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Will set up NCB offices in every state: Amit Shah

New Delhi, August 26: Home Minister Amit Shah said the government would put an end to the drug trade by establishing offices of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in every state with the cooperation of the state governments.

India, US widen naval cooperation submarine testing facility on cards

New Delhi, August 26: India and the United States are looking to expand cooperation in the maritime domain, including having a new testing facility for naval submarines. Separately, New Delhi has made an addition to its existing list of military liaison officers stationed in the US.

signed a liaison officer agreement to strengthen the ever-growing ties between US and Indian armed forces. The DoD looks forward to hosting Indian officers at US command. Meanwhile, India shall deploy Indian Navy personnel in multi-nation Combined Task Force 'CTF 150' headquarters at Bahrain next year.

facility for testing submarines, torpedoes, naval surface ships and propellers, at Memphis, Tennessee. "The discussions intend to support the ongoing proposal for establishment of similar facility for indigenous design and development in India," it added.



Chirag re-elected LJP (Ram Vilas) chief, pitches for caste census

Ranchi, August 26: Union minister Chirag Paswan was on Sunday re-elected as Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president for five years at its national executive meeting here.

'Batenge toh katenge'; Yogi Adityanath asks people to stay united

Agra, August 26: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Monday urged people to stay united to reach the pinnacle of prosperity, saying the mistakes in Bangladesh should not happen in India.



ing an inauguration event in Agra. Bangladesh recently saw massive anti-government protests, leading to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The country continued to witness incidents of violence, including targeted attacks on the Hindu minority community, even after the fall of the Hasina-led government.

Kangana Ranaut not authorised to make statements on party's policy

New Delhi, August 26: The BJP on Monday expressed disagreement with its MP Kangana Ranaut's controversial remarks on the farmers' protest and said she has been directed not to make such remarks.

BJP-DMK enacting 'drama' of rivalry, maintaining discreet ties: AIADMK chief

New Delhi, 26 August: AIADMK general secretary and Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday alleged the BJP and the ruling DMK in the state were "enacting a drama" vis-a-vis their rivalry, but were maintaining discreet ties.

K Annamalai and some other party leaders, he said without naming them. While the DMK is part of the INDIA bloc, neither Congress' Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi nor other party leaders were invited for the event, Palaniswami

(Rajnath) was invited and made to release the coin. If we say this, DMK gets angry, BJP leaders also get angry. The DMK is part of the INDIA bloc. Ignoring that, what is the reason to include NDA, that is what people are asking. And I only highlighted this," the former chief minister said.



CBI names RG Kar Hospital ex-principal in corruption FIR

Kolkata, August 26: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has named Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in the FIR the agency has filed in connection with its probe into the alleged financial irregularities at the institution during his tenure.

Kolkata; and one M/s Khama Louha. The FIR was lodged on the basis of a written complaint lodged by Debal Kumar Ghosh, special secretary to the state health department. The FIR was lodged on Saturday

lowing the alleged rape and murder of a woman medic on August 9. The order was issued on a petition by former deputy superintendent of RG Kar Hospital, Akhtar Ali, who requested a probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into alleged financial misconduct at the institution.



Chhattisgarh Government recommends CBI probe into Mahadev betting app 'scam' involving Ex-CM

Raipur, August 26: The Chhattisgarh Government has decided to transfer cases related to the alleged Mahadev betting app scam to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said on Monday.



the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been probing money laundering cases linked to the Mahadev app scam, which came to light when the Baghel-led Congress government was in power, for more than a year. "70 cases related to the alleged Mahadev app scam were lodged at different police stations in Chhattisgarh and one case is being probed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW). We have decided to hand over all these cases to the CBI and a notification has been issued," Sharma told reporters.

Chief secys of Haryana, Himachal, 15 other states to appear before SC today

New Delhi, August 26: The chief secretaries and finance secretaries of 17 states and union territories, including those of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, will appear in person on Tuesday before the Supreme Court for failing to clear the arrears of revised salary and pension of judicial officers in terms of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's recommendations.

and Odisha. "We direct that, in terms of the previous directions, the Chief Secretaries and the Finance Secretaries of the aforesaid states shall remain personally present in court on 27 August 2024 at 10.30 am," ordered the Bench which also included Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra.

states/UTs, including Punjab, which were to file compliance reports by August 20, failing of which their chief secretaries and finance secretaries were to appear personally before the top court. However, on August 22, the amicus curiae informed the Bench that four of them have filed compliance reports and only 17

states/UTs remained. Expressing strong displeasure over the failure of states to implement the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission, the Bench had on July 11 made clear that it will not grant any further extensions. The SNJPC's recommendations covered pay structure, pension and family pension and allowances, besides dealing with the issue of establishing a permanent mechanism to determine subjects of service conditions of the district judiciary. The Supreme Court had on January 4 asked high courts to set up a two-judge committee each to oversee the implementation of its orders on pay, pension and other retirement benefits for judicial officers in terms of the Commission's recommendations. The disbursements on account of arrears of salary, pension and allowances due and payable to judicial officers, retired judicial officers and family pensioners shall be computed and paid on or before February 29, 2024, it had ordered.



News box

Fruit flies from Dharwad to fly to space!

DHARWAD: Fruit flies from Dharwad are flying to space! The flies, with the scientific name *Drosophila melanogaster*, will be used in an experiment in space during the Gaganyaan manned mission, which is scheduled for next year. The flies have been developed by the Department of Biotechnology at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad. It may sound strange, but fruit flies share about 77% of genes that cause diseases in humans. The flies are crucial to study the formation of kidney stones among astronauts in space. Kidney stones are a common health issue among astronauts. Reports indicate that kidney stones have been observed in astronauts over 30 times during space missions. They experience an increased risk of kidney stone formation because of elevated calcium excretion from bone loss, increased urine acidity, consumption of dehydrated food, reduced urine output and other factors. "Fruit flies are important to better understand how the molecular mechanisms work when kidney stones are formed among humans in space. The experiment will help come up with improved treatments, particularly for Indian astronauts," said Ravi Kumar Hosmani, Assistant Professor at the UAS Biotechnology Department.

Inspired by Krishna, Arjuna: Telangana CM on HYDRAA demolitions

HYDERABAD: Stating categorically that he would not succumb to pressure and will continue to take strict action against the illegal structures constructed in the full tank level (FTL) of lakes, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said he took inspiration from the Bhagavad Gita to demolish illegal constructions. Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Kokapet on Sunday, the CM noted that the government was firm on its resolve to remove encroachments on lakes and government lands. He said that several rich individuals constructed structures within the FTL and diverted the drainage water to Gandipet and other lakes which supply drinking water to Hyderabad. "If I do not take any action, it will be construed that I have failed as a people's representative. That is why I formed HYDRAA and took action despite several pressures," he said. Speaking about the Gita, the chief minister said that during the Kurukshetra war, Arjuna dropped his weapons and refused to fight in the battle as he was unwilling to kill his brethren for the sake of ruling the kingdom. At that time, Krishna encouraged Arjuna to participate in the battle to protect Dharma, he added. "Krishna and Arjuna protected Dharma, which protected us later. Taking inspiration from the Gita, I am demolishing the illegal structures to protect natural resources," he said. He noted that Nizams developed Hyderabad as a city of lakes. "Some farmhouses have been built near those lakes and ponds which quenched the thirst of crores of people," he added, pointing out that waste water from farmhouses is being discharged into Gandipet lake and Himayatsagar, which provide drinking water to Hyderabad.

30-year-old undergoes plastic surgery after being attacked by drunk men in Bengaluru road rage

BENGALURU: A 30-year-old private firm employee, Ravi (name changed) from Odisha had to undergo plastic surgery after broken glass pieces from his spectacles cut his face, when he was chased and attacked by three drunk men in a road rage case near the Bosch signal in Adugodi police station limits. Ravi, a resident of JP Nagar while going on his two-wheeler, advised the accused to put the indicator as they suddenly cut through the Marble Road and he was about to hit them.

Frustrated over this, the accused chased and stopped him. They were joined by another person. One of them punched his face through the helmet's visor space following which his specs completely broke. When the victim removed his helmet, the accused left after seeing him bleeding profusely. The victim with a bleeding face then went to Adugodi police station and filed his complaint.

While speaking to TNIE, the victim was very upset as the police have not made any breakthrough in the case. He said that he has got nine stitches on his face.

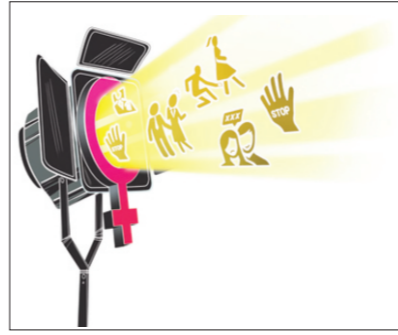
The incident happened on Tuesday night between 7.30 pm and 8 pm. The black colour two-wheeler which the accused were riding had no number plate and headlight. The accused who were riding without helmets suddenly came from 4th cross and cut through Marble Road. As there was no headlight, Ravi was unable to notice the vehicle and was about to hit them. "While I was being attacked, there were many people who stood as mute spectators. A cop who was going on a patrolling bike did not come to help me despite my request to him," said Ravi.

The accused were speaking in Kannada and looked like some anti-social elements. The worst is the delay by the police in arresting the accused despite there being many CCTVs in the vicinity," he added. The Adugodi police said that they are yet to arrest the accused and have got some clues.

It's Malayalam film industry's MeToo movement as more women speak up against sexual harassment

KOCHI: Emboldened by the release of the Hema Committee report that has shed light on the sexual harassments and misbehaviours that women in Malayalam film industry faced over the years, several women are speaking up against sexual assault and harassment they faced in the past. This is slowly developing like the #MeToo movement in Hollywood in 2017 triggered by allegations against Harvey Weinstein, the powerful producer and cofounder of MiraMax Films. The revelations of Bengali actor Sreelekha Mitra and Malayalam actor Revathy Sampath led to the resignation of two heavyweights in the Malayalam film industry -- Kerala Chalachitra Academy chairman Ranjith and AMMA

general secretary T Siddique -- on Sunday. Now, more women, including Divya Gopinath, Sonia Malhar, and Tess Jose, have come out against people in the industry. Artists and activists believe the incidents would encourage many others to speak up and help create a better work atmosphere for everyone in the industry. Artist Revathy Sampath and some others revealed their experiences years before through social media, pointed out social activist Mala Parvati. "But they were isolated by industry and society. As the Hema Committee report is released, there is an increased awareness and survivors are receiving positive responses from the media and public. The public too has realised that these



survivors are not attempting to defame anyone or for any personal benefit," she said, adding that the perspective shift has helped women speak up.

The issues raised by women in cinema have made people in the industry accountable and answerable, according to G P Ramachandran, a film critic. "The

film industry does not have an agreement, contract, or any kind of licensing like any other workplace. These men, who have the support of the system, a huge fan base, and power, continued to exploit women and weak sections in the industry. Now, they have to respond to the issues raised. This happened when the Women in Cinema Collective and the survivors decided to fight back against the system," he said, adding that it has encouraged many women to come out and speak up. Jolly Chirayath, a film and theatre artist, believes that it is only the beginning, and more women will come out. "For several years, women were not considered humans. There was

also rape culture. Now women are able to acknowledge the issues and are willing to fight back against the system that considers them secondary citizens. These women are supported by some men who have a progressive mentality as well," she said, adding that it is an outcome of the efforts of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), the survivor, and the release of the Hema Committee report.

"These issues are not specific to the Malayalam film industry. We have seen the Me Too movement in Hollywood as well. Now, Hollywood is undergoing a purification process, which is the need of the hour. These incidents show that the people in the industry.

Passenger ship service from Kerala to Dubai may start by January 2025

KOCHI: As the soaring airfares on the Kerala - Gulf sector during festive season trigger a debate on alternative travel options, the Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) is offering a glimmer of hope to Keralites working in West Asian countries. The proposal to launch a passenger ship service connecting Kochi and Dubai is in an advanced stage and the KMB is hopeful of introducing the service as a new year gift to the NRKs. KMB chairman N S Pillai said that two operators who attended a meeting with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) were in the process of identifying the vessels and once they submitted the documents, they would be granted a licence in four days. "Once the licence is granted, they can complete the preparations and launch the service within



three months," he told the TNIE.

"Two business groups have come forward to operate the service and we had a meeting with SCI officials two weeks ago. Both the firms do not possess vessels and they have been asked to charter vessels and submit applications to the Director General of Shipping. We have been told the licence will be issued within four days once the

documentation is over. Then, the operators have to identify travel agencies and complete preparations at the port. It will take three months to launch the service after securing the licence," said Pillai. The two companies which have evinced interest in the service are Chennai-based White Shipping and Jabal Ventures, Kozhikode. The biggest challenge is to identify and charter passenger vessels with a capacity to carry 600 to 700 people. Once the operators get the vessel, the proceedings will be expedited. The operators have to submit an application to DG Shipping with details of the vessel, passenger capacity and other specifications. As per information, one of the operators had identified a cruise ship with a capacity to carry 600 passengers.

Kerala: Hospital development projects worth Rs 69.35 crore gets National Health Mission approval

KOZHIKODE: The state government has received approval for various health infrastructure projects worth Rs 69.35 crore under the National Health Mission (NHM) for the 2024-25 annual plan. Health Minister Veena George said these projects aim to enhance healthcare facilities across the state. The projects, with 60% central and 40% state funding, will see the improvement of 29 healthcare institutions. These initiatives are part of a broader effort to boost infrastructure and complement development activities in state hospitals. Additionally, Rs 1.70 crore has been

earmarked for the construction of staff quarters at Idamalakkudy in Idukki district, Rs 1.50 crore for the strengthening of the IP block at the Vythiri Hospital in Wayanad, and for a paediatric ward at the District Hospital in Perinthalmanna, Malappuram. In addition to this, Rs 4.70 crore each has also been sanctioned for new warehouses in Kollam and Kozhikode districts.

Key Project Allocations

Rs 6.16 crore for a 50-bed Matru Shishu Mandira at General Hospital, Kanjirapalli, Kottayam Rs 4.70 crore each for new warehouses in Kollam and

Kozhikode Rs 4.5 crore for the development of a new OP and IP building at Tata Hospital, Kasaragod Rs 3.33 crore for skill lab and training centre in Malappuram Rs 3.87 crore for renovation of OP block and casualty at Taluk hospital in Palluruthi, Ernakulam Rs 3 crore to strengthen diagnostic block at Pathanamthitta General Hospital Rs 3 crore for the enhancement of the gynaecology department at Idukki District Hospital Rs 2.09 crore for a gynaecology post-operative. Rs 3.87 crore for renovation of OP block and casualty at Taluk Hospital.

Only two Great Indian bustards seen in Karnataka

Six months ago, there were six birds in Siruguppa and today, there are just two.

BALLARI: With just two individuals of Great Indian Bustard birds being sighted in the last six months in Ballari district, the state forest department is planning some urgent measures to safeguard the last remaining population of these majestic birds. Around 14 sqkm of land in Siruguppa taluk of Ballari district, which has been declared the GIB sanctuary, now serves as the last remaining habitat of these birds in Karnataka. Six months ago, there were six birds in Siruguppa and today, there are just two.

Desperate measures planned by the forest department include GPS-tagging of the birds, artificial hatching of eggs, introducing young birds to the forest, involving local communities and setting up a research centre in Siruguppa. The Ballari division of the forest department has requested the state

government to allow GPS tagging of the two individuals (one male and one female) sighted in Siruguppa and surroundings. The forest division has already set up CCTV cameras to constantly monitor the movement of the birds along the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border.

Less than 200 GIBs in the wild today

"Today, less than 200 GIBs exist in the wild in India. While the majority of them are breeding in Rajasthan, few individuals can be sighted in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Karnataka has the least number of birds. Till two decades ago, they were found in five districts of Karnataka. But now they are restricted just to Siruguppa. Six months ago, we had counted six birds. It's possible that the remaining four could have migrated to Andhra Pradesh. It's



important to monitor their flight preferences and habitats in Siruguppa. We have requested the government to give permission to GPS-tag these birds," said a senior forest official. The state government has agreed to release Rs 24 crore for GIB conservation. Of that, Rs 6 crore has been allocated in the first phase under the District Mineral Funds and

Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Funds to take up the construction of GIB Research Centre in Siruguppa and conduct experiments like GPS tagging and artificial breeding of GIBs.

An expert team led by Ballari Deputy Conservator of Forests Sandip Suryavanshi visited the Desert National Park in Rajasthan recently to study the possibility of saving the last batch of GIBs in Karnataka. Experts from Dehradun are expected to work closely with the Karnataka forest department. "We have involved the local communities, farmers and schoolchildren in Ballari district to bring about awareness. Our constant efforts have brought down poaching of these birds," he added.

EV charging station & hardware emulation facility opens in Thiruvananthapuram

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : A model, indigenous electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated at the C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram, Technopark Campus, on Sunday. The centre will have various AC and DC fast chargers for vehicles ranging from two-wheelers to heavy vehicles. It will play a crucial role in catalysing an ecosystem for the promotion of the charging infrastructure with indigenous EV chargers research, development, commercialisation and manufacturing through industries. The facility was inaugurated by S Krishnan, secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). He also inaugurated the Hardware Emulation Facility at C-DAC's Vellayambalam campus for the start-ups under the

C2S programme and DLI Scheme of MeitY. This centre will have development, testing, and validation of hardware designs, for VLSI and SoC technologies. The facility provides resources for emulating hardware designs on reconfigurable platforms like FPGAs.

Addressing the gathering, S Krishnan said that creating intellectual property in India for use in industrial applications is very important for making sure that India stays ahead. "As a country, India is too large and too important to be dependent on vital technologies across the world. We should have the ability to create crucial technologies on our own," the official said. Along with these inaugurations, other announcements.



Residents and heritage buffs urge for underpass near Pattanam site in Kochi

KOCHI: As the work of the NH-66 bypass moves ahead albeit at a slow pace, a demand has been made by the residents and also those working for the protection and conservation of heritage sites seeking the construction of an underpass near the historical site of Pattanam.

Speaking about the need to construct the underpass, P J Cherian, who is the chief in charge of the research activities conducted under the leadership of the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) from 2007 to 2015 and PAMA since 2019, says, "Considering the location of the archaeological village, the town gains international importance.

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News box

Chinese army conducts armed patrols near Myanmar border to 'maintain security'

World China's military said on Monday it had organised army units and joint air-ground police patrols near the Myanmar border to maintain security and stability as fighting between Myanmar's ruling junta and rebel forces escalates. The patrols will focus on Ruili, Zhenkang and other frontline areas, the military said in a statement. The Southern Theater of the Chinese People's Liberation Army organised army units to test troops' ability to "quickly move, block and control, and strike together, and maintain security and stability in the border areas," the military said. China had said it planned more drills near the Myanmar border as fighting between Myanmar's junta and rebels resulted in artillery shells injuring people and damaging structures in Chinese territory. China has said the conflict was having a negative effect on stability and social order on the China-Myanmar border. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi also said recently that China would continue "its commitment to restore peace and stability in Myanmar."

British safety adviser for Reuters killed in missile strike on Ukraine hotel

World Ryan Evans, a member of the Reuters team covering the war in Ukraine, was killed and two Reuters journalists were injured in a strike on a hotel in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk, the news agency said on Sunday. Evans, who was working as a safety adviser for the agency, was killed after a missile struck the Hotel Sapphire where he was staying as part of a six-person team on Saturday, Reuters said in a statement. Two of the agency's journalists were being treated in hospital; one of them was seriously injured, it said. "We are urgently seeking more information about the attack, including by working with the authorities in Kramatorsk, and we are supporting our colleagues and their families," Reuters said.

Evans, a former British soldier, had been working with Reuters since 2022 and advised its journalists on safety around the world including in Ukraine, Israel and at the Paris Olympics. He was 38. "We send our deepest condolences and thoughts to Ryan's family and loved ones. Ryan has helped so many of our journalists cover events around the world; we will miss him terribly," Reuters said. The three other members of the Reuters team who were in the hotel at the time of the strike were accounted for and safe, the agency said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the hotel was hit by a Russian Iskander missile, a ballistic missile that can strike at distances up to 500 km (310 miles).

"An ordinary city hotel was destroyed by the Russian Iskander," he said in his evening address on Sunday, adding the strike was "absolutely purposeful, thought out ... my condolences to family and friends". The Russian Defence Ministry did not respond to a request for comment. Reuters was not able to independently verify if the missile that hit the hotel was fired by Russia or if it was a deliberate strike on that building.

The Donetsk province's regional prosecutor's office said in a Telegram post earlier that the body of a British citizen had been found in the rubble of a hotel building in Kramatorsk.

Israel, Hamas fail to agree on 'compromises' in Gaza ceasefire talks: Report

World There was no agreement on Sunday in the Gaza ceasefire talks that took place in Cairo, with neither Hamas nor Israel agreeing to several compromises presented by mediators, two Egyptian security sources said, casting doubt on the chances of success in the latest US-backed effort to end the 10-month old war. A senior US official, however, described the talks as "constructive", saying they were conducted in a spirit on all sides to reach "a final and implementable agreement." "The process will continue over the coming days through working groups to further address remaining issues and details," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, adding that the teams would remain in Cairo. Months of on-off talks have failed to produce an agreement 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 on Israel that triggered the war.

Speaking at a news conference in Halifax, Canada, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Washington was still "feverishly" working in Cairo to get a ceasefire and a hostage deal. Key sticking points in ongoing talks mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar include an Israeli presence in the so-called Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow 14.5-km-long (9-mile-long) stretch of land along Gaza's southern border with Egypt. Mediators put forward a number of alternatives to the presence of Israeli forces in the Philadelphi Corridor and the Netzarim Corridor which cuts across the middle of the Gaza Strip, but none were accepted by the parties, Egyptian sources said.

Trump wouldn't back national abortion ban if elected president: JD Vance

New York. Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance says Donald Trump would not support a national abortion ban if elected president and would veto such legislation if it landed on his desk. "I can absolutely commit that," Vance said when asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" whether he could commit to Trump not imposing such a ban. "Donald Trump's view is that we want the individual states and their individual cultures and their unique political sensibilities to make these decisions because we don't want to have a nonstop federal conflict over this issue." The Ohio senator also insisted that Trump, the former president who is the Republican nominee this year, would veto such legislation if it were passed by Congress.

"I mean, if you're not supporting it as the President of the United States, you fundamentally have to veto it," he said in an interview that aired Sunday. Vance's comments come after Democrats spent night after night of their national convention in Chicago last week assailing Trump for his

role in appointing the Supreme Court Justices who overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the constitutional right to abortion in the United States and paving the way for bans and restrictions across Republican-led states. But efforts to try to neutralise an issue that Democrats hope will galvanise voters this fall also risk alienating parts of Trump's base opposed to abortion rights. "God have mercy on this nation if this is now the position of what was the Pro-Life Party," wrote Family Research Council president Tony Perkins in a post Sunday linking to a story on Vance's comments. While Trump has repeatedly boasted about his role in overturning Roe, he has, in recent days, pushed back on Democrats' warnings that he will go even further to restrict access if he wins a second term. "My Administration will be great for women and their reproductive rights," he wrote Friday on his Truth Social platform, appropriating language used by abortion rights activists and the left. His comments drew a wave of criticism from anti-abortion advocates, including the editor



of the conservative National Review, which published an article titled "Trump's Abandonment of Pro-Lifers Is Complete." Trump repeated his claim hours later at an event in Las Vegas. "I'm very strong on women's reproductive rights. The IVF (in vitro fertilization), very strong. I mean, we're leaders in it. And I think people are seeing that," he told reporters. "American women are not stupid, and we are not going to trust the futures of our daughters and granddaughters to two men who have openly bragged about blocking access to abortion

for women all across this country," said Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren told NBC. Trump ally Senator Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., brushed off a question asking how Trump would be "great" on reproductive rights. "You need to ask him about that. What I would say is that President Trump was a very good pro-life president," he told CNN's "State of the Union." "The pro-life community," Graham said, "is organised around the well-being of the child, giving the mother options other than an abortion." Graham said "that movement will continue after he's gone." Trump has often struggled to talk about abortion. Before he entered politics, he had described himself as "very pro-choice." Earlier this year, he grappled with his stance on a federal abortion ban, suggesting at one point that he would support one at around 15 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions in cases of rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at risk. He then settled on his current position: That restrictions should be left to individual states.

Trump says Elon Musk won't have time to be in his cabinet, but could 'consult'

World What if tech mogul Elon Musk went to Washington to serve in Donald Trump's hypothetical cabinet in the White House? Questions like these loom large after the former US President said that he would offer Musk a cabinet post. However, breaking the suspense, the Republican presidential nominee hinted that the Tesla CEO is unlikely to serve in his 'future' cabinet, saying Musk will be busy managing his companies. In an interview with formal Navy Seal Shawn Ryan, Trump said that Musk wants to be "involved"; however, "he's running big businesses and all that, so he can't, really, I don't think he could be in cabinet," CNBC reported. Reiterating his old offer, Trump said that would "put him in the cabinet, absolutely, but I don't know how he could do that with all the things he's got going." Trump's comment might offer him a strategic way to distance himself from his recently established alliance with Musk, should he emerge victorious in the November election



against Democratic nominee Kamala Harris. CNBC quoted Trump as saying, "He can, as the expression goes, consult with the country and give you some very good ideas." He stated that Musk could offer help in areas like artificial intelligence. Two years ago, Trump and Musk were in an open feud, exchanging insults on social media platforms and at political rallies. From enemies, the duo has emerged as

close allies in this election as the Space X CEO wades further into right-wing politics. Earlier last month, soon after the assassination attempt on the former US President, Musk publicly endorsed Trump for the November elections. Prior to the endorsement, Musk even helped in constituting a pro-Trump political action committee in May. Meanwhile, Trump reactivated his handle on the X platform after a prolonged absence, during which he exclusively engaged with his followers on Truth Social, the platform owned by Trump Media. This return signals a possible shift in his social media strategy, broadening his outreach as the election draws near.

In an interview on X Space, both leaders floated the idea of governing together if the Republican nominee secures the second term. "I think it would be great to just have a government efficiency commission," Musk said in a conversation with Trump earlier this month, streamed on X. "And I'd be happy to help out on such a commission."

Australian employees can now ignore after-work calls as new law takes effect

World Is your boss texting you on the weekend? Work email pinging long after you've left for home? Australian employees can now ignore those and other intrusions into home life thanks to a new "right to disconnect" law designed to curb the creep of work emails and calls into personal lives.

The new rule, which came into force on Monday, means employees, in most cases, cannot be punished for refusing to read or respond to contacts from their employers outside work hours. Supporters say the law gives workers the confidence to stand up against the steady invasion of their personal lives by work emails, texts and calls, a trend that has accelerated since the COVID-19 pandemic scrambled the division between home and work. "Before we had digital technology, there was no encroachment, people would go home at the end of a shift and there would be no contact until they returned the following day," said John Hopkins, an associate professor at Swinburne University of Technology.

"Now, globally, it's the norm to have emails, SMS, phone calls outside those hours, even when on holiday." Australians worked on average 281 hours of unpaid overtime in 2023, according to a survey last year by the Australia Institute, which estimated the monetary value of the labour at A\$130 billion (\$88 billion). The changes add Australia to a group of roughly two dozen countries, mostly in Europe and Latin America, which have similar laws. Pioneer France introduced the rules in 2017 and a year later fined pest control firm Rentokil Initial 60,000 euros (\$66,700) for requiring an employee to always have his phone on. Rachel Abdelnour, who works in advertising, said the changes would help her disconnect in an industry where clients often have different working hours. "I think it's actually really important that we have laws like this," she told Reuters. "We spend so much of our time connected to our phones, connected to our emails all day, and I think that it's really hard to switch off as it is."

REFUSALS MUST BE REASONABLE

To cater for emergencies and jobs with irregular hours, the rule still allows employers to contact their workers, who can only refuse to respond where it is reasonable to do so.

etermining whether a refusal is reasonable will be up to Australia's industrial umpire, the Fair Work Commission (FWC), which must take into account an employee's role, personal circumstances and how and why the contact was made. sue a cease and desist order and, failing that,

Walmart recalls apple juice sold in 25 US states over elevated arsenic levels

Washington Walmart has recalled nearly 10,000 cases of apple juice sold in stores across the US that were found to contain potentially harmful levels of inorganic arsenic. The US Food and Drug Administration gave the recall a more urgent classification Friday after making its original announcement August 15. The new classification said the affected product may temporarily cause adverse health consequences but is unlikely to cause serious or irreversible medical issues. The recall applies to 9,535 cases of Great Value brand apple juice sold in 25 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Florida-based manufacturer Refresco Beverages US Inc. voluntarily recalled the contaminated six-packs of 8-ounce (227-gram) juice bottles after discovering levels of the chemical contaminant that exceeded industry



standards. A spokesperson for Refresco did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment Sunday. "The health and safety of our customers is always a top priority," Walmart spokesperson Molly Blakeman said in a statement. "We have removed this product from our impacted stores and are working with the supplier to investigate." Very low levels of inorganic and organic arsenic are

found in many food products, according to the National Institutes of Health. Testing is routine, as slightly elevated levels of either form can cause symptoms such as vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea numbness and muscle cramping. Inorganic arsenic is more toxic to humans than the naturally occurring form of the mineral arsenic, and the health effects from exposure are more severe, according to the FDA. The Environmental Protection Agency has labelled inorganic arsenic a carcinogen, or a substance that causes cancer.

Levels found in the recalled apple juice bottles are low enough that the FDA does not expect them to cause such severe health consequences. The FDA has not shared reports of possible illnesses associated with the apple juice recall.

Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus vows 'free and fair' elections, urges restraint

Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Sunday appealed to the people to have "patience" as it is difficult to address the "mountain-like challenges" overnight while promising them a free, fair and participatory election after implementing key reforms in different sectors. In a televised address to the nation, his second since assuming charge on August 8 after the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina on August 5, Yunus urged the people to refrain from storming institutions, putting pressure to accept cases and a tendency to do some kind of trial in advance by attacking people while taking them to the courts. "I'll just say, you have to be patient. It is difficult to overcome mountain-like challenges overnight," he said, referring to the demands coming from various sections to punish those responsible for the deaths of many people during the recent anti-government protests. These incidents will fade the glory of the successful struggle to build a new Bangladesh, the 84-year-old Nobel laureate said. "We will maintain friendly relations with all countries," he said. Mutual trust and cooperation will be the base of our foreign policy. We are respectful of all international laws, including human rights. We have taken steps to become signatory to the international convention on enforced

disappearances," he was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency.

Yunus said the timing of the election is a political decision and people will decide how long this interim government will remain in power. He assured the nation that his interim government will hold free, fair and inclusive elections in the country after undertaking reforms in various sectors. "After completion of required reforms in administration, judiciary, election commission and electoral system, law and order and information flow systems -- a free, fair and inclusive election will be held to give the student-people mass protests a successful consequence," Yunus said.

A committee, he said, has already been formed to prepare a white paper on corruption, money laundering, anti-people agreements and looting that took place in the last 15 years. Yunus, who now serves as the Chief Adviser - a position equivalent to the prime minister, said his interim government would strengthen the local government institutions and ensure decentralisation to consolidate



democracy. "The goal will be to introduce an accountable political system," Yunus, who assumed charge following the ouster of Prime Minister Hasina amid a massive students' movement that also forced her to flee to India. Yunus did not give any deadline for the tenure of his interim government but acknowledged that "everyone is interested to know when our government will leave." "The answer lies with you when you will give us the farewell. None of us (council of advisers) are the ones to rule the country. We are happy with our professions. We took

charge, responding to the students' call during a national crisis," he said. Yunus said that his government would "put in all our efforts" to discharge the duty he has been entrusted with as all sections of people had welcomed his government. The chief adviser slammed Hasina's "fascist autocratic regime", saying they destroyed every institution of the country, crippled the economy and education system, and gauged people's voices through intimidation and torture. Yunus said his government believed in "national unity" and for that reason, he has appointed a special assistant with the status of an adviser with the responsibility of developing national solidarity. Yunus said the main aim of the election is to introduce an accountable political system against corruption, looting and mass killing. Local government institutions, he said, must be strengthened and decentralisation of power should be ensured to consolidate democracy.

Claiming that the government has taken a strong stance against corruption, the Chief Adviser said all the advisers to the interim government will disclose their wealth statements within the quickest possible time.

News box

Experts advocate key reforms in the education system

VIJAYAWADA: Educationists in the State are advocating for significant reforms in the education system, particularly to integrate physical education for the holistic development of students. With an aim of creating a balanced educational footprint that prioritises academic excellence, physical well-being, cultural awareness and essential life skills, the experts are seeking policy changes to foster social skills, cultural values, physical fitness, and leadership qualities, all of which are as vital as academic knowledge.

"Physical education and extracurricular activities are essential for the holistic development of students," said Krishna University Physical Directors Association secretary Dr BCH Sangeetha Rao. He expressed concern over parents choosing private colleges without necessary infrastructure and leaving well-equipped government colleges under utilised.

A research scholar in physical education, Daram Naveen Kumar urged the State government to ensure thorough physical inspections while granting necessary permissions, as private institutions tend to present a perfect documentation even without proper facilities for physical education. He called for the immediate appointment of PETs (Physical Education Teachers) for Classes I to V and to fill the vacancies in all high schools and colleges. Similarly, Arts and Crafts Unemployed Teachers Association State president Gopaboina Edukondala Rao appealed to the government to include crafts, art, and music classes in the curriculum.

Food poisoning: Six more discharged, Rs 50,000 compensation for 44 students

VISAKHAPATNAM: Six more students, among those who were hospitalised due to food poisoning at a hostel run by the Parisudhatma Agni Stuthi Aradhana Trust (PASA Trust) in Kailasapatnam of Kotauratla mandal, Anakapalle district on August 17, were discharged on Sunday. The students have been identified as Killo Jyothi, Marri Meenakshi, Marri Kumari, Burada Abraham, Pangi Mounika, and Pangi Meera. It may be recalled that three students lost their lives in the incident while several others were admitted to various hospitals for treatment.

The children were sent to their homes in two ambulances provided by the district administration. Following the incident, the State government provided an ex-gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh to the families of the deceased. Additionally, a financial compensation of Rs 50,000 each was sanctioned to 44 students who faced severe health complications due to the poisoning. Earlier, officials shifted the six students, who were under treatment at King George Hospital (KGH) in Vizag, to the Government Hospital in Paderu for further observation. On Sunday, Alluri Sitharama Raju district Joint Collector Dr MJ Abhishek, accompanied by ITDA Project Officer V Abishek, visited the hospital. They consoled the parents of the affected students and handed over cheques for Rs 50,000 each to the families, along with 25 kg of rice and nutritional kits. During the visit, the officials also conducted a counselling session for the parents, advising them against enrolling their children in unauthorised hostels. They emphasised the importance of admitting students to government-approved hostels to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Nalgonda: Docs up in arms over show cause notices by additional collector

NALGONDA: A day after a pregnant woman gave birth to a child on a chair in Nalgonda Government Hospital, the District Additional Collector (local bodies) T Purnachander issued show cause notices to four staff nurses and the duty doctor on Sunday for their alleged negligence while on duty. Following this, seven gynaecologists from the hospital went on a mass protest against the notices given to the duty doctor. The incident occurred after midnight on August 22 when the woman, who was asked to walk outside the labour room, delivered a baby in the chair. Reportedly, there was no one to support the woman while she was suffering labour pain. However, they said that they responded immediately and provided treatment to the mother and child. A hospital nurse said that it was impossible for one nurse to accompany every patient as there were only four nurses on night duty and there were 10 deliveries that day. They also said that the hospital does not have proper staff and facilities, but they are providing good service to the patients.

DC withdraws show cause notices

However, in the wake of seven gynaecologists' mass leave, Nalgonda District Collector C Narayana Reddy, withdrew the show cause notices issued to the duty doctor and the staff nurses. However, the doctors who went on leave have not yet returned to work.

Second protest by doctors in three months

This is the second instance of doctors' protest in three months. In June, doctors protested for two days after the district collector appointed officials from various departments to supervise the hospital. The doctors argued that only the Collector and Additional Collector have the authority to supervise them. In response, the District Collector clarified that the district officials' role was to oversee patient services, not directly supervise the doctors.

Beware! A 'like and subscribe' on YouTube may land you in trouble

Cyber experts warn that these fraudsters may ask you to like or subscribe to YouTube channels or rate a business on Google Maps that you have never visited.

KOCHI: Be cautious when liking or subscribing to YouTube videos, reviewing movies, or rating businesses on Google following an offer of a good earning from these activities as a few people have already fallen prey to these scams and lost their money. Cyber experts warn that these fraudsters may ask you to like or subscribe to YouTube channels or rate a business on Google Maps that you have never visited. They offer small rewards, such as Rs 250 or Rs 500 or even Rs 1,000, to gain your trust. Once you are hooked, they lure you into paying a large sum, promising to double your earnings. After taking your money, they disappear.

Many victims realise the scam after receiving the initial small reward and try to back out. However, this could lead to further trouble, as the money they received may have been stolen from other victims. When these fraudulent transactions are traced back, the person's bank account could be frozen, and they may face charges of cyber fraud once the police investigate. Recently, a resident of Kochi received an offer to earn money by liking YouTube videos, with a promise of Rs 250 for each 'like' or subscription. To receive the payment, he was required to share

screenshots of the videos he had liked or subscribed to. Initially, he received between Rs 250 and Rs 1,000.

However, when the scammers asked him to join a package scheme by paying Rs 1 lakh



to earn even more, he realised it was a fraud. He withdrew the initial amount and stopped participating. A few days later, his bank account was frozen due to an investigation into a cyber fraud case registered in another state, where money stolen from

another victim had been transferred to his account. Cyber-law expert Jiyas Jamal said many people realise they have been scammed only after receiving small rewards and being pressured to invest more. "Unfortunately, the victims often face legal trouble themselves, as the money they receive is often traced back to other victims of fraud. If the authorities investigate, they may trace the funds back to the victim's bank account, leading to potential charges," said Jiyas, adding that a few persons have been booked in such cases registered by the police in other states. He further said that fraudsters frequently create fake businesses on Google Maps and send links to their victims.

In another case, a youth from Kaipamangalam in Thrissur lost Rs 46 lakh in a scam involving writing positive reviews to boost movie ratings. The scammers promised significant returns in exchange for these reviews on a platform called Plex Movie. The victim, who owned a lottery shop, initially invested Rs 70,000 expecting a large return, and received Rs 90,000, which encouraged him to invest more.

Bengaluru: After bags, laptops Metro commuters leave gold behind

Costliest being bag with Rs 4 lakh worth gold items found in station, mangalsutras also found on platforms

BENGALURU: Gold jewellery, including mangalsutras, figures among the forgotten items by Metro commuters inside trains or platforms recently. With the ridership surging above the 8 lakh mark on a daily basis frequently, items left behind by the forgetful too are on the rise. Thanks to the stringent policy in place regarding items left behind by passengers and the overwhelming presence of CCTVs all over, commuters invariably get their items back if they make an attempt to collect them. A Metro source said gold jewellery worth Rs 4 lakh, among the costliest items found so far inside its

trains, was found on August 17 at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (BRCS) Metro station. "A bag with 50 gm of jewellery comprising two gold chains and two gold rings was left behind by a passenger on platform one of the station around 10.30 pm. The bag also had Rs 3,500 in cash. A private security guard who found it sometime later alerted the security officer at the station," the source added. As is the norm with abandoned bags, it was first scanned using handheld metal detectors and passed through the X-ray inspection system before the contents were examined. Within an hour, a passenger,

Basavaraj Naganur, came to the station and staked claim to it. "He said he had arrived in Bengaluru from Belagavi the same day and was on way to Baiyappanahalli Metro station."

After reaching there, Naganur remembered his bag and came rushing back to the BRCS station as he recalled placing the bag on the platform floor. The passenger was able to tell the colour of the bag and the contents inside. After crosschecking his ID, he was handed over the property," the source said.

On August 14, a passenger, Beena Khan, forgot her handbag near the baggage scanner

of Yeshwanthpur Metro station around 8 pm. "It had four gold rings and Rs 1,200 in cash. She reached the station later at night and got it," the source said.

A senior Metro official added that they had found two gold mangalsutras in two separate incidents on the platforms at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro stations ten days ago. "They must have slipped and fallen when boarding or alighting. We rarely find mangalsutras."

One woman came the following day to file a complaint and was relieved to find her jewellery with us.

350 of 536 posts vacant in Madras varsity; faculty strength lowest in 10 years

CHENNAI: The number of permanent faculty members in the University of Madras, one of the oldest and among the most prominent universities in India, has dipped to its lowest in the last 10 years with 350 of the total 536 posts lying vacant. The vice-chancellor post of the university, which is reeling under a financial crisis, has been vacant for the past one year. With two of the university's departments devoid of even one faculty member, staffs of allied departments are being roped in to handle classes, raising concerns on the quality of education, sources said. According to official sources, at least five to six senior faculty members and professors retire every year but there has been no recruitment in the institution for the past 11 years. "The University of Madras was known for its research work and innovations, but due to the shortage of teaching staff, over the last decade, research work in the institution has taken a back seat," said a professor. "We are producing research scholars but hardly any of their work is worthy of national recognition," the

professor added. Several departments are unable to even apply for research funding due to the situation. Although the university has over 140 guest lecturers to help

faculty members despite facing corruption allegations and financial problems, but they are turning a blind eye towards Madras University," another professor said.

Faculty shortage not just about quantity but quality

"We neither get sufficient grants from the state government nor being allowed to go in for fresh recruitment. Even getting our salaries every month is nothing short of a miracle," the professor added. UoM officials stated that the faculty shortage is just not about quantity, which can be addressed to a certain extent by bringing in guest faculty, but it also about the quality of education. Former V-C of the university, G Thiruvasagam, has urged the Tamil Nadu government to intervene immediately. "The University Grants Commission recently granted Category-I status to the university which provides complete autonomy to the institution to start new courses. In order to retain the status, the government should recruit an adequate quantity of teachers with the required experience," Thiruvasagam said.



manage the situation, students and academicians have alleged that when it comes to quality of education, they are simply not on par with permanent staff members.

Senior professors blame the state government for the situation. "Other state universities are being allowed to recruit

Tamil Nadu: Broken guardrails, no warning signs: Mettupalayam-Kotagiri road nightmare for tourists

COIMBATORE: Lack of sign boards warning motorists of the sharp curves and bends makes driving on Mettupalayam-Kotagiri ghat road a nightmarish experience, especially for tourists who may be heading to the hills for the first time. The safety barricades installed along the road are also damaged in several stretches. During peak tourist season, vehicles will be diverted through this road to reach Mettupalayam when Ooty and Coonoor witness dense traffic. On an average, at least 20 lakh tourists visit the Nilgiris district every year. According to sources, when the guardrails got damaged, instead of replacing them, the state highway officials have just placed tree branches. Several motorists voiced concern that high possibility vehicles would go off the road at the curves and fall into the gorge if the driver loses control.

Recently, damaged barricades fell on the road, endangering motorists. Arun Bellie, a social activist volunteer coordinator and

secretary of the Confederation of Environment Associations of Nilgiris (CEAN), said the state highway department should conduct a survey on the road and fix



barricades and awareness boards. Space should be provided for elephants to get down the slopes easily, he added.

The officials should set up barricades after a proper study. Guardrails were installed along the Kannerimukku - M Kaikatti road for more than 2km, which is unnecessary. More place should be covered between the first hairpin bend and Kotagiri," he

said. "This is the time for transport department and police to hold sensitisation sessions for drivers at the Mettupalayam forest depot checkpost," Arun Bellie added.

Echoing a similar opinion, Kotagiri-based resident and TNSTC driver who did not wish to be named said the state highway officials should provide a way for elephants to move from gorge to another gorge by crossing the road since there were incidents where the animals got stranded in the middle of the road. "The barricades were placed decades ago and need to be replaced with modern roller crash barriers as setup in Thalakkundha to Kalhatty road to prevent vehicles from falling into gorge," said the driver.

When contacted Divisional Engineer of State Highways Construction and Maintenance Ghana Moorthi told TNIE they have no plans to set up roller crash barriers. "We will inspect the spot on Monday and see what steps can be taken for the safety of motorists."

Bengaluru: Pathway from FOB ramp to KR Pura platform planned

BENGALURU: Even as the new Foot Over Bridge (FOB) from Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) Railway Station to KR Pura Metro Station was opened without any fanfare on Saturday, a specific issue poses inconvenience to the public. The down ramp of the bridge stairs touches down inside the railway premises, 100 metres away from Platform 4, throwing up a challenge for passengers with heavy luggage and senior citizens. It has now been decided that Bengaluru Division will create a pathway to help passengers reach the station. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic East), Kuldeep Singh told TNIE, "We met senior officials of Metro and Railways on Tin Factory Main Road and surveyed the area. Our goal is to create an integrated traffic management plan at this critical junction, so the public can commute

seamlessly between all modes of transport." At present, there is enormous congestion and 700 to 800 passengers rush out of the railway station whenever a train arrives, and head to the road, impacting traffic there too. "There will be clear demarcated parking zones for auto and cabs, and other facilities. There is enough space inside the station and everything needs to be streamlined," he said. He added that both Railways and Metro have been told to come up with detailed sketches of their plans within a couple of days, before a final strategy is chalked out. Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager Yogesh Mohan said, "As an immediate measure, we will be creating an opening from where the bridge connects to platform 4, so the public can easily reach it. From this platform, other platforms are accessible through."

NMR portal to streamline doctor verification, fight fraudulent medical practices

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With the launch of the National Medical Register (NMR) portal by the National Medical Commission (NMC), the effectiveness in detecting fake medical practitioners is expected to improve significantly.

he portal addresses the long-standing need for a credible national database of doctors that allows the public to verify credentials. Earlier, the lack of such an interactive repository was seen as a major obstacle in preventing impersonation and other fraudulent activities. With the new system, enforcement agencies can easily verify a doctor's credentials by matching their registration ID with the NMR database.

A key feature of the NMR is its integration with the doctors' Aadhaar IDs, which helps ensure the authenticity of individuals. According to Dr Harikumar Nair G S, president of the Kerala State Medical Council (KSMC) for Modern Medicine, the system allows public verification of registration numbers without compromising privacy. While some data will be accessible to the public, other information will be restricted to the Ethics & Medical Registration Board (EMRB) within the NMC, State Medical Councils (SMCs), the National Board of Examinations (NBE), medical institutions, and registered medical practitioners, based on specific needs. The General Practitioners Association (GPA) highlighted the prevalence of fraudulent practices and the challenges in enforcing regulations against them due to the lack of an effective mechanism. Only duly registered medical professionals are authorised to practice medicine in the state. Despite this mandate, instances of MBBS students, dropouts, and unqualified medical graduates who studied abroad practising are abundant.

Loss and gain with having a leopard around the farm

I was about to go meet my nephew, Balu, when my father told me that a leopard — perhaps the same one that I had photographed — had killed one of Balu's cows the previous night. I left home but then lingered in the front yard, wondering if Balu would be upset with me because he knew that I was fond of the leopard. Balu and I were almost the same age and had grown up together. He was a hard-working farmer and unlikely to let something this serious pass.

The first time I heard of this leopard was when Balu had come home to deliver something from the farm and saw a picture of a leopard on my laptop. He said there was one in the ravine near our Lekurwali farm, the one that he managed and shared a portion of the produce with my father. This particular farm was adjacent to the Ajanta reserve forest. He was amused that I was so curious about leopards. My father told him that I was planning on studying them in the Himalayas for a PhD. He said he had heard of people going to the Himalayas for tirth yatra and tapasya. Going all the way to study leopards was a new one for him. "Anyway, why go all the way when there was one right by our farm," he said half-jokingly.

I tried to explain to him the distinction between a snow leopard and a common leopard. I told him snow leopards were adapted to living at high elevations with limited oxygen and intense cold.

"Then, the common leopard must also be adapted to the heat of our Maharashtra summer," he remarked. He went on to tell me how he believed that this leopard near our farm was old. The next time I returned to our farm a year later, Balu said he hadn't seen the leopard in many months and suspected that he was dead. He was most surprised when I asked him if he suspected that someone had killed the leopard. He said nobody around here had a gun and a poisoned leopard would be found out. I frequented the Lekurwali farm over the next two years. I would regularly see wild boars, four-horned antelopes and nilgai, but never a leopard. Balu would usually be milking his cows and buffaloes around the time that I returned from the farm and passed by his gotha (animal shed). He always asked me about the animals I saw. If I reported nilgai or langurs, he would send one of his people to shoot them away. He would then make a trip himself to make sure that the crop-raiders were gone. Then, the first time I saw this new leopard was when I was returning from the farm. I looked back for a moment and saw a large male leopard walking casually on the other bank of the ravine. He walked out of a thicket and sat in the open on a rock in a grassy meadow. The monsoon rains had turned the meadow bright green, and the leopard's lemon-yellow coat, with its dark black rosettes, looked like a painting on someone's living room wall. He looked at me nonchalantly. He was a good 50 metres away, and there was a small stream between us, but still, I was surprised by his boldness. I watched him for a good 15 minutes and took some pictures before he got up and walked along the stream. Then, one night, when Balu was guarding his wheat crop, he saw an eye shine. He suspected it to be nilgai and tried to chase it away. He was fairly close when he realised that it was a leopard. He made a swift retreat but did not turn his back on the leopard. The next time I saw the leopard, it was closer home. My wife reminded me that it was near the same pool where our three-year-old daughter had been playing the previous evening.

"But this leopard has never harmed a human," Balu joined the conversation. I was a little surprised when my father said that the leopard had killed one of Balu's cows. When I reached the gotha, I expected him to be a little cross, but he was his usual self. I did not want to bring up the cow or the leopard, but he jumped as soon as he saw me and started telling me all the details of how the leopard got into the gotha and killed the cow.

BJP's Maha quest: Future haunted by the past

The BJP's journey of the past decade illustrates the perils of short-termism in politics.

It was the run-up to the Maharashtra assembly polls in 2014. Devendra Fadnavis, the face of the BJP's campaign, was at a conference hosted by a news channel. The large screen behind him played the now-famous video clip where Fadnavis promised when the BJP came to power "Ajit dada chakki peesing, peesing and peesing". It was a smart blend of Bollywood and politics. I asked Fadnavis if he had seen Sholay, in which Veeru and Basanti were eventually betrothed. To the 'what if' question, Fadnavis laughed and said it would be better to be a bachelor. The video has since led a charmed viral existence. It has also come to symbolise the past that haunts the future of the BJP in Maharashtra. If a week is a long time in politics, 10 years would qualify for an era. The BJP's journey of the past decade illustrates the perils of short-termism in politics. In a series of misadventures, the party surrendered the anti-corruption plank, engendered mistrust among allies, eroded credibility with break-and-make transitions, and stands accused of ragtag opportunistic politics. Stalled leader: The BJP's successful campaign in 2014 was built around personality and a promise. The slogan was, "Delhi mein Narendra, Mumbai mein Devendra." Fadnavis was convivial, yet aggressive and radical in his approach - following a fire at the Mantralaya in 2012, he petitioned the police to file an FIR against the sitting chief minister. By 2019, Fadnavis had carved a stature, triggering envy. The image seems to have lost its way. In 2024, Fadnavis appears to be at odds and often at war within the party, seen as 'one man against Rome'. Broken promise: Central to the BJP's success was a promise to rid the state of corruption—underlined by a chargesheet accusing the Congress-NCP alliance of scams worth Rs 11 lakh crore. The BJP along with the Shiv Sena romped home in October 2019, winning 122 and 63 seats in the house of 288. A few weeks later, the Maharashtra government gave the nod to the state Anti-Corruption Bureau for a probe against Ajit Pawar and Sunil Tatkare of the NCP. A decade later, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are deputy chief ministers and co-campaigners for the 2024 elections.

Cratered alliance: Relationships define success in politics and language matters. For a quarter century, the BJP and Shiv Sena were siblings in the saffron alliance. The alliance chugged along despite what Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray dubbed as 'domestic squabbles'. The alliance collapsed after the 2019 elections following a battle of insinuations over chief ministership. Government formation was stalled. The details are fuzzy depending on who is telling the story, but what is clear is that by the end of October, Uddhav Thackeray walked out and the alliance was in tatters. Shotgun wedding: The BJP used to call itself the party with a difference. With 105 MLAs, it could have out-waited the opposition. But they chose not



to. In a move akin to a hostile corporate takeover, on November 23, 2019, the BJP roped in Ajit Pawar to form the government. NCP chief Sharad Pawar quickly dubbed the nephew's migration illegal and formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), NCP and Congress, with Uddhav as the CM-designate. The BJP's shotgun wedding didn't last beyond three days - Ajit Pawar and his group eventually joined the MVA government. Split and rule: In 2022, the MVA appeared close to collapse under the weight of its contradictions when the BJP brought it down, partnering with the breakaway SS group led by Eknath Shinde. The opposition said the split was enabled by the misuse of central agencies; the BJP claimed innocence and the Shinde group said it was not a split. Fadnavis faced the ignominy of being directed to join as deputy chief minister. In July 2023, the BJP revisited an old theme and inducted Ajit Pawar and an NCP faction into the government - arguably to bridge the gaps in electoral footprint among social coalitions and in rural Maharashtra. It didn't pay off in June 2024, but sullied the party's playbook. Development detained: As politics unravelled, the state's

economy took a beating. Maharashtra's debt has spiralled to Rs 7.11 lakh crore (17.6 percent of the gross state domestic product); interest payments at Rs 48,578 crore account for 10 percent of revenues. Unlike the past, the state is growing slower at 7.6 percent compared to India's GDP growth of 8.2 per cent. BJP's 2014 success was catalysed by the support of angry farmers. In 2024, farmers are raging against the BJP.

The Maratha anger is about a loss of social standing, but it also symbolises unviability of farming - the net sown area is sliding and the gross cropped area is stagnant. The state is lagging in investments and its per capita income, at Rs 2.52 lakh, trails seven states. This month, the Election Commission announced the dates for elections in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. However, public attention is focused on the elections in Maharashtra as a marker of political dominance. This is a make-or-mar poll for the BJP - yes, the Namo Shetkari Mahasamman Nidhi and the Ladki Bahin cash transfer scheme have created a buzz, but the task is uphill. A parade of hubris and desperation, a series of missteps and the choice of tactical over strategic have stranded the party in a muddle that it must dig itself out of.

Candidate Kamala

J&K polls a challenging assignment

WITH US Vice-President Kamala Harris formally accepting the Democratic Party's nomination, the battle lines are clearly drawn for the November 5 presidential election. Her rival, Republican Donald Trump, had looked virtually unstoppable till last month — he defiantly pumped his fist after narrowly escaping an assassination attempt and couldn't stop smirking as President Joe Biden's campaign went from bad to worse. However, things have changed drastically over the past few weeks. Under immense pressure from his party, Biden abandoned his re-election bid and made way for Kamala, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants. The Democrats are now truly back on track, and Trump has every reason to feel jittery.

Kamala ticked the right boxes in her acceptance speech, predictably warning Americans about the 'extremely serious' consequences of putting an 'unserious man' back in the White House. In his



trademark over-the-top style, Trump wondered whether she was talking about him. But in his heart of hearts, he knows very well that she will spare no opportunity to tear

into him for his alleged crimes and misdemeanours. The chaos witnessed during his years in the Oval Office and the attack on the Capitol after he ended up as a sore loser in the 2020 election are still fresh in the minds of Americans. Trump will have to pull a new rabbit out of his hat to counter Kamala's growing popularity. As per a new Gallup poll, her favourability ratings have gone up appreciably.

For starters, Trump has to hold his own in the televised debate against Kamala next month. He had eclipsed Biden in the June debate mainly because the latter, plagued by age and health issues, was all at sea during the televised event. The much younger and sharper Kamala will be a different kettle of fish. Nevertheless, mere Trump-bashing may not take her all the way. She needs to come up with a workable action plan to chart a 'new way forward' for America.

Are we prepared for digital accidents?

As we cruise along digital e-ways, bumps such as the CrowdStrike glitch are bound to come up. We need to move from overuse to optimal use of technology.

A Microsoft glitch triggered by an update from its security partner CrowdStrike recently brought down computer systems around the world. While we noticed airports and banks going down, many big and small businesses were impacted and incurred substantial losses. It was a short-lived digital version of what we saw during the Covid pandemic. Analysis-paralysis dominated the screens that were still working. Some blamed negligence on part of the company, while others worked out a conspiracy theory in a jiffy. This could have been a simple glitch that could be both intentional or unintentional. Most probably it was unintentional. You see, it is difficult to predict software behaviour during upgrades and updates, especially when many independent pieces are interacting with each other. Software engineers do test for all possible scenarios, but being exhaustive is close to impossible. At the same time, if a bug is to be inserted intentionally, it can be easily done by simply tweaking a few things. This is how the whole virus industry was born, which in turn gave birth to the anti-virus industry. Conspiracy theorists called it sabotage. I am yet to understand by whom and against whom. Is someone trying to hurt the businesses impacted or the one who is providing the services? Competition can play spoilsport but I do not see that as a case here. The only conspiracy I can think of is an attempt to sell some new cybersecurity product by occasionally creating an alarming situation like this. This, to my mind, is the biggest possibility given that many industries thrive on a bit of fear. Among the 'fear players', the insurance industry comes to my mind right on top. It could well be the insurance industry trying to build a new vertical in cybersecurity insurance. Well, it already exists for big corporations, but they are still not selling it to common users like you and me. We may well be on their radar. Remember, Berkshire Hathaway and Warren Buffet have started



talking about cybersecurity risks at their annual investor meets. I would call this breakdown a 'digital accident'. As we ride digital highways, some of these accidents are bound to happen. Some would be due to the negligence by either a naïve user or the lack of diligence at the technology provider's end.

Many such digital accidents would take place simply due to situations no one could foresee. Most systems fail at such exception points. Yes, there are blind spots on digital e-ways too, which are not so easily visible or predictable. At a personal level, we all have stories of lost files or precious pictures to a crashed hard disk or a phone that decided to reset itself. At a business level, these stories mostly stay within the organisation, as it shows both business risks as well as weak links within

their systems. These risks have not been much spoken about since the Y2K days when the focus on technology risk was at a peak. The Indian IT industry owes its widespread reach to this bug that never really materialised. Those were the days when manual alternatives were still available, which is not the case now. There are questions the CrowdStrike incident raises. Should we have a few big companies owning a piece of every other business via technology? Should we not have many small companies so that the risks are distributed and losses are limited? To an extent, it also raises the question of how much of your technology should be outsourced. Going overboard with technology just because it is available is another syndrome that we need to deal with. Forcing a QR code

when a simple paper menu can work, or an automated entry pass when a security person is standing there doing nothing are things that we should let go of. We need to move from overuse to optimal use of technology. For example, check-in process that used to be a step act before digitisation is now a 5-6-step process - web check-in at home, printing of boarding passes at airport, printing luggage tags, struggling at various automated entry points when QR code readers fail, standing in queue to drop the luggage, time wasted when people struggle to find their boarding passes on their phones. One simple queue would have kept things simple for everyone. A clear case of technology overuse. Employees not trained in manual processes are a bigger risk in such scenarios. No one has any clue what to do if the system stops working. How many times we have heard 'Server not working' as an excuse for transactions not going through? There should be a system to keep the business running, potentially in a skeleton mode, even if all the systems come to a standstill. This would demand a high level of integrity and accountability at the human resources level, which is questionable with the constant churn organisations face these days. Trusting technology more than people is also a trend that feeds this risk, as people simply shrug their shoulders and say, "It's not me, it's the system." Someone once asked, if a magnetic tsunami erased all data from the digital world could the world still function? While most of us may think of it as an impossibility, pauses are pretty much a reality that we need to live with as the CrowdStrike incident has shown us. Organisations and users need to be prepared for these pauses caused by digital accidents. Probably, we need some technology-independent solutions as redundancy or alternatives.

5 low-cal recipes to try this weekend



1/4 c skimmed milk
2 tsp honey
1/2 tsp almond slivers

Method

- Put all the chopped fruits in a blender.
- Add yoghurt, skimmed milk and honey and blend until smoothie and frothy.
- Pour smoothie into a glass and sprinkle it with almond slivers. - Serve garnished with pineapple and apple pieces.

Colourful Veggie Juice

Ingredients

1 Carrot, cubed
1/2 Beetroot, cubed
1 tomato, cubed
4-5 spinach leaves, chopped

1/2 tsp lime juice

1/2 tsp ginger juice
1/4 tsp pepper powder
1 indian goose berry, grated
A pinch of black salt and chat masala
2 c water

Method

- In a blender, add chopped carrot, beetroot, tomato and spinach leaves.
- Add lime juice, goose-berry, black salt, pepper powder and water and blend until smooth.
- Add a pinch of chat masala and mix well.
- You can spike it with some chilli powder.

- Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Baked Kidney Beans and Oats Kebab

Ingredients

1/2 c kidney beans, boiled and mashed
1 c roasted oats
3 tbsp olive oil
A pinch of asafoetida
1 tsp cumin seeds
1 tsp garlic pste
1 tsp ginger, finely chopped
1 onion, grated
1 c tomato puree
2 tsp tomato ketchup
1 tsp garam masala
1 green chilli, finely chopped
2-3 tbsp coriander leaves, chopped
1 tsp fat-free yoghurt, Chilli powder and salt to taste

Method

- In a non-stick pan, pour olive

oil and add a pinch of asafoetida, cumin seeds, garlic and ginger.

- Then add onions and saute well.
- Add the tomato puree, ketchup, chilli powder, garam masala, green chillis and salt.
- Once the masala starts to leaves sides, add whipped yogurt, coriander and mashed kidney beans.
- Cook for 5 minutes.
- Let it cool for a while.
- Add roasted oats to it and mix well, let it cool.
- Now, make elongated kebabs from the mixture.
- Pierce skewers into them and bake for 10 minutes.
- Serve hot with green chutney.

Fruit Curd

Ingredients

1 c hung curd
2 tsp organic honey
1/4 c strawberries, chopped
1 kiwi, chopped
1/4 c blueberries
2-3 mint springs
1/4 c apples
1 tbsp walnut, raisins and almonds for garnishing

Method

- Whisk hung curd and organic honey.
- When fluffy, add chopped strawberries, kiwi, apples and blueberries. Mix well.
- Garnish with lots of walnuts, raisins and almonds and mint springs.
- Serve fresh and chilled.



want to indulge in good food without adding on those extra inches? Try out these easy to make healthy recipes.

Sprouts and Corn chaat

Ingredients

1 c sprouted green moong
1/2 corn
1 medium cucumber finely chopped
1 large tomato, chopped
1/2 tsp organic ghee
1/2 tsp cumin seeds powder, roasted
1/2 tsp pepper powder

1 green chillies, chopped
1 tsp coriander leaves, chopped
1/4 c water
Salt to taste

Method

- In a pressure cooker, add organic ghee.
- To this, add sprouted moong and corn, pepper powder and stir for a minute.
- Add 1/4 cup of water and pressure cook for one whistle.
- Drain water and reserve it for soups. Toss into a serving bowl.
- Add cumin seeds, chopped chillies, coriander and salt.
- Mix well and serve.

Frothy Pineapple and Apple Smoothie

Ingredients

1 c pineapple pieces
2 c apple pieces
1 c yogurt



How to keep food fresh naturally

Wondering why your fruits and veggies lose the freshness in just one day? Well, the problem must be in the way you are storing them. TOI gets you the solution...

- Never store apples with any other vegetables or fruits. Apples emit certain gases which make the other good items rot. Similarly, never store tomatoes and cucumber in the same compartment as even tomatoes emit gases which can make the cucumber rot.

- Always store items like eggs with the pointed side downward to keep them fresh longer.

- Store cheese with a few cubes of sugar in an air tight container as the cubes absorb the moisture from the cheese and help it stay fresh for a longer period of time.

- Keep a potato in your refrigerator. The potato absorbs bad smells from cooked food or even otherwise and also absorbs gases in the fridge, thus helping other things stay fresher. But you must change the potato every few days.

- Always store radish in a vessel with water to keep it crisp.



Powder Your food

Extract your 'pound' of nutrition with spoons full of exotic food powders.

Dusting icing sugar on brownies or topping your espresso with some hot chocolate? Nah... not in an age when you can sprinkle so much more goodness! The powder that sits on top of your food isn't just a topping or garnish anymore. It's a superfood elixir - empowering your food in unimaginable ways. From a purple berry grown in the Amazonian rainforests to a tea highly-favoured by Buddhist monks, a host of rare food items are being powdered to add benefits to our diets.

With an increased interest in well-being and the nutritional inadequacy of modern-day diets, it is now imperative to top our food intake with extra nutrition. Food powders work wonders in this area since they can be consumed without any major alteration to the taste, look or smell of the food. They slip in

conveniently into our food regime without much hullabaloo. Just grind it, dust it and consume it. Most 'superfoods' like flaxseeds, chia seeds, matcha tea and goji berries are foods with acquired tastes - so it's far easier to consume them in their powdered state. "These powders typically consist of a bulk, powdered version of a superfood(s) in a raw, natural state. You can mix the powder in water, smoothies, juices or any other beverage for consumption. Most are carefully processed, freeze-dried or cold temperature-processed to ensure that all



the whole food nutrients are kept intact and not denatured," says Manjari Chandra, consultant therapeutic nutritionist.

HEAPFUL OF HEALTH

Who would imagine that a dash of powder in food could go reduce the risk of chronic age-related diseases such as cancer, heart disease and Type-II diabetes? Or that it could

actually help you overcome clinical depression... Of course, it won't happen overnight, but research proves that consistent intake of nutritionally-advanced food items can make you a healthier, saner version of yourself. "Chia seeds, for instance, help control blood sugar levels, prevent blood clots, reduce high blood pressure, reduce inflammation and improve digestion. Now, there are many ways to consume chia seeds - they are eaten raw with foods, made into a pudding or better still powdered and added to cereals, soups, and desserts. Grinding chia seeds is a convenient and wholesome way of eating them as the nutritional contents of the

seeds are retained when they are ground into a powder," maintains Chandra. Similarly, whole flaxseeds can be rather hard to chew, so ground flax is a better option. Just sprinkle it on your crunchy salad, dust it on a slice of tiramisu or add it to a homemade granola bar.

MUST-TRY FOOD POWDERS

Maca: This native Peruvian plant from the radish family is now readily available in powder form. It is widely used and is believed to boost libido, increase endurance and balance hormones by experts. The best way to get maca into your daily diet is by adding the powder directly into juices and smoothies. The taste will barely be detectable, and yet you'll reap the goodness of this superfood. **Matcha:** It is a supercharged green tea with an antioxidant potential almost 100 times the amount of regular green tea. It is nutrient-dense. Buddhist monks have been drinking matcha for centuries when meditating since it is known to increase alertness and concentration. Add a heaped teaspoon of matcha green tea powder into your breakfast daily and see the difference it makes.



IMD Warns Of Intense Rains In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra: Check Full Forecast

Issuing a red alert, the IMD said heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is expected in West Madhya Pradesh on August 26. Similar conditions are forecast for east and south Rajasthan, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch.

New Delhi: A depression over northwest Madhya Pradesh and adjoining east Rajasthan has intensified into a deep depression, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday and warned of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in parts of the two states and Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra over the next two to three days. At 11:30 pm on August 25, the deep depression lay centred near 70 km south-southwest of Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. This system is expected to move west-southwest, affecting South Rajasthan, and Gujarat, and reaching Saurashtra, Kutch, and parts of Pakistan by August 29, the IMD said in an update issued at 2 am. The weather department said another low-pressure area is located over Bangladesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal. It is

likely to intensify further and move towards Gangetic West Bengal, north Odisha, and Jharkhand over the next two days. Issuing a red alert, the IMD said heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is expected in West Madhya Pradesh on August 26. Similar conditions are forecast for east and south Rajasthan, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch from August 26 to 29. Konkan, Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, and Jharkhand are also expected to receive heavy to extremely heavy rainfall over the next two days. The IMD has warned of strong winds reaching up to 50 kmph in Madhya Pradesh on August 26 and up to 60 kmph in south Rajasthan on August 26-27. In Gujarat, nearby Pakistan, north Maharashtra, and the northeast Arabian Sea, strong winds



gusting up to 55 kmph are expected on August 26, increasing to 60 kmph on August 27 and 28. Rough to very rough sea conditions are anticipated off the coasts of

Gujarat, Pakistan, and north Maharashtra until August 30. Rough seas are also expected in the North Bay of Bengal on August 26. The IMD has advised fisherfolk

to avoid venturing into the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, especially around the coasts of Gujarat, Pakistan, and Maharashtra, until August 30.

Small ships and exploration and production operators have been asked to monitor weather developments and take necessary precautions. People are advised to avoid areas prone to waterlogging and check for traffic advisories before travelling. Farmers in the affected areas should ensure proper drainage in fields and provide support to crops, according to the IMD. The IMD has also warned of potential localized flooding, road closures, and waterlogging, particularly in urban areas. There is a risk of landslides and damage to horticultural crops due to inundation in the affected regions.

Doctor slapped, verbally abused by patient's attendant in Delhi hospital

New Delhi: A resident doctor and a medical dresser were attacked allegedly by a patient's attendant, just days after resident doctors resumed work following an 11-day nationwide strike over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata. The incident took place at Doctor Hedgewar Hospital in Karkardooma here late on Saturday night while the doctor was providing critical care. The doctor who was assaulted told PTI, "Late Saturday night, around 1:00 am, a patient with a forehead injury was brought to the hospital. I took him to the dressing room to stitch the wound. After I finished the first stitch and was working on the second, the patient suddenly pushed me and began hurling abuses.

His son, who was outside the room, came in, slapped me and they both started abusing me further." According to the doctor, who requested anonymity, the patient was intoxicated. Hundreds of resident doctors in Delhi had resumed work on August 23, following an appeal by the Supreme Court and assurances from the government to address their concerns. The strike, which began on August 12, had severely disrupted non-emergency services, including OPD and diagnostics, at major central and Delhi government hospitals.

PDP Ready To Partner With Congress, But Only If They Accept 'Bigger Goals': Mehbooba Mufti

New Delhi: People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said that her party will welcome Congress with open arms, if the grand old party agrees to PDP's agenda for the upcoming assembly polls. Briefing to the reporters on her party's manifesto, Mufti said, "Whenever we allied with any party, we had a purpose and a clear agenda. That's why I mentioned that if Congress is willing to accept our agenda, we are prepared to support them."

On August 24, Mehbooba Mufti stated that the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly election is not focused on statehood or seat sharing for her but is centered on a 'bigger goal.'

Key Points In PDP's Elections Manifesto

In some significant poll promises, PDP pledged to work towards reinstating Articles 370 and 35A, fostering diplomatic talks between India and Pakistan, and facilitating the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.



At a press conference launching the PDP manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections, Mufti stated, "We are fighting for dignity, for resolution." She also highlighted that alliances and seat sharing "are distant considerations" and suggested that if the National Conference and Congress agree to her agenda, she would support them, as "solving the problem of Kashmir is more important than anything else." BJP's History With PDP's Mehbooba Mufti In the 2014 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, the PDP secured 28 seats, the BJP won 25, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference garnered 15, and the Congress obtained 12. The PDP and BJP subsequently formed a coalition government under Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's leadership. However, in 2018, the BJP withdrew its support from the alliance following Mehbooba Mufti's succession after Sayeed's death. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, with vote counting scheduled for October 4.

Murder-accused actor Darshan now seen in video call from inside jail after pic

Bengaluru: A day after the photo of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is lodged in Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in connection with a murder case, smoking a cigarette on an open lawn went viral, a video showing Darshan on a phone call has emerged. The clip begins with a man in a yellow t-shirt warmly smiling at another man on a video call. As the call progresses, the second man, still holding the phone, steps away, redirecting the camera from his face. He hands the device to someone nearby, and moments later, Darshan's face pops up on the screen.

With a cheerful wave, Darshan greets the man. The man gestures towards his mouth, enquiring if the actor has eaten. Darshan, smiling, nods in response.



After a brief exchange of words, the two share a final wave and bid each other goodbye. Darshan and Pavithra Gowda are among 17 people who were arrested in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case. Renukaswamy, a 33-year-old auto driver who was also a fan of the Kannada actor, was found near a flyover in Bengaluru on June 9. According to the police,

Renukaswamy was kidnapped and murdered by a gang at the actor's instructions after he allegedly sent offensive messages on social media to actor Pavithra Gowda, who is rumored to be Darshan's partner. On August 21, a Bengaluru court extended until August 28 the judicial custody of Darshan, Pavithra, and others. Earlier, while reacting to the viral image, Shiva Gowda, father of Renukaswamy, urged the state government to take action against the actor. "When Darshan asked for home-cooked food, it wasn't permitted. We have belief in the police and the justice system. I am utterly surprised how did this happen. This is shocking news for me. I request the government to investigate and take action," Gowda said.

After 12-Hour Raid At Ex-Principal Sandip Ghosh's House, CBI Hints, 'Bahut Kuch Hai'

New Delhi: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted raids at multiple locations on Sunday adding to over 12-Hour search operation at RG Kar Hospital's former Principal Sandip Ghosh, ex-medical superintendent Sanjay Vashisth and 13 others. The probing team left Ghosh's premises with numerous documents. The anti-corruption branch of the CBI was assigned to look into alleged financial misconduct at the state-run institute that occurred during the tenure of the former principal then questioned about the evidence, a CBI official responded to reporters, "Bahut kuch hai (There is

a lot)." The CBI team, backed by a large contingent of central forces, arrived at



Ghosh's residence around 6 am. However, according to officials, they had to wait for nearly an hour and a half before he finally opened the doors. The Court has given the CBI three weeks to file a progress report on their

investigation, with a deadline set for September 17. Earlier on Sunday, CBI officials administered a polygraph test to Sanjay Roy, the arrested suspect, as part of their probe into the rape and murder of a female trainee doctor in Kolkata.

The hospital financial irregularity case stems from the rape and murder of a female postgraduate trainee doctor on August 9, leading to the arrest of a Kolkata Police civic volunteer. This shocking crime sparked widespread protests from doctors and the public across the country. Following orders from the Calcutta High Court, the CBI has launched investigations into both the murder and claims of financial wrongdoing at the hospital.

Assam teen had asked aunt what rape is 2 days before she was gang-raped

New Delhi: A 14-year-old girl, who was gang-raped in Assam's Nagaon district on August 22, had asked her aunt about what rape is just two days before the incident. "Aunty, what is rape?", recalled the survivor's aunt as she spoke to India Today NE about what her niece asked she read articles on the rape and murder of the trainee doctor in Kolkata. The aunt said that she felt "shattered" following the incident.

"I never thought something so gruesome would happen here. It looks like I have failed to protect her," she said. "She dreams of becoming the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) one day. She even spoke to the DSP, when the latter came to visit her at the hospital, and managed to smile at her," she said.

The girl was gang-raped just 1 km away from her house in Nagaon's Dhing, while she was returning home from her tuition classes on August 22. Locals found her in an unconscious state, following which she was rushed to a nearby hospital. The girl lived with her aunt and grandparents, and she usually returned home from her tuition with her aunt or in a rickshaw. However, she rode a bicycle to tuition on the day of the incident. Widespread protests have broken out in Assam over this incident, demanding justice for her and stringent punishment for the accused. Her aunt further said that the girl's father is in Guwahati and, as he couldn't support her financially, he sent her to stay with her aunt in Dhing. Her aunt, who earns Rs 10,000 per month, takes care of her education and basic needs.

The survivor's father said, "Seeing my daughter in the hospital in such a state, where she was not even able to talk, was heart-breaking. He girl's aunt also said that once she recovers, she would probably take her away from Dhing for her safety. Notably, one of the accused in the case, Tafazul Islam, allegedly died after jumping into a pond to escape from the police, they said. Further investigation is on and a search is on for the other accused, the Police said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condemned the incident, and said that it was a "crime against humanity." "The horrific incident at Dhing, involving a minor, is a crime against humanity and has struck our collective conscience. We will NOT SPARE anyone & BRING the perpetrators to JUSTICE," he said in a post on X.

BJP likely to contest 60 to 70 seats in J&K Assembly polls: Sources

As expected, the BJP is going to contest the polls, to be held on 90 seats, without forging an alliance with any party.

New Delhi: The BJP may contest around 60 to 70 seats in the upcoming three-phased elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, sources told India Today after the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting during the meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by

BJP's top leadership, including Amit Shah and JP Nadda, the party also decided to drop the candidacies of several prominent figures in the Jammu region, sources added. As expected, the BJP is going to contest the Assembly elections, to be held after almost a decade, without forging an alliance with any party.

"Instead, the party will back strong independent candidates in the constituencies of the Kashmir Valley where it will not field its own candidates," sources added. In the last Assembly polls held in 2014, the BJP and People's Democratic Party (PDP) formed a coalition government, with Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as the Chief Minister. After Sayeed's death in January 2016, Mehbooba Mufti succeeded her father following a brief period of Governor's Rule. In June 2018, the BJP

walked out of the PDP-led coalition government, leading to the dissolution of the Assembly by then-Governor Satya Pal Malik in November of that year. Since then, Jammu and Kashmir has not had an



Assembly. Meanwhile, BJP's biggest nemesis in the erstwhile state, the National Conference (NC), has already entered an alliance with the Congress, covering all 90 seats. The final number of seats either party will be contesting is yet to be announced though.

Sources had earlier said that the Congress had expressed the desire to contest 12 seats in the Kashmir Valley while offering Farooq Abdullah's party the same number of seats in the Jammu division.

THREE-PHASED POLLS IN J&K

Elections to the 90 Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1. Results are expected to be declared on October 4. This will be the first Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir since the erstwhile state was stripped of Article 370 that granted special status and bifurcated into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in 2019. Since 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has been governed as a Union Territory, with key powers resting with the Lieutenant Governor, currently Manoj Kumar Sinha.



Paneer Tandoori Recipe



How to make Paneer Tandoori

Step 1
Wash the paneer under running water and cut it into cubes. Then, mix the paneer cubes with ginger paste, garlic paste, curd, meat masala and kasoori methi. Marinate it for about 20 minutes. Put it into a tandoor or grill it on both the sides.

Step 2
Now, put 2 tbsp oil in a pan and heat it over moderate flame. Add the grilled paneer pieces into it. Saute it for some time, cover and cook. Once the whole thing gets reduced into gravy form, add some

more kasoori methi and mix it well.
Step 3
Season the dish with salt according to your taste. Your dish is ready to be served. Serve it hot with roti or parathas, or even rice.

Paneer Tandoori is a scrumptious and easy-to-make North Indian recipe as it uses readily available ingredients in the kitchen like paneer, curd, meat masala and ginger-garlic paste. If you are done with garam masala loaded paneer dishes like Paneer Butter Masala, Kadhai Paneer and Shahi Paneer, this paneer recipe is a welcome variation as it uses meat masala. It is a kids

favourite curry recipe and an ideal dish which can be served on anniversaries and kitty parties. One important tip that you should keep in mind while making this recipe is that you need to marinate the paneer pieces well so that the flavours are properly absorbed. Serve this easy paneer recipe with rice, naan or paratha. It also

pairs well with garlic naan, missi roti and biryani. A must try paneer recipe for parties and special occasions. You can also garnish this paneer recipe with onions rings for that extra crunch!

Ingredients of Paneer Tandoori
400 gm paneer
2 tablespoon refined oil

1 tablespoon salt
For Marination
1 tablespoon ginger paste
3 tablespoon meat masala
4 pinches kasoori methi powder
1 tablespoon garlic paste
1/2 cup yoghurt (curd)

As the New Year is on us, there seems to be an emphasis on back-to-the-basics and healthy gluten-free products. There'll be a resurgence of superfoods, the emergence of a 'Better for You' category of foods and even ingredients like seaweeds. Mixology will take on a whole new complexion.

Chef Shivan Khanna, Executive Sous Chef, The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, lists his trends for 2018:

- * Increased demand for hyper-local ingredients – guests are keen to try dishes which are made from locally-sourced ingredients because they help achieve superior taste quality, they benefit society at large and are also a sustainable method of procurement.

- * Increased focus on health and wellness – there is a growing demand for gluten-free products and people's desire to cut back on white carbs is changing the way recipes are now being crafted.

- * Resurgence of superfood — This trend also finds its way back to the increased focus on health and wellness. People want to consume more and more foods such as carobs or millets which are potent and packed with nutritional benefits.

Here's what'll tickle your Palette



- * Emergence of 'Better for You' category of foods. In today's environmentally conscious world, guests are looking for products which are neither harmful to the environment nor to their individual selves. This category includes ingredients which are cage free, pesticide free, free-range dairy products and the like.

- * Focus on plant-based protein – there has been a surge in vegetarianism over the past few years. As a result, there is now more interest in

food made with plant-based proteins. Chefs are embracing ingredients such as tofu, quinoa, and tempeh (made using soy).

- * More advanced methods of mixology – cocktails will see their own set of trends in 2018. We are expecting there to be an increased use of fresh ingredients and homemade mixes, as well as use of different methods of cocktail preparation like smoking and grilling. There is also expected to be a shift from more flavorful spirits that have greater character like bourbon and rum. For Achal Aggarwal, Executive Chef, Hilton Chennai, the accent will be on green tea and pop-up restaurants.

- * Hotels may start serving green tea made with leaves. What we get is tea dust.

- * Many dishes will have green tea as an ingredient owing to its health benefits.

- * Star hotels may go for pop-up restaurants (restaurants that would change its cuisine every month – say Chinese one month, Indian the next and so on). Five star hotels have the infrastructure and manpower for this.

- * Hotels will have more live counters as part of their

Focus on plant-based protein - there has been a surge in vegetarianism over the past few years. As a result, there is now more interest in food made with plant-based proteins. Chefs are embracing ingredients such as tofu, quinoa, and tempeh.

buffet. Two benefits — it gives the customers the satisfaction of having freshly cooked food and hotels in turn can cut waste.

- * Vegetarianism will gain further ground amongst people.

- * Demand for exotic vegetables and dishes made with such vegetables would go up.

Chef Mangesh Hinge of Chevon had a rather different take.

- * Seaweed: Seaweed is low in calories and is filled with nutrients, you can buy packaged seaweed and enjoy with your favorite dish.

- * Goat meat, since it is much leaner than chicken and is lower in calories, saturated fat, sodium, and cholesterol. A 100-gram portion of goat meat has about 122 calories, which is considerably less than pork's 179 and chicken's 162.

- * Floral flavours: Edible petals is the upcoming trend which is making its way to common people's kitchen from the high-end eateries. When infused in or cocktails, they have implausible health benefits, lowering high blood pressure, easing stomach aches, and potential to aid in weight loss.



Tata Sons repays more than Rs 20,000 crore to remain private: Report

New Delhi. Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, has repaid over Rs 20,000 crore in debt to stay private, reported The Economic Times.

The company settled Rs 20,300 crore in borrowings to avoid being forced to list its shares, a requirement for certain large financial firms under the Reserve Bank of India's rules. In 2022, the RBI classified Tata Sons as an NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL), which would have required it to go public within three years. However, by repaying nearly all its debt, Tata Sons no longer has to comply with this rule and as asked to cancel its registration as an NBFC. Tata Sons also paid a record dividend of Rs 35,000 per share to its shareholders.

The main beneficiaries are the Dorabji Tata Trust, which holds a 28% stake, and the Ratan Tata Trust, with 24%.

Tata Sons collected Rs 24,000 crore in dividends from its group companies, with Rs 19,000 crore coming from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and additional contributions from Tata Motors and Tata Steel.

Financially, Tata Sons performed strongly in FY24, with net profits rising 57% to Rs 34,654 crore, and revenues up 25% to Rs 43,893 crore. The company moved from a net debt of Rs 20,642 crore in March 2023 to a net cash position of Rs 2,670 crore by March 2024. This turnaround was helped by selling shares in TCS, raising over Rs 21,000 crore during the year.

Tata Sons also reduced its expenses by 27% in FY24, and the value of its investments grew by 35.7% to Rs 15.21 lakh crore by the end of the fiscal year. The company continues to invest in its businesses to fuel growth and strengthen its finances, further securing its position as a private company.

Domestic Banks, NBFCs now hold 36% exposure of Adani Group's total debt

New Delhi. Adani Group's debt mix now sees domestic banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) accounting for 36% of its total debt, as per recent data.

This shows a shift in the group's financial structure, with Indian lenders increasing their exposure by around 500 basis points during the 2023-24 financial year. The rise in debt is mainly attributed to capital expenditure in sectors like airports and green energy.

As of March 31, 2024, Indian banks and NBFCs had lent Rs 88,100 crore to the Adani Group, contributing to the total debt of Rs 2,41,394 crore. This is a noticeable increase from March 31, 2023, when domestic lenders had an outstanding loan amount of Rs 70,213 crore, which was 31% of the group's total debt of Rs 2,27,248 crore.

The increase in domestic lending includes contributions from major banks such as the State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and ICICI Bank. Despite the increased lending, queries sent to these banks remained unanswered at the time of reporting.

Adani Group's debt has grown due to significant capital expenditures in its businesses, particularly in the airports and green energy sectors. The group operates across various industries, including infrastructure, ports, metals, building materials, utilities, and fast-moving consumer goods.

During the last fiscal year, the group's debt from the domestic capital market also rose, reaching Rs 12,404 crore by March 2024, up from Rs 11,562 crore the previous year.

On the other hand, debt from global banks saw a slight decline, amounting to Rs 63,296 crore as of March 2024, down from Rs 63,781 crore a year earlier. Additionally, debt from global capital markets decreased to Rs 69,019 crore from Rs 72,794 crore during the same period.

Sensex jumps 600 points, Nifty crosses 25,000 amid strong global cues

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Monday amid strong global cues after US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signalled that interest rate cuts are imminent. The S&P 500 rose 3.5% to 5,813.97 points at 10:16 am, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 186.10 points to cross 25,000 mark.

All the other broader market indices also gained sharply in early trade. It may be noted that the Nifty 50 has surged nearly 3% over the last seven sessions, marking its longest rally of the year, driven by growing speculation of a potential US rate cut in September and strong domestic inflows. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, speaking at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium on Friday, noted that "the time has come for policy to adjust," stoking anticipation of a rate cut.

Analysts suggest that a US rate cut could channel funds into emerging markets like India, potentially extending the current rally in Indian equities. MSCI's Asia-Pacific index, excluding Japan, rose by 0.65%, while Wall Street closed on a high note Friday, bolstered by Powell's remarks, reinforcing expectations of a rate cut at the upcoming Sept. 17-18 Fed meeting. On the home front, twelve of the thirteen major sectors in the Nifty 50 advanced, with information technology stocks, which derive a significant portion of their revenue from the US, climbing 1.3%. The top 5 gainers on the Nifty50 were ONGC, Wipro, TCS, Bajaj Finserv and LTIM. On the other hand, the top drags were Apollo Hospitals, BPCL, Grasim, Ultratech Cement and Eicher Motors.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The Fed chief Powell's clear message of the beginning of the rate cutting cycle will impart further resilience to the ongoing global rally in stock markets."

"Deviating from his usual cautious messaging, this time Powell unambiguously stated that 'the time has come for policy to adjust' and that 'the direction of travel is clear.' This will act as sort of a 'Powell put' similar to the famous 'Greenspan put' that supported US equity markets during the Greenspan era," he added. "From the Indian market perspective, this is significant since it will strengthen the minority view espoused by the two independent members of the MPC in favour of rate cuts in the last monetary policy meeting," he added. "Since core inflation in India is only 3% and economic growth is turning slightly sluggish, the MPC is likely to cut rates by 25 bp in the next meeting."

Heavy GST penalties on co executives face legal scrutiny

The ongoing investigations highlight the complexities surrounding tax compliance and the responsibilities of all parties involved in the supply chain.

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) has issued thousands of notices to various companies, as well as their directors and promoters, regarding the wrongful availment of input tax credit (ITC), according to sources. This tax dispute primarily concerns the failure of the vendors to remit taxes to the government, in addition to other issues related to credit availment and utilisation. According to experts, a key question arising from this situation is whether tax liability can be imposed on the service recipients, especially when they are not at fault. The ongoing investigations highlight the

complexities surrounding tax compliance and the responsibilities of all parties involved in the supply chain.

According to the show cause notice reviewed by the TNIE, the interesting element of these notices which have been issued, especially for the financial year 2017-18, by the first week of August, is whether the liabilities imposed by way of personal penalties is correct. In some cases, penalties as high as 100% of the disputed tax amount have been imposed on the directors and the promoters of the company. The imposition of such high penalties have created a lot of chaos in the industry, as the finance minister has clearly articulated that there should not be any harassment of the taxpayers.

The technical point which comes to the forefront is whether these individuals can



be subject to such high personal penalties. Experts claim that such allegations to impose personal penalties on the individuals will have to cross the test of constitutional validity and such harsh penalties may not be sustained once these

matters reach either the appeal forums or the jurisdictional High courts.

"The directors, promoters, or the individuals can be subject to personal penalties only under specified exceptional circumstances and rarest of rare cases when benefit is retained for individual gains. When benefit has not been retained by these individuals, any penalty invoked on individuals will be subject to the test of constitutional validity before the jurisdictional High Court" explained Abhishek A Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, who has filed petitions against these huge penalties levied on

individuals. "The burden to prove the mala fide intent will be on the revenue in such cases, especially when no part is retained in the individual capacity", added Rastogi.

India's GDP likely slowed to 6.9% in April-June quarter: Poll

New Delhi. India's economic growth likely moderated and grew at its slowest pace in a year in the April-June quarter due to lower government spending amid a national election that concluded in June, a Reuters poll found. Growth in Asia's third-largest economy had been well above 7% during previous quarters thanks to strong capital expenditure by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bid to secure a third term in the election. However, holding back on public spending ahead of the parliamentary elections has hurt growth. While the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came back to power, it lost its outright majority in the lower house. In the April-June quarter, gross domestic product (GDP) was forecast to have grown an annual 6.9%, down from 7.8% in the preceding quarter, the Aug. 19-26 poll of 52 economists showed. Forecasts ranged from 6.0% to 8.1%. The government is scheduled to announce data for the April-June quarter on Friday. If the median forecast



is realised, India will remain the world's fastest growing major economy. Official GDP growth releases for the preceding few quarters have surpassed predictions. "The public spending slowdown was significant both by the centre and the states, especially on the capex front. So, there is the transitory element of growth slowdown. However... private consumption growth was better than the previous quarter and overall manufacturing and non-public services were steady," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist at ANZ. "I will be watching out for how strong the private consumption revival is because that

would perhaps tell us how sustainable growth rates become over the coming quarters. Going forward, growth was expected to moderate, averaging 7.0% this fiscal year and 6.7% in the next, unchanged from a previous poll.

While economic growth in the previous quarter was close to 8%, consumption - accounting for over 50% of GDP - grew just half that pace. To boost consumption, the government assigned billions of dollars to rural spending and job creation in its first post-election budget. The economy was expected to grow 6.5-7.0% this fiscal year, the latest government estimates showed. "We anticipate a modest improvement in domestic demand, although it has not yet emerged as a significant driver of growth... the sustained weakness in core inflation suggests that real consumption recovery is still a few quarters away," noted Kunal Kundu, India economist at Societe Generale.

Consumer price inflation, 3.54% in July, was expected to average around 4.5% this fiscal year and next.

Gold, silver price : Yellow metal records hike, silver trades lower on MCX

New Delhi. Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the higher side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a dip on Monday, August 26. Gold futures, maturing on October 4, 2024, stood at Rs 71,791 per 10 grams, after recording a hike of Rs 14 or 0.02 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 71,777. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on September 5, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 121 or 0.14 per cent and were retailing at Rs 85,090 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 85,211. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters



such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices held ground on Monday, buoyed by a weaker dollar and Treasury yields after U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's dovish remarks cemented expectations for a September rate cut, news agency

Gold Price Today 26 August 2024: Gold is trading on the higher side while silver rates have recorded a dip on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday. Check the latest city-wise prices here.

Reuters reported. According to the latest metal report, spot gold was steady at \$2,510.75 per ounce by 0254 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures were flat at \$2,545.90.



suggested to keep a stoploss at 1200," she said. The IPO of Interarch Building Products was oversubscribed by 93.79 times by August 21, 2024. The IPO offered 4,653,341 shares but received bidding for 43,87,55,568 shares.

The retail portion of the public issue saw a subscription of 19.46 times, while the QIB category was subscribed 197.29 times, and the NII category recorded a subscription of 130.91 times. Founded in 1983, Interarch Building Products is a prominent provider of turnkey pre-engineered steel construction solutions in India. The company delivers a full range of services, including design, engineering, manufacturing, and on-site project management for the installation and erection of pre-engineered steel buildings (PEB).

America's economy and your money

New Delhi. The United States of America is the central bank of the world. Everyone watches statements emanating out of the US Federal Reserve like a hawk. Jerome Powell, the chairman of the top central bank, said that the time was ripe for the US to make policy adjustments. That means America will move towards reducing interest rates hiked rapidly soon after the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be a gradual process to ensure that the US economy continues to grow without fears of any inflationary pressures.

The interest rate policy action directly affects foreign flows into emerging markets. As the US reduces borrowing rates, money flows from assets denominated in the US dollar to emerging markets. With a strong hint about rate cuts, money would start moving swiftly. That causes asset prices across non-US markets to rise. Investors flock to low-value equity, commodity or property markets. Much commentary talks about India being a destination preferred by investors moving out of underperforming markets like China. However, share prices in India are already sky-high. They are trading at a record-high valuation compared to previous years. That means expectations of future profits in India are already in the current market price. As a

result, analysts are highly cautious about Indian equities. For Indian shares to do well, profits must grow faster than now. The minutes of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee meeting published last week show that listed private manufacturing companies show sales and profits softened in the first quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. Consumer confidence fell, and the business expectations index has moderated since the previous quarter. In its outlook, RBI has reduced the first-quarter growth forecast. Within RBI's monetary policy committee, calls for rate cuts are rising. Professor Jayanth R Varma and Ashima Goyal, the two members of the committee, called for a cut in the repo rate, the rate at which RBI lends money to the banks. However, the committee voted to keep borrowing rates unchanged due to fears of a surge in food inflation contributing to consumer price inflation.

However, financial markets need faster economic growth. High interest rates stall any future business expansion, affecting profits. While government expenditure could surge in the infrastructure sector and boost economic activity, India needs private investment to add to the economic growth. In 2025, the RBI may have to consider reducing borrowing rates.



What it means to your money

Interest rates in India are unlikely to go down quickly. India's borrowing rate cuts are likely to lag that of the US. That means you will continue to enjoy high returns on your fixed deposits. Equity markets will likely remain stagnant until businesses show faster profit growth. The money flowing into equity markets through mutual funds and the Life Insurance Corporation of India will likely create a bottom for the markets. That means share prices are unlikely to fall significantly

even as prospects for a rapid rise in share prices could diminish.

A phase of stagnancy in financial markets is not such a bad thing. You can spend a lot of time learning about the impact of monetary policy on the economy and the economy of the listed companies. This is an excellent time to work with a financial advisor and understand the interplay between global interest rates, India's economy and your money. You need to build your investment team. If you already have an advisor, you must enhance the scope of your engagement with them by asking questions. You must learn about financial flows influenced by monetary policy or macroeconomics. If you are uninterested to dive deep, you should resort to passive investing through a broader index fund or an exchange-traded fund. Diversify your money according to your ability to know things. If you have the bandwidth to learn about risks and returns equations, you should enhance your allocation to equities. However, if you find learning about finance challenging, continue to hold on to your gold, property, life insurance policies, fixed deposits, public provident funds and guaranteed pension funds.

NEWS BOX

Armand Duplantis 'not surprised' after shattering world record for 10th time

New Delhi, Sweden's Pole Vaulter Armand Duplantis is not surprised after shattering his world record for the tenth time at the Silesia Diamond League meeting on Sunday, August 25. The 24-year-old bettered his record set in the Paris Olympics by one centimetre as he cleared 6.26 metres in his second attempt at Silesia Stadium in Chorzow.

It's the third time in the ongoing year that the Louisiana-born athlete has broken the world record, having done so previously at the Xiamen Diamond League and the Paris Olympics. Reacting on his marvellous feat, Duplantis said that his sole focus this year was on the Paris Olympics and the record came naturally since he was in good shape. "This year I focused on the Olympics, the record just came naturally because I was in good shape. So I am not surprised with the record today, but I am thankful," Duplantis told Reuters after his historic feat. Further speaking ahead, Duplantis thanked the Poland crowd for their support and recalled his first world record at the same venue.

"It almost feels weird and unnatural to get so much love and support from the crowds when I compete. I see that especially in



Poland. The energy in this stadium just keeps getting better every year. My first world record also came in Poland, indoors in Torun (in 2020), so I have great memories from here," he added. Duplantis' viral moment from the Paris Olympics

Earlier, Duplantis won his second successive Olympic gold in Paris clearing the then world record height of 6.25 metres. As soon as he shattered the record, Duplantis was seen over the moon as he went running to his girlfriend to celebrate the historic achievement. The moment became one of the highlights of the Olympics with the video of the incident going viral on social media. Meanwhile, United States' Sam Kendrick, who won the silver medal in Paris, cleared 6.00 before failing at 6.08 to take the second spot. On the other hand, Greece's Emmanouil Karalis, who won the bronze in Paris finished third after clearing six metres.

US Open, Day 1 Schedule of Play: Djokovic, Sabalenka kick off exciting tournament

New Delhi. US Open's main draw is set to start later today on August 26. Defending champion in men's singles competition Novak Djokovic will be in action on Day 1 of the tournament, hoping to extend his form after winning the Paris Olympics gold medal. Alongside Djokovic, women's singles champion in 2023, Coco Gauff will also take the stage on August 26, hoping to maintain her domination in the tournament. The action begins at the Arthur Ashe Stadium at 9:30 PM IST with big-serving Ben Shelton taking on Dominic Thiem. After Shelton, Gauff will take on France's Varvara Gracheva in the women's singles competition to begin her title defence. With the US Open being played in two phases through the day as usual, Novak Djokovic's First Round tie will begin early in the morning (post 4:30 AM) for the Indian audience. Apart from Djokovic, Frances Tiafoe, Aryana Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka will play late-night matches.



India's Sumit Nagal is set to be in action on Day 1 as well, taking on Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor in his Round 1 match. Nagal will play on Court 15 and his match will start around midnight on 26 August. The US Open 2024 is expected to be under a lot of focus after the recent Jannik Sinner episode. The tennis world was divided after Sinner was allowed to play despite being caught positive twice for doping. The world No. 1 men's singles player publicly addressed the recent anti-doping case involving him, marking his first statement since an independent tribunal cleared him of any fault or negligence related to two positive tests for the banned substance clostebol. Sinner also parted ways with his trainer, Umberto Ferrara, and physiotherapist, Giacomo Naldi, following a recent doping controversy. While the decision to separate from these key team members must have been difficult, reports indicate that Ferrara and Naldi were under scrutiny during the doping investigation.

US Open 2024: Aryna Sabalenka ready to be one true contender at Flushing Meadows

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. Aryna Sabalenka comes into the US Open 2024 with a point to prove that she truly is the big contender to claim the title at the Flushing Meadows this year. After having won the Australian Open and reached the quarterfinals of the French Open. She would then have to withdraw from Wimbledon and the Olympics due to injury and came back in time for the Cincinnati Open. There she produced a stellar performance, which saw her beat World No.1 Iga Swiatek en route to the title. Now,

she returns to the US Open, which by her own admission, is her favourite grand slam. And for good reason. The Belarussian star has reached at least the semi-finals in the last three years and went all the way to the final in 2023. During that run, she had come back to win matches where she seemed dead and buried. The 26-year-old would ultimately falter in the final to Coco Gauff, but seems determined to make her mark this year.

Tough losses motivating Sabalenka

Sabalenka, while talking ahead of the tournament, said that her losses in the past at the US Open has definitely motivated her to improve and work hard. The 26-year-old said she comes to the grand slam each year aiming to get her hands on the title.

"It's not like it's in my mind a lot that I kind of, like, have unfinished something here, but those tough losses definitely motivated me a lot to hard work and to improve things which didn't work in the previous years," Sabalenka told reporters. "Every time I'm coming here, I'm really hoping for the best result. I really hope one day I'll be happy to lift this beautiful trophy," said Sabalenka, as quoted by Reuters.

Rejuvenated after the break



The break was a welcome one for Sabalenka as she played the first two grand slams with a tricky shoulder and with the fear of getting injured. But after a much-needed break where she got her batteries charged up again, the fear of a setback has now deserted the Belarussian star. "That little break was much needed. The first two tournaments were kind of like tricky with the shoulder. Like, first time I faced this kind of fear of getting injured," said Sabalenka.

"But I'm really happy that in Cincinnati things clicked for me, and I trust the hard work we did. I'm pretty sure that I'm not going to get injured again."

Backing her skills

The route to the title isn't easy for Sabalenka as she could face the defending champion Gauff potentially in the semi-finals and Swiatek in the summit clash. However, the World No.2 is backing her skills heading into the tournament and bringing in the positive emotions along with it. "The way I'm playing right now, I feel really proud, because I know how hard I work to improve my game, to be able to do all those kind of like

tricky shots and to have this variation in the game," said Sabalenka. "So it just brings me only like positive emotions. Also, it's like when I see myself, like, improving some stuff, it just motivates me and kind of inspire myself to work hard and to find some more stuff to improve and to get better."

There is a special reason that Sabalenka loves the US Open. It was last year on her way to the final, she had dethroned Swiatek to become the World No.1. This time, while that may be distant, the chance is certainly there for the Belarussian star to win her first title at the Flushing Meadows. It seems like one that Sabalenka isn't ready to let go this time.

Mohammad Hafeez takes a dig at Mohsin Naqvi after Pakistan's loss to Bangladesh

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. Former Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Hafeez took a dig at PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's surgery remark after their loss to Bangladesh in the first Test. Notably, Bangladesh beat Pakistan for the first time in their Test history as they registered a ten-wicket win in the first Test of the three-match series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Following their loss, there has been widespread criticism of the national cricket team with several former players and board officials launching a scathing attack on the current state of affairs of the side.

Jumping onto the bandwagon, former Pakistan's Director of Cricket also took a dig at PCB Chairman Naqvi for his surgery comment. Naqvi had commented that the Pakistan team needs a surgery after their humiliating six-run loss against India in the T20 World Cup 2024. In the aftermath of their T20 World Cup first stage exit which included another embarrassing loss against the USA, the PCB management sacked Hafeez and Chief Selector Wahab Riaz. Hence, to take a dig at Naqvi and PCB management Hafeez wrote "Surgery is On till death aha...," on his X account. Pakistan searching for home Test win since 2022 Pakistan haven't won a single Test at

home since 2022 with their last win coming on February 8, 2021 against South Africa. In the last nine home Tests since 2022, Pakistan have lost five matches and drawn four. The losses include a 0-1 series loss vs Australia and a 0-3 whitewash against England. Hence, the Shan Masood-led side finds itself on the brink of another series loss after losing the first Test against Bangladesh. Pakistan came into the final day on 23/1 trailing Bangladesh by 94 runs in the second innings. However, they were blown away by the spin duo of Mehidy Hasan Miraz (4/21) and Shakib Al Hasan (3/44) who picked seven wickets between them to bundle them out for 146 runs. In reply, Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan (15*) and Shadnam Islam (9*) chased down the 30-run target in 6.3 overs to help their team register their first win over Pakistan after 14 Tests.

Having suffered a humiliating defeat, the hosts will have to regroup quickly as the two teams meet for the second and final Test of the series from Friday, August 30 at the same venue.



seen shrugging off Shan Masood's hand from his shoulder. The video clip went viral on social media after the Test match on Sunday, August 25. Pakistan cricket team have had a tumultuous time in the recent past. There have been multiple changes in the leadership groups since their group stage exit in the ODI World Cup 2023. After the tournament in India, Babar Azam stepped down as a captain from all formats of the game and the reigns were handed to Shan Masood in Tests and Shaheen Shah Afridi in the white-ball formats of the game. After captaining in one series against New Zealand, Shaheen was removed from his post and the captaincy was once again handed to Babar in the white-ball formats. Babar captained the team in the T20 World Cup 2024, which saw the Pakistan side crash out in the group stages of the tournament. Pakistan were expected to do well in this series with the Rawalpindi wicket expected to help the pacers, however, that turned out to be far from the truth. Pakistan captain Shan Masood spoke after the first Test and admitted that the team had made many mistakes in the first Test. He admitted that they read the pitch wrong and would try to correct their mistakes in the second and final match of the series.

Jannik Sinner reacts to chatter around doping row: 'Was treated like everyone else'

New York. World No. 1 Jannik Sinner played down the chatter around his doping case, saying he was "treated like everyone else" after a section of the tennis fraternity alleged double standards in the way the global bodies and authorities handled the issue. Sinner acknowledged that he had the resources to put together a team of qualified people to deal with the doping case, which has created a stir in the tennis community in the lead-up to the US Open. Some notable names in tennis, including Nick Kyrgios and Denis Shapovalov, hinted at preferential treatment for Sinner after the Australian Open champion escaped sanctions despite testing positive twice for a banned substance in March 2024. Sinner tested positive for Clostebol -- a synthetic anabolic-androgenic steroid that is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) -- during the Indian Wells tournament. Sinner's positive test was followed by another positive out-of-competition sample eight days later. He was provisionally

suspended but successfully appealed, allowing him to continue competing on tour. The swift action taken by Sinner's team after the two positive tests helped the young Italian avoid bigger sanctions.

SINNER'S DOPING CASE: EXPLAINED

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA), which investigated the doping case and held a hearing in August, accepted Sinner's explanation that the banned substance entered his body unintentionally when he was given a massage by his physiotherapist, who had used a spray with Clostebol. The ITIA concluded that the doping violation was not intentional, resulting in no period of ineligibility. It's also in the position where you are. Obviously, being where I am, I have the ability to take qualified people. Obviously, if this happens to a different player, it's going to be different, but again, I was treated like everyone else," Jannik Sinner told ESPN ahead of US Open 2024. "The reason why I kept playing is because we (the team) knew

exactly how it (the banned substance) entered my system and where this clostebol was from, no? And this was in the spray. All things considered, I have not had any different treatment," he added.

'HOPE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND...'

Sinner explained how the last few months were taxing for him as he awaited the judgement in his doping case. The numero uno of men's singles tennis urged people to understand why he was allowed to continue playing on the tour despite the positive tests. Sinner said he is looking forward to focusing on the job at hand as he begins his bid to win his maiden US Open crown.

"The process was very long. It was an even bigger wait towards the end, because when you feel like, 'okay, the result is coming', you still don't know what's coming out, but it was not an easy period for me," Sinner said. "It has been a very tough time. It has been a doubtful time. I am happy that this finally is over, so a lot of weight on my shoulders is gone."

UTT 2024: Home favourite Sharath Kamal stars as Chennai Lions beat Dabang Delhi

Achanta Sharath Kamal starred for Chennai Lions as they bounced back in style in the Ultimate Table Tennis 2024. Chennai defeated Dabang Delhi via an 8-7 margin.

New Delhi. Led by Achanta Sharath Kamal, Chennai Lions bounced back in style from their previous loss in IndianOil Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 by defeating Dabang Delhi TTC 8-7 at the Jawahar Nehru Indoor Stadium on Sunday. Home favourite Sharath, who is the league's highest-ranked

male Indian paddler, showed his class in a 2-1 win over Dabang Delhi TTC's Andreas Levenko in the tie's first men's singles, unleashing a range of powerful smashes on the Austrian making his debut in the fifth season of IndianOil UTT. Sharath's win set the tone for the tie, with his teammates following suit later on. Subsequently, in the tie's first women's singles, Sakura Mori defeated Orawan Paranang, 2-1, to extend Chennai Lions' lead. Mori proved her prowess in difficult circumstances, staying in control of the match despite repeated fightbacks from her opponent. While the Japanese paddler took the opening two games, her Thai counterpart varied her approach in the third and claimed a consolation victory, reducing Dabang Delhi TTC's deficit. The mixed doubles match between the two teams followed the same trend, as Chennai Lions' pairing of Sharath



and Mori beat Dabang Delhi TTC's Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Paranang 2-1. The hosts secured the tie in the very next match, with Jules Rolland defeating local boy Sathiyam two games to one.

In the final match of the tie, Dabang Delhi TTC's Diyaale Chitale scripted personal history. The Mumbai girl, who used to watch IndianOil UTT as a fan from the stands, won

her first match ever in the league in her second year. She beat Poymantee Baisya 3-0. For her impressive victory, Chitale scooped the Indian Player of the Tie honour. Meanwhile, Chennai Lions' Mori claimed the Foreign Player of the Tie gong, while Rolland was awarded with the DafaNews Shot of the Tie award. Tomorrow's only tie will see the PBG Bengaluru Smashers take on Purneri Paltan TT at 17:00, with both teams looking to take a significant step forward.

Detailed Scores

Chennai Lions bt Dabang Delhi TTC 8-7
Sharath Kamal bt Andreas Levenko 2-1 (11-5, 11-8, 8-11); Sakura Mori bt Orawan Paranang 2-1 (11-10, 11-8, 4-11); Sharath/Mori bt Sathiyam/Paranang 2-1 (11-6, 11-6, 9-11); Jules Rolland bt Sathiyam G. 2-1 (11-7, 11-9, 8-11); Poymantee Baisya lost to Diya Chitale 0-3 (9-11, 7-11, 5-11)

Shilpa Shetty

In Jaipur, Kicks Off Her Day With A Trip To Hawa Mahal



Fans were speculating about Shilpa Shetty's destination when she was spotted at the Mumbai airport on Friday. Now, we know that the actress jetted off to Jaipur for reasons still unknown to us. But, how do we know about her getaway location? On Saturday, the actress posted a story on Instagram in which she added a beautiful snap of Hawa Mahal with the hashtag Jaipur diaries.

PS: Shilpa Shetty was joined by Farah Khan on her trip to Jaipur. The ace director intrigued us all with a video she shared on the photo-sharing application. Sharing the clip, she also warned everyone not to travel with Shilpa and the reason behind the same may be valid enough for all the foodies. The video posted by Farah starts with a cabin crew offering a beverage to her. As she proceeds to take the glass, Shilpa stops her. The director, then, goes on to place an order but is again stopped by Shilpa. With the actress not letting Farah eat the food she wants, the director asks the flight attendant for a seat change. Farah Khan captioned the video, "Never sit with Shilpa Shetty on a flight!! U won't get to eat anything n u STILL WON'T look like her."

Before heading to Jaipur, Shilpa Shetty made sure to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with her family a few days back. She even shared a touching video from her Rakhi celebrations, depicting the special bond between her children, Viaan and Samisha. The clip captured Viaan seated on a sofa as Samisha ties the Rakhi on his wrist, followed by exchanging sweets. The sweetest moments came when Viaan gently kissed Samisha on the forehead.



Ayushmann Khurrana Drops Hilarious Video As Dream Girl 2 Completes One Year, Fans React



Ayushmann Khurrana and Ananya Panday starrer Dream Girl 2 has completed one year today. The romantic comedy film was a huge hit at the box office. Today, on this occasion, Ayushmann shared a hilarious video on his social handle. Fans also reacted by asking if Dream Girl 3 is coming or not. Taking to his Instagram handle, Ayushmann Khurrana shared a video in which he is seen receiving a parcel. Ayushmann gets curious as he opens it and finds a red saree, wig and oranges. He then gets a call saying "Hello main Pooja bol rahe, sir appko credit card lena hai." On this actor said, Pooja chabe jitni ho magar asli Pooja toh sirf ek hi hai." Fans mentioned, "Ah I thought we're getting dream girl 3 soon." Another wrote, "Dream girl 3 loading....."

Crafted under Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor's production house, Balaji Motion Pictures, the comedy-drama film is directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa. It also stars a talented supporting cast including Paresh Rawal, Vijay Raaz, Annu Kapoor, Rajpal Yadav, Manjot Singh, and more. Ayushmann plays the lead and takes on the roles of two contrasting characters, Karam and Pooja.

News18 Showsha reviewed the film gave it 3.5 stars. A part of its review read, "Dream Girl 2 is silly and even pointless and it doesn't try to be anything else. It doesn't require you to exercise your grey matter. All the characters overact till they draw out your energy. And so, when the film takes a different and moral turn during its climax, you feel disheartened. Yes, Ayushmann is known for making social statements through narratives laced with humour but not everything needs to be a moral science lesson. The note on which the joyride ends leaves you underwhelmed. The film comes to an end out of nowhere and you will leave the theatre with many questions unanswered.

Karan Johar REACTS to Fan Asking Who Roohi's Mother Is: 'I Am So Worried About..!'



Karan Johar's kids - Yash and Roohi - have a fan following of their own on social media. Recently, Karan shared a video on Instagram of his daughter, Roohi Johar, asking Siri to sing while holding her phone. The clip, posted on Saturday, got a lot of attention from celebrities and fans. Karan was especially struck by a comment asking who Roohi's mother is. Karan Johar welcomed twins Yash and Roohi Johar on February 7, 2017, through surrogacy. Yash was named in honour of Karan's late father, Yash Johar, a renowned film producer, while Roohi's name is a playful variation of Karan's mother, Hiroo Johar's name. Karan often shares adorable glimpses of Yash and Roohi on social media, where they have gained a huge following. The twins are often seen enjoying fun moments and family activities, winning the hearts of fans with their charm and cuteness.

In the video that Karan Johar shared, his daughter Roohi asks Siri, "Sing, I don't like it. You sing a proper song in a rhythm. Be a professional. C'mon." A user commented, "Who is the mother of Roohi? Can anybody please tell me? I am confused." To this, Karan replied, "@fardinatasha I AM!!! Am so worried about your confused state so I had to answer your pertinent and relevant query." Karan Johar recently shared a Rakhi celebration video on Instagram, showing Roohi tying rakhi on Yash. Karan's mother, Hiroo Johar, watched the cute moments. He captioned it, "Rakhee love!!!! It's always a process to get the tradition of this beautiful festival of love accurately on point! The mothership contributed and the son was in a tearing hurry to go nowhere! The daughter was dutifully doing her best and I was trying to be the master of ceremonies with not much success!!! Happy Raksha Bandhan to all!!! Take care of each other and spread the joy.."

Only a month back, Karan Johar opened up about his relationship status and shared that he's been single for a very long time now and is not looking for a partner anymore.



Taapsee Pannu

Has This To Say About Her Co-Stars Akshay Kumar And Shah Rukh Khan

Taapsee Pannu is all praises for his co-stars Akshay Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan. Basking in love for her role in Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba, the actress has now opened up on what she learned from both actors. In an interview with ANI, she noted how SRK transformed her views on paid marketing whereas Akshay taught her "ease of action." Speaking about Shah Rukh Khan, Taapsee Pannu recalled a conversation between them wherein the actor convinced her about the idea of marketing. The actress said, "I was telling the other day how I don't really believe in buying out people to talk good about me or write good stuff only. I remember talking about this to him and he was like 'there are billboards, right? And you pay for the billboards for your ads, for your display, when you want to show it to the audience? So people, who want to be paid for saying good, for you, should be treated like billboards, they should be used as marketing tools'."

Previously having no belief in paid marketing, Taapsee Pannu added that Shah Rukh Khan's point of view was quite convincing. The star compelled her to start thinking of the people being paid to say good things about them as 'billboards' which, as per the actress, "only an extremely smart man can do."

In the same conversation, Taapsee Pannu also spoke about her experience of working with Akshay Kumar. The duo have collaborated on four projects to date. Reflecting on what she learned from the actor, Taapsee shared, "Another thing I learnt from that man was how to be calm in adverse situations. I have never seen him get angry, never. He never raises his voice, never gets riled up, never gets worked up. Very calm. And I have not seen that man badmouthing anybody." Taapsee Pannu was recently seen alongside Akshay Kumar in Khel Khel Mein. The film co-starring Pragya Jaiswal, Ammy Virk and Vaani Kapoor failed to perform well at the box office. Besides the comedy-drama, Taapsee also had another release this month - Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba in which she reprised her role of Rani Kashyap from the film Haseen Dillruba. Joining the actress to entertain the masses were Vikrant Massey and Sunny Kaushal who portrayed her husbands in the film.

