

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka visit landslide-hit spot in Wayanad

Wayanad (Kerala), August 1: Congress leader and former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the landslide-affected area of Chooralmala here on Thursday afternoon.

when a by-election is held there. Gandhi and Vadra landed at Kannur airport at 9.30 am and then travelled to Wayanad by road. Massive landslides triggered by torrential



rains hit Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha hamlets in the early hours of Tuesday, killing 173 people, including women and children, so far. Several people remain missing in landslide-hit Wayanad, where rescue operators

are contending with adverse conditions, including muddy soil, as they search through destroyed homes and buildings. As many as 173 people have died and over 200 injured in the massive landslides, with the numbers expected to increase even more as rescuers unearth debris, the district administration said on Thursday. It said that 100 bodies have been identified and the post-mortem of 219 remains, including body parts, has been completed. It further said that 221 people were admitted to hospitals from the disaster-hit areas and of them 91 are still undergoing treatment. According to the government's official estimate on Wednesday evening, 191 people are missing, though official sources indicate that the actual number may be much higher. Meanwhile, a Defence PRO reported steady progress in the bridge construction.

Gulab Chand Kataria sworn in as Punjab governor

Chandigarh, August 1: BJP veteran Gulab Chand Kataria was sworn in as the Governor of Punjab and Administrator Chandigarh. Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu administered the oath of office to Kataria at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan.

In Lok Sabha, Kangana Ranaut seeks info on scrutiny of CISF personnel at airports

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, August 1: BJP member Kangana Ranaut, who was allegedly slapped by a woman CISF constable at the Chandigarh airport recently, on Thursday sought to know whether the government has any monitoring system for scrutiny of CISF personnel at airports to detect any negative influence on them, resulting in bad behaviour towards passengers. She wanted to know from the Civil Aviation Ministry "whether the government has any monitoring system for scrutiny of CISF personnel at airports to know about their involvement/influence by some negative elements or activities which results in bad behaviour with passengers".

include a Personal Information System, a web-based project, where the personal and professional profile of deployed personnel are updated by supervisory officers. Personal Profile Sheet and dossier of all CISF personnel are maintained at



the unit level and the same is transferred to the next place of posting. The specific remarks/comments in the personal profile sheet of the individual are taken into account while deploying them at the public interface, he added. "Social media

monitoring of CISF personnel is done at unit/zone/sector level to know about involvement/influence of some negative elements," Mohol said, adding that the mentor and buddy pair system has also been implemented at every unit/airport to evaluate the psychological state of CISF personnel. According to the minister, regular behaviour detection/soft skill training is imparted to CISF personnel. Besides, he said motivational and awareness sessions are organised at the unit level regularly to enhance the morale and motivation of CISF personnel to perform their duties diligently and professionally. On June 6, Ranaut said she was allegedly hit in the face and abused by a woman CISF constable during a security check at the Chandigarh airport. Constable Kulwinder Kaur, who appeared to be upset with Ranaut over her stance on the farmers' protests, was suspended and an FIR lodged against her, officials had said. CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) provides security at airports.

Allahabad HC dismisses Muslim party's challenge to maintainability of Hindu side's suits

New Delhi, August 1: The Allahabad High Court on August 1, 2024, dismissed the petition filed by the Mathura-based Shahi Eidgah (mosque) committee challenging maintainability of 18 lawsuits initiated by Hindu devotees and deity Shree Krishna Virajman seeking worship rights and even the removal of the mosque from the 13.37-acre complex, which it shares with the Katra Keshav Dev temple. To mention, a main suit is pending before the court pertaining the Krishna Janambhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque dispute which demands the removal of the mosque as the petitioners, the Hindu worshippers, believe that the deity was born at a place where the mosque currently sits. Motivated litigation: On a Supreme Court stay in the Krishna Janambhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute case the petitioners maintained that the mosque was built on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, after demolishing a Hindu temple. Hearing the same bunch of case, the HC, last year, had ordered for a survey of the mosque by three-member commissioner team, which was stayed by the Supreme Court earlier this month. Rejecting Muslim side's plea in which Hindu's lawsuits were challenged citing the Places of Worship Act 1991, Limitation Act 1963, and Specific Relief Act 1963, bench of Justice Mayank Kumar Jainis said that all 18 suits filed in the matter in past couple of decades, are maintainable and hence paving a way for the trial. The court, which had reserved

its order on the plea in June this year, said that the suits of the Hindu worshippers and the deity are not barred under any of the acts as challenged by the Muslim side. The detailed order was



awaited till the time of filing this report. During the arguments that continued from February to June 2024, Hindu side had maintained that Shahi Idgah had illegally encroached the said land and that its not the property of Waqf board. The Hindu side also argued that the entire property falls under Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1958 provisions. Challenging the maintainability of law suits filed by the Hindus, the mosque committee had argued that the plaintiffs had already admitted that a compromise was made between the two parties in 1968. The mosque committee also stated that it currently has the possession of the land and therefore this plea of Hindu's is being barred by the Limitation Act.

8 IAS officers, 4 HCS officers shifted in Haryana

ST Correspondent

Chandigarh, August 1: The Haryana government on Thursday issued posting and transfer orders for eight IAS and four Haryana Civil Service (HCS) officers with immediate effect. TVSN Prasad, a 1988 batch IAS officer, has been appointed the Chief Secretary of the state, according to an official release. Prasad will also hold the charge of general administration, human resources, personnel and training, parliamentary affairs, vigilance departments and secretary in charge of plan coordination and Chief Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi. Prasad had been posted as the chief secretary on March 15 in place of Sanjeev Kaushal, who had proceeded on leave. Prasad, at that time, was posted as the chief secretary during the leave period of Kaushal. According to the release, IAS officer Mani Ram Sharma has been posted as chief executive officer of Ayushman Bharat Haryana Health Protection Authority and Special Secretary of the home department. Yash Pal, director of urban local bodies and special secretary of urban local bodies, has been given additional charge of director, consolidation of land holdings and land records, Haryana, and special secretary of revenue and disaster management department. Shaleen has been posted as director, tourism and special secretary, tourism department.

Parts of city remain waterlogged, 5 killed in rain-related incidents

New Delhi, August 1: Several parts of Delhi remained waterlogged on Thursday, a day after heavy showers unleashed chaos in the city, officials said, adding that five people had died in separate rain-related incidents so far. Six weather stations across Delhi recorded over 100 mm of rain in a single day, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday, categorising it as an "extremely intense spell". According to the IMD, the city's primary weather station, Safdarjung, recorded 107 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours. Other stations, which also received significant rainfall are Mayur Vihar (147 mm), Najafgarh and Ridge (113 mm), Lodi Road (106 mm) and Delhi University (104 mm), it said. Rajinder Nagar area, which has become the epicentre of protest following the death of three civil services aspirants in a flooded basement of a coaching centre, was heavily waterlogged on Wednesday, with MCD officials toiling till early hours to pump out the water. Students continued to protest despite the adverse weather conditions demanding accountability from authorities. Till midnight, the Delhi Police received 26 calls of building collapse and one more such incident was reported till 7 am on Thursday, data showed. One person was killed in north Delhi's Subzi Mandi area and three more injured - two in Shastri Park and one in Defence Colony.

Royalty levied by Centre on mines, minerals: Supreme Court

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, August 1: The Supreme Court reserved its order on the issue of whether royalty levied by the Centre on mines and mineral-bearing lands since 1989 will be refunded to the states. In a significant verdict on July 25, a nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, by a majority 8:1 verdict, had held that the legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the states and the royalty paid on minerals is not a tax. The verdict, which gave a huge revenue boost to mineral-rich states, however, led to another dispute with regard to the operation of the verdict. A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud reserved its verdict after hearing the arguments of the Centre, states and mining companies on whether its July 25 verdict giving states legislative competence to impose tax on mineral wealth will have prospective or retrospective effect. The bench also com-

prising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre that making the July 25 verdict retrospective will have cascading effects on common person as companies will pass on the financial burden on them. The Centre opposed the plea of the mineral-rich states seeking refund of the royalty levied by it on mines and mineral-bearing land since 1989, saying any such order asking it to pay the alleged dues with retrospective effect will have a "multipolar" impact. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for Jharkhand mineral development authority, urged the court to make the July 25 verdict retrospective and direct for refund of the royalty in a staggered manner. Some opposition-ruled mineral-bearing states urged

the top court to make the verdict operational with retrospective effect so that they can seek refund of royalty from the



Centre. However, the Centre opposes any such order saying it will have a "multipolar impact". Many firms involved in mining activities also support the Centre's view on refund of royalty to mineral-bearing states. The Solicitor General said

states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which are ruled by the BJP, wanted the judgement to be made applicable prospectively. The BJP-ruled Odisha government did not take any clear stand despite being prodded by the bench and the counsel appearing for the state only said they don't want the exchequer to feel the burden. The 200-page majority verdict was penned by the CJ for himself and on behalf of the bench said, "Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to the lessor for enjoyment of mineral rights. The liability to pay royalty arises out of the contractual conditions of the mining lease. The payments made to the government cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears." However, Justice B V Nagarathna had dissented and said the Centre has the power to levy royalty.

AFT's larger bench rules that tribunal has powers of contempt, giving it teeth to get orders implemented

Sanjay Kumar

Chandigarh, August 1: A larger Bench of Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) ruled that it possesses the powers of contempt to get its orders implemented in case there is wilful non-compliance by the respondents. The judgment will now give much-needed teeth to AFT to get its orders, which in many instances were being ignored by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), implemented. The larger bench was constituted in the year 2014 when a two-member bench at Delhi had expressed apprehensions in following a judgment of the Kerala High Court which had directed the Kochi Bench to invoke powers of contempt in case of non-compliance by defence authorities. The landmark judgment running into more than 500 pages with appendices and perhaps the longest in

Woman groped on Lucknow street, 8 cops face action: Yogi Adityanath

Naresh Malhotra

Lucknow, August 1: A woman was groped by a rowdy group on a waterlogged street here, prompting the arrest of four men, action against eight policemen including a DCP and a cryptic remark in the assembly by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He said a "bullet train" will be run for the offenders. The four alleged offenders were arrested after the woman who was riding pillion on a motorcycle was targeted Wednesday on a waterlogged street in the posh Gomti Nagar area. Five police personnel, including the local police station in-charge, were suspended for "negligence". And DCP (East Lucknow), ADCP and ACP were shunted, an official statement said Thursday. While speaking in the assembly on the state's supplementary budget, the chief minister referred to the incident naming two of the alleged offenders. "The first criminal is Pawan Yadav, the other criminal is Mohammed Arbaaz - these are people of 'sadbhavana' (goodwill)," he said, and sug-

gested that no 'Sadbhavana train' will be run for them. "Inkey live bullet chalegi, chinta mat karo" (The bullet train will be run for them, don't worry," he told the House. "And preparations are being made for the bullet train," he said, adding that anyone who plays with women's safety will bear the consequences. A video on social media shows a group of men splashing water on a motorcycle as it wades through the waterlogged road. The men quickly surround the motorcycle and some start pulling it from behind. Amidst the melee, while the man driving the motorcycle tries to push through, at least one of the accused gropes the woman who is riding pillion. The men stop pulling the motorcycle only when the woman falls down. "Taking cognisance of the incident, an FIR was lodged at the Gomti Nagar police station. Police formed four different teams, including a crime team, to apprehend the culprits," a police statement said. "As a result, four accused were arrested

and based on the evidence collected and the CCTV footage, additional relevant sections have been added to the FIR," it said. The accused were booked under Sections 191(2) (rioting) and 74 (assault or use of criminal force with intent to outrage modesty) and other provisions of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), it said. Lucknow Police Commissioner Amrendra Kumar Sengar said two of the four arrested accused - Pawan Yadav and Sunil Kumar - were identified through CCTV footage on Wednesday night. They led the police to the other two - Mohammed Arbaaz and Viraj Sahu. "Raids are being conducted to arrest the other accused," Sengar said. Acknowledging "apparent negligence" in handling the situation, the police statement said DCP (East Lucknow) Prabal Pratap Singh, Additional DCP Amit Kumawat and ACP Anshu Jain have been removed from their positions with immediate effect. Inspector in-charge Deepak Kumar Pandey, police post in-charge Rishi Vivek and three other police personnel present at the 'chowki' - Sub-Inspector Kapil Kumar and Constables Dharmveer and Virendra Kumar - were suspended, the statement said.



News box

Lake stock swells to 77% from 5% in 1 mth

Mumbai. The city recorded its second highest ever rainfall for July this year. Till Wednesday, IMD's Colaba observatory had recorded 1,909mm rainfall this season, which was 632mm above normal, while the Santacruz observatory recorded 2,050mm, 657mm above normal.

In its forecast for the next five days, IMD has issued a yellow alert for Mumbai from Aug 1 to 3. A yellow alert indicates the likelihood of heavy rain at isolated places. Meanwhile, an orange alert has been issued for Aug 3 for Thane and Palghar, indicating heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places.

This month has been good for the city, with lakes also having received a bountiful amount of rain, increasing water stocks from 5% to 77% now. On Wednesday, the total water stocks in the seven lakes that supply the city stood at 11.2 lakh million litre or 77.3%. The lakes need 14.5 lakh million litre of water for the city to go without a water cut until the next monsoon season arrives. When the month of July began, water stocks in the lakes had stagnated at 5.9%.

On Wednesday in the nine hours ended 5.30pm, IMD's Santacruz observatory recorded 2.6mm rainfall and the one at Colaba negligible or trace rain activity.

Mumbai rain: IMD issues red alert for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar. Mumbai experienced heavy rain on Thursday, prompting a 'red alert' from the weather bureau. Not just the city, but the suburbs and nearby areas also saw significant rainfall. Thane recorded the highest with 163mm, while various places noted triple-digit rainfall totals. 112009759

IMD issues red alert for Delhi NCR after heavy rains, waterlogging at several places. The India Meteorological Department issued a red alert for Delhi and surrounding regions due to heavy rainfall, leading to severe traffic and waterlogging. Flights were diverted, and significant areas like Parliament faced flooding. Authorities recommended residents stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel. Conditions are expected to persist until August 5, with further rain forecasted for neighboring states.

Telangana HC upholds death to man who raped, killed 6-year-old

HYDERABAD. Terming it "the rarest of the rare", the Telangana High Court on Wednesday upheld the death sentence of a migrant worker awarded for raping and murdering a six-year-old girl in Narsingi in 2017. A division bench, comprising justices P Sam Koshy and Sambasivarao Naidu, dismissed the appeal filed by the petitioner against the sentence originally handed down on February 9, 2021. The convict, Dinesh Kumar Dharne (23 at the time), had lured the victim under the pretext of buying her chocolates from a nearby kirana shop. However, he took her to a secluded area where he raped her twice. Fearing that she would reveal the crime to her parents, he later bludgeoned her to death. The victim's parents hailed from Bihar and had migrated to the city for livelihood. They were familiar with the Dinesh as they worked together at a construction site under the Cyberabad police commissionerate limits. After their girl went missing, they filed a complaint at Narsingi police station, following which the accused was detained. Earlier, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Cyberabad, at LB Nagar, Rangareddy district, found him guilty and sentenced him to death. Dharne challenged the verdict by filing a criminal appeal. However on Wednesday, the high court upheld the death sentence.

Administer TB BCG vaccine to curb disease in adults: Andhra health commissioner

VIJAYAWADA. Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare C Hari Kiran instructed officials to achieve targets in administering the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine to prevent tuberculosis (TB) and other mycobacterial infections in adults. He also directed them to design Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID numbers while administering the vaccine.

During a review of the National TB Elimination Programme with the departmental officials at the Health and Medical Department's headquarters on Wednesday, he stated that 17.78 lakh people have been administered the TB BCG vaccine to date. Efforts must continue to achieve the target of vaccinating 50 lakh individuals.

He suggested approaching industrialists to supply nutritional food baskets to TB patients and directed district officials to collaborate with district industrial departments for effective implementation of the food basket distribution program. He also instructed the preparation of proposals for setting up additional laboratories as needed.

He further noted that 35 per cent to 40 per cent of people are affected by TB annually across the country and stressed that all efforts should be made to make the State TB-free by 2025. Proposals for filling vacant positions in the TB department should be prepared, he added. State TB Joint Director, Dr T Ramesh, said 84,000 TB cases were detected last year in the State, and 43,000 cases were detected from January to June this year. He said 94% of patients were treated and cured.

Extended green line to open on Tumakuru road by October-end

BENGALURU. The extended Green Line of Namma Metro on Tumakuru Road from Nagasandra to Madavara (BIEC) is expected to commence commercial operations by Oct. Maheshwar Rao, MD of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), told TOI trial runs will shortly start on the 3-km stretch.

The extended line, which is part of phase II of Namma Metro has three new stations at Manjunathnagar, Chikkabidarakallu and Madavara. The line will be opened after obtaining safety clearance from the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS), which officials hope will happen by Sept. This will increase Metro's network to 76km in the city.

"On the Green Line, at present, trains terminate at Nagasandra on Tumakuru Road. Once the extended line becomes operational, train services will be operated till Madavara. However, depending on the patronage, a decision will be taken on frequency of services," a BMRCL official said. BMRCL anticipates the extended service will help

them gain an additional ridership of 25,000 to 30,000. Regarding the status of construction works at Madavara, an official said, "Work is nearing completion at Madavara. Traction power supply is done in other two stations and will be done shortly at Madavara. We are getting ready for trial tests on the line; it will happen in the next couple of weeks."

How it will benefit

Extending the Metro line to Madavara will benefit Bengalureans in several ways. It will provide seamless access to Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, which is a prominent venue hosting consumer and industrial expos. People coming from Nelamangala and nearby villages in KSRTC buses and others will be able to travel by Metro to reach various points within the city, avoiding traffic congestion. Providing parking space for long-distance buses at Madavara station will



help passengers use the Metro with ease. Under Phase II, BMRCL has extended its two operational lines in four directions. Three of these extensions, from Mysuru Road to Challaghatta (on Mysuru Road), Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute (on Kanakpura Road), and Byappanahalli to Whitefield, have already been opened for commercial operations in a phased manner.

BMRCL had previously set multiple deadlines to open this line, but factors such as delays in construction, land acquisition issues with NICE authorities and the pandemic affected the project's completion.

The other three Metro lines being constructed under phases II, II A and II B are new lines from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, RV Road to Bommasandra, and Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport.

A decade ago, the transport department and traffic police considered shifting private bus operations to points such as Kengeri, Madavara and KR Puram, but the plan was eventually dropped. Once BMRCL opens Yellow Line from RV Road to Electronics City, people will be able to travel from Madavara to Electronics City. BMRCL will provide an interchange facility at RV Road station that links Green and Yellow lines.

Digital evidence gives Kollam doctor away Sarkare, where's our money

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM . The police relied on CCTV visuals and digital evidence to identify the culprit – a 38-year-old female medical practitioner – who had allegedly fired at a female staff of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Dr Deepthi Mol Jose, who worked as a pulmonologist at a private hospital in Kollam, was nabbed from her quarters at Parippally on Tuesday evening. Her arrest was recorded later in the day.

Police sources said Deepthi and Shini, who was injured after being shot at using an air gun, knew each other. It was the past relationship Shini's husband had with Deepthi that proved to be the bone of contention between the two. Shini's husband had earlier worked in Kollam and was in contact with Deepthi, who is also



married. The relationship later soured and Deepthi decided to exact revenge on Shini's husband by attacking her. Even as the police managed to obtain some information regarding this past episode connecting the two women, CCTV visuals threw up details of the assailant. The police had found that the assailant had fled to Kollam in her car after the attack. Once her identity was confirmed, the cops

searched for digital leads and learnt that Deepthi had ordered an air gun, which do not require a licence to operate, from an e-commerce platform. The air gun was purchased a few months back and since then the doctor was watching videos online to learn how to operate it. The cops proceeded to round up the doctor who confessed to the crime after being shown the mountain of evidence against her, a police source said. Sources added that Deepthi had reced Shini's house several times to draw an action plan. It was during one such clandestine visit that she noticed that couriers were regularly being sent to Shini. And she decided to disguise herself as a courier delivery person to enter the premises of Shini's house and target her. Shini was attacked on Sunday morning.

KOCHI: Sarkare, with whose money did you buy your cars? Asks the fed-up students, who have been running from pillar to post trying to get the grants allocated to them for higher education. With the money being a no-show and promises turning empty, the students and activists along with organisations such as Adi Shakti Summer School took out a protest in front of the Secretariat and Raj Bhavan in the capital on July 27 — one of the many they organised in the past one year.

"And where's the solution," asks M Geethanandan, coordinator of the e-grantz Protection Council. For the past two and a half years, the students from Dalit and tribal communities have not received even a penny of the e-grantz. According to him, the issue has gone beyond the non-disbursement of the grants. "There is the issue of the upper-income limit set for those eligible for it," Geethanandan adds.



He explains the issue regarding the fixation of the upper-income limit. At present, there is an upper-income limit set for eligibility to avail e-grantz is Rs 2.5 lakh. This has been proposed in the Central Guideline as the eligibility criteria for students from Schedule Castes applying for a post matric scholarship. The guideline was set by the department of social justice and empowerment for the period of 2020-21 to 2025-26. However, Reshma K R, a BEd student says the condition of upper-limit is discriminatory as it negates the constitutional provisions ensured in Article. 15(4).

The Constitution assures education support for all socially and educationally backward-class citizens, especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Bengaluru: Rift in the open? JD(S) pulls out of padayatra, BJP in a fix

BENGALURU. Hours after ally JD(S) withdrew from the proposed Bengaluru-Mysuru padayatra that was to begin on August 3, BJP was on Wednesday uncertain about the seven-day march, which aims to demand CM Siddaramaiah's resignation over Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. "There's confusion between JD(S) and BJP over the padayatra.

Our national leadership is in clearing that confusion. I'm confident the padayatra will go on as per plan," stated BY Vijayendra, state BJP chief. However, some BJP functionaries hinted the rally might be postponed by a week. Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, also state president of JD(S), has refused to support the padayatra, expressing anger over invitation to Preetham J Gowda, the former MLA of

Hassan. Kumaraswamy was present at the BJP-JD(S) meeting on Sunday that finalized the padayatra plan. On Wednesday, he expressed frustration that neither he nor his party functionaries were consulted on the padayatra schedule. "From Bengaluru to Mysuru, it is JD(S) which is strong. How can you neglect us or take such a decision without consulting us?" he said. Kumaraswamy asked whether he should share the stage with the person (Preetham Gowda) who "poisoned the Deve Gowda's family".

When they (BJP) are not ready to take us into confidence, then why should we give support to them? They must tell us how they treated us regarding the padayatra. What are they trying to achieve? I'm hurt, it pains me. Who is Preetham Gowda? He's the one who

tried to destroy the Gowda family. They (BJP) bring him on stage and make him sit with me. Who is responsible for the distribution of those pen drives (in Prajwal Revanna's case)? Don't they (BJP) know what happened in Hassan? Electoral alliance is different, and politics is different," Kumaraswamy said. When the people are suffering due to heavy rain and floods, going on padayatra is not right. "We've decided to distance from it, we won't even extend moral support," said Kumaraswamy. He added that a padayatra won't yield any result as far as MUDA scam is concerned. "Instead, we need to fight this issue legally," Vijayendra met Union home minister Amit Shah in Delhi, shortly after Kumaraswamy announced withdrawal from the padayatra.state.

DKS meets PM, seeks funds for irrigation & Bengaluru development

BENGALURU/DELHI. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and submitted an appeal for more funds to develop Bengaluru and to complete irrigation projects in the state.

Shivakumar said he had highlighted Bengaluru's economic contribution pointing out that the city contributes the second highest in taxes to the national exchequer but hasn't got anything in the Union Budget. Shivakumar holds the Bengaluru development and water resources portfolios. "We had appealed for a Gift (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) city-like project," he said. "Since that request was not considered positively, we sought more funds for the tunnel project, signal-free corridor, development of main roads and storm water drains in Bengaluru, as well as funds for irrigation projects." Shivakumar said the PM had said only one Gift city can be set up in the



country. "Hence, we requested for central assistance for mega projects that we plan to launch in Bengaluru," he said. "We impressed upon the PM that Bengaluru needs better infrastructure as lakhs of people come to the city from elsewhere, putting

stress on its infrastructure."

Shivakumar also addressed issues concerning the Centre not releasing funds in spite of the previous Budget committing Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project.

Byju's settles row with BCCI, not off the hook yet

Mumbai/Chennai. Troubled edtech startup Byju's and BCCI have arrived at a settlement over a dispute related to the non-payment of Rs 159 crore in dues that the company owed the cricket governing body, the firm's lawyers told the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday. The settlement of the dispute creates scope for Byju's to escape insolvency. The once high-flying startup, however, has been denied immediate reprieve by the appellate tribunal.

Founder & CEO Byju Raveendran's brother & company board member Riju Ravindran has raised funds to clear the dues, the first tranche of which amounting to Rs 50 crore has been paid. Byju's counsel said that the

money is not coming from the corporate debtor's (Byju's) account and nothing "precludes him (Riju) from making this payment". The full amount will be paid in three tranches by Aug 9. The NCLAT deferred accepting the settlement and instead directed Byju's to file an undertaking (to the court), providing the source of funds to BCCI after the company's US-based lenders argued that the source of the money is "tainted" and the court should not "bless" this transaction of settlement.

Senior lawyer Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Byju's overseas lenders, questioned the company's and its promoters' ability to pay the funds to BCCI when they couldn't even

pay salaries to employees. The missing \$533 million (part of the \$1.2-billion term loan proceeds) which the lenders have accused Byju's of hiding was once again at the forefront of the legal argument put forth by them at the NCLAT.

"The missing \$533 million is likely the debtor's only way to pay creditors. This is my money," Rohatgi said. The lenders also argued that payment of operational creditor (BCCI) over financial creditors violates the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (IBC) Code. The court adjourned the case to Aug 1. had reported that BCCI and Byju's were close to resolving the dispute and the company has transferred Rs 50 crore to

BCCI on Tuesday. BCCI's lawyers said that the board doesn't condone any kind of illegal activity and the first tranche of payment has been made to them by way of banking channels.

Byju's founder reaches settlement with BCCI over pending dues. Byju Raveendran agreed to settle Rs 159 crore dues with BCCI, raising questions about the source of funds. Raveendran assured the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal that payments would be made in two tranches, while US-based lenders opposed the settlement, highlighting earlier fund transfer issues. His brother Riju Raveendran will raise the necessary funds.

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News box

Haryana: Teaching for 10 years? You can now apply for govt awards

GURGAON. CM Nayab Saini has approved amendments to the state govt's policy for awarding prizes to teachers working in state universities, govt colleges, and govt-aided private colleges for their exemplary services. According to the amendments, 15 years of service has now been reduced to 10 years. The decision by the govt will provide an opportunity for newer teachers to receive the awards as well. A spokesperson for the higher education department stated that the state govt has implemented a scheme to award State Teacher Prizes for outstanding and commendable services rendered by educators working in various state universities, govt colleges, and govt-aided private colleges in recognition of their contribution towards academic, curricular, and extracurricular assignments. The objective of these awards is to honour faculty members for their exceptional performance in the field of teaching. He said further that teachers would be honoured with a total of 14 state awards - two awards for state universities under the ambit of higher education, eight for govt colleges, and four for govt-aided private colleges - every year for their excellent services.

The award winners will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a letter of appreciation, the spokesperson said. The spokesperson further added that teachers awarded once will not be eligible for the award again. Teachers will be scored out of 200 points in four levels based on their academic excellence and service record, extracurricular achievements and contribution to society, contribution to institutional development, and research work over the past 10 years.

Newborn treated for rare congenital condition

Gurgaon: A newborn girl has successfully been treated for a rare congenital condition - gastroschisis - at a city hospital. The condition, which results in a baby being born with intestines outside the body through an aperture in the abdominal wall near the umbilical cord, can be life-threatening if not surgically corrected immediately after birth, doctors said.

The mother, Sakshi Shukla (36) from Punjab, was alerted about the congenital defect in the foetus during the level-2 scan, which is conducted at 18-20 weeks of pregnancy, following which she came to Medanta - The Medicity and settled in the city for treatment given the high-risk pregnancy.

A multidisciplinary team of doctors, spearheaded by Dr Shandip Kumar Sinha (director, paediatric surgery), Dr Preeti Rastogi (director, obstetrics and gynaecology) and Dr T J Antony (director, neonatology), collaborated seamlessly to save the baby. In India, the overall survival rate of children with gastroschisis is 45% whereas in Western countries, it is 90%. "When the patient came to us at 26 weeks, we first ruled out any associated developmental problems. We recommended close follow-ups. At 37 weeks, she underwent an elective Caesarean section earlier this month," Dr Rastogi said.

"After emptying the meconium (the first stool of an infant) and mobilising the delicate skin flap, we were able to create space for intestine to be placed inside abdominal cavity. The entire surgery took 1 hour 30 minutes and there were no post-operative complications," Dr Sinha said. The baby was discharged 12 days after the surgery, he added.

Housing board hikes circle rates for plots in 2 townships

Ghaziabad: Plots in Vasundhara and Siddharth Vihar are set to get dearer as the UP Housing Boarding recently increased the circle rates for the two townships under its jurisdiction by nearly 10% to 15% for the current financial year. Nabendra Bahadur, an estate manager of the housing board, told TOI the market rates for plots in the areas in and around the influence zone of the Delhi-Meerut rapid rail corridor have shot up due to a discernible increase in demand, necessitating a revision in the circle rate. Circle rates for the two townships were increased by over 3% in the previous fiscal year even before commercial runs on the corridor began in Oct 2023. Currently, nearly 50% of the 82km corridor is operational. On Tuesday, the stamp and registry department also proposed to increase the circle rate by 20% across residential and commercial categories citing rapid infrastructural development in the city.

Of the 19 sectors in Vasundhara, the hike is specifically steep for the odd-number ones where the circle rate will go up by nearly 15% - about Rs 11,100 per sqm - as the new rate comes into effect retrospectively from April 1, Bahadur said. "After the revision, the cost of plots in the odd sectors will stand at Rs 73,000 per sqm, up from Rs 61,900 per sqm. In the even sectors, the rates have been hiked by Rs 6,700 per sqm, about 10%. So, one will have to pay Rs 75,000 per sqm instead of the previous Rs 68,300 per sqm," the official said. The housing board, which is planning to develop 80 acres of land in sectors 7 and 8, both under the rapid rail's transit-oriented development (TOD) zone, is set to benefit from the recent hike.

Year on, no verdicts in Nuh riot cases, most accused out on bail in Gurgaon

GURGAON. A year since the Nuh riots - which broke out during a religious procession on July 31, killing six people and leading to mob violence in Gurgaon and other districts - trials are progressing slowly and none of the 60 cases filed by police has reached the verdict stage. After the riots, 49 cases were filed in Nuh for rioting and 11 cases for provocative speeches and social media posts, leading to the arrest of 441 people. At present, 405 of them have been released on bail. The absence of a dedicated court for the riots cases has led to hearings making slow progress. Proceedings have also been affected by the reluctance of witnesses to depose before courts, fearing for their safety. As many as 20 WhatsApp groups had come under the scanner of investigators for their alleged involvement in the July 31, 2023 violence, and Nuh police had carried out three encounters to make arrests.

Nuh SP Vijay Pratap Singh said those who were found to be involved in the riots were arrested after questioning. "Chargesheets have been filed and cases are in court. Initially, very few people were named in the FIRs, but after questioning, many more names came up and a large number of people were arrested," Singh said.

A public prosecutor said one significant factor contributing to the delay is the lack of special courts for handling the riot cases, which are now scattered across 5-6 courts.



"The trials, which are proceeding in an isolated manner, should be fast-tracked. Most accused, who are out on bail, are not appearing for the trial even after non-bailable warrants have been issued against them. Many new names have been added to the cases, but most of them have not yet been arrested. There are no consolidated numbers of arrested people, those who have granted bail, the number of people still on the run, and non-bailable warrants that have been issued. Multiple sets of officials from police and prosecution are dealing with these cases," he said.

Manish Shandilya, counsel for some of the victims, said the trials may take much longer as witnesses are apprehensive about visiting Nuh to record their statements in court. "They fear for their safety. Also, there are many witnesses who are yet to be traced. It will be difficult to have a fair trial. Tracing witnesses from across Haryana and nearby states and bringing them to court is time-consuming," Shandilya said.

He also pointed out there is a lack of zeal on the victims' side to pursue the cases. "Most victims are from outside Nuh. It is a challenge for their families to travel to Nuh for court hearings which will take years. They are also not comfortable visiting a place that is hostile towards them," he added. Chargesheets filed by the police in all the cases has a common thread on the cause of violence - anger against Bajrang Dal members due to the alleged murder of Junaid and Nasir, two Rajasthan residents who were kidnapped by cow vigilantes near the Haryana border in Nuh, last Feb and provocative social media posts by cow vigilantes Monu Manesar and Bitu Bajrang.

UAPA sections added to four FIRs. Police had in Feb this year added stringent sections of UAPA to four cases, one of which was registered against Congress MLA Mamman Khan along with 43 others. Khan was accused of distributing Rs 500 each to rioters through a village sarpanch and orchestrating objectionable social media posts and provocative messages on WhatsApp groups to incite people. Tahir Hussain Rupadiya, counsel for Khan, said the addition of UAPA sections came to light when police filed their reply after the court asked them for a status report of cases in Jan. "Till now, police have added sections of UAPA to four FIRs," said Rupadiya.

Gurgaon: Stretch on key NH8 link riddled with craters, commute a nightmare now

GURGAON. Residents have raised concerns about the dilapidated condition of a stretch of the key Rampura-Pataudi Road near Bestech Ananda in Sector 81. The 120m stretch has numerous potholes and uneven surfaces, making it difficult for commuters to navigate safely on the stretch. This has led to several accidents and frequent traffic jams in the area, residents said. Though redevelopment of the 5.6km road - which links new sectors to NH-8 - began in Feb 2022 with an Aug 2023 deadline, GMDA has not been able to revamp the road as planned, missing several deadlines. Officials have cited ongoing litigation as one of the main reasons for the delay. Delays in acquisition of two stretches of 100 metres

and 120 metres, along with the removal of a temple structure, have hindered progress, they said. The redevelopment project, estimated to cost Rs 66 crore, aims to widen the existing four-lane road into a six-lane main carriageway. The design includes service roads, cycle tracks, footpaths, and green areas, promising enhanced traffic flow and safety for commuters and residents.

Residents criticised GMDA's "indifferent attitude". "For us, commuting is a struggle every day. Due to the rains, several potholes have formed on the road, which are not just causing inconvenience but pose a serious safety hazard too. Those on two-wheelers are the worst affected. Several accidents have been

reported here. When will GMDA wake up from its deep slumber?" questioned Kumar Ashok, president of Bestech Grand Spa RWA. Dharamvir Singh, president of Mapsko Casabella RWA, urged the authorities to work together to find a solution. "If there are problems, officials need to resolve them and provide some relief. The GMDA is shirking its responsibility by blaming litigation." GMDA chief engineer Arun Dhankar said two patches on the main carriageway are under litigation. "A depression has formed near Sector 81, leading to water accumulation and deterioration of the road," he said. Asked about completion of the project, he said: "Besides pending litigation,

Gurgaon municipal body set to pay cos Rs 2.3 crore for garbage collection, transportation

GURGAON: MCG is set to pay Rs 2.3 crore to agencies for the collection and transportation of waste to the Bandhwari landfill site. The agencies hired by the corporation for secondary collection have transported 58,701 metric tonnes of garbage to Bandhwari so far since the implementation of Solid Waste Environment Exigency Programme (SWEEP). According to Nijesh Kumar, MCG executive engineer of Swachh Bharat Mission, "Under SWEEP, 58,701 MT of garbage was collected from various secondary garbage collection points in July and sent to Bandhwari landfill site. The work was assigned to the agencies at the rate of Rs 390 per tonne." The agencies were instructed to unload the garbage



using a dozer and pochain machinery, officials said. "MCG would pay Ecogreen around Rs 3 crore every month for the Gurgaon's waste management," added executive engineer Kumar.

2 die, 1 injured in 2 hit-&-run crashes in Gurgaon

GURGAON: A 37-year-old migrant worker from West Bengal died in a hit-and-run accident at IMT Manesar when his cycle was hit from behind by a hatchback on Monday night. In another incident, a 36-year-old private company employee died when his bike was hit from behind by a car in Sector 93. Police have arrested the accused in both cases. The migrant worker, Sajful, worked as a sewing helper in a Manesar-based garment company, cops said. According to police, on July 29 night, when Sajful was returning from work to his room in Kasan with a colleague Mohammad Sajid, a hatchback hit their cycle from behind near JNS company in Sector 3. After the collision,



Sajful was critically injured, and Sajid suffered a leg fracture. "Subsequently, cops shifted the duo to Civil Hospital in Sector 10, where Sajful was declared dead on arrival by the doctors," police said. Based on the complaint of Sajful's brother, Mafizul Haq, police registered a case under

Gurgaon's air this July worst in 4 years, reveals CPCB data

Gurgaon. The city's air pollution levels in July were the highest since 2021, a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has shown. July's average air quality index (AQI) this year was 108 - 'moderate' - compared to 89 (satisfactory) in the month last year. Experts attributed the rise in pollution to lack of rain and local factors such as traffic congestion and waste burning.

The average AQI in July 2021 was 88 (satisfactory), while it was 106 (moderate) in the same month the following year. According to CPCB data, no 'good' air days were recorded this July. The city

had a better record with 21 'satisfactory' days and 10 'moderate' air day. The deteriorating air quality is a cause for concern and indicates a need for effective measures to control pollution, experts said. Steps like strictly implementing the ban on garbage burning and penalising violators, managing traffic better to reduce snarls, and strengthening pollution control measures can help in bringing down the AQI to safer levels, they said.

Moreover, the monsoon, which is weak this year, failed in dispersing pollutants in July. According to data by the India Meteorological Department (IMD),

for Science and Environment, said: "Monsoon usually helps in cleaning the air, but this July's rains haven't been as predicted. The city received less rain, due to which pollutants were not washed out of the atmosphere. Also, local factors are greatly contributing to the city's high pollution levels. Policymakers need to keep erratic weather conditions and air pollutants in mind while planning mitigation measures. The city also needs to cut down its own local emissions."

Gurgaon and the rest of Delhi-NCR are geographically disadvantaged and frequently bear the brunt of transboundary

<p>Name Change I hitherto known as ARNAVA SHREE VERMA alias PRATHAM VERMA alias ARNAVA SHREE alias ARNAV VERMA S/O ATUL R/o Flat No. 221, Azad Hind CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 15, Sector-8, Dwarka, Bagdola, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARNAV VERMA.</p>	<p>Name Change I hitherto known as MOHAMMAD ISRAFIL S/o MOHAMMAD ASLAM HAWARI R/o RZ-883, A-10, Gali No. 9/3, Sadh Nagar, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MD ISRAFIL.</p>	<p>Name Change I, SUMEET S/O RANBIR SINGH RAJPUT residing at B-2/62-D, LAWRENCE ROAD, 4TH FLOOR, DELHI-110035 have changed my name to SUMEET RAJPUT for all future purposes.</p>	<p>Name Change I hitherto known as SUNIL PRASHAR alias SUNIL KUMAR PRASHAR S/O RADHAKRISHAN SHARMA R/o Flat No. 171-E, Pocket-1, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUNIL KUMAR PRASHAR.</p>	<p>Name Change I hitherto known as MURLI KUMAR S/O MANOJ KUMAR SINGH permanent R/o Gandhar, Pogar, Aurangabad, Bihar-824125, and currently residing at Flat No. 17 AD, Sec-D, Kondali Ghari, Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARTIK KUMAR.</p>	<p>Name Change I, No-15485991P Rank-D/R Name- SUDHIR KUMAR YADAV S/o NIELHU SINGH YADAV R/o VILL-PAIGAM-BARPUR, PO-ABADNABAINAR, TEH-MOHAMMADABAD, DIST-GHAZIPOUR, UTTAR PRADESH-233227 have changed my minor daughter's name from ANSHIKA KUMARI to ANSHIKA YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 01/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.</p>
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REVISED TIMING OF TRAIN
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Train No. 12424 New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express will be revised as under:-

Stations	Existing Time		Revised Time		Date (from Originating Station)
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
Dibrugarh	06:00	---	06:00	---	05.08.2024
New Tinsukia	04:46	04:56	04:30	04:40	
Mariani Jn.	02:33	02:38	02:20	02:25	
Dimapur	00:10	00:17	00:02	00:09	
Lumding Jn.	22:45	22:50	22:40	22:45	

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Name Change
It is for general information that I, Mukesh Sharma S/O Rakesh Sharma, R/O A-19-B D.D.A FLATS SARAI BASTI, Onkar Nagar S.O. North West Delhi, Delhi, 110035, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written MUKESH KUMAR in my 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine is MUKESH SHARMA, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
I, JITENDR KUMAR S/O SH. RAM NIWAS R/O Presently at: QTR NO. 326, TYPE-3, 2ND FLOOR, OLD SPG COMPLEX, SECTOR-8, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110077. Permanent at VILLAGE NARUJA POST-ROHILLI, KANNAUJ, UTTAR PRADESH-209735, have changed my name from JITENDR KUMAR to JITENDRA KUMAR for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, SHARDA Mother of No. 4581328A, Rank-NK, Name-HAJARE NILESH ASHOK Residing at VPO-ANGAPUR (VANDAN), TEHSIL-SATARA, DISTT-SATARA, MAHARASHTRA-415019 have changed my name from SHARDA to SHARDA ASHOK HAJARE for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 01/08/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ZIA UR REHMAN SON OF MR. RAFIQUE AHMED RESIDENT OF E-73/2, SHAHEEN BAGH, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-11, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 declare date of birth of my daughter's named BENAZEER ZIA (AADHAR NO.4690 8309 0207) is 08/08/2009 (8th day of August Two Thousand Nine). That in my daughter's School Record my name is mentioned as ZIA UR REHMAN SAIFI but my correct name is ZIA UR REHMAN which is also mentioned in all other documents. That both name ZIA UR REHMAN and ZIA UR REHMAN SAIFI are of one and the same person i.e. ZIA UR REHMAN.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Ms/Mrs USHA KASYAP issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2405504 has been found missing and/or lost on 30.07.2024. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 2405504. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

PUBLIC NOTICE
For ICICI Bank Limited
Date: 02.08.2024
Place: New Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through e-procurement System
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following item:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	09242042	Key Bolt With Nut	281142 Nos.	26.08.2024
2	07240473	Foot Step Complete for LHB Coaches	5432 Nos.	27.08.2024
3	09242411	Centre Pivot Liner	10701 Nos.	27.08.2024
4	19240885	Twin Beam LED Head Light	848 Set	27.08.2024
5	19240632	Elastic Ring Adhathan Ring	884 Nos.	27.08.2024
6	07240207	Control Arm Assembly Left	935 Nos.	28.08.2024
7	07240146	Secondary Lateral Damper for Fiat Bogie	1769 Nos.	30.08.2024
8	07241825	Face Plate, for Buffer Plunger	7753 Nos.	02.09.2024
9	01241778	Structure Bond 40mm x 6mm MS Flat	5929 Nos.	09.09.2024
10	07241972	Kit of Brake Gear Bushes	3422 Set	18.11.2024

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No.: 38/2024-25 Dated 31.07.2024
2341/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh purchasing Freehold Residential Plot no. 46, in Block-B, area measuring 50 sq. yds. Out of Kharsa no. 154/212m1. Situated at Village Shahabad Ghaziabad Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh, from Sh. Shamskar Singh, Sh. Dhanu Swarnch, Smt. Jyoti Chaudhary, Smt. Ruchi Chaudhary & Smt. Preeti Chaudhary, legal heirs of Late Smt. Veena Devi Was died & she was purchased said property, vide Sale Deed dated 24.04.1999, as Doc no. 1702, Vol no. 4753 Page no. 257-261 SR-GZB-1. Our client declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. (Formerly Piramal Housing Finance Limited) Branch: Rohini, Delhi. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaisali Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

News box

Pakistan man suspects 19-year-old wife of having an affair, sets her ablaze

Lahore. A newly-wed 19-year-old woman was allegedly burnt alive by her husband in the name of honour in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Wednesday. Ali Raza, the husband of victim Saba Iqbal, killed her in Bahawalnagar, some 400 kilometres from Lahore, on July 28 as he suspected that his wife was having an affair. According to police, Saba and Raza contracted a court marriage about eight months ago. Soon after the marriage, Raza started suspecting that Saba was in a relationship with someone else, police said. Muhammad Iqbal, the father of the girl, said Raza told him over the phone on July 28 that Saba had left home after a quarrel and that she had been missing since then. Iqbal said he and other family members rushed to Raza's house and launched a search to find her. Saba's burnt body was found in the field the next day, the girl's father said. Police said they arrested Raza who confessed to his crime. The police said Raza brutally tortured Saba on the day of the incident before burning her alive and then dumping her charred body in the field. "In his confession, Raza said he killed Saba after knowing that she had relations with someone else outside his locality," police said. A murder case has been registered against Raza and two unidentified suspects.

Hezbollah confirms death of top commander in Israeli strike on Lebanon

Beirut. Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Wednesday that senior commander Fuad Shukur was killed in an Israeli strike on the outskirts of the Lebanese capital, making him the most senior figure from the group to be killed in nearly 10 months of conflict with Israel. The strike hit the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Hezbollah stronghold, at dusk on Tuesday. It was the second time that the area had been struck since October, when Hezbollah and Israel began trading fire in parallel with the Gaza War. Israel's military announced late on Tuesday it had killed Shukur, whom it named as Hezbollah's most senior commander and whom it blamed for an attack on July 27 that left a dozen youngsters dead in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Iran-backed Hezbollah denied any involvement in the Golan attack. The strike on Beirut happened hours before the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the early hours of Wednesday in Iran, in a development that has further fanned fears of wider regional escalation. Hezbollah is an ally of Hamas. Hezbollah said that its secretary general Hassan Nasrallah would speak on Thursday on the occasion of Shukur's funeral. Shukur was an adviser to Nasrallah, according to Hezbollah sources and the Israeli military's announcement of his killing. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Shukur "has the blood of many Israelis on his hands. Tonight, we have shown that the blood of our people has a price, and that there is no place out of reach for our forces to this end".

9/11 attack mastermind, two other plotters agree to plead guilty, says Pentagon

Washington The man accused of masterminding the September 11, 2001 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and two of his accomplices, held at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have agreed to plead guilty, the Pentagon said on Wednesday. The Pentagon did not elaborate on the plea deals. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the plea deals almost certainly involved guilty pleas in exchange for taking the death penalty off the table. The official said the terms of the agreement had not been publicly disclosed but acknowledged a plea for a life sentence was possible. Mohammed is the most well known inmate at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, which was set up in 2002 by then-US President George W Bush to house foreign militant suspects following the September 11 attacks on the United States. Its population grew to a peak of about 800 inmates before it started to shrink. There are 30 inmates today. Mohammed is accused of masterminding the plot to fly hijacked commercial passenger aircraft into the World Trade Center in New York City and into the Pentagon. The 9/11 attacks, as they're known, killed nearly 3,000 people and plunged the United States into what would become a two-decade-long war in Afghanistan. His interrogations have long been the subject of scrutiny. A 2014 Senate Intelligence Committee report on the CIA's use of waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques" said that Mohammed had been waterboarded at least 183 times. Plea deals were also reached by two other detainees: Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin 'Attash and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi, according to a Pentagon statement.

US man damages official vehicles guarding Kamala Harris's stepdaughter, arrested

The man, Harry Heymann, appeared to be a supporter of a small group of citizen activists who call attention to — and sometimes personally modify — the obstructed licence plates often used by motorists to evade tolls and traffic enforcement in New York.

New York. A Manhattan software developer was arrested and charged Tuesday with damaging the licence plate covers on two SUVs belonging to a Secret Service detail assigned to Vice President Kamala Harris' stepdaughter. The man, Harry Heymann, appeared to be a supporter of a small group of citizen activists who call attention to — and sometimes personally modify — the obstructed licence plates often used by motorists to evade tolls and traffic enforcement in New York. Heymann, 45, approached the unmarked vehicles outside a Tribeca restaurant, then broke off their licence plate covers on the back, according to a criminal complaint. The vehicles belonged to Secret Service agents assigned to protect the vice president's stepdaughter, Ella Emhoff, as she ate lunch at Bubby's, a nearby restaurant. Video obtained by TMZ showed Emhoff being

ushered into a black SUV and a man being led away in handcuffs. "At no point was any protectee in danger as a result of this incident," said James Byrne, a spokesperson for the Secret Service. Heymann was charged with obstructing governmental administration and criminal mischief. He did not respond to a voicemail and his attorney declined to comment. Drivers in New York often use illegal plate covers to avoid tolling systems and traffic cameras that rely on automated license plate readers. In recent years, a small group of citizen activists have taken countermeasures to stop drivers from obscuring their licence plates. Gersh Kuntzman, the editor of news site Streetsblog NYC, popularised the efforts in 2022 with a series of videos — and a recent Daily Show appearance — showing him personally "un-defacing" licence plates.



Kuntzman and his followers have used markers to redraw plate numbers that have been scraped away, removed tape and stickers, fixed bent plates or unscrewed coverings that render plates unreadable. Their repair efforts often focus on the private vehicles of law enforcement officers and court system personnel parked near police precincts and courthouses. An X profile associated with Heymann

showed dozens of posts about obscured licence plates and illegally parked police vehicles in Manhattan. "I do feel a certain amount of responsibility here," Kuntzman told The Associated Press Wednesday. A spokesperson for the Secret Service didn't respond to a question about why the two vehicles featured licence plate covers. "Like this gentleman who may or may not have broken the law, I have been outraged by the way in which public officials, including those whose job it is to enforce the law, have willfully broken the law and made our roads less safe," Kuntzman added. He continued: "As members of the public, we do have a responsibility to play a role in keeping the roadways safe. If that means cleaning up a piece of state property that is required by law to be readable, I'm OK with that. That said, I have never messed with the Secret Service."

New video from Trump rally shows figure moving on roof moments before gunfire

World A new video from the Pennsylvania rally, where an assassination attempt was made on former US President Donald Trump, shows a figure moving swiftly across the roof of a building just minutes before shots were fired. It was recorded by James Copenhaver, one of the two rally-goers who were critically injured in the July 13 assassination attempt. In the video, exclusively obtained by Fox News, the person appears on the roof of the American Glass Research (AGR) building only minutes before shots were fired at the Republican presidential nominee. The figure could be seen moving from one side of the roof to another as Donald Trump was speaking. Towards the end of the video, the figure can be prominently seen on the roof, appearing to take position. The video was taken at 6.08 pm on July 13. Officials believe that Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, opened fire three minutes later - around



6.11 pm - Fox News reported. A Secret Service sniper quickly shot and killed him, with law enforcement officials later finding eight shell casings near his body. James Copenhaver, 74, and David 'Jake' Dutch, 57, were shot twice by Crooks in his attempt to assassinate Trump. A 50-year-old volunteer firefighter Corey Comperatore was killed. The eight shots that Crooks fired at the former US President narrowly missed his face and grazed his ear. Both Copenhaver

and Dutch were discharged from the hospital in recent weeks. Even as investigations continue into the assassination attempt, a mystery remains about how Thomas Crooks reached the roof of the AGR building with a weapon. While testifying before a congressional committee last month, FBI director Christopher Wray said that Thomas Crooks bought a ladder on the day of the shooting, but it appeared he did not use it. Instead, he climbed onto the roof using mechanical equipment on the ground and vertical piping. Wray also said that the 20-year-old's AR-style gun had a collapsible stock, which may explain why rally-goers or law enforcement officials didn't see him with the weapon before the shooting. Crooks flew a drone over the rally about two hours before Donald Trump took the stage, and bought as many as 50 rounds of ammunition on the day of the attack.

British teen charged with murder of three girls in dance workshop knife attack

Southport/London A 17-year-old male already in custody has been charged with murder for the deaths of three young girls in a frenzied knife attack in Southport, UK police said on Wednesday, while the rampage unleashed demonstrations in London with echoes of blame on immigrants. The teen will be remanded in custody and will appear at the Liverpool Magistrates Court on Thursday, the police said. The 17-year-old was in police custody on suspicion of murder and attempted murder after the bloody rampage on Monday at a "Taylor Swift yoga and dance workshop", a summer vacation event for children

aged 6 to 11 in the English seaside town. The three girls killed were aged 6 to 9. Police said the person charged cannot be named for legal reasons because he is under 18 years of age. Disturbances in Southport on Tuesday took place after false information was spread on social media that the suspect behind the stabbings was a radical Islamist migrant. In London on Wednesday, thousands gathered near the prime minister's Downing Street residence, shouting "Save our kids", "We want our country back" and "Stop the boats", as well as English football chants. Police have said the attack was not terrorism-related and that the suspect was born in Britain,

quashing speculation on his origins. A large number of police wearing helmets formed a barrier around the protesters, who earlier threw flares and smoke canisters towards Downing Street. The police said in a separate statement that over a 100 people were arrested for offences including violent disorder, assaulting an emergency worker and breaching protest conditions. "Just to reassure the communities of Southport, who I am sure are really worried about 'are we going to see this again tonight?' - we are absolutely planning for this evening and for the weekend ahead," Serena Kennedy, chief constable of Merseyside Police, told reporters.

British Parliament panel to promote India-UK bilateral ties

The new cross-party panel will be co-chaired by crossbench peer in the House of Lords Karan Bilimoria and new British Sikh Labour MP Jeevun Sandher.

London. A new India All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) has been launched for the newly elected UK Parliament with a remit to promote the bilateral relationship across all sectors, from trade and investment, science and technology to healthcare and education. The India APPG was formally launched earlier this week and celebrated during an "Indian Summer" event marking the ongoing South Asian Heritage Month at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Room in the Houses of Parliament complex, where several newly elected British Indian members of Parliament backed the initiative. The new cross-party panel will be co-chaired by crossbench peer in the House of Lords Karan Bilimoria and new British Sikh Labour MP Jeevun Sandher. "It is serendipitous that we celebrate the UK-India partnership just as we launched the new India APPG, which I am proud to co-chair," said Bilimoria. "The India APPG promotes the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between the UK and India, focusing on key areas such as trade and investment, education,



sustainable development, culture, health, science and innovation, including technology and AI, and defence and security," he said. He said it will help enhance the relationship between both countries' parliaments and governments on a national and regional level, and also continue to promote people-to-people links, including the living bridge between the people of Indian origin in the UK and India. British Indian think-tank 1928 Institute will be the secretariat of this new APPG, which brings together the different India-UK parliamentary panels of the past under one umbrella. While

Baroness Sandy Verma will be the President of the group, MPs making up India APPG will include Gurinder Josan, Warinder Juss, Kirith Entwistle, Sojan Joseph and Kanishka Narayan from Labour, Shivani Raja and Bob Blackman from the Conservatives and a number of veteran peers including Lord Navnit Dholakia (Liberal Democrats) and Lord Dolar Popat (Tories), among others. APPGs are informal, cross-party groups in the UK formed by members of both Houses of Parliament who share a common interest in a particular policy area, region or country. "Many of the all-party group members have been extremely active way before it was fashionable to be active on this subject, so thank you for your longevity. I'm looking forward very much to seeing new young members getting involved," said Catherine West, the UK's new Indo-Pacific Minister in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). "My boss, David Lammy - the Foreign Secretary, has already visited India. He has had conversations with many.

Iran's Khamenei orders 'direct' attack on Israel after Haniyeh's killing: Report

World Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has ordered a "direct attack" on Israel in retaliation for the killing of top Hamas's leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, The New York Times reported, while citing three Iranian officials. Shortly after announcing the death of Haniyeh, Iran called out an emergency meeting of the country's Supreme National Security Council on Wednesday morning. According to the officials, Khamenei gave orders of attack during the meeting. Such a meeting only occurs during extraordinary circumstances. Earlier in April, a similar meeting was called after an Israeli airstrike in Syria killed two top Iranian military commanders. Meanwhile, Israel's Channel 12 reported that messages have been sent to Iran through diplomatic backchannels that Israel is willing to go to a full-scale war if Iran and its proxies conduct any attack against the country. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for the killing. So far, Israel has neither accepted nor denied the killing of Haniyeh, who was in Tehran for the swearing-in



ceremony of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian. Without mentioning the assassination, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that Israel "will exact a very heavy price from any aggression against us on any front." "There are challenging days ahead," he was quoted as saying

by the news agency Associated Press (AP) in its report. However, earlier, during the beginning of the Gaza war, Israel had vowed to kill Ismail Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the group's October 7 attack on Israel. After Haniyeh's killing in Tehran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a statement on his official website, stated that the "revenge" was "our duty", and that Israel had "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home." Iran and the regional forces it supports — including Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and various militias in Iraq — refer to themselves as the "axis of resistance." Leaders from these groups gathered in Tehran on Tuesday for the inauguration of Pezeshkian. Haniyeh was killed around 2 am (local time), following his attendance at the ceremony and a meeting with Khamenei. The assassination shocked Iranian officials, who called it crossing red lines. Meanwhile, according to Iran's state-run Press TV, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will lead funeral prayers for Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Thursday.

News box

Panel poll this mth, 10 yrs since vendors' survey

Mumbai. The issuance of licences to 32,000 street hawkers, which has been hanging fire for 10 years since a survey was conducted, is finally picking up steam. For, the election process for vendors on the town vending committee (TVC) will be held on Aug 29.

The final voter list has been made available in all municipal wards, said BMC.

It'll be the TVC's mandate to finalise hawking zones. BMC said the filing of nominations will begin on Aug 5, the scrutiny will be on Aug 14, the publishing of the list of nominations on Aug 16, and withdrawal of nominations will be allowed on Aug 20. There will be no charge for filing nomination papers. Meanwhile, Shashank Rao, president of Mumbai Hawkers Union, objected to BMC going by a 10-year-old list of hawkers to issue licences, saying that count is far lower than the current strength. —Richa Pinto

New voters should register by Aug 16: Election body Ahead of the state assembly polls, Pune district officials urged new voters to register by August 16 to ensure their names appear on electoral rolls. The final list will be published on August 27. Officials addressed issues of missing names and encouraged checking and correcting details through online or offline submissions during the voter registration drive. 15 nominations filed for standing committee posts On Monday, 15 nominations were filed for 10 Standing Committee posts in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation. As of Saturday, no nominations had been filed since the process began on July 22. Now, 17 nomination forms have been issued. The contest includes candidates from TDP, YSRCP, and an independent candidate, aiming to secure all posts by consolidation. 112116572

20 spots to be freed of illegal hawkers as pilot: BMC to Bombay HC The BMC, with police assistance, targeted 20 areas in Mumbai to tackle illegal hawkers, as informed to the Bombay high court. This initiative followed HC's recommendation to clear public access ways.

RBI issues two-factor check norms

Mumbai. RBI has said that any alternative to the SMS-based OTP as an additional factor of authentication should be dynamically generated. RBI on Wednesday came out with guidelines for 'alternative authentication mechanisms for digital payment transactions' where it listed specifications for the alternatives. "No specific factor was mandated for authentication, but the digital payments ecosystem has primarily adopted SMS-based OTP as AFA. While OTP is working satisfactorily, technological advancements have made available alternative authentication mechanisms," RBI said.

RBI believes that the primary factor for authentication should be something the user knows (such as password, passphrase, PIN), something the user has (such as card hardware or software token) something the user is (fingerprint or any other form of biometrics).

Digital push is driving out mid-level banking staff: RBI The financial sector has seen a major shift with digitalisation, leading to the decline of middle and lower-end jobs due to automation. The ratio of officers to support staff has increased significantly between FY11 and FY23. The RBI highlighted the need for upskilling as AI transforms the job landscape. Private banks experienced a high turnover rate in FY23. 112121208

RBI imposes penalties on 3 payment system operators including Visa Worldwide The Reserve Bank of India imposed fines on Visa Worldwide, Ola Financial Services, and Manappuram Finance for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. Visa was fined Rs 2.4 crore, Manappuram Finance Rs 41.5 lakh, and Ola Financial Services Rs 87.55 lakh in two cases. These penalties were issued after evaluating written responses and oral submissions from the companies.

Chennai customs foils Bangkok-bound man's attempt to smuggle 427 star tortoises

CHENNAI. Customs officials at Chennai airport on Tuesday night foiled a Thailand-bound passenger's attempt to smuggle 427 star tortoises. Sources said that Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) officials received an intelligence input that Sahul Hameed (29) of Ramanathapuram might be carrying suspicious objects. He was due to travel to Bangkok by flight FD 154.

Officials intercepted him at the departure hall and questioned him about the contents of his baggage. They searched his trolley suitcase and found four smaller bags inside which contained a total of 427 tortoises. Hameed, who claimed ignorance about the bag's contents, was immediately detained and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) officials were informed about the seizure.

WCCB officials reached the spot and confirmed that the animals were star tortoises, which are endangered species. Hameed was placed under arrest and the tortoises were handed over to Guindy National Park for rehabilitation.

Madhavaram-Red Hills NH traffic takes 'toll' on commuters

CHENNAI. Despite being a toll road, the 9.5 km national highway from Madhavaram junction to Padiyanallur of the Chennai-Kolkata national highway (NH-16) always faces heavy traffic congestion owing to junctions every 500m and poor upkeep. The dense residential and commercial areas on both sides exacerbates the situation.

Besides, the Madhavaram - Nallur section could not be widened to six lanes as relocating utilities like electrical cables and water pipelines is a monumental task, according to the NHAI.

The 33.5km NH from the Nallur toll plaza towards the Tamil Nadu -Andhra Pradesh border is six lanes. According to motorists and truckers heading to Vijayawada, Tada, and Tirupati, it takes 60-95 minutes to traverse 10km section owing to numerous junctions where residents frequently cross the road. Despite toll fees being collected, the road shows signs of neglect and lack of attention. The section carries 1.4 lakh vehicles a day.

The 9.5 km section from Madhavaram to Nallur contains 11 major and minor junctions. "Local vehicles including trucks enter highway from both sides every 500m, forcing the traffic on NH carriageway to move at a snail's pace



during peak hours. Plans to make minor junctions one-way couldn't be implemented due to local resistance. On July 27, the highway and other roads were paralysed from 8am till 10pm," said a traffic police officer.

S Suresh Babu, president of Billukuppam Village Welfare Association, said the Madhavaram-Red Hills section remains congested throughout the day, making it difficult for residents of Gummidipundi, Alamadhi, Ponneri, and nearby villages to access the city. "Other roads linked with the highway, including the Chennai-Tiruvallur highway, experience severe traffic during peak hours, with vehicle queues extending three to four km," he said. Following frequent representations from business groups, truckers'

associations, and residents, NHAI proposed a 10.5km six-lane elevated corridor from Madhavaram junction, with a ramp connecting Chennai bypass with the outer ring road, at a cost of '1,700 crore. Although proposed in 2018, the project was stalled due to disagreements between the state government and NHAI over waiving royalties for minerals like gravel and earth used in construction and levy of state GST on construction materials. While the state government agreed to waive the mineral royalties in June last year, it refused to waive

the state component of the 9% GST on construction materials. According to NHAI Chennai officials, the detailed project report is in its final stages and action will be taken once approved by the ministry. Meanwhile, '38 crore was allocated for relaying the 9.6km section from Madhavaram to Red Hills and building stormwater drains. "The drain construction works have already commenced," said an official.

"It is illegal to collect toll fees on the Madhavaram-Red Hills section without widening the road to six lanes. The toll fee should only apply to the 35.5 km stretch that has already been widened to six lanes," R Rajan Kumar, a trucker, added.

Mettur discharge at 1.7L cusecs; 250 moved to safety

ERODE: The discharge of water from the Mettur dam into the Cauvery river was increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs on Wednesday evening as the inflow continued to surge. As a result, 250 people living in low-lying areas along the banks of the river in Namakkal and Erode districts were moved to relief shelters.

The water level reached the full reservoir level of 120 feet (93.4 m) on Tuesday evening, following which the entire inflow was discharged into the river. Water flow in the river at Hogenakkal surged to 1.4 lakh cusecs on Wednesday. A month ago, the water level was a meagre 300 cusecs, which was one of the lowest in the last five years. As of 7 pm on Wednesday, 1.7 lakh cusecs of water was released into the river. Due to this, a flood

warning was issued to the people living along the banks of the Cauvery. In Namakkal, people living in low-lying areas in Kumarapalayam and were



accommodated in temporary camps. In Kumarapalayam, 186 people belonging to 78 families have been taken to two camps.

Thirty-seven people belonging to 15 families have been accommodated in a camp in Pallipalayam. Namakkal collector S Uma inspected the river banks and interacted with the people staying in the camps. In Erode, flooding was reported in residential areas in Bhavani. A total of 28 people belonging to 14 families were accommodated in two camps. Minister S Muthusamy inspected the Cauvery banks. District collector Raja Gopal Sunkara inspected Kodumudi and Bhavani. Speaking to reporters, he said, "Erode district has 30 villages on the banks of Cauvery and 77 shelters are ready as a precaution."

In Salem, disaster management officials said the situation is under control. Collector R Brinda Devi inspected the river bank on Tuesday night.

City set to become 'Maha Hyderabad'

HYDERABAD. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is all set to become "Maha Hyderabad". The State Cabinet, which will meet on Thursday, is expected to approve the creation of a 'unified single urban local body' by extending GHMC's jurisdiction to Outer Ring Road (ORR). The new entity, likely to be named "Hyderabad Greater City Corporation" (HGCC) will include several municipal corporations, municipalities and villages up to the ORR.

According to sources, the proposals prepared by the Telangana Municipal Administration department will be presented to the State Cabinet on August 1,



2024, and a draft bill will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly/Legislative Council on August 2, for consideration.

Since the team of elected bodies in Gram Panchayats has expired, the government plans to merge Gram Panchayats within

State Cabinet expected to approve creation of a unified single urban local body

ORR into neary municipal corporations or municipalities. Where such mergers are not feasible, new urban local bodies (ULBs) will be created for clusters of such Gram Panchayats. The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (PRRD) department has been asked to de-notify the same.

The government aims to ensure uniform development and planned growth in Greater Hyderabad.

Man in Chennai stages theft at home to clear debt

CHENNAI: A 44-year-old man in Ayanambakkam allegedly staged a burglary in his own house to raise money to repay his debts from online gambling. With the help of a relative, he shifted 103 sovereigns of gold from his house in an attempt to keep his wife in the dark about his mounting debts. Police said B Janardhanan (44) of Ayanambakkam worked at a construction company in Saudi Arabia and had come home recently on vacation. On Sunday evening, Janardhanan along with his wife and daughter went for an outing and upon returning, realised that their house had been 'burgled'.

ased on his complaint that 103 sovereigns of gold worth around '60 lakh, the police registered a case



and commenced an inquiry. While combing CCTV footage, they saw a man entering and exiting the house. There were no signs of forced entry, indicating that the man was familiar with the house.

As they were zeroing in on the suspect, Janardhanan approached the police to withdraw his complaint. Further inquiry revealed that the 44-year-old had huge debts due to online gambling, which his wife knew nothing about. To repay the debts, he planned to sell the jewellery in his house. He gave the house key to his relative S Thyagarajan (38) of Vadapalani, who stole the gold when the family was out. Of the 103 sovereigns, Janardhanan pledged 40 sovereigns. The police recovered the remaining gold and are considering action against Janardhanan and Thyagarajan.

Over 900 narcotics cases in eight months; efforts on to disrupt supply chains in Ernakulam

KOCHI. Affirming concerns over the increasing drug usage in the district, more than 900 narcotics cases were registered in Ernakulam Rural district in the past eight months. Despite that, significant seizures - including 370g of MDMA, two LSD stamps, and approximately one kilogram of ganja - were made during 'Operation Clean Ernakulam Rural' on June 26, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Moreover, a Congolese national, suspected to be the kingpin of an international drug-trafficking racket and a 'cook' of synthetic drugs, was arrested from Bengaluru while smuggling drugs on a tourist bus during the period, a senior police officer said. "The Ernakulam Rural police have initiated action to confiscate the assets of 22 individuals involved in drug peddling during this period. We have impounded assets, including properties purchased with drug money and bank accounts where such funds were deposited, under Section 68F (2) of the NDPS Act," he said. Additionally, the police have detained 10 offenders under the Preventing Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, he added. Detailing the recent crackdown on individuals involved in drug smuggling, the officer said, "The arrest of a three-member gang smuggling 1.8kg of MDMA under the cover of making short films in North Paravoor and the capture of a woman from Bengaluru with 1kg of MDMA were among the biggest drug seizures by the rural police during this.

Rain deficit induces drought fear among Sundargarh farmers

The situation has brought paddy transplantaion and broadcasting operations to a grinding halt in major parts of the district.

ROURKELA: With deficit rain situation persisting in Sundargarh district during most of the monsoon, farmers here are worried over the possibility of a drought-like situation which, they fear, will affect paddy cultivation in their areas. The situation has brought paddy transplantaion and broadcasting operations to a grinding halt in major parts of the district.

If agriculture authorities are to be believed, the district is lagging far behind with regards to paddy transplantaion and broadcasting operations owing to deficit rainfall in July by 47 per cent. The same situation was witnessed in June too, which received 42 per cent less than normal rain this year. Normal rainfall for July has been downwardly revised to 352.2 mm from the previous 383.4 mm. While Bargaon is the worst affected receiving 105 mm rain, Hemgir block has recorded the highest rain at 363 mm. Meanwhile, Bonai, Gurundia, Nuagaon, Lefripada, Subdega



and Tangarpali received between 202 mm and 238 mm rain. Balishankara, Bisra, Koida, Kuanrunda, Kutra, Lahunipada, Lathikata, Rajgangpur and Sundargarh blocks received between 150 mm and 187 mm.

Samuel Toppo, a marginal farmer of Bargaon block said majority of paddy farmers depend on monsoon rain for kharif

cultivation as irrigation coverage in the district is poor. "In ideal conditions, paddy transplantaion and broadcasting activities should have been completed by now," he said. Paddy cultivation target for this kharif crop season has been downwardly fixed for 1,94,700 hectare (ha), while non-paddy crop cultivation areas increased to 1,18,230 ha.

Admitting that paddy coverage achievement is lagging in the district due to inadequate rainfall, chief district agriculture officer Harihar Nayak, however, said nothing has been lost as yet. "There is a forecast of heavy rainfall for the next three to four days which can improve the situation," he said adding, in the event the present dry spell continues beyond the next two to three weeks, it could be problematic.

He further noted that similar situation was witnessed during 2023 kharif season where deficit rainfall was followed by frequent low-pressure induced showers and that helped revive the cultivation scenario. "So far the district has reported 30 per cent achievement in paddy broadcasting and above 20 per cent achievement in paddy transplantaion," the CDAO said. He further hoped that the situation would improve with a good spell of rainfall as there is adequate moisture in the soil.

Indigenous fighter programme remains a work in progress

WHEN the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Marshal AP Singh, publicly states that "Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) shouldn't be a buzzword at the cost of the nation's defence and should be pursued holistically in letter and spirit", the matter needs a close look. The Air Marshal has tried to bring to the nation's notice the acute shortage of fighters and consequential under-strength of the IAF — 31 squadrons against the sanctioned strength of 42.

So, where does the problem lie? How to sort things out? What are the options for the government and the IAF? Since the focus is on Aatmanirbharta, it points to a deficiency in indigenous fighter production and a diminishing fleet resulting in reduced fighting capability of the Air Force. One, therefore, has to link indigenous fighter production to the big picture.

The most critical aspect of the indigenous fighter programme of any country is the engine/power plant of the flying machine, without which it is a non-starter. There are broadly nine manufactured sub-units/instruments which need to be interfaced to make a machine fly; fuselage, flying controls, structure, landing gear, power plant (engine), systems, avionics, equipment and armament. With the modern computer-aided design and computer-aided maintenance, Indian engineers and technologists surely can do eight out of nine jobs efficiently. Nevertheless, it's the power plant which constitutes the most challenging task, requiring sustained research and development by the best of brains and test-flying. Thus, just as no Rolls Royce is Rolls Royce without a matching engine, a fighter without a power plant at best could be an exciting item on display in a park or a museum for those aspiring to be pilots.

India, therefore, has its task cut out with regard to an aero-engine. India does have a full-fledged fighter engine-manufacturing Gas Turbine Research Establishment in Bengaluru. However, going by the list of fighter users, as gleaned from the last 50 years' editions of the annual Jane's All the World's Aircraft (JAWA) and the recently launched Janes Aero-Engines, it transpires that no single-engine fighter today can be considered useful if its thrust is less than 30,000 pounds static and without additional power generated by the afterburner during critical air-to-air missions. Unfortunately, JAWA reports that the 'performance ratings' of "India's first indigenously produced jet engine" Kaveri are "maximum dry 11,462-pound static thrust" and "maximum 19,000-pound static thrust with afterburner" (static thrust is the thrust developed by an airplane engine that is at rest with respect to the earth and the surrounding air). That would certainly pose problems pertaining to aerial power-to-weight combat for IAF pilots, being below par by modern fighter standards, notwithstanding different roles for different fighters. The IAF squadron's single-engine Mirage-2000, imported from France in 1985, has the Snecma M53 power plant's 21,385-pound static thrust, making it a potent "single-seat interceptor and air superiority fighter". What helped America's General Dynamics F-16 with one Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-200 engine succeed in the military market and combat missions was essentially the generation of 25,000-pound static thrust, which has gone up exponentially to ensure its longevity and durability — having been in ops for almost 50 years. F-16 production changed hands from General Dynamics to Lockheed Martin, but it now has two engine makers: the 29,100-pound static thrust Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-229 and General Electric's 29,588-pound static thrust F110-GE-129 power plant. Fast-forward to the 21st century. Lockheed Martin's multirole F35 single Pratt & Whitney power plant generates 40,000-pound-plus thrust, making it one of the heaviest 'maximum take-off weight' fighter of 15.785 tonnes in the single-engine category with an impressive maximum payload of 8.165 tonnes. The quality and efficiency of the engine make the machine airworthy and a potential victor.

Changing dynamics in South Asia keep India on toes

Americans have the luxury of viewing South Asia through a moralistic prism, whereas, for India, it is a strategic call.

THE unrest in Bangladesh, where amorphous forces are coming together to challenge the Awami League government, is a matter of concern for India. Since 2009, with Sheikh Hasina at the helm, Bangladesh's relations with India have improved significantly.

But instability in Bangladesh can be a tipping point in India's neighbourhood. SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) is in deep freeze. And the same is the case with India's relationship with Pakistan, whose efforts to cause disturbances in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir continue unabated. Since the Taliban takeover in 2021, India's diplomatic relations with Afghanistan have not been raised to a level where they are tantamount to a recognition of the regime.

With the emergence of President Mohamed Muizzu in the Maldives and his victory in the parliamentary elections, India has to live with his administration despite its anti-India stance.

A common thread running through these countries is the China factor. Beijing tends to support their regimes and stoke anti-India sentiments. As a result, India has been working with countries on the Bay of Bengal coast and trying to strengthen regional cooperation, particularly through BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). Headquartered in Bangladesh, BIMSTEC is now a bigger responsibility for India. Recently, there was a change of government in Nepal, a BIMSTEC country. The minority Maoists are out, and the Nepali Congress is in power, which should be considered a slightly positive gain for India.

However, KP Sharma Oli's return as the Prime Minister blunts the advantage of the Maoists' ouster, as Oli is known to be anti-India. He is one of those neighbourhood politicians who like to play the China card against India. Further, India has paid a heavy price for providing relief and debt settlement solutions to keep Sri Lanka afloat. President Ranil Wickremesinghe is well-disposed towards India. However, his United National Party is in a minority, having only one seat in Parliament and living on the largesse of a divided ruling class. A presidential election is due in September. While Wickremesinghe remains the most plausible candidate, which party will back him and whose candidate will win remains open to question. He needs to marshal a set of political parties behind him

which will also possibly win a majority in the parliamentary elections that will follow. Otherwise, he will again be a President with a Parliament not beholden to him. Some parties in Sri Lanka also play the anti-India card and use China to foment such sentiments. Economic and cultural largesse offered in times of distress act as a soothing balm in these countries. But when elections come, anti-India sentiments can help a party draw more votes than it would get if the nation has friendly ties with New Delhi.

Another country in India's neighbourhood, Myanmar, is also in dire straits. The situation has



only worsened since the military coup. India has kept up a delicate balancing act to safeguard its security by engaging with the junta while also maintaining partial ties with the democratic forces.

ASEAN is divided on how to deal with Myanmar. Among the ASEAN members that would rather engage with Myanmar than isolate it are Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. India has engaged with them. But for India, Myanmar is more of a neighbourhood problem and less of an ASEAN issue. Therefore, there is a perception in the region that Bangladesh has been our most stable and friendly neighbour. Dhaka has provided Beijing with many opportunities for the supply of defence equipment, economic engagement and infrastructure-building. But Bangladesh has taken the trouble to ensure that its engagement with China does not create security concerns for India. Further, Bangladesh has given India a level playing field to the extent that it is the largest recipient of Indian credit lines, and several infrastructure projects are in progress there. For many years, India thought of

Myanmar as the route of connectivity with the North-East. That is why the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the trilateral highway project were launched. At that time, concerns over Bangladeshi instability and its hostile attitude towards India made New Delhi look at Myanmar as the bridge to the North-East. Besides, Myanmar's domestic situation has not helped matters. And since 2009, India-Bangladesh relations have gone from strength to strength. Therefore, Bangladesh has emerged as the bridge with the North-East in recent years, particularly since the conditions in Myanmar are not conducive to the completion of ongoing infrastructure projects. If the situation worsens in Bangladesh, India will have reasons to worry. The congruence of Pakistani and Chinese interests in supporting a non-Awami League government, which is more open to them, is evident. Hasina had cut short her recent visit to China for unspecified reasons. Perhaps she was not fully satisfied with what the Chinese were able to offer. Of late, she has been more receptive to infrastructure support from Japan and India. Further, Hasina has drawn America's ire since the Americans have alleged that the elections in Bangladesh were not free and fair.

The Americans have the luxury of viewing South Asia through a moralistic prism, whereas, for India, it is a strategic call. This tests the limitations of the India-US partnership. Like in Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, India is playing a low-key role in Bangladesh, trying to engage all parties and to be seen as supportive of the country rather than a particular party. But when a certain party, like the one in Bangladesh, stays in power for a long time, ties with the country often come to be seen as an engagement with that ruling party. Therefore, India needs to diversify its engagement with other political parties and emerging interest groups that seem to be calling the shots. India does not want to be seen as interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbours. But then, these affairs should also be better handled and not allowed to become platforms for anti-India tirades.

The challenge for India comes shortly after it hosted a BIMSTEC retreat in order to foster regional cooperation. There will be testing times for Indian diplomacy in the neighbourhood in the next few months.

Governor-CM spat

Centre, states must respect cooperative federalism

GOVERNORS are governors, chief ministers are chief ministers, and never the twain shall meet. Unfortunately, this seems to ring true for several Opposition-ruled states. In Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria has replaced Banwarilal Purohit as the Governor. This brings to an end an acrimonious chapter that saw Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann lock horns over issues such as the convening of an Assembly session and the appointment of vice-chancellors of state-run universities. Taking exception to Purohit's visits to border districts, the CM accused him of running a parallel government and creating an 'atmosphere of conflict'. Purohit, who had resigned in February, citing 'personal reasons', denied that he interfered in the affairs of the state government. He wondered what the fuss was all about and asked Mann not to be afraid of him. Their confrontation, which doubled up as a battle between the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP, severely impacted governance in the



border state. Mann has promised to work in coordination with the new

Governor, but that is easier said than done. Things are no better in some other states where the BJP is not in power, with the CM-Governor dispute inevitably reaching the court's doorstep. Last week, the Supreme Court issued notices to the Kerala and West Bengal governors' offices on separate petitions about Bills kept pending for assent in both states. Cooperative federalism is enshrined in the Constitution, but it is conspicuous by its absence when governors and CMs are at loggerheads. Some governors have even been called out by the judiciary for exceeding their brief. The Centre, which set up NITI Aayog on the premise that "strong states make a strong nation", should refrain from weakening particular states by pitting political appointees against elected representatives of the people. Otherwise, the dream of Viksit Bharat will remain just that — a dream.

Targeted policies can make exports soar

A paradigm shift from import dependence can make a world of difference

GLOBAL trade flows continue to be sluggish, so India may find the going tough in world markets this year. Merchandise exports in the first quarter (April to June) of the current fiscal showed a marginal growth of about 6 per cent, even as services exports continue to be buoyant. Despite the positive growth data, the medium-term outlook remains uncertain with many potential external headwinds. These include slowing import demand in advanced economies and geopolitical strife affecting worldwide cargo movements. Logistics issues created by the bottlenecks in the Red Sea have already raised shipment costs, while container shortage is another stumbling block. Other issues related to non-tariff barriers could potentially assume grave dimensions. This includes the imposition of new trade rules, especially those linked to climate change and environmental issues. The European Union's decision to impose higher tariffs on high carbon goods like steel, aluminium and cement — the carbon border adjustment mechanism — has already rattled exporters dealing with this major market. This does not mean that India's exports cannot show an exponential rise in the coming years. There are a few areas where higher investments and facilitation measures have already worked wonders in driving growth. These include mobile phones, toys and defence equipment. The success story of mobiles is well known. The phenomenal rise in exports over the past two years has pushed this country into becoming the sixth largest exporter now from the 23rd rank in 2014. The stimulus has primarily come from two leading global brands, Samsung and Apple. They have made large investments here which have translated into a spurt in domestic output and exports. The toy export story, in contrast, has been highlighted

only recently in the Economic Survey. It attributes the rise in toy exports and the shift away from import dependence to a raft of measures launched over the past decade. This includes a national action plan for toys, raising import duties and laying down quality control guidelines. Significantly, there has been an integration into the global value chain for toys along with zero duties in key markets like the UAE and Australia. The end result has been a compound annual growth rate of nearly 16 per cent for toy exports over the past decade. At the same time, the dependence on supplies from China has waned considerably. Its share in toy imports dipped from 94 to 64 per cent over this period. The number of manufacturing units doubled, while the reliance on imported inputs fell from 33 to 12 per cent from 2013 to 2020, according to the survey.

This may not make the country one of the top toy exporters in the world, but it does show that targeted policies can make a dent in unexpected areas. One must remember that this is an industry utterly dominated by China, which accounts for over 86 per cent of the world's exports. Yet another area that has witnessed a dramatic turnaround is defence exports. Though India remains the world's leading arms importer, it has shifted gears in recent years to figure among the top 25 arms exporters. The reasons for the change are said to be simplifying of export procedures and curtailing delays by going with online export authorisations.

Given these success stories, it is clear that specific policy initiatives can play a pivotal role in crafting success on the trade front. Such strategies need to be

replicated in other sectors. Agriculture and allied areas, for instance, are recognised as having enormous potential for exports but have not yet fulfilled this promise. The need for agro-processing units in rural areas to enable easy movement of



products from farm to factory has been discussed for many years, but there has been little action on the ground. Apart from processing units for adding value to fruits and vegetables, there is a need for a cold chain infrastructure. This is essential if India is to become a significant player in the global food products trade. Some schemes were launched in 2017 to support the creation of the cold chain, but these are reported to have made progress in only a few states. Besides providing infrastructural support, giving a boost to agricultural exports will also require a shift in policy approach to support farmers rather than consumers. For instance, the traditional

kneejerk reaction to market fluctuations in prices of commodities like wheat, rice, sugar or onions has always been to curb exports to improve domestic availability. This creates a disadvantage for the country in global markets, making it appear as an unreliable supplier. It also deprives farmers of the benefits of higher market prices. A long-term policy for the export of agricultural products is necessary in order to achieve the twin aims of retaining India's reputation as a trusted supplier as well as of providing remunerative prices to cultivators. While there is admittedly a need to keep food inflation in check, it needs to be done through better long-term management of surplus stocks rather than imposing export bans.

In evolving trade policies, greater attention also needs to be paid to the handicraft sector, which has faced a decline in exports in the last financial year due to recessionary conditions in major advanced economy markets. This is a sector that is also a major employer, especially of artisans and skilled workers. There are numerous government schemes to provide support, but it is still plagued by low wages despite the high level of skills needed for creating handicrafts. Exports are usually viewed as being dependent on economic conditions in key markets. This is true to a large extent. But it is also true that formulating policies targeting specific sectors can have a dramatic impact, as in the case of toys. One of the key elements in all sectors that have shown a spurt in growth is higher investment. This has been evident for mobile phones, but it has also been so for defence equipment, where the process of indigenisation has entailed sizeable public and private sector investments. A fresh look is thus needed at export policies in order to replicate the remarkable success of these sectors in other areas.

10 common Habits that puts your Heart in trouble



"Current statistics suggest that India will have the largest cardiovascular disease burden in the world. Almost one fifth of the deaths in India are from coronary heart disease. Very soon, it will account for one third of all deaths. Sadly an increasing number of people falling prey to coronary artery disease in India are young" informs Dr Sharad Kasarle, Chief scientists & Managing Director, DSK Nutrition and research centre.

There are an estimated 45 million patients of coronary heart disease in India. With millions of people leading modern lifestyle full of stress and depression, the future looks even grimmer. The chief scientist points that some simple, everyday habits can make a big difference in your ability to live a healthy lifestyle. Read about worst habits for your heart and how to avoid them.

Watching TV

"People who sit in front of the TV for more than four hours a day were 80% more likely to die for reasons linked to heart and artery disease", points Dr Sharad. Even if someone has a healthy body weight, sitting for long periods of time in front of TV or computer still has an unhealthy influence on their blood sugar and blood fats. It is all a matter of habit many of us have learned to go back home after 6 to 8 hours sitting job in office & turn the TV set on and sit down for several hours which is convenient and easy to do but we are not realizing prolonged sitting increases the risk for cardiovascular diseases.

Leaving hostility and depression unchecked

Do you often feel stressed, hostile, or depressed? All of these can take a toll on your heart too. Today each one of us feel

this way some or the other time, and how you deal with these emotions can affect your heart's health. Those likely to internalize stress are in greater danger; research has shown a benefit to laughter and social support, and it's helpful to be able to go to someone and talk about your problems.

Ignoring the snoring

More than a minor annoyance, snoring can be a sign of something more serious: obstructive sleep apnea. This disorder, marked by breathing that is interrupted during sleep, can cause blood pressure to skyrocket. A lot of people in India suffer from Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and are four times more prone to suffer from cardiovascular risk factors. Obese people are more prone to OSA, but that does not reduce the risk of occurrence in the slim



people. If you snore and often wake up feeling tired, consult your doctor; there are easy ways to screen for apnea.

Ignoring your dental health

While the exact reason is unknown, there is a strong link between gum disease and heart disease, if you don't floss, sticky, bacteria-laden plaque build-up over time, which can lead to gum disease. One theory is that these bacteria trigger inflammation in the body. "Inflammation promotes all aspects of Atherosclerosis," says Dr. Sharad Kasarle. Treating gum disease can improve blood vessel function.

Withdrawing from the world

It's no secret that on some days, other human beings can seem annoying, irritating, and just plain difficult to get along with. However, it makes sense to strengthen your connections to the ones you actually like. People with stronger connections to family, friends, and society in general tend to live longer, healthier lives. Everyone needs alone time, but you should still reach out to others and keep in touch whenever you can.

Drinking (too much) alcohol

Sure, studies suggest a small amount of alcohol may be good for your heart. Alas,

too many over-imbibe. Excess alcohol is linked to a greater risk of high blood pressure, high levels of blood fats, and heart failure. In addition, the extra calories can lead to weight gain, a threat to heart health. Avoid excessive intake of alcohol as much as you can for a healthy life.

Overeating

Being overweight is a major risk factor for heart disease. Try to eat less, avoid oversize portions, and replace sugary drinks with water. Dr. Sharad Kasarle also suggest cutting portion sizes for high-calorie carbohydrates (think refined pastas and breads) and watching out for foods labelled "low-fat," which are often high in calories

Smoking or living with a smoker

Sure, you've heard it a million times before: Don't smoke. But it bears repeating. "Smoking is a total disaster for your heart," says Dr. Kasarle. Smoking promotes blood clots, which can block blood flow to the heart, and contributes to plaque build-up in the arteries. High blood pressure and cholesterol, diabetes, being overweight and smoking are all risk factors that should be kept in check.

Avoiding fruits and

vegetables

"The most heart-healthy diet is a plant-based diet." That means loading up on fruits and vegetables, nuts, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and protein, and keeping junk food to a minimum. In fact, new federal dietary guidelines recommend that half of each meal should be composed of fruits and vegetables. Research has found that people who eat more than five servings of fruits and vegetables a day had about 20% lower risk of heart disease and stroke than people who ate less than three servings per day.

Being a salty snacker

The more salt you consume, the higher your blood pressure rises. One in three American adults has high blood pressure, a major risk factor for stroke, kidney failure, and heart attack. "Steer clear of packaged junk food, read the labels for sodium content, and stick to the outer portions of the supermarket, which is where the fruits, vegetables, and (unsalted) nuts are", points Dr Sharad. Most of us should keep sodium intake below 2,300 milligrams a day. If you have high blood pressure or are over 50, cut back to 1,500 milligrams.



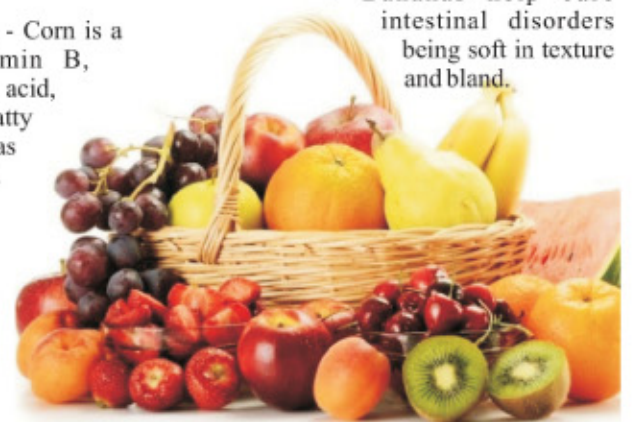
Indian name: Aam
Nutritive Value per 100gms of edible portion
Calories (kcal): 74
Proteins (gms): 0.6
Carbohydrates(gms): 16.9
Fat (gms): 0.4
Iron(mg): 1.3

Health benefits of Mango: - Unripe green mangoes are beneficial in the treatment of GI. Disturbances.
- Ripe mangoes are beneficial in treatment of night blindness as mangoes are rich in Vitamin A.
- Mango-milk cure is an ideal treatment for weight gain.
- Mango is also known as King of Asiatic Fruits.

Banana
Indian name: Kela
Nutritive Value per 100gms of edible portion
Calories (kcal): 116
Proteins (gms): 1.2
Carbohydrates(gms): 27.2
Fat (gms): 0.3
Iron(mg): 0.36

Health benefits of Banana:
- Bananas serve as an excellent source of energy as they contain fructose, glucose and sucrose. They contain good amounts of vitamin-B6 (pyridoxine), vitamin-C, and provides adequate quantities of minerals like copper, magnesium, and manganese.
- Bananas contain soluble dietary fibre and pectins that help normal bowel movements; thereby reducing constipation.

- Bananas help cure intestinal disorders being soft in texture and bland.



Power your plate: Yellow



Not just that, yellow foods are directly involved with your digestive health, in particular that of the liver and intestines. Full of antioxidants, vitamins and phytochemicals, a bright cheery

yellow bite of wholesome food is what you need to get healthy today. Here's Shachi Sohal, H.O.D. Dietetics Deptt at Dr. B.L. Kapur Hospital, New Delhi enlightening us about the power of yellow on your plate!

Lemon
Indian name: Nimbu
Nutritive Value per 100gms of edible portion:
Calories (kcal): 57
Proteins (gms):1
Carbohydrates (gms):11.1
Fat (gms): 0.9
Iron (mg): 0.26

Health benefits of lemon:
- Lemon is regarded as a skin restorative. It helps cleanse blemished skin. Helps in preventing and curing oral diseases as inflammation of gums, pyorrhoea.

- Lemon is an excellent source of Vitamin C (an antioxidant) which helps in cleansing the blood and builds a stronger immune system, thereby

helping combat many illnesses.
- Lemon serves as a good appetiser, stimulates flow of saliva and gastric juices.
Turmeric

Indian name: Haldi
Nutritive Value per 100gms of edible portion
Calories (kcal):349
Proteins (gms): 6.3
Carbohydrates(gms): 69.4
Fat (gms): 5.1
Iron (mg): 67.8

Health benefits of Turmeric:
- Curcumin in turmeric is an antioxidant; and has anti-carcinogenic, anti-mutagenic and anti-inflammatory properties.
- Turmeric helps in healing wounds, prevents bacterial infection in wounds.

Corn
Indian name: Bhutta

Nutritive Value per 100gms of edible portion
Calories (kcal): 125
Proteins (gms): 4.7
Carbohydrates(gms): 24.6
Fat (gms): 1.1

Health benefits of Corn: - Corn is a good source of vitamin B, vitamins C and E, folic acid, dietary fiber, essential fatty acids, and minerals such as magnesium and phosphorus.

- Full of carotenoid lutein, yellow corn has a phytochemical with antioxidant properties that can fight the risk of age related vision loss.
Mango

32 dead in rain, flooding in 7 states, several missing in hills

As many as 32 people have died in seven states in the past 24 hours as monsoon mayhem continued across the country.

New Delhi: As many as 32 people have died in rain-related incidents in seven states in the past 24 hours, as monsoon mayhem continued in India. While record single-day rain submerged Delhi-NCR, cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh claimed the lives of at least 14 even as several others were missing. According to the latest figures, 10 deaths have been reported in Uttarakhand, four in Himachal Pradesh, five in Delhi, two in Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, three in Gurugram in

Haryana, three in Rajasthan's Jaipur, and five in Bihar. With this, the nationwide death toll due to rain-related incidents have shot up to 283, with Wayanad in Kerala being the most affected with 256 fatalities. Three massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall hit the hilly areas near Meppadi in Kerala's Wayanad on Tuesday. As rescue operations continued on war footing for the third consecutive day on Thursday, hundreds others remained missing. Delhi-NCR was hampered by incessant rainfall on Wednesday evening, with data from the weather department later stating that the national capital received 108 mm of rain in 24 hours - the highest in a single day in July in 14 years. The downpours left several areas of the city inundated, heavily hit traffic movement, and caused wall collapse. Visuals showed several underpasses in Delhi-NCR were submerged, with traffic especially affected on roads leading to Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Ghaziabad - the regions under the national capital region (NCR). Heavy rainfall triggered cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, killing at least 14 as scores of others were missing. The Met

Department has forecast more rainfall in the next five days in both the hill states, even as rescue operations are underway. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is closely monitoring the situation in Himachal Pradesh and has ensured all possible assistance is provided, news agency ANI reported. Five people have died in lightning strikes in two Bihar districts in the past 24 hours, news agency PTI reported, citing an official statement by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has condoled the loss of lives and announced a financial compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the victims, the statement added. He also urged citizens to follow advisories issued by the Disaster Management Department.

Over 250 people have been killed in massive landslides in Kerala's Wayanad, as rescue operations continued on Thursday in search of those missing. The Indian Army has rescued nearly 1,000 people and 220 are still missing. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that rescued people are temporarily shifted to camps and rehabilitation works will be done at the earliest.



Heavy rainfall triggered flash floods in the Dachan area of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. Cloudbursts were also reported in the upper reaches of the region, leading to massive discharges of water, causing damage to bridges and buildings close to the drains. Meanwhile, rivers in Rajouri district were overflowing as visuals showed severe waterlogging in roads. A woman and her niece and another man drowned after rainwater entered the basement of their house in Jaipur on Thursday morning, officials said. The bodies of the victims were recovered after an hours-long rescue operation, which

included using mud pumps to pump out the rainwater. Police said the passage to the basement was narrow and deep. The IMD on Thursday said that India recorded nine per cent more rainfall than normal in July, with the central part of the country receiving 33 per cent excess rain. The weather department said that its data showed significant rainfall deficits in east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, and parts of the Northeast, news agency PTI reported. The IMD further predicted India to record above-normal rainfall in August and September, with a high chance of favourable La Nina conditions developing by August-end. The Met department said that rainfall over India in these months would be 106 per cent of the long-period average of 422.8 mm. India has so far recorded 453.8 mm since June 1, an excess of two per cent due to the wetter-than-normal July. According to the latest IMD bulletin, the seven states which have so far reported rain-related deaths, will see no immediate relief. Heavy rain has been forecast for Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Bihar, among others, till August 7.

"We Grant Bail To Killers But...": Supreme Court On Bibhav Kumar Bail Plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to Delhi Police on a bail plea filed by Bibhav Kumar, an aide of Aam Aadmi Party boss and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Mr Kumar was arrested in May after allegations of assault, inside Mr Kejriwal's home, by AAP MP Swati Maliwal.

Mr Kumar, in judicial custody till July 16, faces charges of criminal intimidation, assault or criminal force on a woman with intent to disrobe, and attempt to commit culpable homicide. He also faces charges of "disappearing evidence and giving false information". In the brief hearing this morning the court acknowledged "we normally grant bail... we grant bail to murderers and killers". However, in what may be seen as a bad sign going forward, it also remarked "look at the FIR. She (Ms Maliwal) was crying (during the assault) and seemed unconvinced by arguments that Bibhav Kumar, if given bail, would not influence witnesses. If this kind of person can't influence who can? Was anyone in the drawing room (of the Chief Minister's home, where the alleged assault began) to speak against him... he doesn't seem ashamed, we think," a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan remarked.

The court, in a particularly strong observation, also called Mr Kumar a "goon". Earlier today senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Mr Kumar, began by questioning the delay by Ms Maliwal in filing her complaint. He referred to Ms Maliwal's visit to Delhi's Civil Lines Police Station on May 13 (the day of the alleged assault) and the "strange story" in her FIR. "Incident was on May 13. FIR was lodged May 16... the story in FIR is strange. She went on the first day to the police station but came back (Ms Maliwal did not file a police complaint or make a statement on that day). Did not lodge FIR. Three days later, FIR was lodged with injuries..."

"Scheduled Castes Socially Heterogenous Class": Top Court's Big Quota Order

New Delhi: A seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court today okayed sub-classification within Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories to provide reservation in jobs and education for the more marginalised among backward communities.

The landmark verdict was passed by the bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud by a 6:1 majority, with Justice Bela Trivedi dissenting. Six separate judgments were written. The verdict overrules the 2004 judgment of a five-judge Constitution bench in the case of EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh. The other judges on the bench were Justice BR Gavai, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Satish Chandra Mishra. During the hearing, the Centre had told the court that it in favour of sub-classification in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories. The Chief Justice had observed that there was a distinction between "sub-classification" and "sub-categorisation" and held that states may have to sub-categorise reserved category communities to ensure that benefits reach more backward groups.

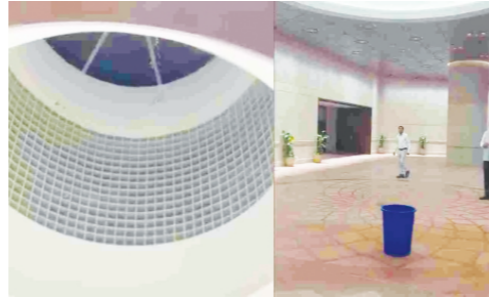
There are six opinions. Mine is for Justice Manoj Misra and me. A majority of us has overruled EV Chinniah (verdict) and we hold sub-classification is permitted. Justice Bela Trivedi has dissented," he said this morning. "The members of SC/ST categories are not often unable to climb up the ladder due to the systemic discrimination they face. Article 14 permits sub-classification of caste," the Chief Justice said, adding, "Historical and empirical evidence demonstrates that the Scheduled Castes are a socially heterogenous class." Justice BR Gavai said, "I have referred to a speech of Dr BR Ambedkar in 1949 where he said that unless we have social democracy there is no use of political democracy. Hardships and backwardness suffered by some of the Scheduled Castes is different for each caste. EV Chinniah was wrongly decided. It was argued that a party can give reservation to a sub-caste to gain political mileage, but I do not agree with this. The ultimate objective would be to realise real equality," he said.

'Water dripping program': Opposition MPs jab BJP over Parliament roof leakage

New Delhi: The BJP-led Central government found itself in hot water after the Congress and Samajwadi Party posted videos of water leaking in the Parliament lobby as Delhi received heavy rainfall. While Congress MP Manickam Tagore moved an adjournment motion on the issue in Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav taunted the BJP for spending billions on constructing a new Parliament and sought proceedings be moved to the old building.

Samajwadi Party chief and Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav urged the government to shift the remainder of the monsoon session to the old Parliament building. The old Parliament was better than this, where even the old MPs could come and meet. Why not go back to the old

Parliament, at least till the time the 'water dripping program' is going on in the new building constructed with billions of rupees," Yadav



tweeted. "The public is asking whether the water leakage from every new roof built under the BJP government is a part of their well-thought-out design," he quipped. The new Parliament

building, part of the government's ambitious Rs 20,000 crore Central Vista Redevelopment Project, was inaugurated on May 28, 2023, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, several opposition parties, including the Congress, had boycotted the ceremony. Built over an area of 64,500 square metres with state-of-the-art amenities, the new building was constructed at a cost of Rs 862 crore. The national capital recorded 108 mm of rain in the past 24 hours, the highest in a single day in July in 14 years. At least nine people have died in rain-related incidents as heavy showers crippled normal life, submerging roads and leaving residential areas waterlogged.

Policy To Identify Creamy Layer Must": Judge's Big Remark In Quota Ruling

New Delhi: Delivering the landmark judgment clearing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to extend reservation to the more marginalised, Justice BR Gavai said the State must come up with a policy to identify the creamy layer among these communities and take them out of the fold of affirmative action. Justice Gavai is from the Dalit community and is set to become Chief Justice next year. He will be the second Dalit Chief Justice of India after KG Balakrishnan. In today's judgment, he made strong observations on how people from the creamy layer of backward communities were cornering quota benefits and depriving the majority. "When a person gets into a compartment, he tries all means to stop others from getting into that compartment. Only on account of

social justice they have got the benefit, but when state decides to give that benefit to the ones who are not adequately represented, then the same cannot be denied," Justice Gavai said.



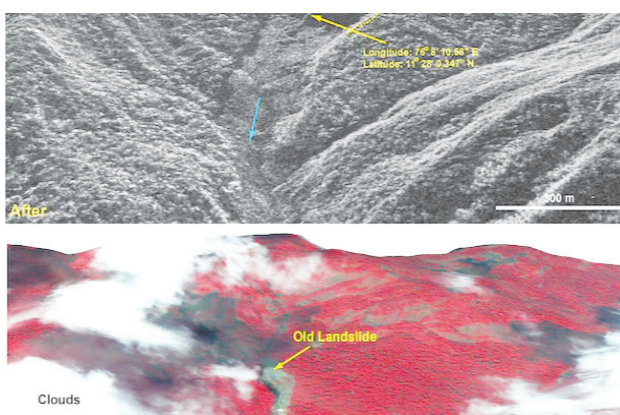
State must evolve a policy to identify creamy layer among the SC/ST category and take them out of the fold of affirmative action. This is the only way to gain true equality," he

added. The judge referred to a speech by Dr BR Ambedkar in 1949 in which he said that political democracy cannot last unless social democracy is at the base of it. "Only a section within Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are enjoying the benefits of reservation. The ground reality cannot be denied that there are classes within SC/ST communities that are facing harassment. The basis of sub-classification is that a large section is facing discrimination," he said. The judge noted that comparing a child from the creamy layer of Scheduled Castes with a child from the same community who picks rags in a village would amount to "cheating". Three other judges on the seven-judge bench agreed to Justice Gavai's position on the creamy layer.

Satellite Images Show Devastation From Landslides In Kerala's Wayanad

New Delhi: High resolution images taken by Indian satellites show the widespread damage and devastation caused by landslides in Kerala's Wayanad. More than 150 people have died and over 200 injured even as the rescue works are ongoing. The before and after images show that about 86,000 square meters of land slipped and the debris flowed for about 8 kilometers along the Iruvaiphuzha river. Interestingly the Indian Space Research Organisation report also presents evidence of an old landslide at the same location, suggesting its vulnerability was documented. The National Remote Sensing Center, Hyderabad a part of the Indian Space Research Organization deployed its highest resolution Cartosat-3 optical satellite and the RISAT satellite that is capable of seeing through cloud cover. The space agency says the landslide was

initiated at an altitude of 1550 meters above the sea level. The latest report accessed by NDTV, suggests that there is evidence of an old



landslide at the same location. A 2023 'Landslide Atlas of India' prepared by ISRO had placed Wayanad region as a vulnerable to landslides. ISRO satellite images show widespread devastation at

Wayanad landslide. Almost 86,000 square meters of land slipped causing the landslide almost five times the size of the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The debris flowed for almost 8 kilometers downstream washing away towns and settlements.

ISRO says there is evidence of an old landslide at same location. The National Remote Sensing Center used the Cartosat-3 satellite and the RISAT satellite to see through cloud cover. The NRSC reports says "a major debris flow was triggered by heavy rainfall in and around the Chooralmala town of Wayanad District in Kerala state of India". Very high resolution RISAT SAR images of 31 July, 2024 show the entire extent of the debris flow from crown to end of run out zone. The approximate length of the flow is 8 km. The crown zone is a reactivation of an older landslide. The size of the main

scarp of the landslide in 86,000 square meters. The debris flow has widened the course of the Iruvaniphuzha River causing breach of its banks. Houses and other infrastructures located along the banks have been damaged by the debris flow, 3D rendition of the crown of the landslide illustrates that a large section of the hill slope has been affected. The areal extent of the landslide is 86,000 square meters. The crown is located at an approximate elevation of approximately 1,550 m above MSL. India" which diligently documents the 80,000 landslides that have occurred over 20 years and lists landslide from Puthumala, Wayanad district, and large parts of Kerala are marked red as being prone to landslides. Dr S Somanath, the Chairman of ISRO in the 2023 report says it presents "the overall landslide scenario in India and ... the field of landslide hazard. I am sure that the atlas will be beneficial to everyone involved in disaster management endeavors."

Indians in Lebanon asked to avoid all non-essential travel amid growing tensions

New Delhi: The Indian Embassy in Beirut has advised Indian nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to the country amid a spike in tensions in the Middle East after Israel's strikes on Lebanon and Iran's plan to attack Israel as retaliation for Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh's death in Tehran earlier this week. In a tweet, the Indian Embassy asked the Indian nationals to exercise caution and restrict their movements while in Lebanon and remain in contact with the embassy officials. It also issued an emergency number for Indian nationals in Lebanon. "In view of the recent escalations in the region, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Lebanon. All Indian nationals in Lebanon are advised to exercise caution, restrict their movements and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Beirut through their email id: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in or the emergency phone number +96176860128," the tweet said.

Several countries, including the US, Australia and Canada have issued advisories for its citizens, telling them to leave Lebanon at the earliest. Tensions in the Middle East, already on due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza since October 7 last year, rose on Monday after an Israeli drone strike killed two people in southern Lebanon, Reuters reported. The strike was in retaliation for a rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on July 27 that killed 12 teenagers and children, which Israel and the US claim was carried out by the Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran. Flights at Beirut airport have been cancelled or delayed over fears that Israel and Hezbollah could engage in a full-scale war. The Associated Press reported. Earlier on Monday, the Indian Embassy in Lebanon asked Indian nationals in the country to "exercise caution" and remain in contact with the embassy amid growing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. On the other hand, Haniyeh, the chief of Hamas's political wing, was killed late on Wednesday at his residence in Tehran, the Palestinian outfit and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in their separate statements. Hamas claimed that an "Israeli" raid killed Ismail Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards in his residence. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose country has been critical of Israel over its Gaza war, has ordered a "direct attack" on the Jewish nation in retaliation for the killing of Haniyeh, The New York Times reported, citing three Iranian officials.

Exercise according to your Sun sign



Here's a rundown on what exercises you should opt for, based on your sun sign. Your astronomical signs not only give you insights into your characteristic traits but also tell you how your body works and functions. Says fitness expert, Althea Shah, "Each sun sign has something to tell about your strong as well as weak points, not only of your love life but also your body type."

Aries (March 21-April 20)
Aries have an abundance of energy and need to vent it out in a controlled manner. Since you hate routine, sticking to one can become boring for you. Says Shah, "Indulge in competitive sports like tennis, football and endurance training like weight lifting etc."

Taurus (April 21-May 21)
Says fitness expert, Namrita Purohit, "The personality trait of a Taurian is said to have a slow metabolism. Thus you need to indulge in some form of rigorous exercise routine. Dance, running and jogging are ideal." Since you are prone to neck and throat problems, regular health care, sauna and massage will be of great help.

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)
You are prone to problems of the hands, arms and lungs. Says Shah, "Group

exercises, sports and gymnastics are a good option for you. Find a workout buddy to make exercising enjoyable for yourself." You can also indulge in yoga and meditation to battle stress. Since routine work is tedious for you, indulge in more than one form of exercise so that you don't get bored soon.

Cancer (June 22 to July 22)

Says Purohit, "Since you are bound to gain weight around your mid-section, invest in a few weights and exercise tapes to help workout better." You can also go in for water sports.

Since your problem area is the stomach, make sure not to go overboard with your exercise routine. To help fight anxiety, practice yoga and meditation.

Leo (July 23 to August 22)

Says Purohit, "Leos are said to have lot of energy and high intensity workouts like Altitude training is ideal." Cardio exercises are good for you as it will encourage the flow of blood. Pilates and stretches work the best for you. Leos are prone to heart attack, make sure to include jogging and

brisk walking to your every day exercise routine. The health chart of Leos say that they have a weak spine and heart — special attention is required.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22)

Indulge in meditation and relaxation based exercises to help calm your hyper active. Says Shah, "Cycling, playing badminton, running and stretching are some of the other endurance exercises which should be a part of your every day routine." Refrain from

indulging in habits which might trigger anxiety and tension.

Libra (September 23 to October 22)

Librans have a tendency to put on weight. Low impact cardio training and stretching are best recommended. Says Purohit, "Librans have shuffling levels of energy. In the mornings, you can try back stretches to strengthen your lower back." But you should

avoid heavy lifting or anything that can cause stress to your lower back.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21)

Scorpios enjoy participating in aggressive sports. Intense, strenuous and competitive exercises are good for you. Boxing, martial arts and distance running like marathons will strengthen your muscles. But you should be careful of very strenuous exercises which might damage your ligaments or induce stress related injuries.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21)

You are prone to putting on weight around the waist, hips and thighs. Regular exercise is recommended. Says Shah, "Cycling, running and jogging are good exercises for you. Make sure to gym five days a week to tone your thighs and legs." But be careful of exercising too much, you can harm your hamstring and back muscles.

Pink eye picks pace early this season

With the onset of summer, conjunctivitis is on the prowl. Doctors said though the peak period for the eye disease is yet to come, the number of patients has already started picking up. Since the viral conjunctivitis is highly contagious, the infection can soon assume an alarming proportion if the affected and those who are in their close contact don't take preventive and precautionary measures.

"The infection itself is self limiting (an illness or condition which will resolve on its own), lasting between three days to two weeks. But, the infection caused by adenovirus is contagious and hence the need for precautionary measures," said Keshab Halder, an eye specialist.

If the infection affects only the conjunctiva, it's easy to tackle. But the real concern is when the infection affects the cornea. According to doctors, in about 20%-30% of all conjunctivitis cases, the infection is more virulent involving the cornea. Since it threatens the vision there is a need for medical attention.

"Of the six cases I handled in the past two weeks, two involved the cornea. Now we have a kit that can detect if the infection is caused by adenovirus. If detected early, we can prevent the infection from spreading to the cornea. But the problem is people come rushing only when the vision is affected," said Jayangshu Sengupta, cornea and refractive surgeon.

Also known as the pink eye, the infection peaks during pre and post-monsoon. Though viral infection is the most common cause, other sources of infection are bacteria, chemical irritants, dust and pollens. For severe cases, there are anti-biotic medication and steroid. In majority of the cases, remedies like washing the

discharge frequently, eye drops and cold compress can help.

"Anti-biotic is given to prevent secondary infection. A dangerous trend that is being noticed is that the affected tend to go the medical shop where they are given Moxifloxacin, which is a last line anti-

bacterial drug. Random use of this drug is dangerous since it will cause resistance," said eye specialist Subrata Guha Thakurta. Though conjunctivitis is a self-limiting infection that goes away on its own or after treatment with anti-biotics, certain forms might become sight-threatening due to

scarring of the cornea. Therefore, in case the symptoms include pain, decreased vision, it's better to visit an eye specialist.



Nifty crosses 25,000: How Dalal Street investors should trade in near term

New Delhi Benchmark stock market indices hit record highs on Thursday, with the Sensex crossing 82,000 and the Nifty surpassing the 25,000 mark for the first time.

While Dalal Street has witnessed high volatility over the past few trading sessions, both benchmark indices have traded positively, riding on strong Q1 results and global cues. As the Nifty crossed the sentimentally important 25,000 mark today, Shrey Jain, Founder & CEO, SAS Online, shared what it means for Dalal Street investors and the broader economy. "The Nifty50 touching the 25,000 mark is yet another proof of strong economic growth, growing corporate earnings and rising investors' participation," Jain said. "This event should be seen as a founding stone of the next phase of growth over the medium to long term," he noted.

He also added that "expectations of strong growth in the domestic economy, positive news flow on interest rates in the USA and policy tailwinds should support stock prices going forward, rewarding investors".

What should investors do now?

Sharing a trading strategy for retail investors, Jain said the focus should ideally be on stocks of companies with strong balance sheets and a track record of earnings growth at the moment. "Expect stock specific movements in the near term," he said.

"If the Nifty50 sustains above 25,100, then 25,600 should be the next target. The psychologically important level of 25,000 will play a crucial role here," Jain explained.

"Nifty50 should take support at 24,800 and 24,500. As the Nifty50 ventures into uncharted territories, respecting stop-loss is non-negotiable."

Infosys shares trade in red after Rs 32,000 crore GST notice

New Delhi. Infosys shares dipped 1% to a low of Rs 1,845.40 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Thursday following news of alleged GST evasion by the information technology giant. Shares of the company were down 0.59% at Rs 1,857.10 at 11:00 am. The Directorate General of GST Intelligence is probing the company for an alleged GST evasion of over Rs 32,000 crore. Infosys responded to the news with a clarification through an official filing. "Karnataka State GST authorities have issued a pre-show cause notice for payment of GST amounting to Rs 32,403 crores for the period from July 2017 to March 2022. This pertains to expenses incurred by overseas branch offices of Infosys Limited," the company said. "We have responded to this pre-show cause notice. Following the news articles, we have also received a pre-show cause notice from the Director General of GST Intelligence on the same issue, and we are in the process of responding," it added. Infosys has contested the claim, citing a recent circular from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, which aligns with GST Council recommendations. According to Infosys, GST is not applicable to services provided by overseas branches to Indian entities. "It is also important to note that the GST payments are eligible for credit or refund against the export of IT services," the company added.

Infosys assured that it has paid all GST dues and is in full compliance with both central and state regulations.

Despite this recent development, Infosys shares saw a significant rise in July, surging 19% following their Q1 results announcement, where the company reported a 7% year-on-year increase in profit after tax.

Over the past year, Infosys shares have increased by 36% and have grown 20% in the current calendar year so far.

Exchanges need to disclose shareholding patterns: Sebi

Recognised stock exchanges and clearing corporations shall disclose their shareholding patterns on their respective websites on a quarterly basis as per the requirements and format specified for listed companies.

MUMBAI. Markets regulator Sebi has amended the rules requiring stock exchanges and clearing corporations to disclose their shareholding patterns on their websites on a quarterly basis, in line with the listing obligations (LODR) regulations for listed companies. To give this effect, the Sebi has amended and notified the securities contracts (regulation) (stock exchanges and clearing corporations) regulations,



2015, the regulator said in a statement Wednesday. Recognised stock exchanges and clearing corporations shall disclose their shareholding patterns on their respective websites on a quarterly basis as per the requirements and format specified for listed companies in terms of the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board's LODR regulations, 2015, the Sebi said. This needs to be disclosed as per the requirements and format specified for listed companies, the regulator said. The new norms require each of the SEs and clearing corporations to have two functional committees - a member committee and a nomination and remuneration committee.

Global VC investment surges to 5-quarter high, driven by AI and mega deals

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a significant driver, accounting for over half of the ten largest funding rounds globally.

New Delhi Global venture capital (VC) investment soared to a five-quarter high of \$94.3 billion in Q2'24, according to KPMG Private Enterprise's Venture Pulse report.

The surge, up from \$75.4 billion in Q1'24, was fuelled by nine mega-deals exceeding \$1 billion each, marking the second-highest total for a single quarter.

Despite the increase in investment, the volume of VC deals fell to 7,691, the lowest since Q3'16, reflecting ongoing challenges such as high interest rates and geopolitical uncertainties. Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a significant driver,



accounting for over half of the ten largest funding rounds globally.

Conor Moore, Global Head of KPMG Private Enterprise, highlighted AI's dominance, noting its broad potential across various industries.

In addition to AI, sectors like cleantech and alternative energy have continued to attract substantial investments.

Regionally, VC investment rose in the Americas and Europe. The Americas saw an eight-quarter high of \$58.3 billion, with the US contributing \$55.6 billion across 3,108 deals. Europe's investment increased from \$13.9 billion in Q1'24 to \$17.8 billion in Q2'24, with the UK leading at \$6.9 billion. On the other hand, Asia experienced a drop to a seven-year

low of \$17.4 billion, primarily due to a slowdown in China, even as investment rose in India, Singapore, and Japan. India sees rise

India saw a rise in VC investment from \$2.9 billion in Q1'24 to \$4 billion in Q2'24, driven by sectors such as fintech, electric vehicles, and consumer technologies.

The strong IPO market in India also fuelled this growth. Nitish Poddar, Partner and National Leader of Private Equity at KPMG in India, cited strong demographics and a vibrant capital market as key drivers behind this optimism. Looking ahead to Q3'24, global VC investment is expected to remain steady, with AI continuing to attract significant funding. Energy and cleantech are also likely to remain high on investors' agendas. The trend of larger deals is anticipated to persist as VC funds face pressure from limited partners to make investments. However, fundraising activity by VC firms is expected to stay subdued until 2025, potentially picking up once exit activity increases.

Have you missed ITR filing deadline? Check penalty and other consequences

New Delhi. The Income Tax Department (I-T Department) has not extended the deadline to file Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the assessment year 2024-25 beyond July 31. As a result, taxpayers who missed the deadline face several consequences, including penalties and the loss of certain benefits. Firstly, late filing penalties will be imposed. If you file your ITR after July 31 but before December 31, you will incur a late fee of Rs 5,000. For returns filed after December 31, the penalty increases to Rs 10,000. However, for taxpayers with a total income of less than Rs 5 lakh, the maximum penalty is limited to Rs 1,000. These penalties are levied under Section 234F of the Income Tax Act. Other consequences of late ITR filing include the loss of certain deductions and exemptions. Some benefits, like those under Sections 80C to 80U, require timely filing to be claimed. Late filers may thus end up with a higher tax liability than anticipated. Moreover, filing ITR late can delay refunds. If you are entitled to a tax refund, the delay in filing your return will result in a corresponding delay in receiving your refund, which can impact your financial



years. Another consequence of missing the deadline is the accrual of interest on any unpaid tax. Under Section 234A, an interest rate of 1% per month or part of a month is charged on the outstanding tax amount from the original due date until the date of payment. This interest is in addition to the penalty for late filing.

Taxpayers who have missed the deadline should also be aware that they might not be eligible for certain deductions and exemptions. Some benefits, like those under Sections 80C to 80U, require timely filing to be claimed. Late filers may thus end up with a higher tax liability than anticipated. Moreover, filing ITR late can delay refunds. If you are entitled to a tax refund, the delay in filing your return will result in a corresponding delay in receiving your refund, which can impact your financial

planning.

The I-T Department has emphasized that its helpdesk is available 24/7 to assist taxpayers with ITR filing, tax payment, and related services through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions, and social media platforms. Taxpayers are encouraged to use these resources to complete their filings as soon as possible. In summary, while missing the July 31 deadline to file your ITR results in financial penalties, loss of certain benefits, and potential delays in refunds, it is crucial to file your return at the earliest to minimize these consequences. This interest is in addition to the penalty for late filing. Taxpayers who have missed the deadline should also be aware that they might not be eligible for certain deductions and exemptions. Some benefits, like those under Sections 80C to 80U, require timely filing to be claimed. Late filers may thus end up with a higher tax liability than anticipated. Moreover, filing ITR late can delay refunds. If you are entitled to a tax refund, the delay in filing your return will result in a corresponding delay.

Core sector output at 20-month low of four per cent in June

NEW DELHI. The output of the country's eight key infrastructure industries grew by 4 per cent year-on-year in June, slowest in last 20 months owing to a high base effect and reduced electricity demand due to the monsoon season among other reasons. In comparison, the output growth was 6.4 per cent in May 2024 and 8.4 per cent in June 2023. The eight sectors - coal, steel, cement, fertilizers, electricity, natural gas, refinery products, and crude oil - account for two-fifths of India's overall industrial production.

Except for crude oil and refinery products, all other sectors reported positive growth in June. Coal production surged by 14.8 per cent, driven by increased demand for electricity. Electricity generation grew by 7.7 per cent which although lower than the 13.7 per cent growth seen in

May, was an improvement over the 4.2 per cent growth recorded in June 2023. Additionally, the production of fertilizers, natural gas, steel, and cement saw growth rates of 2.4 per cent, 3.3 per cent, 2.7 per cent, and 1.9 per cent respectively, compared to the same period last year. The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which measures overall industrial growth. Crude oil, and refinery products' output contracted by (-) 2.6 per cent and (-) 1.5 per cent, respectively, in June. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, head of research and outreach at ICRA Ltd, said, "The core sector expansion slid to a 20-month low of 4.0% in June 2024, led by a moderation in growth or deepening contraction in five of the eight constituents, barring coal, fertilizers

and cement, compared to May 2024." "With the onset of the monsoon, electricity growth reverted back to single digits after two months, while remaining healthy at 7.7 per cent. With the dip in the core sector growth, we expect the IIP to post a rise of 3.5-5.0 per cent in June 2024," she added.

Q1 deficit at 8.1% of FY25 target
The Centre's fiscal deficit reached 8.1 per cent of the full-year target by the end of April-June quarter of the financial year 2024-25. In absolute figures, this amounts to Rs 1,35,712 crore, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday. A fiscal deficit represents the difference between the government's expenditure and revenue. Deficit was registered at 25.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the same period of last fiscal.

The price band for the Ola Electric IPO is set between Rs 72 and Rs 76 per share. The minimum lot size for applications is 195 shares, requiring a minimum investment of Rs 14,820 for retail investors. For small and medium-sized institutional investors (sNII), the minimum lot size is 14 lots (2,730 shares), totaling Rs 207,480. For big institutional investors (bNII), the minimum lot size is 68 lots (13,260 shares), amounting to Rs 1,007,760. The book-running lead managers for the IPO are Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, BofA Securities India Limited, Axis Capital Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, and BOBCAPITAL Markets Limited. Link Intime India Private Ltd is the registrar for the issue. Ola Electric IPO latest GMP
The Grey Market Premium (GMP) for the Ola Electric IPO is Rs 16.50, as of August 1, 2024, at 11:02 AM.



US Fed meeting key takeaways: Rate cut prediction, commentary and more

New Delhi The US Federal Reserve hinted on Wednesday that it might cut its key lending rate in the coming months. US Fed chief Jerome Powell shared this after a meeting that ended on July 31.

Powell praised recent progress in US inflation and said, "The second quarter's inflation readings have added to our confidence, and more good data would further strengthen that confidence." This potential rate cut would lead to lower borrowing costs for Americans, affecting mortgages, car loans, and credit cards. He also mentioned that the US job market seems to have returned to its pre-pandemic state. For now, interest rates will stay at their current range of 5.25-5.50%. Powell mentioned that future long-term rates might be higher than previously expected. However, he admitted that deciding when to cut rates would be a very difficult judgement call.

Inflation less of an issue

Powell said that inflation has eased over the past few years but is still somewhat above the Fed's long-term goal of 2%. The Personal Consumption Expenditures

(PCE) index showed that consumer prices rose by 2.5% in June from a year earlier. This is down from May's 2.6% annual rate and closer to the Fed's 2% target. He said, "This is such a welcome outcome for the people we serve. What we're thinking about all the time is, how do we keep this going? And this is part of that." Amit Goel, Co-Founder & Chief Global Strategist, Pace 360 said that Fed Chair Jerome Powell sent a clear signal during his post-FOMC news conference that a September rate cut is on the table if data evolve as he expects and offering several dovish characterizations of the economy. "Following Powell's news conference, fed funds futures continued to fully price an initial 25-bp rate cut in September. Further out the curve, expectations for cumulative rate cuts increased. Treasury yields reversed and fell 9 bps to 11 bps points across the curve on the day. Benchmark US equities rallied, with the S&P 500 closing 1.6% higher," he added. Subho Mouluk, Founder & CEO, Appreciate said that to state that the markets are awaiting a



September rate cut with anticipation is to state the obvious. "As evidence, consider the fact that the Dow Jones has rallied 400 points as the pathway to September starts materialising concretely. To me, this is a pivotal point that hints at a narrative turnaround, provided no unforeseen economic, geo-political or financial shock appears out of the blue," said Mouluk. "Despite the incredible market rally we have witnessed this year, a September rate cut would have a further multiplier effect that will send US benchmarks soaring higher. From here on forth, think of the markets waiting eagerly with their 'fingers crossed' till the

September Fed meet," he added. **US unemployment rate**

The US unemployment rate has recently risen to 4.1%, its highest in over two years. Powell described this slower job growth as an "ongoing gradual normalization" and pointed out that the job market is "back to where it was on the eve of the pandemic." He added, "I wouldn't say we don't want to see any other cooling; it would have to be a material difference. If we see something that looks like a more significant downturn, that would be something that we would have the intention of responding to. I think we're in a good place here." "The US economy is on a stable growth path, given expanding economic activity, moderated job growth accompanied with slightly higher but low inflation. The status quo stance of the Fed rates is appropriate amidst uncertain economic outlook and the Fed's dual mandate to maintain employment-inflation balance," said Sanjeev Agrawal, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

NEWS BOX

MS Dhoni calls semi-final loss in ODI World Cup 2019 a 'heartbreak moment'

New Delhi Former India captain MS Dhoni has called the semi-final loss in the ODI World Cup 2019 a 'heartbreak moment'. The ODI World Cup semi-final between India and New Zealand in 2019 was a match that left billions of Indian cricket fans heartbroken. Held on July 9 and 10, the game was a roller-coaster of emotions that ended in a dramatic and painful defeat for India. It was not just a loss, it was the end of a billion dreams, especially with the run-out of the legendary MS Dhoni. The wicketkeeper-batter, who started his illustrious career with a run-out on debut in 2004, ended his ODI career on a similar note. India entered the match with high hopes, having topped the league stage with dominant performances. However, the semi-final at Old Trafford, Manchester, proved to be the end of the road for India's quest for World Cup glory. New Zealand, batting first, had set a target of 240 runs. The match was extended to the reserve day due to rain and India were still clear favourites.

Watch Dhoni's answer

India's chase began disastrously. The top-order batters, including Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and KL Rahul, were back in the pavilion with just 5 runs on the board. A sense of disbelief spread among fans. Ravindra Jadeja and MS Dhoni then took on the massive task of rebuilding the innings. Their partnership brought hope as they skilfully navigated the challenging conditions and the mounting pressure. Jadeja played a gritty knock, scoring 77 runs off 59 balls, but his dismissal left India needing 31 runs from the last 12 balls. Dhoni, known for his cool demeanour and finishing skills, carried the weight of the nation's hopes. With 25 runs needed from 10 balls, Dhoni aimed to turn the tide. But then, the unthinkable happened.

Dhoni's run-out

A throw from Martin Guptill caught Dhoni short of the crease. Dhoni's run-out was the heart-breaking moment that shattered India's World Cup dream. As he walked back to the pavilion, the silence was deafening. Fans around the world were left shocked, witnessing the end of an era. Dhoni admitted that it was a heartbreak, but also pointed out that he got a lot of time to recover from the loss. "It was a difficult one because I knew that this will be my last World Cup, so it would have been good to be on the winning side."

Rohit-Kohli meet young fan in Sri Lanka, sign special 'RO-KO' photograph

New Delhi, Star India batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma made a young fan's day in Sri Lanka as the duo posed with him for a photograph after practice. During their practice session ahead of the three-match ODI series, Kohli was spotted walking towards the fan.

The young kid was holding a photograph of Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma together with the T20 World Cup 2024 Trophy and the national tricolour on their back. After signing the photograph, Kohli posed with the young kid followed by Rohit in a heartwarming gesture by the Indian batting stalwarts. Meanwhile, Rohit will be making his return to ODI cricket in the upcoming series after eight months as he last featured in the ODI World Cup 2023 final. The India captain finished as the second-highest run scorer of the tournament with 597 runs from 11 innings at an average of 54.27 and a strike rate of 125.94. He further finished as the second-highest run scorer of the recently concluded T20 World Cup 2024 with 257 runs to his name from eight innings at an



average of 36.71 and a strike rate of 156.70 with three fifties. The opening batter will be eager to continue his form in the upcoming series and continue his prolific run in the 50-over format as well.

Virat Kohli to return to ODIs after long hiatus. Virat Kohli will also be featuring in the 50-over format after a long seven-month gap since the ODI World Cup. The batting maestro shattered record books in the tournament scoring a massive 765 runs from 11 innings at an average of 95.62 and a strike rate of 90.31 with three hundred and six fifties to his name. The upcoming series will be extremely crucial for both batters as India are scheduled to play just six matches in the lead up to the Champions Trophy 2025. Hence, it's extremely crucial for both star players to find form ahead of the big event as India look to add another ICC trophy in their cabinet.

Rohit Sharma among all-time greats and on par with MS Dhoni as captain: Shastri

Former Indian coach Ravi Shastri has hailed Rohit Sharma as 'one of the all-time greats' and placed his captaincy on par with legendary Indian captain MS Dhoni.

New Delhi. Former Indian coach Ravi Shastri has praised Rohit Sharma, describing him as "one of the all-time greats" and placing his captaincy on par with legendary Indian captain MS Dhoni. Shastri made these remarks during the latest episode of The ICC Review, where he highlighted Rohit's exceptional leadership and tactical acumen in white-ball cricket.

Rohit Sharma's tenure as India's T20I captain was notable for its success. He surpassed Dhoni's record as the most successful T20I captain, achieving 49 wins in 62 matches compared to Dhoni's 41 victories from 72 games. Shastri emphasized that both captains

demonstrated remarkable tactical skills, making it difficult to choose between them.

"As a tactician, let's not forget that he's been an outstanding guy. He'll go down as one of the best captains ever alongside Dhoni," Shastri remarked. "If you ask me who's better, I'd say both are on par when it comes to tactics in the white-ball game. I can't pay a bigger compliment to Rohit than that because you know what MS has done and the titles he has won. Rohit led India to their first T20 World Cup title since 2007, with a flawless campaign culminating in a victory in Barbados this June. India remained unbeaten, winning eight out of nine matches, with one game ending without a result. Shastri lauded Rohit's calm demeanor and strategic brilliance, particularly in crucial moments during the tournament. "Rohit is not far behind, and I thought tactically he was just outstanding in this year's (T20) World Cup," Shastri continued. "Just the calmness, the ability to get a (Jasprit) Bumrah or a



(Hardik) Pandya, or even an Axar Patel at just the right time when needed was great to see." India's dramatic comeback in the T20 World Cup final against South Africa, where they defended 30 runs in 30 balls with the Proteas still having six wickets in hand, showcased Rohit's leadership. Key performances from Bumrah, Pandya, and Suryakumar Yadav, highlighted under Rohit's captaincy, secured India's second title. Shastri also praised Rohit's achievements as a batter, noting his significant contributions to white-ball cricket. With 14,846 runs, three double hundreds, 33 hundreds, and 87 fifties in ODIs and

T20Is combined, Rohit has left an indelible mark on the game. He is a two-time ICC Men's T20 World Cup (2007 and 2024) and ICC Champions Trophy winner and holds the record for most sixes in T20Is. "A giant in the white-ball game," Shastri stated. "One of the all-time greats. One of the best who have ever played. Will walk into any white-ball team they pick, irrespective of the era. Just because of the dynamic ability he has at the top."

Shastri highlighted Rohit's powerful batting, which includes the joint-most T20I centuries (five) alongside Australia's Glenn Maxwell. Rohit's ability to play big shots without compromising technical finesse sets him apart. "Compared to Virat Kohli, you know, Virat Kohli is more finesse, he starts along the ground," Shastri explained. "This man is explosive. He's got the power to clear any ground in the world and take on the fast bowlers. He's got the shots for the quacks, and he can destroy spin as well."

In IPL meeting, Shah Rukh Khan in argument with PBKS co-owner Ness Wadia

New Delhi. Kolkata Knight Riders co-owner Shah Rukh Khan was involved in an intense argument with Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia over retention policy in a meeting held by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) with the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise owners. Shah Rukh Khan and Ness Wadia reportedly argued over the number of retentions or Right to Match card that should be allowed for the mega auction ahead of IPL 2025. The BCCI, in a statement on Wednesday, confirmed it had a 'productive dialogue' with team owners over the preparations for IPL 2025 and that the IPL governing council will discuss the talking points from the meeting before taking the final call. The meeting did not yield any 'real outcome' but the BCCI understood what the team owners felt about the pressing issues in the lead-up to the next season. A mega auction is slated to be held before the start of the IPL 2025 season, but several team owners have spoken against



it, highlighting the need to have a stable roster of players and rewards for scouting and backing young players who go on to become superstars. The owners debated and discussed various aspects, including the need for a mega auction, retention policy, and the Impact Player rule. According to a top BCCI source who was part of the meeting, Shah Rukh fiercely made the case against mega auctions. At one stage, the KKR owner was also

believed to be engaged in a heated argument with Ness Wadia over the number of retentions. Shah Rukh was in favour of major retentions while Wadia is believed to be against too many of them. Among the team owners or co-owners who attended the meeting were Shah Rukh Khan from Kolkata Knight Riders, Kavya Maran from Sunrisers Hyderabad, Ness Wadia from Punjab Kings, Sanjiv Goenka with his son Shashwat from Lucknow Super Giants, KK Grand and Parth Jindal from Delhi Capitals. Manoj Badale and Ranjit Barthakur from Rajasthan Royals, Prathamesh Mishra from Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Kasi Viswanathan and Rupa Gurunath from Chennai Super Kings, Amit Soni from Gujarat Titans while Mumbai Indians' owners attended it online.

Olympics 2024: Birthday girl Sreeja Akula makes heartbreaking exit in Round of 16

Paris Olympics 2024: Sreeja Akula failed to go through to the quarterfinals of the table tennis women's singles after losing 0-4 (10-12, 10-12, 8-11, 3-11) to World No.1 Yingsha Sun.

UPDATED. Sreeja Akula fought valiantly against World No.1 Yingsha Sun in the Round of 16 of the women's singles in table tennis at the Paris Olympics 2024. The Indian paddler, who turned 26 on Wednesday, lost the match 0-4 (10-12, 10-12, 8-11, 3-11) to the top-ranked player from China.

On her birthday itself, Sreeja beat Singapore's Zeng Jian in a thrilling Round 3 match that went down to six games. However, against



Sun, Sreeja's efforts fell short despite her lion-hearted efforts. Earlier, Sreeja became only the second Indian paddler to reach the pre-quarters after Manika Batra achieved the feat. Sreeja seemed to be on a rampage earlier in the opening game. She raced along and fetched herself four game points, taking a lead of 10-6. But from there on, Yingsha showed why she is the top-ranked player in the world. The Chinese star won six points to make a stunning comeback and win the

game. In the second game, Sreeja again took a 7-4 lead and showed tremendous mental strength after what panned out in the first game. The Indian paddler again earned five game points and had a golden chance of making amends. Yet again, Sreeja succumbed under pressure.

The 23-year-old Yingsha won seven points in a 2-0 to take the second game and make it 2-0. After not being able to convert even one of the nine game points, Sreeja was devastated and the disappointment on her face was palpable. Sreeja did not throw in the towel in the third game and also took a one-point lead. But once Yingsha took a four-point lead, there was no stopping her. The fourth and final game turned out to be a completely one-sided affair as Sreeja looked down and out. With Sreeja's defeat, India's challenge in table tennis singles ended. Earlier, Manika Batra, Harmeet Desai and Achanta Sharath Kamal also crashed out.

Debate over scrapping of IPL mega auction leaves Delhi owner Parth Jindal surprised

New Delhi. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had a meeting with all the IPL owners ahead of the mega auctions and preparations for the IPL 2025 at the BCCI headquarters. Delhi Capital team's owner Parth Jindal revealed some insiders from the high-profile meeting. Jindal said that he was left surprised with the debate over the complete scrapping of the mega auctions. He further added that the Capitals franchise is not against having auctions. The Indian cricket board on Wednesday had informed that they held a 'constructive dialogue' with the IPL franchise owners of the 10 teams and will take forward their recommendations to the tournament's governing council. There were several points of discussion during the meeting regarding the number of retentions ahead of the mega auction, the right-to-match rule and the limit of foreign and

uncapped players retention. Deliberations were also made on several commercial aspects of the league, such as merchandising, licensing and gaming.

BCCI conducts meeting with IPL franchise owners. However, Parth Jindal said there was "no real outcome" from the meeting as the teams looked to stick to their opinions on all the matters discussed. "No real outcome. It was just to hear all the different perspectives from all the owners and the BCCI has heard us, and now they will give us all the rules. Hopefully, by the end of August we will get to know the rules for the next cycle," Jindal told the reporters here at the BCCI headquarters. Jindal confirmed there was no consensus among the teams in the context of the number of players they wanted to retain ahead of the mega auction. "Nothing (on the consensus). Some people want eight to 10,



some people want four, some people want six and it's all up in the air," he replied. Jindal suggested there was a debate about whether there should be an auction in the IPL at all. "There was, yeah, I was surprised. There was a debate. Some people said that there should not be a mega auction at all. There should be only smaller auctions," Jindal said. "I'm not in that camp. I feel that it

(auction) evens the playing field, and it's very good for everyone. It makes the IPL what it is. It makes it competitive. It makes it an even-playing field," he added.

Parth Jindal gives details into the meet. "We're not on the same page on many issues. But I think the BCCI, in their wisdom, will decide. I think the president and secretary will decide," he said. Jindal also expressed the opinion that Delhi Capitals are against the impact player rule while providing his views. "Impact player rule, again, (there were) different views from different people. Some people want it because it gives a chance to young players to play in the IPL. Some people don't want it because it is detrimental to Indian cricket in terms of the development of all-rounders, so it's a mixed bag," he said. "I'm in the second camp. I don't want it."

Chinese swimmer wins Olympic gold by smashing his own record in 100m freestyle

New Delhi. Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle smashed his own world record in 100 metres freestyle at the Paris Olympics 2024 on Wednesday to win a gold medal in the event. En route to his quest for gold, Pan also humbled a slew of his champion rivals. The 19-year-old sensation bettered his previous world-record timing by 0.40 seconds which was set at the World Championships in Doha in February this year. He bettered his timing by 0.40 seconds in the Paris Olympic Games and clocked 46.40 seconds in the race. Australia's Kyle Chalmers bagged the silver medal as he finished 1.08 seconds behind Pan. Meanwhile, while David Popovici finished a further 0.01 seconds behind Chalmers to win the bronze. There was no easing in for Pan, who took off like a rocket and crushed the opening 50 metres in an outrageous 22.28 seconds. He mowed down any hopes Chalmers and Popovici might have had of catching him as he stretched his lead and flew to the wall. "I tried my best to get the best result. I was very surprised in the end that I broke the world record and it was a magical moment," Pan told reporters through a translator.

A doping storm has followed China's swimming team to Paris. Ahead of the Games, revelations were made in April that 23 Chinese athletes had tested positive for a banned heart medication but were allowed to swim at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Wenzhou native Pan rose above all this to earn his first Olympic gold medal, five months after he became the world champion. The 19-year-old revealed he had been tested more than 20 times over the past few months. "The testing was essentially done under all the regulations, so I don't feel there was any difference or influence," he said.

Pan Zhanle overcomes challenges

Chalmers won the gold medal at Rio 2016 and won his second silver in the event and eighth medal at the Olympic Games. He won another silver after having finished as a runner-up behind Caleb Dressel at the Tokyo Olympic Games. Chalmers overcame a back injury before the Olympic trials and a change of coach after his former one, Peter Bishop, was stood down in March after an undisclosed investigation. "I've been swimming the same race plan for the last eight years, and it's worked pretty well for me. It almost worked well for me. I guess tonight to get a silver medal still was amazing," Chalmers said. Popovici previously held the world record before Pan took it at Doha, added the bronze to his 200m freestyle gold medal at Paris.



Kriti Sanon

Slips Into A Polka Dot Bralette As She Enjoys On A Cruise; Hot Photos Go Viral

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon was recently spotted soaking up the sun and fun on a luxurious cruise, and her chic ensemble is giving us major summer vibes. Slipping into a playful polka dot bralette, Kriti exuded effortless elegance and was a complete vision to behold. Away from the frenetic pace and chaos of everyday life, Kriti Sanon escape for a happy vacay to Greece along with her sister Nupur Sanon. The actresses are holidaying in the picturesque location as part of Kriti's birthday celebration.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Kriti shared a video in which she and Nupur were seen wearing Boho outfits and had temporary tattoos drawn on them. The Sanon sisters were enjoying the sunset together.

Meanwhile, the holiday also made headlines after photos of Kriti and her rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia emerged online. Gossipers on Reddit shared photos of Kriti at a lively party spot alongside Kabir. Adding fuel to the speculation, the UK-based businessman also posted a photo from the same location on his Instagram stories, even tagging the location — though he didn't tag Kriti herself.

While neither Kriti nor Kabir has made any official statement about their relationship, the photos have been steadily going viral on social media. Reactions have been mixed; some fans have criticised others for taking photos without consent, while many are simply thrilled that Kriti seems to have found someone special.

Earlier during New Year 2024 celebrations in Dubai, photos of Kriti, her sister Nupur Sanon, her boyfriend Stebin Ben and Kabir Bahia went viral. They were seen enjoying the festivities together, and were also spotted with MS Dhoni and his wife Sakshi Dhoni. The photos added to the buzz surrounding Kriti's personal life, fueling speculation about her relationship with Kabir. Kriti, meanwhile, is taking a well-deserved break from her busy schedule following two successful releases this year. The actress set off to London with her sister Nupur Sanon to celebrate her birthday last week. She was last seen in Crew with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. While Kriti's acting talent continue to shine, she is also making significant strides as a creative force in Bollywood. This year, she is set to turn producer with 'Do Patti', a project that promises to push the boundaries of storytelling and creativity. With veteran actress Kajol on board and under her production house Blue Butterfly Films, Kriti is poised to make a substantial impact on the industry as a producer.



Deepika Padukone On Kareena Kapoor's Wish To Star In Love Aaj Kal: 'Don't Expect Every Film With Boyfriend...'



When Imtiaz Ali chose Deepika Padukone for Love Aaj Kal, it became a blockbuster hit, but not everyone was thrilled. Kareena Kapoor, who was dating Saif Ali Khan, the film's lead, didn't hide her frustration about losing out on the role. She even called it out at an award function. Imtiaz wasn't exactly happy with her public outburst, though. He had then told The Indian Express, "The thing with flattery is that you don't recognise it when it happens. It was not a happy feeling when Kareena publicly said what she did. I felt bad because we had cleared the issue and I didn't realise that she still felt so bad about it."

Later, in a chat with Filmfare, Deepika Padukone was put on the spot about Kareena Kapoor's wish to star in Love Aaj Kal. Deepika shrugged it off and said, "I don't know about that. I never had this conversation with Saif, I never brought it up. But I do know for a fact that Imtiaz was always keen on working with me on this particular film. And it happened."

Deepika said it was unrealistic to expect her boyfriend to be in every film she did. She said that directors pick actors based on their vision, and while she got why Kareena might feel that way, she thought it was absurd to assume her real-life boyfriend would always be her co-star. Deepika had said, "I don't expect that every film I do has to be with my boyfriend. I think that's a bit ridiculous. And I know as an actor I will have to work with different kinds of people. A director knows the kind of characters he wants in his film and the kind of actors who can play those characters. So it would be a bit ridiculous to expect that my real-life boyfriend will be my co-star in every film of mine." Saif backed the idea of casting Kareena, but as a director's actor, he respected Imtiaz's choice. In an interview with Zoom, he said, "When your personal and professional lives are mixed together, it is hard to clearly feel about things. Of course, I missed her a lot and I wish she was in the film, but you have to stay true to your director and this is the casting that he wanted and we followed that."

Mahesh Bhatt's Mom Feared Over Alia Bhatt, Shaheen's Muslim Names During Bombay Riots: 'My 2nd Wife...'



Mahesh Bhatt has always been open about his personal life. In a 1998 interview with Rediff, the filmmaker opened up on his parents' diverse religious backgrounds. His father, Nanabhai Bhatt, was a Gujarati Brahmin, while his mother, Shirin Mohammad Ali, was a Shia Muslim. Bhatt shared how his mother felt a bit embarrassed by his open embrace of his Muslim heritage and expressed concern when he chose Muslim names for his daughters, Alia and Shaheen. He noted that she likely feared her minority status might affect their everyday lives, particularly during the communal riots in Mumbai in 1992, which heightened her anxieties. The filmmaker recalled that his mother always wore a big tika and sari but was worried about their minority status affecting their lives. She felt embarrassed when he embraced his Muslim identity. "I could see that there was something she was hiding. She felt that her minority status would perhaps interfere with our day-to-day lives. She was a little embarrassed when I flaunted my Muslim roots... when I came to know about it. Yes, she was a little embarrassed about it. She was worried about me during the communal riots in 1992. She was worried when we named my little girls — because my second wife (Soni Razdan) liked those names — Shaheen and Alia. Both are Muslim names. Everybody was worried in 1992. What was going to happen?" Bhatt shared.

Mahesh recalled how his father, who wore a janoi, stayed true to his own beliefs. Despite his parents' deep love for each other, they didn't try to change their individual faiths. "I had the best of both worlds. My mother was a Shia Muslim, while my father was a janoi-clad man. He never pretended to be secular. What's very interesting, both (father and mother) retained their individual faiths. They were madly in love but neither indulged in the farce of wanting to do things the other way," he remembered.

Mahesh Bhatt married Soni Razdan in 1986 and they have two daughters — Shaheen Bhatt and Alia Bhatt.

Huma Qureshi's

French Getaway Is All About 'Croissants And Gelatos'

Huma Qureshi, who recently celebrated her 38th birthday, is currently enjoying her vacation in France. Of late, the actress has been sharing a lot of postcard-worthy pictures of herself from the exotic travel destination. A while ago, she treated her Instagram family to another sneak peek from her French getaway. Sharing a string of pictures on the platform, the Jolly LLB 2 actress wrote in the caption, "Of Croissants & Gelatos A Love Story." In the first snapshot, Huma is seen striking a pose on a lane while holding a chocolate ice cream cone. She opted for an all-white outfit and wore a bikini top that she paired with matching jeans and a white shirt that she kept on her shoulder. To further elevate her look, Huma accessorised her OOTD with a white cap, slippers, black shades and a beige handbag from the house of luxury brand Fendi.



The next picture depicts the Gangs of Wasseypur actress happily posing for the camera during a mesmerising sunset near the sea while holding a glass of juice. She wore a white oversized shirt over a matching white bikini and black shades. In one of the pictures, the actress is seen posing near a road, while her brother Saqib Saleem and one of her friends are seated on the roadside behind Huma. Huma also posted a picture from inside a church and a delicious-looking dessert cocktail. The last picture is a selfie in which the Bell Bottom actress is seen holding a glass of

cocktail. As soon as the actress dropped the pictures, fans were quick to shower the comment section with a slew of reactions. An Instagram user wrote, "Looking fabulous." Another user noted, "Absolutely stunning and hot." A comment read, "Looking cute and beautiful."

In the meantime, Rajkumar Rao and his wife Patralekhaa also joined Huma on her birthday trip. Recently, Huma posted a few group pictures from her travel diaries and wrote in the caption, "Blessed with the Best #MaFamily. Only remember laughing and singing the whole trip. Thank you all for making it soooo special." On the work front, Huma will be next seen in the investigative drama film Bayaan. Helmed by Bikas Mishra, the film portrays complexities of human relationships. The official release date of the film is yet to be revealed.

