such as how to secure key areas and the return of people to north Gaza. However, there was no sign of any breakthrough on key sticking points, including Israel's insistence that it must retain control of the so-called Philadelphia Corridor, on the border between Gaza and Egypt.

Israel Declares 48-Hour Emergency After Lebanon Strikes Spike Middle East Tensions; US Ready To Defend Ally

Jerusalem. Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced a 48-hour nationwide state of emergency on Sunday after the country's military launched "pre-emptive strikes" in Lebanon that escalated tensions in the Middle East. The region has been on edge for weeks after Hezbollah and Iran promised to respond to an Israeli strike in Beirut that killed a senior commander of the group as well as the assassination in Tehran of Hamas's political leader, also blamed on Israel. The declaration on the state of emergency enables the IDF (Israeli military) to issue instructions to the citizens of Israel, including limiting gatherings and closing sites where it may be relevant," Gallant said, in a statement issued by his office. "I am convinced that there is a high probability of an attack against the civilian population in areas of the country where the declaration of a



special situation did not apply," he said, referring to previous local emergency measures. "I hereby declare a special situation on the home front in other areas of the country. The situation is valid for 48 hours starting at 6:00 am," Gallant said. In a separate statement, the defence ministry said Gallant briefed US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on the overall situation. "We have conducted precise strikes in Lebanon in order to thwart an imminent threat against the citizens of Israel," Gallant

told Austin, according to the statement. "We are closely following developments in Beirut, and we are determined to use all the means at our disposal in order to defend our citizens." **320 ROCKETS AT ISRAEL OVERNIGHT** Hezbollah said Sunday it had launched more than 320 rockets at Israel overnight, targeting a string of military positions, even as Israel's military said it was carrying out pre-emptive strikes against the group. "The number of Katyusha rockets launched until now is more than 320... towards enemy positions," a Hezbollah statement said, adding it had targeted 11 Israeli bases and barracks. The group said the "first phase has ended with total success", adding that this phase sought to "target Israeli barracks and positions to facilitate the passage of attack drones towards targets" deep inside Israel.

Italian authorities open manslaughter probe in superyacht capsizing case

World Sicilian prosecutors said Saturday they were investigating possible manslaughter after a superyacht sank, killing seven people, as it emerged that trapped passengers scrambled for air pockets after it went down. UK tech tycoon Mike Lynch, his 18-year-old daughter Hannah, four friends and the yacht's cook died when the British-flagged Bayesian sank in a storm before dawn on Monday. "The Public Prosecutor's Office of Termini Imerese has registered a file with the state against unknown persons, hypothesising the crimes of negligent shipwreck and multiple negligent manslaughter," state prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio told reporters on the Italian island. But he said he was only announcing the probe due to the huge international interest in the case, stressing: "We are only in the initial phase of the investigation. At this stage, precisely because the investigation could develop in any way, we are absolutely not

ruling anything out." Lynch, 59, had invited friends and family onto the boat to celebrate his recent acquittal in a massive US fraud case. But the 56-metre (185-foot) yacht was struck by something akin to a mini-tornado before dawn on Monday as it was anchored off Porticello, near Palermo. Fifteen people were rescued and the body of the yacht's chef was found shortly afterwards. Six passengers were reported missing. A major search operation including specialist divers subsequently identified the bodies of four of Lynch's friends on Wednesday. Lynch's body was found on Thursday and that of his daughter, who had been preparing to go to Oxford University, on Friday. **SCRAMBLING FOR AIR** The bodies were found in two cabins on the side of the ship closest to the surface, and officials said they believed the trapped passengers had moved there in a bid to find pockets of air. The ship sank by its stern -- the back -- and came to rest on its right side on



the sea bed, some 50 metres down, Girolamo Bentivoglio Fiandra of the fire service said. He told reporters the passengers inside "took refuge to seek safety in the cabins on the left side where somehow the last air bubbles formed." "We found the first five bodies in the first cabin on the left side, and the last body in the third cabin on the left side," he said. Bayesian's emergency flare had gone up at 4:38 am (0238 GMT) on Monday morning, and the coastguard immediately deployed -- but when they got there, it had

already sunk. **SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED** Contrary to previous reports, Raffaele Macauda, from the Sicilian coastguard, said there had been no storm warning that night. "It was a sudden and unexpected event," added Raffaele Cammarano, another state prosecutor. The officials said the crew were free to leave Sicily during the investigation. Information on whether the yacht's doors were open -- which might explain why it sank so fast -- would not be possible to confirm until the wreck was recovered, the officials said. This could take weeks. Lynch, once dubbed the British "Bill Gates", founded software firm Autonomy in the 1990s. Its \$11 billion sale to Hewlett-Packard in 2011 saw him face fraud charges in the United States. A jury in San Francisco acquitted the 59-year-old and a co-defendant of all charges in June

California sees 'unusual' cold weather, heavy snow shuts part of highway

Sacramento, California An unusually cold weather system from the Gulf of Alaska interrupted summer along the West Coast on Saturday, bringing snow to mountains in California and the Pacific Northwest and prompting the closure of part of a highway that runs through a national park. Parts of Highway 89 through Lassen Volcanic National Park in California were shut down after an estimated 3 inches (7.6 centimetres) of snow fell overnight, according to the National Weather Service. Photos posted by the agency and local authorities showed a high-elevation blanket of white on Mount Rainier in Washington along with a dusting of snow at Minaret Vista, a lookout point southeast of Yosemite National Park in California's Sierra Nevada. Madera County Deputy Sheriff Larry Rich said it was "definitely unexpected" to see snow at Minaret Vista in August. "It's not every day you get to spend your birthday surrounded by a winter wonderland in the middle of

summer," he said in a statement. "It made for a day I won't soon forget, and a unique reminder of why I love serving in this area. It's just one of those moments that makes working up here so special." In northern Nevada, rain fell in the runup to the annual Burning Man festival, prompting organisers to close the entrance gate for most of Saturday before reopening. Torrential rains upended last year's festival, turning the celebration and its temporary city into a muddy quagmire. It also snowed overnight on Mammoth Mountain, a ski destination in California, with the National Weather Service warning hikers and campers to prepare for slick roads. Record rainfall moved through Redding, Red Bluff and Stockton in Northern California on Saturday, the weather service said, and rain showers south of Lake Oroville were expected to continue into the evening. A dusting of snow fell overnight on the crest of the Sierra Nevada around Tioga Pass, the

weather service said. August snow has not occurred there since 2003, forecasters said. Tioga Pass rises to more than 9,900 feet (3,017 metres) and serves as the eastern entryway to Yosemite. But it is usually closed much of each year by winter snow that can take one or two months to clear. While the start of ski season is at least several months away, the hint of winter was welcomed by resorts. "It's a cool and blustery August day here at Palisades Tahoe, as a storm that could bring our first snowfall of the season moves in this afternoon!" the resort said in a social media post Friday. Madera County Deputy Sheriff Larry Rich said it was "definitely unexpected" to see snow at Minaret Vista in August. "It's not every day you get to spend your birthday surrounded by a winter wonderland in the middle of summer," he said in a statement. "It made for a day I won't soon forget, and a unique reminder of why I love serving in this area. It's just one of those moments that makes working up here so

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News box

Fake NCC camp: Madras High Court to hear probe transfer petition on August 27

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Tuesday will hear a public interest litigation petition filed by advocate AP Suryaprakasam seeking a CBI probe into the sexual assault of a girl at a fake NCC camp held in Krishnagiri district recently.

The petition has been listed for hearing before the first bench of Acting Chief Justice D Krishnakumar and Justice PB Balaji. The petitioner has sought the transfer of probe to CBI alleging that the state police "miserably failed" in its investigation and allowed the main culprit, Sivaraman, to die in custody. The investigation may be directed to be transferred to the second respondent for "proper investigation without any interference" from the authorities of the state government, he said in the petition. He expressed anguish over the possibilities of closure of investigation under the pretext of the death of the main accused. He also sought the court to issue directions to the authorities to provide all relief to the affected children without waiting for the completion of investigation.

Youth Congress files complaint against director, burns Minister Saji Cherian in effigy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Youth Congress state vice president Abin Varkey has sought action against actor-director and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy (KSCA) chairman Ranjith who allegedly misbehaved with an actor. On Friday, Bengali actor Sreelekhha Mitra claimed that Ranjith had made sexual advances towards her when she came down to act in one of his films, Palerimanikyam.

Abin filed a complaint before the DGP on Saturday, demanding a probe against Ranjith. In his complaint, the Youth Congress leader said that a famous Bengali actress had levelled serious allegations against Ranjith and urged the state police chief to take appropriate action against the filmmaker. Last Tuesday, Abin filed a complaint before DGP Shaik Darvesh Saheb demanding that a case be charged against those behind the casting couch in the Malayalam film industry following the revelations in the Hema committee report. The DGP forwarded Abin's complaint to ADGP (law and order) and sought the possibility of taking legal action against the guilty. Abin had also filed a complaint before the State Women's Commission chairperson. The YC leaders also took out a protest march to Culture Minister Saji Cherian's official residence near Raj Bhavan on Saturday evening. They sought Cherian's resignation for rallying behind the tainted official of KSCA. The minister had initially backed Ranjith saying that he was a world-renowned film personality, but later wrote on his Facebook account that action would be taken against the perpetrators if there was evidence.

Shoddy probe, lapses result in acquittal of two in drug bust case in Chennai

CHENNAI: Procedural lapses and lack of evidence to back conspiracy charges have led to the acquittal of a techie and his friend who were accused of procuring and selling narcotic drugs like ecstasy, LSD, and cocaine. A city court earlier this week binned the charges by police that the techie had conspired with his friend in Jolarpet to sell the drugs after procuring them through the darknet. Though the cops arrested one of the accused red-handed with the drugs at a bus stand, they did not produce any evidence to back their charge of conspiracy between the two to procure the drugs and sell them, the trial court said in its August 21 order acquitting them. The case filed by cops attached to the SRMC police station was that on August 23, 2022, they arrested Arunkumar (31) from the Mugalivakkam bus stand on the Porur-Guindy road, while in possession of nine LSD stamps, five ecstasy (MDMA) pills and 13.5g of cocaine. They took his voluntary confession which stated that his friend Navin (30) from Jolarpet had procured it through the darknet and gave it to him for money. Navin was arrested by the cops later.

However, during trial, the special NDPS court judge pointed out that the police had not even done basic due diligence to prove their charges. For instance, they had seized mobile phones from both the accused, but it wasn't sent for forensic analysis to extract any details that could prove the conspiracy charge. This was important as it was the police's charge that Navin had bought the drugs from the darknet because Arunkumar had asked him to. "No linking materials were produced by the prosecution to show that both accused were in contact during the relevant period," the judge said in the order.

Apart from this, the court found procedural flaws in the investigation like mention of crime number and the sections under which the accused was charged in the seizure mahazar, which is prepared at the spot of recovery prior.

EXPRESS DIALOGUES | Hema Committee report is a wake-up call not just for Kerala but whole of India

Kerala. The Hema Committee report, which was made public on August 19, after nearly five years in cold storage has created nothing short of an explosion in the Malayalam cinema. Though the revelations of the report including that of systemic sexual abuse of women are not new and have always been there as rumours in the atmosphere, one thing the report has done is legitimise such experiences narrated by women and more than anything else, demand accountability. But how far can the report get us? What are the challenges on the way to holding the perpetrators accountable and implementing the recommendations?

Team TNIE in conversation with noted film editor Beena Paul and veteran actor Gayathri Varsha,

members of Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), which was instrumental in the constitution of the committee.

How do you look at the responses to the findings of the Hema Committee?

Beena Paul: The unnatural kind of attention that only actors attract is deeply disturbing. To shift the narrative away from just the 'actors and sexual harassment', context is very important. Sexual harassment is undoubtedly prevalent, and totally unacceptable. The report is not just about actors, but also about women who work as technicians, makeup artists, hair stylists, assistant directors, cinematographers, editors, etc.

This report is about women as a labour force in Malayalam cinema. But sexual harassment is one of the major issues...Beena: We are no

report?

Gayathri Varsha: What I have always said, even before the formation of the Hema Committee, is that we need a crystal clear film policy. Until now, cinema hasn't been considered an industry in the technical sense of the term. The film industry and its execution revolves around employee and employer class differences. Hence, class conflict is bound to occur here. I think the Hema Committee report has approached this sector in this context.

We saw two kinds of responses to the report. One section says it portrays the Malayalam film industry in a bad light. The other says the report could be a turning

point...Beena: It isn't an issue of bad space or good space. We are trying to push the industry towards becoming more professional. From my point of view, the Malayalam film industry is one of the top industries in India. But there's a lot of exploitation happening. Can we close our eyes to that? That's the question. How could merely forming a policy be a solution in a highly disorganised sector like the film industry? For instance, on the issue of equal pay, is it practical? Beena: Is it just about equal pay? See how it is twisted out of context. We do know that in the Malayalam film industry, as is the case in every film industry all over India, there is a difference in payment for men and women. All I am saying is equal work, equal pay.



Gayathri, how do you see the

Don't disturb tigers, dwellers on Karnataka forest fringes told

BENGALURU: With the increasing reports of tiger migration being noted by experts and forest staffers and captured by camera traps, state forest department officials are now working with the locals, asking them to stay away from wandering tigers. The department has also taken up a study of wandering tigers and is creating awareness among people to reduce conflict and deaths of humans and wildlife.

As per Project Tiger, there are four tiger landscape complex units in the state - Bandipur-Nagarhole, BRT-Cauvery-MM Hills, Bhadra-Kudremukh-Shivamogga-Chikkamagaluru and Kali-Belagavi-Sharavathi. Of these, 75% of the population is housed in the Bandipur-Nagarhole landscape. "While we are capturing tigers in forest fringes as soon as



they come in conflict when a cattle kill is reported, we have also started creating awareness among people staying around forest areas to stay away from the animals. We are tracking the movement and wandering pattern of tigers. All tigers outside forests need not and cannot be captured. Tigers are territorial and have

started moving to different spaces and it needs to be encouraged," said an official from Project Tiger. This is the first such initiative in the state and even in the country. The official said there is an ongoing debate as to how many more tigers the Bandipur-Nagarhole landscape can host. A study on that too has been taken up.

"Conflicts are not new. They were there 10 years ago too. But now the frequency has increased, as the animals have started to wander out and even travel long distances. Enroute, they are coming in close proximity to human habitations and leading to conflicts. This now needs to be tackled in a different way and the priority of the government needs to change," the official said.

Land for playground can't be used for other purposes: Madras High Court

CHENNAI: Holding that a land earmarked as playground cannot be allowed to be de-reserved, the Madras High Court has refused to order the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) to sell the playground area to a trust running a school at Tiruvanniyur in Chennai. "The land, having been reserved as a playground, cannot possibly be sold to the petitioner. Playground is a separate and distinct use category, and cannot be put to interchangeable use wholly or partly. The land reserved as an open

space for playground can never be allowed to be de-reserved," Justice J Nisha Banu said in a recent order. The judge noted that the most common reason for shrinking of playgrounds is expansion of school blocks. The observations were made while disposing of a petition filed by the Hindu Seva Samajam which runs a school in Tiruvanniyur. The TNHB allotted 50% of a 1,889.34 sq.m land for construction of a school at a cost of Rs 22.33 lakh in 1989 at half the price, and allotted the

remaining land to be used purely as a playground. The trust approached TNHB for purchasing the playground portion and paid Rs 32.72 lakh, but the board later revised the amount after finding it was being used for other purposes. It withheld the sale deed for the school area.

Seeking orders for releasing the sale deed and selling the playground area, the Samajam approached the court. The judge ordered TNHB to execute sale deed for the school area.

Woman says hubby didn't allow her to eat french fries, Karnataka High Court comes to his rescue

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court came to the rescue of a man by permitting him to return to the United States to save his job, staying the proceedings initiated against him by his wife, who alleged that he did not allow her to eat french fries.

The Basavanagudi women police had issued an LOC (Look Out Circular) to the 36-year-old husband based on the complaint filed by his 29-year-old wife from the city. Hearing the man's petition, Justice M Nagaprasanna said permitting any investigation against the husband would become an abuse of the process of law and putting a premium on the wife's trivial allegation. There shall be an interim stay of all further investigation till next hearing, the judge said. The judge

said it is surprising as to how the jurisdictional police generated the LOC on trivial circumstances. It is a misuse of power at the behest of the complainant. The only object of the complainant appears to be stopping the petitioner from travelling back to the USA.

"I deem it appropriate to permit the husband to keep his employment in the USA... The jurisdictional police should forthwith intimate to the Bureau of Immigration with regard to the travel of the husband and not to interdict or ostracise him during his travel to the USA," the judge said. According to the interim order, the husband came down during vacation only to receive the complaint registered by his



wife against him and his family members. The husband moved the court because he is on the verge of losing the job. The court

stated that the allegation in the complaint is over minor skirmishes that happen between husband and wife in day-to-day life.

Quoting from the wife's complaint, the court stated that her contention was that when she delivered a child, she had high blood pressure and the husband did not allow her to eat french fries, consume rice and meat, saying she would put on weight. The husband cried foul that he did all the household chores in the USA during their stay, while the wife only watched TV and while not watching TV she chatted with her family over phone. He said he washed dishes, mopped the house and then proceeded to work.

KSPCB to inspect buildings listed for demolition to stop sewage flow into lake

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) certified 19 buildings in Mahadevapura zone as illegal, and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has taken note of it. KSPCB sources said the Board will inspect the sites and ensure that untreated waste water is not released into lakes. A senior officer from the board said, "These buildings have reportedly added more than the approved number of kitchen and bathroom units in the building, and are letting untreated wastewater into the Yelemallappa Shetty Lake. Following the inspection, measures will be taken to stop waste water flow into the lake." An official from the KSPCB environmental office of Mahadevapura zone said a few buildings in a particular layout in the Basavanapura ward are releasing untreated wastewater into the lake. "Some buildings have approval for four kitchen units, but added over 15-20 kitchen units, and 30

bathrooms. The water from these enters the lake. We will inspect these buildings in September and prepare a report. Either the site owner or the builder should be held responsible for polluting the lake," said the official. An FIR will be registered against those responsible for polluting the lake, he added. A volunteer working on lake rejuvenation welcomed the move to inspect the buildings and said construction debris, carcasses of cows and waste water enter the lake through the drain. "The minor irrigation department and BWSSB knew about it. Some buildings in layouts like Sai Serenity and Sai Garden are letting their sewage into the lake. Following the National Green Tribunal observation, the state government has allocated special grants of Rs 120 crore for the rejuvenation of Madiwala and Yele Mallappa Shetty lakes. But minor irrigation officials have failed to complete fencing of the lake," said the volunteer.

Road rage: RBI officer assaulted in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: A 30-year-old RBI compliance officer from Odisha had to undergo a plastic surgery after glass pieces from his spectacles cut his face when three drunk men assaulted him in a road rage case in Aduvodi police limits. The incident happened on Tuesday around 8 pm near the Bosch traffic signal when T Swagat Sahu of JP Nagar 5th Phase was returning home on his motorcycle. Two men, who were riding a motorcycle, suddenly cut through the Marble Road without giving any signal and Sahu almost hit their vehicle. When Sahu advised them to switch on the indicators of their motorcycle and left, the duo

chased him. They forced Sahu to stop near the Bosch traffic signal and started abusing him. Meanwhile, another person joined them. One of the accused punched Sahu through his helmet visor when his glasses broke. The trio left the spot after seeing Sahu bleeding profusely. Though he suffered deep cuts on his face, Sahu rushed to Aduvodi police station and filed a complaint. "Many people were at the spot when the trio attacked me, but none came to my rescue. A cop, who was on his motorcycle, did not help me despite my pleas. The black motorcycle the accused were riding.

J&K witnessed landmark elections in 2002

THE Election Commission of India's (ECI) announcement on holding the three-phase Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir brought back memories of the landmark polls held in September-October 2002. While the forthcoming elections would be the first in the Union Territory, the one in 2002 was also significant for several reasons.

While there has been a rise in terror attacks in the Jammu region in the recent past, it was the Kashmir valley that had witnessed an escalation of terror activities in 2002. It was the first time that the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) participated in the Assembly polls. There was a call for boycotting the elections, given by the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. This was also the first poll in J&K in which EVMs (electronic voting machines) were used.

Even before the announcement of the dates of the four-phase elections was made, it was widely known that they were in the offing. While the PDP had pulled out all stops to reach out to the electorate, the J&K National Conference appeared to be relying on its solid organisational structure down to the grassroots level in its traditional strongholds. While the political parties had already begun their preparations, the official machinery had also started gearing up for the important event. It included, besides the Central and state governments, various security forces and intelligence services. The dynamic security situation was being closely watched and discussed regularly at the Unified Command Headquarters. It was apparent that the security situation was widely different in urban and rural areas. The terrorists, wanting to make their presence felt, were more active in towns and cities, which had a large concentration of population, rather than in sparsely populated villages and hamlets. The urban population, which enjoyed better civic amenities, had more time to participate in political activities. In those areas, it was relatively easier for terrorists to enlist overground workers and quasi-political organisations like the Hurriyat. In mofussil areas, daily life was hard in the absence of basic facilities like medical treatment, supply of water and electricity which left little time for politics, except at the local level. The urban population was thus more polarised along existing political lines, whereas rural folk looked forward to the polls as an opportunity to have their say to improve their lives. In the rural areas, the enthusiasm to vote in the elections was palpable, especially among the youth and first-time voters. Interestingly, the rural population showed greater inclination to participate at the hustings, even defying threats and intimidation from terrorists and at times tearing posters warning voters of dire consequences. The first phase of the elections was to be held on September 16, 2002. James Michael Lyngdoh, then Chief Election Commissioner, visited Srinagar a few times in the weeks prior to that to hold detailed discussions with the state administration and oversee polling arrangements. He was unequivocal in emphasising that he would accept no mismanagement at booths and would order repolling as many times as needed to ensure free and fair polling. After the official announcement of the election schedule, the elected state government went into suspended animation and the Governor, Girish Saxena, took charge. About a week prior to the first round of polling, he held a meeting to take stock of the situation and satisfy himself that all was in readiness for the big event. Apart from officials directly involved in the conduct of polling, the meeting was attended by local heads of various security forces, intelligence agencies, senior bureaucrats of the state government and a few others. At the end of the meeting, the Governor wanted to know what in our estimate would be the percentage of polling (voter turnout).

Modi's Ukraine visit is the message

THE GREAT GAME: The West wants to win India over — despite its grime, it's a nation of gritty people

CHANTS of 'Har, Har Modi' and 'Jai Shri Ram' by overenthusiastic Indians in Kyiv on Friday may have somewhat marred Prime Minister Modi's solemn visit to the garden in the Ukrainian capital where Mahatma Gandhi's statue stands. Minutes later, though, the visible emotion that marked the meeting between Modi and Volodymyr Zelenskyy in front of a memorial that commemorates some of the fallen in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war was emblematic of the difficulty that India faces as it seeks to follow the middle path in this war. On the face of it, it's a no-brainer. Russia invaded Ukraine and must be roundly condemned — many Indians as well as Russians do. But look closely, and the context creeps in. Two years ago, Russia ostensibly went to war because it was insecure about NATO expanding to its frontiers.

Today, the war is less about victory or defeat between Russia and Ukraine, old partners and co-religionists, but much more about the ongoing argument between Russia and the US about Russia's place in the world.

Everyone, especially the Ukrainians, knows that if it were not for the sophisticated weaponry being supplied by the US as well as large parts of the Western world to Zelenskyy's men, the war would have been long over. But it isn't and innocent people are continuing to die. Big power politics has taken over. This is what this Ukraine war is about. Kaun banega duniya ka dada? The Americans clearly are unwilling to relinquish the top spot since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991-end. The Russians, still not as strong as the Americans today but strong enough, insist that there's place for more than one. And as always, the Chinese watch and wait, eager and willing to play both sides — expanding trade with the US, even as they support Vladimir Putin's anxious need to remain relevant both at home and abroad. What of PM Modi and India? The answer to where India stands in this ongoing great game is complex. On the one hand, Modi told Zelenskyy in Kyiv, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, that India is ready to "play an active role in any effort towards peace". Just before, the two had embraced each other warmly — a bit like the long hug into which Modi and Putin had collapsed six weeks ago in the latter's dacha outside Moscow, which Zelenskyy had, openly, admitted to being upset about. Moments later, Modi placed his left hand on Zelenskyy's left shoulder, like elder brothers often do with younger ones, and left it there for many moments while the photographers took many pictures. Seems Modi was genuinely moved — it's a good thing he was. India usually stands with the underdog — its defence of the Mukti Bahini in the former East Pakistan is a good example. But something else seems to be happening here. It seems as if Modi was quite persuaded that he should be seen to be standing with the Ukrainians — and therefore, the US. The Americans had



made no bones about their displeasure with Modi's visit to Moscow. The fact remains that India-US trade is still double that of between India and Russia, notwithstanding the jumped-up volumes due to the purchase of discounted oil by Delhi from Moscow in the last two years.

Those in the West condemning India for refusing to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine need to look inwards — and at the risk of being accused of whataboutery, we must ask, for example, if they are doing anything to prevent Israel from bombing hospitals or schools or UN compounds in Gaza.

Or if, any of these Western nations, most of them Permanent-Five members of the UN Security Council, raised one little finger of dissent when the US decided to bomb Iraq in 2003, in ostensible anticipation of Saddam Hussein using weapons of mass destruction. Wait, one second — Saddam didn't have any.

Meanwhile, the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Washington DC, at the exact minute that Modi was in Ukraine, may be a coincidence — signing a defence pact or two with the Americans is a fine thing to do. But if it's not a coincidence, then two other conclusions may be made. First, that America is not comfortable about dissent, including by a fellow democracy. There would

have been a lot of conversation between Delhi and Washington DC as well as several other Western capitals, seeking to persuade Modi to meet Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

And second, it's clear that Ukraine is turning into Modi's toughest foreign policy challenge so far. Remember, again, that Ukraine is just an alibi, rather a notable cat's paw for the Americans. Nothing wrong with going to Kyiv — much better to check things out for yourself, no matter what Putin or Joe Biden have said. If the PM is able to manoeuvre between the cat's claws, like many of his predecessors have ably done, he will succeed in re-establishing India's unique place in the world.

Certainly, the world will be watching — like it watched the Modi visit to Moscow — for any telltale signs of shift. The West wants to win India over — despite its grime, it's a nation of gritty people.

Moreover, unlike Biden, Rishi Sunak, Emmanuel Macron, Olaf Scholz and some others, all of whom belong to the same side, India has always belonged to itself — its long and arduous walk between national interest and high morality is a challenge that it owes to itself. And so, for the moment, as the PM takes the train back from Kyiv, the inescapable conclusion is that Modi's Ukraine visit itself is the message, both to India and the world.

Ram Madhav returns

J&K polls a challenging assignment

IN the last Assembly elections held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party won 25 seats, more than double the 11 it got in 2008. With a three-seat lead, Peoples Democratic Party patriarch Mufti Mohammad Sayeed became the Chief Minister, but the man of the moment was Ram Madhav. The RSS's poster boy was credited with the BJP's electoral success and for engineering an alliance with the PDP. Out of favour for nearly five years, Madhav's induction as BJP's election incharge in the UT, along with Union minister G Kishan Reddy, marks an end to his political hiatus. Madhav is back in familiar territory — but with a vastly altered political, geographical and electoral landscape. The abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of the state into UTs and the delimitation exercise have changed the dynamics. The BJP may fancy its chances with the Jammu division gaining seats in the redrawn electoral map, but the new assignment, and at such short notice,



will test Madhav's skills. Madhav's return is being

attributed to the RSS asserting itself and the BJP being pragmatic. His recent opinion piece, suggesting that the 2024 Lok Sabha election result was a mandate for humility, is a sign of the times. A pushback is apparent against the BJP's perceived brand of politics that reeks of arrogance, with no room for accommodating contrary views. Madhav has a point to prove on a personal level, and his experience in building bridges with the unlikelyst of candidates could come in handy for the party.

J&K has been without an elected government since 2018. The restoration of the democratic process through three-phase elections provides an opportunity to all political parties to let people's issues take centre stage. What the UT deserves is a campaign that offers hope.

The road to Viksit Bharat is peppered with challenges

One major policy challenge will be to find rural migrants better-paying jobs in the organised sector in urban areas.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech offered a useful insight into his key goals to take the economy forward. One is to transform agriculture and make it more robust so as to combat the growing unpredictability of monsoon and address climate change. In the manufacturing sector, the aim is to utilise the PLI (production-linked incentive) schemes in order to design in India for the world, thus making the country a global manufacturing hub.

The overall aim of economic development will be to uplift the poor. Significantly, there was no mention in the speech of the sharp disparity between the few who are extremely wealthy and the vast number of people who are poor. In 2022-23, the top 1 per cent of the Indians earned Rs 53 lakh each. In stark contrast, those falling in the bottom 50 per cent earned merely Rs 75,000 each. Likewise, in 2022, the top 1 per cent pocketed 22.6 per cent of the income, while the bottom 50 per cent managed to get just 15 per cent of it.

Notably, the top 1 per cent controls 40 per cent of the country's total wealth. And the disparity is only growing bigger with time. The richest 1 per cent of India's population currently has the highest concentration of wealth it has had in six decades.

While inequality soars, the economy has a lot going for it. India is the fastest-growing large country in the world, with the economy growing at an average rate of around 8 per cent. Besides, the inflation rate is well within the RBI's range. The Indian stock market is among the most preferred in the world, surpassing the sentiment for the Chinese stock market. The Union Budget has also addressed one of the laggards, consumption, allowing infrastructure spending to take a back seat. So, where do we go from here if the foremost goal is to address the severe inequality, which is underlined by widespread poverty? According to the Asian Development Review (2017),



extreme poverty stood at 18.5 per cent in Bangladesh, while in India, it was 21.6 per cent. In contrast, Sri Lanka recorded just 1.9 per cent poverty. The quickest and surest way to address poverty is to create more jobs, offering people better-paying employment over time. Since rural areas witness a higher level of poverty, the key will be to create more and better jobs there. But we have to sort out a contraction. As agriculture is made more robust, better seeds, pesticides and tillage will be arranged with the help of greater mechanisation. This will modernise agriculture. But the resulting higher output will be delivered through fewer hands. So, even if we raise

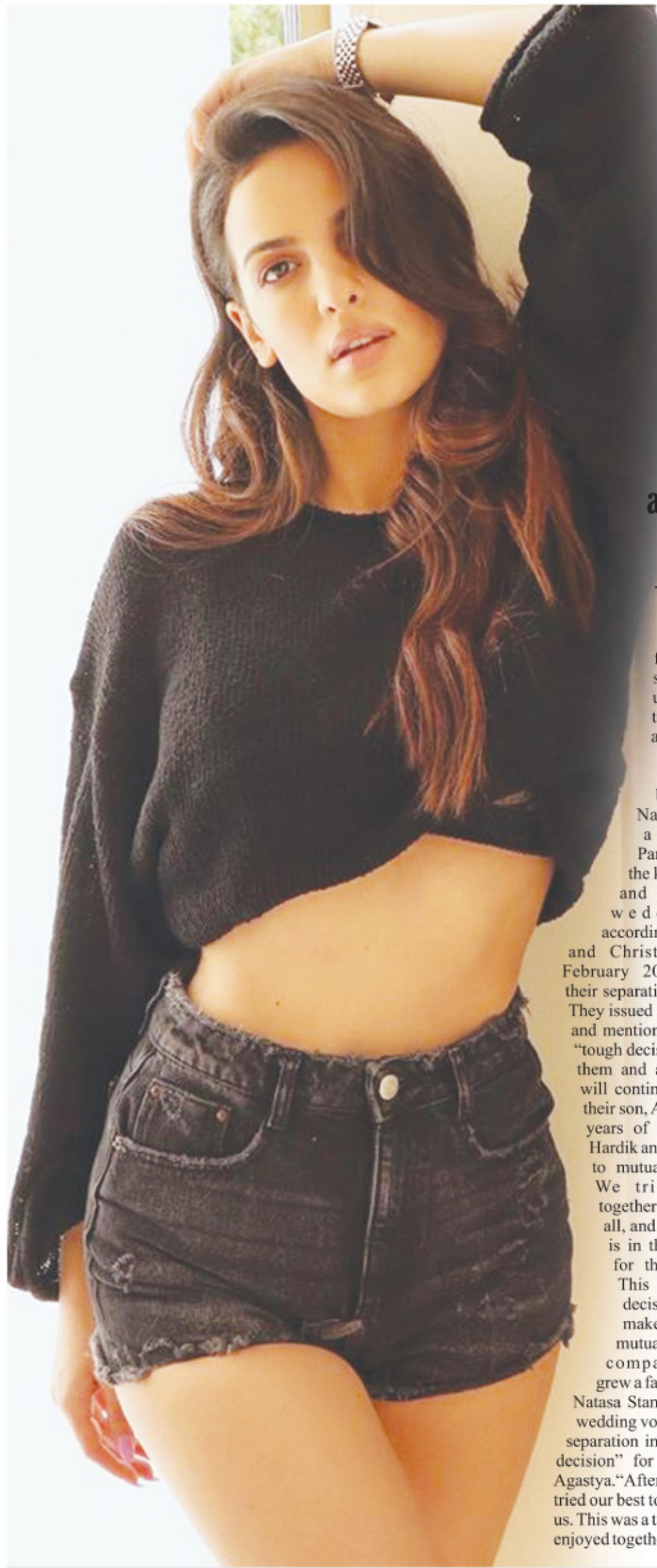
farm incomes, what will those rendered jobless do? The workers thrown out of farms will have to find employment in rural services. As rural agricultural incomes grow, there will be a rise in the number of rural roads, TV sets, smartphones, motorbikes and fast-moving consumer goods like soaps and hair oil. These will have to be sold and serviced. In rural areas, more and more people will be engaged in this exercise than in actual farming.

But the rise in rural services will not be able to take care of all the farmhands who are made redundant. A significant number of people will have to move to urban areas in search of employment. We are

witnessing a steady flow of unskilled workers into urban areas, looking for jobs. And they stay wherever they can, resulting in the mushrooming of unplanned urban slums with little or no amenities. One major policy challenge will be to find rural migrants better-paying jobs in the organised sector in urban areas. Over time, the jobs in this sector will enable the workers to afford basic needs and lead a decent life. The migrants from rural areas generally join microbusinesses, which are mostly not incorporated. They function on a day-to-day basis. Inputs are acquired and workers are paid when cash comes in. But if they run out of cash, it could mean the end of the business. And the workers will then have to look for other equally unstable jobs.

For the bottom 50 per cent to earn more, the policy will have to work on several fronts. It would require workers in the informal sector to make more money. But in order to earn more, they must possess basic skills. For that, it is necessary for them to receive a minimum level of education and acquire rudimentary skills. There are some state and Central schemes, like Ayushman Bharat, that cover one's basic healthcare needs. Plus, efforts are on to provide at least middle-school-level education to all. It seeks to ensure that everyone can master basic language comprehension exercises and do simple arithmetic calculations. Besides, there is a push to improve the standards of industrial training institutes.

The PM has announced the setting up of 75,000 medical seats so that the country can become a global hub for international students. While the plan is welcome, there is a need to first deliver on the basics highlighted above. The PM has outlined his vision to make India a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. But for that to happen, steps will have to be taken today.



Natasa Stankovic

and Hardik Pandya's SHOCKING Divorce Reason REVEALED: 'He Was Too Full of Himself'

Weeks after Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Pandya announced their separation, it has now been revealed that they took this decision because the cricketer was "too full of himself". An insider close to the former couple has shared that the decision was painful for Natasa and even though she tried to make peace with Hardik's personality, it eventually made her feel uncomfortable. They then decided to part ways. "He was too flamboyant for her, too full of himself. Natasa could not handle it anymore. She realised that there was a major gap between how they were as people. She tried to match it up to him but it made her feel uncomfortable. This was a never-ending process so it became tiring after a while. Natasa was not able to keep pace hence she decided to take a step back," a source cited by Times Now claimed.

Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Pandya, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023, confirmed their separation in July 2024. They issued a joint statement and mentioned that it was a "tough decision" for both of them and added that they will continue to co-parent their son, Agastya. "After 4 years of being together, Hardik and I have decided to mutually part ways. We tried our best together and gave it our all, and we believe this is in the best interest for the both of us. This was a tough decision for us to make, given the joy, mutual respect and companionship we grew a family," the statement read.

Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Pandya, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023, confirmed their separation in July 2024. They issued a joint statement and mentioned that it was a "tough decision" for both of them and added that they will continue to co-parent their son, Agastya. "After 4 years of being together, Hardik and I have decided to mutually part ways. We tried our best together and gave it our all, and we believe this is in the best interest for the both of us. This was a tough decision for us to make, given the joy, mutual respect and companionship we enjoyed together and as we grew a family," the statement read.



enjoyed together and as we

Priyanka Chopra

Poses With Relatives At Her Brothers' Wedding Celebrations; Inside Photos Goes Viral

Just a day after Priyanka Chopra made a surprise return to India, she captivated fans with her stunning appearance in an elegant saree at her younger brother Siddharth Chopra's wedding celebration. The event, which appeared to be an intimate gathering, saw Priyanka and her mother, Madhu Chopra, delivering heartfelt speeches. Inside pictures from the event have since surfaced, adding to the excitement surrounding the occasion. While it remains unclear whether Siddharth is already married to Neelam Upadhyaya or if the wedding is yet to take place, a fan page shared a video on Saturday with a message congratulating the couple. The post, captioned, "All the best wishes! It's so lovely to see you in this new role as husband and wife. We wish you both all the happiness in the world! God bless you always!" sparked further speculation.



The fan page also reposted photos from the wedding bash held on Friday night in Mumbai. These images, originally shared by celebrity gynecologist Dr. Kiran Coelho, captured the cozy atmosphere of the gathering, described as "a warm and intimate affair" attended by only close family and friends. The event was hosted by Madhu Chopra and Priyanka, who threw a dinner reception in honor of Neelam and Siddharth.

Priyanka, who was the center of attention in a magenta-pink saree paired with a matching sleeveless blouse and pearl jewelry, was

seen arriving at and leaving the venue alone. Her hair was styled in a sleek bun, and she opted for glamorous makeup to complete her festive look. Madhu Chopra complemented her daughter in a lilac saree, while the newlyweds, Neelam and Siddharth, coordinated in Western blue outfits. Priyanka's arrival in Mumbai was also a moment of excitement, as she was greeted by enthusiastic fans and photographers at the airport early Friday morning. Fresh off the set of her upcoming Hollywood movie, 'The Bluff', Priyanka kept it chic yet casual in a white cropped top, matching track pants, and a long shrug. She also shared a glimpse of her journey back to her hometown on Instagram Stories, posting a video of Mumbai's glittering skyline from her airplane window with the caption, "Mumbai meri jaan (My darling)..."



SRK and Ranveer Singh Danced Their Hearts Out At Ambani's Wedding, Kailash Kher Recalls: 'Everyone Was...'



When Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant tied the knot earlier this year, the entire world watched it. From Justin Bieber serenading the crowd at the Sangeet to a full-blown concert featuring legends like A.R. Rahman and Shreya Ghoshal; the three-day extravaganza was nothing short of spectacular. Popular celebrities from both Bollywood and Hollywood attended the wedding ceremony. Among others, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, John Cena, and even Kim Kardashian graced the event. But amidst all the glitz and glamour, one event stood out – a sacred 'Yagna' where the ever-inspiring Kailash Kher took centre stage. In an exclusive interview with News18 Showsha, Kailash Kher recalled performing at Anant Ambani's wedding when he said, "There are many weddings but some are so grand and glorious that they also resonate with a bit of tradition. The wedding I attended had a theme of Shiv and Shakti. On that day, there was a yagna (sacred fire ritual), and during the yagna, I sang. God hasn't chosen us just for entertainment; how fortunate I am that the Almighty has invited me. And it wasn't just for light entertainment; I was called for divine devotion."

When Kher performed his hit songs like "Bam Laheer," the atmosphere shifted from serene to electrifying. "Several actors danced there," Kher shared with a grin and then added, "It's that moment when you forget yourself and come into a state of ease, into the devotion of God, and you realize that yes, I am just a simple unit. I am also just one unit, that's all," he mused, emphasizing the power of surrendering to the music and the moment.

Sunny Leone Can't Keep Calm As Her Brother Welcomes Second Child: 'Bhai Ka Chota Baby Aya'



Sunny Leone has had a packed schedule this year. From dating reality show MTV Splitsvilla X5 alongside Tanuj Virwani to the filming of her upcoming Kannada film UI, the actress had many projects lined up in her kitty. Amid her busy schedule, the actress was recently spotted at an airport. The actress looked all excited as she shared the good news of her brother's baby's arrival with the shutterbugs stationed there. Her Hindi dialect as she says, "Mere bhai ka chota baby aya" is too cute to be missed. In the clip, Sunny is seen making her way out of the terminal in a white fitted crop top paired with denim jeans and an olive green jacket. The actress, then, greeted the paparazzi with a warm smile, waving hands at them followed by sharing the good news. Visibly cheerful, Sunny also reacted as the shutterbugs asked her to distribute sweets in celebration of the new member's arrival in her family. She cutely asked, "Mujhe mithai bantna hota hai (am I supposed to distribute sweets)?" Assuring them of presenting sweets in the next meeting, Sunny leaves the spot.

On her Instagram stories, Sunny Leone also reshared a post, originally dropped by her sister-in-law Karishma Naidu. The post included Sunny's pictures with Karishma and brother Sundeep Vohra. She is also seen holding the new baby in her arms. Her excitement in the picture is truly palpable.

Earlier in 2021, Sunny Leone's brother Sundeep Vohra and his wife Karishma Naidu welcomed their first child, a baby girl. The actress, then, had posted the happy news on social media with an announcement post wherein she wrote, "I can proudly say witnessing the birth of baby Leia Kaur was a life changing experience."

Only God decides when life begins and I watched it happen in front of my eyes because of my brother @chefsundeep and my sil @karishma htx. I am so proud of them and all they have accomplished and I know they are going to be the most amazing parents! I love you both so much!! "Work-wise, Sunny Leone is geared up to be seen in Kannada film UI. Besides her, the film also stars Murli Sharma, Insane Ashraf, Upendra, P Ravi Shankar, Achyuth Kumar, Sadhu Kokila and Nidhi Subbaiah in prominent roles. The film is scheduled to hit the theatres on September 18.

In Drishyam re-run, ex-cop kills Greater Noida businessman over flat possession

The dispute between accused Praveen and the victim Ankush Sharma started when the latter demanded Rs 20 lakh more than the amount earlier agreed upon by both the parties.

New Delhi: Taking a cue from Ajay Devgn-starrer Bollywood crime thriller Drishyam and several crime series, a former police constable allegedly bludgeoned a Greater Noida businessman to death over a property dispute, police said on Saturday. The accused, suspended constable Praveen, had signed an agreement with the victim, identified as Ankush Sharma, to buy a flat in Greater Noida's in Sector Eta 2 on February 2 through a broker named Sanchit.

"Accused Praveen fixed the deal for Ankush Sharma's flat for Rs 1.18 crore, of which Rs 88 lakh was decided as A payment and Rs 30 lakh as cash B payment. After that, Praveen transferred Rs 51 thousand online to Sharma's account as token money. Praveen transferred Rs 7 lakh in two installments and after seeing Ankush, they

both signed an agreement on March 14", Saad Miya Khan, DCP Greater Noida, said. "Later, the process of Transfer Memorandum (TM) started on April 27 and on May 10, the Transfer Memorandum letter was received from the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, following which, the deceased went to Canada due to which the registration could not be completed", he added. When Ankush Sharma returned from Canada in July, he demanded Rs 20 lakh more than the agreement for his flat from Praveen, which he refused to pay. However, Ankush kept on pressing Praveen to pay the amount sought by him, which upset the accused as the date of the transfer memorandum came close to



expiry. Subsequently, Praveen hatched a plan to kill Ankush. On August 5, Praveen, accompanied by broker Sanchit, went to Ankush's office and picked him up in his car saying that he would pay him the amount.

"When the deceased asked for the increased

price several times and the accused did not pay that price, the date of the transfer memorandum came close to expiry. Due to which, Praveen got upset because Ankush Sharma was repeatedly demanding money. After this, Praveen made a plan to kill Ankush Sharma and on August 5, Praveen went to the deceased's office with Sanchit, where they agreed on an amount of Rs 11 lakh to be paid. But Praveen did not have money to give to Ankush", DCP Khan added.

As per the police statement, Praveen made Ankush sit in his car, telling him that he was going to pay the amount. Praveen offered lassi (buttermilk) laced with sedatives to Ankush, who drank it, not growing suspicious about it as the accused often did

that. "Accused Praveen took Ankush Sharma in his car and drove towards his house and took him to the car park of society. Ankush had fallen unconscious on the seat.

Praveen then took out a hammer from underneath the seat of the car and hit the victim in the head, which resulted in his death", it added. Following this, Praveen buried Ankush's body under the gravel in the jungle of T-Series so that his murder could not be exposed. The deceased's family registered his missing report with Beta 2 police station on August 10. The Thana Beta 2 Police and SWAT team arrested the accused Delhi Police constable from near the drain of LG Gol Chakkar.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem and further investigation is underway", police said.

Manipur Chief Minister to urge Centre to end Suspension of Operation agreement

Imphal. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has called for the withdrawal of the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with certain militant groups, citing violations of the agreement's ground rules. Speaking at a press conference at the Chief Minister's Durbar Hall in Imphal on Saturday, Biren Singh emphasised that the SoO agreement, initially signed to maintain peace and improve law and order in Manipur, has been compromised by some militant groups who have disrupted peace and tranquillity in the region. The Chief Minister informed that the Manipur Legislative Assembly has resolved to urge the Centre to terminate the SoO agreement with those militant groups that are currently violating the terms amid the ongoing crisis.

"Some militant groups under SoO have already violated the ground rules and disrupted peace and tranquillity in Manipur. We are keen to expel these militant groups from the agreement, but no official update has been received from the Centre yet. However, we have received information that the Central government is discussing the matter," Singh said. The SoO agreement, which includes 25 armed Kuki militant groups in Manipur, was initially signed with both the Central Government and the Manipur government in August 2008.

Cheetahs at Kuno to be released into wild a year after enclosure stay

New Delhi: After spending a year inside enclosures, the African cheetahs brought to India as part of the world's first intercontinental translocation of the big cats are set to be released into the wild again at Kuno national park. The cheetahs were brought to the enclosures on August 13, 2023 after three adult cheetahs "died due to septicemia after wounds beneath their dense winter coat on the back and neck regions became infested with maggots" in July. It was a major setback to the translocation project, which began in September 2022. Head of the Cheetah Steering Committee, Dr Rajesh Gopal, told The Indian Express the cheetahs will be released in a phased manner. "I was at the meeting with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) officials where we arrived at the decision to release the cheetahs into the wild. This will be undertaken in a phased manner as the monsoons come to an end," he said.

In Madhya Pradesh, the monsoon usually withdraws from most parts by the beginning of October. Currently, there are 25 cheetahs at Kuno — 13 adults and 12 cubs, born at the national park. Under the translocation project, 20 cheetahs were brought to India in two batches — eight from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 from South Africa last February — of which seven have died until this January. The adult cheetahs gave birth to 17 cubs, of which 12 survived.

All the cheetahs are doing well, officials said, adding the animals are able to hunt chital (spotted deer) inside their enclosures and have been designated "fit for release". Kuno officials will also be sending a compilation of the best practices learnt over the year to the NTCA for further post-release strategies, they said. Giving details of the sequence of the phase-wise release, Dr Gopal said the coalitions (group that lives together) will be released first followed by individual cheetahs and then, at last, the mothers along with their cubs. The oldest of the cubs is around 8 months old and has begun climbing trees and following its mother on a hunt.

Said Dr Gopal: "The cheetah cubs and their mothers will be released in the last week of December. By this time, the cubs will reach a stage in their life where they will be able to hunt for themselves." The only exceptions could be two elderly cheetahs and an orphaned cub abandoned by its mother. While the old cheetahs are not expected to be released at all, Kuno officials said the cub may not be released until it is "rewilded".

After the male coalitions are released, Dr Gopal said their behaviour will be studied before the others are set into the wild. "We anticipate some unpredictable circumstances may arise. They may not immediately leave their enclosures or strat far away. We will study their behaviour and see if they are able to localise and release the other cheetahs," he said.

Uddhav Sena leader claims new pension scheme's announcement violates code of conduct

Mumbai. Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Anand Dubey said on Saturday that the BJP-led central government had breached the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by announcing the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). He said that although the pension scheme is being brought for the betterment of the employees, and it was demanded by the Opposition as well, by announcing the scheme just ahead of the Assembly elections in four states and Union Territory, the BJP-led Centre breached the MCC. Notably, the Centre announced the UPS on Saturday, through which government employees will get an assured pension, family

pension and an assured minimum pension. The new pension scheme will come into force from April 1, 2025.



The BJP-led Centre understood that they needed to bring a pension scheme for 23 lakh government employees. This was a demand by the Opposition as well. However, on the other hand,

Assembly elections will be held in four states and Union Territory soon and the polling dates for Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir have already been announced," Dubey said.

Dubey added that bringing any scheme, although it was being brought for betterment for the employees, after the Code of Conduct was in place, was a breach of the Model Code of Conduct.

The scheme guarantees a pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months, provided the employee has completed a minimum of 25 years of service. For those with lesser service, the pension will be proportionate.

YouTuber Bobby Kataria, associate chargesheeted in human trafficking case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted two accused in an organised human trafficking case involving Chinese companies based in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Laos, officials said. While accused Balwant aka Bobby Kataria, a social media influencer, has been arrested, his associate Ankit Shokeen, currently based in Laos, is absconding, as per the chargesheet filed before the Special NIA Court Panchkula, Haryana.

NIA investigations have revealed that both the accused, along with others, were involved in recruiting and transporting innocent jobseekers using deception and false



inducements. The victims so lured, were being handed over to Chinese companies in Laos, where they were forced to carry out cyber frauds/scams under harsh, strenuous and restrictive conditions. The Chinese companies used to confiscate passports of the victims, and they were also subjected to physical and mental torture in the event of non-performance or refusal to carry out cyber frauds, investigations have revealed. The conspiracy was

hatched by Bobby Kataria along with co-accused Ankit Shokeen and others. Together, they had incorporated MBK Global Visa Private Limited, a visa consultancy, and by taking advantage of his popularity among youth, Bobby was attracting job-seeking youth with lucrative job offers in countries like Singapore.

After taking advance payments, he would persuade the victims to go to Laos. Many of the victims were eventually rescued from the scammers' clutches by the joint efforts of the Indian Embassy at Laos and the local law enforcement. Investigations in the case are continuing, in order to identify the other accused involved in the racket and demolish the entire syndicate.

CBI conducts polygraph test on Kolkata rape-murder accused

Accused Sanjoy Roy's polygraph test, postponed due to technical issues, is underway. The CBI also registered a case of alleged financial irregularities at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

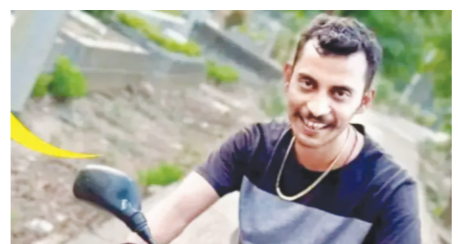
New Delhi: The CBI is conducting a polygraph test on Sanjoy Roy, the key accused in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata hospital, sources said on Sunday. Earlier, the polygraph test on Roy was postponed due to technical

issues. On Saturday, CBI conducted lie detection tests on RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's former principal Sandip Ghosh and five others as part of their probe into the case and also registered a case of alleged financial irregularities at the same facility.

The polygraph tests are being conducted on Ghosh and five others, including interns, doctors, and a person connected to Roy. Technical glitches prevented civic volunteer Roy's test from being conducted as scheduled. We will soon decide when to carry out the test," an officer said. A CBI source told PTI that the test on Roy may be held on Sunday at the Presidency Correctional Home, where he is currently lodged. Due to the time-consuming nature of the polygraph tests and the limited availability of devices — only two are currently available — it may take a few more days for the CBI to complete testing all seven persons involved, the source added. On Saturday, the CBI also interrogated over

15 people, including 10 police officers and civic volunteers, as part of their ongoing probe into the brutal rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee doctor.

CBI PROBES CORRUPTION AT RG



KAR Additionally, the CBI registered a case of alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar Medical College, where the woman medic was found dead on August 9. The case, initially investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the West Bengal government, was transferred to the CBI by the Calcutta High Court. The

High Court's decision to transfer the investigation was based on a plea by former Deputy Superintendent of RG Kar Medical College, Akhtar Ali, who alleged financial misconduct during Ghosh's tenure as principal.

The High Court has directed the CBI to submit a progress report within three weeks. Meanwhile, Kolkata Police has extended prohibitory orders near RG Kar Medical College and Hospital for another week, until August 31. The orders, which were first imposed on August 18, restrict gatherings of more than five people in the area, covering the Belgachia Road-JK Mitra crossing to parts of Shyambazar in North Kolkata.

DOCTORS' PROTEST ON Healthcare services at state-run hospitals across West Bengal continue to be affected as junior doctors protest the alleged rape and murder. Senior doctors have been attending to patients in emergency services at government hospitals.

CBI raids premises of ex-principal Sanjay Ghosh in RG Kar corruption probe

New Delhi: The CBI on Sunday launched searches at 15 locations, including the premises of former RG Kar Medical College principal Sandip Ghosh, in connection with a corruption case registered by the agency. The action comes a day after the probe agency filed a case alleging financial irregularities at the Kolkata hospital, where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered on August 9. The agency took over the investigation from the special investigation team formed by the West Bengal government, following a directive from the Calcutta High Court. The court had ordered a CBI probe based on a plea by Akhtar Ali, former Deputy Superintendent of the hospital, who alleged financial misconduct during Ghosh's tenure as principal.

The High Court had previously handed over the investigation into the rape and murder of the trainee doctor to the CBI, and it has now also transferred



the corruption probe to the central agency. "This Court directs that the investigation be transferred to the CBI, given that the case involved serious allegations and multiple agencies handling different aspects of the case could lead to inefficiencies or inconsistency for comprehensive justice, unnecessary delays in the judicial process, and potential misinterpretation of information, thereby undermining effective and credible enforcement. Therefore, the investigation should not be fragmented between different agencies. Handing over the investigation to the CBI ensures consistency," Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj stated in his order.

The High Court has directed the CBI to submit a progress report on the investigation within three weeks. On Saturday, Sandip Ghosh and four others underwent polygraph tests at CBI's office in Kolkata. A team of polygraph specialists from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Delhi were called in to conduct the tests. Besides Ghosh, lie detection tests were conducted on two doctors, an intern and a hospital staffer who were on duty on the night the woman trainee doctor was raped and murdered in a seminar hall at RG Kar.

Krishna Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami also known as Krishnashtami, Saatam Aatham, Gokulashtami, Ashtami Rohini, Srikrishna Jayanti, Sree Jayanti or sometimes merely as Janmashtami, is an annual commemoration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.[1] The festival is celebrated on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the

Gokulashtami. **Birth** Painting of Krishna being carried across the river. Krishna Carried Across the River Krishna was the 8th son of Devaki and Vasudeva. Based on scriptural details and astrological calculations the date of Krishna's birth, known as Janmashtami,[3] is 19 July 3228 BCE and departed on 3102 BCE. Krishna belonged to the Vrishni clan of Yadavas from

in his evil Uncle Kansa. So Vasudeva took Krishna with him and crossed Yamuna to reach Gokul. There everyone was asleep, so he quietly kept him there and returned with Yashoda's daughter. Kansa, thinking her to be Devki's eight child, threw her on a stone. But she rose in air



Janmashtami by fasting until midnight. They chant Slokas from the Bhagavad Gita and sing religious songs called

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Janmashtami is a national holiday in Bangladesh.[11] On Janmashtami, a procession starts from Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, the National Temple of Bangladesh, and then proceeds through the streets of Old Dhaka. The procession dates back to 1902, but was stopped in 1948 following the establishment of Pakistan and subsequent attacks by Muslim mobs in Dhaka. The procession was resumed in 1989.[12]
Pakistan[edit source | editbeta]

Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Bhadrapada (August–September; However, in both traditions it is the same day. So, we have works like Vishnudharmottara Purana saying Krishna Ashtami is in the Bhadrapada month and Skanda Purana stating that it falls in the month of Shrawana) in the Hindu calendar. Rasa lila, dramatic enactments of the life of Krishna, are a special feature in regions of Mathura and Vrindavan, and regions following Vaishnavism in Manipur.[2] While the Rasa lila re-creates the flirtatious aspects of Krishna's youthful days, the Dahi Handi celebrate God's playful and mischievous side, where teams of young men form human towers to reach a high-hanging pot of butter and break it. This tradition, also known as uridi, is a major event in Tamil Nadu

Mathura,[4] and was the eighth son born to the princess Devaki, and her husband Vasudeva. Mathura (in present day Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh) was the capital of the Yadavas, to which Krishna's parents Vasudeva and Devaki belonged. King Kansa, Devaki's brother,[5] had ascended the throne by imprisoning his father, King Ugrasena. Afraid of a prophecy that predicted his death at the hands of Devaki's eighth son, Kansa had the couple locked into a prison cell. After Kansa killed the first six children, and Devaki's apparent miscarriage of the seventh (which was actually a secret transfer of the infant to Rohini as Balarama), Krishna was born. After his birth Vishnu ordered Vasudeva to take Krishna to Gokul to Nanda and Yashoda where he can live safely, away from

and transformed into Yogmaya (who is Vishnu's helper) and warned Kansa about his death. Then she disappeared. Krishna grew up in Gokul with his brother Balram. Then he returned to Mathura and killed Kansa with the help of his brother, Balram. **Celebrations** Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and staying up until midnight, the time when Krishna is believed to have been born. Images of Krishna's infancy are placed in swings and cradles in temples and homes. At midnight, devotees gather around for devotional songs, dance and exchange gifts. Some temples also conduct reading of the Hindu religious scripture Bhagavad Gita.[6] **Maharashtra** See also: Govinda sport Janmashtami/ Gokulashtami, popularly known in Mumbai and Pune as Dahi Handi, is celebrated with enormous zeal and enthusiasm. The handi is a clay pot filled with buttermilk that is positioned at a convenient height prior to the event. The topmost person on the human pyramid tries to break the handi by hitting it with a blunt object. When the handi breaks, the buttermilk is spilled over the entire group, symbolizing their achievement through unity. Handis are set up around the city, and groups of youngsters – called Govinda Pathaks – travel around in trucks trying to break as many handis as possible during the day. Many – such as Govinda Pathaks – compete with each other, especially for the handis that dole out hefty rewards. The event, in recent times, has gathered a political flavor, and it is common for political parties and rich community groups to offer prizes amounting to lakhs of rupees. Some of the most famous handis are at Dadar, Lower Parel, Worli, Mazgaon, Lalbaug,

Thane and Babu Genu, Mandai in Pune.[7] Cash and gifts are offered for Govinda troops to participate; for over 4,000 handis in Mumbai, 2,000 Govinda troops compete for the prizes. **Manipur** Janmashtami – popularly known in Manipur as Krishna Janma – is a significant festival celebrated at two temples in Imphal, the capital city of Manipur. The first festival is at the Govindaji temple, and the second is at the International

Dwarkadhish temple. In Jammu, kite flying is an important part of the celebration on his day.[9] In the eastern state of Odisha, in the region around Puri and in Nabadwip, West Bengali people celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and worship until midnight. Purana Pravachana from the Bhagavata Purana are recited from the 10th Skandha. This section deals with pastimes of Lord Krishna. The next day is called Nanda Utsav or the joyous celebration of Krishna's foster parents Nanda and Yashoda. On

the bha jans. The temples of Lord Krishna are decorated, and bhajans and kirtans are sung or played. The Krishna Mandir in Patan Durbar Square, Narayanhiti Krishnamandir, and other temples of Lord Krishna are the centers for festivities on Krishna Janmashtimi. Numerous devotees flock to the ancient Krishna temple in old Patan Durbar Square to keep vigil through the revered night of his birth. Observances include people sitting closely together, bodies rocking as women chant

Janmashtami is celebrated by Pakistani Hindus in the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Karachi with the singing of bhajans and delivering of sermons on Krishna.[13] **Outside South Asia** The first ever elected government official in the world to issue proclamation for the celebration Janmashtami is Janet Napolitano, while she was the Governor of Arizona. The festival is also celebrated widely by Hindus in Caribbean in the countries of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The Hindus in these countries



Society for Krishna Consciousness temple. Devotees of Lord Krishna gather mostly at the ISKCON temple. **Northern and Eastern India** Places in Uttar Pradesh that are associated with Krishna's childhood, such as Mathura, Gokul and Vrindavan, attract visitors from all over India, who go there to participate in the festival celebrations.[8] People in the city of Dwarka in Gujarat – where Krishna is believed to have established his Kingdom – celebrate the festival by visiting

this day, people break their fast and offer various cooked sweets during the early hours. South India[edit source | editbeta] In Southern India, floors in houses are decorated with footprints made from flour, to symbolize Krishna's childhood sport of stealing butter from houses.[10] **Nepal** Eighty percent of the population of Nepal identify themselves as Hindus and celebrate Krishna Janmashtimi. They observe

the many names of Lord Krishna, such as Narayan, Narayan and Gopal, Gopal. Some sing hymns, others clap their hands, while some others pray. Crowds of men and women edge their way slowly up narrow steps through the seated devotees to the temple's dark interior, to where the main idol stands. There they offer flowers, coins and food, and wait for a glimpse of the Krishna Janmashtami idol. After the temple priest gives them prasad, they make their way home.[citation needed]

originated from Uttar Pradesh and are the descendants of indentured immigrants from UP. **Street plays** For the past few years, several thousand teams of youth perform street plays on the occasion of Janmashtami worldwide. The performers of these plays are inspired by Pandurang Shastri Athavale, of the Swadhyay Pariwar, to spread the message of Krishna. They disseminate the thoughts of Bhagavad Gita through street plays around the week of Janmashtami.

Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal announces Dua Lipa to headline Zomato Feeding India Concert

New Delhi. Zomato's CEO, Deepinder Goyal, has announced the return of the Zomato Feeding India Concert (ZFIC), with global pop sensation Dua Lipa headlining the event. Goyal took to X (formerly Twitter) to share his excitement, writing, "ZFIC is back! Headlining this year's event is my favourite global pop icon Dua Lipa, an inspiration to millions worldwide!"

The concert, scheduled for November 30, 2024, in Mumbai, marks a significant milestone in Zomato's ongoing mission to combat hunger and malnutrition across India. Although the exact venue is yet to be announced, tickets will go on sale starting August 27.

The Zomato Feeding India Concert is more than just a musical event; it serves as a powerful catalyst for community mobilisation. By uniting artists, philanthropists, and the public, the concert aims to create a hunger-free India. Proceeds from ticket sales and donations will directly support Zomato's Feeding India initiative, which has been instrumental in addressing critical food security issues in the country.

Dua Lipa's involvement is expected to elevate the concert's profile, drawing international attention to the cause. The ZFIC has a history of featuring prominent global artists, making it a key event in the fight against hunger. Through the concert, Zomato continues to leverage the influence of popular culture to drive meaningful change and impact the lives of those in need.

Passenger vehicle sales stagnate in FY25 amid waning demand, high inventory

NEW DELHI. After three years of blockbuster growth, passenger vehicle (PV) sales have come under pressure in FY25. Due to waning pent-up demand and lack of interest shown by new consumers, dealer showrooms are filled with inventory of unsold vehicles despite steep discounts and promotional schemes.

"PV wholesale volumes grew 3% in Q1FY25 on a YoY basis, but retail volumes fell 7% amid factors like heat conditions, implementation of model code of conduct and the General elections impacting retail footfalls. While the underlying demand drivers remain supportive, ICRA expects domestic PV sales volume growth to fall to 3-6% in FY25 on waning replacement demand and effects of a high base," said Srikumar Krishnamurthy, senior VP & co-Group head - corporate ratings, ICRA. PV industry saw sales of 42.3 lakh units in FY24 as against 38.9 lakh units sold in FY23, up 8.7% YoY. Puneet Gupta, director, S&P Global Mobility, said while the industry is expected to grow in FY25 over a high base, absence of pent-up demand, geopolitical uncertainties and delay in rate cut by the RBI remain concerns. He said to create fresh demand,



OEMs will have to realign consumer-reaching strategy. "For the last 3-4 years, it was a supply-driven market. A lot has changed now. EMIs have gone up, prices have gone up, there is no pent-up demand and inventory at showrooms has piled up. Automakers will have to rethink needs of customers, realign pricing strategy and spend heavily on marketing," said Gupta.

Amid the softening demand, especially for entry-level vehicles, inventory levels at dealer showrooms have risen to 67-72 days in July 2024, as per the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association. Earlier this month, the association said dealers are sitting on 730,000 unsold vehicles. This inventory, whose valuation pegged at Rs 73,000 crore, can meet demand for two months.

Hero Motors files for 900 crore IPO with SEBI



NEW DELHI: Hero Motors, the auto-components firm of Hero Motors Company (HMC) Group, on Saturday filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 900 crore via an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) at Rs 400 crore by promoters, as per the draft red herring prospectus. The OFS includes Rs 250 crore worth shares by O P Munjal Holdings, and Rs 75 crore each by Bhagyoday Investments and Hero Cycles. It may consider a pre-IPO placement of Rs 100 crore. Proceeds from the fresh issue of Rs 202 crore will be used for debt payment, Rs 124 crore for buying equipment for expansion in capacity of the company's facility in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Hero Motors is India's leading automotive technology company engaged in designing, developing, manufacturing and supplying high engineered powertrain solutions provider to automotive OEMs in the United States, Europe, India, and the ASEAN region.

FPIs Inject Rs 11,366 Cr In Debt Market In Aug; Inflow Tally Crosses Rs 1 Lakh Cr For 2024

FPIs pulled out over Rs 16,305 crore from equities so far this month, due to unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US and ongoing geopolitical conflicts.

New Delhi. Foreign investors infused Rs 11,366 crore in the Indian debt market so far this month, pushing the net inflow tally in the debt segment to over the Rs 1-lakh-crore mark. Foreign investors' strong buying interest in the Indian debt market can be attributed to India's inclusion in JP Morgan's Emerging Market government bond indices in June this year. According to data from the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) injected Rs 11,366 crore in the debt market this month (till August 24). This inflow came following a net investment

of Rs 22,363 crore into the Indian debt market in July, Rs 14,955 crore in June and Rs 8,760 crore in May. Before that, they pulled out Rs 10,949 crore in April. With the latest flow, FPIs net investment in debt has reached Rs 1.02 lakh crore in 2024 so far. Market analysts said that ever since the announcement of India's inclusion came in October 2023 year, FPIs have been front-loading their investments in Indian debt markets in anticipation of the inclusion in global bond indices. Even after the inclusion, their inflows have continued to remain robust. On the other hand, FPIs pulled out over Rs 16,305 crore from equities so far this month, due to unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US and ongoing geopolitical conflicts. Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said the post-budget announcement of an increase in capital gains tax on equity investments has largely fueled this selling spree. In



addition, FPIs have been cautious because of the high valuations of Indian stocks, coupled with global economic concerns such as rising recession fears in the US amid weak jobs data, uncertainty over the timing of interest rate cuts, and the unwinding of yen carry trade, he added. Overall, India remains in a favourable position, attracting long-term investments from FPIs. "Amidst a global slowdown, the geo-political crisis in the Middle East and neighbouring countries, India still stands at a sweet spot compelling the foreign fraternity to take a

bet for a long-term investment horizon," Manoj Purohit, Partner & Leader, Financial Services Tax, Tax & Regulatory Services, BDO India, said. In terms of sectors, FPIs were big sellers in financials in India in the first fortnight of August. Vipul Bhowar, Director of Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors, said that FPIs are selling banking shares due to concerns over slow deposit growth.

"There are also challenges in Q1FY25 for banks with shrinking margins, deteriorating asset quality, and rising provisions, especially in credit cards, personal loans, and agriculture portfolios," he said. Besides, selling was witnessed in many other sectors including metals on fears that the economic slowdown in the US and China will keep metal prices soft, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. Conversely, foreign investors were buyers in telecom and health care where the growth and earnings prospects are safe and bright, he added.

What is the Unified Pension Scheme Explained in 5 simple points with examples

New Delhi. The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a game-changing policy introduced by the central government, offering government employees a secure and predictable pension after retirement.

Set to launch on April 1, 2025, the UPS is designed to ensure that employees and their families receive a stable income after retirement, providing financial security for life. Here's how the scheme works, broken down into five easy-to-understand points with examples:

1. Assured pension for government employees

Under the UPS, government employees who retire with at least 25 years of service will receive a pension that is 50% of their average basic pay during their last 12 months of service. For employees with fewer than 25 years of service, the pension will be proportionate to the years served, with a minimum of 10 years required to qualify. Example: If Mr. Singh retires after 30 years of service with an average monthly basic pay of Rs



50,000 in his last year, his pension will be Rs 25,000 per month (50% of his average pay).

2. Family pension for dependents

In the unfortunate event of a government employee's death after retirement, their dependents will receive a family pension equivalent to 60% of the employee's last drawn pension. Example: If Mrs. Verma was receiving a pension of Rs 20,000 before her death, her family will now receive Rs 12,000 per month as a family pension.

3. Assured minimum pension for all

Check how the Unified Pension Scheme works, broken down into five easy-to-understand points with examples.

retirees

The UPS ensures that no retired employee will receive less than Rs 10,000 per month, regardless of their earnings during service. This provision offers a safety net for those who may have lower salaries during their career. Example: If Mr. Gupta retires with a relatively low average basic pay of Rs 18,000 per month, his calculated pension would be Rs 9,000. However, due to the minimum pension rule, he will still receive Rs 10,000 per month.

4. Lump-sum retirement payment

In addition to the monthly pension, retirees will also receive a lump-sum payment calculated as 1/10th of their last drawn monthly pay (including DA) for every six months of service completed.

Economists predict diverging growth rates for India's June quarter, range from 6% to 7%

MUMBAI. Ahead of the official release of June quarter growth numbers next week, economists have offered differing forecasts, with rating agency Icria pegging the lowest at 6% and German brokerage Duestche Bank at the highest at 7% and Goldman Sachs seeing growth moderating to 6.6% on account of lower government capex and tepid consumption demand.

Thus far, the RBI's forecast of 7.1% is the highest but that is 20 bps lower than its June estimate. Icria chief economist Aditi Nayar forecasting for the six quarter low growth of 6% attributed the same to the reduction in government capex and a fall in urban consumer demand. For the full fiscal year 2025, she expects the economy clipping at 6.8%, down from 8.2% in the previous fiscal. Official growth data for the June

quarter will be released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on August 30. In the first quarter, the economy grew at 8.2%. Nayar noted several contributing factors for the projected moderation in the June quarter such as temporary lull in various sectors due to the parliamentary elections and sluggish government capital expenditure at both central and state levels. "Lower volume growth combined with diminishing gains from commodity prices weighed upon the profitability of some industrial sectors. The heat wave also affected footfalls in service sectors, even as it provided a major boost to electricity demand. On balance, we foresee a transient moderation in gross value added (GVA) and GDP growth in Q1 to 5.7% and 6%, respectively."

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs has lowered its growth forecast by 80 bps to 6.6% for Q1 on fiscal drag and retail credit slowdown. "We lower growth estimate for Q1, reflecting fall in government capex (-35% YoY) in the election quarter, and a slight fall in urban demand, partly offset by nascent recovery in rural consumption."

"As a result of these, we lower full-year growth forecast by 20 bps to 6.7%. We cut FY26 forecast by 20 bps to 6.4% as we expect a fiscal drag from Q1 of next fiscal given fiscal consolidation target at sub-4.5%," economists of the brokerage said. Easier monetary policy they expect easier monetary policy to offset some of the drags on growth in 2025 as we expect the RBI to start its easing cycle in December 2024. In another report.

Unified Pension Scheme: Check key benefits, assured pension details and more

New Delhi. The central government has introduced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), aimed at providing an assured pension, family pension, and a guaranteed minimum pension for government employees. The UPS, set to take effect from April 1, 2025, promises enhanced financial security by offering a pension equivalent to 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months for those with at least 25 years of service. Additionally, it ensures a family pension at 60% of the employee's pension and guarantees a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month. The scheme also includes inflation-linked increases based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW), further safeguarding retirees against rising costs.

Now, let's break down how the scheme works and its benefits in detail:

What is the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)? The UPS is a new pension policy for government employees that guarantees an assured pension based on the employee's average basic pay. A family pension to support the employee's dependents in case of death.

A minimum pension to ensure no retired employee receives less than Rs 10,000 per month. When does it start? The UPS will come into effect on April 1, 2025. What are the key benefits? Employees who have completed at least 25 years of service will get a pension equal to 50% of their average basic pay over the last 12 months before retiring.

For those under 25 years of service, the pension will be proportionate to the years served, with a minimum of 10 years of service required for eligibility. Assured family pension: In case of an employee's death, their family will receive a pension worth 60% of their last drawn pension. Assured minimum pension: Retired employees with at least 10 years of service will receive a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month, regardless of their earnings during service. Lump-sum payment: In addition to the pension, employees will receive a lump-sum payment at retirement. This will be calculated as 1/10th of their last drawn monthly pay (including DA) for every six months of service completed.



This lump sum will not reduce the amount of assured pension. Inflation protection: The pension will be indexed to inflation, ensuring it rises with the cost of living, similar to how serving employees' pay increases with inflation (Dearness Relief).

What about past retirees?

Past retirees who were under the National Pension System (NPS) will have the option to switch to UPS. They will also receive arrears with interest, calculated at Public Provident Fund (PPF) rates. Contribution structure: Employee

contributions will remain the same under the UPS. The government's contribution will increase from 14% to 18.5%, ensuring stronger support for employees.

Who benefits?

Approximately 23 lakh central government employees will benefit from this scheme. State governments are also encouraged to adopt UPS, which could extend the benefits to over 90 lakh employees currently under NPS. To sum up, the Unified Pension Scheme or UPS is designed to offer better financial security to government employees by guaranteeing fixed pensions and family pensions, all while protecting against inflation. With UPS, employees can look forward to a dignified and stable retirement. His new scheme offers employees a choice between continuing with NPS or switching to UPS, but the choice, once made, will be final. The government will provide all necessary support to implement this scheme by 2025.

Commerce Minister Piyush criticises E-commerce giants for predatory pricing practices

New Delhi. Union Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has stirred up the pot by letting go a broadside against Amazon and other e-commerce players. Attacking these e-retailers for 'predatory pricing', Goyal alleged they were slowly killing the vast network of small, mom-and-pop shops through unfair competition. He also suggested Amazon was passing off fund infusions to cover Rs 6,000 crore of losses by disguising them as investments.

"If you make Rs 6,000 crore loss in one year, does it not smell of predatory pricing?" he asked, claiming many e-tailers were violating foreign direct investment (FDI) laws.

It is ironic the minister for commerce and industry should be complaining of the bad ways of the big e-tailers! Traders through their apex body - the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) - have been begging the government for years to take action against predatory pricing. To no avail!

It is ironic that Goyal was speaking at an event where a think tank, Pahlke Foundation, released a report that showed e-commerce was still small play in India, and that in fact retailers had benefited hugely from combining brick-and-mortar stores with e-commerce sales. As per the report, while e-commerce is indeed growing at a fast pace, it comprised only 7.8% of total retail sales in 2022. The report estimated that there were 1.76 million online vendors, who had added 16 million jobs, including 3.5 million for women. It report also said 60% of small city vendors had reported increased sales since they had started selling online. Loopholes in the law. Coming to 'predatory pricing'...

Well, that's a real problem! And it is as old as the hills. And the government has done nothing about it. For years, small retailers have been complaining e-commerce operatives like Amazon and Walmart-acquired Flipkart have been pricing goods below cost of production as a strategy to kill competition. While they incur a loss in the short term, once competitors have shut shop, the big retailers acquire a monopoly, and fix prices to the detriment of millions of consumers. Free competition is the life blood of a market economy. Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002 forbids 'unfair or discriminatory' pricing, by the abuse of a 'dominant position'. To ensure fair competition and to weed out monopolies and trusts, the Act has set up a regulator - the Competition Commission of India (CCI) mandated to act against monopolies.

NEWS BOX

Swapnil Kusale feels lack of physical fitness made him miss gold medal in Paris

New Delhi. India shooter Swapnil Kusale revealed that lack of physical fitness cost him the gold medal at the Paris Olympics 2024. Notably, Kusale won a bronze medal in the Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions event in Paris with a final score of 451.4. As a result, he became the first Indian to win a medal in the event.

He also won the third medal in shooting for India in Paris after Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh. Recently, the 29-year-old opened up on his challenges during the medal match and mentioned that lack of physical fitness made him miss out on the gold medal. However, he assured that he will give his best to clinch it in the next edition.

"I didn't saw any target on the screen board when I was at sixth position. I was just focusing to hit the target. I lacked physical fitness, that is one of the reason I missed out on the gold medal. I will work on this and will try to win it next time around," Kusale told ANI. Further speaking ahead, Kusale thanked Sports Authority of India for their continuous support throughout his journey. He also recalled his chat with Prime Minister



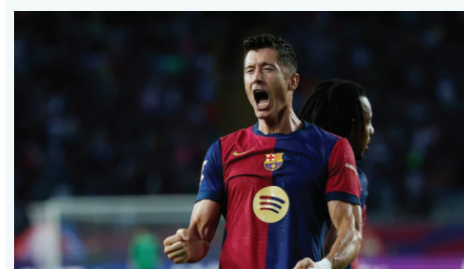
Modi who had called him to congratulate on his medal victory at the Games.

"SAI, TOPS have supported me throughout my journey financially as in my sport the equipment are very expensive. PM Modi interacted with me and applauded me for my performance in the medal match and he said that it was a proud moment as I brought a medal for the country," the shooter concluded. Meanwhile, the Indian shooting contingent were successful in ending the 12-year drought of a medal in the sport at the Games. Manu Bhaker opened the medal tally for India by clinching bronze in the Women's 10m air pistol event. She further helped the nation clinch their second medal by winning another bronze alongside Sarabjot Singh in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. India won a total of six medals at the Olympics including five bronze and one silver.

Barcelona coach Flick delighted with Lewandowski after 2-1 win vs Athletic Bilbao

New Delhi. FC Barcelona manager Hansi Flick heaped praise on Robert Lewandowski after his team's 2-1 win against Athletic Club on Saturday, 24 August. Lewandowski scored the winner in the team's first home game of the new LaLiga season, taking his goal tally up to 3 in 2 games. The striker was deterred by the bar multiple times before his goal, but showed incredible resilience for a cool finish, assisted by Pedri in the second half of the game. Speaking after the match, Flick lauded the Polish striker. The German coach has worked with the striker before, at Bayern Munich. Under Flick's management at Bayern Munich in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons, Lewandowski scored 83 goals in 71 matches, winning several major titles including the 2020 Champions League.

"I know Robert (Lewandowski) really well and I don't think he has returned to form because that's how I have always seen him as a player," Flick told DAZN. "I'm happy with him because it's not only the goals he scores, it's his collective effort, the way he dedicates



himself to pressing high and very effectively," Flick said. "Physically, he is 100%. He is a total professional, who takes fitness very seriously. He knows how to handle pressure and we saw that after the equaliser in the second half. He is a great player." Flick also commended Brazilian winger Raphinha, who excelled again playing as an attacking midfielder. Raphinha has been moved away from the right wing this season. The decision paid dividends for Barcelona, where the attacker used his dynamism to create multiple chances in the game. "Rafa can play in any attacking position. He can play as a 10 or he can change positions, he is phenomenal in pressing. We needed someone like him as we are still missing some players," Flick said. "I must be very happy after two wins against such tough opponents and under the circumstances," Flick said. "We have injuries and players who can't play but what we can't control we don't have to ignore.

Delhi Premier League: Central Delhi Kings hammer West Delhi Lions by 10 wickets

Central Delhi Kings beat West Delhi Lions by ten wickets in Match 12 of the Delhi Premier League T20 2024. Dhruv Kaushik was adjudged Player of the Match for scoring 68* (52).

New Delhi, Central Delhi Kings beat West Delhi Lions by 10 wickets at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi, in the ongoing Delhi Premier League T20 on Saturday, August 24. After being put in to bat first, West Delhi could only score 123/8 in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, Central Delhi butchered the opposition's bowling chasing down the target of 124 in just 14.5 overs.

Chasing a modest target of 124, Central Delhi Kings openers Dhruv Kaushik and Lakshay Thareja came out all guns blazing. Right

from the start, both the openers were aggressive in their approach and were finding it comfortable in finding the boundaries.

At the end of the powerplay, Central Delhi Kings were 60/0. With both Dhruv and Lakshay in good momentum, they chased down the target in 14.5 overs with all 10 wickets in hand. Dhruv remained unbeaten at 68 off 52 balls. His innings included six boundaries and two sixes. He was well supported by Lakshay Thareja, who made 46 off 37 balls with the help of three boundaries and one six. Earlier in the contest, Central Delhi Kings won the toss and elected to bowl first. Coming into the game on the back of consecutive losses, openers Ankit Kumar and Vivek Yadav hoped to get their team off to a good start. However, their wishes were denied as Central Delhi Kings' Sumit Kumar dismissed both the openers.

Amit Kumar made 9 off 7 balls, while Vivek Yadav could only score 3 off 9 balls. With both the openers back to the pavilion, responsibility came on Yugal Saini and Krish Yadav. With Central Delhi Kings bowlers sticking to their line and length, West Delhi Lions struggled to keep the scoreboard ticking.



Central Delhi bowlers run riot

Yugal Saini also failed to leave a mark and got dismissed by Yogesh Sharma for 7 runs. At the end of the powerplay, West Delhi Lions were struggling at 33/3. Krish Yadav along with Ayush Doseja then slowly started rotating strikes and kept the score ticking steadily. At the halfway stage of their innings, West Delhi Lions were 53/3. However, the 38-run partnership from 43 balls between Krish and Ayush was broken as Ayush was stumped by Lakshay Thareja off Prince Choudhary bowling for 21 (25). With

pressure mounting, West Delhi Lions Captain Hrithik Shokeen came to the crease. However, his stint was short as Yogesh Sharma dismissed him for four runs. Krish Yadav, who was looking in form was next one to go as Prince Choudhary picked up his second wicket after scoring 19 (25). With wicket falling at regular intervals, West Delhi Lions struggled find boundaries. Towards the end of the innings, Tishant Pawan Dabla and Aryan Dalal contributed with 27 and 22 runs respectively to guide their team to 123/8 in their allotted 20 overs. For Central Delhi Kings, Prince Choudhary, Sumit Kumar and Yogesh Sharma picked two wickets each, while Money Grewal picked one.

Brief Scores:

Central Delhi Kings beat West Delhi Lions by 10 wickets. West Delhi Lions: 123/8 in 20 overs (Tishant Dabla 27* off 22 balls, Aryan Dala; 22 off 16 balls; Sumit Kumar 2/18, Yogesh Sharma 2/12, Prince Choudhary 2/22). Central Delhi Kings: 124/0 in 14.5 overs (Dhruv Kaushik 68 off 52 balls, Lakshay Thareja 46 off 37 balls).

All Delhi Premier League matches will be streamed live on JioCinema for free and telecasted on Sports18-2.

Shikhar, your passion and smile will be missed, but legacy lives on: Virat Kohli

Inter Miami head coach Tata Martino has announced that Lionel Messi will soon rejoin the team's training sessions. Messi is expected to be back on the pitch before the end of the MLS regular season.

New Delhi. Senior India batter Virat Kohli penned a heartfelt note for his long-time teammate and friend Shikhar Dhawan. Kohli took to social media early on August 25, Sunday to pen down some lovely words for Dhawan, who retired from international and domestic cricket on Saturday.

In a lovely message, Kohli wrote that he will miss Shikhar Dhawan's 'trademark' smile on the field. Kohli and Dhawan have played together since their junior cricket days, and the latter's retirement from Indian cricket marks the end of an era. "Shikhar, from your fearless debut to becoming one of India's most dependable openers, you've given us countless memories to cherish. Your passion for the game, your sportsmanship and your trademark smile will be missed, but your legacy lives on. Thank you for the memories,



unforgettable performances and always leading with your heart. Wishing you the best in your next innings, off the field Gabbard." Virat Kohli wrote on Twitter. Shikhar Dhawan announces retirement: Details Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan were the pillars of Indian cricket through the mid 2010s in all formats of the game. The duo have played 221 matches together in international cricket and have scored a total of 20,780 runs. Both Dhawan and Kohli were known for their dominating presence in the field and taking the attack to the opposition. In the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy, Dhawan and Kohli formed a formidable opening partnership that helped India secure the title. Dhawan's aggressive batting style complemented Kohli's more measured approach, making them a formidable force against opposing teams.

Off the field, their friendship has been marked by a deep sense of trust and understanding.

Dhawan has often spoken about the support he received from Kohli during difficult times in his career. In an interview, Dhawan mentioned that Kohli was one of the first people he turned to when he was struggling with form, and Kohli's advice and encouragement helped him regain his confidence.

Shikhar Dhawan's stellar career numbers

Dhawan shattered record books on his Test debut on 16th March, 2013 registering the fastest hundred by a player on Test debut off just 85 balls. He further went on to win the coveted 'golden bat' for being the highest run scorer in the back to back editions of the Champions Trophy in 2013 and 2017. The southpaw was given the nickname 'Mr ICC' for his stellar performances in ICC ODI tournaments for India. Dhawan was also India's highest run scorer in the 2015 ODI World Cup. He represented India in 167 ODIs and scored 6793 runs at an average of 44.11 and a strike rate of 91.35 notching up seven hundreds and five fifties.

He also played 68 T20Is and scored 1759 runs at an average of 27.92 and a strike rate of 126.36 registering 11 fifties. In the 34 Test matches, Dhawan 2315 runs at an average of 40.61 with seven hundreds and five fifties to his name. After his international and domestic retirement, he will continue to ply his trade in the Indian Premier League.

Naseem Shah slams PCB over Rawalpindi pitch: 'Thought pacers will get help'

New Delhi. Pakistan vs Bangladesh's first Test match at Rawalpindi is heading towards a draw. After four days of cricket being played, a total of 1036 runs have been scored with the loss of 17 wickets. Pakistan have just come out to bat for the second time in the match, and trail Bangladesh (565-all-out) by 93 runs with 9 wickets in hand. The docile nature of the pitch has frustrated Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah, who has slammed the board for not preparing wickets that either help the fast bowlers or the spinners. The Rawalpindi pitch had plenty of grass cover on it, and was expected to help the pacers in the first Test. The first day of the Test match did help the pacers due to the cloud cover but it slowly waned away once the sun came out. A frustrated Naseem

spoke in the press conference after Day 4 of the Test and said that he did not get any help from the pitch. "I'm playing a Test after more than a year and took me time to find my rhythm. The kind of weather we have right now, it's extremely hot, and we didn't get the kind of help from the surface as a bowling unit as we expected," Naseem Shah said after Day 4 of the first Test.

PAK vs BAN, 1st Test, Day 4: Highlights

"If we're incapable of making the sort of pitches that help fast bowlers, then we should look at whether we can produce spin wickets. However you do it, you need to use home advantage," he added.

he Test matches in Pakistan have been drab affairs in the recent past with bowlers solely relying on reverse swing to grab wickets.

This comes in stark contrast to other pitches across the world, who have made either sporting wickets or have handed the advantage to the bowlers. "People come to enjoy Test cricket in this heat, so you need to entertain them. What shouldn't happen is you're on the field at home and thinking this is hard work. The more you keep cricket entertaining, the better. It's something we need to seriously think about," Naseem said.

PAK vs BAN, 1st Test, Day 4: Report "We believed the fast bowlers would get plenty of help here. But what we were expecting didn't exactly happen. With four fast bowlers, your mindset is to take wickets with the quick balls. However, I don't think it'll spin either, because there's grass on the pitch. But the pitch is very dry underneath.



her to the top of India's sporting pantheon, making her the first Indian woman to win two medals in a single Olympic edition.

The 22-year-old shooter's journey to this success has been marked by perseverance and determination. After her setback in Tokyo, Bhaker worked tirelessly to improve her skills, and her efforts have paid off in spectacular fashion. Her coach, Jaspal Rana, has been instrumental in her growth, and their partnership has been crucial in Bhaker's development as a world-class shooter.

Bhaker's achievement has not only brought pride to India but has also inspired her fellow athletes. Satwik Rankiredy credited Bhaker's win with boosting the morale of the entire Indian contingent. As Bhaker looks ahead to her next event, the 25m pistol, she has the opportunity to make history once again by becoming the first Indian shooter to win three Olympic medals.

Rohit Sharma trains hard with Abhishek Nayar ahead of packed Test season

New Delhi India captain Rohit Sharma was spotted engaging in an intense training session with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar ahead of upcoming packed Test season. Notably, India are all set to play two-match Test series against Bangladesh from September 19.

The Rohit Sharma-led side will further play three Tests against New Zealand at home in October followed by a five-match Test series against Australia beginning in November. Ahead of the season, India captain is preparing himself through rigorous training sessions. A video of the India captain training with Abhishek Nayar has been going viral on social media. In the video, Rohit can be seen training in a park under the supervision of Nayar. The India skipper is the second-highest run-scorer from his team in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle 2023-25. The opening batter has amassed 700 runs from nine matches at an



average of 46.66 with three hundreds and as many fifties. India are currently on the top of the WTC points table with six wins from nine matches along with a draw and have a

points percentage of 68.51%. Australia are ranked second with eight wins from 12 matches and one draw having points percentage of 62.50%. India to take on

Australia in five-match Test series The two teams are once again favourites to reach the final having met in the summit clash of the last cycle as well. Australia beat India by 209 runs in the final held at the Oval to become the first nation to have all the major ICC trophies in their cabinet.

However, ahead of the final, the two teams will clash in the highly anticipated Border Gavaskar Trophy set to begin from November 22. India have retained the trophy since 2017 having won the last four series over the current World Test Champions.

They also beat them in Australia in back-to-back series held in 2018-19 and 2020-21 further adding the spice for the upcoming edition. It will be the first time that the two teams will be contesting in a five-match series since 1991-92. Hence, fans are eagerly waiting for it to get underway as captain Rohit Sharma aims to help India reach their third consecutive WTC final.

Krishna Janmashtami

Janmashtami Celebrations Nepal

Eighty percent of the population of Nepal identify themselves as Hindus and celebrate Krishna Janmashtami. They observe Janmashtami by fasting until midnight. They chant Slokas from the Bhagavad Gita and sing religious songs called bhajans. The temples of Lord Krishna are decorated, and bhajans and kirtans are sung or played. The Krishna Mandir in Patan Durbar Square, Narayanhiti Krishnamandir, and other temples of Lord Krishna are the centers for festivities on Krishna Janmashtami. Numerous devotees flock to the ancient Krishna temple in old Patan Durbar Square to keep vigil through the revered night of his birth. Observances include people sitting closely together, bodies rocking as women chant the many names of Lord Krishna, such as Narayan, Narayan and Gopal, Gopal. Some sing hymns, others clap their hands, while some others pray. Crowds of men and women edge their way slowly up narrow steps through the seated devotees to the temple's dark interior, to where the main idol stands. There they offer flowers, coins and food, and wait for a glimpse of the Krishna Janmashtami idol. After the temple priest gives them prasad, they make their way home.[citation needed]

Krishna Janmashtami also known as Krishnashtami, Saatam Aatham, Gokulashtami, Ashtami Rohini, Srikrishna Jayanti, Sree Jayanti or sometimes merely as Janmashtami, is an annual commemoration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.[1] The festival is celebrated on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Bhadrapada (August–September; However, in both traditions it is the same day. So, we have works like Vishnudharmottara Purana saying Krishna Ashtami is in the Bhadrapada month and Skanda Purana stating that it falls in the month of Shraavana) in the Hindu calendar. Rasa lila, dramatic enactments of the life of Krishna, are a special feature in regions of Mathura and Vrindavan, and regions following Vaishnavism in Manipur.[2] While the Rasa lila re-creates the flirtatious aspects of Krishna's youthful days, the Dahi Handi celebrate God's playful and mischievous side, where teams of young men form human towers to reach a high-hanging pot of butter and break it. This tradition, also known as urjadi, is a major event in Tamil Nadu on Gokulashtami.

Krishna Birth

Painting of Krishna being carried across the river. Krishna Carried Across the River
Krishna was the 8th son of Devaki and Vasudeva. Based on scriptural details and astrological calculations the date of Krishna's birth, known as Janmashtami,[3] is 19 July 3228 BCE and departed on 3102 BCE. Krishna belonged to the Vrishni clan of Yadavas from Mathura,[4] and was the eighth son born to the princess Devaki, and her husband Vasudeva.



Mathura (in present day Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh) was the capital of the Yadavas, to which Krishna's parents Vasudeva and Devaki belonged. King Kansa, Devaki's brother,[5] had ascended the throne by imprisoning his father, King Ugrasena. Afraid of a prophecy that predicted his death at the hands of Devaki's eighth son, Kansa had the couple locked into a prison cell. After Kansa killed the first six children, and Devaki's apparent miscarriage of the seventh (which was actually a secret transfer of the infant to Rohini as Balarama), Krishna was born. After his birth Vishnu ordered Vasudeva to take Krishna to Gokul to Nanda and Yashoda where he can live safely, away from his evil Uncle Kansa. So Vasudeva took Krishna with

him and crossed Yamuna to reach Gokul. There everyone was asleep, so he quietly kept him there and returned with Yashoda's daughter. Kansa, thinking her to be Devki's eight child, threw her on a stone. But she rose in air and transformed into Yogmaya (who is Vishnu's helper) and warned Kansa about his death. Then she disappeared. Krishna grew up in Gokul with his brother Balram. Then he returned to Mathura and killed Kansa with the help of his brother, Balram.

Janmashtami Celebrations Maharashtra

See also: Govinda sport
Janmashtami/ Gokulashtami, popularly known in Mumbai and Pune as Dahi Handi, is celebrated with enormous zeal and enthusiasm. The handi is a clay pot filled with buttermilk that is positioned at a convenient height prior to the event. The topmost person on the human pyramid tries to break the handi by hitting it with a blunt object. When the handi breaks, the buttermilk is spilled over the entire group, symbolizing their achievement through unity. Handis are set up around the city, and groups of youngsters—called Govinda Pathaks—travel around in trucks trying to break as

many handis as possible during the day. Many—such as Govinda Pathaks—compete with each other, especially for the handis that dole out hefty rewards. The event, in recent times, has gathered a political flavor, and it is common for political parties and rich community groups to offer prizes amounting to lakhs of rupees. Some of the most famous handis are at Dadar, Lower Parel, Worli, Mazgaon, Lalbaug, Thane and Babu Genu, Mandai in Pune.[7] Cash and gifts are offered for Govinda troops to participate; for over 4,000 handis in Mumbai, 2,000 Govinda troops compete for the prizes.

Janmashtami Celebrations Bangladesh

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Janmashtami is a national holiday in Bangladesh.[11] On Janmashtami, a procession starts from Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, the National Temple of Bangladesh, and then proceeds through the streets of Old Dhaka. The procession dates back to 1902, but was stopped in 1948 following the establishment of Pakistan and subsequent attacks by Muslim mobs in Dhaka. The procession was resumed in 1989.[12] Pakistan[edit source | editbeta] Janmashtami is celebrated by Pakistani Hindus in the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Karachi with the singing of bhajans and delivering of sermons on Krishna.[13]

Janmashtami Celebrations Outside South Asia

The first ever elected government official in the world to issue proclamation for the celebration Janmashtami is Janet Napolitano, while she was the Governor of Arizona. The festival is also celebrated widely by Hindus in Caribbean in the countries of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The Hindus in these countries originated from Uttar Pradesh and are the descendants of indentured immigrants from UP.

Street plays

For the past few years, several thousand teams of youth perform street plays on the occasion of Janmashtami worldwide. The performers of these plays are inspired by Pandurang Shastri Athavale, of the Swadhyay Pariwar, to spread the message of Krishna. They disseminate the thoughts of Bhagavad Gita through street plays around the week of Janmashtami.

Janmashtami Celebrations

Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and staying up until midnight, the time when Krishna is believed to have been born. Images of Krishna's infancy are placed in swings and cradles in temples and homes. At midnight, devotees gather around for devotional songs, dance and exchange gifts. Some temples also conduct reading of the Hindu religious scripture Bhagavad Gita.[6]



Janmashtami Celebrations Manipur

Janmashtami—popularly known in Manipur as Krishna Janma—is a significant festival celebrated at two temples in Imphal, the capital city of Manipur. The first festival is at the Govindaji temple, and the second is at the International Society for Krishna Consciousness temple. Devotees of Lord Krishna gather mostly at the ISKCON temple.

Places in Uttar Pradesh that are associated with Krishna's childhood, such as Mathura, Gokul and Vrindavan, attract visitors from all over India, who go there to participate in the festival celebrations.[8] People in the city of Dwarka in Gujarat—where Krishna is believed to have established his Kingdom—celebrate the festival by visiting the



Dwarkadhish temple. In Jammu, kite flying is an important part of the celebration on his day.[9] In the eastern state of Odisha, in the region around Puri and in Nabadwip, West Bengali people celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and worship until midnight. Purana Pravachana from the Bhagavata Purana are recited

Janmashtami Celebrations Northern and Eastern India

from the 10th Skandha. This section deals with pastimes of Lord Krishna. The next day is called Nanda Utsav or the joyous celebration of Krishna's foster parents Nanda and Yashoda. On this day, people break their fast and offer various cooked sweets during the

early hours. South India[edit source | editbeta] In Southern India, floors in houses are decorated with footprints made from flour, to symbolize Krishna's childhood sport of stealing butter from houses.[10]

