

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

The Sikh Times

National Daily

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

Vol. 16 No. 90

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Sunday, 11 August 2024

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9654077232

12 pages ₹ 3

Will seek death penalty for accused: Mamata Banerjee

ST Correspondent

Kolkata, August 10: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday asserted that her government will seek death penalty for the accused in the alleged sexual assault and murder of a woman post-graduate trainee doctor. Banerjee also said she has asked officials to ensure that the case be tried in a fast-track court. The body of the woman doctor was found inside the seminar hall of a government-run hospital in



north Kolkata on Friday. The chief minister also said the protests and processions by junior doctors demanding exemplary punishment for the accused and enhanced security at hospitals were justified. "I endorse the demands being made by the junior doctors," she told a Bengali news channel. Banerjee said the West Bengal government has no objection to an investigation into the case by any agency, including the CBI, if there is a demand for it. Describing the incident as gruesome and despicable, she urged the junior doctors at various state-run hospitals to carry on giving healthcare services, while holding the protests. The CM said police camps had been set up in every hospital to prevent any assault on doctors. She also said superintendents/principals of hospitals and medical college hospitals have a responsibility of ensuring internal security at their respective facilities. "We will also investigate whether there was any negligence on their part," Banerjee said. A senior officer said on Saturday that the police have arrested a man, an outsider who had free access to the different departments of the hospital. "We have arrested one person, who is an outsider. His activities are quite suspicious and he seems to be directly involved in the crime," the police officer told PTL. Talking more about the arrested accused, police said that they recovered a torn part of a Bluetooth earphone which led to the culprit. In fact, other PGTs and female doctors also identified the culprit from CCTV footage grabbed from other parts of the hospital premises, a source in the police department said. Police officers also claimed that the arrested accused had given different statements during the grilling done.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred with Timor-Leste's highest civilian award

Sanjay Kumar

Dili (Timor-Leste), August 10: President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civil-



ian award, by her counterpart José Ramos Horta on Saturday. Murmu, 66, received the award for her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and women empowerment, her office said in a post on X. President Murmu said that the honour is a reflection of the ties of friendship between India and Timor-Leste. Murmu arrived in

Dili on the last leg of her three-nation visit on Saturday after concluding her trip to New Zealand and Fiji. President Murmu's trip is the first-ever presidential visit from India to the Southeast Asian nation. She was warmly received by President Ramos Horta at the airport, her office said. Cheerful children greeted her on the way from the airport. She was also accorded a ceremonial reception and guard of honour in the Presidential Palace, Dili. President Murmu held extensive discussions with her counterpart Ramos Horta on enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. "India and Timor-Leste share warm and friendly relations based on the values of democracy and pluralism.

PM Modi visits landslides-hit Wayanad in Kerala, promises all possible help

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Wayanad (Kerala), August 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured the Centre would provide all possible help in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in the landslides-hit areas of Wayanad district. Modi said everyone's prayers were with the survivors of the landslides, which he said had 'shattered' the dreams of several families. The Centre will stand together with the Kerala government on helping those who lost everything in the disaster, he said. The landslides have claimed the lives of 226 people so far, while over 130 are missing. The PM was speaking during a meeting held at the District Collectorate here to review the situation on the ground and work out a plan for the rehabilitation of the landslide victims. Ever since the tragedy unfolded, he has been in "touch here" and receiving constant updates. He said he heard from the survivors what they witnessed and experienced and termed the landslides as nature displaying its "furious form." Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister

Suresh Gopi, ministers of a Cabinet sub-committee camping near the disaster site, senior bureaucrats and officials of the local



administration were present in the meeting. Earlier in the day, Modi arrived in Wayanad by helicopter from Kannur airport where he landed around 11 am on Air India One. On

the way to Wayanad, he carried out an aerial survey of the landslide-ravaged areas of Chooralmala, Mundakkai, and

Chooralmala, where a 190-foot-long Bailey bridge had been built by the army after the disaster. The PM walked on the bridge, while surveying the damage. He also trekked through the disaster-stricken Chooralmala to get a first-hand view of the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides. Modi also visited one of the relief camps, which is home to many of those displaced in the massive landslides, and interacted with some of the survivors, including two children who lost their loved ones in the disaster that has claimed over 200 lives. He spoke to them, heard their concerns and needs, and tried to comfort them, according to visuals shown on TV channels. Modi placed his hands on the heads and shoulders of the victims as they broke into tears while recounting their ordeal to the PM. Modi also went to Dr Moopen's Medical College where many of those injured in the landslides are undergoing treatment, met with some of the survivors and assured them of all requisite help. After the review meeting got over, the PM left for the SKMJ Higher Secondary School in Kalpetta from where he will travel by helicopter back to Kannur airport.

UP cop demands 5 kg potatoes as 'bribe', suspended after audio goes viral

Kannauj (UP), August 10: A sub-inspector has been suspended here after an audio of him demanding potatoes to allegedly settle a case went viral on social media, a senior police officer said on Saturday. Additional Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar said it appeared from the audio that Sub-Inspector Ramkripal, in-charge of Chapunna outpost of Saurikh police station here, was allegedly trying to take bribe, regarding which a report was sent by the Circle Officer of Chhibramau. Taking cognisance in the matter, Kannauj Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Anand has suspended Ramkripal with immediate effect, the ASP said. In the audio, a person was heard saying that he can give only two kilograms of potatoes for the case settlement, while Ramkripal expressed displeasure saying a deal of five kilograms of potatoes was fixed earlier, the officer said. The man was then heard saying he would not be able to meet the SP's demand due to poor income from his business. He reiterated that he would give only two kilograms of potatoes, whereas Ramkripal insisted that he gave him the remaining 3 kg later. The preliminary investigation for departmental action has been given to the Circle Officer (City) Kamlesh Kumar.

Day after release from Tihar, Manish Sisodia says our real 'saarthi' still in jail

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, August 10: Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Saturday called upon party workers and people to fight against the "dictatorship" in the country, a day after he was released from jail in the Delhi excise policy case. Targeting the BJP, he also said these people are not more powerful than the Constitution. Every person has to fight against this "dictatorship" which is not just putting leaders in jail but also harassing citizens, Sisodia said while addressing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers at its headquarters here. He claimed that while in jail, he was not worried about getting bail but was pained seeing businessmen being put in prison in "fake cases just because they did not donate money to the BJP". The Supreme Court on Friday gave Sisodia bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy "scam" and said

his long incarceration of 17 months without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice. On AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also in jail in the case, Sisodia said he is the symbol of honesty in the coun-



try. Conspiracies are being hatched to defame Kejriwal's work, he said and added that if opposition leaders unite against the "dictatorship", Kejriwal will

come out of jail in 24 hours. Sisodia told AAP workers that "we are just horses of a chariot but our real 'saarthi' (charioteer) is in jail, he will come out soon". On his bail verdict, Sisodia said the Supreme Court used the power of the Constitution to "trample dictatorship" yesterday. He said he was hoping to get justice in seven-to-eight months but it took 17 months. But at the end truth triumphed, Sisodia said. Seeking to target the BJP over the Vinesh Phogat issue, Sisodia, without taking the wrestler's name, said she protested against its leader and people saw what happened at the Olympics. Phogat, who was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being found 100 grams overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final, was at the forefront of a lengthy protest alleging government inaction against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by women wrestlers.

CJI Chandrachud emphasises on strengthening infrastructure in courts to deal with pendency in cases

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Chandigarh, August 10: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday emphasised on strengthening infrastructure in the courts to deal with pendency in cases even as he said different mediums like Lok Adalats were being adopted to reduce the number of court cases. He said modern technology like artificial intelligence was being used to translate the court verdicts in regional languages for the convenience of people. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 37th convocation of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here. Replying to a question on pendency of cases, CJI Chandrachud said like in hospitals, people have faith in the courts which is also one of the reasons for the increase in number of cases. "If you see in a hospital, the number of patients go up and similarly in courts, the number (of cases) rises. What is the rea-

son behind it? People have 'aastha' (faith) in hospitals that is why the number of



patients increases. People have 'aastha' and trust in courts and that is why number increases," the CJI said. "For this, we have to increase infrastructure. Like infra-

structure in the hospitals has to be increased and similarly, infrastructure in the courts has to be increased," he added. And we also have to adopt new mediums, the CJI stressed as he said that a special Lok Adalat was held last week in which around 1,000 cases were decided in five days. CJI Chandrachud said as many as 21 benches of the Supreme Court worked and heard around 4,000 cases during the summer vacation this year. Out of 4,000 cases, 1,170 cases were disposed of, he said. "Through different mediums we can reduce the number of cases," the CJI said. Commenting on another issue, the CJI said it has been observed that the language used in courts is English. To make common people easily understand about their cases, he said with the help of Artificial Intelligence, the court verdicts are being translated in regional languages. "From 1950 till 2024, there are around 37,000 Supreme Court verdicts and out of which, 22,000 judge-

ments have been translated into Punjabi. More than 36,000 verdicts have been translated into Hindi. We are translating verdicts in all languages," he said. The CJI further said live streaming of hearings in the Supreme Court is being undertaken. "Through technology we have taken many initiatives," he said. Replying to a question on shortage of judges, CJI Chandrachud said there are many reasons behind it. There are many states like the Allahabad High Court where the strength of judges is 160 and it is not easy to create infrastructure for 160 judges, he said. He said there is no vacancy in the Supreme Court and 34 judges were working during his tenure.

2 soldiers killed, 3 injured in encounter with terrorists in J&K's Anantnag

Jammu: Aug 10: The incident occurred at Ahlan Gagarmandu forest in the Kokernag area of the south Kashmir district during a cordon and search operation. Two soldiers were killed and three others got injured in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Saturday. The encounter between security forces and terrorists broke out at Ahlan Gagarmandu area of Anantnag. (PTI Photo / Representational) The encounter between security forces and terrorists broke out at Ahlan Gagarmandu area of Anantnag. (PTI Photo / Representational) Based on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation involving the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was launched in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district. Get Unlimited access to Hindustan Times E-paper and Archives at 1199/- per year The encounter took place in the dense Ahlan Gagarmandu forest, a remote part of the Kokernag area. As security forces carried out a cordon and search operation, the terrorists, who were hiding in the forest, opened fire indiscriminately upon the approaching search parties, officials said. In the ensuing gunfight, five army personnel sustained injuries and were quickly evacuated and rushed to a nearby hospital, where two of them died. Reinforcements have been rushed to the area, and an operation to track down and neutralize the terrorists was going on when last reports were received, the officials said.

Government should have brought Bill in Parliament to nullify Supreme Court's 'creamy layer' observation: Kharge

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, August 10: Asserting that the idea of denying reservation to SCs and STs on account of the creamy layer concept is "condemnable", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the government should have brought a legislation in Parliament to nullify the part of the recent Supreme Court judgment that talks about the issue. Kharge said that while other aspects of the Supreme Court judgment were being deliberated upon by the party, the creamy layer concept that has been advocated should be nullified. Earlier this month, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgment that state governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data. "Who do you want to benefit by bringing a creamy layer? By bringing a creamy layer (concept) on one hand you are denying untouchables and giving to those who have enjoyed privileges for thousands of years. I condemn this," Kharge told reporters here. This issue of creamy

layer that has been raised by the seven judges shows that they have not thought about SCs and STs in a serious manner, he said. "Till the time untouchability exists, reservation should



be there and will be there. We will fight for it," Kharge said. The Congress president accused the BJP of seeking to end reservation. The

government has privatised the public sector jobs and there are a lot of vacancies, but they are not recruiting, Kharge said. "SCs and STs are not able to get jobs. No SCs are at the high-level positions. They are trying to suppress the SCs and STs by classifying them in a creamy layer," he said. "I found the court's decision surprising. Those who are facing untouchability in real life and those people belonging to SCs and STs even on high posts are facing discrimination. If they have money even then they face discrimination," Kharge said. "I would like to appeal that all people should unite and ensure that this judgement does not get recognition and this matter should not be raised again," he added. The Congress is discussing other things related to sub-categorisation and will decide on further steps after discussion with intellectuals and leaders of various states, he said. "We will do

everything possible for the protection of SCs and STs," Kharge said. "I read that the PM said we will not touch this. To ensure that creamy layer (concept) will not be implemented, they should have brought (a legislation) in Parliament and nullified the Supreme Court judgement," he said. This government prepares bills in a few hours and now it has been about 15 days since the judgement, he said. Kharge's remarks come a day after the Union Cabinet asserted that there was no provision for a creamy layer in the reservation for SCs and STs in the Constitution given by B R Ambedkar. The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, held a detailed discussion on the Supreme Court judgement on the sub-categorisation of reservation for SCs and STs as granted in the Constitution. "It is the well thought view of the Union Cabinet that the NDA government is firmly committed to the provisions in the Constitution given by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here.

News box

Kochi: Death of college lecturer in Airapuram was suicide, say police



KOCHI. The police have found that the death of a college lecturer in Airapuram, near Mazhuvannoor, was a case of suicide. V S Chandralal, aka Liju, 41, was found dead in a field near his home around 5pm on Thursday. His stomach was found torn open, with internal organs exposed.

The police found that he may have inflicted the wounds himself with a knife. Chandralal was a Hindi lecturer at a college in Kakkanad.

"He was in a state of severe depression and had been on leave from the college for two weeks. However, there were no apparent issues in his life," said Sasi K, a relative of the deceased.

Chandralal had purchased the knife from a nearby shop using an online payment method, he said. "He had returned from Kannur just two days earlier after attending a function at his wife's family home," he added.

A police officer said that Chandralal was suffering from a mental illness. "He had a history of self-harm and was undergoing treatment for it. However, his relatives were unaware of this," the officer said.

He had been depressed after his father's death three months ago. "We are continuing our investigation to determine if there were any other factors involved in his death," the police officer added. Chandralal is survived by his mother, wife and two children.

KTR demands judicial probe into wall collapse

Hyderabad. BRS working president KT Rama Rao has demanded a judicial inquiry into the collapse of Sunkishala retaining wall, action against those responsible.

Blaming chief minister A Revanth Reddy for the wall collapse incident, KTR sought to ask why did the govt hide the incident when it happened on Aug 2 during when the state assembly was in session. He said the chief minister did not bother to make any statement in the assembly. He said the CM's incompetence was exposed and recalled when sinking of piers at Medigadda barrage, the BRS govt provided details about the incident and did not hide anything. He said if there is any credit or good work, the Congress govt takes credit and any incident happens, it blames BRS govt and former CM KCR. KTR said a BRS delegation along with retired engineers would soon visit Sunkishala and expose the exact reasons for the collapse. tnn

KTR demands judicial probe in Sunkishala incident K.T. Rama Rao has attributed the collapse of the Sunkishala intake well project's retaining wall to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's incompetence. He has called for a judicial inquiry and action against those responsible. KTR also criticized the Congress government for prioritizing completion of the project during flood season despite officials' warnings. 112410571

9 children dead, 4 injured after wall collapses in Madhya Pradesh In Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, nine children aged 10 to 14 lost their lives when a mud wall collapsed near Hardaul Temple. The incident occurred during Shilving-making activities for Sawan. Rescue operations used JCB machines to clear debris. Rahli MLA Gopal Bhargava oversaw efforts, with four other children injured in the collapse.

CAG flags glaring lapses in issuing driving licences

Hyderabad. Auditors found several irregularities in issuance of driving licences, registration of vehicles and management of driving schools, the recent Comptroller and Auditor General report on revenues for Telangana said. CAG found that renewal of licences is done only when an applicant comes forward for renewal.

In the absence of reports, field/unit offices are unable to monitor the cases where the vehicles are run by drivers without holding a valid licence. Vehicles are also found to be operating with temporary registration and no registration in some cases.

During the period of audit from 2019-20 to 2021-22, the transport department issued 14.4 lakh licences and 22 lakh renewals. Analysis of citizen-friendly services of transport (CFST) department data and scrutiny of relevant files relating to the issue of licences revealed several gaps in data capture/validation controls with respect to the issue or renewal of driving licences.

"The feature for uploading the scanned documents relating to evidence/proof of age, address, medical fitness data, etc., was not inbuilt in CFST. The department replied that evidence in electronic format was being captured only when applications were routed through T-App," CAG report said.

Karnataka: 60% progress in Aadhaar linkage of farm land records

BENGALURU. Karnataka has achieved 60% progress in Aadhaar linkage to RTCs (records of rights, tenancy and crops) of agricultural land parcels in the state, following the establishment of a revenue commissionerate.

The newly established commissionerate covered 2.46 crore land parcels out of a total of 4.05 crore identified for the Aadhaar linkage. However, governor Thaaawar Chand Gehlot has yet to give his consent to the bill that would formally establish the commissionerate.

"The work is in progress as efforts are on to approach the owners of the remaining 1.6 crore land parcels through village accountants. We are aiming to complete the process by August end," said revenue commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

The digitisation of land records is part of the govt's 'Bhu Aadhaar' project, which aims to provide ownership guarantee to landowners and prevent fraudulent land trans actions. The project also enables automated mutation, a process to record the change in land ownership.

If completed, the Aadhar linkage of RTCs enables the authorities at the sub-registrar offices to register the transactions of land with a click of the button. With the registration process being digitised, the property owners would get alerts about the transactions on their mobiles on the lines of bank alerts about their accounts. It will



ensure an automated system of mutation process to record changes to land ownership. The digitisation will prevent fraudulent land transactions and provide the ownership guarantee to landowners under the Bhu Aadhaar project, officials said. "We are holding special drives at the district level with village accountants approaching the leftover landowners. They are getting information and data about pouthee (transfer of title to the rightful heir after the death of the land owner) and podi (division of property among the legal heirs). While Aadhaar

seeding is voluntary, we are encouraging people to make use of the scheme," said Rajendra Kataria, revenue principal secretary. The integrated data made available on the Bhumii portal will also help the govt in identifying beneficiaries of welfare schemes and disbursing money through DBT. However, farmer organisations are sceptical about business interests taking advantage of the drive. "The govt should ensure checks and balances in the system to prevent this," said GC Bayya Reddy, president of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha.

New PG norms make CCTVs mandatory

Bengaluru. The civic body introduced new regulations for paying guest accommodations under Section 305 of BBMP Act, 2020. These guidelines apply to both new and existing establishments.

Under the new regulations, all PG establishments are required to install CCTV cameras at the entrances, exits, and throughout the premises to ensure comprehensive surveillance. Footage from these cameras must be retained for a minimum of 90 days, both in hardware and software backup storage.

The new regulations come in the wake of a recent incident wherein a woman inmate of a PG in Koramangala was stabbed to death by a man, who managed to gain entry into the facility.

Each PG accommodation must provide at least 70sqft of space per resident. The Palike will issue licence based on facilities available and the number of residents permitted within these guidelines. Cleanliness and hygiene are paramount; therefore, the PGs must offer well-maintained bathing and toilet facilities. Additionally, every

establishment must ensure a supply of 135 litres of potable water per head per day. PGs that have their own kitchens are required to obtain a licence from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) within three months of receiving their business licence from BBMP.

For the safety of residents, each PG accommodation must have at least one staff member on duty round the clock. Furthermore, before a commercial licence is granted, PG owners must obtain a fire safety certificate from a competent authority.

All PGs must also have a notice board with BBMP (1533) and police (101) helplines. A first aid kit and proper segregation and management of solid waste are mandatory. Area commissioners are tasked with overseeing compliance and enforcing action against violators.

Khaki goes civic: Road contractors on police radar, safety norms must Nagpur police began enforcing safety measures on Thursday for various city construction projects, including roads, bridges, and flyovers, due to rising fatal accidents.

Amgen set to open new tech centre in Hyderabad by end of year

HYDERABAD. US-based biopharma giant Amgen is setting up its new technology and innovation centre in Hyderabad. The new facility, Amgen India, is slated to become operational in the fourth quarter of this year and will have capacity to accommodate up to 3,000 employees. Amgen said the new tech and innovation centre is aimed at accelerating digital capabilities across the global organisation to advance Amgen's pipeline of medicines. "Amgen will initially build and accelerate new technology solutions and digital capabilities at scale that will enhance efficiencies across the enterprise," the firm said. The site will offer roles that strengthen key areas of Amgen's business, including AI, data



science, life science, and other additional global capabilities over time, it added. The company has appointed Som Chattopadhyay as national executive for India as part of leading Amgen's expanded presence in India. The company said it had zeroed in on Hyderabad, where it has acquired six floors in the RMZ Spire project in Hyderabad's IT district, because of its world-class talent. Chief minister A

Revanth Reddy said Amgen's new site in Hyderabad underscores the city's position as a global hub for innovation and technology. "It is a matter of pride for us to welcome one of the world's largest biotech firms to city. This reinforces our city's position as a global leader," the CM announced on social media platform X.

Amgen's executive vice president David M Reese said: "Establishing this new site in India marks a step forward in our journey to deliver on our mission to serve patients. At a time when a quickly aging global population needs more innovation, the convergence of biotechnology and technology is enabling Amgen to work with greater speed, confidence, and efficiency."

Matter of pride: Protecting Gir's lions is a family affair

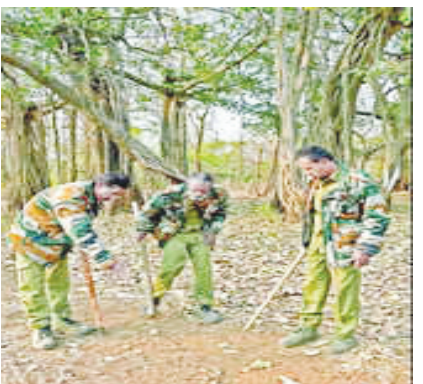
AHMEDABAD. For several decades now, lion conservation in Gir has been an integral part of everyday existence for Baloch and Shaikh families.

They have been playing a pivotal role in conserving the species, a tradition upheld to this day. Hanif Shaikh and Irfan and Rahim Baloch, the third generation of the families deeply rooted in lion conservation, are actively collaborating on the mission with the state forest department.

They inherited the legacy from their fathers, who, in turn, received the responsibility from their predecessors.

Five decades ago, lion tracking used to be a gruelling job involving arduous treks and footprint tracing, recounts retired ranger Murad Baloch. Today, state-of-the-art equipment like bikes, binoculars, and wireless communication systems have streamlined the process. Murad has now passed the baton to his son, Rahim.

Murad recounts how, as a young tracker, he earned Rs 3.50 a day, which was later raised to Rs 7.50 and finally towards his retirement, he was earning Rs 25,500 per month. His father, Vajir Mohammed, was also associated with forest department, and it was he who ignited his passion for lion conservation and tracking. Murad recalls how his father, alongside trackers Dhanji Bhikha and



Laxman, had mastered the silent pursuit and were spoken of with reverence. As a child, he would accompany his father and other trackers. He learned from them how to identify the animal from its pug marks. As part of his job, Murad specialized in descending into wells to rescue wild animals that had fallen in. "I was often lowered into the well to set the rescue trap, which had to be carefully placed beneath the animal such that it suffered no injury. There was no room for an error. Often, one would feel the anxiety, but I never succumbed to it. The only thought in my mind was to save the savaj (lion). The animal would also be in distress and therefore it would never retaliate." Murad recounts an incident

where, while attempting to capture a leopard, he was attacked and had to climb atop a boiler to seek refuge. "I remained silent as the leopard was right near the boiler, searching for me. Had I made the slightest noise, it would have climbed on top of the boiler, and I would not have been here in front of you."

However, my team members who had hidden themselves in the vicinity caused a commotion to distract the leopard, and it darted towards them, giving me an opportunity to escape." Murad claims to have been involved in nearly 3,000 such operations involving big cats. Now, his son Rahim is being mentored by him. Another expert tracker, Mohamad Baloch, is Murad's maternal cousin. As a child, Mohamad too would tag along with his uncle Vajir Baloch (Murad's father) as they explored the jungle, developing a deep affection for the big cats. "I learned tracking from my uncle," he says. Currently, Mohamad is stationed at Barda Dungar, which now serves as a permanent home for the lions.

His son, Irfan Baloch, has also followed in his footsteps. Explaining some common characteristics of lions, he says, "By observing the depth and shape of a pug mark, we trackers can determine whether it belongs to a male lion, female lion, or a leopard."

New PG norms make CCTVs mandatory

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Sardar Sarovar dam is 70% full

Gandhinagar. The Sardar Sarovar dam has been filled to the warning stage of 70% capacity, and 28,468 cusecs of water is being released in downstream areas of the dam, the state govt said on Friday. As a result of heavy rain in catchment areas of the dam, the inflow of water in the dam has reached 3.54 lakh cusecs as of 3pm on Friday, and the water level at the dam site stood at 128.69m an official statement said. The present reservoir capacity stands at 6,622 million cubic metres, the statement said.

Release from dams drops as rain eases in catchment areas Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad faced no water shortage as two days of continuous rain filled seven dams to capacity. On Monday, discharge from Khadakwasla and other dams was reduced to prevent flooding. The water stock in various dams was managed to accommodate future inflows, ensuring sufficient storage for the upcoming year. 112301315

Inflow into Mettur dam decreases The Ellis Saddle surplus water bridge at the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur was closed on Wednesday due to reduced inflow. Originally opened on July 30 for excess water release into the Cauvery River, the bridge closure followed a decrease in inflow from Karnataka. Water levels at the reservoir remained steady at 120 feet with controlled releases for irrigation. 112340610

What is "Chin Tapak Dam Dam"? Why is it trending? The catchphrase 'Chin Tapak Dam Dam' from the cartoon show 'Chhota Bheem' has gone viral on social media. Originating from the character Takia, who uses it during his magical antics, the phrase resurfaced after a fan revisited an episode. Social media users are now creating videos and setting it as ringtones, showcasing its widespread appeal.

HC issues notices to forest dept, rlys

Ahmedabad. Gujarat high court on Friday issued show-cause notices to the state forest and the railway authorities concerned, asking why action should not be taken against them for not complying with the court's directions as they failed to follow the modalities devised by a committee to save Asiatic lions from getting crushed under trains in and around the Gir sanctuary. The bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi sought an explanation from the authorities after amicus curiae in the suo motu PIL, advocate Dharmesh Devnani, submitted a report showing two recent instances of lion deaths in accidents caused by a passenger train near Amreli.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

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

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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

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News box

Curbs on commercial vehicles at Gurgaon-Delhi border ahead of Independence Day

GURGAON. The entry of heavy goods vehicles into Delhi will be restricted from Aug 12 to 15 ahead of Independence Day celebrations. However, passenger vehicles traveling to the airport via NH8, as well as vehicles carrying essential items, will not be affected by these restrictions.

"Heavy goods vehicles will be prohibited from Aug 12, 5pm to Aug 13, noon, and again from Aug 14, 5pm to Aug 15, noon. However, vehicles carrying essential goods such as milk, fruits, vegetables, ambulances, and fire engines heading towards Delhi will not be stopped," said an official.DCP (traffic) Virender Vij said that to enforce these restrictions, the traffic police has set up 15 checkpoints across the city, which will be operational for 24 hours.Around 240 staffers, including 6 traffic inspectors, 36 zonal officers, and other traffic personnel, will be deployed at these checkpoints to ensure smooth traffic flow and compliance with the restrictions.Police officials have appealed to all heavy goods vehicle drivers, owners, and those heading truck and canter unions to cooperate by avoiding the route towards Delhi during the specified timings. "This is a precautionary measure to ensure public safety and security. It will also help us avoid any inconvenience to the general public during the Independence Day celebrations," the DCP said.Vehicles from Gurgaon heading to other districts such as Palwal, Mewat, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Rewari, and Rajasthan will not face any restrictions.

2 arrested a week after road rage on Gurgaon's MG Road

GURGAON. Two cab drivers were arrested on Thursday for ramming their car into a parked hatchback near MG Road metro station on August 3 in a road rage incident.

Based on the complaint of Mritunjay Singh (53) - Delhi-based sales executive - a rash driving and mischief case was registered on August 4, after unknown offenders rammed their Swift Dzire into Singh's Baleno parked in front of a liquor shop on MG Road, following a minor road accident at the nearby metro station.

No one suffered injuries in the incident.

Singh also provided cops with the video of the scuffle and the vehicle registration details of one of the cars used by the accused.

Based on the evidence, Nirmal from Saidalpur and Mukesh from Hisar were arrested from Palam Vihar on Thursday. "We also recovered the Swift Dzire car," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson for Gurgaon police, said. One more accused, involved in the incident, is yet to be arrested and cops are looking for him.

Acid attack threat to catcalls: 2 teens held for harassing girl

Ghaziabad: Two boys, aged 14 and 15 years, were apprehended on Friday for sexually harassing and threatening to throw acid at a 14-year-old girl on her way back from school near Navyug market. They would also make catcalls and harass other girls in the area, police said.The juveniles allegedly work at a garment shop in the market that falls on the way to the girl's school. About 15 minutes from her home, the girl usually walks home from her school alone. The boys would allegedly pass indecent comments as the minor passed by.Her family claimed the minor mustered courage and confronted the two boys on Aug 6 afternoon, but they threatened to disfigure her face with acid if she stepped out of the house again.

"Scared, the girl refused to go to school on Aug 7 morning. A complaint filed by the girl's father states that, unlike other days, she refused to get dressed for school on Wednesday morning. When her mother insisted, she retreated into her room. Later, the girl confided in her mother that the boys were harassing her for over a week," ACP Kotwali Ritesh Tripathi said.Police said a team in civil dress tailed the girl on her way home from school on Aug 7 after a case was registered under the BNS sections 76 (assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to disrobe), 78 (stalking), 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), and relevant sections of the POCSO Act.The girl's father told TOI that as it was Hariyali Teej, the school was over around noon, nearly two hours earlier than usual. "I also accompanied the police team. We were a few steps behind her the whole time. But the boys didn't turn up. So, I took the help of local shopkeepers and checked footage from over 25 CCTV cameras near the spot where the boys usually intercept my daughter. The boys were spotted in some of these clips and my daughter was able to identify them," he said.The complainant also claimed that three girls, who sell kites near the spot, helped him identify the boys' home. "The girls also told me that they would often harass them since their father died a few months back," he said.The two juveniles were apprehended from their home around 10pm on Thursday night. ACP Tripathi told TOI that the boys, both minors, will be produced before a Juvenile Justice Board for further proceedings.

Safety fears in condo after roof ledge caves in & damages cars

GURGAON. A portion of the roof ledge at Oakwood Estate off MG Road collapsed on Thursday evening, causing damage to two cars in the stilt parking area of D Tower. The incident has sparked safety concerns among residents.

No one was near the vehicles at the time but residents were shaken by what could have been a major accident. The society was undergoing repair work when the incident occurred. Oakwood Estate Condominium Association, which is carrying out maintenance of the society, is being accused of substandard workmanship.

Amit Puri, whose car was among those damaged, criticised the association for mismanagement. "For the last one and a half years, repair work has been going on, but it has been done carelessly without following proper procedures. On Thursday evening, a slab was repaired, but after showers, it collapsed. I had



parked my car 10 minutes before the incident. A guard called to inform me about it. A child was standing there moments before the collapse," Puri said.

The association has denied any wrongdoing and insisted that they have raised concerns about the building's structural integrity with the developer.Vipin Yadav, president of association, said, "The society is nearly two decades old and repair work is almost over. The incident occurred in an area where no repair work was being carried

out. The cantilever slab reinforcement steel bar, which was to support the concrete, was missing. We have written to the builder asking it to conduct a proper check as we suspect similar flaws may exist in other ledges as well. Their team has visited the society and acknowledged the issue of missing reinforcement steel bars since the construction of the society. This is a construction fault, there is no lack of maintenance on the part of the association. We have also called a meeting of the association on Sunday." Oakwood Estate was handed over to the association by the builder around 17 years ago. Police arrived at the scene after incident, but no case was filed as the offence was deemed non-cognisable.DTP (enforcement) Manish Yadav said, "No complaint has been received. We will conduct checks and actions will be taken as per the rules."

Mercury goes up in Gurgaon, but heavy showers are likely on the weekend

GURGAON. The city is in for a wet weekend as the Met department has predicted showers and issued a yellow alert to look out for heavy rain over the next two days.On Friday, residents and commuters braved drizzle and short bursts of intense rainfall. The weather observatory recorded 19.5mm of rain by 8.30am, and an additional 1.5mm by the evening. There was another spell of intense rain around 7pm.Though most of the day was overcast, maximum temperature rose slightly from Thursday's 31.6 degrees Celsius to 32.8 degrees Celsius. It was still a notch below the season's normal. The city's minimum temperature was 26.4 degrees Celsius, close to the season's average, and a marginal increase from Thursday's 26 degrees Celsius.According to India Meteorological Department, heavy rain is likely over the weekend, potentially leading to waterlogging and traffic jams, especially in low-lying areas of Gurgaon.

"Monsoon will remain active over Haryana, including Gurgaon, for the next few days



with fairly widespread rainfall. There is a possibility of heavy rains in isolated pockets of southern Haryana in the next two days," an IMD official said on Friday.Narayan Agrawal, who lives in Sector 17C, said he dreads monsoon because waterlogging is an annual problem in the city."During rain, there's really no option but to stay at home. If you do dare to step outside, reaching your destination becomes a task with all the traffic congestion. Just two weeks ago, there was a massive jam after heavy rainfall, and I got stuck in traffic for more

than 30 minutes," he said.For Saturday, temperatures are expected to be in the range of 26-33 degrees Celsius.The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) remained in the satisfactory category, with a reading of 88, slightly higher than Thursday's 81. Several parts of Delhi saw intense rain accompanied by strong winds on Friday evening.The rain is likely to continue over the weekend. India Meteorological Department has sounded a 'yellow' alert (be aware).The maximum rainfall was logged at SPS Mayur at 66mm. This was between 8.30am and 8.30pm. Of the total rainfall logged here, 37.5mm was from 2.30pm to 5.30pm and 28 mm between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.Between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Safdarjung logged 3.4mm. Delhi University got 11.5mm, Ridge 11.3mm, and Lodhi Road 8.6mm till 5.30pm.

Later, the evening showers drove the total rainfall up - Safdarjung recorded 17.4mm, Palam 30.1mm and Najafgarh 39mm till 8.30pm on Friday.

No buses from Delhi side on Noida expressway in evening rush hours

NOIDA. Buses will not be allowed on the Noida expressway carriageway leading to Pari Chowk for two hours during evening rush hours, when office traffic merging on the speedway turns it into a bottleneck. The restrictions, police said, will be in place between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Vehicles will, however, continue to ply as usual on the other carriageway leading to Delhi.

Officials said the decision was taken during a meeting with representatives of bus associations on Friday.The expressway becomes a nightmare for commuters during office hours in the evening, when traffic from Mayur Vihar on DND Flyway merges with vehicles taking the expressway from various points in Noida. The situation is particularly worse in the evening, when vehicles move at a snail's

pace.Yamuna Prasad, DCP (traffic), said the restrictions were only for buses as trucks were anyway not allowed on city roads from 7am to 11am and 5pm to 10pm. "Most people travelling on the expressway at this time are those returning home from offices in Delhi. The expressway has multiple entry points. Traffic from ITO, Akshardham and Mayur Vihar enters Noida through Noida Gate. Vehicles from Udyog Marg take the speedway from Sector 15. Those coming from Film City and DND Flyway also merge with the expressway traffic. So, this heavy volume of vehicles leads to congestion every evening," he added.Prasad said the decision to stop buses for two hours was taken because the heavy vehicles were found to be a significant contributor to

snarls"Bus associations have been told not to ply their vehicles for these two hours. These buses, which are mostly headed for Agra, Mathura and other parts of western UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, will be stopped on DND Flyway near Mayur Vihar in Delhi. They can access the Noida expressway only after 8.30pm," he added. Bus owners, however, raised questions about the move, pointing out that their vehicles ferried 40-50 people at a time, taking significant load off the passenger traffic."We attended the meeting with traffic cops and officials of the transport department and were told not to ply our buses between 6.30 and 8.30 every evening. We have little option but to follow the orders. Else, our buses will be impounded.

Cos flouting bidding rules to grab MCM projects': Contractor goes to ULB department

GURGAON. A private contractor on Thursday complained to the urban local bodies (ULD) department, alleging that three agencies that have sought to get municipal projects in Manesar are owned by members of a single family.The contractor urged for an investigation and said that relatives participating in bids violated tender conditions.One of the three agencies named in the complaint is already engaged in carrying out manual sweeping and bush uprooting in Manesar. The other two submitted applications for the door-to-door waste collection and processing tender.

One of them is the same agency - Patheya - which allegedly submitted fake documents to show that it had transported refuse-derived fuel from the city to cement industries in Madhya Pradesh.TOI reported on June 25 that the two cement industries told MCG that they hadn't received any RDF from Patheya, indicating that the waste byproduct would have been disposed of illegally.According to the contractor's complaint, Patheya's management is linked to that of Aakanksha Enterprises, and Ayushi Hygiene and Care. All three firms are based in Mahavir Vihar in Delhi's Dwarka.Patheya was also among the firms that participated in MCM's tender for doorstep waste collection in Manesar in July. Its owner Sheeshpal Rana did not



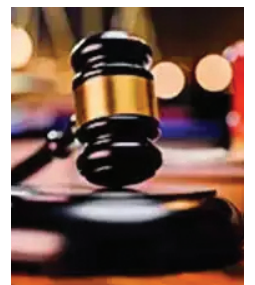
respond to requests for comment till Friday evening."The agencies participate in tenders together to get an unfair advantage over others. They have identical addresses, and all the board members or NGO partners will be either family members or relatives. Even as per the tender clauses, this is not allowed," the complaint to ULB department and MCM commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg said.

ULB department's director Yash Pal Yadav did not respond to calls and messages for comment.Garg said he has not been notified about any complaint."Nevertheless, should a complaint be filed, it will undergo a thorough review process. The complaint's validity and substance will be carefully assessed. The merits of the complaint will be the sole determining factor in its evaluation," the MCM commissioner said.

Man handed 20 year RI for raping, trying to kill girl in PanipatA

GURGAON. A man accused of raping an eight-year-old girl and attempting to kill her has been awarded 20 years of rigorous imprisonment by a fast-track court under the Pco Act in Panipat.

Statements of the girl and her father, along with the medical report and DNA evidence, helped the prosecution nail the accused.On Oct 29, 2022, some villagers found the minor naked and wrapped in her torn, blood-stained clothes near a pond in their village. They took her home and informed her father about the incident when he returned home from the workplace around 4 pm.The minor said the accused, Rajesh alias Dela, had picked her up while she was playing at home, tied her mouth, and took her to an isolated area near a pond where he raped and tried to kill her.A case was registered under Section 6 of the Pco Act and sections 376 (3) and 307 of the IPC.On October 30, Dela was arrested, and Section 3 of the SC & ST Act was added to the case.In his statement to the police, the accused said after his wife died in 2020, he would try to force himself on any woman or girl he found alone. The accused also confessed to raping the minor's elder sister in 2019. He had let her go when she raised the alarm and threatening to kill her if she had divulged it to anyone.Public prosecutor Kuldeep Dhull said the girl identified the accused who had abducted her while she was playing. She said the accused tried to strangle her with her dupatta before throwing her into bushes.Additional sessions judge of the fast track court (Pco) Sukhpreet Singh, in his order on Aug 8, observed that "a close analysis of the facts and circumstances of the case, along with the available evidence, unequivocally establishes the accused as the perpetrator of the sexual assault."The court imposed a fine of Rs 95,000, which would be given to the girl as compensation. In addition to this, the court also directed the DLSA to award compensation of Rs 2 lakh.



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One dies, three injured in hit & run on NH-8

GURGAON. A 23-year-old private company employee died, while his three friends suffered injuries when their car overturned after an unidentified vehicle rammed into it on NH8 on Thursday night.All victims - Gaurav, Akshat, Tushar and Pankaj - are from Rewari. They were returning home from the city when the accident occurred.Around 2.30am on Thursday, when they reached Pachgaon at KMP flyover, a vehicle rammed into Honda Amaze that Tushar was driving."When we reached near KMP flyover, a vehicle hit the car from behind. Due to the impact, our car went out of control and hit the divider before turning over on the other side of NH-8. Airbags in the car opened after the collision. Other motorists pulled us out of the car and took us to hospitals," Gaurav told police.While Gaurav, Tushar, and Akshat were shifted to Silver Streak hospital in Sector 87, Pankaj was taken to govt hospital in Rewari. "While undergoing treatment at the Silver Streak hospital, Akshat succumbed to injuries on Thursday morning. Others suffered minor injuries and are out of danger," Bilaspur SI Satpal Chahar said.Akshat, cops said, used to work with his father in the family business. His body was handed over to his family after the autopsy on Thursday.Based on Gaurav's complaint, case under BNS sections 106 (causing death due to negligent act), 281 (rash driving on public way), and 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) was registered on Thursday night. "There was no CCTV camera at the spot. We are verifying footage from nearby areas to identify the accused," the SI said.

News box

Over 100 dead in Israeli strike at Gaza school housing displaced people

World Over 100 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in an Israeli strike that targeted a school housing displaced people in eastern Gaza, Reuters reported, citing official Palestinian news agency Wafa on Saturday. The strike occurred as people were performing prayers, according to the Hamas-run Gaza government media office.

"The Israeli strikes targeted the displaced people while performing Fajr (dawn) prayers, a matter that led to a rapid increase in the number of casualties," the office said in a statement. In a statement, the Israeli army said its air forces "struck command and control centre that served as a hideout for Hamas terrorists and commanders". "The IAF (Israeli Air Force) precisely struck Hamas terrorists operating within a Hamas command and control centre embedded in the Al-Taba'een school and located adjacent to a mosque in Daraj Tuffah, which serves as a shelter for the residents of Gaza City," it said. "Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions, aerial surveillance, and intelligence information," it added.

The fresh strikes came after four schools across Gaza were attacked in the previous week. On August 4, two schools serving as shelters for displaced people in Gaza City were hit by an Israeli strike, killing 30 and injuring several others. The previous day, an Israeli strike on Hamama School in Gaza City killed 17.

Gaza civil defence says death toll from Israel strike on school between 90 to 100

World Gaza's civil defence agency said Saturday the death toll from an Israeli strike on a school in Gaza City has risen to between 90 and 100.

"The death toll is now between 90 to 100 and there are dozens more wounded. Three Israeli rockets hit the school that was housing displaced Palestinians," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. Gaza's government media office said there were "more than 100 martyrs" in the strike. The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas "command and control centre" that was "embedded" in Al-Tabi'een school in the Daraj neighbourhood.

"Numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions, aerial surveillance, and intelligence information," a statement said. The Islamic Jihad Palestinian military group said that the strike took place "during the dawn prayer". Ismail Al-Thawabta, director general of the Gaza government media office, told AFP that the strike "resulted in more than 100 martyrs and dozens of injuries, most of which are in severe and critical condition". Gaza government media sources said the school was housing about 250 women and children, about half of them women and children.

Plane carrying 62 people crashes in fiery wreck in Brazil's Sao Paulo state, no survivors

World A plane carrying 58 passengers and four crew crashed Friday in Brazil's Sao Paulo state, killing everyone on board, local officials said.

The aircraft, a French-made ATR 72-500 operated by the airline Voepass, was travelling from Cascavel in southern Parana State to Sao Paulo's Guarulhos international airport when it crashed in the city of Vinhedo.

Brazilian television network GloboNews showed footage of a large area on fire and smoke coming out of an apparent plane fuselage in a residential area full of houses. Additional footage on GloboNews showed a plane drifting downward vertically, spiralling as it fell. "There were no survivors," the city government in Valinhos, which was involved in the rescue and recovery operation in nearby Vinhedo, said in an email sent to AFP.

A video The Associated Press obtained from a bystander and verified shows at least two bodies strewn about flaming pieces of wreckage. In a statement, Voepass reported "an accident involving flight 2283."

"There is still no confirmation of how the accident occurred," it said. The city of Vinhedo, with about 76,000 residents, is located approximately 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo. At an event in southern Brazil, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked the crowd to stand and observe a minute of silence as he shared the news. He said that it appeared that all passengers and crew aboard had died, without elaborating as to how that information had been obtained.

Sao Paulo's fire department wrote on social network X: "Aircraft crash, 7 teams involved, so far only this information." Nathalie Cicari, who lives near the crash site, told CNN Brazil the impact was "terrifying." "I was having lunch when I heard a very loud noise very close by," she said, describing the sound as drone-like but "much louder." "I went out on the balcony and saw the plane spinning. Within seconds, I realised that it was not a normal movement for a plane."

Bozeman, Montana. Former President Donald Trump headed to Montana for a Friday night rally in hopes of ousting the state's Democratic senator, but his plane first had to divert to an airport on the other side of the Rocky Mountains because of a mechanical issue, according to airport staff. Trump's plane was en route to Bozeman, Montana, when it was diverted Friday afternoon to Billings, 228 kilometres to the east, according to Jenny Mockel, administrative assistant at Billings Logan International Airport. The former president continued to Bozeman via private jet. The former president came to Montana hoping to remedy some unfinished business from 2018, when he campaigned repeatedly in Big Sky Country in a failed bid to oust incumbent Democratic Senator Jon Tester. Tester has tried to convince voters he's aligned with Trump on many issues, mirroring his successful strategy from six years ago. While that worked in a non-presidential election year, it faces a more critical test this fall with Tester's opponent, former Navy SEAL Tim Sheehy, trying to link the three-term incumbent to Democratic presidential

candidate Kamala Harris. Trump kicked off his rally about 90 minutes behind schedule and immediately began lacing into Tester. "We are going to defeat radical left Democrat Jon Tester, he's terrible," Trump said. "We're going to evict crazy Kamala," he continued, workshoping a nickname on his new rival. Harris has benefitted nationally from a burst of enthusiasm among core Democratic constituencies, who coalesced quickly around her after President Joe Biden withdrew from the campaign last month. She's drawn big crowds in swing states, touring this week with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, her choice to be her vice presidential nominee. Trump's only rally this week, meanwhile, will be in a state he won by 16 percentage points four years ago rather than a November battleground. Facing new pressure in the race from a candidate with surging enthusiasm, Trump on Thursday called questions about his lack of swing state stops "stupid." "I don't have to go there because I'm leading those states," he said. "I'm going because I want to help senators and congressmen get elected." He will add on fundraising stops in Wyoming and



Colorado. Trump could be decisive in Montana's Senate race Friday's rally at Montana State University, which is scheduled to start at 8 pm Mountain time, is expected to draw thousands of GOP supporters. Yet the former president's bigger impact could be simply having his name above Sheehy's on the ballot in November, said University of Montana political analyst Rob Saldin. "There is a segment of the electorate that will turn out when Trump is on the ticket," Saldin said. And that could benefit Sheehy, a Trump supporter and newcomer to politics who made a fortune off

an aerial firefighting business. Republicans have been on a roll in Montana for more than a decade and now hold every statewide office except for Tester's. Tester won each of his previous Senate contests by a narrow margin, casting himself as a plainspoken farmer who builds personal connections with people in Montana and is willing to break with his party on issues that matter to them. He's also become a prolific fundraiser. The race has drawn national attention with Democrats clinging to a razor-thin majority in the Senate and defending far more seats than the GOP this year. Tester is considered among the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents. For him to win, large numbers of Trump supporters would have to vote a split ticket and get behind the Democratic senator. Trump's drive to oust Tester traces back to the lawmaker's work in 2018 as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Tester revealed past misconduct by Trump's personal physician, Ronny Jackson, that sank Jackson's nomination to lead the Veterans Affairs Department

'Who are we Bengalis': Hundreds hit Bangladesh streets over attacks on Hindus

World Hundreds of Bangladeshi Hindus hit the streets of Dhaka to protest against a spate of targeted attacks against them and vandalism of temples following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government this week amid vociferous student protests. Videos on social media showed hundreds of people carrying posters demanding minorities be "saved" as slogans of "Who are we? Bengali, Bengali" rend the air. The protesters appealed for peace as they blocked an intersection in the capital on Friday amid chants of 'Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna'. Hasina's Awami League posted videos of the protests on X, saying, "Bangladesh Hindus have taken to the streets in Shahbagh, Dhaka, to protest the attacks on their person, properties, and places of worship since August 5". Widespread looting of houses of Hindus, who make up about 8 per cent of the country's population, and targeting of temples have been reported in Bangladesh after Hasina fled to India following weeks



of protests over a controversial quota system in government jobs. Over 230 people have died since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5. Amid the violence, a school teacher and two Hindu councillors were killed and at least 45 people injured, Reuters reported. An ISKCON temple in Meherpur, located in Bangladesh's Khulna division, was also vandalised and set on fire. Hundreds of Bangladeshi Hindus have attempted to enter India by crossing the land border. India shares a nearly 4,096 km long land and riverine border with Bangladesh. The

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has claimed that at least 52 of the country's 64 districts have been impacted by communal violence. The council has appealed to Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, who took charge as head of an interim government on Thursday, to ensure the protection and well-being of minorities. "There is deep apprehension, anxiety and uncertainty among minorities across the country," the council said in an open letter on Friday. In his first address to the nation on Thursday, Yunus warned that those spreading anarchy would face the full force of law enforcement agencies.

The Indian government said the situation concerning the minorities was worrying and asserted that it was monitoring the situation. The MEA, in its weekly briefing on Thursday, emphasised that various initiatives have been taken by groups and organisations in Bangladesh to ensure the protection of minorities.

For freed Russian opposition activist Ilya Yashin, resuming work against Putin is his priority

BERLIN: All Russian opposition politician Ilya Yashin had with him when he was released from his penal colony in a swap was his toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste, his expired passport and the prison garb he was wearing.

But he has hit the ground running.

Within days of arriving in Germany, Yashin not only bought new clothes, set up a smartphone and reunited with his parents, but also held a news conference, fielded questions from his supporters live on YouTube and held a rally in a Berlin park — even if it meant he didn't have time to catch up on sleep. The 41-year-old

dissident, released last week in the historic East-West prisoner exchange, admits he doesn't quite know how to be a politician in exile, a role that was forced upon him against his wishes. But in an interview Friday in Berlin with The Associated Press, he said he wanted to continue campaigning against Russia's war in Ukraine, trying to free more political prisoners and advance projects to unite the country's fragmented opposition. "There is a lot of work," said Yashin, visibly tired from his tight schedule. A vocal and outspoken critic of President Vladimir Putin, Yashin was

convicted of spreading false information about the Russian military after he made remarks on YouTube about hundreds of corpses found in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha after Russian forces withdrew from the area in March 2022, some bound and shot at close. He was serving 8 1/2 years in prison when on Aug. 1, Russian authorities put him on a plane to Turkey in the exchange. It wasn't something he wanted or sought, Yashin stressed at a news conference after arriving to Germany along with other Russian dissidents. In fact, he had said at one point that he would.

Kamala Harris's daily campaign blitz in battleground states, Trump takes it easy

Donald Trump has held just five rallies since the Republican National Convention concluded in mid-July, which is one fewer than Kamala Harris is staging this week alone.

Phoenix, United States, An 18-year-old Iraqi national was detained in Vienna in connection with investigations into an alleged plot to attack a Taylor Swift concert in the Austrian capital, Austria's interior minister said on Friday. The Iraqi comes from the same circle as the main suspect, a 19-year-old Austrian with North Macedonian roots, Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said. The Iraqi suspect swore allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) terror group on August 6, but it remains unclear whether he had a direct link to the planned attack, Karner said. More suspects will be questioned and properties searched as investigators continue to look into the plot, he added. The main suspect, who had also vowed loyalty to IS, was planning a lethal assault amongst the estimated 20,000 "Swiftie" fans set to gather outside Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium, prompting the cancellation of all three shows due to security concerns. The 19-year-old, who quit his job less



than two weeks before the planned attack, saying he "had big plans", has made a full confession in custody, according to authorities. Two other Austrians aged 17 and 15 were detained on Wednesday over the alleged plot. The 17-year-old, who had been given a job with a company that was providing services at the

stadium, has so far refused to give evidence, according to Karner. The boy, who also appears to have been radicalised, was already known to authorities. The 15-year-old continues to be questioned intensively by police, Karner added. Austrian authorities are reported to have received information about the Swift concert threat from US intelligence, as Austrian law does not allow the monitoring of instant messaging apps, which the suspects had used to communicate. "Cooperation with foreign partners and services is essential and reciprocal. This made it possible to prevent a tragedy in Vienna," Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said. Swift, whose next scheduled performance is in London next week, has not commented on the concert cancellations. British police have said there is nothing to indicate that the Vienna plot would have any effect on the London show.

Israeli troops launch a new assault into Gaza's Khan Younis as mediators push for cease-fire talks

DEIRAL-BALAH, Gaza Strip. Israeli troops launched a new assault Friday into the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, targeting Hamas fighters who the military claims still operate there despite repeated offensives, as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for Israel and Hamas to reach a cease-fire deal.

Israeli evacuation orders triggered yet another exodus of Palestinians from the heavily destroyed eastern districts of Khan Younis, where many had just returned less than two weeks ago — after the Israeli military's last incursion into the city in July. A wave of Israeli airstrikes in the southern city Friday killed at least 21 Palestinians, medics at the city's Nasser Hospital said. Israeli bombardment also continued to pound central Gaza on Friday, with the bodies of eight Palestinians — all women and children — arriving at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital from a barrage of airstrikes that hit the town

of Deir l-Blah and Nuseirat refugee camp. With tensions running high along the Israel-Lebanon border, an Israeli drone strike on Friday crashed into an SUV in the Lebanese city of Sidon, killing a Hamas official identified as Samer al-Haj on the main road to the southern port city, Lebanon's state media reported. The explosion engulfed al-Haj's car in flames just outside the sprawling Palestinian refugee camp of Ein al-Hilweh, where Lebanese media reported that he oversaw security matters. Israel confirmed it targeted al-Haj, describing him as a senior Hamas commander and accusing him of recruiting militants to attack Israel as well as directing rocket launches. In the Gaza Strip, one of the airstrikes in Khan Younis hit the home of the Abu Moamar family, killing a Palestine TV journalist, his wife and three daughters.

Another strike smashed into tents housing displaced people in Mawasi, a coastal



community just west of Khan Younis that the Israeli military has designated as a humanitarian zone, killing a journalist for the Hamas-run Al Aqsa TV channel and five others. A third airstrike targeted a car in Khan Younis. Thousands had fled the city Thursday, carrying essentials like small gas cylinders, mattresses, tents, backpacks and blankets. It's at least the third time that Israeli forces have launched a major incursion into Khan Younis, where Israeli and American

officials have said they believe Yahya Sinwar, Hamas' newly named top leader and one of the architects of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, could be hiding. Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, pledged allegiance to Sinwar as its new leader and promised to carry out his decisions. Haniyeh's swift replacement "shows that Hamas is coherent and strong," said Abu Obaida, the group's chief spokesperson. The Israeli military said Friday its warplanes struck 30 Hamas targets in the city, including fighters and weapons storage sites. It said troops were searching for Hamas tunnels and other infrastructure while fighting "above and below ground." "war in Gaza, the mediators' push aims to resume indirect negotiations for a cease-fire that have been on hold since Sinwar's predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated in a presumed Israeli blast in Tehran on July 31.

News box

16-year-old girl drowns in backwaters near Nettoor

KOCHI. A 16-year-old girl drowned in the backwaters near Nettoor on Friday. The body of Fida M P was found in the evening after around 12 hours of search by the scuba divers of the fire and rescue services department, NDRF team, and fishermen.

Fida and her mother, Mumthas, of Chaliyar in Malappuram district, were staying at a rented house in Nettoor as Mumthas is employed with a private firm in Kochi.

She fell into the water around 6.30am when the duo went to dump waste behind their house, near a football ground close to the backwaters. Mumthas, who was witness to her daughter being swept away by the current, alerted other people.

Soon a fire and rescue services team arrived at the site and launched a search. Two batches of scuba divers from Ernakulam and Fort Kochi fire stations too reached the place by 7am. They were joined by the NDRF team and local fishermen in the search operation.

“We searched the entire stretch of the lake. Our scuba divers carried out underwater search as well. We were about to conclude the search operation for the day because of poor light when fishermen found the body caught in a fishing net spread near the eastern bank. Though it was not a deep part of the backwater, the undercurrent was strong due to the tidal effect. She was possibly swept away by the strong undercurrents,” a fire force officer said.

The body was shifted to the Ernakulam General Hospital. The Panangad police, based on the statement of Fida’s mother, have registered a case. Fida was a Plus One student of a government school in Panangad. The body will be handed over to her relatives after a postmortem examination on Saturday. The search operation was led by Fire Force Ernakulam Assistant Station Officer G Suresh Kumar.

6 held, 30L stolen booty recovered

Hyderabad. The Suryapet district police have arrested six individuals, including an engineering student, for their involvement in a series of property crimes across the district. The police have recovered stolen property valued at 30 lakh from the suspects, who were linked to crimes in Munagala, Huzurnagar, and Chivvemla.

According to Sunpreet Singh, SP of Suryapet, the recovered items include 34.5 tolas of gold, 10 tolas of silver, three motorcycles used in the crimes, and the mobile phones of the accused.

One of the suspects, Kotte Suresh from Mellacheruvu, was addicted to online gaming and betting. To recover his losses, he turned to crime. Suresh was apprehended during a vehicle check on Thursday. He has been implicated in five theft cases, with 13.4 tolas of gold.At Munagala, R Soma and P Dharmateja were arrested, and 16 tolas of gold was recovered from them. In Chivvemla, Anthani Yalamanda, Valloju Sathish, and Dakuri Upender were arrested in nine cases. TNN

Chittoor police recover 330 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 70 lakhIn a special drive, the Chittoor district police wing recovered about 330 stolen or lost mobile phones worth approximately Rs.70 lakh. This effort is part of a larger initiative where 2030 phones worth Rs.4.3 crore were recovered so far. The recovered phones were handed over to their owners during a special event.

City likely to get light showers

Ahmedabad. The city on Friday recorded 12mm of rainfall till 8pm, most of it between 4pm and 6pm. The city has so far received 52% of its average seasonal rainfall. According to the IMD, the city may receive light to moderate showers on Saturday.

The forecast showed the presence of a trough and a cyclonic circulation over Rajasthan. The system may lead to heavy rain in north Gujarat, including Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Aravalli and Mahisagar. After Saturday, the chances of heavy rain are slim.

IMD predicts light to moderate rainfall likely to continue in Himachal PradeshThe India Meteorological Department forecasted continued light to moderate rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, with an orange alert issued. Shimla is experiencing heavy rainfall, disrupting daily life. Landslides and rain have closed 85 roads and disrupted electricity and water supply schemes. Authorities have advised caution as weather conditions remain adverse.

North-South divide in rain pattern as city gets sharp shower spellsA cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and Bangladesh triggered heavy rain in Kolkata, particularly inundating areas near Dum Dum airport and Haldiram on VIP Road. Rain intensity varied sharply across the city due to thunderstorm activity, affecting traffic and causing waterlogging. The Met office expects similar showers in the coming days, with heavier rain predicted from Saturday.

Chennai rain: This area on the outskirts has received 9cm of rainfallChennai experienced a return of thunderstorms after dry days, receiving intense rain starting Sunday night and extending into early Monday.

Organisers clear Rs 1.5-crore dues, but Aspinwall not to be Kochi Biennale venue anymore

Biennale has served as a big event that is keenly awaited by the art world besides boosting the local economy in terms of the hospitality and the home-stay industry in Fort Kochi and the nearby locations.

KOCHI. The Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF) has cleared its dues amounting to Rs 1.50 crore to Delhi property developer DLF Ltd., which owns the Aspinwall House – the main venue of all the five editions of Kochi-Muziris Biennale. It is touted as the country’s largest contemporary art exhibition attracting visitors from far and wide.

Yet, the iconic waterfront property in Fort Kochi may not be the venue for another Biennale amid reports that the organisers are looking for other state government properties in Fort Kochi, Mattancherry and Willingdon Island for the sixth edition, which has been postponed to December 2025. A clear indication of a new venue hosting the next Biennale came after the state government built a wall on the Aspinwall’s property, separating its 1.29



acres from the DLF’s 2.44 acres. The total Aspinwall land comes to 3.73 acres which served as the main venue of the Biennale. “We are looking for alternative venues as Aspinwall House property will be taken over by the Coast Guard. Our information is that the Union government has sold the

property to the Coast Guard,” said a source with the KBF.

According to the source, all the pending dues were transferred to the DLF’s account in the last two days. “We used our sponsors’ money to clear the dues,” said the source. DLF charges Rs 25 lakh rent for one month, and though the show runs only through four months, the organisers need one month before the event to set up their art installations, and one month after the show to remove the installations from the venue.

In a letter to Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden, Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal said the Aspinwall property is located close to its premises in Fort Kochi, and acquiring it will give “immense strategic advantage” for the Coast Guard. “It will go a long way to facilitate quick

operational/logistics/manpower augmentation for maritime and coastal security of the nation in general and Kerala in particular,” said the letter.

When contacted, the DLF spokesperson said no final decision has been taken to date but confirmed that the company was in talks with several prospective buyers. “We are in talks with multiple prospective buyers. Once we arrive at a reportable development, we will disclose it in compliance to our obligation,” she said.

Bony Thomas, nodal officer, Cochin Heritage Zone Conservation Society, said the Aspinwall House property was lying unused and in a dilapidated state till 2012 when the Kochi Biennale Foundation took it as the venue of the Biennale. “The property was made world-famous, especially in the global art world, through the Biennale.

4,293 works for tribal welfare launched

Gandhinagar. On the occasion of World Tribal Day, chief minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday inaugurated or laid foundation stones for 4,293 projects worth Rs 1,014 crore. The state-level function to mark the day was held at Navi Metra in Sabarkantha district.

“The state govt is committed to ensuring that tribal communities from Ambaji to Umargam receive basic amenities such as water, healthcare, education and employment,” said the CM, at the function. He added that ongoing schemes like Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana, forest rights act, Samras hostels and integrated dairy development are being implemented for the welfare of the tribal communities.

An official statement said that the CM laid foundation stones of 2,240 projects worth Rs 411.37 crore and inaugurated 2,053 projects worth Rs 602.78 crore at the function.

In addition, individual benefits worth Rs 46.82 crore were distributed to beneficiaries under schemes of various departments, the statement added. International Day for World’s Indigenous Peoples, also known as World Tribal Day, is observed every year on Aug 9 to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population.

Cabinet clears 8 rail projects in 7 states worth Rs 24.6k croreThe Cabinet committee on economic affairs approved eight new rail projects across seven states, including Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Costing Rs 24,657 crore, these projects aim to enhance connectivity, reduce



logistical costs, and cut carbon footprint. Expected to complete by 2030-31, they will cover 900 km, adding 64 new stations, and benefit around 40 lakh people.1

8 high-speed corridor projects worth 50,000 crore get cabinet clearanceThe cabinet approved eight major national high-speed road corridor projects spanning 936 km with investment of Rs 50,655 crore. The projects across nine states aim to improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance connectivity, generating 4.4 crore mandays of employment. PM Modi

highlighted the economic and employment benefits, while the projects are set to cut distances and travel times significantly. Gujarat: Two tribals lynched near Statue of UnityTwo tribal men were beaten to death by six workers at a construction site near the Statue of Unity in Gujarat’s Narmada district, under suspicion of theft. The deceased, Jayesh Tadvai and Sanjay Tadvai, were allegedly found trying to steal metal scrap. The accused have been arrested and booked for murder.

Thiruvananthapuram: To tackle legacy waste, corporation sets up New Refuse Derived Fuel plant

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a bid to tackle the growing menace of legacy waste, the city corporation has set up the first-ever Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plant at Sanmathi Park near Chalai Market in the state capital. At a function held here on Friday, Local Self-Government Minister M B Rajesh officially inaugurated the plant, which uses pyrolysis technology to convert unsegregated waste into fuel.

The civic body has procured two RDF plants for the state capital on an experimental basis under Smart City Mission.Both the plants cost around Rs 2.6 crore and are expected to manage the excess unsegregated waste generated in the capital. The plant

is capable of treating one tonne of legacy waste daily and operates using pyrolysis technology to convert waste into “bluff” fuel that can be used for industrial purposes like in cement factories.Approximately 40 kg of legacy waste can be treated at a time using the plant. It operates using pyrolysis technology, allowing for the deposition of 40 kilograms of legacy waste at a time and within just 15 minutes, this waste undergoes the pyrolysis process.

According to officials, the plant doesn’t produce any emissions and doesn’t contribute to air pollution. “The second plant will become operational at Chenthittha. Electrical works are already

ongoing at the installation site and there was a delay because of a plan to give the RDF plant to disaster-hit Wayanad. But the requirement didn’t come up and hence we are going ahead with the installation,” an official said.

Since the launch of Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam, the campaign that aims at transforming Kerala into a garbage-free state, the Corporation had launched a door-to-door collection of non-biodegradable waste.

An official said that the civic body is promoting source-level waste management and RDF plants are being installed strictly for disposing of excess unsegregated waste.



Traffic woes spill over after rain lashes Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR. Vehicular movement was badly affected in parts of the capital city, especially on Cuttack-Puri Road, due to rains on Friday evening.

Commuters using the Cuttack-Puri Road found themselves stuck in a massive congestion as traffic moved at a snail’s pace on the route.

A two-wheeler rider said he was stuck on Bomikhal flyover for over 30 minutes. “On days when it rains, I take Bomikhal flyover and travel towards Saheed Nagar. But today’s traffic was in utter disarray. After the rain stopped, the situation was no different on Janpath and between Station Square and Vani Vihar,” he said.

Car drivers were the worst affected as it took them over two hours to reach Rasulgarh Square from Bomikhal via Cuttack-Puri Road. Initially, the vehicular movement came to a standstill because of waterlogging near Bomikhal. The traffic situation

aggravated further as motorists taking cover under a flyover on National Highway-16 at Rasulgarh Square, made a rush after the rain stopped.

“I arrived from Puri in my car and travelled on Cuttack-Puri Road to reach Rasulgarh Square. However, I was stuck in the traffic jam in Bomikhal area for over two hours between 6 pm and 8 pm,” said a resident.

Traffic police said vehicular movement was hit due to waterlogging on Cuttack-Puri Road. “Apart from waterlogging, motorists who commenced their journey after the rain stopped and the people visiting a mall near Rasulgarh Square triggered a massive jam on Cuttack-Puri Road. Traffic personnel were sent to the spot to bring the situation under control,” said a police officer.

On Friday evening, traffic snarls were also reported in other areas of the city like Acharya Vihar and Chandrasekharpur.

Despite anger & alienation, newfound hope in J&K

THE pledge by Sheikh Abdullah at Srinagar's Lal Chowk on the accession to India of the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir had the words of the great Indian poet Amir Khusrau: "Mun tu shudam tu mun shudi; mun tun shudam tu jaan shudi." (I have become you, and you me. I, the body. You, the soul.) But today, we have to ask ourselves the questions that Abdullah had posed on the eve of the 1975 Indira-Sheikh Accord: "Do you honestly feel that the foundations of democracy and secularism are more stable than before? Can you honestly dare say that the shackles of distrust between Kashmiris and India are broken? Have the people here (Kashmir) got the clean administration which they have long yearned for? Were they freed from the morass of unemployment and poverty?" This was a Kashmir-centric questionnaire, but reading down Article 370 of the Constitution, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had promised in the Rajya Sabha debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, an end to corruption in all of J&K, including Ladakh. "In fact," wrote Raja Muzaffar Bhatt, a Kashmiri campaigner for civil rights, within a year: "It often appears that misgovernance, nepotism and corruption have become the rule of law in government offices during the last one year." Now, he tells me the situation is even worse. The Forum for Human Rights, formed by eminent citizens from across the country, said in its annual report that counter-insurgency, in taking overriding priority, had vitiated the rule of law, causing widespread post-traumatic stress disorder even among children. Every sector of commerce and industry, including the fabled handicraft industry, has been beset by massive losses. Local crafts have been substituted with cheap imitations fabricated in Amritsar and found to be more profitable even by Kashmiri entrepreneurs. Tourism is, indeed, booming. Yes, the hotel industry in Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam has been prospering. But is the Kashmiri benefiting? The hotels are now staffed mostly with non-Kashmiris; even the menus and decor are reminiscent of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Has Kashmir got nothing to offer in either? And every hotel in Gulmarg faces expropriation on the lapse of a leasehold, with entrepreneurs in Gujarat being canvassed by the Union Government to invest in this lucrative industry. The streets of Srinagar, including the bundh along the Jhelum and the boulevard skirting the Dal Lake, have seen frenetic activity in widening pavements and cycling tracks. The contractors are mostly from Gujarat. Who benefits? Even the labourers are mostly migrants. The roads are usually jammed with traffic, but there are no strollers on the broad pavements of the bundh or the boulevard, where I have gone walking several times without encountering a single tourist. Domicile rules introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the J&K administration have killed local employment. The Directorate of Information and Public Relations, in coordination with security agencies, has choked the media. And the result? An acceleration of terrorist activity, now primarily across the Pir Panjal in Jammu division, from Poonch in the west to Kathua in the east, and also in north and south Kashmir (areas where the government had boasted of a cessation of militancy), targeting the defence forces. But the essence of Abdullah's questions and the avowed objective of the abrogation were on securing the foundations of democracy. I recount my meeting at the Tsawalgam Rest House in Kulgam in March 2021 with all 20 members of the then newly elected District Development Council (DDC), representing the CPI(M), People's Democratic Party, National Conference (NC) and Indian National Congress.

TRYSTS AND TURNS: Adding caste to creed deepens disunity

That feeling of being Indian, first and foremost, is sadly being eroded



NOW that Rahul Gandhi has decided to become a full-time politician, he can pose a challenge to Narendra Modi's leadership. His choice of caste politics to combat the communal politics of Modi and the Sangh Parivar is, to my mind, a dangerous one. To add casteism to the two main evils that the country faces — communalism and corruption — will prevent our country from progressing, and is certainly a dangerous move. As endemic corruption weakens the moral fibre, communalism and casteism militate against unity that is essential to make India stand up as one against poverty, illiteracy and the feudal mentality that presently pervades the national psyche. Religious and caste identities are not going to disappear in the foreseeable future. It is a fact of life in India, been there for centuries. In rural India, where more than half of our people live, caste is a factor of daily existence. In urban India, where interaction is perforce impersonal, caste and even religious identity was slowly losing its relevance. I live in a building that boasts of 20 flat owners belonging to different religions (Hindu, Muslim and Christian); different castes (brahmins, SCs and OBCs, rajputs, khatri, kayasthas). They hail from different states of India — Maharashtra. Punjab, UP, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Goa. All of us get along famously with each other, eat together once a year on the terrace of the building and settle quarrels among the grandchildren by asking them to settle their quarrels themselves. You may have guessed it right — we are all educated, middle-income citizens. So, we have a headstart on integration. In 1981, I was a guest of the Japanese government, attending a seven-week workshop on the judicial process system in Asia. The other participants were from the US, Australia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Samoa, Malaysia, Singapore and the host country, Japan. On one Sunday in Tokyo, I went to a church, accompanied by the Australian, who was a judge, and the Samoan, who was a police chief. Returning to our hostel after the Service, I noticed a couple who was obviously Indians walking on the other side of the road. I waved to them. They waved back. My companions asked me if I knew them. I replied I did not. Then, why I had greeted them, they asked. It surprised them when I said that I identified with them at once as not many of my countrymen could afford to be travelling in an affluent foreign land. That feeling of being Indian, first and foremost, is sadly being eroded. First, it was the Hindu-Muslim divide accentuated at the time of elections and now, this attempt by Opposition parties to further divide the majority Hindus on the basis of caste for electoral gain. That is going to end in disaster, like the division on religious grounds is leading us to.

If dividing and weakening India on religious and caste lines was not enough, the Supreme Court, in a six-to-one

decision of a seven-judge Constitution Bench, overturned its own 2004 ruling that had pronounced that all SCs constitute one homogenous body. By that ruling, the more educated units of SCs, like the Mahars in Maharashtra or the Chamars in Punjab, cornered most of the reserved seats allotted to the Scheduled Castes, leaving the less educated bereft of the benefits that reservation promised.

The 2024 Supreme Court majority verdict, of which the CJI was a part, argued that the categories of SCs who had not benefited from reservation should now be treated separately so that the principle on which reservation was conceived was upheld. This judgment will further divide Indian citizens and produce demands for inclusion from sub-castes whose existence itself was not known to most citizens. Five years ago, just before Covid struck, I broke the neck of my femur bone after a fall in the bath. The result was that I needed a young man, full time, to help me with my daily physical chores. He was a Dalit from Bihar, but just before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, I learnt he was a "maha Dalit", a category that I was not aware of. There could be such neglected elements in Maharashtra also. Be that as it may, the presence of these dispossessed sub-castes of SCs, obviously quite numerous in the north of the country, has been noted by the Supreme Court. The court has rightly deigned that they, too, should be given a part of the reservation pie. The enforcement of the court's order is not going to be easy. More difficult will be to calculate the political fallout of this further divide in the polity. Last Saturday, the KES (Kandivali Education Society) College of Law in Mumbai invited me to interact

with their students online. I answered a volley of questions shot at me by the students. Many of them concerned reservations in college admissions and jobs with the government. I explained the rationale behind affirmative action but was at a loss to justify the heady mix of rectifying centuries-old injustices with the necessity of maintaining higher standards of service, which the common man was entitled to.

Both factors need to be kept in mind by the decision-makers while formulating a "via media". Political parties, starting with the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru right up to the BJP under Narendra Modi, have neglected education and health, the bedrocks of a successful society. China has stolen a 50-year march over us in ensuring 100 per cent literacy, as now exists in the advanced countries of the West. If we had achieved total literacy, we could have selected the really bright boys and girls from the neglected castes and enrolled them at the State's expense in the best schools to ensure that they could compete with their sisters and brothers of the advanced castes on an even plane. The problem of admitting a candidate who achieved rank 821 in the civil services exam into the IAS would not have arisen, as it did in the recent case of Puja Khedkar. Recently, Rahul Gandhi predicted an ED raid on his premises for criticising the government for some action it had taken. He need not lose sleep over such an arrest. It will boomerang on the government — it will increase his slowly rising popularity, accelerate it a bit. But if the ED conjures up a case for a raid because of his raking up the caste issue, I, for one, will not defend him.

Yunus steps in

Restoring normalcy must be primary task

THE 84-year-old Nobel laureate's popularity in Bangladesh is undeniable, yet Muhammad Yunus faces a formidable task in bringing stability to a nation in turmoil. Appointed head of the interim government following the dramatic ouster of long-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the economist's global acclaim and non-political background make him a unique choice. He has, in recent weeks, warned about the serious regional implications if the unrest continues. The immediate goals before him are crystal clear — restoration of normalcy, ensuring law and order and protection of the vulnerable groups, including the minorities. On test would be Yunus' ability to assert his mortal authority and effectively channel the respect he commands to put an end to the anarchy.

The student movement that triggered Hasina's fall labelled her an authoritarian whose administration was firm in its crackdown on political dissent. New Delhi's attention would be focused on the vision for



Bangladesh the interim government advocates, and the leverage Yunus is permitted to emerge as a constructive transition leader. His leadership in the coming days could well determine the course Bangladeshi politics takes in the proclaimed endeavour of a fresh start. Hopes of free and fair elections with reforms of institutions that can hold the leaders accountable would be pitted against the possibility of politics of vendetta and a throwback to a dominant role for extremist elements, with military backing.

During Hasina's tenure, Yunus faced more than 100 lawsuits, which he termed fake. The student leaders insisted on having him as the guiding light. It's a daunting responsibility, with little scope for any false move. India's grave concerns are not limited to the security and wellbeing of its nationals and the minorities in Bangladesh. The consequences of prolonged instability are far too many.

The Akali Dal crisis is more than just a political one

Though one can never write off a politician, this does seem like the beginning of the end of the Badal era.

ALL of a sudden, the Akal Takht — the supreme temporal seat of Sikhism — has become a refuge for top leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), desperate to claw back into favour with the Sikh masses after a series of electoral defeats. They are flocking for forgiveness to the very institution whose loss of prestige they are being held responsible for. Can the Akal Takht free itself from the overriding influence of the SAD and take a decision that is seen as impartial and has the approval of the Sikh community? Last month, a rebel group of senior Akali politicians created a flutter when it listed some 'anti-Panth' activities of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and sought his ouster. The group presented the alleged 'crimes' in a letter to the Akal Takht Jathedar, Giani Raghubir Singh. The group members also admitted to religious and political lapses made by them while they were part of the SAD governments between 2007 and 2017 and sought atonement for them. In other words, they admitted to being party to the same wrongs.

Just a few days later, Sukhbir also went to the Akal Takht and apologised in writing for the lapses during the party's 10-year rule. His letter of apology, in which he took responsibility for his actions, was made public on Monday. The SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee), the apex body controlling Sikh gurdwaras, has also submitted an apology.

The apologies centre around four major issues that have been riling the Sikh community for several years. The first is related to the 2007 blasphemy case against Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh for impersonating Guru Gobind Singh. The case was later quietly withdrawn. The second pertains to the alleged manipulation of an apology issued by the dera for impersonating the Guru. Ram Rahim was pardoned by the Akal Takht in September 2015. But as he continued to face anger and protests from the community, the

pardon was revoked less than a month later. The SGPC, controlled by the SAD, reportedly spent

Rs 90 lakh on advertisements to defend the decision to pardon the dera head. Akali leaders now openly accuse Sukhbir of pressuring the then Akal Takht Jathedar to pardon Ram Rahim. Worse, when three sacrilege incidents concerning the holy birs of the Guru Granth Sahib occurred in 2015, the alleged perpetrators, belonging to the dera, were not prosecuted.

More recent revelations claim that Sukhbir secretly met the dera chief in Jaipur and Delhi in 2017 to mobilise electoral support. This was in defiance of a 2007 Akal Takht edict forbidding Sikhs to have any ties with Ram Rahim. More evidence of the betrayal of 'Sikhi' by the leadership of a party of the Sikhs was a body blow to Sukhbir's political persona.

In the midst of this, nine top rebel leaders were expelled from the party when they launched the 'Shiromani Akali Dal Sudhar Lehar' (reform movement) to "strengthen and uplift" the party. But this is just the political aspect of the ongoing crisis. To restore the spiritual dominance of 'Sikhi' in the fabric of the SAD is the other goal, which is more challenging. Punjabis are watching this unprecedented churn in the Sikh domain with a sense of hope that things will change for the better. The sentiment calls for a return to the core religious values that were allegedly abandoned by the



Akali Dal during the Badals' regimes in pursuit of electoral gains.

Since its inception in 1920, the Akali Dal has championed the aspirations of the Sikh community, fashioning its politics around the Sikh concept of Miri Piri, which prioritises spiritual or religious authority over political power. The decay set in during the Badal era, when the spiritual authority of Sikh institutions like the SGPC and the Akal Takht became subservient to the party. These revered institutions began to be used as instruments to further the political prospects of the Akali party, and they gradually lost their importance as robust religious institutions that were meant to guide the

Sikh Panth. The stranglehold of the Badal family over the party and such institutions began to be resented within the party and outside, though none spoke openly about this till the time Parkash Singh Badal was alive.

If today the Sikh Panth is rejecting Sukhbir's politics and, by extension, that of his father, it is because of the setting in of a deep revulsion over the blatant misuse of Sikh religious institutions. Ten of the party's 13 Lok Sabha candidates lost their security deposits in the General Election held earlier this year, taking the party to rock bottom. Its vote share is down to 13.4 per cent, even lower than that of its one-time junior partner, the BJP, which now stands at 18.5 per cent. The situation was equally bad in the 2022 Assembly elections, when the party won only three seats.

But nobody wants to see the demise of the SAD. Not even its enemies. Because Punjab needs a strong Akali Dal to balance its delicate politics and social harmony. For

long, the party was the voice of the Sikhs and exerted a moderating influence on the community. Today, as it flounders and the Sikhs find themselves rudderless in the state's changing polity, radical elements like Amritpal Singh have emerged.

The Badal camp has described the rebels' actions as a conspiracy hatched by its political opponents, the BJP and AAP. But given the adverse baggage accumulated by Sukhbir, it is hard to see him winning back the trust of the Sikhs and Punjabis in the near future. Though one can never write off a politician, this does seem like the beginning of the end of the Badal era.



Reporting to a Younger boss?

Do you feel awkward reporting to a younger boss? A new generation is trying to allay your fears by asking, "What's age got to do with it?"

Innovation apart, fast proliferating startups have another side effect -younger bosses. This shift in status quo does give rise to a certain anxiety. In a traditionally hierarchy-friendly country, does this tipping of balance change things at the workplace? According to the recent 2015 TimesJobs Leadership Survey, over 60 per cent entry-to-mid level employees say they would like to have young bosses. This, however, is in contrast to 80 per cent senior professionals, who after 20 years of experience, would prefer older bosses. The question of age seems to have left India Inc in a bind, but it is strangely the young entrepreneurs and business managers who themselves are offering a solution.

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT
For startups and companies that are concerned with newer technologies, the media and the internet, young bosses often prove to be a huge advantage. At 23, Rega Jha is Editor, Buzzfeed India, and she leads a team of people where almost everyone is older than her. "For an internet company," she says, "there is a premium on being young. We have an inherent advantage because we grew up with this technology. Older people in their 30s and 40s will walk up to my team in office and ask, 'Hey, what do you kids think of this?' So age does not come with any negative

connotations at work." While youngsters may be better equipped to tackle new age jobs, young bosses are not complacent enough to be oblivious to the lack of experience that comes with their age. In fact, because they are so keenly aware of this fact, they constantly try to learn from older colleagues. In her tenure with Buzzfeed, Rega has been conscious of her age and thus respectful of employees with more experience, even going out of her way to ask them for tips and advice. Their own failures and successes have helped provide her a priceless map.

TWO-WAY STREET OF EDUCATION
Saurabh Agarwal was already an entrepreneur when it hadn't even become cool to become one. He started Unify Facility Management in 2009 and was only 26 at the time. Today, Unify is one of the biggest housekeeping service providers for corporate and commercial facilities in the country. In a business that had little to do with new technologies, Saurabh was surrounded by older experts. "Even when I started taking interviews, I made sure I

At 40, Rahul was 10-15 years older than the Program Managers he reported to during the two years he spent there. "Even though I was older than my Program Managers, they had more experience than me in the education field," says Rahul, who had left his cushy corporate job to engineer societal change. "It made no difference to me that they were younger than me. In my mind, there is no bias for either younger or older bosses. I learned from them, like I would from any boss. Conversely, they took my opinion on things just like they took opinions from other colleagues who were their age."

RESPECT YOUR JUNIORS
The situation at a senior management level proves to be even more age-agnostic. While junior-to-mid level functions involve a lot of personal reviews and feedback, working with younger bosses when you are a part of senior management is all about doing things together. "At a senior management level, it's all about collective responsibility," says 63-year-old Tapan Bose, who is currently retired and working on contract with the SP Jain Institute as a Project Advisor. In the past, he has worked in senior management positions with a few IT multinational companies where he had to report to a CEO younger than him. He does, however, add, "It wasn't like I had to take permission for anything. Important decisions were mostly taken as a group and the whole process was objective-driven, based on responsibility and accountability, so age had nothing to do with it."

In today's competitive world, it's not that easy to be at the top and employees across the spectrum realise this. While younger bosses have to work a little harder than their older counterparts in order to earn trust and credibility, it's often smooth sailing once they have succeeded in doing so. As long as a manager is good at his job, manages his team well and is willing to learn from others, he usually earns the respect of employees. "I used to make sure I did my homework before we met prospective clients," says Saurabh. "We had all the answers to their questions and that would stump them because they did not expect this from such a young guy. But the team saw this and it increased their confidence in me too." With over 65% of India's population under 30, it almost seems natural that younger people are increasingly taking up managerial roles. The great news is that their colleagues don't see this as a threat or a disadvantage. Age, it seems, is just a number, after all.



didn't sound bossy. These people were more experienced than me. They had worked in the industry for 20 years and seen and done things I hadn't. I told them I needed them for this venture to succeed. They had the expertise I didn't and I did not even try to hide this fact." The respondents to this article made it clear that most employees in the country value skills far more than age. Rahul Sharma, for instance, joined the Teach For India Fellowship in 2013 to teach students of low-income schools. Because the average age of people working in the NGO fell within the mid-20s spectrum, only a handful of people were older than Rahul.

Dos and don'ts for your job application

HR professionals point out common mistakes made by those applying for their job, providing a list of dos and don'ts. Many argue that academics fails to prepare fresh graduates in communication etiquette, necessary in the corporate world. It is thus a task for some of them to even get employed as job interviews require one to present his or her skills, while conducting oneself in a certain manner. To address these concerns, we list mistakes made by first-time job aspirants and how they can be corrected.

- Email etiquette
So, you've heard about a suitable job, managed to procure the employer's email id and decided to shoot off your



resume for consideration. But when you're a fresher, your resume may not be your biggest strength. So what do you do? "A mistake freshers make in their resume is, since there's little to speak of in terms of professional achievement, they litter it with details about their family and their hobbies," says Srinivas Rao Katkoor, Director Human

Resources - South Asia, SAS Institute (India) Pvt Ltd. Rao adds that freshers need to highlight their educational qualifications, technical skills and their college projects in their resume. "If you've done an internship, you need to mention your exact role and learning from it in your resume," adds Rao, who feels that grammar and punctuation cannot be compromised in one's CV. "A cover letter is also a must and it should briefly summarize the candidate's skills and the kind of role they're looking for, along with a reason for applying for the role and choice of company," says Rao. How one addresses the person receiving the resume is vital too. A "Hi" followed by the person's name

is seen in poor light. "It would be advisable that the candidate figures out who he is applying to and address the mail to the concerned person, making the application personalized. And one should never make the mistake of applying to multiple companies by adding several email ids in the BCC as it's seen as unprofessional," says Rao. A suitable salutation in such emails could be 'Dear Sir', 'Dear HR Manager' or 'Dear Hiring Manager'. On a different note, the email id created to send your resume could also affect your chances of getting short-listed. "If an employer receives a resume from an id like serialkisser01@gmail.com, the reaction it would receive is obvious," laughs Ashish Arora, Managing Director, HR Anexi Pvt Ltd, who recommends short and straightforward email ids with a subject line clearly drawing attention to the role being applied for.

5 things to avoid Looking unprofessional

Coming across as unprofessional is the last thing one would want to be. Here are some tips that can help you avoid the same:

- Have you heard of the 'expectation hurts' phrase? That is exactly what would be termed as optimism bias or being unrealistically optimistic. Assuming that there is a lesser chance for one to be at risk than others leads them to believe that they can afford to be more laidback and they often start taking the safe route. This could make one look unprofessional.
- Words matter. While actions speak louder

than words, you should still mind your words. Do not use bad words at work place -



- whether you are using it just like that or are frustrated - it shows employees in a bad light.
- Never hide things at your work place. It is good to be transparent in your communications. That way, you have nothing to hide and your communication with your colleagues and your seniors remains unaffected.
- Do not run away from responsibilities. A responsible employee is not only the most sought after, but also tends to be more successful at his/her work. On the contrary, do not overpromise, too, if you cannot accomplish it.
- Leering could make you look like a creep and interactions with those from the opposite sex become difficult. You'll be in the radar for all the wrong reasons, of course.

5 office etiquette tips that will make your Workplace better

Working in open-plan offices comes with its share of hassles.

You get to hear chatter from other departments and may have an air-conditioning system that leaves your part of the office with Arctic temperatures while everyone else is quite comfortable. While you may not be able to shush people all the time and have no control over temperature control, there are other courtesies you can observe at work to keep the inter-departmental peace.

DON'T CROWD THE WATER COOLER

Most people chat at the office water cooler so that they can get a break from their workstations and perhaps have a chinwag about office politics. That's all very well, but the moment you see that someone else is in line to use the cooler, you should make way for them so that they can use it and head back to their desks.

EMPTY YOUR GLASS

If your office doesn't have disposable cups at the water cooler, chances are there will be a tumbler for everyone to use. For starters, don't fill the entire tumbler if you know you aren't going to finish it - that's just being plain eco-friendly. If you do have leftover water in the tumbler, empty it before putting it back in its place - especially

ally if you've just had hot water. After all, you wouldn't want someone else getting scalded with your leftover water.

DON'T HANG AROUND IN THE RESTROOM

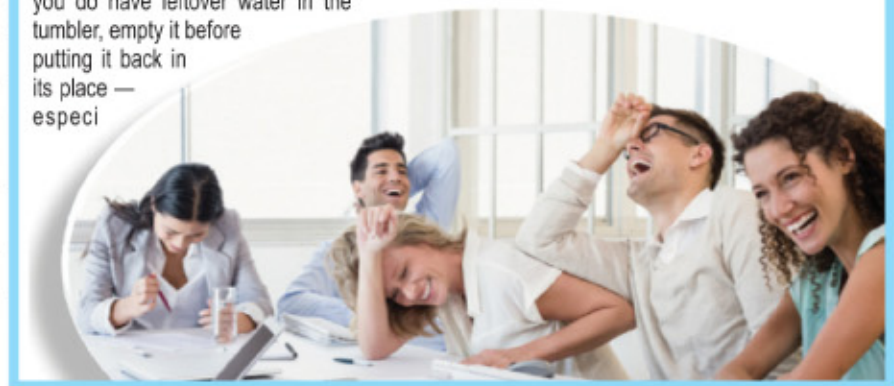
The ladies' loo is another favourite spot for women to chit-chat in between work. But make sure you don't hijack the space in front of the sink or block the door while you're chatting away. This way, you don't cause inconvenience to other people who may want to dash in and out.

FILL UP THE PRINTER

Sometimes, different departments have to share a common printer. So if you're sending a printout, you should first make sure that there's enough paper in the printer. Otherwise, you could be holding up someone else's print in the queue.

WAIT TO ENTER THE LIFT

It's a common sight to see people standing right in front of the lift waiting for it to open and then bump into the people getting out of it when they enter. Let whoever is already in the lift exit it and then enter. It's only polite.



Kolkata doctor murder: Autopsy reveals sexual assault, 1 arrested amid protests

New Delhi. A preliminary post-mortem of the post-graduate trainee doctor found dead at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital has revealed that she was sexually assaulted before being murdered. One person has been arrested in connection with the case amid protests by junior doctors of the state-run hospital and criticism from the BJP over law and order. The police stated that the arrested individual had free access to several departments of the hospital. He was arrested after the police reviewed the CCTV footage. "We have arrested one person who is an outsider. His activities are quite suspicious, and he seems to be directly involved in the crime," a police official told PTI. I have directed for the case to be taken to a fast-track court. If needed, the accused will be hanged, even though I am not pro-capital punishment. But they should be given the strictest punishment.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she directed for the case to be taken to a fast-track court and that the

accused would be hanged if needed. **VICTIM WAS BLEEDING FROM EYES, BODY FOUND IN SEMI-NUDE CONDITION**

Meanwhile, the four-page autopsy report revealed that the woman had bleeding from her private parts and there were injury marks on other parts of her body. "There was bleeding from both her eyes and mouth, injuries over the face, and a nail. The victim was also bleeding from her private parts. She also has injuries in her belly, left leg, neck, in her right hand, ring finger, and lips," the autopsy report was quoted by PTI in its report. According to the Kolkata Police officer, the incident took place between 3 and 6 am. "Her neck bone was also found broken. It seems that she was first strangled and then smothered to death. We are waiting for the full report of the autopsy, which will help us identify the

culprits," he said. The Kolkata Police has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), including members of the homicide department, to probe the incident.



Earlier on Friday, the semi-nude body of a woman was found inside the seminar hall of the state-run hospital. Her father has claimed that she was raped and killed inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and efforts are underway to "conceal the

truth." Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the parents and assured them that appropriate actions would be taken against the culprits. On the condition of anonymity, a doctor at the hospital told PTI, "She had dinner with her juniors around 2 am. She then went to the seminar room since there is no separate on-call room to take some rest. In the morning, we found her body there."

MAMATA BANERJEE SAYS ACCUSED CAN BE HANGED

Calling the incident "unfortunate", Mamata Banerjee said she spoke to the family of the victim and assured them of proper action in the case. Firstly, the incident is unfortunate and despicable. It feels like a personal loss to me. Their (doctors') anger and demand is justified. I support it. Police have also accepted their demands," Banerjee said. "I have directed for the case to be taken to a fast-track court. If needed, the accused will

be hanged. But they should be given the strictest punishment," she said. "For those who are protesting, if they feel that they don't have faith in the state administration, they can approach any other law enforcement agency. I have no issue with that. We want proper and thorough investigation and stringent punishment for the culprits," she added. Banerjee urged the doctors to treat patients while continuing their protest. Just as we have a responsibility, the hospital's superintendent too has a responsibility. We will also probe if there was negligence on any part," she said.

BJP DEMANDS CBI PROBE

Calling it a "shameful incident," TMC MP Saugata Roy stated, "We hope the culprits will be caught. It's a shameful incident. Our heads hang in shame. It's tragic that such an atrocity happened to a doctor." The students of the medical college held a candle march and protested outside the hospital, demanding action on the matter.

Haryana schools to replace 'good morning' with 'jai hind' greeting

New Delhi. The Haryana Directorate of School Education has issued an advisory instructing schools to replace the daily greeting "good morning" with "jai hind" starting from Independence Day. The directive, aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride among students, was sent to all district education officers, principals, and headmasters. The department emphasised that "jai hind" should be used before the



national flag is hoisted on Independence Day. The department noted that "jai hind," coined by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during the fight against British rule, was later adopted by India's armed forces. The slogan symbolises unity, transcending regional and cultural differences. The new greeting is intended to inspire students with a sense of national unity, respect for India's history, and a daily reminder of their identity and potential contributions to the nation.

World Lion Day 2024: PM Modi Shares Stunning Pictures, Lauds Conservationists

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised the efforts of all those involved in the conservation and protection work of Lions. The Prime Minister also took to his X handle on the occasion of World Lion Day celebrated on August 10, to share a few stunning images of the big cats.

PM Modi highlighted that in February this year, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the International Big Cat Alliance, to bring together all the nations of the world where big cats reside. It seeks to build a holistic approach to boost sustainable development and also support community efforts in this regard. This endeavour, he said, received an encouraging response globally.

PM Modi also extended an invite to all the wildlife lovers to visit Gir national park and witness the efforts undertaken to protect the Lion while experiencing the hospitality of the people of Gujarat. Posting a tweet thread



on X, PM Modi said, "On World Lion Day, I compliment all those working on Lion conservation and reiterate our commitment to protecting these majestic big cats. India, as we all know, is home to a large Lion population in Gir, Gujarat. Over the years, their numbers have increased significantly, which is great news."

In February this year, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the International Big Cat Alliance, to bring together all the nations of the world where big cats reside. It seeks to build a holistic approach to boost sustainable development and also support community efforts in this regard. This endeavour is receiving an encouraging response globally. "I also invite all wildlife lovers to Gir to discover the majestic Asiatic Lion. It will also give everyone the opportunity to witness the efforts to protect the Lion and at the same time experience the hospitality of the people of Gujarat."

Serial Killer Who Murdered 9 Women Out of 'Hate' With Horrific Modus Operandi Arrested in UP

New Delhi. It seems like a tale straight out from the pages of a crime novel. In Bareilly, a 'woman-hating' 35-year-old man went on a killing spree to murder 9 middle-aged women before he was arrested by police. After 14 months of terror that gripped Bareilly, the police have finally apprehended Kuldeep Gangwar. The dangerous man is responsible for a string of brutal murders that has claimed the lives of nine middle-aged women. The murderer has been dubbed as a 'woman hater with a traumatized past'.

Kuldeep Gangwar, a resident of Nawabganj, had been preying on women in the Shahi-Sheeshgarh area. Gangwar had been following a chillingly consistent modus operandi. He would strangle his victims and discard their bodies in sugarcane fields. The police have confirmed his involvement in six of the murders and suspect him in the remaining three.

Why Kuldeep Targeted Women?

Kuldeep harbored deep-seated hatred toward women, stemming from his troubled past. Witnessing his mother being abused by his father, and later being abandoned by his wife, fueled his rage. This anger drove him to target women who were alone, often attempting to assault them before killing them in a fit of rage. Gangwar's hatred was specifically directed at women in the 45-55 age group, reflecting his resentment toward his stepmother, who is also around 50 years old. He avoided detection by abandoning any target if he felt noticed and carried out his crimes with a precision that baffled investigators for months.

Operation Talaash

SSP Anurag Arya, who led the extensive manhunt named 'Operation Talaash,' revealed the details of Gangwar's capture. The investigation was launched after multiple reports of women being strangled with their

sarees surfaced. Their bodies were discovered in secluded fields. Locals had noticed a lone stranger wandering from farm to farm, which eventually led the police to Gangwar. The police's operation was extensive, involving 22 teams, the installation of 600 additional CCTV cameras, and the analysis of footage from 1,500 cameras. The breakthrough came when sketches of the suspect were released, and Gangwar was identified. To avoid suspicion, officers dressed as villagers and observed his routine before making the arrest.

Now in custody, Kuldeep Gangwar faces charges under multiple sections of the IPC, including murder and attempted rape. The arrest brings some relief to the residents of Bareilly, who had been living in fear of the unknown killer. The investigation continues as police work to link him to other unsolved cases and bring closure to the families of the victims.

Joint Panel On Waqf Bill Formed: These 31 MPs Are Its Members

New Delhi: The joint committee of Parliament to examine the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will have 31 members -- 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha -- and will submit its report by the next session. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Friday adopted a motion moved by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio, naming the members to be part of the committee. In the Lower House, 12 members of the panel are from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including eight from the BJP, and nine from the opposition. In the Upper House, four are from the BJP, four from the opposition and one is a nominated member.

The Lok Sabha members in the panel are Jagdambika Pal, Nishikant Dubey, Tejasvi Surya, Aparajita Sarangi, Sanjay Jaiswal, Dilip Saikia, Abhiit



Gangopadhyay, DK Aruna (all BJP); Gaurav Gogoi, Imran Masood and Mohammad Jawed (all Congress); Mohibullah (Samajwadi Party); Kalyan Banerjee (Trinamool Congress); A Raja (DMK); Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (Telugu Desam Party); Dileshwar Kamait (JDU); Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT); Suresh Mhatre (NCP-Sharad Pawar); Naresh Mhaske (Shiv Sena); Arun Bharti (Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas); and Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM). Those included from the Rajya Sabha are Brij Lal, Medha Vishram Kulkarni, Gulam Ali, Radha Mohan Das Agrawal (all BJP); Syed Naseer Hussain (Congress); Mohammed Nadimul Haque (Trinamool Congress); V Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP); M Mohamed Abdulla (DMK); Sanjay Singh (AAP); and nominated member Dharmasthala Veerendra Hegde.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to name the committee's chairperson soon. There is a view that BJP's Mr Pal may head the panel but officials said a final call would be taken by Mr Birla.

IMD Issues Orange Alert, Flood Warnings For Himachal Pradesh and Other States

New Delhi. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Himachal Pradesh and several other states due to continued heavy rainfall across northern India during the first two weeks of August. The IMD forecasts that this heavy to extremely heavy rainfall will persist in parts of Himachal Pradesh until August 12.

According to the IMD's forecast, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and parts of Rajasthan will experience heavy rainfall until August 12. Meanwhile, moderate rainfall is expected in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh on August 10. The weather agency also predicts that Himachal Pradesh will continue to face heavy to extremely heavy rainfall through Saturday, accompanied by

lightning and thunderstorms. Orange and Yellow Alerts An orange alert remains in effect for Himachal Pradesh until August 12, with a yellow warning extending until August 15.



The IMD has also alerted authorities of a low to moderate risk of flash floods in isolated areas of Mandi, Bilaspur, Solan, Simla, Shimla, and Kullu districts until Saturday.

Risk of Landslides and Damage

In addition to the flash flood warning, the IMD has cautioned that some regions could face potential landslides. There is also a warning of possible damage to plantations, crops, vulnerable structures, and kutcha houses due to waterlogging and strong winds in low-lying areas.

Earlier, on August 7, the IMD reported significant rainfall across Himachal Pradesh, with Joginder Nagar in Mandi district recording the highest rainfall at 110 mm in 24 hours. The relentless downpour has disrupted daily life, posing challenges for both residents and visitors. The cloudburst and flash floods that struck on August 1 severely affected the districts of Kullu, Mandi, and Shimla.

Video of mob assaulting people, calling them 'Bangladeshi' in Delhi goes viral

Delhi Police have initiated an investigation after videos showing men assaulting people and labelling them as "Bangladeshi" went viral. Authorities are working to identify the location of the incident.

New Delhi. The Delhi Police has launched a probe following the videos of a group of men assaulting some people and calling them "Bangladeshi" that went viral on the social media, officials stated on



Friday. The police are trying to determine the location where the alleged assault took place. This comes as student protests in Bangladesh turned into widespread looting and rioting across the nation, with minority communities, especially

Hindus, coming under attack. As reported by Bangladesh's Daily Star, several houses and businesses established by Hindus were targeted by mobs. The Jammata-e-Islami has also admitted to targeting Hindu temples.

The video circulating on social media shows a disturbing scene where a group of men is seen pursuing and assaulting several individuals. The attackers, who appear to be acting as a mob, can be heard accusing their victims of being Bangladeshis.

The incident raises serious concerns about targeted violence and the spreading of xenophobic sentiments, particularly in the way it is being portrayed and shared online. Some of the men were also carrying sticks and hitting the victims, asking them to leave the area. They also hurled abuse at them. One of the accused said, "Our Hindu sisters and daughters are being raped in Bangladesh," news agency PTI reported.

One of the assailants in the video is suspected to be the same individual involved in the assault on Kanhaiya Kumar before the general elections in northeast Delhi. However, law enforcement is currently in the process of verifying these claims.



5 things you should learn from your First job

So it's your first job and you have to make sure that you create the right impression and yet stick to your deadlines.

10 tips for email Etiquette

The digital age has made communication much easier and more hassle-free, what with several apps available for mobile phone chat. However, people often forget that they have to use a different, more formal tone for official email correspondence, and end up peppering their emails with too many emojis and abbreviations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you're sending out a work email.

1. INTRODUCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT: Always introduce yourself if you are writing to someone you don't know or haven't corresponded with previously. If you've got the sender's address from a mutual friend, mention that in your email. Introducing yourself is especially important if you're sending out a survey or questionnaire to people whose addresses you have got from a database.

2. ALWAYS RUN A SPELL-CHECK: It's important to run a spell-check for official correspondence, especially if you're sending an email from your phone. You don't want the auto-correct feature to backfire on an official email, after all. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are correct as well.

3. USE THE REPLY-ALL FEATURE SPARINGLY: Only use the reply-all feature for an email that really needs it. If the reply is meant for only one person, just reply to him/her. And don't use it to reply to a sender's greetings for the festive

season — you could find yourself being blamed for starting an unnecessary email thread.

4. USE BCC FOR GENERIC MAIL: Use the Bcc field for when you are sending out mails to a very large number of people who may not all know each other. It's also a way to ensure that all your contacts' addresses are not out there for people unknown to them to access.

5. RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS YOU SEND: Send heavy files via file-hosting services so that you don't

underlining in the middle of a lot of text. Don't use fancy fonts or multiple font colours either.

8. WATCH YOUR TONE: Always be careful about how your email sounds. It may be an official email, but it should not sound too abrupt. You shouldn't sound over-friendly either, especially if this is the first time you are corresponding with the recipient. Moreover, don't send out an email if you're upset. Save it as a draft and re-read it when you're calmer.

9. FIX YOUR FORWARDS: Make it a point to clean up forwards before you, in turn, forward them to other people. Not only does this make the email look cleaner, but it also ensures that you don't give away anyone else's email addresses.

10. CHECK WHO YOU'RE SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

EMAIL ETIQUETTE



clog the recipient's inbox. You could also zip files or resize pictures. If you know you're sending an email to someone who accesses his/her inbox on the phone, don't send several attachments with it.

6. DON'T OVER-ABBREVIATE: Don't use too many abbreviations or in your email, like FYI, PFA, PDF or FYR. It may confuse the recipient, who may also get the impression that you don't have the time to type out a proper email. If you must use them, restrict it only to the subject line.

7. FORMATTING FUNDAS: Do not use all caps and bold fonts as this will give the recipient the impression that you are shouting at him/her. The same goes for

Always check the To field of an unsent email before you send it. You don't want the wrong email being sent to the wrong person. What every official email should contain

Subject line: This is the first thing that recipients will see in their inboxes and it will determine whether they will read it or not. It should be clear and direct.

Salutation: Always start an email by greeting the recipient by using the word 'dear' followed by his/her name. If you aren't on a first-name basis with the recipient, use a title and a surname.

Concise body: Get straight to the point. If you have more than one issue to address, start with the most important, and list the rest point-by-point.

Sign off: Always sign off on your emails. Phrases like 'Yours sincerely' and 'yours faithfully' are acceptable for formal emails. 'Best regards' or 'kind regards' work in most other situations.

And while you are busy maintaining a balance between creating the right impression, sticking to deadlines, you also have to see that you learn various things from your job which doesn't really come under your job responsibilities. From how to cracking the meeting to how to talk to break the ice with the seniors here is a list of things that you learn both knowingly and unknowingly on your first job.

Sticking to deadlines

So while you were in college or school deadlines were something that you were quite flexible with. But things change when you step out in the world and get into the work zone. From bringing out a story

within a deadline or cracking a deal within a deadline, this word matters the most in the work zone and should be given utmost priority.

Work-home balance isn't a myth

So while you may think that balancing your work responsibilities and home chores is a total myth, in reality is isn't. While, initially it may all seem very surreal to manage all, gradually you will get used to it and then managing both becomes quite easy.

Every penny counts

Gone are the days when you can buy a dress or shoe or cosmetics without thinking much about the cost. When you start working you get to know the real value of hard earned money.

So in a sense your first job teaches you where to be a spendthrift and where to be a true-blue stingy.

Being a smart worker

Well, it is good you are a hard worker, but amidst deadlines one has to be a smart worker and make sure that he/she finishes work in time and with less errors.

Socialize right and smart

Certainly, there are many who are glued to social media, but when you get into a work pace and add people from your work space one has to be doubly sure to see what kind of messages and pictures they are sharing on social media. The reason being that a lot of employers these days goes through our social pages and decides whether to hire or not.

5 essential skills today's employers want

Apart from relevant, organisations are now looking at hiring graduates with people skills and an aptitude for leadership

In a competitive job market, a degree that highlights your core competencies and skills is not enough to get you a job. Employers are now looking for candidates with not only the right attitude, but also the right aptitude while hiring. Here are some of the essential skills that fresh graduates will need to cultivate to secure a job:

Communication skills: The most significant step towards getting through the interview process is to polish your communication skills, both written and verbal.

This is the best way to stand out in the crowded candidate market and it also aids in building a strong professional network.

Aptitude for leadership: It is not just the academic record and domain expertise that matter these days, but also your proficiency to be a leader that companies look out for. Not everyone can master this skill; however, one can work on building their inherent leadership qualities by taking initiatives and responsibility.

Being a people's person and a team player: Good interpersonal skills are a key to securing your dream job. Having this skill

reflects that you are sociable and can work harmoniously with others. Interviewers will most likely test your ability of being a team player through questions relating to real-life scenarios. Some interviewers give a lot of importance to the extra-curricular abilities of the interviewee - excellence in sports, participation in student organization activities, community assistance roles with NGOs, etc - to judge the individual's ability to work in teams and inspire innovative ideas.

Problem solving and analytical skills: Impromptu thinking and problem solving skills are the qualities that prospective employers look for in candidates. So it is essential to build on these capabilities and flaunt them when you present yourself in the job market as this will help you gain bonus points.

Open to learning and being proactive:

It is vital for a candidate to come across as independent and not someone who needs to be pushed for a task to be completed. In addition to this, out-of-the-box thinking and innovative ideas can get you the competitive corporate advantage. Interviewers will also try to gauge if a candidate is open to maintaining a continuous learning curve to re-skill themselves in a dynamic workplace and stay ahead. Interviewers are impressed not with how much you know, but with how well you can convince the opposite person to think and accept your point of view. By demonstrating the right qualities and by marketing yourself efficiently, you can certainly land your first big career break!



Mahindra denies report of three billion dollars investment with Shaanxi Auto

NEW DELHI. Home-grown auto-major Mahindra & Mahindra denied a report that suggested the Mumbai-based group was seeking the government approval to invest \$3 billion with China's Shaanxi Automobile Group. It said that the report is unfounded and there is no truth in the matter. "As there has been some unnecessary speculation raised by the Reuters' article, the company on its own considers it necessary to clarify to the stock exchanges that the article is unfounded and there is no truth in the matter," M&M said in a regulatory filing. A report by Reuters had said that Mahindra's JV with Shaanxi could result in setting up of an integrated car manufacturing facility in Gujarat. At present, JSW Group's MG Motor, which has China's SAIC stake, has a manufacturing unit in Gujarat. The report stated that the two companies were awaiting Indian government's approval and, if approved, a majority stake in the proposed manufacturing venture would be owned by Mahindra. The proposal included building an export-oriented, integrated manufacturing hub for assembled cars - known as completely built-up units - as well as engines and car batteries, the report quoting sources said. Meanwhile, Mahindra has confirmed the debut of the Thar Roxx on August 15.

Lok Sabha passes Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 to overhaul aviation laws

NEW DELHI. Replacing the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, 1934, the Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 to remove redundancies and boost the ease of doing business in the civil aviation sector. According to the government, the Bill seeks to resolve existing anomalies between various aviation laws and ensure a coherent regulatory environment with well-defined chapters and clauses. "This proposed legislation will mark a significant milestone in the Indian aviation sector, streamlining the ease of doing business within the industry. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Lok Sabha for their valuable suggestions and support during the deliberations," said Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. While moving the bill, Naidu emphasised the government's commitment to addressing issues related to airfares. He announced plans to establish an efficient online grievance redressal mechanism to manage passenger complaints and ensure timely resolutions.

Adani gets reminder over delay in 5G rollout



NEW DELHI. Frustrated with the delay in rollout of 5G services by the Adani Data Networks Ltd (ADNL), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has shot off another letter to the company reminding it of its obligations towards 5G network in India. The letter has sought an explanation for the delay in launching commercial 5G services in the country. According to government officials, the DoT is still awaiting a response from ADNL. The company, which is a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, acquired 5G spectrum in 2022. As per the regulatory guidelines, the company is mandated to deploy a commercial 5G network by 10 October 2024. If it fails to do so, the government may revoke the allocation of spectrum. "We have written to Adani Data Networks to inquire why it has not yet launched 5G services in India. Initially, the company indicated plans to launch a captive network for its business operations. However, the license mandates that they must roll out commercial 5G services nationwide," said a senior DoT official. The DoT has sent a similar letter in January this year, seeking an explanation for delay in launch of 5G services. Queries sent to Adani Group for a statement remained unanswered at the time of filing of the report. Adani Data Networks, the telecommunications arm of the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate, holds a unified license for access services, allowing it to provide a full range of telecom services across India. The company acquired 400 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz (millimeter wave) band during the July 2022 auction for Rs 212 crore. Adani secured spectrum in six circles—Andhra Pradesh (50 MHz), Gujarat (100 MHz), Karnataka (50 MHz), Mumbai (100 MHz), Rajasthan (50 MHz), and Tamil Nadu (50 MHz)—focusing on areas where it has significant business interests. According to license conditions, ADNL was required to launch commercial 5G services in both metro and non-metro circles within the first year. Failure to meet these rollout deadlines may result in the imposition of late fees, structured as follows: R1 lakh per week for the first 13 weeks, R2 lakh per week for the following 13 weeks and R4 lakh per week for the subsequent 26 weeks. "These penalties can accumulate up to R1.40 crore for each phase of delay. If the delay exceeds 52 weeks, the government may also withdraw the assigned spectrum," says the law. Reports indicate that ADNL has previously incurred fines totaling R5 to 6 crore for similar delays. Since the spectrum allocation, Adani Data Networks remains the only company that has not yet launched its 5G service in India.

Sebi urges Pension funds to support municipal bonds

Sebi executive Pramod Rao highlighted the disparity between India's municipal bond market and its US counterpart, urging greater involvement from pension funds and insurers to boost this emerging sector.



MUMBAI. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has urged pension funds and insurers to support municipal bond issuances to help develop this nascent market. "I urge pension funds and insurance companies and others to look at increasingly supporting municipal bond issuances," an executive director with the markets watchdog Pramod Rao said at an Assocham-organised corporate bond market summit here on Friday.

Municipal bonds are debt instruments like an NCD or any other debt instrument, issued by municipal corporations with the permission of the respective state governments. While municipalities have collectively raised Rs 1,940 crore from 12 issues, the total outstanding was only Rs 2,184 crore. As against this,

the US municipal bonds market is worth \$4 trillion. Also, the total outstanding corporate bonds are worth Rs 47.29 lakh crore, while that of Central government bonds are worth Rs 100.7 lakh crore. There is no cumulative data available on the outstanding amount of state government bonds. Rao said bond

issuances have exceeded \$105 billion in FY25, while equity raising topped \$25 billion, underlining the depth of the domestic bond markets. Rao further said Sebi is eager to partner corporates on sustainable finance, transition and net-zero goals through the bond market route, and is also looking forward to discussions with asset management companies and other financial institutions on the issue. In this regard, the regulator recently introduced the norm of once listed, always listed for corporate bond issuers. To make it easier, the Sebi has made the technology side of it simpler by making distributed ledger technology neutral to bridge the information asymmetry between issuers and debenture trustees in the system who rely on new disclosures and information flow about the status of compliance. Just like mutual funds, the corporate bonds industry also should take measures to build trust and confidence of retail investors, Rao said.

Mutual fund AUM rises 6% to Rs 64.69 lakh crore in July amid mixed equity fund flows

MUMBAI. Despite around 9% fall in equity fund inflows, a still roaring SIP book, which hit a fresh record high of Rs 23,332 crore along with inflows into other categories boosted total assets under management (AUM) of mutual funds by 6% to Rs 64.69 lakh crore in July as against Rs 60.89 lakh crore in June. While inflows into equity funds declined by 8.61% to Rs 37,113.4 crore in the reporting month due to a fall in investments in large-cap and mid-cap funds, the SIP book roared to a new record high of R23,332 crore along, shows the monthly data from the industry lobby Amfi (Association of Mutual Funds of India) on Friday. As against this in June, inflows into equity mutual funds had surged by 17% to Rs 40,608.19 crore, a record high. Inflows into open-ended equity funds have remained in the positive zone for the 41st month in a row. In July, the benchmark Sensex gained 3.43% while Nifty rose 3.92%, despite the budget day setbacks. According to the Amfi data, inflows into monthly gross systematic

investment plans (SIPs) hit a fresh record high of Rs 23,332 crore in July up from Rs 21,262 crore in June. Further, the SIP AUM was highest ever at



R13,09,385.46 crore in July compared to Rs 12,43,791.71 crore in June. Venkat Chalasani, the Amfi chief executive, told reporters that the industry has demonstrated positive growth with retail investors consistently embracing mutual funds as a reliable investment avenue, showing that MFs have become an integral part of retail investors' financial strategies. Continuous investments in sectoral or thematic funds fuelled inflows into equity mutual funds. In July, the category saw net inflows of Rs

18,386.35 crore. This was also because of new fund launches—there were nine new fund offers in the sectoral/thematic fund category garnering Rs 12,974 crore in the month. According to Manish Mehta of Kotak Mahindra AMC, net equity flows declined a tad over June partly due to NFO listings and SIP inflows. Most of the lump-sum purchases seem to be through the NFO route now. In the equity fund category, inflows into large-cap funds slumped 31% to Rs 670.12 crore, while mid-cap and small-cap funds also saw fresh inflows slowing. In spite of this, small-cap funds saw net inflows of Rs 2,109.20 crore and mid-cap funds saw Rs 1,644.22 crore fresh investments in the month. Debt mutual funds see Rs 1.19 lakh crore inflows. In the fixed-income category, debt mutual funds saw net inflows of Rs 1,19,587.60 crore, as against net outflows of Rs 1,07,357.62 crore in June, while short-term liquid funds category saw net inflows of Rs 70,060.88 crore, and money market funds saw fresh investments of Rs 28,738.03 crore.

Grasim Industries reports standalone loss despite revenue growth

MUMBAI. Aditya Birla group flagship Grasim Industries, which straddles textiles & textile fibres, real estate, building materials, cement and paints, has reported a standalone net loss of Rs 52.12 crore in the June quarter despite a 10.5% growth in revenue. It reported a net profit of Rs 355.27 crore in the same quarter last fiscal and net loss of Rs 440.93 crore in the March 2024 quarter. Consolidated revenue from operations rose 10.5% to Rs 6,893.87 crore year-on-year, the city-based company said in a statement. Consolidated net declined to Rs 1,207.93 crore as against Rs 1,576.47 crore. The company said its standalone

operating revenue plunged 51.7% to Rs 325.1 crore from Rs 673.3 crore while operating margin more than halved to 4.7% from 10.8%. Consolidated operating income also declined 4% to R4,760 crore, driven by investments in the paints business, higher depreciation and interest charges on account of new growth businesses, the company said. Grasim's cement business added new capacity of 8.7 million tonne, taking total grey cement capacity, including domestic and overseas to 154.9 million tonne per annum. Its newly launched paints brand, Birla Opus' market presence reached to over 3,300 towns. Capital

expenditure for the quarter stood at Rs 983 crore. The budgeted standalone capex for FY25 is Rs 4,553 crore, of which around Rs 3,000 crore is towards new growth businesses, Grasim said. The cellulosic staple fibre business saw its fourth consecutive quarter of growth due to an improving domestic demand and global price trends. This business achieved its highest ever quarterly sales volume of 212 kilo tonne, which rose 14%. The cellulosic fashion yarn business saw a marginal volume growth of 2% due to subdued demand in the downstream value chain and due to cheaper imports from Chinese producers.



established FFS to meet the funding needs of start-ups. DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. Startup India Online Hub was launched in 2017 to discover, connect and engage with each other. The Online Hub hosts startups, investors, funds, academic institutions, incubators, accelerators, government bodies and more. Recently in the Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that angel tax will be abolished for all investor classes.

Ola Electric shares surge 20% on day 1 after muted listing

The stock ended the session at R91.19 apiece and its market capitalisation surpassed the R 40,000 crore mark.

NEW DELHI. Ola Electric made a silent debut on the exchanges with its shares getting listed at par against its issue price of R76 on the BSE. However, post-listing, it witnessed strong buying and hit a 20% upper circuit limit on Friday. The stock ended the session at R91.19 apiece and its market capitalisation surpassed the R 40,000 crore mark. The listing and surge in share prices doubled founder Bhavish Aggarwal's fortune. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, the 38-year-old entrepreneur added \$1.5 billion to his wealth on Friday, taking his net worth to \$2.7 billion. The shares defied the negative premium it was

commanding in the unofficial premium market. Ahead of the listing, Ola Electric shares on Thursday were trading at a discount of 73 in the unlisted market.

"Ola Electric had a strong market debut, defying grey market expectations of a 4-5% discount. The positive performance is attributed to its healthy long-term outlook, 38% market share, benefits from the PLI scheme, and advantages of vertical integration," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Commenting on the listing, Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart, said the flat listing performance, coupled with a mere 4.45 times subscription, underscores the challenges the company faces in gaining investor confidence. "While Ola Electric's vision for the EV market is ambitious, the company's current financial performance, marked by consistent



losses, and the highly competitive landscape have tempered investor enthusiasm." "The flat listing highlights the need for Ola Electric to demonstrate a clear path to profitability and navigate the complexities of the EV market

effectively. Investors are suggested to exit and book a minor profit, but those who want to take risks may hold their position by keeping a stop loss below 70," added Nyati. The much anticipated IPO of Ola Electric was subscribed about 4.5 times, receiving bids for 198.16 crore equity shares against 46.52 crore shares on offer. Sensex, Nifty surge 1% on positive global cues India's equity market ended higher on Friday with the benchmarks-BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -gaining over 1% each. The Sensex closed the session 819 points higher at 79,705 and Nifty gained 250 points to settle 24,367. The surge is attributed to positive US jobless claims data as it eases the fears of a recession in the biggest economy. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms rose R4.46 lakh crore to R450.21 lakh crore on Friday against R445.75 lakh crore on Thursday.

NEWS BOX

Indian hockey team gets grand welcome, Air India gives special gesture

New Delhi. The bronze medal winning Indian men's hockey team were given a grand welcome as they returned to the country from the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 10, Saturday. The Indian team, led by captain Harmanpreet Singh, secured the third spot after beating Spain in the play-off match. This was the hockey team's second medal in a row at the Olympics, a feat they achieved for the first time since 1972. Harmanpreet was leading the team out in Delhi as they reached the city on Saturday morning, as they were welcomed with garlands and tri-colour stoles. There was dhol playing in the background as the team made it out of the airport as the fans and media arrived in large numbers to meet the stars. The likes of Sukhjeet and Mandeep Singh were seen dancing to the tunes of dhol outside the airport as the fans cheered them on. You can see the full video below:

A few members of the team, including PR



Sreejesh, were missing from the players who returned after the campaign. Sreejesh was selected as the joint-flagbearer during the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics, and he will be only returning after the close of the event.

Air India's special gesture for the hockey team

Hockey India would also share a video showing Air India paying a special tribute to the bronze medal winners. While the players and their families were seated inside the flight from Paris, the pilot would inform everyone they were traveling with the hockey team and this started huge round of applause for the players as the cabin crew also joined in. The players will now head to the Major Dhyan Chand stadium on Saturday for a meet and greet session with fans and media personnel. The campaign in Paris saw India win a record-extending 13th medal at the games.

Olympics: Australian breakdancer cruelly trolled after performance goes viral

New Delhi. Breakdancing made its historic debut at the Paris Olympics on August 9th, but not without controversy. One performer, Rachael Gunn, also known as 'Raygun,' found herself at the centre of a social media storm following her routine during the women's contest. Gunn, a 36-year-old Australian with a background in creative arts, took to the stage in a dark green and gold tracksuit, symbolising her Australian heritage. However, it wasn't her outfit that caught the most attention—it was her unconventional moves. During her performance, Gunn included a move where she squirmed on the floor while holding her chin with one hand. This unusual element of her routine sparked widespread criticism and trolling online, with many questioning whether it was appropriate to introduce such street performance elements into the prestigious setting of the Olympics. The



backlash intensified when it was revealed that Gunn scored no points for her routine and was eliminated from the competition during the round-robin stage. One move, in particular, a kangaroo hop, became a focal point of online ridicule. Social media users were quick to mock the move, with many sharing clips and memes that portrayed Gunn's performance as laughable. Despite the negative reaction, Gunn's performance has kept her in the public eye, with discussions about her routine continuing long after she exited the competition.

Rahul Dravid On His Lowest Point As India's Head Coach: 'We Were Very Close But...'

Dravid began his tenure as head coach in November 2021, and his last assignment was the T20 World Cup 2024, which India won by defeating South Africa in the final on June 29.

New Delhi. Rahul Dravid ended his stint as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team on a high note. In his last assignment, India managed to end the 11-year wait for an ICC trophy by winning the T20 World Cup title. In the summit clash played at Kensington Oval in Barbados on June 29, 2024, the Rohit Sharma-led side defeated South Africa by seven runs to give Dravid a memorable farewell. Dravid, who began his stint as head coach after India's forgetful exit from the



group stage of the 2021 T20 World Cup in November 2021, won multiple bilateral series during his two-and-a-half-year stint, but there were some setbacks as well. During his time, India suffered a humiliating defeat by 10 wickets against England in the semi-final of the 2022 T20 World Cup and by 209

runs against Australia in the 2023 World Test Championship final. In addition to that, despite winning 10 matches in a row, India failed to win the ODI World Cup as well last year. All these painful defeats are tough to forget, but during a recent interview, when Dravid was asked about his lowest point as

Shedding 4.6 kg in 10 hours, Aman Sehrawat clears weigh-in, wins Olympic bronze

- Aman won the bronze medal at the 57 kg category
- Aman wouldn't sleep during the night
- Coach Dahiya said that they had to keep checking the weight every hour

New Delhi. Ahead of his bronze medal play-off, Aman Sehrawat faced a daunting challenge after his semifinal defeat on Thursday, August 8. Weighing in at 61.5kg, 4.5 over the permissible limit for the men's 57kg category, the Indian wrestler had just 10 hours to shed the excess weight. Alongside him were Indian coaches Jagminder Singh and Virender Dahiya, who took on the critical task of helping him lose the extra weight in time for the next weigh-in. Being within the permissible limit in wrestling has now taken centre stage since the Vinesh Phogat fiasco. The Indian wrestler was disqualified from the women's 50kg final for being just 100g over the limit



during the second-day weigh-in. The wrestler is now left at the mercy of the Court of Arbitration of Sport to decide on her plea and possibly award her a joint-silver medal. Jagminder and Dahiya, however, were clear with their mission when it came to Aman as they wanted to avoid another Vinesh situation. The clock was ticking after Aman, only 21 years old, lost his semifinal bout to Japan's Rei Higuchi around 6:30 pm. With no time to spare, Aman and his coaches embarked on an intense effort to meet the weight requirement, determined to prevent another heartbreaking disqualification.

PTI would reveal the intense session that Aman had to go through to ensure he made the weight in the end.

Aman's weight-loss sessions

Mat Session: The 'mission' kicked off with a 1.5-hour mat session, where Aman engaged in standing wrestling under the guidance of his two senior coaches. Hot-Bath Session: This was followed by a 1-hour hot-bath session to help him start sweating and cutting weight. Gym Session: At 12:30 am, they headed to the gym. Aman had a non-stop 1-hour run on the treadmill to further promote sweating.

Short Break: After the treadmill session, Aman took a 30-minute break. Sauna Sessions: Post-break, Aman underwent five 5-minute sauna sessions to continue shedding weight. Massage and Jogging: Despite all this, Aman was still 900g over the limit. He received a massage and then engaged in light jogging as advised by his coaches. Running Sessions: Aman then completed five 15-minute running sessions.

By 4:30 am, he weighed 56.9kg—100g below the limit. Hydration: Throughout these intense activities, Aman was given lukewarm water with lemon and honey, along with a bit of coffee. No Sleep: After completing the weight cut, Aman did not sleep, staying alert until the weigh-in. Aman would reveal that he wouldn't sleep and was watching wrestling videos all night.

I am a woman: Imane Khelif breaks silence on gender row after Olympic gold win

New Delhi. After being surrounded by the raging gender row controversy, Imane Khelif won the gold medal as she defeated the champion Yang Liu of China at the Paris Olympics 2024. She became the gold medalist in the women's 66kg category by a unanimous decision. Khelif finally broke her silence on the controversy and said that she was born and raised like a woman. The 25-year-old is Algeria's first Olympic gold medalist in women's boxing and their first overall boxer to win a gold medal since 1996. "As for whether I qualify or not, whether I am a woman or not, I have made many statements in the media," Khelif said after her victory. "I am fully qualified to take part in this competition. I'm a woman like any other woman. I was born a woman, I lived a woman, I competed as a woman, there's no doubt about that. [The detractors] are enemies of success, that is what I call them. And that also gives my success a



special taste because of these attacks," Khelif told the media after her win. Imane Khelif was subjected to intense scrutiny on social media, with people questioning her womanhood as well.

"My honour is intact now," Khelif said. "But the attacks that I heard in social media were extremely bad and they are meaningless and

they impact the dignity of people and I think that now people's thinking has changed. The controversy stemmed when the International Boxing Association (IBA) disqualified Imane Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting from the World Boxing Championship in 2023 due to presence of XY chromosomes. However, the IBA was stripped off its status as global governing body of boxing and the International Olympics Association took over and found the two boxers eligible to contest.

"My honour and dignity above anything else"

Imane Khelif slammed the IBA for their actions and remained steadfast that her honour is above anything else. "As for the IBA, since 2018 I have been boxing under their umbrella. They know me very well, they know what I'm capable of, they know how I've developed over the years but now they are not recognised any more. They hate me and I don't know why.

Boxer Imane Khelif wins Olympic gold amid gender row: 'Success has special taste'

New Delhi. Algerian boxer Imane Khelif won a gold medal Friday at the Paris Olympics, emerging a champion from a tumultuous run at the Games where she endured intense scrutiny in the ring and online abuse from around the world over misconceptions about her womanhood. Khelif beat Yang Liu of China 5:0 in the final of the women's welterweight division, wrapping up the best series of fights of her boxing career with a victory at Roland Garros, where crowds chanted her name, waved Algerian flags and roared every time she landed a punch. After her unanimous win, Khelif jumped into her coaches' arms, one of them putting her on his shoulders and carrying her in a victory lap as she pumped her fists and grabbed an Algerian flag from the crowd. "For eight years, this has been my dream, and I'm now the Olympic champion and gold medalist," Khelif said through an interpreter. Asked about the scrutiny, she told reporters: "That also gives

my success a special taste because of those attacks."

"We are in the Olympics to perform as athletes, and I hope that we will not see any similar attacks in future Olympics," she said. Fans have embraced Khelif in Paris even as she faced an extraordinary amount of scrutiny from world leaders, major celebrities and others who have questioned her eligibility or falsely claimed she was a man. It has thrust her into a larger divide over changing attitudes toward gender identity and regulations in sports. It stems from the Russian-dominated International Boxing Association's decision to disqualify Khelif and fellow two-time Olympian Li Yu-ting of Taiwan from last year's world championships, claiming both failed an eligibility test for women's competition that IBA officials have declined to answer basic questions about. "I'm fully qualified to take part in this competition," Khelif said Friday.



"I'm a woman like any other woman. I was born as a woman, I live as a woman, and I am qualified." The International Olympic Committee took the unprecedented step last year of permanently banning the IBA from the Olympics following years of concerns about its governance, competitive fairness and financial transparency. The IOC has called the arbitrary sex tests that the sport's governing body imposed on the two boxers irretrievably flawed. The IOC has repeatedly

head coach of Team India, he ignored the big defeats and instead picked the series loss against South Africa in 2021–22. According to him, India had a great chance to win the first-ever Test series in South Africa at that time, but despite going 1-0 up, India lost the next two matches. "If you ask me what is the lowest point, I would say the South Africa Test series early on in my career. We won the first Test match in South Africa in Centurion, and then we were playing in the second and third Test match. We have never won a series in South Africa, as you know. It was a really big opportunity for us to win that series. Some of our senior players were not there. Rohit Sharma was injured, and we didn't have some senior players in that series. But we were very close, and in both the Test matches—the second and the third test matches—in the third inning, we had a big opportunity. We could have set a decent score and won the game, but South Africa played well. They chased back in in the fourth inning. So I would say that that was probably my lowest point in my coaching of not being able to win that series in spite of being ahead."

When Olympics had art contests and an Indian won a silver medal

New Delhi. The Olympic Games is the biggest event of sportspersons in the world and is synonymous with sporting prowess. But imagine this: the first Indian to win an Olympic medal — a Silver -- wasn't a sportsperson, but an artist. Even around 76 years ago, Olympic medals weren't restricted to just sports. And in 1948, a 33-year-old Indian man with British citizenship snagged a Silver for his sculpture 'Skating the Stag'. The Indian artist was Chintamani Kar and his sculpture had nothing to do with the majestic horned and hooved mammal. Rather, it was of a young woman displaying the 'stag', a variant of the split jump in figure skating. The keyword for the Olympic art competitions was 'sport' -- the piece of art being submitted had to be sport-related, a sort of marriage of culture and sports, as per the ancient Greek concept behind the first Olympic Games. It was ironic nevertheless that one of the last medal winners in this classical 'marriage' was for a piece of art that featured a female sportsperson, something unthinkable in Ancient Greece, and also frowned upon by the father of the modern Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. HOW ART WAS CELEBRATED WITH SPORTS AT OLYMPICS

It was Baron Pierre de Coubertin who had envisioned sports and arts being celebrated side by side, and it was upheld in the form of art competitions running alongside the Olympic Games from 1912 to 1948, with juries presenting 151 Olympic medals for original fine arts works in five categories -- architecture, literature music, painting and sculpture. Even though KD Jadhav is hailed as the first Indian to win an individual Olympic medal for the country in the 1952 Helsinki Games where he bagged a Bronze in Wrestling (Men's freestyle 57 kg), Chintamani Kar had walked away with a Silver in just the previous edition. Yet, very few know his name. In this, perhaps, Coubertin failed in his vision of the Olympic Games, placing sports and art on equal pedestal. Interestingly, India's Olympic medal tally had already gotten its first notch all the way back in 1900 when Norman Pritchard bagged two Silvers for India in Athletics (Men's 200m, Men's 200 m hurdles). While Pritchard was a Britisher born in India, Chintamani Kar was an Indian, born in India, but participating under a British citizenship. Why were art competitions started off in the Olympics, and why were they done away within a few decades? "Everyone that I've ever spoken to about it has been surprised," says Richard Stanton, author of 'The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions' in an interview to Smithsonian Magazine.

reaffirmed the two boxers' right to compete in Paris, with President Thomas Bach personally defending Khelif and Lin while calling the criticism "hate speech." Khelif noted that she has boxed in IBA competitions since 2018 but now "they hate me, and I don't know why." "I sent them a single message with this gold medal, and that is that my dignity and honor are above all else," she said. The IBA's reputation hasn't stopped the international outcry tied to misconceptions around the fighters, which has been amplified by Russian disinformation networks. It also hasn't slowed two boxers who have performed at the highest levels of their careers while under the spotlight's glare. Khelif was dominant in Paris at a level she had never reached before: She won every round on every judge's scorecard in each of her three fights that went the distance.

Sharvari Wagh

Jets Off In A Comfy Stylish Look Ahead Of Vedaa Release

Sharvari Wagh has been currently dominating headlines with her back-to-back stellar performances. After two successful releases this year, the actress is gearing up for the third film, Vedaa. Amid her busy promotion schedule, the actress was recently spotted at the Mumbai airport. She was seen in a chic yet casual airport look. Moreover, a trendy interaction with the paps left the actress laughing her heart out. Sharvari Wagh was seen wearing a loose fitted denim trouser along with a white knotted crop top. She also wore white trainers and left her hair loose. The actress briefly posed for the paparazzi outside the airport as well as clicked selfies with a few fans. But before she entered the airport, Sharvari burst out laughing as a pap shouted the viral phrase, "Chin Tapak Dum Dum."

Sharvari will soon be sharing screen space with John Abraham in Vedaa. The film directed by Nikkhil Advani is scheduled to release in theatres on August 15. Her first release this year, Munjya, was a commercial success and earned over Rs 100 crore. Speaking about the success of the film, Sharvari stated, "It has been an awesome month for me professionally. To have a huge blockbuster to my credit in the second film of my career, Munjya is an absolutely amazing feeling. Interestingly, people again thought I was the 'surprise factor' of the film and it meant the world to me." The film also starred Abhay Verma and Mona Singh. It follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature who wreaks havoc in the life of Bittu, played by Abhay.



The actress also received the IMDb 'Breakout Star' STARMeter Award for her portrayal in Munjya. The IMDb 'Breakout Star' STARMeter Award recognises stars who have continuously ranked high on the IMDb app's Popular Indian Celebrities. The list displays the page views of IMDb's over 250 million monthly visitors worldwide. Sharvari was last seen in the Netflix movie Maharaj opposite Junaid Khan. Meanwhile, Sharvari Wagh has also been cast in Alpha along with Alia Bhatt. Alpha began production last month and is being directed by Shiv Rawail. It is part of the YRF Spy Universe, which includes hit films such as Salman Khan's Tiger series, Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan, and War, starring Hrithik Roshan.

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Rashmika Mandanna

Looks Ready For The Festive Season In A Ivory Lehenga

Rashmika Mandanna is one of the popular actors of the South film industry. Debuted with the Kannada film Kirik Party, the actress spanned her wings to Hindi, Tamil and Telugu films. She has worked in superhit films like Geetha Govindam, Dear Comrade, Bheeshma, Pushpa: The Rise, Varisu and Animal. She has carved a niche for herself in the world of fashion. She is known for her impeccable fashion sense. From casual attire to traditional wars, Rashmika Mandanna effortlessly dons every kind of outfit to look stunning. She recently stole the limelight along with Vicky Kaushal as she turned showstopper at India Couture Week 2024. She showcased the stunning collection designed by designer duo Falguni Shane Peacock. The photos have gone viral now. In her latest viral photos, Rashmika Mandanna was seen wearing not one, but two ensembles. To open the show, she wore a Chikankari lehenga in an ivory-white hue with pearls. She was embroidered with emerald stones and Swarovski crystals. She complemented her outfit with a matching blouse that had a deep neckline and delicate beadwork. She completed her outfit with a matching dupatta. She accessorised her outfit with statement maang tikka and rings. To look glam, Rashmika Mandanna applied winged eyeliner, shimmering eye shadow, darkened brows and mascara-adorned lashes to look stunning. She reached of believing in oneself as an important measure of life in her caption section. "When you finally find yourself, love yourself and feel comfortable in your own skin.. everything changes!! But it takes a lot to get here.. most importantly it's your upbringing and the influence of people around you matter most is what I've realised. Some things you learn in life when you see the beautiful changes!" wrote Rashmika Mandanna in the caption.

Fans flooded the comment section with compliments and heart emojis. While some called her the "hottest", others labelled her as the "most gorgeous heroine of the South film industry". Rashmika Mandanna was last seen in the Sandeep Reddy Vanga-film Animal. She starred opposite Ranbir Kapoor in the film.



Farhan Akhtar Recalls Hrithik Roshan's Reaction To Being Replaced By SRK In Don: 'If You Feel He Is...'



Farhan Akhtar began writing the script for Don soon after the release of Hrithik Roshan's Lakshya. He told Hrithik that wanted to cast him in the film and would soon present him with a script. However, while writing, Farhan could only think of Shah Rukh Khan. Farhan said that Hrithik graciously told him to pursue Shah Rukh as it was his project. Farhan told Raj Shamani on his podcast, "I reached out to Hrithik and I told him that I am thinking about remaking Don. He said 'Sounds amazing' and I said 'Let me write it and I will bring it to you'. While writing it, the only person whose face kept popping into my head was Shah Rukh." Farhan said that Shah Rukh felt like the right fit for the film due to his "personality, wit, sarcastic humour".

When I was writing, it felt like this guy is actually the best actor for this part but I had already spoken to Hrithik so I thought about what to do. I called up Hrithik and I told him that I have been writing the film and I am just feeling more and more that I should reach out to Shah Rukh. He said 'Farhan, you have to make your film, you have to make it the way you want to make it and if you are feeling he is the guy, please go ahead and call him, don't worry about me'. That is a very gracious thing," he recalled. Hrithik later made a cameo appearance in the 2011 film Don 2, which was also headlined by Shah Rukh.

Farhan Akhtar went on to praise Shah Rukh in the same conversation and said, "He can talk about any topic and he will have his point of view on that. He is a good listener. He is well read and he is also interested in people. He is curious and adventurous. He likes to have a nice time and he doesn't like the weight of things too much. He is a fun guy to hang around. He added, "There is an inherent charm he has that is magnetic and it is both on and off the screen. He is easy, it doesn't feel laboured and that ease makes you feel comfortable. He works really hard and that has kept him where he is."

Naga Chaitanya Was 'Depressed' After Divorce From Samantha, Is 'Happy' Getting Engaged To Sobhita



Naga Chaitanya's father, superstar Nagarjuna has finally opened up about his son's engagement to Sobhita Dhulipala. In a recent interview, Nagarjuna revealed that Chay was "depressed" after his separation from Samantha Ruth Prabhu but is now "very happy" getting engaged to Sobhita. "It (engagement) went very very well. Chay has found happiness again. He is very happy. So am I! It has not been an easy time for Chay or the family. The separation from Samantha left him very depressed. My boy doesn't show his feelings to anyone. But I knew he was unhappy. To see him smile again... Sobhita and Chay make a wonderful couple. They love each other dearly," Nagarjuna told Times Now.

Naga Chaitanya, who got engaged to Sobhita on August 8, was previously married to Samantha Ruth Prabhu. They dated for a few years before tying the knot in 2017. However, the two announced their separation in October 2021 i.e. after four years of their marriage. Back then, they had issued a statement asking fans and followers for privacy as they 'move on'. sked if separation from Chay has affected his relationship with Samantha, Nagarjuna shared, "That remains unaltered. What happens between a couple is an entirely different matter. Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's engagement was an intimate ceremony, attended by family members only. Opening up about the same, the Brahmastra actor added, "Only the immediate family was there. Sobhita's parents and sister. Chay's mother was there, of course. My wife, Amala, was there. That's it. We chose this day because it is very auspicious. Both families consulted the Nakshatras, and when we were told August 8 was a very auspicious day, we decided to go ahead with it." On Thursday, Nagarjuna took to his X handle to share the first official photos of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's engagement. "We are delighted to announce the engagement of our son, Naga Chaitanya, to Sobhita Dhulipala, which took place this morning at 9:42 a.m.!! We are overjoyed to welcome her into our family. Congratulations to the happy couple! Wishing them a lifetime of love and happiness."