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ED files money laundering case to probe 'financial irregularities' in RG Kar hospital Sanjay Kumar

Kolkata, August 27: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a money laundering case to probe alleged financial irregularities at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital during the tenure of its former principal Sandip Ghosh and some others, official sources said Tuesday. The federal agency has taken cognisance of a CBI FIR to file its Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR, under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency, according to the sources, has gathered banking and medical procurement documents related to this hospital and medical college from "various sources" and it may soon issue summons to the accused for questioning and recording of their statements, the sources said. In its FIR registered on the directions of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI has booked Ghosh and three Kolkata-based private entities - Ma Tara Traders of Madhya Jhorehat, Banipur, Howrah; Eshan Cafe of 4/1 Belgachia and Khama Louha. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has pressed various sections under the Indian Penal Code including 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating) and section 7 (offence relating to public servant being bribed) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

What US President Biden said on PM Modi's Ukraine visit

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Washington, August 27: US President Joe Biden spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone and commended him for

his "message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support" for Ukraine. The prime minister's visit to Kyiv on August 23 was seen in many quarters as a diplomatic balancing act as his trip to Russia last month triggered criticism from the Biden administration and anguish in some Western capitals. During the visit, Modi told Ükrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Ukraine and Russia should sit together to end the war and that India was ready to play an "active role" in restoring peace. In a post non 'X', Biden said, "I spoke with Prime Minister Modi to discuss his recent trip to Poland and Ukraine, and commended him for his message of peace and ongo-

ing humanitarian support for Ukraine." "We also affirmed our commitment to working together to contribute to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific," said the US president. This was the first call between the two leaders after Modi's trip to developments in Bangladesh. The White House, in a readout of the call, said the two leaders discussed Modi's recent trip to Poland and

Ukraine, as well as the United Nations General

Assembly meetings in September. "The

President commended the prime minister for

his historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first

by an Indian prime minister in decades, and for

his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian

Russia, Poland and Ukraine and the recent support for Ukraine, including its energy sector," it said. Biden and Modi affirmed their continued support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with international law,

based on the UN Charter. "The lead ers also emphasized their continued commitment to work together, including through regional groups like the Quad, to contribute to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific," the White House said. The White House readout of the call had no reference to Bangladesh, which was mentioned in an 'X' post by PM Modi. Earlier, in a post on the micro-blogging site, PM Modi said that during the call with Biden, they had a detailed exchange of views on various regional and global issues, including the situation in Ukraine. "I reiterated India's full support for early return of peace and stability," the prime minister said. Moreover, Modi

said that he and Biden also discussed the ongoing situation in Bangladesh and stressed the need for the early restoration of normalcy and ensuring the safety and security of minorities,

especially Hindus.

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: CBI seeks polygraph test of city police ASI

New Delhi/Kolkata, August 27: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has sought permission from a Kolkata court to conduct a polygraph test on city police ASI Anup Dutta who was said to be close to Sanjay Roy, the arrested accused in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said Tuesday. CBI is exploring if Dutta helped Roy in any cover up of the crime, they said. According to reports, Dutta was allegedly instrumental in extending various favours to Roy, they said. The central probe agency is trying to find out if Roy told Dutta about the crime and received any help, they said. They said the court would decide the application for a polygraph test after seeking Dutta's consent on the issue. CBI completed polygraph tests on former principal of the medical college Sandip Ghosh on Tuesday, the third day of subjecting him to a series of Deception Detection Tests (DDT), they said. He underwent a Layered Voice Analysis test on Saturday, followed by a polygraph test on Monday. The test on Monday could not be completed, so it was resumed on Tuesday. Layered voice analysis is a new DDT in the forensic experts' arsenal. It detects the speaker's reaction to a lie but does not identify a lie. The technology identified stress, cognitive processes, and emotional cues in different

Himachal Pradesh assembly passes Bill to raise women's age of marriage from 18 to 21

ST Correspondent

Shimla, August 27: An amendment Bill to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls in Himachal Pradesh by three years to 21 was passed unanimously without discussion in the assembly on Tuesday, the first day of the monsoon session, bringing it at par with that of men. Social Justice and



Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil presented the Himachal Pradesh Child Marriage Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the House. The minimum age of marriage for girls in the state is 18 years. The state government is increasing it by three years. Its draft was approved by the Cabinet seven months ago. Shandil informed the House that the girls would now get opportunities to progress. "Even today some people marry at a young age. Owing to this, the children cannot study and cannot progress in life." Shandil emphasised the government's dedication to provide the girls with better opportunities for education and career growth. "Raising the marriage age (from 18 to 21) will ensure that girls are given the chance to fully develop and achieve their potential before entering into marriage," he said. He pointed out that early marriages often result in negative health outcomes for young mothers and restrict their personal and professional development. Earlier, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu had directed that a committee be formed to look into the issue of increasing the marriage age. On December 8, 2023, an official state ment said as per the direction of the CM, a committee to examine an increase in the marriage age of girls in Himachal Pradesh has been formed. The committee comprised Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary M Sudha Devi, who chaired the panel, with Rural Development Secretary Priyatu Mandal, Law Secretary Sharad K Lagwal and Director of Labour and Employment Manasi Thakur as members. Priyanka Verma, managing director of the National Health Mission, was the member secretary of the committee.

FIR against contractor, structural consultant over collapse of Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Sindhudurg

Mumbai, August 27: Police in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district have registered a case against

the contractor and the structural consultant in connection with the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue, officials said on Tuesday. The 35foot statue of the 17th century Maratha warrior king, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajkot fort in Malvan tehsil of Sindhudurg on Navy Day (December 4) last year, collapsed around 1 pm on Monday. The incident caused embarrassment to the Eknath Shinde-led state government and invited criticism from the opposition parties. CM Shinde said the statue was designed and constructed by the Indian Navy. A complaint was lodged by an assistant engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) at Malvan police station on Monday evening. As per the complainant, the artist and the consultant were responsible for the collapse of the statue, an official said. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against contractor Jaydeep Apte and structural consultant Chetan Patil over the statue collapse incident, he said. They were booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections of attempt to commit culpable homicide, act endangering life or personal safety of others, attempt to murder and cheating was registered along with section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (mischief causing damage to public property), he said.

Bengal BJP announces 12-hour strike over police action

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Kolkata, August 27: The West Bengal unit of the BJP has convened a 12-hour general strike in West Bengal on Wednesday condemning police action on the protesters

participating in the 'Nabanna Abhijan' (March to Bengal Secretariat) rally condemning the rape and murder of a junior doctor at R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Addressing a press conference here, West Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar said the police action on the protesters demonstrating peacefully needs to be condemned, and hence the party has decided to convene the 12-hour strike. "I call upon the people of the state to spontaneously support the strike in solidarity with the protesting students. I know that strikes create

inconvenience for common people. But still, we request people to participate in the strike," he said. He also said that the state unit of the BJP has also decided to provide legal aid to those against whom police will march and medical aid for those injured in police action. He also said that a helpline number would be opened for that purpose. On the Kolkata side, there were fresh

reports of clashes between the cops and the

protesters at Hastings, where the policemen resorted to lathicharge and firing of teargas shells to disperse the crowd. On the Howrah side, a group of protesters reached Nabanna, the state secretariat at Mandirtala in the district. However, the police managed

initiate action for participating in the protest to apprehend them at the last moment and dispersed them. Earlier, the riot police used tear gas shells and water cannons to disperse the crowd in some parts of Howrah district, including on the Howrah Bridge, where many protesters were seen carrying

the Tricolour amid slogan-shouting. A circle inspector of state police was severely injured, allegedly after protesters pelted him with stones. Many women protesters leading the march near the Police Training School (PTS) close to the Vidyasagar Setu were reportedly injured due to the police action, even as the agitators sat on the street raising slogans. Tension was also reported from the Mahatma Gandhi Road in central Kolkata following clashes between the protesters and the cops who resorted to lathi-charge and firing of tear gas shells. Clashes broke out between police and protesters in different parts of Kolkata and its neighbouring Howrah on Tuesday, as the agitators tried to make their way through barricades to march towards the West

Mayawati re-elected National President of Bahujan Samaj Party

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Lucknow, August 27: Mayawati was reelected as the national president of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Tuesday after she announced she पार्टी (बी.एस.पी would not retire from active politics. (सीईसी) एवं This decision was taken after the national executive meeting of the BSP salves 12:00 a was held earlier today. Earlier on Monday, dismissing her retirement news, Mayawati said there was no question of her retiring from active politics. Taking to a social media, Mayawati wrote on X. "There is no question of my retirement from active politics. Ever since the party has put forward Akash Anand as the successor of the BSP in my absence or dire ill health, the casteist media has been propagating such fake news that people should be cautious. Earlier on Sunday, targeting the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) over reserva-

tions, BSP supremo Mayawati called both

parties 'anti-reservation' and ruled out any future alliance with them. In a series of posts on X, Mayawati said followers of



would never forgive Congress party for not honouring him, the chief architect of the Constitution, with the title of Bharat Ratna both during his lifetime and after his death. "Also, when Kanshi Ram ji, who gave impetus to Baba Saheb's movement,

died, this Congress, while having formed the government in the Centre, did not declare a single day of national mourning in his honour and neither did the SP government declare a state mourning. Be cautious of such double standards of thinking, behaviour and character," Mayawati said. She also questioned, "Why did the Congress not conduct the National Caste Census under its rule at the Centre and they are talking about it now?" "Whereas the BSP has always been in favour of it because its conduct is very important in the interest of the weaker sections," she said. "Not only this, the silence of Congress, SP, BJP, etc in the face of the ongoing conspiracy to make the reservation given to SC/ST under the Constitution ineffective and abolish it through classification and creamy layer, is this their love for Dalits? Be careful," Mayawati added. The BSP Chief also asserted that SC, ST and OBC classes

UPS a new scheme, not rollback of National Pension System as claimed by Congress

New Delhi, August 27: Accusing the

Bengal secretariat.

Congress of spreading misinformation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the newly launched UPS is a new pension scheme and not a rollback of NPS. "It is not a rollback... it is different from OPS (Old Pension Scheme) and NPS (National Pension System). It is clearly a new package," she said, adding, Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is better and will satisfy most government employees. UPS is tailored in such a fashion that every calculation fits and even the government is not burdened too much, she said. On the Congress' allegation that the government has taken a U-turn on the pension scheme, she said, the government has improved the pension scheme which is not a U-turn. Senior Congress leaders have said going back on OPS would be foolhardy because of obvious challenges it posed. Unfortunately, she said, "these days the Congress makes comments without doing comprehensive study, which was not the case earlier. They have just become a 'naradriven' or sloganeering-driven party.' Defending past decisions like restoration of indexation benefits as part of long-term capital gains tax (LTCG), she said, it was not a rollback but tweaking. The justannounced Unified Pension Scheme for 23 lakh central government employees will be available only for those who are currently subscribers of NPS. The new scheme guarantees employees 50 per cent of their average basic pay over the last 12 months before retirement as a pension for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years against a market-returns linked payout under NPS. According to the scheme approved by the Union Cabinet on Saturday, the pension will be proportionate for a lesser service period of up to a minimum of 10 years. Also, assured pension of Rs 10,000 per month on superannuation after a minimum of 10 years of service. The scheme has been brought out to address the concerns of government employees over NPS, which came into effect from January 1, 2004. Under OPS, effective before January 2004, employees got 50 per cent of their last drawn basic pay as pension. Unlike the old pension scheme, UPS is contributory in nature, wherein employees will be required to contribute 10 per cent of their basic salary and dearness allowance while the

employer's contribution (the central gov-

ernment) will be 18.5 per cent.

Supreme Court grants bail to K Kavitha in Delhi excise policy 'scam

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, August 27: In a major relief to BRS leader K Kavitha, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered her to be released on bail in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the Delhi excise policy 'scam', saying her custody was not needed anymore as the probe was already over. "The investigation is complete and a chargesheet has been filed. Custody of the appellant (Kavitha) is not necessary. She has been behind bars for five months. The likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future is impossible. As said in various pronouncements of this court, undertrial custody should not turn into a punishment," a Bench led by Justice BR Gavai said, setting aside the July 1 Delhi High Court order denying her bail. The top court ordered her release on bail in both – money laundering and corruption cases - on furnishing bonds for Rs 10 lakh each. It also directed her to deposit her passport with the trial court and refrain from attempting to tamper with the evidence and influence witnesses. It took note of the fact that the trials in money laundering and corruption cases were unlikely to be completed soon as there were 493 witnesses to be examined

and the documentary evidence ran into around 50,000 pages. The Bench also questioned the fairness of the probe agencies - ED and CBI for their alleged selective approach in making some accused as approvers. "Prosecution has

to be fair. A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness! Tomorrow you pick up anyone as you please? You cannot pick and choose any accused. What is this fairness?" it said. Kavitha - who has denied all allegations - is the third prominent politician to be granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Delhi excise policy 'scam' after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Manish Sisodia. On July 12, the top court had granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to

the excise 'scam'. However, Kejriwal continues to be in jail following his June 26 arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the scam. Arrested by the ED on March 15 from her Banjara Hills home in Hyderabad, the 46-yearold daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been accused of being a key member of the "South Group", which allegedly paid the ruling AAP in Delhi kickbacks of Rs 100 crore in return for a big



share of liquor licences in the national capital. Subsequently, the CBI arrested her on April 11 from Tihar jail in connection with the corruption case. The Delhi High Court had dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both cases, say-

ing she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22. The Bench - which also included Justice KV

Viswanathan - said Kavitha was entitled to special consideration available to a woman under the proviso to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The top court strongly disapproved of the Delhi High Court's remarks that an educated, sophisticated woman was not entitled to bail under the beneficial provision for women under PMLA. "If this Delhi High Court order is allowed to become the law, these perverse observations would mean no educated woman can get bail. It would apply at least to all courts in the iurisdiction of Delhi. What is this?! On the contrary, we say courts should not differ between an

MP and common person, but here (Delhi HC is) finding an artificial discretion not there in the statute," the Bench said. "What's the material to show that she was involved in the crime?" the Bench asked the ASG.

Seven killed, four injured in two separate mishaps in Kadapa

KADAPA: Two separate road accidents in erstwhile YSR district have claimed the lives of seven people, leaving four others seriously injured. One of the incidents resulted in a container truck falling into a gorge at Guvvalacheruvu ghat close to Ramapuram in Annamayya district, causing a major traffic jam.A container truck travelling from Rayachoti towards Kadapa lost control at the sixth curve of the ghat road and collided headon with a car coming from the opposite direction. The impact caused the truck to veer off the road and plunge into the gorge. All four passengers in the car and the truck driver lost their lives in the accident.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Kadapa SPV Harshavardhan Raju, along with CI Shankar Naik and SI Srinivasulu Reddy, rushed to the scene. Rescue operations were conducted despite the darkness, and efforts were made to clear the traffic congestion that had built up on the ghat road. Bodies were retrieved from the car and sent to Kadapa Government General hospital for postmortem. In another accident in the Duvvuru mandal, near Bayanapalli on the Kurnool-Chittoor National Highway, a vehicle carrying passengers from Kurnool to Tirupati lost control and overturned. Two people died in the

YSRC cadre feels orphaned with no strong leadership after polls

VIZIANAGARAM: After YSRC leader Botcha Satyanarayana was elected as an MLC and shifted to Visakhapatnam, the second rung leaders of YSRC are feeling that they are orphaned as most of the leaders have closed doors on them. Barring a couple of leaders like Zilla Parishad Chairman Majji Srinivasa Rao alias Chinna Seenu all others are not in touch with lower rung leaders and there is no confidence building effort from any of the former ministers and MLAs.The NDA alliance comprising Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Janasena Party (JSP) made a clean sweep in Vizianagaram, and Parvathipuram-Manyam districts by winning all the nine Assembly segments and one Lok Sabha constituency. Several ministers, former ministers, and senior leaders including Botcha Satyanarayana, Pidika Rajanna Dora, Pamula Puspha Srivani, Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy, Botcha Appalanarasayya, Baddukonda Appalanaidu, and Sambangi Chinna Appalanaidu suffered defeat in the general elections.

Now, hundreds of second-rung leaders and sympathisers of the YSRC facing tough time in their respective territories. A few of them are facing criminal cases, and some other losing their business. Speaking to TNIE, a YSRC activist of Cheepurupalli said, "We do agree Botcha Satyanarayana is a State leader. We do not have any doubt on his leadership. However, we found a huge difference in his politics from the past few months. He sent his wife Jhansi Rani to Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 elections. Now, he won as an MLC from the erstwhile Visakhapatnam Local Authorities Constituency and become the opposition leader in the Legislative Council.""However, he left the district and the YSRC cadre, and is trying to operate from Visakhapatnam district

State yet to form action plan as lightning deaths continue

BHUBANESWAR: Even as lightning strikes claim more than 300 lives in Odisha annually, the state government is yet to prepare a lightning action plan as directed by the National Disaster Management Authority

The NDMA in its key policy document issued in 2019 to address lightning hazards had instructed states to prepare state lightning action plans as per the guidelines on prevention and management of thunderstorms and lightning/squall, dust/hailstorm and strong winds. However so far, only seven out of 36 states and Union territories have developed the action plans. Surprisingly, most vulnerable states including Odisha, have not yet formulated the state lightning action plan that would have helped devise mitigation strategies.Professor of Geography at FM Universty Manoranjan Mishra, who has extensively researched on lightning in the country, said though Odisha had launched a mobile application 'Satark' to provide actionable early warning information for improved disaster management, it is not functioning properly."The government has been using digital platforms to send the alerts but it is not reaching the most vulnerable persons like agriculture workers or daily wagers as they hardly use digital platforms. The warning must be targeted and people must be aware about what to do and what not to do," he said. According to global best practices, lightning deaths are preventable through streamlined actions focused on prevention, mitigation, public awareness and compliance. The US, which is more lightningprone than India, has managed to reduce its lightning fatalities by 90 per cent. Countries like Brazil, Venezuela and South Africa, despite being some of the most lightningprone countries, have minimised deaths by adopting a citizen-centric approach.Prof Mishra said lightning in the state mostly occurs between 2 pm and 7 pm in the premonsoon and monsoon seasons

Relax, Ernakulam Rural police tell overworked officers, to introduce 'duty-rest' policy

Officers will be able to avail these days off for personal needs any time without disrupting the unit's operations

KOCHI: Noticing that some low-ranking officers have been working continually without taking any leave beyond their regular days off, the Ernakulam Rural police are set to introduce special 'relaxation leaves' of two to four days for these officers.

The "duty-rests", approved by District Police Chief Vaibhav Saxena, will be granted in addition to the existing four to five days of compulsory leave already allotted for family events such as birthdays and anniversaries. The new leave policy is being implemented as several rural police officers have not taken any casual or sick leave in the past year and around five officers none in the past three, a police source said."As part of a law and order enforcement unit that often lacks proper relaxation opportunities, many lowranking officers are compelled to work tirelessly because of squad strength considerations and challenges in obtaining leave approvals. The new dutyrest policy aims to address this by allowing these officers time with their families," the source said. Additionally, the policy serves to recognise their hard work and provide a means of relaxation beneficial to their

health and well-being. The officers will be

able to avail these special days off for

personal needs any time without disrupting

dedication of the officers who have worked without taking any leave is commendable but we must also prioritise their health and well-being. The special duty-rest leaves will allow them to spend quality time with their families and loved

"He said he has requested a list of rural



police officers who have taken minimal time off, and they will be honoured with appreciation letters and granted permission to take their well-deserved duty-rest leaves. "We will also recognise these dedicated officers by highlighting their names on our social media platforms as a token of appreciation," the district

the unit's operations. Responding to the police chief said.

new leave proposal, Saxena said, "The Recollecting the experiences that

influenced the new leave policy, Saxena untwined a page from his service story: when he was the superintendent of police in Kasaragod, a civil police officer approached him with a leave request to attend his father-in-law's funeral, claiming that the station house officer

(SHO) had denied his initial request. Considering the situation, Saxena approved the leave for the officer and warned the SHO concerned. But Saxena later realised that the officer had lied to get the leave approved, and the officer was suspended from service.

'Personally, I'm always inclined to approve leave requests when my subordinates seek time to be with their families. If someone has a valid reason, we'll even grant four days of leave for a two-day application. But honesty is paramount—don't lie or compromise the integrity of the police force," he added

MEANS OF RELAXATION

The "duty-rests", approved by District Police Chief Vaibhav Saxena, is being implemented as several rural police officers have not taken any casual or sick leave in the past year and around five officers none in the past three yeas. Additionally, the policy serves to recognise their hard work and provide a means of relaxation.

Recover loss from officials who 'blindly' accept term sheets: HC tells Karnataka government

BENGALURU: Expressing displeasure over authorities "blindly" accepting the draft term sheets submitted by insurers for payment of premiums for crop insurance and compensation, which resulted in losses to the exchequer, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to recover the losses incurred from the officials responsible. A division bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Vijaykumar A Patil passed the order while partly allowing the appeal filed by the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd questioning the order passed by a single judge on a batch of writ petitions filed by farmers.

The court noted that the state had already settled the deficit claims of farmers and the single judge was right in saying that the state government had abdicated its duty to frame the term sheets on the basis of data already made available on record. The court also said the functionaries of the state government blindly accepted the draft term sheets submitted by the insurers, which apparently shows a gross non-application of mind. This conduct attributable to the functionaries is culpable, to say the least. That has also resulted in loss to the exchequer since the government is made to pay what the insurer could have been made to reimburse, had the term sheets been prepared properly, it said.

Therefore, that cannot absolve officials from their liability. However, nothing can be done to the insurers whose actions have not faltered. Lapse attributable to the officials of the state government cannot be laid a the threshold of the insurer.

The officials who failed to take due care in framing the term sheets are at fault and therefore, the loss due to their negligence or recklessness should be made good by them only, the court said.

Kerala seeks Rs 2,000-crore central aid for Wayanad rehabilitation

Pinarayi scheduled to meet PM Modi today to appeal for a favourable response to request. Apart from that, the state government has sought financial aid for a 'labour skill centre' to be set up in the region.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The state government has sought a financial aid of Rs 2,000 crore from the Union government for the Wayanad rehabilitation package under the Disaster Management Act.Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who reached New Delhi on Monday, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday at 10.30am. The CM is expected to personally appeal to the PM for a favourable consideration of the state's request. He has already submitted to the PM a preliminary report of losses suffered and the amount expected to rebuild the region and people's



lives. "As instructed by the Union government, the state had submitted an additional, detailed memorandum to the disaster management division in the home

ministry for financial aid to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore. We had asked the Centre to declare Wayanad landslide as an L3-level disaster according to National Disaster Management Plan," Revenue Minister K Rajan told TNIE.Under the National Disaster Response Plan, an L3-level situation arises when large-scale disasters have a noticeable impact on a number of states and when the state and district authorities are overwhelmed and require central assistance in reinstating the machinery as well as in carrying out rescue and relief operations. The revenue minister

said the loss in the twin landslides at Chooralmala and Mundakkai has been estimated at `1,200 crore.

We have submitted a detailed list of our needs and the estimated costs, for instance to remove debris. The state has also sought central assistance in disbursing house rent to families. Now, we have decided to give '300 as rent to two individuals of a family to live in rented homes. The state wants the Centre to include it in the financial relief and also to extend the facility to another three months. A total of 194 houses were completely destroyed in the landslide," he said.

Equivalence certificate G.O. cannot be enforced retrospectively: Madras High Court

Tamil Nadu Higher Education department cannot be enforced with retrospective effect regarding validity of a science

degree awarded by Venkateswara University for employment in government service, the Madras High Court has ruled in favour of validity of the degree obtained by a woman 10 years before the G.O. was issued.

The ruling was given by a division bench recently on a petition filed by a job aspirant, MD Ramya, who completed BSc (Science) in 2012 and BEd at Venkateswara University in Andhra Pradesh before obtaining MSc degree from University of Madras (UoM). After clearing the

Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) and attending interview in 2022, she was denied an appointment citing that as per Advocate Kavitha Rameshwar, appearing of the 2022 G.O, BSc (Science) degree of Venkateswara University is not equivalent

to BSc (Physics) in the state. When she filed a petition in the high court challenging the G.O, a single judge ruled against her saying the court could not go into the merits of the report of an expert



committee, based on which, the G.O. was issued. Subsequently, she filed the appeal. the petitioner, submitted that the single judge failed to take into account the fact

that UoM had accepted the degree and issued an equivalent certificate for the purpose of employment in government departments and the views of the experts given in 2022 could not be used for

depriving the validity of the degree obtained in 2012. Concurring with her submissions,

the division bench ruled, "The impugned order (2022 G.O.) can operate prospectively alone and cannot affect the degrees obtained prior to the date of the impugned order if equivalence has been previously certified either by a university or the competent authority."The bench quashed the G.O. insofar as the degree of the appellant was concerned and set aside the order of the single judge. "The respondents are directed to

treat the appellant as eligible for employment in public services of the state holding that BSc (Science) acquired by her in 2012 is equivalent to BSc (Physics)," the bench said in the order.

Smooth-coated otters seen for the first time in Bhavani river

COIMBATORE: For the first time, about eight smooth-coated otters (Lutrogale perspicillata) were spotted along the Bhavani river near the Samannah water pumping house within the Mettupalayam limit in Coimbatore district, bringing joy to wildlife enthusiasts.Amid allegations of sewage being drained into the river, the presence of large number of aquatic dogs, which is an elusive species, confirms that the water flowing into the river is fresh, said wildlife enthusiasts. A video of the otters playing along the river shared with the forest department brought the officials to the spot on Sunday. Mettupalayam range officer Joseph Stalin said the forest staff could not spot the otters at the place when they visited the site. "We will closely monitor the animals to ensure protection from public disturbance," he said. According to B Ramakrishnan, assistant professor of department of wildlife biology at Udhagamandalam Government Arts College, the presence of such large number of smooth-coated otters in the river indicates that the water ecosystem is healthy and the animals would survive until the water remains pristine. The animals feed on freshwater

Wild buffaloes 'poisoned' in Khuntuni forest, raise concern

CUTTACK: Carcasses of eight wild buffaloes, suspected to have died of poisoning, are lying unattended near Sauria village within Gurdijhatia police limits here for the last four days. The dead animals were

inhabitants of Baniabandha reserve forest under Khuntuni range in Athagarh division. After spotting the carcasses, villagers informed the local forest officials. However, the officials said the buffaloes are not enlisted in the endangered species and shifted the responsibility of removing the carcasses on to the local administration.Khuntun i range officer NM Sahu

said, "The wild buffaloes were staying in Baniabandha reserve forest. Since the dead animals are not endangered species, we cannot carry out the autopsy, bury the carcasses and launch a probe to ascertain the cause of their death."Around 100 wild buffaloes are residing in the reserve forest. The buffaloes may be considered as stray animals, he added. After their request to remove the carcasses was ignored by forest officials, the villagers informed the local



veterinary officials. Gurudijhati veterinary surgeon (VS) Manisha Das said, "A veterinary team went to the spot and found the buffaloes lying dead with frothy discharge from their nostrils. Preliminary investigation suggested that animals

died after consuming some poisonous substance. But we were not able to conduct the autopsy due to lack of requisition either from the forest officials or any individual claiming to be owner of the dead buffaloes."Locals alleged that illicit

country liquor manufacturing units have mushroomed inside the reserve forest. The mafia are using fertilisers and other spurious items for preparation of the illicit liquor. "After preparation of liquor, the mafia are disposing of the spurious waste water in ditches and low-lying areas of the forest. We suspect that the wild buffaloes might have consumed the same spurious waste and died," said the

villagers. The decomposing carcasses with foul odour have become a major headache for the villagers. "Dogs, jackals and other animals will soon start feasting on the dead buffaloes and may spread various diseases in the area.

Karnataka: 6,356 liquor shops fined Rs 10.96 cr in three years for charging above MRP

MANGALURU: The excise department collected a fine of Rs 10.96 crore from 6,356 retail liquor shops in the last three years in the state for charging customers more than the MRP. As per the Excise Act, CL-2 (retail shops) and CL-11C (MSIL retail outlets) have to sell liquor at MRP, while there are no such restrictions on price of liquor sold by other types of licensees.Besides slapping a penalty under Section 36 of the Karnataka Excise Act 1965, the excise department also suspended the licences of 121 shops during the financial year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. The highest number of such violations were found in Tumakuru, Kolar, Vijayapura, Ballari and Kalaburgi districts in the last three years. Over onesixth of such violations were found in the MSIL shops as it accounted for 1,003 cases during this period from which the department collected a fine of Rs 1.88 crore and suspended 20 licences. The data was shared by Excise Minister RB Timmapur in

reply of questions raised by MLC Ivan D'Souza at the recent Assembly session.

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NEWS BOX

Delhi Artist Makes Impressive Debut at Edinburgh Festival Fringe

New Delhi, Aug 27: Tabla virtuoso Manmohan Dogra from Delhi recently made a remarkable debut at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, performing two sold-out shows that captivated audiences with the rich traditions of Hindustani music. Accompanied by Edinburgh-based musician Dave



Beards, Manmohan Dogra Sahib delivered an exquisite khyal gayaki vocal recital, setting the stage for his mesmerising tabla solo. His performance predominantly featured compositions from the Benares gharana, with additional pieces from Delhi and other gharanas, showcasing his versatile command of the instrument. Both concerts were met with enthusiastic acclaim, marking a successful debut for Manmohan Dogra at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe.

Haryana man sentenced to 10 year rigorous imprisonment for murder over dowry



GURGAON. A Nuh court has sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for killing his wife in 2020 for dowry. Neha, who married Naresh on Feb 17, 2020, was killed within six months of her marriage after harassment for dowry by her husband and in-laws. Additional sessions judge Ajay Kumar Verma convicted Naresh Kumar after Neha's father Rajesh filed a police complaint on Aug 25, 2020, accusing Naresh and his family of conspiring to kill his daughter when their dowry demands were not met.Cops arrested Naresh and, after a thorough investigation, filed a chargesheet against him under IPC sections 304B (dowry death), 498 (cruelty by husband), and 34 (common intention). According to Rajesh's complaint, when the dowry demands were not met, Naresh and five others conspired and killed Neha. The court's conviction was significantly influenced by the testimony of the complainant, as well as medical and forensic evidence. A Nuh police spokesperson highlighted the strong advocacy by the police that contributed to Nares"s conviction.

Gurgaon: 26-year-old man dies after van crashes into truck, 1 held

GURGAON. A 26-year-old driver died after his cargo van rammed into a truck from behind on Pataudi Road on Sunday. Police registered a case against the truck driver who allegedly slowed down his vehicle without giving any indication. According to police, the incident happened around 1.30pm near Anand Dhaba close to IMT Manesar. The van driver, Bikesh, suffered severe injuries in the collision and was declared dead at Civil Hospital in Sector 10.

Based on the complaint of Bikesh's cousin Umesh, who was also witness to the accident, police registered a case under BNS sections 106 (causing death due to negligence) and 281 (rash driving on a public way against the truck driver. (IMT



Manesar) Ishwer Singh said, the truck driver, Rinku Pal from Valanpur village in UP's Kannauj, was arrested.

Man dies in hit

and run, friend injured

In another case, 34-year-old accountant, identified as Vedprakash, died and his colleague Manish Kumar Jangid suffered minor injuries when their bike was hit by a truck on NH 8 on Saturday evening. Based on Manish's complaint, a case was registered on Sunday. According to police, the accident occurred around 6.30pm near BML Munjal University when Vedprakash and Manish, accountants at a furniture manufacturing company in Gwalpahari, were heading to Rewari.

In his complaint, Manish said, "A truck hit our bike from behind and both of us fell on the road." Vedprakash, who was riding the bike, was run over. Locals rushed the two to Rewari Civil Hospital where Vedprakash was declared dead on arrival.

New framework in Haryana aims to eliminate farm fires and improve Delhi-NCR air quality

GURGAON. Haryana govt says it has come up with a framework to utilise all the stubble left behind after paddy crops are harvested and thereby slash farm fires, which cause hazardous pollution in Delhi-NCR and other parts of north India at the onset of winter every year.

The agriculture department has estimated that 38.8 lakh acres of farmland across Haryana will be used for cultivation of paddy this year. After harvest, these crops will generate 81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of residues.

It is this residue, or straw, that farmers end up burning after harvesting paddy to quickly clear tracts of land for another round of sowing crops. Combined with winter weather conditions, mass burning of crop residues rapidly adds pollutants into the air, leaving skies across Delhi-NCR enveloped in smog for weeks.

After Punjab, the highest number of farm fires in the country's northern agricultural belt are typically recorded in Haryana. Rajnarayan Kaushik, director of Haryana's agriculture department, told TOI on Monday that for this year, the state will effectively manage all crop

residues."Around 22.65 LMT of stubble will be used for fodder, 33.04LMT will be managed through in-situ techniques, and the remaining 25.39 LMT will be allocated for exsitu management," he said. In-situ, or at-site, practices involve chopping stubble into smaller fragments and incorporating them into the soil, in effect using it as compost. To encourage farmers to opt for in-situ management, govt will ready 90,000 machines, including slasher machines, to make the process easier and faster. It will also give farmers Rs 1,000

as operational charge for every acre to make it cost-effective. Similarly, govt will offer incentives to industries and farmers for ex-situ (off-site) management of stubble. This process involves putting to use crop residues in other industries, such as, using it as biomass to create biofuels, and redirecting it to packaging and cardboard units. Doing this becomes an economic incentive to avoid burning it as industries purchase stubble from farmers. According to govt's plan, 1,405

baler machines will be handed over to



districts to distribute among farmers to Experts told that the action plan can only make collection and storage of stubble easier. Officials are working on tie-ups with industries to buy the residues.

IOCL 2G Ethanol plant in Panipat may purchase 2 LMT of stubble. Haryana has six biomass plants that are expected to consume 4.9 LMT of residue. Four more plants will be installed, and they are likely to purchase 3.5 LMT of residues. There are 15 industrial units in the state that use paddy straw and these are expected to consume 87,574 MT of residues, according to the action plan.

Haryana will spend Rs 107.2 crore as part of its share in the Crop Residue Management scheme, and the central govt will contribute Rs 160.9 crore

Starting Sept, govt will activate a web portal that will be used to monitor the use of machines real-time, and village and block-level teams will oversee their utilisation. Additionally, officials will analyse satellite imagery to identify any areas where stubble burning is still reported.

work if it is implemented on the ground."While Haryana's plan for stubble management is a step in the right direction, the real challenge lies in its effective implementation. The allocation of crop residue for fodder and adoption of in-situ and ex-situ management techniques are promising, but without stringent monitoring and support for farmers, the risk of stubble burning persists. The success of this plan hinges on enforcement and continuous education," said Shubhansh Tiwari, a research associate at the think-tank Centre for Science and Environment.

Gurgaon: Set up compost plants, file list of sites by September 30, MCG told

GURGAON. The municipal corporations of Gurgaon and Faridabad have been ordered to set up composting facilities in urban villages under their jurisdiction.

A committee constituted by Haryana chief secretary has set a deadline of Sept 30 for MCG and MCF to provide a list of villages where these composting plants can be established. Also, the committee has advised the corporations to set up bio CNG plants in these urban villages

The purpose of these plants is to enable the villages to become self-reliant in managing their wet waste, thereby reducing burden on the landfill site.

We are going to make clusters of the villages to share the composting plants. The idea is to reduce the burden on the landfill site. Infrastructure would first be set up. MCG will bear



the expenses to establish the infrastructure required and then vendors can be called in for its operation and maintenance," an MCG

official privy to the matter said. "It was discussed in the meeting that a list of urban villages will be drawn in Gurgaon and Faridabad where composting plants or bio CNG plants can be established for decentralised waste processing. The directions were given to each joint commissioner to identify sites in their respective zones.

If we have at least seven to eight such sites in urban villages, we can cluster them for effective waste management. The vendors then can be called in for the operations," Vaishali Rana, an environmental activist, said.

The city generates 1,200 tonnes of waste every day, which is sent to Bandhwari landfill site. It was discussed in the meeting that since sanitation comes under essential services, the vendors can be called in for approval from the Election Commission.

The proposal to set up such plants will also be sent to the state govt. The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, mandate the setup of decentralised waste processing units. The panel had earlier suggested setting up 20 decentralised waste processing units in the city to ensure fresh waste is simultaneously treated in a

centre. He had recently come home

after rehab. After his arrest, he

confessed that on Sunday, he had an

argument with his mother when he

One week on, Gurgaon roads still riddled with craters, GMDA's claim rings hollow

GURGAON. GMDA's claim to make all master roads pothole-free within a week has remained just that, as the deadline came to an end on Monday. On the ground, motorists across the city are still navigating craters, uneven patches and potholes on roads. Those living in new sectors are among the hardest hit, with many master roads riddled with potholes that have turned into sinkholes after heavy rainfall over this month. Residents said on Monday that authorities carried out some patchwork repairs, but all of it got washed away after showers.

GMDA announced on Aug 19 that it had deployed special teams in four zones of the city to repair potholes on a "war-footing". The authority had said it will complete the task within a week.

Ideally, they should have repaired the road before monsoon, but officials remained in deep slumber while the situation turned from bad to worse. Key roads between sectors 84 and 88 and 83 and 36A, connecting to Dwarka Expressway, are in a poor condition. The patchwork repairs are nothing but an eyewash as roads are still a mess... only, now, we have to deal with the dust too," said Dharamvir Singh, RWA president of Casa Bella society in

Praveen Malik, president of the United Association of New Gurugram, said potholes have been filled with granular material."It has already started eroding due to heavy traffic, rendering any improvement pointless. Most of the roads from Sector 81 to 95 are in disrepair and need to be repaired properly. They should have done the work properly when they had the chance," Malik said. had reported last week that authorities would not be able to recarpet master roads till early next year as the model code of conduct (MCC) came into effect for the coming Haryana assembly election and the construction ban will likely be imposed to cut down air pollution during winter. GMDA officials had said that they were already delayed because of MCC enforced ahead of general elections earlier this year, and they would not be able to award any new contract till Haryana polls are completed. On Monday, residents pointed out that the problem of damaged roads wasn't limited to new sectors. Suraj Bhola, general secretary of Sector 9A RWA,

said that repair work carried out by GMDA was

Name Change

, CHHAIL BIHARI SHARMA S/O /ISHWA NATH SHARMA R/O H IO-1/3098, KUNJ GALI, NEAR

OST OFFICE RAM NAGAR HAHDARA, EAST DELHI, DELHI

10032, have changed my name com CHAILL BIHARI KAUSHIK TO

HHAIL BIHARI SHARMA for a

Name Change

SWAPNA Mother of No 6131848L, Rank-SPR, Name

ANEESH MADHU Residing a PUTHENPURACKAL, CHET

TUKUZHI VILL-ANAKKARA, PO KOCHARA, TAL-UDUMBAN CHOLA, DIST-IDUKKI, KERALA

685551 have changed my name from SWAPNA to SWAPNA MADHU for all future purposes and

n my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1977 instead of my correct

date of birth as 12/09/1977 Vide Affidavit dated 27/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

It is for general information that I YASH KUMAR S/o VIRENDRA

ture purpose.

Man stabs 70-year-old mother to death with dagger

Gurgaon. A 70-year-old woman from Bilaspur's Nurpur village was stabbed to death by her 37-year-old son on Sunday. The accused has been arrested and sent in judicial remand.

Roshni Devi, a widow, was staying with her son Ravinder at their house situated in the agricultural fields in Bilaspur's Nurpur village. Roshni's daughter, Kabul alias Sunita (40) lives with her family in Khandsa in Gurgaon's Sector-37.

At 1.30pm on Sunday, Ravinder called his sister and confessed that he had killed their mother with a dao (dagger). "I was shocked and asked him if he was joking. When he

ulator Sebi barred the industrialist and 24 others from the

securities market for five years on charges of diversion of

funds from Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Shares of Reliance

Home Finance Ltd tumbled 4.93 per cent to Rs 4.24 - the low-

est trading permissible limit for the day. Shares of Reliance

Infrastructure, Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Power

had slumped on Friday also. Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs

25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from Reliance Home

Finance Ltd, Sebi conducted an investigation for the period of

FY 2018-19 to ascertain any regulatory violations. In its probe,

Sebi found that Anil Ambani, with the help of RHFL's KMPs

- Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhalkar and Pinkesh R Shah - have

orchestrated a fraudulent scheme to "siphon off" funds from

RHFL by disguising them as loans to entities linked to him.

Although the board of directors of RHFL had issued strong

directives to stop such lending practices and review corporate

loans regularly, the company's management ignored these

Name Change

I, NO-16118768P Rank-SPR Name-ANIL KUMAR S/o HEM CHAND residing at VILL-FEROZEPUR

residing at VILL-FEROZEPUR KALAN, PO-FATEHPUR TAGGA, TEH-BALLABGARH, DIST-FARID-ABAD, HARYANA-121004 have

ABAD, HARYANA-121004 nave changed my wife's name from SMT EKTA to EKTA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 27/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

I, AADARSH son of JAYRAM SINGH R/O VILL-GAINI, PO-GAINI, DIST-AURANGABAD,

BIHAR-824113 have changed my name from AADARSH to ADARSH SINGH for all future purposes vide

affidavit dated 27/08/2024 before

Name Change

I, KIRAN SHARMA W/O C.B. SHARMA R/O H NO-1/3098, KUNJ GALI, NEAR POST OFFICE, RAM

NAGAR, SHAHDARA, EAST DELHI, DELHI - 110032, have changed my name from KIRAN KAUSHIK TO KIRAN SHARMA for

Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change

R/o 39/2 East Patel nagar new delh 110008 have changed my name rom Varun Kumar to Varun Kumar

Name Change

I, No-16117233P, Rank-SPR, Name-BONU ASHOK S/o SREENIVASA

RAO Residing at DOOR NO-8/95 VILL-SREERAM PURAM PO+TEH-GUDIVADA, DIST-KRISH-

NA. ANDHRA PRADESH-521301

RAMANAMMA for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly men-

tioned as 01/07/1971 instead of her correct date of birth as 20/12/1976 vide Affidavit dated 27/08/2024

Name Change

UTKARSH son of JAYRAM

NGH R/O VILL-GAINI, PO-GAINI IST-AURANGABAD, BIHAR-

824113 have changed my name from UTKARSH to UTKARSH SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 27/08/2024 before

ore Notary Public, Delhi.

IST-AURANGABAD,

otary Public, Delhi



in the neck and blood was splattered on the floor. As I started wailing,

asked for money to buy alcohol. When she refused, he attacked her with a dagger on the neck. She died on the spot," the inspector said. Police called the forensic team to the spot and the murder weapon was seized from Ravinder's house. Based on the complaint filed by Sunita, a case was registered against Ravinder under Section 103 (1) (murder) of BNS. "We came to know that a few

Reliance Home Finance, Reliance Name Change Power shares hit lower circuit limits hitherto known as GAURI SHARMA New Delhi: Shares of Anil Ambani-led group firms -RAM W/o SANJAY R/o A-11, A BLOCK, PRATAP VIHAR, PART-II Reliance Home Finance Ltd, Reliance Power and Reliance Communications - hit their lower circuit limits on Monday as (IRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, DELH 10086 have changed my name and hall hereafter be known as GAUR investors continued to desert the counters after markets reg-

Name Change

hitherto known as RUBAIDA HATOON D/O MOHAMMED NZAR R/O S-74/95, HARIJAN CAMP PUSHPA BHAWAN SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062 have changed ny name and shall hereafter be as GULSHAN. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Name Change I, JASKIRAN KAUR D/O SHARAN JEET SINGH R/O HOUSE NO-1931/25 B, WARD NO-33, GAND-II NAGAR, BAGGA KALAN, CEN RAL POST OFFICE, LUDHIANA PUNJAB - 141008, have change ny name from JASKIRAN KAUF MAKKAR TO JASKIRAN KAUR fo all future purpose.

Name Change , CARY DMELLO S/O CALLISTH DMELLO Residing at G-19, SEC-OND FLOOR, SOUTH CITY-II, GURGAON, FARRUKHNAGAR, GURGAON, HARYANA-122018 have changed my minor son name from NATHAN DMELLO to NATHAN PRADHAN DMELLO for

Name Change , Lt Col SUSHIL SINGH S/o LATE IAGATPAL SINGH R/o P-18/377 CARIAPPA VIHAR, DELHI CANTT-110010 have changed my Minor son's name from SHAURYA SHAURYA SINGH for all future

Name Correction

TAHIR ALI S/O ABDUL HAFIZ R/O B-24, GALI NO.13/11, MAIN ABDU HAMID MARG, B-BLOCK, SUE HASH VIHAR, NORTH GHONDA DELHI- 110053 declare That my actual and correct name is TAHIR ALI for all future purpose. That "TAHIR ALI' and "TAHIR" both Names are mine and only one or same person.

Name Change I, NO-16126064A, Rank-NK, Name-ADARSH V NAIR residing at VILL-MANIKKAL, PO-PIRAPPAN-CODE, TEH-NEDUMANGADU, DISTT-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DISTI-THIRUVANAN I HAPURAM, KERALA-695607 have changed my mother's name from BINDHU S to BINDU S for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 27/08/2024 pefore Notary Public, Delhi.

months ago, Ravinder had attacked

Sunita with a knife after an argument

Name Change PRIYARANJAN PARASHAR S/ II, PRITARANJAN PARASTAR SIO
Shree Bhagwan Prasad Verma R/o
LP-43/D, First Floor, Maurya
Enclave, Pitampura, North West
Delhi-110034, have changed the
name of my minor son BHUVANESH
AMBASHTHA (DOB:- 20.02.2010 aged 14 years) and he shall hereafter be known as BHUVNESH PARASHAR for all purposes. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connec-tion.PRIYARANJAN PARASHAR

Name Change TEKALE SANDEEP presently resid-ing at VILL-SONALA, PO-LIMBUR, TEHSIL-MADNOOR, DISTT-TEHSIL-MADNOOR, DISTT NIZAMABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH DER to TEKALE SHYAMSUND-HAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change hitherto known as DULARI DEV 0/o SUNDAR W/o RAM PRASAD R/o E-24/66, East Vinod Nagar Chilla Saroda Khadar, Patparganj East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have hanged my name and shall here fter be known as SADHANA.

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed hat under instructions from and of

pehalf of my Client Mr MANINDER PAL SINGH S/o Late Harbhajan Singh and Mrs PARVINDER KAUR W/o Mi Maninder Pal Singh both R/o B-2/67D, Keshavpuram, Delhi-110035 nave disowned/ debarred/discard is/her son Mr.Amandeep Singh S/ Mr Maninder Pal Singh, daughter i law Mrs Manmeet Kaur W/o N Amandeep Singh & Grandso Faranveer Singh S/o Mr Amandee Singh all R/o B-2/67D, Keshavpuran elhi-110035, due to his/her misb navior, disobedient, illegal activitie from all of my client's movable ar movable assets and have als ceased all his relations in ever respect with them. It is further declar that any person whosoever deals wit him/her shall do that entirely a is/her/their own risks, costs ar esponsibility and my client shall no e responsible for dealing with her if any person do so.

R B. Sing

ADVOCATI BEHIND COURT NO. 4 Ch No 75 Western Wing Tis Hazar

SINGH residing at House No. A-8 569, Loni Road, East Gokal Pu Amar Colony, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094 declare that the name of my Father has been wrongly written as VIREN-DER SINGH in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actu-I name of my Father is VIREN-DRA SINGH, which may be mended accordingly.

Name Change

hitherto known as ANURUDH (UMAR DIXIT S/o KRISHAN KUMAR DIXIT 8/0 B-1/14, Sanjay KUMAR DIXIT R/o B-1/14, Sanjay Enclave, Bindapur Matiyala Road Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANIRUDH KUMAR DIXIT. It is certi ied that I have complied with othe egal requirements in this connection

Name Change

Nikhil Singh S/O Ram Bilas Sing /oA-2/11b, keshav puram, north wes Delhi have changed my minor sor

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/Track-III/MC/5

New Delhi, dated: 27,08,2024 **CORRIGENDUM-X**

Subject :- E-Tender No. TM-2303 for procurement of Rail Borne Ma Vehicle "RBMV" for Indian Railways to be opened on 04.10.2024 The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 29.08.2024 has bee postponed to 04.10.2024.

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged. 2659/2024

(Vijay Singh Executive Director/Track (M&MC) Railway Board Tele: No. 011-47845531 E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.ir

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

News box

Biden administration pressured Meta to censor Covid content: Mark Zuckerberg

World Mark Zuckerberg, in a letter to the US House Judiciary Committee of the Republican Party, claimed that the Biden-Harris administration "repeatedly pressured" his company, Facebook, to censor Covid-related posts. While expressing "regrets" for not being "more outspoken" about it, the Meta Chief Executive Officer (CEO) also alleged that his social media platform had to make his social media platform had to make certain modifications that "with the benefit of hindsight and new information," they would not make today."There's a lot of talk right now around how the US government interacts with companies like Meta, and I want to be clear about our position," Zuckerberg wrote in a letter addressed to the panel."Our platforms are for everyone we're about promoting speech and helping people connect in a safe and secure way. As part of this, we regularly hear from governments around the world and others with various concerns around public discourse and public safety."He told the panel that in 2021, "senior officials" from the White House "repeatedly pressured our teams for months to censor certain Covid-19 content, including humour and satire."When his company refused to agree with the censorship, the Meta CEO said that the Biden administration expressed a lot of frustration."Ultimately, it was our decision whether or not to take content down, and we own our decisions, including COVID-19related changes we made to our enforcement in the wake of this pressure," he wrote. The US House Judiciary panel posted Zuckerberg's letter on X, with the caption reading, "Mark Zuckerberg just admitted three things: 1. Biden-Harris Admin "pressured" Facebook to conser Americans "pressured" Facebook to censor Americans. 2. Facebook censored Americans. 3. Facebook throttled the Hunter Biden laptop story. Big win for free speech."Taking a veiled dig at the Democrats, Musk, while retweeting Zuckerberg's letter on his official X handle, said, "Sounds like a First Amendment violation." In his letter, Zuckerberg also recounted that before the 2020 election, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had alerted Meta to a possible Russian disinformation campaign targeting the Biden family and Burisma. Acting on this warning, Meta decided to down-rank a story that alleged corruption involving the Biden family. However, Zuckerberg clarified that, in hindsight, the decision to demote the story was a mistake, as it was not part of a Russian disinformation effort.

Hezbollah suffered 'crushing blow' but current situation not sustainable: Israel

World Israeli officials and media reacted with satisfaction on Monday after a long-expected missile attack by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement appeared to have been largely thwarted by pre-emptive Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon. Both Hezbollah and Israel seemed content to let Sunday's attack, in retaliation for the killing of a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut last month, count as settled for the moment.

Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said Hezbollah had suffered a "crushing blow" from the Israeli strikes but that a longer lasting solution was still needed. The current situation is not sustainable," he told a briefing, referring to the tens of thousands evacuated from their homes in northern Israel, a situation mirrored on the other side of the border in southern Lebanon. "Israel will do its duty and return its population to our sovereign territory."

Hopes that children might return for the start of the new school year in September have evaporated, with financial assistance for residents evacuated from their homes extended to September 30. However, there was some optimism that the exchange of fire, which did not cause the kind of extensive damage many in Israel had feared, might help talks aimed at halting the fighting in Gaza and bringing Israeli and foreign hostages home.Palestinian militant group Hamas has said it will not agree to a deal that allows Israeli troops to remain in the band of territory at the southern edge of the Gaza Strip along the border with Egypt. But some commentators said Sunday's exchange of fire might prove that Hamas lacked the kind of support it would need to push the conflict outside Gaza."Maybe - just maybe - Israel's success at foiling Hezbollah's retaliation might pave the way to concessions by Hamas in the negotiations over a hostage deal, given the failed bid to see the war expanded to engulf the entire region," wrote Avi Issacharoff, a commentator in Israel's biggest-selling daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

Early Sunday, around 100 Israeli jets hit dozens of Hezbollah launch sites in southern Lebanon, destroying thousands of rockets the military said were aimed at Israel. Hezbollah did launch hundreds of missiles, but most were intercepted or fell in open

Exchanges of fire continued on Monday, but were muted by comparison. Israel said it struck a Hezbollah military structure in southern Lebanon, and that a number of suspicious aerial targets had entered its territory from Lebanon. Most of the targets were intercepted and there were no injuries.

4 dead as Russia pounds Ukraine with missiles, drones for second day

UPDATED. Russia launched several waves of missile and drone attacks targeting scores of Ukrainian regions and killing at least four people, Ukraine's military said early on Tuesday, a day after Moscow's biggest air attack of the war on its neighbour. Two people were killed when a hotel was "wiped out" in the central Ukraine city of Kryvyi Rih, regional officials said. Two died in drone attacks on the city of Zaporizhzhia, east of Kryvyi Rih.Kyiv region's air defence systems were deployed several times overnight to repel missiles and drones targeting the Ukrainian capital, the region's military administration said on Telegram.Reuters' witnesses reported at least three rounds of explosions overnight in

On Monday, Russia launched more than 200 missiles and drones, killing at least seven and damaging energy infrastructure in an attack condemned by US President Joe Biden as "outrageous". Analysts at the Washington-based think tank Institute for the Study of War, said in their note late on Monday that Moscow "likely lacks the defense-industrial capacity to sustain such



massive strikes at a similar scale with regularity."Several Russian military bloggers, such as the pro-war collective under the name of Rybar, called the Moscow attacks an "act of retaliation" for Ukraine's surprising incursion into Russia's territory the first such action since World War Two.The Kremlin said on Monday there will be a response to Ukraine's action in Kursk, but three weeks into the incursion, Kyiv

claims further advances. Moscow says it keeps pummelling Ukraine troops there - but is still unable to push them out. The size of the Tuesday attacks and their full impact was not immediately known, but Ukraine's air force said it recorded the launch of several groups of drones and the take-off from Russian airfields of strategic Tu-85 strategic bombers and MiG-31 supersonic interceptor aircraft.Reuters could not independently

comment from Russia. The Kremlin denies targeting civilians in the war that President Vladimir Putin launched against Russia's smaller neighbour with a full-scale invasion in February 2022. The Russian defence ministry said that its strikes on Monday hit "all designated targets" in Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure.Kryvyi Rih, Kyiv and central and eastern regions of Ukraine were under air raid alerts for most of the night, starting at around 2000 GMT on Monday. Two civilians may be still under the rubble of the hotel in Kryvyi Rih and five were injured in the attack, Serhiy Lisak, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region where Kryvyi Rih is located, said on Telegram. Six shops, four high-rise buildings and eight cars were also damaged there, he added.In Zaporizhzhia, two people were killed and four injured overnight, Ivan Fedorov, governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, said on Telegram."Such are the consequences of the overnight attack by Shaheds on Zaporizhzhia," Fedorov said, referring to the Iranian-made kamikaze drones that Kyiv says Russia uses in its

Nepal maintains friendly ties with India, China in 'balanced' manner: PM Oli

Nepal maintains friendly relations with both India and China in a "balanced" manner, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on Monday, underlining that occasional problems between neighbours are 'natural" and can be resolved through "open dialogue". Speaking at a book release function here, Oli said, "We don't allow our land to be used against any of our neighbours."He said the Himalayan nation maintains "good and friendly relations with both neighbours in a balanced manner by observing honesty and neutrality."The 72year-old four-time prime minister said it is natural to occasionally have problems

with neighbours. "We can resolve them

through open dialogue," he said. "The problem will not arise if we seek

justifiable and appropriate solutions on



the basis of facts and proofs by maintaining international obligations without elaborating on the matter much," Oli said while speaking as the chief guest at the book release function."We adhere to the principles of the United Nations and seek neutral and peaceful solutions to the problems," he said, asserting that it is not appropriate to always blame geopolitics

for hiding internal weakness.He also asked the Indian side to accept the report prepared by the Nepal-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG Report) which includes among other things the matter relating to the review of the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950. He said it would facilitate dialogue to sort out border issues and other

Recalling the signing of the Trade and Transit Treaty with China during his previous tenure as the prime minister, he said it was indeed a big achievement.Oli, widely regarded as pro-China, saw the signing of the 2016 Transit and Transport Agreement (TTA) which gave the landlocked Himalayan country access to Chinese sea and land ports for its foreign trade.

Protests across Canada as 70,000 international students face deportation

World More than 70,000 international student graduates in Canada face the risk of being deported due to recent changes in federal immigration policies. The students, who came to Canada with hopes of building a new life, are now protesting across the North American country against the Justin Trudeau government's decision to limit study permits and reduce permanent residency nominations. Demonstrations are taking place from coast-to-coast, with international students setting up encampments and organising rallies in various provinces, including Prince Edward Island (PEI), Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia.In PEI, hundreds of students have been protesting outside the legislative assembly for over three months, challenging the changes in immigration rules.Representatives from the Naujawan Support Network, a student advocacy group, have warned that many graduates could face deportation when their work permits expire at the end of the year. The situation has become particularly dire due to new provincial policies that have introduced a 25% reduction in permanent residency nominations, leaving many students unexpectedly vulnerable.

"I spent six years taking risks to come to Canada. I studied, worked, paid taxes, and earned enough Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) points, but the government has taken advantage of us," Mehakdeep Singh, a former international student facing deportation, told City News Toronto.

Singh, who invested his family's life savings in tuition, is now confronting a daunting deadline with no guarantee of permanent residency.

WHY CANADA CUT STUDY VISAS FOR **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The inflow of international students, who made up 37% of study visa holders in 2023, put significant pressure on Canada's housing, healthcare, and other services. In response, the Canadian government has imposed a cap on international student permit applications to manage the growth over the next two years

Pacific Ocean rising at alarming rate: António Guterres's 'SOS' warning

World United Nations Secretary-General Ant³nio Guterres voiced a global climate "SOS" at a Pacific islands summit on Tuesday, unveiling research that shows the region's seas rising much more swiftly than global averages."I am in Tonga to issue a global SOS -- Save Our Seas -- on rising sea levels. A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril" he said. Sparsely populated and with few heavy industries, the Pacific islands collectively pump out less than 0.02 percent of global emissions every year. But this vast arc of volcanic islands and low-lying coral atolls also innabits a tropical corridor that is rapidly threatened by encroaching oceans.

The World Meterological Organisation has been monitoring tide gauges installed on the Pacific's famed beaches since the Scientists have warned that, even under

early 1990s. A new report released by the top UN climate monitoring body showed seas had risen by around 15 centimetres in some parts of the Pacific in the last 30 years. The global average was 9.4 centimetres, according to the report.

It is increasingly evident that we are fast running out of time to turn the tide," said the forecasting agency's top official Celeste Saulo. Some sites, particularly in Kiribati and Cook Islands, measured a rise that matched or was just under the global average.But other sites, such as the capital cities of Samoa and Fiji, were rising almost three times higher.

In low-lying Pacific nation Tuvalu, land is already so scarce that throngs of children use the tarmac at the international airport as their own makeshift playground.

some moderate scenarios, Tuvalu could be almost entirely wiped off the map within the next 30 years. 'It's disaster after disaster, and we are

losing the capacity to rebuild, to withstand another cyclone or another flood," Tuvalu Climate Minister Maina Talia told AFP on the summit's sidelines. "For low-lying island states, it's a matter of survival for us."The plight of Pacific islands has been easily overlooked in the past, given their relative isolation and lack of economic might. But the region is increasingly seen by scientists as a climate canary in the coal mine, hinting at the troubles possibly facing other parts of the planet."This new report confirms what Pacific leaders have been saying for years," Australian climate researcher Wes Morgan told AFP.

Texas judge halts Biden programme giving legal status to spouses of US citizens

World A federal judge in Texas on Monday paused a Biden administration policy that would give spouses of U.S. citizens legal status without having to first leave the country, dealing at least a temporary setback to one of the biggest presidential actions to ease a path to citizenship in years. The administrative stay issued by U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker comes just days after 16 states, led by Republican attorneys general, challenged the program that could benefit an estimated 500,000 immigrants in the country, plus about 50,000 of their children. The states accused the administration of bypassing Congress for "blatant political purposes." One of the states leading the challenge is Texas, which in the lawsuit claimed the state has had to pay tens of millions of dollars annually from health care to law enforcement because of immigrants living in the state without legal status.President Joe Biden announced the program in June. The court order, which

lasts for two weeks but could be extended, comes one week after the Department of Homeland Security began accepting applications."The claims are substantial and warrant closer consideration than the court has been able to afford to date," Barker wrote.Barker was appointed by former President Donald Trump in 2019 as a judge in Tyler, Texas, which lies in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a favoured venue for advocates pushing conservative arguments. The judge laid out a timetable that could produce a decision shortly before the presidential election November 5 or before a newly elected president takes office in January. Barker gave both sides until October 10 to file briefs in the case. The policy offers spouses of U.S. citizens without legal status, who meet certain criteria, a path to citizenship by applying for a green card and staying in the U.S. while undergoing the process. Traditionally, the process could include a years-long wait



outside the U.S., causing what advocates equate to "family separation." The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately return an email seeking comment on the order. "The court's decision tonight to halt the federal government from providing relief is devastating to the thousands of Texas families that could have benefited from this program," Jessica Cisneros, an attorney for the advocacy

organization the Texas Immigration Law Council, said Monday. Several families were notified of the receipt of their applications, according to attorneys advocating for eligible families who filed a motion to intervene earlier Monday."Texas should not be able to decide the fate of hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens and their immigrant spouses without confronting their reality," Karen Tumlin, the founder and director of Justice Action Center, said during the press conference before the order was issued. The program has been particularly contentious in an election year when immigration is one of the biggest issues, with many Republicans attacking the policy and contending it is essentially a form of amnesty for people who break the law.Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton cheered the order.

This is just the first step. We are going to keep fighting for Texas, our country, and the rule

Israel issues new evacuation orders in central Gaza, forcing more families to flee

Cairo/Gaza Israel issued new evacuation orders for Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip late on Sunday, forcing more families to flee, saying its forces intended to act against militant group Hamas and others operating in the area.

In recent days, Israel has issued several evacuation orders across Gaza, the most since the beginning of the 10-month war, prompting an outcry from Palestinians, the United Nations and relief officials over the reduction of humanitarian zones and the absence of safe areas. The Deir Al-Balah municipality says Israeli evacuation orders have so far displaced 250,000 people.In a statement posted on X, the Israeli military urged residents in certain zones to move immediately to the west, as the area they are in is "considered a dangerous combat zone".

Israeli military strikes killed at least seven Palestinians on Monday, medics said. Two were killed in Deir Al-Balah, where around a million people were sheltering, two at a school in the Al-Nuseirat camp and three in the southern city of Rafah, near the border with Egypt.Seven others were killed in two separate Israeli strikes, five in a car in Khan Younis and two people at a school in Gaza City, medics said.

Later on Monday, an Israeli strike on a tent on the coast in Gaza City killed six Palestinians and wounded several other people, medics told Reuters. The new orders forced many families and patients to leave Al-Aqsa Hospital, the main medical facility in Deir Al-Balah, where hundreds of thousands

of residents and displaced people had taken shelter, for fear of bombardments. The hospital is close to the area covered by the evacuation notice. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said in a statement on X on Sunday night that an explosion approximately 250 meters (820 feet) away from the MSFsupported Al-Aqsa Hospital triggered panic.

"As a result, MSF is considering whether to suspend wound care for the time being, while trying to maintain life-saving treatment."From around 650 patients, only

100 remain in the hospital, with seven in the intensive care unit, it said, citing Gaza's health ministry."This situation is unacceptable. Al Aqsa has been operating well beyond capacity for weeks due to the

lack of alternatives for patients. All warring parties must respect the hospital, as well as patients' access to medical care," it added.

The Israeli military said it killed dozens of Palestinian gunmen in the area of Khan Younis and the outskirts of Deir Al-Balah in the past 24 hours and located large quantities of weapons. The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said fighters clashed with Israeli forces with anti-tank rockets, mortar bombs, and sniper fire in several areas

Gaza.Gaza's Ministry of Health called for the 100 patients inside the hospital, and the medical teams who had remained to care for them, to be protected. In a separate statement, it said Israeli military strikes have killed at least 30 Palestinians and wounded 66 others across the enclave in the past 24 News box

Guidelines issued to set up Ganesh pandals in Guntur

GUNTUR: With the city gearing up to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi on September 7, the police have issued guidelines for erecting pandals in Guntur district.

The police clarified that prior permission from the police, revenue, fire, and electricity departments is mandatory to set up any pandal, even for a single day. Guntur SP Sathish Kumar stated that local residents who wish to set up pandals should form organising committees, inform the local police station of their plans, and submit their identification proofs. They must also obtain permission from the landowner, whether it is public or private land, without fail, he added. The organisers of the pandals should inform the police about the height, weight, duration of the celebrations, the day of immersion, and the time and route of the procession, including the number of participants. The committees should also ensure proper lighting at the pandals, provide fire-fighting equipment, and arrange adequate parking facilities. Loudspeakers are prohibited, and sound levels should not exceed 45 dB at the

The SP urged the public to cooperate with the police, adhere to all regulations, and celebrate the festival peacefully.

28 private hospitals in Telangana under CID probe for CMRF fraud

HYDERABAD: The state CID has registered cases against 28 private hospitals across Telangana and begun investigating allegations of creation of fake bills to syphon off lakhs from the Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF). The CID registered six cases against hospitals located in Hyderabad, Khammam, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Hanamkonda and Mahabubabad districts on Friday.CMRF provides monetary assistance to those who cannot pay for expensive medicare or have lost their kith and kin. The CID is probing whether some employees of these private hospitals colluded with private individuals to create fake documents and make wrongful gain from the CMRF.

The scam, which reportedly took place many months ago, came to light after DSN Murthy, a section officer of the CMRF Revenue department in the Secretariat, filed a complaint with the police. Alleging that the accused created fake bills, the complaint said: "After preparation of the bills, the same were submitted to the Chief Minister's Office for the sanction of CMRF". According to the available details, of the 28 hospitals suspected to be involved in the scam, 10 are based in Khammam, 10 in Hyderabad, three in Nalgonda, two in Mahabubabad and one hospital each in Hanamkonda, Karimnagar and Peddapalli.

The hospitals in Hyderabad that figured in the FIRs are Aruna Sree Multi Specialty Hospital at IS Sadan X Road, Sri Krishna Hospital in Saidabad, Janani Hospital in Saidabad, Hiranyaa Hospital in Meerpet, Delta Hospital in Hasthinapuram, Sree Raksha Hospital in BN Reddy Nagar, MMS Hospital in Sagar Ring Road, ADRM Multi Speciality.

Teflon flu: Beware! Nonstick cookware can make you sick

BENGALURU: Toxic fumes from overheated "non-stick" teflon-coated cookware can potentially lead to health risks with symptoms of flu known as "teflon flu". Experts told The New Indian Express that in India, where non-stick cookware is widely used, this condition, which also mimics other flu symptoms, could be significantly under-reported due to lack of awareness or misdiagnosis.

They said exposure to these toxic fumes can lead to serious health complications and suggested using cookware made of 'stainless steel' or 'cast iron'. Meanwhile, doctors warned against using scratched or worn out pans, noting that even a single scratch on teflon-coated cookware can release thousands of particles. Such scratched or damaged pans should be discarded immediately as chemicals from them can remain in the body and pose significant health risks, including kidney and testicular cancer. Edwina Raj, head of services - clinical nutrition and dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, said individuals get "teflon flu" when they are exposed to fumes from overheated teflon-coated cookware. The condition is linked to breakdown of a chemical compound used in teflon. When teflon is exposed to high temperatures, it releases toxic particles and gases leading to symptoms such as headaches, chills, fever, chest tightness, cough and sore throat, Edwina said.

Symptoms resemble those of respiratory infections

Symptoms of "teflon flu" start showing within hours of exposure and continuous exposure to fumes from overheated teflon cookware leads to health implications such as thyroid abnormalities, certain cancers, and infertility, the doctors said. "Teflon flu" may often go unrecognised or misdiagnosed as its symptoms resemble those of common respiratory infections, particularly during flu season, Dr Manjunath PH, consultant -

interventional pulmonologist, Gleneagles

BGS Hospital, said.

SIT probe without Hema report reference sparks controversy in Kerala

KOCHI: Though the government established a seven-member investigation team, including four women IPS officers, to carry out an inquiry into the allegations of sexual abuse in the Malayalam movie industry, there is no mention about the Hema Committee report, sparking criticism that the move is merely a face-saving exercise, with no genuine effort to address the serious issues highlighted in the committee's findings. There are questions surrounding the purpose of the newly formed special investigation team (SIT)—whether it has been established to conduct a preliminary inquiry to assess the validity of the complaints or to identify the victims who testified before the Justice K Hema Commission and registered cases

for further investigation. Legal experts argue that the SIT's creation is clouded in uncertainty, as the scope of its investigation has not been clearly defined, and there is no mention of its powers or jurisdiction.Kerala High

Court lawyer C P Udayabhanu said that the SIT was merely set up for a fact-finding inquiry since its jurisdiction has not been decided. "If anyone raises doubts about the setting up of the SIT, they would not be wrong, as its point of investigation has not been decided, and there is no mention of its powers and jurisdiction,"

he added. The press release issued by the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said that the SIT headed by IG Sparjan Kumar was set up to carry out an inquiry into the recent complaints

and revelations of bitter Udayabhanu pointed out. experiences by a few women As per the law, an SHO can register working in the film industry. "It seems the government aims to

carry out a preliminary inquiry. It is in vigilance cases that an FIR is lodged after a preliminary investigation is conducted. This is not such a case as there are cognisable offences,"

an FIR and carry out an investigation. Hence, these

> officers cannot record statements under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) or investigate. These will not be part of the record nor can the court summon any case diary, according to legal experts. "The SHO has to register an FIR, legally verify, and investigate. Under what law is a pre-verification system created? Will any SHO dare to record evidence and

register a crime when there is an extra-legal apparatus created with seven IPS officers? These officers cannot record statements under BNSS nor investigate.

These will not be part of the record

hence it will not come to the scrutiny of the court when it summons the case diary," said a retired IPS officer who requested not to be named. Effectively, the state government is delaying the registration of an FIR by keeping seven IPS officers between the victim and SHO, he added.Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan has accused the government of 'being with the hunters and not the victims' by not bringing the findings of the Hema Committee Report under the purview of the SIT."The press release issued by the CMO announcing the setting up of the team has not even mentioned the Hema Committee report. The government seems adamant that it will not investigate the statements and evidence submitted by the victims before the committee

CNG auto drivers demand extended fuelling hours in Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai

MAYILADUTHURAI: The autorickshaw drivers' association in Mayiladuthurai has called on CNG fuel stations to extend their service hours, citing difficulties in refilling during the current operational hours.According to the union, the district has around 1,300 CNGpowered autorickshaws, but only two fuel stations (in Sethirabalapuram and Lakshmipuram) offer CNG

refuelling. These stations currently operate from 8 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 8 pm daily. Drivers have cited busy schedules and peak-hour trips which makes it challenging to refuel within the available time frame. "When we visit the filling stations, we have to wait in long queues. We demand an extension of the service throughout the day," said M Murali, a representative of district CNG auto drivers.He also urged the local



administraion to halt the issuance of new permits for CNG autos until more refuelling facilities are established in the district. The most commonly used CNG autorickshaws in the area have a CNG tank capacity of four kg, providing a mileage of 27 km per kg. These vehicles also have an auxiliary petrol tank with a capacity of 2.8 litres, offering a mileage of 40km per litre. While drivers can switch to petrol when

their CNG tanks run empty, they complain that this increases their operational costs and forces them to refuel more frequently."CNG automobiles were introduced for their advantages, such as lower harmful emissions, reduced operational costs, and fewer occupational hazards. However, with only two stations near Mayiladuthurai, we demand the establishment of more stations," saidA Appar Sundaram, an activist. On

Monday, representatives of the autorickshaw drivers met with executives from the Sethirabalapuram fuel station to discuss their concerns. A station manager said, "We are providing CNG as a limited service for vehicles due to limited recharge and staff crunch. However, in response to drivers' requests, we will extend the service hours from 6.30 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 8.30 pm."

Will Andhra Pradesh government adopt Unified Pension Scheme? VIJAYAWADA: Will the Andhra Pradesh

government adopt the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) approved by the Union Cabinet? Employees being covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) in the State are of the opinion that the State government may not adopt the UPS as it is nothing but another version of the Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) rolled out by the previous YSRC regime."As the TDP-led NDA government has put the orders related to the GPS in abevance, we are not sure that it will adopt the UPS," said AP CPS Employees Association (APCPSEA)

State president Korukonda Satish, adding that the UPS is nothing but GPS 2.0. Speaking to TNIE, Satish said except adopting the CPS when the Centre came up with the National Pension System (NPS), the State government did not follow any subsequent amendments like increase in the contribution of the government to 14%. The contribution of CPS employees and the State government have remained at 10% each, The Centre will increase its contribution while for the Central staff, the share of contribution of the Centre is 14% and that of NPS employees is 10%. Though it is seen as an attractive offer for the

employees covered under the NPS as the Centre has announced to increase the government's contribution to 18.5% under the UPS besides ensuring a pension equivalent to 50% of the employees salary, the CPS employees are of the view that it will only benefit the corporate sector and it will be burden to the Centre without any benefit to the employees.

and the same along with the contribution of employees will be invested in share market. There is no guarantee on the

Tamil Nadu smugglers' Malaysian connect under scanner

CHENNAI: Indian investigators have linked Tamil Nadu's star tortoise smugglers to Southeast Asia's largest turtle smuggling syndicate 'Ninja Turtle Gang' which faced a crackdown from Malaysian wildlife authorities last month. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has alerted multiple enforcement agencies like Customs, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP), and forest department about the link after nearly 2,000 star tortoises and other species of turtles meant to be smuggled to Malaysia were seized in five separate cases over the last one month in TN. Three of these smuggling attempts were thwarted by the Customs at Chennai international airport. In the other two cases, reptiles were rescued from a house in Kolathur in Chennai and at a bus stop in Pudukkottai.Malaysian authorities had arrested six members — four Malaysians and two Cambodians — of the 'Ninja Turtle Gang' and rescued 200 turtles and tortoises from a house in Kuala Lumpur in July. The gang is an international crime ring involved in smuggling of reptiles from various countries including India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to meet the demands of the financially lucrative pet traders in Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia and Thailand. Sources said the increase in instances of Indian tortoises being smuggled to Malaysia is possibly to meet the demand in these countries. Another reason for the current jump in tortoise smuggling is that the southwest monsoon (June-September) season is the breeding period for these animals.

Customs to tighten vigil during tortoises' breeding season

The Indian star tortoise and other animals such as Tricarinate hill turtle, Brahminy river turtle and black pond terrapin are protected species under Indian and international wildlife laws which prohibit their trade. They are sought-after in Malaysia and other Southeast Asian counries either as pets or for their meat, sources said. Sources said that the international network connected with Indian smugglers is a well-oiled machinery. The network engages local villagers to harvest these reptiles from their habitat in the scrub jungles of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and

Kerala has big gender pay gap among casual labourers

Women earn just half of what men earn — 50.47% in rural Kerala and 45.29% in urban areas. The state has the third highest gender pay gap in the country for rural and urban areas, showed the report.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala is one of the states with the highest gender pay gaps in the country when it comes to casual labourers. The male casual labourers, both in the rural and urban areas of the state, earn the highest daily wage in the country at Rs 846 and Rs 903, respectively. But Malayali women are not as lucky as their male counterparts — they are ranked fifth for both rural and urban areas, according to the 'Women and Men in India 2023' report from the Union government. Women earn just half of what men earn — 50.47% in rural Kerala and 45.29% in urban areas. The state has the third highest gender pay gap in the country for rural and urban areas, showed

The wage gap for the country in rura and urban areas is 31% and 35.34%, respectively.In rural Kerala, the average daily wage for



casual labourers, other than public works, is Rs 846 for men and Rs 419 for women. The wages in urban areas are Rs 903 and Rs 494, respectively. The national average wages for men and women in rural areas are Rs 416 and Rs 287, and urban areas Rs 515 and Rs 333, respectively. As per the report, Puducherry recorded the highest gender gap for rural

by Tamil Nadu (51.33%). For urban areas, followed by Gujarat at 46.12%. Women in Tripura earn the highest daily wage (Rs 647) in rural areas and in urban areas, Delhi women top the list with Rs 600.

'Women are largely engaged in unskilled work which is a major reason for the income inequality," said State Planning Board's former member K N Harilal. "The huge gender wage gap is not good for Kerala, a progressive state in many ways. Women casual labourers are mostly engaged in unskilled work in construction and agriculture sectors. Skill difference may partly explain the wage gap. But the

variation in wages for women and men doing

the same work is discrimination and a serious

areas in the country at 61.02%, followed Men paid more in almost all jobs: Union ministry report

Lakshadweep came first with 49.69% Malayali men make more money than women in almost all jobs, showed the average wage per hour for nine occupation categories listed in the report.Among professionals in the urban areas, the hourly wages for men and women were Rs 166 and Rs 138, respectively. While a male technician earns Rs 108 per hour, his female counterpart earns only Rs 87. The hourly wages for men and women in the 'service workers, shop and market sales workers category' were Rs 66 and Rs 49, respectively. Highest gender gap was among 'craft and related trade workers', where men earned Rs 97 as against Rs 43 by women, the report said. Only in one occupation category - legislators, senior officials and managers - women earned

Prisons need to be managed with tough hand: Karnataka ex-top cop

mismanagement is again under the spotlight after jailed Kannada actor and murder accused Darshan was reportedly spotted smoking and having tea with some others inside the prison premises.

suspended after a photograph of the incarcerated actor reportedly enjoying special facilities inside the high security prison went viral.

Speaking to TNIE, former director general and inspector general of police ST Ramesh, who had also headed the Prisons department as additional director general of police (ADGP) and inspector general of prison between 2006 and 2008, said that "prison administration has numerous challenges but it is no rocket science. It is an administration applying basic principles and norms with the Karnataka Prison Act & Rules and prisons manual for guidance. The prison chief may be required to take tough

BENGALURU: Bangalore Central Prison measures and decisions, even against senior prison personnel in the event of dereliction of duty, and act without fear or favour. One should have the right attitude and ability to resist pressure. Unfortunately, there are no takers for the post of prisons chief. It is not a cushy job".

Nine prison officials of Bangalore Central Prison were The former police chief said surprise visits, searches, visits and inspections by the head of the department should be held periodically, and stern action should be taken against personnel responsible for violating pison rules, irrespective of their seniority. As head of Prisons department, Ramesh had submitted two reports to the government against the then deputy inspector general, Prisons, after he had seized a mobile phone from a detenu in a surprise search operation at Bangalore Central Prison, followed by seizure of large quantities of stores, which were being sold in an unauthorised manner. "It wasn't an easy decision but I would have faltered if I had failed in my duty to bring it to the notice of the government.

Telangana farmers in distress as government yet to pay Rythu Bharosa money

KHAMMAM: As many as six lakh farmers in erstwhile Khammam district are eagerly waiting for Rythu Barosa as the Kharif season is going to end in one month. The Congress made an assurance to farmers that after coming to power it will pay Rs 15,000 per acre per year under Rythu Bharosa (Rs 7,500 per acre in Khariff and an equal sum for Rabi) scheme. The previous BRS government used to pay Rs 10,000 per acre per year. But the Congress government paid Rs K Nagaraju, a marginal farmer in 5,000 per acre for the last Rabi season instead of assured Rs 7,500. The government promised to pay Rs 7,500 for Kharif and another Rs 7,500 for Rabi but though Kharif season is coming to an end, it has not yet paid the

amount.Banoth Balu, a tribal farmer in Julurpad mandal said: "We have been waiting for Rythu Bharosa for investment in raising crops but the money has not yet been credited to our bank accounts." Most of the farmers in the erstwhile district are small and marginal and are unable to mobilis money for agriculture operations. They have been depending on Rythu Bharosa money to purchase pesticides, fertilizers and for ploughing land. Dummagudem mandal said: "I am raising cotton in my one-acre land. I am finding it difficult in mobilsing money. Rythu

Bharosa money has not yet been

credited to my bank account.

The bankers.

Layered & complex world of translation

Earlier this month, I found myself in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a place where languages seem to hang in the air like humidity, pressing down on the city in a palpable, almost tactile, way. I had come as a Punjabi translator for the inaugural SALT (South Asian Literature in Translation, a multi-year project at the University of Chicago) Summer School, an opportunity that promised to be remarkable.As I stepped into my role as a translator of Punjabi into English, surrounded by other translators — each of us tethered to our own languages like lifelines — I couldn't help but feel that the air there was thick with the echoes of Sinhala, Tamil, Bengali, Urdu and Hindi, a cacophony of tongues that felt at once foreign and familiar. Even English seemed out of place here, as though it, too, was trying to assert itself in a landscape that resisted any kind of easy categorisation.

I felt this resistance in me as I moved through my days there, listening, observing, translating, and yet never quite arriving at a full understanding of where I was, or who I was within it. In Punjabi, the language of my home and my translation, I've often felt a sense of alienation. This feeling likely stems from the underlying tension I've always been exposed to — that Punjabi is the other language, not just another language. So, returning to Punjabi after I've established alternate careers in alternate languages isn't merely wishful thinking.In one of my favourite podcasts, Indy and Dr, the host, Indy, speaks with a representative from Naujawani, an online media platform. Indy poses a question: "If Punjabi is the seventh largest language in the world and still growing, why is there such a fixation among my generation, or the generation above us, on the idea that Punjabi is dying?" Naujawani responds reasonably, "I'd guess there are a number of reasons. Probably, the most prominent is that we are a very negative community because of all we've faced over the last 50 to 75 years, including numerous defeats. All these negative experiences lead us down a road where we start to believe we're constantly under attack, that we're besieged, and so we resort to tropes like the Punjabi language is dying."However, many millennials and Gen Z individuals aren't anywhere close to believing that the Punjabi language is dying. We have our ways of staying connected to it — through music, literature, films, and translation. In a translation workshop, translation felt less like a mechanical process and more like meditation. We found ourselves deeply immersed in our texts, feeling the weight of each word, the flow of each line, and the silences between them. I realised that my role was not just to translate the words, but to convey the essence of them — to allow the audience to feel what the writer felt, even if the words themselves were different. This was not a task I could accomplish alone; it required me to draw upon my own experiences, my own understanding of both languages, and the shared history of our cultures all this accompanied by the companionship of other translators. While I was a part of the multilingual prose workshop, working on translating some Punjabi short stories into English, there were separate strands of workshops for Bangla, Hindi/Urdu, Tamil and multilingual poetry. In the workshops that solely focused on translating from a single language, the authors whose works were being translated were present in the seminar room. We heard many anecdotes, but the most fascinating reflections came from the Hindi/Urdu translators, who were translating a two-page short story by Asghar Wajahat, which we had the opportunity to hear him read at the inaugural event. Our co-translators from the Hindi workshop told us that since their group was working on translating the same story, sometimes their days were so rigorous that by the end of it.

China's quest to replace 'Tibet' with 'Xizang' is destined to fail

EDITORIAL

China's gradual military conquest of eastern territories

THE term 'South Tibet' frequently pops up in Indian media, uncritically disseminating misinformation from Chinese news outlets. A recent report claimed that China has renamed 30 more places in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing asserts are part of 'South Tibet'. In common parlance, Tibetans may refer to the eastern, western, central or northeastern regions of Tibet, but there is no term 'South Tibet' as a geographic proper noun in the Tibetan lexicon – a fact easily verified by consulting any Tibetan dictionary or encyclopaedia. This term is an entirely new Chinese construct.Beijing truly deserves recognition for its exceptional mastery in the politics of names. Their prowess in manipulating names — whether of people, places or concepts — as strategic political tools to assert power, control narratives, shape identities and influence public perception is a masterclass in propaganda. A classic example of China's dominance in shaping the narrative on the Sino-Tibetan conflict is evident from their definition of 'Tibet' itself. The 'Tibet' referred to by China is geographically distinct from the Tibet that exists in the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. The People's Republic of China, established in 1949, considers only the 'Tibet Autonomous Region' (TAR), created in 1965, as Tibet — an ancient nation with a rich history spanning thousands of years! Traditionally, Tibet consisted of three regions: U-tsang, Kham and Amdo. When Tibetans speak of 'Tibet', they mean all three regions, encompassing approximately 2.5 million square km.In line with the classic colonial divide-andrule policy, the so-called TAR includes only U-tsang and parts of Kham, with the remaining areas fragmented as autonomous prefectures and counties, and incorporated into the neighbouring Chinese provinces of Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu. Qinghai, for example, is composed entirely of the traditional Amdo and parts of Kham. The composition of the current democratically elected leadership of the exile Tibetan polity highlights the stark incongruity of China's definition of Tibet. For example, both the current and former Sikyong (President) of the Central Tibetan Administration belong to areas outside the so-called TAR. The current Sikyong, Penpa Tsering, belongs to Amdo Chentsa, now part of Qinghai province, while former Sikyong Lobsang Sangay belongs to Kham Lithang, which is currently within Sichuan province. In previous Sino-Tibetan talks, a key demand from the Tibetan side was the establishment of a single autonomous Tibetan administration encompassing all Tibetan autonomous areas. This is crucial for the genuine implementation of In ancient times, such as in the Sino-Tibetan treaty of 821-China's constitutional provisions regarding national regional autonomy.Between 2002 and 2010, nine rounds of formal talks took place between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government.



Beijing, however, rejected our entire proposal, including our request for a single Tibetan administrative unit. They claimed that the proposed autonomous region would be too large and that Tibetans have historically never been governed under a single administration. This claim is a clear distortion of historical facts. I quote an excerpt from a speech by former Kalon Tripa, Prof Samdhong Rinpoche: "Tibetans were under one administration until the mid-ninth century. Later, Tibetans were again reintegrated into one administration in 1260 under Drogon Choegyal Phakpa. This was offered to him by emperor Kublai Khan and this offering explicitly refers to the three Cholkas with a clear demarcation of its borders. Such unified administration remained until the 1730s.'

China further distorted the definition of 'Tibet' by introducing the notion of 'Greater Tibet'. While Tibetans, like people from any other nation, proudly refer to their homeland as great, Beijing has very deftly rephrased this as 'Greater Tibet'. This is a vicious distortion of Tibetan territorial identity. For Tibetans, there is no concept of 'Greater' and 'Smaller' Tibet; there is simply Tibet, as understood in our collective consciousness.

Beijing has now gone a step too far by attempting to supplant the term 'Tibet' with 'Xizang'. It is important to note that Beijing's definition of even 'Xizang' differed both before and after the invasion of Tibet in 1949-50.

822, the terms 'Great Tibet' and 'Great China' were used. Before 1949, the Republic of China employed the terms 'Inner Tibet' and 'Outer Tibet' to differentiate regions within Tibet, similar to the use of 'Inner Mongolia' and

'Outer Mongolia' for Mongolia. 'Inner Tibet' referred to the areas under Chinese control at that time, while 'Outer Tibet' denoted independent Tibet. These terms also appeared in the Simla Convention (1913-14), which involved Great Britain, China and Tibet.

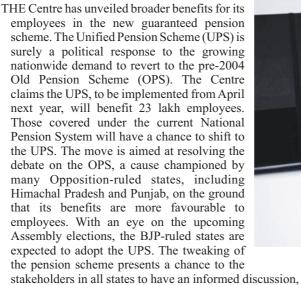
China's gradual military conquest of eastern territories of Tibet was swiftly followed by the renaming of the newly annexed places. For example, Ziling was renamed Xining, Dhartsedo became Kanding, Bathang (my homeland) was changed to Ba an, and Chamdo was renamed Changdu. China then developed and promoted its own narrative, claiming that only the territories under the effective control of the Government of Tibet at that time constituted Xizang.

They believe that by renaming places annexed through military conquests and forging new identities and historical narratives, they can gradually root out and erase the deep, centuries-old bond between the people of these areas and historic Tibet. The current reality. however, is quite the opposite. Since the disintegration of the mighty Tibetan Empire in the ninth century and the eventual inception of the Dalai Lama's Gaden Phodrang Government in Tibet in 1642, what is ubiquitous across the Tibetan plateau today is a strong, deep sense of common territorial and national identity.

Beijing's quest to replace 'Tibet' with 'Xizang' is, therefore, destined to fail. If history is any guide, the imposition of Chinese identity through the distortion of historical and cultural narratives will only further alienate the Tibetan people and strengthen their sense of distinct national identity.

New pension scheme

Staff welfare, fiscal prudence equally important





keeping an open mind. A summary dismissal without an in-depth study of the provisions or offering insightful

suggestions will be an opportunity lost. The Reserve Bank of India had last year flagged

concerns about the strain on government finances and accumulation of liabilities for the states opting for OPS. The Centre's contention is that the UPS is fiscally more prudent as it is a funded, contributory scheme, unlike the OPS. The likely additional strain on the Centre and the states now has official sanction. Striking a balance between employee welfare as well as their aspirations and fiscal prudence must be the guiding principle. Both are equally important.

The mixed response by the employees' unions is on the expected lines. Sticking to a hard stance is an unreasonable approach. As for employees in the private sector, their hopes for any enhanced pension and retirement benefits do not seem a priority for the

Charge of the Indian-American brigade

Kamala Harris' presidential nomination is in sync with Howard Dean's 2008 prophecy

FOR a country with a relatively short history by the standards of humankind, the United States, which does not live even by the brevity of its history, is seeing a difference in its ongoing presidential election cycle. The just-concluded Democratic National Convention (DNC), which broke glass ceilings, was replete with history.It was appropriate that Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State, First Lady, Senator and 2016 presidential candidate, was the prime-time DNC speaker who reminded the American people, more than anyone else by implication, of the George Santayana adage — "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." She did not quote the Spanish philosopher at the Chicago convention, though. The biggest setback in her career, a defeat at the hands of newbie politician Donald Trump eight years ago, was partly the result of not remembering history. Specifically, the history of US elections.

Last week, Hillary recalled that women in the US got the right to vote only 104 years ago — on the day before she spoke — in 1920. The first time a Black woman bid for a presidential nomination — unsuccessfully, of course — was not very long ago: in 1972. Twelve years later, Hillary took her young daughter Chelsea to meet Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman nominated for Vice-President of the US. And in 2016, Hillary made almost 66 million cracks in the glass ceiling with her candidacy of a major party for the White House. That was the number of popular votes Hillary received then. Kamala Harris, the incumbent Vice-President, hopes to shatter that cracked glass ceiling in November and become the first woman President of the US. If Harris wins, she will also break a glass ceiling for South Asian-Americans. Historically, it has been at Republican National Conventions (RNC) that America's past has been celebrated. In part, this has been because some of the great US presidents have

been Republicans — Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D Eisenhower, to mention a few. Lincoln was the first 'red-blooded' Republican to be elected President, to cite the party's preferred colour. Others who embodied Republican ideals were elected as Democratic-Republicans or as Whigs, according to political descriptions during varying periods in the political evolution of the US. The US did not have a Catherine the Great, a Bismarck or a

Chanakya. So, it fell on Republicans in the final decade of the last century and in the new millennium to create an icon of Ronald Reagan. At every RNC I attended through five presidential election seasons from the year 2000, Reagan was the great Republican hero. That changed with the arrival of Donald Trump on the political scene. The RNC in Milwaukee this year was bizarre. First-time voters who attended it could not be blamed if they thought US history began only in 2015 when Trump began his improbable and then unpredictable quest for the White House.

Indians are, unfortunately, familiar with such a catastrophe in their midst. To turn around a memorable description of democracy by Republican Lincoln, the Milwaukee gathering, which renominated Trump as their party's nominee for the November election, was a convention of one family, by one family and for one family: the Trumps.

Only one person and one family by extension matters in the Grand Old Party (GOP) now. The Republican Party has become a cult. By contrast, a hundred flowers bloomed at the DNC in Chicago. Brilliant orators like former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, who represent diversity, bloomed. So did former First Lady Michelle Obama, who enjoys a

phenomenal public acceptance despite never holding an elected office. The first Indian to attend a DNC was a Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, in 1952. Indians like Saund were not allowed to embrace US nationality until legislation permitting it was passed in 1946. Saund was the first Indian-American to be elected to the US House of Representatives in 1956. Had he not been felled by a stroke in 1962, Saund may have risen much higher in American politics. The US did not see



another Indian-American in either of the chambers of Congress for another 42 years. Today, there are five of them, all Democrats. The GOP has elected ony one Indian-American to the House to date: Piyush 'Bobby' Jindal. A few decades ago, Indian-American Republicans, along with sympathetic White and Hispanic GOP leaders, drew up a road map for getting those like Jindal into statewide public offices in

southern states, known as Dixieland in popular culture. It had some success when Jindal was elected as the first Indian-American Governor in any US state in 2007. Nikki 'Nimrata' Haley was next, in South Carolina, four years later. The plan to put more Indian-Americans in elected offices in Dixie states appears to have fizzled out. Jindal and Haley both made unsuccessful bids to be GOP nominees for the White House in subsequent election cycles.

With ethnic half-Indian origin Harris now a heartbeat away from the White House, Indian-Americans and their former compatriots back home must pay a tribute to her rise to a forgotten former Democratic Party chief, Howard Dean. A three-term Governor of Vermont and a presidential aspirant two decades ago, Dean was the first national-level US politician to predict the rise one day of an ethnic Indian as America's President. Few people remember that in 2008, Dean, as Chair of the Democratic National Committee, wrote an article in a publication of the Indian-American Leadership Initiative. This initiative was created to put US citizens of Indian origin in electable public offices, right down from local school boards, county councils and as city mayors to high up on Capitol Hill. "Indian-Americans are leading the charge to strengthen our (Democratic) Party, elect our candidates and ensure that we build a government that lives up to ideals that inspired generations of Indian

immigrants to make America their home," Dean wrote. "Perhaps they include a future Democratic President of the US.'

Harris was a local party functionary seeking to grow in public life in her home state of California then. There is no evidence that Dean had Harris in mind when he wrote those lines. Today, they appear prophetic.

Tame those table antrums

Figuring out what is the best way to provide adequate carbohydrates, proteins and essential vitamins to your child is bad enough, and then come the tantrums. But don't worry - here are some smart strategies that will make sure your meal times are peaceful.

1. Never 'ask' a child to eat any thing. Yes! Weird as it may sound, most tantrums can be avoided if kids are never asked to eat anything. Our role as parents is just to prevent them from eating the wrong food at the wrong time, so that they eat the right food at the right time. When prevented from eating junk, a child has no alternative but to eat well when hungry. On the other hand, if you are trying to force-feed children something they don't want, they will flare up and resist.Don't force them to eat, and there won't be any

have to say 'no' to junk food. Do this firmly and don't give in. Let your kids know that you really mean what you say. It's okay if they

cry, sulk or scream. Suffering the consequences for bad behaviour is upsetting for the child, but it doesn't mean it's bad for them. Allowing them to eat whatever they wish, whenever they want, doesn't make you a want, doesn't make you a good

3. Ensure that other members of the house are in sync with your ideologies and methods. Make sure no one gives in to your child's demands (either openly or when you're not around). This usually happens on the pretext that 'let the child eat something; it's better than not eating anything'.

Remember, children will only learn to eat correctly when they are left with no option.

4. Make sure meal times have a happy, relaxed atmosphere. Avoid doing homework and other activities simultaneously. If the child throws a tantrum, keep calm, clear the food from the table and store it in the fridge, so that it can be served again later. Make no attempts to provide alternatives.

5. Make food enjoyable! Serve fruits in attractive ways that make eating a fun activity for the child. Look up online for interesting and innovating

ways to serve different food items to kids: like sandwiches, coin pizzas, roti wraps etc.

6. Come up with a weekly, pre fixed menu for your kids, taking into consideration their likes and dislikes. This way they will be aware of what is going to be served that day and thus, will have no reason to raise objections.

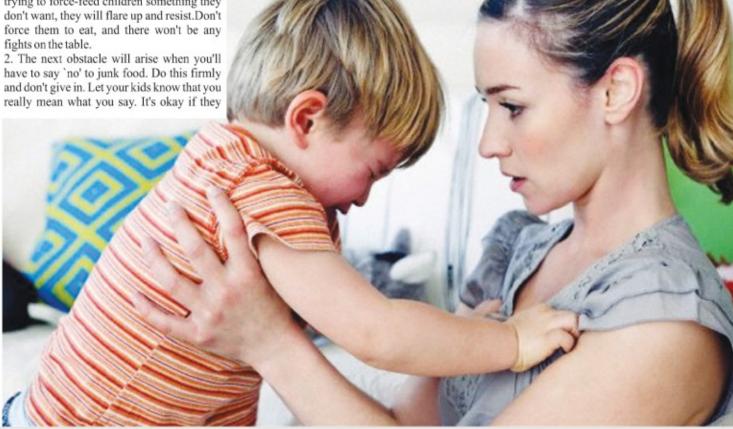
7. Introduce a little of each food group at a time. If you know your child resists soups or salads in particular, serve just a small portion of it every day. Do this for a minimum of two weeks, gradually in creasing the portion size if the child agrees. His/her taste buds will gradually start accepting those forbidden foods and he/she will the same to me. soon learn to enjoy them.

8. Explain the benefits of having a good, balanced meal to your children. Tell them which foods have proteins and why they are important for the body. Tell them about calcium-rich foods and how consuming them leads to healthier bones. Mainly, educate them on the dining table through fun facts and examples.

9. Lastly and most importantly, set an example by always eating right. Children love to emulate their parents. They always learn better from what they 'see' rather than from what they are 'told'. Eat well-balanced and healthy meals with your children so that they follow your footsteps well.

I caused my mother a lot of trouble as a child because I was a fussy eater. I realised this the day the tables turned, and my little daughter did **Food tantrums** are every mother's worst

nightmare.



'I believe in living with the right balance'

I believe in living with the right balance: Vineet Bajpai, CEO, TBWA\India

?Managing work-life balance

I was a workaholic till very recently and it took me some time to get this right. I realised that the only sustainable model for success and longevity is one that offers balance. So, now my greatest balance comes from spending time with my family, no matter what. I also read a lot, write whenever I get time and play console games.

Key to fitness

I have always been an active swimmer. I play tennis regularly. However, the real difference came in when I started practising yoga in the form of

pranayama. It completed my fit ness chart and is an inseparable part of my fitness regimen now.



Energy high and happiness

There is nothing more fulfilling and energising than to see the building of an institution that one started from scratch. Thereafter, the journey



Sahib and even Ghalib! Handling failure/success

Spiritual diet

I'm grateful to the Universe for my success but I never celebrate it. I start to plan the next big step. Failure makes me more committed, stronger and determined to win. Hope it stays that way!

becomes the fuel! On the other hand,

happiness is a far deeper emotion, and what

gives me ample joy and happiness is the

Risk-taker or a micro-

I will have to say I am a combination of

both. I started my professional life as an

entrepreneur, so that makes me a risk-taker.

And I'm also a micro-planner because I'm

involved in building a company from 'good'

to 'brilliant' - which needs meticulous

planning and determined execution of the

I'm a voracious reader and have a strong

inclination towards spiritual and

philosophical books. Apart from practising

meditation, it is books from authors like Dr

S Radhakrishnan and Khalil Gibran that

have made a huge impact on me. My father is a

constant source of wisdom for me as he influences

me with recitations from the Gita, Guru Granth

presence of my family around me.

planner?

Crisis management

I have a great asset for this - a fantastic team. It has taken me almost two decades to build this solid team, but now it never lets me feel alone or deal with crisis all by myself.

An icon who has achieved work-life balance

Robin Sharma, the celebrity author of The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari. I follow his teachings and it is amazing to see how he creates time for family, holidays and refuelling, despite nurturing a global career.

5 characteristics of a great workplace

At every stage in your career, the decision of where to work is in many ways life-shaping beyond just the immediate tangible financial impact. Unfortunately, not many realise this until well into their career. Where you work is a choice of how and on what you want to spend your time and what you want to receive in return for that invaluable investment. While ultimately where to work is each individual's choice based on their priority and needs, in my opinion, there are five key criteria to look for in a company.

Do you ever wonder why 99% of your workforce puts up facades of themselves at work that are very different from who they are in their personal lives? Why is there this dichotomy? Your energies should be focused on the market, your employer's competition, managing your time well, the opportunities and risks at work not within yourself. When you work for an organisation that connects with your authentic self, you not only do your best, but also inspire others around you.

2. Focusses on a mission close to

your heart: The best jobs allow you to do work you believe in and enjoy. Successful start-ups in particular are often characterised by the collaboration of inspired individuals who could not imagine doing any other work. This type of environment allows people who are creatively oriented and talented to work with organisations that match their passion and push the boundaries of technology and

tenure; ideas over hierarchy:

Apple's legendary co-founder firmly believed

companies that want to retain great employees have to let them make decisions. Enlightened leadership teams ask employees to contribute ideas because they recognise managers and executives don't have all the answers. Leaders should also encourage debate and action on ideas. In 2006, IBM invited 150,000 employees, family members, business partners and clients to an online brainstorming session called 'Innovation Jam'. Participants from 104 countries responded, and their ideas led to \$100 million in investments by I B M o n

suggested

4. Offers

projects.

1. Inspired you to be the real you: prospects to continue your educational journey: Look for

an environment where you can challenge the status quo, even unlearn past assumptions and misplaced beliefs, and ultimately learn a set of new skills and principles that enable you to continuously stretch and raise the bar for yourself.

5. Provides a pace to enjoy

the journey: With mobile phones, a constantly connected world, a growing number of virtual offices and global teams that make collaborating across time zones critical to success, the boundaries between work and home life are now blurred. A good organisation will allow employees to take from this the benefits and leave behind the disadvantages. You want to be able to transition seamlessly between work and home life without it seeming like you have a strained wall of defined separation from your "home you" and your "work you".

3. Honours merit over While every individual needs to strive hard to hit the upper echelon of their potential, the path to get there should always be enjoyable and fun or it will always feel like hard work and make it even more





Pensions tackled, can government pre-empt the MSP farm fire?

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi referred to India Today's Mood of the Nation survey to double down on his demand for a pan-India caste-census. The survey also showed popular support for a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP), an issue the government is grappling with. Like in the case of the New Pension Scheme, will the government be able to pre-empt the MSP issue?

New Delhi: The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, referred to India Today's Mood of the Nation survey to double down on his demand for a nationwide caste-census. The survey that showed overwhelming support for the caste-census also showed popular support $\ HOW\ THE\ BJP\ GOVERNMENT$ for another issue that the Narendra Modiled NDA government has been grappling with -- legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) of crops. The Mood of the Nation Survey (MOTN) for August, showed 86.6% of the respondents supporting a legal guarantee for MSP, an issue on which the farmers have been agitating even after the three farm laws were withdrawn by the Narendra Modi government in November 2021. The three farm laws saw prolonged agitation, with the farmers sitting on the borders of Delhi for months. They moved back after the laws were withdrawn but are still at the Shambhu border, pressing for their demand for a law seeking a guarantee to MSP for several

crops. This is one issue that has the potential of becoming a forest fire for the government. The question is will the government pre-empt it as it has moved on to address the anger over the New Pension Scheme (NPS)?

DOUSED NPS FIRE WITH UPS

The Congress has been trying to tap into the anger of government employees over the NPS issue. During several state elections, it promised to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) if voted to power. Not just the Congress governments in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, the AAP government in Punjab too reinstated the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The problem with the OPS is that it puts a huge burden of pension dues on the government. In the last few decades, the pension liability of the Centre spiked multifold, making it unsustainable. It was in January 2004, when the BJP government led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, that the switch from



the OPS to the NPS was made. However, protests and demands for reforms persisted as employees felt that the New Pension Scheme (NPS) didn't guarantee a minimum income. The BJP, in order to navigate the issue, took a proactive approach. The government set up a committee under then finance secretary TV Somanathan to look into the concerns of the employees and made the decision to bring in a Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). The committee's recommendations have now been reflected in the UPS. The UPS assures a minimum

HOW THE MSP ISSUE IS AN ALBATROSS ROUND GOVT'S

The issue of giving a statutory status to the minimum support price (MSP) has been a long-standing concern for farmers across India. The demand for a legal guarantee for MSPs gained momentum during the 2020-2021 farmer's protests, with various opposing political parties and farmer organisations pushing for a change.In fact, the statutory safeguard for MSPs was one of the key demands of the protesting farmers who sat at different border points of Delhi for around 16 months, protesting against three farm laws, which have been taken back now. It was the protests around the farm laws that saw the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), one of the BJP's oldest allies, part ways with it in 2020.In 2023, ahead of the Lok Sabha election, another ally, the Harayana-based Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) raised the issue of a legal guarantee for MSP on crops. The

Dushyant Chautala-led party parted ways with the NDA after asking the central government to consider giving a "written assurance of the continuation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops". Support for farmers is a hot-button socio-political issue in Punjab and Haryana, two agriculturebased states. The BJP, which won all 10 of the Lok Sabha seats in Haryana in 2019, had to be content with just five seats in the 2024 election. Even after the protests ended, the MSP issue remained a significant challenge for the government, with farmers' protests and demonstrations becoming increasingly common. Earlier this year, the 'Delhi Chalo' protest saw various farmer's bodies from Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh marching towards Delhi with their demands, including the legal guarantee for MSP.Although the Centre in February said the committee to make MSP 'effective' had held 37 meetings with various stakeholders, a concrete outcome on the same is yet to come.

Jammu And Kashmir Polls: Congress Announces 1st List Of 9 Candidates

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday issued its first list of nine candidates for the three-phase assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, fielding party general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir from Dooru and former state unit chief Vikar Rasool Wani from Banihal.The announcement came after the Congress clinched a seatsharing deal with ally National Conference (NC).he NC and the Congress agreed to contest 51 and 32 seats respectively for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

One seat each has been allotted to the CPI(M) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), the allies announced at a joint press conference at NC president Farooq Abdullah's residence in Srinagar after day-long negotiations. They also said there will be a "friendly contest" on five seats of the Union territory. Hours after the announcement, the Congress put out a list of nine candidates for the polls, fielding Mir from Dooru and Wani from Banihal. The party also fielded Surinder Singh Channi from the Tral seat, Amanullah Mantoo from Devsar, Peerzada Mohammad Syed from Anantnag, Shaikh Zafarullah from Inderwal, Nadeem Sharief from Bhadarwah, Sheikh Riyaz from Doda and Pradeep Kumar Bhagat from Doda West.

'Just Because Woman Is Educated...': Top Court's Rap As K Kavitha Gets Bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted conditional bail to Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K Kavitha following her arrest - by the Enforcement Directorate in March and the Central Bureau of Investigation a month later - in the Delhi liquor policy scam, in which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his ex deputy, Manish Sisodia, are also named.

Ms Kavitha is the second big opposition leader to get bail in this case; Mr Sisodia, who was arrested in February last year, was released earlier this month after the Supreme Court noting a delay in trial in his case too, said he could not be jailed for an "unlimited time" as it is a violation of his fundamental rights. Also arrested by both agencies, Mr Kejriwal remains in jail, having got bail in the ED case but not, yet, in that filed by the CBI. The Supreme Court this month refused relief. Today a two-judge bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan pointed Ms Kavitha - like Mr Sisodia - had already spent over five months in jail and that "the trial is not expected soon", even if the investigation has been closed."We find the investigation is complete. As such, custody of appellant is not necessary... she is in jail for five months and, as observed with Sisodia, likelihood of trial be in near future is impossible..." it said.

The court also noted "the law provides special treatment for women while considering bail applications", referring to provisions in Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act that "permits certain category of accused, including women, to be released on bail without (satisfying) twin requirements."

On this note the Supreme Court strongly objected to the Delhi High Court rejecting Ms Kavitha's plea - on grounds she is an educated woman. The High Court had said in July that Ms Kavitha could not be given bail despite arguments that it is "normal practice" for women to be released on bail - as her education and status (of a former Member of Parliament) meant she was not a 'vulnerable' woman. Arguing the High Court had "totally misapplied" the relevant section of the law, the Supreme Court said, "... the courts, while deciding such matters, should exercise discretion judicially. The court cannot say that merely because a woman is highly educated, or an MLA, (she) should be denied benefit of bail.""(Then) every arrested woman will get bail..." the

prosecution argued in vain. 'Illegally Imprisoned..."

Shortly after the bail order was passed the BRS posted on X, "She was illegally imprisoned for 166 days... without showing of any evidence. Justice finally won in a politically motivated case."Ms Kavitha's brother, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, was in court when bail was granted.

"Bail Is 'Normal Practice' For Women"

Earlier senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued it is "normal practice" for women to get bail. The plea also identified her as mother to two kids, one of whom is a minor in shock and undergoing medical care.

Jodhpur-bound Vande Bharat hits cement slab placed on tracks, none hurt

Vande Bharat Express hit a cement slab that was placed on the railway track in

Rajasthan's Pali district on August 23.According to railway officials, the cattle guard of the engine hit the cement slab, when the train was running between the Jawai-Biroliya section of Pali district.No one was injured in the incident, North West Railway CPRO Shashi Kiran said in a statement, adding that the train was delayed by eight minutes due to the incident.A case was

also registered against unidentified people on the complaint of the Senior region, Kiran said."The incident He further added that pieces of the occurred between Jawai and Biroliya cement slab, used for constructing under the Sumerpur police station on



Friday night. A case against an unidentified person has been

the Udaipur-Jaipur Vande Bharat Express when they applied emergency brakes after spotting stones and rods on the tracks. The

stones and rods were placed on the tracks by two children while they were playing, a Rajasthan

footpaths, were found on the track. The

Ahmedabad-Jodhpur

Vande Bharat Express,

which runs six days a week

except for Tuesdays,

departs from Sabarmati

Station at 4.45 pm and

reaches Jodhpur at 10.50

pm.In October last year, a

major incident was averted

by the locomotive pilots of

Centre's New Guidelines Promise Public Grievance Redressal Within 21 Days

New Delhi: The Centre has issued comprehensive guidelines for a grievances filed by citizens on an integrated user-friendly CPGRAMS www.pgportal.gov.in portal which will operate as a single window open platform.

The timelines for effective grievance redressal have been reduced to 21 days from 30 days.In cases where grievance redressal is likely to take longer, citizens shall be given an interim

reply, states the order issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).Feedback on disposed grievances shall be sent to the citizen by SMS and email. For every disposed grievance, feedback shall be collected The guidelines state that Nodal Officers through the feedback call centre, and if the citizen is not satisfied, he can file an



appeal to the next senior authority, the order further states. The guidelines are aimed to empower citizens in line with the Prime Minister's directions for making grievance redressal timebound, accessible and meaningful, an official statement said.

for Public Grievances will be appointed in all Ministries/ Departments who will address grievances promptly, fairly and Departments with high grievance loads will have dedicated Nodal Officers."This means that in no case shall a grievance be closed by stating 'Does not pertain to this Ministry/Department/ Office' or its equivalent language. Efforts shall be made to transfer the same to the right authority if the subject of the grievance does not

pertain to the receiving Ministry," according to the (DARPG) order. The role of the Nodal Officer is effective categorisation, monitoring pendency, examining the feedback for process and policy improvements, undertaking root cause analysis, collation of monthly data sets and supervisory oversight of the Grievance.

Supreme Court Stays Centre's Notification On Drugs, Cosmetic Rules

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a notification issued by the Ministry of Ayush, which omitted rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 that prohibits misleading advertisements of Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani drugs.A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta said the notification issued by the ministry was in the teeth of its May 7, 2024 order.Clamping down on misleading advertisements, the apex court on May 7, 2024 had directed that before an advertisement is permitted to be issued, a self-declaration be obtained from the advertisers on the line of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

Instead of withdrawing the letter dated August 29, 2023, for reasons best known to the ministry, the notification dated July 1 to omit Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, has been issued which runs contrary to directions issued by this court..."Till further orders, effect of the notification dated omitting shall stand stayed," the bench said. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, submitted that he will file an affidavit clarifying the position. The Centre had earlier defended its August 2023, letter to states and Union territories asking authorities not to initiate action against any entity for violating Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules."It is respectfully submitted that as the process of final gazette notification will take further time, in order to avoid confusion among the various State/UT SLAs (state licensing authorities) and to prevent avoidable litigations, Ministry of Ayush vide letter dated August 29, 2023 directed all state/UTs licensing authorities not to take any action under Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as the final notification is under process," the Centre had said in its affidavit. The top court had in May questioned the Centre over an August 29, 2023 letter by the Ministry of Ayush asking the licensing authorities not to initiate or take any action under rule 170 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The bench had told Nataraj that the ministry shall "forthwith" withdraw the August 29 last year letter. The apex court is hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the Indian Medical Association alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali and yoga guru Ramdev against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

US Diplomats' Kashmir Visit "Within Boundaries Of Diplomatic Reach": Sources

A three-member delegation of US diplomats visited **Srinagar on Monday** ahead of the **Assembly elections in** the Union Territory after a gap of 10 years.

New Delhi: A three-member delegation of US diplomats visited Srinagar on Monday ahead of the Assembly elections in the Union Territory after a gap of 10 years.

"The visit is well within the boundaries of diplomatic outreach mechanism of the US State Department," a senior government An official said that US and India have

official told .According to the official, the visits are not unusual as similar visits with diplomats were common in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. "They get a chance to make on-ground assessments," Interestingly, the visit comes at a time when he said.

The delegation included Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs Graham Mayer, First Secretary Gary Applegarth, and Political Counselor Abhiram. They met political leaders from Kashmir including former chief minister Omar Abdullah as well as former mayor of Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattu."The presence of CIA station head Graham Mayer in Srinagar is an indication that

US is observing elections minutely, especially in backdrop of US interests in Pakistan and recent reports of Chinese

inroads in Ladakh," a source told.

increased coordination to ensure security in Ladakh. According to him, Mr Mayer had also visited Srinagar in 2023 and met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.



terror attacks in the Valley have increased. "India has been insisting that terror is being exported from Pakistan and weapons are being smuggled from Afghanistan. The recovered weapons bear clear US markings. So there is ample

proof to establish connection," an official said. National Conference Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said that the delegation's discussions addressed a wide range of issues concerning Jammu and

Kashmir and the broader region. Former chief minister Omar Abdullah also raised the recent travel advisory issued by US for the region. In July, US had asked its nationals not to travel to Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, the India-Pakistan border, and parts of central and eastern parts of the country where Maoists are active."Some areas have increased risk. Do not travel to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital

Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest," the advisory said.US is among several countries that have issued travel advisories, asking their citizens not to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

5 ways to be less selfconscious

Here are a few ways you can easily break out and be yourself without worrying too much about yourself

There are a lot of people who are constantly worried about themselves and thus end up being very conscious about themselves. Here are a few ways you can easily break away from this habit-

Do not think too much about yourself When you start thinking too much about what you are wearing or what you are doing, you are bound to become selfconscious. This is when you become full of yourself and start over analysing things

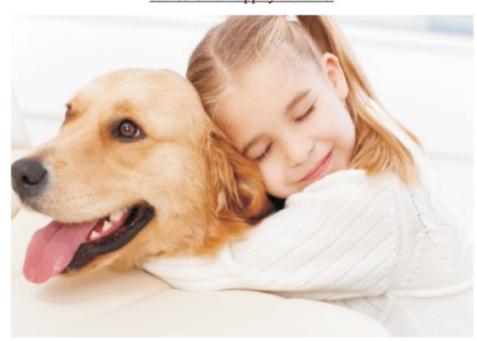
Don't give way to negative thoughts When you start thinking what others are thinking about you and what they say and perceive of you, you are bound to become self-conscious. Your thoughts become negative and you start thinking negative about

Observe your strengths Your true happiness will lie in your strengths only. Try and figure out what your strengths are instead of thinking whether you have any or not. Make a list of all the things you think are strengths of yours and try and incorporate them in your daily life.



How to get your kid to know your pet

You've just had a baby and don't know how to introduce him/her to your pet dog? Or you've just brought home a pet and want your threeyear-old to get along with it? Follow this guide to ensure that the two can co-exist happily at home.



Train your pooch: While you might have potty-trained your dog, teach it not to sleep on the child's bed or lick his/her face. If such training isn't possible for you, hire a professional pet trainer who can teach your dog how to get along with young children. This should be done before the arrival of the baby. Also, double check with your vet how often you need to give any extra vaccinations to your pet.

Introduce your baby to your pet warmly: Animals can sense emotions and danger. If they know that the baby is not a danger to them nor can hurt them, they will love the baby gradually. Introduce your baby's scent to your pet by letting it sniff its blanket. Make the first introductions from a distance your baby may be scared initially. Your pet may take some time to get used to him/her, as well.

Establish boundaries: Condition your pet to understand that there is an invisible barrier - in your room where the child sleeps - that it should not cross without your permission. Eventually, you can allow

your pet to explore and sniff certain things in the room with your supervision.

Never leave your child alone with the pet: Dogs can become agitated with baby sounds and movements and thus, may harm them. Cats are usually attracted to the warmth of a baby's cot. So keep them away. You can also put a baby gate around your kid's cot to keep the pet off-limits. Remember, never leave your child alone with the pet, even if you are only two minutes away, in another room.

Don't ignore the pet: Ensure you spend a considerable one-on-one time with your pet to make it feel loved. Also, never punish or scold the dog in the presence of the baby. This will affect it negatively and it might want to hurt the

Teach your child to respect the pet: Discourage your child every time he/she tries to pull hair or hit the pet. At the same time, make sure your toddler doesn't grab the dog's toys and put them in his/her mouth. Wash dog toys often. Teach your child to wash his/her

baby because of it.

hands after playing with the pet.

Married women cheat for the thrill

People have often wondered what drives married women to cheat on their husbands.



rding to a US dating website for "casual encounters", a woman is more prone to cheat at certain stress points in her life, notably right before turning 40.

> Women also say that they cheat because they either don't feel loved or there is an emotional void in their marriages. Rest say that they cheat for the thrill of it.

Statistics have shown that 21 per cent of married men have had an affair, compared to 15% of married woman. However, number for women has increased in the last two decades, nearly up to 40%.

Why your won't sit still

A five-year-old finds it difficult to sit still for long in class. Next door, a sixyear old has difficulty staying focused. Parents of both children, 'doctorised' by Google, have made their diagnoses: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Their teachers seem to agree. But, according to child counsellors, the two children are being, well, children. Child psychiatrist and psychotherapist Dr Zirak Marker says, ADHD and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) are "among the most overdiagnosed syndromes of the last decade". "We all 'saw' a huge rise in the symptoms. I'd see five cases of alleged ADHD cases a week," he says of the condition that has to do with significant challenges of attention and acting impulsively that are not appropriate with a person's age.

Experts across the world would agree with Marker. Symptoms of hyperactivity are usually apparent in most young preschoolers and are nearly always present before the age of seven.Dr Richard House, child psychologist and editor of Too Much, Too Soon?, puts the blame on modern educational methods. "Modern educational thinking is making fundamental errors in children's early development, which then (not surprisingly) generates behavioural disturbances -these get misdiagnosed as 'medical problems' for which the child is assumed to require medical

Often, parents and teachers would

want to give a 'label' to a condition

where the child was unable to sit. But,

not every over-active or restless child

has ADHD.

treatment. NOT MOVING ENOUGH

In a recent blog, Angela Hanscom, a paediatric occupational therapist from New Hampshire, said there's only one reason why more kids have attention issues these days: They're not getting enough movement.

"Recess times have shortened due to increasing educational demands, and children rarely play outdoors due to parental fears, liability issues and the hectic schedules of modern-day society. Children are not moving nearly enough, and it is really starting to become a problem," writes Hanscom, who runs TimberNook, a nature-based development programme designed to foster creativity and independent play

House argues that hyper-competitive modern life is creating environments that are precisely the opposite of those that children need -early cognitive learning, drastic reduction in free imaginative play, less time spent in nature. Obsessive hours of doodling behind a computer screen and fiddling on iPads and cell phones out." is making matters worse.

In his book, The Role of Play in Human Development, Anthony Pellegrini, emeritus professor of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota, questions if we are depriving our children of normal, non-competitive forms of social play. And if yes, is the incidence of ADHD, aggression and delinquency symptomatic of a society that has forgotten how to

COMPRESSING THE BREAK

Across the world, too many schools are clamping down on breaks while choosing to focus on reading, writing and arithmetic. This is based on the belief that eliminating play time will lead to a rise in academic achievement.

But nothing could be farther from the

University of Illinois psychology professor and Beckman Institute director Arthur Kramer led a 2010 study that found an association between physical fitness and the brain in nine and 10-year-old children. "Regular physical activity can influence both, brain structure and function in children," Kramer

How does exercise benefit a child's Development, is another firm brain? Dr John Ratey, the co-author of Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain, writes that the brain produces a protein called BDNF, or brainderived neurotropic factor, when the body is moving. "This protein helps build nerve-cell connections and the stronger these connections (as a result of continued physical activity), the easier it is for children strength and balance."When to understand and retain information."

So, active kids tend to experience better cognitive performance and focus, have more rapid reaction time, and are likely to perform better at school. They learn to be more social,

friendships, and sleep well, a crucial element in mental development. A FEW SCHOOLS UNDERSTAND

Rajani Pattabhiraman, principal of EuroSchool in Thane, says: "We have found that kids are doubly attentive when they come to class refreshed. Therefore, the day's time-table is designed in such a way that classes are interspersed with skating, taekwondo, dance or craft. Why just kids; even you and I can't do the same thing day in and

A study conducted in North Carolina evaluated the effects of a classroom-based programme that gave students 10-minute breaks for organised physical activity between classes. Researchers found breaks improved ontask behaviour and made students "more focused and ready to learn." A tiny Nordic nation has known this secret for decades. On a regular school day, students and teachers in Finland take a 15minute break after every 45 minutes of class. Students head outdoors to play and chit-chat with friends; teachers go to the lounge and unwind.

Tim Walker, an American teacher in Helsinki, questioned the Finnish practice of giving 15-minute breaks each hour. But he became a convert after he saw the difference it made to his students. On his blog, Taught by Finland, he writes: "I no longer saw feetdragging, zombielike kids in my classroom... my Finnish students would -without fail -enter the classroom with a bounce in their steps [and] were more focused during lessons."

Pellegrini, who also authored Recess: Its Role in Education and believer in the "break" approach. In a series of experiments to explore the relationship between recess timing and attentiveness, he found students were less attentive when the break was delayed.

HOW MUCH TO MOVE?

During the course of her research, Hanscom found that a majority of children surveyed had poor core compared to kids from the early 1980s, only one out of 12 children had normal strength and balance," she says.

The restricted movement pattern means that many children are walking around with an underdeveloped vestibular (balance) system. "In order to child's overall holistic develop a strong balance system,

in all directions, for hours at a time. They need to do this more than just once a week in order to reap the benefits," she writes. This means that once-a-week football practice doesn't count. For minds prepared to learn, children must have bodies that are geared up to acquire knowledge. If the sensory system isn't working well, sitting and paying attention is a tough task. A child's body displays a natural reaction -fidgeting -so as to get the movement the body needs to "turn the brain on." Instead, teachers ask them to sit still and pay attention, putting

their brain into sleep mode. In India, most schools, owing to long hours, often have two recesses -a short one of 15 minutes and a long one of 30-45 minutes. However, between catching up with friends and finishing the snack, there's hardly any time to play.

Can schools consider extending recesses? Teachers and principals are unwilling to get into this debate, with completion of course work a primary worry. At Garodia International in Mumbai, its coordinator Meeta Sampat, says, they have a 15-minute and 30minute break together with 5minute breaks after every class. But five minutes is only enough to glug down water and put away

THE CASE FOR FREE PLAY

Pelligrini's research found that the recess lost value when break times were "teacher directed". In Finland, children get to decide how they spend their break time. "Free play gives students the opportunity to develop social competence. During these times, they not only rest and recharge they also learn to cooperate, communicate, and compromise, skills they need to succeed aca demically as well as in life," Walker says.

House's suggestion may horrify Indian helicopter parents, but she insists that until age six, a child's physical development should take precedence over cognitive learning. "Physical development needs to occur first, because if cognitive, quasi-formal learning is engaged with prematurely, this can actually interfere with the development," she warns.



Big bucks, bigger stress: Inside the lives of Nvidia's millionaire employees

New Delhi. Global chipmaking giant Nvidia has created a new wave of millionaires among its employees, thanks to a staggering 3,776% increase in its stock value since early 2019.

However, this financial success comes at a big price.

The chipmaker's employees are enduring long hours and high stress, contributing to a demanding work environment despite their substantial wealth, reported Bloomberg News.The company's intense culture, characterised by extended workweeks and a chaotic management structure, reflects the pressures faced by those reaping the financial rewards. The report highlights how Nvidia employees now own luxury vehicles like Porsches, Corvettes, and Lamborghinis, but are frequently seen at the office rather than enjoying the fruits of their labour.

Big money, big stress

The company's stock surge, driven by its dominance in artificial intelligence chip sales, has led to considerable financial gains for its staff. Nvidia's market cap has increased faster than any other company in history, creating numerous multimillionaires.

Yet, the high-stakes environment comes with a demanding work culture. Employees report long hours, high stress, and a chaotic organizational structure.

CEO Jensen Huang's approach to management highlights rigorous work expectations and a high-pressure atmosphere. Huang is known for his belief in pushing employees hard, stating that he prefers to "torture them into greatness" rather than resort to layoffs.

Golden handcuffs'

Current and former employees, quoted in the Bloomberg report, describe a gruelling work environment.

One former technical support worker shared that he was expected to work seven days a week, often late into the night.nother former marketing employee noted attending multiple high-stress meetings daily, despite the lucrative stock options that made it difficult to leave the company. Despite the high-stress environment, the employee had endured it for two years due to the "golden handcuffs"—the promise of substantial financial rewards that made it difficult to leave.

Nvidia's stock grants vest over four years, which has helped retain employees despite the intense work culture. The turnover rate dropped significantly after Nvidia's valuation surpassed \$1 trillion, from 5.3% in 2023 to 2.7%. This starkly contrasts with the semiconductor industry's average turnover rate of

Explained: Why Patym shares surged 3% despite Sebi notice

NEW DELHI. Shares of Paytm's parent company, One 97 Communications, rose by 3.5% to Rs 548.70 on Tuesday despite having received a show-cause notice from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The rise in shares was mainly due to Paytm's clarification on the matter in response to the notice, which seemed to reassure investors. Sebi's notice was related to an alleged violation of rules concerning the employee stock option plans (ESOPs) granted to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Paytm's founder and Chief Executive.In the financial year 2021-22, Paytm granted 21 million ESOPs to Sharma, which were tied to the achievement of specific milestones. Paytm had already disclosed the matter in its financial results for the quarter and year ending on March 31, 2024, as well as the quarter ending on June 30, 2024. In a filing to the exchanges, Paytm mentioned that they are in regular communication with Sebi and are making the necessary representations to address the situation."With reference to recent media reports, we would like to inform you that this is not a new development, as the Company had already made relevant disclosures on this matter in its financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2024, as well as the quarter ended June 30, 2024. The Company is in regular communication with the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and making necessary representations regarding this matter. Accordingly, there is no impact on the financial results for previous quarters ended June 30, 2024, and March 31, 2024, respectively," said Paytm in an exchange filing.

Paytm's shares have seen a decline over the past year, dropping by 40%. So far, in 2024, the shares have fallen by 16.3%. However, today's rise suggests that investors might be looking beyond the recent regulatory issues and focusing on the company's ongoing efforts to address them.

JN Port secures Rs 45,000 cr funding from REC for various upcoming projects

MUMBAI. The Maharana public sector non-bank lender REC has signed an agreement with the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) to finance up to Rs 45,000 crore for the country's largest container port's various upcoming projects, which include the development of the nearby Vadhavan Port.The port handles a little over 50% of the containerised cargo volume in the country. The loan agreement was signed by the port's chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh and REC executive director Rahul Dwivedi, in the presence of the Union ports and shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal. For REC, this large funding helps expand its non-power portfolio, the company said in a statement Monday. Currently its Rs 5.3 trillion (`5.3 lakh crore) loan book comprises power generation, transmission, distribution renewables projects and new technologies such as electric vehicles, battery storage, pumped storage, green hydrogen and green ammonia projects. Since recent years it also strayed funding roads, expressways, metro rails and airports etc apart form social infrastructure projects like schools hospitals Hmong others. For the quarter ending June, REC reported as 18 percent jump in revenue to Rs 13,092.44 crore from which it booked a net profit of Rs 3,460 crore, which was 16.6% more than it had booked in the same period of of the past fiscal.

Sensex, Nifty end flat as energy, consumer stocks weigh in on gains

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices ended the day nearly unchanged on Tuesday, as gains in financial stocks balanced out declines in the energy and consumer sectors. This came as the global rally, driven by expectations of a possible rate cut in the US in September, took a breather."Weak US market cues and subdued Asian indices prompted local investors to book profit towards the fagend, indicating that intraday volatility will continue amid growing geopolitical tensions and sluggish global growth," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. The S&P BSE Sensex added 13.65 points to end at 81,711.76, while the NSE Nifty50 gained just 7.15 points to close at 25,017.75.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said that the domestic market witnessed profit-booking near record highs."While the positive expectations regarding a potential rate cut by the Fed in September remain, the recent geopolitical tensions and rising

crude oil prices have made investors cautious amid high valuations. IT and financial stocks continued to perform well, whereas FMCG and metal stocks saw declines. Further, the recent shift in FII stance towards the domestic market and the anticipation that the RBI will align with the Fed's actions are expected to foster a positive outlook in the near term," said Nair.Zee's shares surged as much as 15% before settling 11.49% higher on the BSE at Rs 150.90 as

it reached a settlement agreement with Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (formerly Sony India) and Bangla Entertainment Private Limited, resolving all disputes between the parties. Today's Nifty 50 trading saw a mix of

notable gains and losses among top stocks. Leading the gainers was Larsen & Toubro (LT), which rose by 1.48%. Cipla followed closely with a 1.45% increase.



Infosys also performed well, climbing 1.14%. HCLTech and Sun Pharma rounded out the top gainers, rising 0.96% and 0.71% respectively.

BPCL led the declines, dropping 1.68%. JSW Steel followed with a 1.00% decrease. Eicher Motors saw its stock fall by 0.61%, while Grasim Industries dipped 0.60%. Kotak Mahindra Bank completed the list of top losers with a 0.58% decline."The sentiment has

entered an indecisive phase as the Nifty closed with a Doji pattern on the daily chart. The significant presence of both call and put option writers at the 25,000 strike price strengthens the technical setup. As a result, the Nifty is likely to remain range-bound or might experience a slight dip in the near term. On the lower end, 24,800 could act as immediate support, while a rise above 25,100 might push the Nifty towards 25,300," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP

Securities.The Nifty Smallcap100 index led the gains, rising impressively by 1.05%, while the Nifty Midcap100 index also performed well, increasing by 0.49%, suggesting continued interest in medium-sized firms.

Meanwhile, the India VIX, often referred to as the fear gauge of the market, experienced a notable decline of 1.17%.

Still waiting for your income tax refund Here's what you need to do

New Delhi Filing your income tax return (ITR) on time doesn't always mean you'll receive your refund quickly. The tax refund process involves several steps, and if something goes wrong at any point, the entire process can get delayed.

You may be eligible for a tax refund when the tax you've already paid (through TDS, self-assessment tax, etc.) is more than your actual tax liability. The income tax department calculates this liability after considering all deductions and exemptions during the assessment.In our country, Income Tax Return (ITR) refunds may be delayed for a number of reasons. Vishal Gehrana, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India In cases where ITR involves complex (associated with Karanjawala & Co) said that one common reason is the verification issue. If a taxpayer has not completed the verification process of their ITR either through an Electronic Verification Code (EVC) or by submitting a signed ITR-V to the



Central Processing Center (CPC), the processing of the refund may get delayed."The discrepancies in the ITR details - such as mismatch in the income figures, inaccurate bank account information, or errors in PAN details may also cause delays in the processing of ITR and refund," he added.

income sources or multiple deductions, it may require manual processing, which can take much longer time to process and refund the from backlogs at the CPC, especially during peak filing times, or from a

taxpayer not complying with notices or requests from the tax department. Therefore, a taxpayer should attempt to file his return much before the deadline as helps to prevent the backlogs.

What to do if ITR refund is delayed? f your refund is delayed, the first thing you should do is check the status on the income tax e-filing portal. This will give you details on the current stage of processing and any issues that need your attention."If the delay is significant and unexplained, you can raise a grievance through the 'e-Nivaran' section on the e-filing portal or contact the CPC helpline for an update. It's important to respond quickly to any notices or requests from the tax department, as delays in your response can further extend the processing time," said Gehrana. Steps to

raise tax refund reissue request ITR.Furthermore, delays can also arise If your refund process is stuck for a long time, you might need to file a refund reissue request. Here's how you can do it:

LG Electronics considers IPO in India amid stock market boom: Report

LG Electronics is exploring the possibility of an initial public offering (IPO) for its Indian operations, aiming to capitalise on India's vibrant stock market to support its ambitious revenue goals. The South Korean electronics giant seeks to achieve \$75 billion in annual revenue by 2030, which is a big leap from its current revenue of approximately \$65 billion, reported Bloomberg.CEO William Cho, who took on the role in 2021 after a long tenure with LG Group, highlights the IPO as one potential strategy to rejuvenate the company's consumer electronics segment."It is one of many options we can consider," Cho told Bloomberg Television. "I understand there's increased interest among global investors," he added.It's worth noting that this is LG's first public discussion about an Indian market debut, amid ongoing speculation and interest. "As of now, nothing is confirmed," he added. Cho's vision includes growing LG's electronics business to



100 trillion won (\$75 billion) annually by the end of the decade. A key component of this plan is increasing revenue from enterprise clients, aiming for 45% of sales to come from business customers, up from the current 35%. The company's Indian unit has been performing well. with revenue rising 14% to a record 2.87 trillion won in the first half of this year and net income climbing 27% to 198.2 billion won.

The performance highlights LG's desire to leverage the booming Indian stock market, which is currently experiencing a surge in IPO activity. India's capital markets are bustling, with 189 companies expected to raise \$5.6 billion through IPOs this year alone. The market's dynamism is drawing interest from other major players, such as Hyundai Motor Co., which is preparing its own significant IPO in India.

Cho noted that LG is closely observing the Indian IPO landscape and evaluating similar industry cases.Although LG has not yet determined a valuation for its Indian unit, the company is considering how an IPO could fit into its broader

Hindustan Unilever to appeal Rs 962 crore tax demand linked to GSK deal

NEW DELHI. Ahindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has been served with a tax demand notice of Rs 962.75 crore by the Income Tax Department.The notice includes Rs 329.33 crore in interest and was issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax in Mumbai. The company announced the receipt of this order on August 23 in a regulatory filing on Monday. The tax demand stems from the alleged non-deduction of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) as required under the Income Tax Act, 1961. This issue arose during HUL's Rs 3,045 crore payment to acquire intellectual property rights (IPR) of the India Health Food Drink (HFD) business from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Group entities.HUL, in its filing, expressed



confidence in its position and stated that it plans to appeal the tax demand. The company assured stakeholders that there would be no major financial impact at this stage. It believes it has a strong case based on existing judicial precedents, which suggest that the situs (location) of an intangible asset, such as IPR, is tied to the situs of the owner. This precedent could mean that income from the sale of such intangible assets may not be taxable in India.HUL further clarified that it intends to take all necessary steps to contest the demand. The company also mentioned its right to indemnification, allowing it to recover the tax demand raised by the Income Tax Department, and that it Booming Indian stock market would take appropriate action in this regard.On the stock market, HUL shares were trading flat at Rs 2,819 during early trading hours on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) today. The company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 6.61 lakh crore, reflecting its significant presence in the FMCG sector.HUL received the ta order on Friday, August 23, and made the required disclosure to the exchanges on the next working day, which was Monday. The company has assured that it will comply with all legal processes as it moves forward with the appeal against the tax demand

Apple may create 6 lakh jobs in India by end of financial year: Report

The iPhone maker's growing operations in India have contributed significantly to job creation over the years.

NEW DELHI. Apple could create up to 6 lakh jobs in India by the end of the fiscal year 2025, reported The Economic Times.The iPhone maker's increasing operations in the country have contributed significantly to higher job creation, according to sources quoted in the report.

According to estimates shared by the company, Apple's direct workforce in India will reach 200,000 by March 2025, with women constituting about 70% of these positions. The company's three major contract manufacturers, Foxconn,

Wistron (now Tata Electronics), and Pegatron, have already generated 80,872 direct jobs, as per officials quoted in the ET report.Additionally, suppliers such as Tata Group, Salcomp, Motherson, Foxlink, Sunwoda, ATL, and Jabil have collectively created around 84,000 direct jobs. Since the launch of the smartphone Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in 2020, Apple and its partners have created approximately 165,000 direct jobs, said another official quoted in the report. The PLI scheme, initially targeting 200,000 jobs over five years, has seen this target reached in just four years, reflecting Apple's significant role in job creation in India. The government estimates that each direct job in the electronics sector The Tata Group's new facility in Hosur, generates three indirect jobs, suggesting that Apple's expansion could result in 500,000 to 600,000 total jobs by the fiscal year-end. The company has effectively replicated its successful China model in India, establishing a robust supply chain and manufacturing



Tamil Nadu, is expected to hire around 50,000 employees over time. This plant, which will begin iPhone production this October, will increase its capacity in phases.Moreover, Tamil Nadu has become a key hub for Apple's operations, with nearly 90,000 of the 200,000 direct jobs expected to come

from iPhone and component factories in the state.

Apple began manufacturing iPhones in India in 2021, marking its first production outside China. The company's production in India has risen steadily, with iPhone manufacturing reaching Rs 1.20 lakh crore in FY24, including Rs 85,000 crore in exports.

This production growth has positioned India as a critical component of Apple's global supply chain, contributing about 14% to the company's overall production. To support its growing workforce, Apple's vendors and suppliers are investing in housing complexes, particularly in Tamil

A recent facility in Sriperumbudur, built at

a cost of Rs 706.5 crore, will house around 18,720 workers, mostly women. Additional housing projects are planned through public-private partnerships to further support Apple's expanding workforce in the region.

NEWS BOX

Nepal thanks BCCI for NCA training camp, featuring Rahul Dravid, Shami

New Delhi. Cricket Nepal has extended its heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for facilitating a crucial training camp at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. The camp was part of Nepal's preparations for the upcoming ICC CWC League 2 series, set to take place in September.

The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) expressed its appreciation through social media, highlighting the significant support from BCCI Secretary Jay Shah and the Indian Cricket Board. The CAN acknowledged the role of Indian officials, including Indian External Affairs minister, Dr. S Jaishankar in making the camp possible. The NCA camp provided Nepal's national team with an invaluable opportunity to hone their skills and strategies ahead of their critical matches. The training program also featured interactions with notable Indian cricket figures, including former India head coach Rahul Dravid and pacer Mohammed Shami. Their presence and guidance were acknowledged in the thank you post shared



by CAN, underscoring the collaborative spirit between the two cricketing nations. This camp marks Nepal's second visit to India in 2024, following their previous engagements in Gujarat against Baroda as part of their T20 World Cup preparations. The focus of the Bengaluru camp was to bolster Nepal's readiness for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2, following a challenging tri-series at home earlier this year. With this enhanced preparation, Nepal is set to face Oman and Canada in their upcoming series, aiming to improve on their recent performances. The support from the BCCI and the experience gained from the NCA camp are expected to play a crucial role in Nepal's quest for success on the international stage.

US Open, Day 2 Schedule of Play: Alcaraz, Sinner, **Swiatek** in action

New Delhi After a tremendous opening day in the US Open, where a rusty-looking Novak Djokovic banked on his fitness to get through to the next round, the focus shifts on World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, who comes into the competition on the back of a doping controversy. Sinner, who tested positive twice for the banned substance clostebol, escaped a ban from The International Tennis Integrity Agency. There has been much chatter in the tennis world about different standards for different players after the Sinner episode and the Italian will have to shake everything off when he faces Mackenzie McDonald in his Round 1 match at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.Jannik Sinner has the likes of Daniil Medvedev and Carlos Alcaraz in his half of the men's singles draw, but his toughest challenge in New York will be shutting out the noise surrounding his doping case. Apart from Sinner, there are multiple big names who will take the court



on Tuesday, August 27. World No. 1 in women's singles - Iga Swiaktek will take on Kamilla Rakhimova in the first match of the day at the Arthur Ashe.

Carlos Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas are some of the names that will participate on Tuesday. Alcaraz is coming off two frustrating tournaments - the Paris Olympics and the Cincinnati Open where he was beaten by Novak Djokovic and Frances Tiafoe respectively. Alcaraz's mettle will be checked on Tuesday when he takes on Australia Li Tu. Alcaraz will surely look for vengeance once he steps into the court in the United States of America. He has never faced Li Tu in his career but would hope to use this match to get in rhythm.

Harmanpreet, Smriti Mandhana lead India's strong 15-member squad for T20 World Cup

₩ Women's T20 World Cup: India have announced a strong squad for the women's T20 World Cup, set to be held in the UAE. Harmanpreet Kaur is set to lead, while Smriti Mandhana will be her deputy as usual.

New Delhi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced India's squad for the Women's T20 World Cup on August 27, Tuesday. The Women's Selection Committee picked India's 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC tournament, set to be held in the United Arab Emirates. The ninth edition of the tournament will be contested in



the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the 3rd to the 20th of October in Dubai and Sharjah. India are in Group A along with Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Senior pros Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana have been named in the leadership group of the team. The team also includes the likes of Shafali Verma, Richa

Ghosh, Yastika Bhatiya and Renuka Singh. Spinner Asha Sobhana, who made her name in the Women's Premier League, finds a spot in the 15-member squad. The release further mentions that two key players for India -Yastika Bhatiya and Shreyanka Patil are currently injured and their availability for the tournament will depend on their fitness status.India's squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024Harmanpreet Kaur (C),

but it was the teenager who emerged victorious this time, winning alternate

games to claim the match 2-1. Manika returned to the table for the mixed doubles

round, partnering captain Alvaro Robles.

Puneri Paltan Table Tennis, meanwhile,

sent on Natalia Bajor and Anirban Ghosh,

who stretched the PBG Bengaluru

Smashers right until the end, only to fall to a

2-1 defeat. Robles followed his prolific

doubles display with a similar 2-1 win in

the second men's singles of the tie over

two-time Olympian Joao Monteiro.With

PBG Bengaluru Smashers needing just one

point to win the tie, USA paddler Lily Zhang

beat Puneri Paltan Table Tennis' sixth

different player on the night, Yashini

Sivashankar, to get her team over the

line.For their efforts, Manika and Zhang

were named the Indian and Foreign Player of

the Tie, respectively. Ankur, meanwhile,

claimed the DafaNews Shot of the Tie

honour. Tuesday's only tie will see the U

Mumba TT take on Ahmedabad SG Pipers at

Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk)*, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil*, Sajana Sajeevan.

Subject to fitness clearance

Travelling Reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima ThakorNon-Travelling Reserves: Raghvi Bist, Priya MishraThe 23 matches in the tournament will take place at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai and Sharjah Cricket Stadium in Sharjah. Dubai will host the first semi-final on October 17 followed by the second semis on October 18. There is a reserve day for both semifinals and the final. The grand final will take place on October 20 in Dubai. Harmanpreet Kaur's India will face Fatima Sana's Pakistan in the marquee clash on October 6 in Dubai. India will also face New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Dubai on October 4 and 9 respectively. India's last and final league match against Australia on October 13 will take place in Sharjah. If India advances to the semis, they will feature in the first semi-final in Dubai.

Imran Khan slams Pakistan Cricket Board chief: 'Bangladesh defeat embarrassina'

New Delhi, Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan lashed out at the national cricket body, headed by Mohsin Naqvi, while expressing his disappointment with the performances of the senior national men's team. Imran did not mince words as he said the defeat to Bangladesh in a Test match in Rawalpindi was "embarrassing" and accused the Naqvi-led Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for "destroying" the sport in the country.

Imran Khan, who spoke to reporters from Adiala Jail - the Central Jail in Rawalpindi, highlighted the string of disappointing performances from Pakistan's senior national men's team in the recent past and pinned the blame on the current crop of administrators."Cricket is the onlysport the entire nation watches with great interest on TV, but even that has been destroyed by powerful quarters who brought in an unqualified, favoured official to maintain their control," Imran Khan said, as quoted by his X account."For the first time, we



(Pakistan) didn't make it to the top four in the World Cup or the top eight in T20. And yesterday, we faced an embarrassing defeat against Bangladesh, setting a new low. Just two-and-a-half years ago, this team had defeated India by 10 wickets. What has happened in these two-and-a-half years that we lost to Bangladesh by 10 wickets? The blame for all of this collapse falls on one institution," he added.Surgery till death: How Pakistan cricket fraternity reacted to Rawalpindi defeatImran Khan, who led Pakistan to their first and only ODI World Cup triumph in 1992, also accused Naqvi of corruption. The PCB chairman, who took control of the board in February 2024, also serves as the Federal Interior Minister of Pakistan.MOHSIN NAOVI FACES THE HEATNaqvi has been facing immense scrutiny from former Pakistan cricketers after Bangladesh stunned Pakistan in the first of a two-Test series in Rawalpindi on Sunday, August 25. The touring side clinched its first-ever Test match win over Pakistan and did it in style by hammering the hosts by

UTT 2024: Manika Batra trumps Ayhika Mukherjee as Bengaluru beat Puneri Paltan

Manika Batra led PBG Bengaluru Smashers to a 10-5 victory against Puneri Paltan Table Tennis in UTT 2024, overcoming Ayhika Mukherjee and securing crucial wins alongside teammates to clinch the match at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium.

New Delhi Star paddler Manika Batra survived the giant-slaying Ayhika Mukherjee to lead her team, PBG Bengaluru Smashers to 10-5 victory against Puneri Paltan Table Tennis in Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium today. Manika lost the first game of her headline clash with Ayhika, falling into similar traps that had caught the league's highest-ranked player, Bernadette Szocs, last time around. However, the Asian and Commonwealth Games medallists retaliated in back-to-back games, winning the match 2-1. The franchise-based league is promoted by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani under the



auspices of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). Puneri Paltan Table Tennis made UTT history even before the opening serve dropped. The team from Pune became the first ever to name all six of their players in the starting line-up, spread across five matches. The tie started with 17-year-old Ankur Bhattacharjee of Puneri Paltan Table Tennis taking on PBG Bengaluru Smashers' Jeet Chandra. Both Ankur and Jeet had recorded outstanding sweeping wins in their previous clashes in UTT 2024 - Ankur over

Lilian Bardet and Jeet over Sharath Kamal -

19:30, with both teams looking for their second win in UTT 2024. Duleep Trophy 2024: No Jadeja, Siraj and

Umran to miss 1st round due to illness New Delhi All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja will

miss the first round of the Duleep Trophy 2024 along with Mohammed Siraj and Umran Malik, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) said on Tuesday, August 27. While Jadeja has been released from Team B, led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, Siraj and Umran have been ruled out due to illness. Delhi fast bowler Navdeep Saini will replace

Siraj in Team B while Madhya Pradesh's Gaurav Yadav will replace Umran Malik in Team C, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad. The BCCI did not reveal why Jadeja was released from the Team B squad for the first round of the tournament. The first round of Duleep Trophy, a premier four-day domestic cricket tournament, will get underway from September 5. Shubman Gill-led Team A will face Team B at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru while Team C will take on Shreyas Iyer-led Team D in Rural Development Trust Stadium A in Ananthapur. The Duleep Trophy will witness Test specialists return to the domestic fold after the BCCI urged them to



feature in domestic cricket while not on international duty. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin were allowed to miss the first-round matches, which will serve as a warm-up for the Test series against Bangladesh. India will play

two Tests against Bangladesh from September 19 to October 1 to kickstart their

REVISED SQUADS FOR DULEEP TROPHY FIRST ROUND

India A: Shubman Gill (C), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (WK), KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.India B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK).India C: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.

Goa Challengers face off in a high-stakes IndianOil UTT 2024 clash, with star paddlers Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai leading their

playoff contention.

teams in a crucial battle for

Dabang Delhi TTC and Athlead

Chennai. Both Dabang Delhi TTC and Athlead Goa Challengers will have a point to prove when they meet for the first time in ÎndianOil Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on



UTT 2024: Dabang Delhi aim for first win

Wednesday. Led by Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, the team from Delhi has lost both its ties so far. However, the low margins of their defeats mean Dabang Delhi TTC are one heavy win away from jumping from their

current spot in seventh to one reserved for the playoffs.Harmeet Desai's Athlead Goa Challengers, on the other hand, are heading into their tie against Dabang Delhi TTC on the back of a heavy defeat against

Ahmedabad SG Pipers; they will be looking Ahmedabad SG Pipers; they will be looking to make amends quickly and prove their mettle as the reigning champions. Sathiyan's potential bout with Harmeet will headline the clash between Dabang Delhi TTC and Athlead Goa Challengers. The pair are two of India's finest paddlers and have an Olympic appearance each to their name. Further down the pecking order, Dabang Delhi TTC's Diya Chitale will be under the spotlight following ber impressive under the spotlight following her impressive win against Poymantee Baisya of Chennai Lions. She will likely square up against Athlead Goa Challengers' young prodigy looking to make her mark this season: Yashaswini Ghorpade.From the teams foreign contingent, all eyes will be on Athlead Goa Challengers' Yangzi Liu and her sensational unbeaten streak that has not left her company since the start of the previous season. Liu has won both her singles matches in IndianOil UTT 2024 and will look to prolong that run in a potential clash against Dabang Delhi TTC's Orawan



Brother Siddharth And Neelam Upadhyaya's Engagement **Photos Scream Love**

opular chef and producer Siddharth Chopra, who is also Priyanka Chopra's brother, recently tied the knot with his fiancee and actress Neelam Upadhyaya. On Monday, the couple gave their followers a glimpse into their "hastakshar ceremony" with a joint post featuring stunning photos from the joyous occasion. The photo album, filled with affectionate shots of the newlyweds and scenes from the ceremony, shows the couple's special moments. In the photos, Neelam looked stunning in a pink lehenga adorned with intricate golden designs, while Siddharth complemented her perfectly in a golden sherwani paired with a coordinating half coat. In the first picture, Siddharth gently kisses Neelam, who beams with joy. The second image captures the couple posing gracefully for the cameras. They proudly show off their engagement rings in the following shot, leading to a series of romantic photos, including one where they embrace each other. The final two pictures highlight moments from their hastakshar or registry ceremony.

Following the post, Siddharth's younger brother, Sahaj Chopra, extended a warm welcome to Neelam with a heartfelt message saying, "Congratulations both welcome to the family Neelam Upadhyaya." Fans and celebrities quickly joined in to congratulate the couple in comments section.Priyanka Chopra also travelled to Mumbai to attend the special event.A fan page also shared an exclusive video from the ceremony, showing Siddharth and Neelam exchanging rings and touching Priyanka's feet for blessings. The video also features some family moments with Madhu Chopra, Mannara and others.



Earlier this year, in April, Siddharth and Neelam had their roka ceremony, which they announced with beautiful pictures. The album included some cosy shots of the couple, individual pictures and a special cake inscribed with "just rokafied." They captioned the post "Sooo we did a thing." Previously, Siddharth was engaged to Ishita Kumar. Their roka ceremony took place in New Delhi in February 2019 and was attended by Priyanka Chopra and her husband, Nick Jonas. However, the engagement was reportedly called off in June. Soon after, Siddharth and Neelam made their first public appearance together at the Ambani's Ganesh Puja in 2019.

Neena Gupta

Is The Cutest Nani-To-Be And This Video From Masaba Gupta's Baby Shower Is Proof asaba Gupta's baby shower took place on Sunday. The biscuit-themed ceremony was hosted by Sonam Kapoor. Rhea Kapoor, Soni Razdan, Shaheen Bhatt, Akansha Ranjan

Kapoor, chef Pooja Dhingra, Neena Gupta and Masaba's husband Satyadeep Misra were also part of it. While many pictures and videos from the event are making rounds on the Internet, one clip in particular is sure to leave you in awe. It has Neena humorously schooling the younger generation about their sartorial choices. The video was originally posted by one of Masaba Gupta's friends Nimish. Later, Neena Gupta also shared it on Instagram Stories. Standing amid the guests seated on comfy couches, the veteran star is seen giving a speech. The nani-to-be, while advising the younger ones to dress up as per the occasion, had

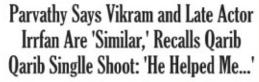


everyone laughing as she cutely scolded her son-in-law Satyadeep Misra for wearing jeans instead of white pants to the party. "I told him not to wear jeans. White pant pehen leta (He could have worn white pants)," Neena said.

Masaba Gupta also gave a speech at her baby shower a snap of which was shared by her friend and renowned stylist Tanya Ghavri. Dropping the picture, she wrote, "To the cutest mama to be at her baby shower! (sic)."Masaba Gupta also shared a bunch of pictures from her special day. Taking to her Instagram stories, she posted a picture with

Sonam Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor. While Rhea is hugging the expectant mother in the image, Sonam is leaning on her sister for an endearing click. Masaba chose to make heads turn in a brown full-length gown, complemented by a few dainty pieces of jewellery for her baby shower

Masaba Gupta announced her pregnancy in April this year. In a joint Instagram post with husband Satyadeep Misra, she wrote, "In other news - Two little feet are on their way to us! Please send love, blessings and banana chips (plain salted ONLY) #babyonboard #mom&dad (sic)."





hangalaan actress Parvathy Thiruvothu, during a press event in Mumbai, fondly remembered late actor Irrfan Khan, with whom she shared screen space in Qarib Qarib Singlle. Looking back on her time working with Irrfan and filmmaker Tanuja Chandra on the 2017 film, Parvathy expressed her deep connection with Mumbai, a city she said she had shifted to before Covid-19 hit. Drawing analogy between Vikram and Irrfan, Parvathy said it's their generosity that she finds heartwarming.Parvathy said, "I guess it's the generosity, for sure, that I see in both of them. Irrfan sir used to help me out with things because Hindi is not my native language. So he used to help me get into that space and made sure that everyone knew you are as good as the other person on set. And I saw that generosity in him [Vikram]. And when I worked with him... it expands further away from even actors. It's everybody on set."

Parvathy also shared an interesting anecdote from the sets of Thangalaan. She said, "I miss getting all the toffees! Like, there is a particular native toffee that we get there and it's called Kamarkat. It's like this jaggery, palm sugar, kind of a thing. And he'd just be walking around and he'd shake hands. Suddenly you have a toffee in your hand! He just brightens the mood for everybody. Not just me, the kids obviously and others as well. But, the way he asks everybody, 'Have you eaten?' It's not for show. Genuinely, there's a concern how everyone is doing."

Mira Rajput's Birthday Post For Her 'Darling Girl' Misha Is Love



hahid Kapoor's wife, entrepreneur and influencer, Mira Rajput is a hands-on mother to her kids Misha And Zain. Today, Mira is super excited. Reason? It's Misha's birthday. She turns 8. Mira, on her daughter's special day, made sure to proudly express her love for her little bundle of joy. In a post on Instagram, she attached a set of endearing pictures with Misha. The photos captured Misha all smiling in an all-white coord set with a pink jacket tied around her waist. The final image featured the birthday girl with Mira as they posed happily for the camera.Sharing the album, Mira Rajput wrote, "I will spend my whole life loving you. Happy 8th Birthday our darling girl. Sunshine, sparkles and the best of everything for the light of our lives. Smile forever my baby girl, Misha."

Hours before the birthday, Mira Rajput and Misha were spotted by paparazzi. The duo was seen stepping out after their salon visit. The clip that surfaced on social media captured Misha running ahead of her mother, quickly boarding the car as Mira followed her. Mira, for her salon visit, wore a plain black T-shirt with blue bell-bottom jeans. On the other hand, her daughter looked cute in a simple white dress. Misha is a constant on Mira Rajput's Instagram. Not long ago, the mother-daughter attended Taylor Swift's Eras Tour concert in Munich. The mommydaughter took a selfie at the concert and even rooted for the pop star as she performed on some of her chartbusters. "Core memory with my sunshine swiftie. We couldn't believe it! Mother-daughter trip of dreams," Mira wrote.Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput got married in 2015. The couple welcomed Misha in 2016. In 2018, they were blessed with a son, Zain.

In terms of career, Mira Rajput recently launched her skincare line, Akind.As for Shahid Kapoor, he is preparing for Deva opposite Pooja Hedge. Directed by Rosshan Andrrews, the film is set to release on October 1. Additionally, he also has Vashu Bhagnani's mythological epic, Ashwatthama: The Saga Continues.