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BJP's Sikh cell members protest against Rahul, demand apology

New Delhi, Sep 11: Members of Delhi BJP's Sikh cell being stopped by the police during a protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi near 10 Janpath, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. (PTI Photo) Members of the Delhi BJP's Sikh cell staged a protest against Rahul Gandhi near his 10, Janpath residence here on Wednesday, demanding an apology from the Congress leader over his remarks in the US concerning the community. Raising slogans and carrying placards, the protesters, including women, tried to approach Gandhi's residence from Vigyan Bhawan, but were stopped by police at a barricade. The protesters raised slogans against the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, demanded his apology for "humiliating" Sikhs and held the Congress responsible for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in the country. BJP national spokesperson RP Singh alleged that Gandhi has "insulted" Sikhs through his statement. "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Sikh community is witnessing progress and the members of the community feel safe in India. The 1984 massacre, where Sikhs were beaten up and killed, occurred during the Congress rule," he said.

Rahul Gandhi says reservation remark 'misinterpreted': 'Let me make it clear'

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 11: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday issued a clarification regarding his remarks on "ending reservation" during his ongoing US visit, saying his comments were "misinterpreted". The Leader of the Opposition was facing backlash for saying the Congress party would "end reservation" when India is a fair place. Issuing a clarification on his earlier remarks, Rahul Gandhi said he is not against reservation, and his party will take the reservation beyond 50 per cent if they come into power. "Yesterday someone misrepresented my statement that I am against reservation. But let me make it clear - I am not against reservation. We will take reservation beyond the limit of 50 per cent," Gandhi said at the National Press Club in the US. The Congress MP's comment on reservation came on Tuesday when he was interacting with the students and faculty members of Georgetown University in

Washington DC. Gandhi had said India was not a fair place at the moment, and the Congress party would "think of ending reservation when India is a fair place." He



said, "The elephant in the room is that 90 per cent of India - OBCs, Dalits and Adivasis don't play the game." He further stressed that the INDIA bloc wants to defend the Constitution and most of the alliance partners agree on holding a caste

census, adding that 'two businessmen' should not run every business in the country. However, leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused Gandhi of making "anti-national" statements on foreign soil and criticised his stance on reservation. Union home minister Amit Shah said Rahul Gandhi's comments brought forward Congress' "anti-reservation face." "Rahul Gandhi's statement lays bare the Congress's politics of causing rifts on the lines of regionalism, religion, and linguistic differences. By speaking about abolishing reservations in the country, Rahul Gandhi has once again brought the Congress's anti-reservation face to the forefront. The thoughts that were in his mind eventually found their way out as words," the home minister said. Earlier in the day, leaders from the Sikh community and BJP members staged a protest outside the LoP residence in Delhi for his "anti-Sikh" remarks in Washington DC while interacting with Indian Americans.

Cong releases 3rd list of 40 candidates, fields Randeep Surjewala's son from Kaithal

New Delhi, Sep 11: The Congress on Wednesday released its third list of 40 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls, fielding party MP Randeep Surjewala's son Aditya Surjewala from Kaithal. With this, the Congress has declared a total of 81 candidates for the polls to the 90-member assembly. The Congress has not declared candidates for nine seats, feeling speculation over a last-minute tie-up with AAP and other small outfits. Besides Surjewala, the third list includes Chander Mohan from Panchkula, Nirmla Singh from Ambala City, Akram Khan from Jagadhri, Balwan Singh Daulatpuri from Fatehabad, Ram Niwas Rara from Hisar, Pradeep Narwal from Bawani Khara (SC) and Mohammad Israil from Hathin. The Congress on Friday declared 41 candidates for the polls, fielding former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, state unit chief Uday Bhan from Hodal, and wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Julana. The party had first released a list of 31 candidates and a little later, in a statement, said the CEC had approved the candidature of Balbir Singh from the Israna (reserved for the Scheduled Castes) constituency. The party declared nine candidates on Sunday. It has renominated all its 28 MLAs. Besides Hooda, Bhan, and Phogat, the Congress has also fielded Mewa Singh from Ladwa to take on Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

Panic grips Chandigarh's Sector 10 after 'explosive' hurled at house

ST Correspondent

Chandigarh, Sep 11: Panic gripped the upscale Sector 10 here when unidentified miscreants, arriving in an auto-rickshaw, hurled an explosive at a house, on Wednesday evening. The loud explosion shattered the windows, causing damage to the house. Luckily, nobody was injured. According to sources, three suspects were



involved. While one of them threw the explosive, the other two remained in the auto-rickshaw. Authorities were alerted, prompting the arrival of senior police officials, including the DIG and SSP. Teams from fire brigade and National Disaster Response Force also reached the scene. KK Malhotra, a retired college principal, who owns the house, was sitting in the lawn and reading a book before the incident. As soon as he went inside, the suspects arrived on the scene. While Malhotra and his family live on the ground floor, they have tenants staying on the first floor.

Ajit Doval calls for joint efforts against terrorism

New Delhi, Sep 11 India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday urged BRICS nations to collaborate in addressing modern security challenges such as terrorism and digital threats, during a conclave of the national security advisors in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Doval, speaking at the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) meeting, emphasized the need for coordinated action to tackle issues stemming from Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and growing concerns over terrorism. He also called for reforms in multilateral institutions, suggesting that existing global structures are ill-equipped to handle the complex challenges of the modern era. "The wide participation in the meeting today testifies to the fact that there is an urgent need to reform multilateralism if we are to restore credibility," he said.

Islamic preachers among 12 get life imprisonment in illegal religious conversion case

New Delhi, Sep 11 A special NIA-Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) court in Lucknow on Wednesday awarded life sentence to Islamic preacher Maulana Kalim Siddiqui, Islamic Da'wah Centre founder Mohammed Umar Gautam and 10 others in a 2021 case of illegal religious conversion. Among the twelve accused, four others were also sentenced to 10-years in prison under UP Prohibition of Religious Conversion Act 2021, the court said. Among the twelve accused, four others were also sentenced to 10-years in prison under UP Prohibition of Religious Conversion Act 2021, the court said. Among the twelve accused, four others - Mohd. Salim, Rahul Bhola, Mannu Yadav, Kunal Ashok Chaudhary - were also sentenced to 10-years in prison under UP Prohibition of Religious Conversion Act 2021, the court said. Share your thoughts about Hindustan Times and unveil a surprise! Submit Feedback! Besides Gautam and Siddiqui, others sentenced to life are Irfan Sheikh, Salaudin Zainuddin Sheikh, Prasad Rameshwar Kanware alias Adam, Arsalan Mustafa alias Bhupriya Bandon, Qazi Jahangir and Abdullah Umar under IPC section 121A (conspiracy to commit offence against the State). Officials said the accused were involved in running a racket named Islamic Da'wah Centre.

Bengal govt dismisses doctors' precondition for talks

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Kolkata, Sep 11: The West Bengal government on Wednesday rejected junior doctors' demands for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's presence and a live broadcast as pre-conditions for talks to resolve the month-long 'cease work' and standoff over the alleged rape-murder of a woman medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Amid the 33rd day of protests and a sit-in outside Swasthya Bhawan for the second day, Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya said the government remains open to discussions but suggested that "political forces" might be influencing the protests. This led to a quick rebuttal from the medics, who dismissed the claims as baseless. The minister urged the doctors to rejoin work by respecting the Supreme Court's direction to them, but refrained from giving a direct reply on whether the state government would take

any punitive action against doctors for violating the apex court's order. Meanwhile, TMC leaders and MLAs issued veiled threats to the agitating junior doctors by calling them "anti-national" and saying the party too might conduct counter-



protests against the agitating medics. The government had invited the doctors to a meeting at state secretariat Nabanna at 6 pm on Wednesday but the invitation did not confirm whether Banerjee would attend it. Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, in

an email sent at 3.49 am on Wednesday, urged the doctors to send a delegation of 12 to 15 members and stressed the importance of resuming work, citing a Supreme Court order directing them to return to duty by 5 pm on Tuesday. "You will, no doubt, appreciate and agree that as a law-abiding citizen, it is everyone's bounden duty to adhere to these directions. Unfortunately, it has not been adhered to so far." Pant wrote, emphasising the need for doctors to return to their duties to provide necessary care to the public. Despite the invitation, the junior doctors insisted on several pre-conditions before agreeing to the meeting. "We want the discussion to be held in the presence of the CM and be telecast live. We want at least 30 representatives as this movement is spread across various medical colleges and hospitals," a member of the junior doctors' forum said at a press conference. The government, however, stood firm on its stance, refusing to accept any pre-conditions for the meeting.

Out on bail, Engineer Rashid vows to fight against PM Modi's 'Naya Kashmir narrative'

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Jammu, Sep 11: Engineer Rashid walked out of Tihar Jail on Wednesday, a day after a Delhi court granted him interim bail till October 2 in a terror funding case. Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, walked out of Tihar Jail on Wednesday after being granted interim bail by a Delhi court. Rashid, who was arrested in 2019 in connection with a terror funding case, received temporary reprieve to campaign in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, scheduled to begin later this month. Upon his release, Rashid pledged to continue his political fight, focusing on what he called Prime Minister Narendra Modi's failed narrative of "Naya Kashmir." "I will not let down my people. I take a pledge that I will fight PM Modi's narrative of 'Naya Kashmir,' which has totally failed. People have rejected whatever he did

on August 5, 2019," Rashid said, referring to the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370. Rashid, who defeated former chief minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections,



said his fight was for the people, not for power. The National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah had earlier alleged that the interim bail was not granted to serve the people but to fetch votes. "We were

aware that it would happen. I feel regret for the people of Baramulla parliamentary constituency as this bail has not been granted to serve them or attend Parliament," Abdullah told reporters. "He has not been granted bail to work as a parliamentarian but to fetch votes here. After that, he will be taken back to Tihar (jail) and the people of north Kashmir will again be without a representative," he added. Engineer Rashid's brother fielded from Langate as AIP lists nine more picks Rashid's party, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), is contesting the assembly elections, which will be held in three phases starting on September 18. His release comes with conditions, including a bond of ₹2 lakh, a surety, and a prohibition on discussing the ongoing terror funding case with the media. The Baramulla MP has been in custody since 2019 after being arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for his alleged involvement in a 2017 terror funding case.

ED attaches Nirav Modi's assets worth Rs 30 crore in PNB fraud case

New Delhi, Sep 11: Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached proceeds of crime in the form of immovable properties and bank balances amounting to Rs 29.75 crore of diamond merchant Nirav Modi in the case of PNB fraud case. The agency had initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI under sections of IPC, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in the case of bank fraud worth Rs 6498.20 crore. During course of investigation, assets worth Rs. 29.75 crore of Nirav Modi and his group of companies lying in India were identified in the form of land and building and amount lying in bank accounts, which are being provisionally attached under PMLA, 2002, ED sources said. During a PMLA probe earlier, ED had attached movable and immovable assets of Nirav Modi and associates to the



tune of around Rs 2,596 crore in India and abroad. Furthermore, movable and immovable assets of Modi and his associates amounting to Rs 692.90 crore, have been confiscated under provisions of fugitive economic offenders Act, 2018 by Special Court (FEOA), Mumbai. Also, assets to the tune of Rs 1052.42 crore have been successfully restored to the victim banks i.e. PNB and consortium banks. Earlier in this case, a prosecution complaint and supplementary prosecution complaint under PMLA, 2002 have already been filed by ED against Nirav Modi and associated entities before the Special Court (PMLA). Simultaneously, the extradition proceedings against arrested fugitive Nirav Modi, were initiated and are under progress in London, UK. Earlier this year, Modi had applied for bail in a UK court and his bail was denied for the seventh time, by the court. An appeal was filed by Nirav Modi before the UK High Court against the bail order, which was later withdrawn. Currently, he is lodged in a UK jail.

Madrasas 'unsuitable and unfit' to impart education, child rights body tells SC

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Sep 11: Madrasas not only rendered an unsatisfactory and insufficient model for education but also had an arbitrary mode of working which was wholly against the Act and they didn't have a curriculum and evaluation procedure as laid down under Section 29 of the RTE Act, the child rights body said. Describing madrasas as an "unsuitable and unfit" place to receive 'proper' education, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has told the Supreme Court that madrasas not being schools - as defined under the Right to Education Act, 2009 - have no right to compel children or their families to receive madrasa education. "It is a flagrant violation of a child's fundamental constitutional right to education to impart instruction that is entirely in the context of religion and that does not adhere to the requirements of the RTE Act, 2009, or any other applicable laws. Innocent children suffer as a result of the religious subject of education becoming institutionalised in madrasas," the NCPCR said in an affidavit filed in the

Supreme Court. "Further, it is also humbly submitted that merely teaching a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that the children are receiving formal and quality education," the NCPCR affidavit read. "The state cannot facilitate such activity beyond the RTE Act which is in violation of Article 21A (Right to Education) of the Constitution of India. Madrasas being out of this definition have no right to compel children or their families to receive madrasa education. A madrasa is not only an unsuitable place to receive 'fundamental' education but also in absence of entitlements as provided under Sections 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 29 of the RTE Act," it said. The affidavit has been filed in response to a petition challenging the Allahabad High Court's March 22 order declaring the 'UP Board of

Madarsa Education Act 2004' unconstitutional, being violative of Articles 21 (right to life



and liberty) and 21A (right to free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years) of the Constitution. The high court held that a secular state has no power to cre-

ate a board for religious education or to establish a board for school education only for a particular religion and create separate education systems for separate religions. However, the Supreme Court on April 5 stayed the high court's order, noting that the high court's views appeared to be prima facie incorrect in its decision that would impact nearly 17 lakh students. Since madrasas were exempted from the purview of the RTE Act, 2009, all children studying there were deprived of not only formal education in schools but also benefits such as midday meal, uniform, trained teachers, etc. as provided under the Act, it contended. Madrasas not only rendered an unsatisfactory and insufficient model for education but also had an arbitrary mode of working which was wholly against the Act and they didn't have a curriculum and evaluation procedure as laid down under Section 29 of the RTE Act, the child rights body said.

News box

Five arrested for cheating 24 people of Rs 8 crore in Chennai

CHENNAI Five persons were arrested for allegedly swindling a total of Rs 8 crore from 24 people under the pretext of getting them jobs in Peace Scouts and Guides India. Central Crime Branch (CCB), Chennai, identified the arrested men as Vimal, Arivazhagan, Chellapandi, Thirumurugan and Udhayakumar. The police have recovered some 'fake' documents belonging to the organisation from Vimal. According to the police, the five men were running Peace Scouts and Guides India, the Tamil Nadu branch of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, which is aided by the union government. Under the pretext of providing jobs, the arrested men allegedly gave fake job offers bearing the titles of district organisation commissioner, scoutmaster and scout guide captain to the victims. The issue came to light when a victim, who gave Rs 6.5 crore to the accused to get the post of district organisation commissioner, filed a police complaint. He had sought back his money in vain after the suspects failed to provide him a job. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the website of Peace Scouts and Guides India contained a notice stating that the arrested persons were terminated from all their responsibilities in the organisation.

Several cases of fever and skin rashes reported on first day of health survey



VIJAYAWADA. Several cases of fever, joint pain, colds, and skin rashes were reported on the first day of the health survey in flood-affected areas of Vijayawada. Progress slowed in some locations due to mobile network issues. The government has ramped up post-flood disaster operations in Vijayawada, with sanitation efforts and the enumeration process already underway. Insurance companies have been called to expedite claim settlements for insured flood victims. To prevent disease outbreaks, the Health, Medical, and Family Welfare Department launched a door-to-door health survey to assess the health status of affected families. Multiple teams are conducting the four-day survey, which began with a training session. Health workers are focusing on conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, fevers, insect bites, and waterborne diseases like dengue and malaria. The teams, equipped with medications, ORS packets, and rapid test kits, are visiting homes across the city. Each team comprises two Community Health Officers (CHOs) and one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM).

CHO Satish informed, "We assessed 88 houses and found several cases of fever, skin rashes, and joint pains. We distributed medical kits and referred patients to health camps or PHCs."

Stray dog menace: Kerala fails to ramp up vaccination and sterilisation drive

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Despite the alarming increase in stray dog attacks across the state, local self-government institutions and the Animal Husbandry department have failed to intensify crucial vaccination and sterilisation drives for effective management of the canines on the street. In recent months, multiple incidents of stray dog attacks were reported across the state, while unauthorised killings of street dogs have also increased, raising concerns over the escalating human-dog conflict. In a shocking incident on Tuesday, several stray dogs were found dead from suspected poisoning in Ambalapuzha in Alappuzha district, which highlights the growing violence against animals and the apathy and failure of state agencies to address the issue effectively.

As per data, there are 2.89 lakh stray dogs and 8.3 lakh domestic dogs in the state. In the first half of this year, LSGIs and the Animal Husbandry department managed to vaccinate only 8,102 stray dogs. Besides this, around 8,654 sterilisation surgeries were conducted during the same period. State animal welfare board member Maria Jacob said the only way to ride over the stray dog crisis was to allow proper feeding of street dogs. "People, the police and the community have turned hostile towards people feeding animals. We have a very good network of feeders and our system has failed to utilise them for catching the dogs. The dog feeders are getting harassed and the government has failed to utilise them for stray dog management," said Maria Jacob.

Concrete Road, gas godown inside Lake raise eyebrows

According to activists, the lake falls under Chandapura Gram Panchayat, but the road was laid by Bommasandra panchayat, raising doubts about officials being hand in glove with realtors.

BENGALURU. A 9-inch thick, 40-ft wide concrete road of about 150-metre length and an illegal gas cylinder godown has come up inside Heelalige Lake. It is alleged that the officials have laid the road at a cost of Rs 30 lakh inside the water body, on the pretext of providing connectivity to a graveyard adjacent to it, to help a real estate company. According to activists, the lake falls under Chandapura Gram Panchayat, but the road was laid by Bommasandra panchayat, raising doubts about officials being hand in glove with realtors. Anand Malligavad, who is identified as the 'Lake Man Of India' for reviving over 30 lakes on Bengaluru's outskirts and also reviving water bodies in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh and

other parts of India, said that even the Dishank application reveals the violation. "The officials may offer lame excuses, but as per my knowledge, forest land and lake land will have to remain as they are. The 28-acre Heelalige Lake has become a target for some real estate firms as trucks frequent the area to level lands for layouts near the lake.

It appears that land developers could be behind the move," said Malligavad, adding that the edge of the lake was being used to reach the 13-guntas burial ground, but in 2021, the authorities constructed a 40-ft wide road for about 200 metres, violating rules and regulations. "The lake falls under the Chandapura Town Municipality, but the permission to lay the road was given by



Bommasandra Town Municipality. There is something fishy going on here, which needs to be probed," stressed Malligavad. When contacted, Anekal Tehsildar Shashidhar Madyal said Survey No. 197 of Heelalige village in Attibele

Hobli is the original lake area and Survey No 137 of Bommasandra village is government cemetery land. "When checked in the Dishank software, it appears that there is an overlap. The deputy tehsildar and revenue inspector concerned will be instructed to

inspect the place and give a report, which will be submitted to the superiors," said Madyal. An official from the Bommasandra Town Municipality said people from SC/ST communities had approached them, seeking connectivity to the burial ground. Hence, a resolution was passed at the district administration level and all procedures were followed and a work order was issued to lay a road. "We realised that the land does not fall under Bommasandra limits, and hence, we did not settle the bills for the contractor, who has now approached the court for payment. The matter has been escalated to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner," he stated.

HC orders to send GRT's in-charge chairman on leave

Ahmedabad. The Gujarat high court has directed the state govt to send the in-charge chairman of the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal (GRT) on administrative leave. This happened after the HC was informed that the tribunal passed two "diametrically different" orders in one matter. According to the case details, two tenancy appeals were filed before the GRT against a common order passed by Anand's deputy collector in 1996 regarding land disputes in Khambhat. Since the appeals were filed after a delay of 22 years, GRT rejected one appeal by saying that it did not contain a reason for the delay to be condoned.

However, the tribunal decided to hear the second appeal by condoning the delay, though there was no separate application made to seek pardon for the delay. These two decisions were challenged before the high court. Justice Nikhil Kariel, in the

order, stated, "To this court, it would appear that considerations with regard to condonation of delay should have weighed uniformly..." The HC called upon the advocate general (AG) and brought these orders to his notice. The AG promised the HC that a decision would be taken in this regard in eight weeks as the matter is being considered at the highest level. The HC on Monday quashed both the orders passed by the tribunal and asked its member to decide it afresh in three months. The court further said that if the tribunal's order was implemented by the revenue officials, there should be a status quo. The HC order stated, "The state i.e. the secretary, revenue department shall also ensure that appropriate instructions to the in-charge chairman, Gujarat Revenue Tribunal, are issued before the end of the day, directing him to step down on administrative leave while the state takes an appropriate decision into

his conduct as a chairman of the tribunal concerned." The order further stated, "It is clarified at this stage that the legality and validity of the orders are under challenge before this court and inquiry by the state is whether it would behave a chairman of the quasi-judicial body like the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal to pass such orders, and whether a person who passes orders which are contrary to the settled proposition of law, contrary to decisions of the high court and the Supreme Court and passes orders, which are without any reasons whatsoever, should be permitted to continue on such a senior position." As the state authorities are to take a decision in this regard, the HC stated further in its order, "It is further observed that all observations hereinabove are prima facie and whereas the same should not be treated as this court having finally opined as regards the conduct or competence of the member in question."

Chennai inaugurates health check-up program for over 11,000 sanitary staff

CHENNAI. GCC Mayor R Priya inaugurated a master health check-up camp at Stanley Government Hospital on Tuesday for sanitary workers, including those from NULM and domestic breeding checkers. The corporation has allocated around Rs 1,000 per person for the check-up, with a total budget of Rs 1.19 crore for the first phase which will cover 11,931 employees. The programme, set to cover 4,571 permanent staff and 7,360 temporary workers, will continue over the next three months in Stanley Government Hospital, Rajiv



Gandhi Government Hospital, TN Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital in Omandur, Kilpaik Medical

College and Hospital and Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital in Guindy. Each hospital will be responsible for conducting health check-ups for 25 employees per day. The check-up includes a total of 16 health tests such as complete hemogram and ESR, urinalysis, blood sugar, cholesterol, liver function tests, thyroid, HIV, cervical cancer screening for individuals over 35 years. Speaking to reporters, Priya said dengue cases have been reduced this year compared to last year. While around 6,000 cases were reported in 2023, with 87 cases in September alone, only 12 cases have been recorded this year, she said.

An ardent devotee, Subadhra led a solitary life

She was a self-made woman, and confident of handling all her matters independently, says a neighbour; most people in the locality were unaware of her disappearance, and her secluded life remains a mystery to them

KOCHI. During one of my routine health check-up visits to the households in the area, I found the door to her house locked. I asked the neighbours about her whereabouts and whether she had mentioned any travel plans, but they had no information. Feeling concerned, I informed her son and the ward councillor. "Asha worker Aswathy recounted how Subadhra's disappearance came to light. But her face wore a sad look as she struggled to accept that Subadhra was no more, and that she would never again hear her say, 'Don't worry, I'm physically fit by God's grace.' Aswathy emphasised that, though she was in her 70s, Subadhra had no significant health issues. Meanwhile, Subadhra's neighbour and a close acquaintance in the Karithala area, M A Narayanan, said: "She was a self-made woman, and confident of handling all her matters independently. As far as I can remember, she didn't have any major issues with anyone but neither was she close enough with her neighbours."

Subadhra and her family had been living there for over 50 years. She ran a small local finance business, and many shop owners in the area borrowed money from her. It was one of her sources of income. Her husband was an employee at the fisheries department canteen. They bought the house on Karithala Road with the money he received upon retirement. About 15 years ago, her husband passed away. Her children lived with her before they got married, but for the past eight years, she had been living alone in the house. However, her children were in contact with her on a daily basis, especially her second son, who lives in nearby Gandhinagar. Still, she chose not to stay with them. Responding to Subadhra's relationship with the suspected woman Sharmila and her husband, he said, "They had a good relationship, and Subadhra once introduced them to me. Sharmila and her husband would often come and stay with her, and sometimes Subadhra would go to Alappuzha to stay with them, where



Sharmila's husband's house is located. From what Subadhra told me, I learnt that he (Sharmila's husband) was a fisherman in Alappuzha." The last time I saw Subadhra was on August 3, near the South Railway Station. She was walking with someone clad in saree, but I saw them from a distance and couldn't clearly make out who the other person was, said Narayanan. That was my last sight of her just from afar, without any words exchanged, he added.

Flood victims lose all, feel helpless despite government aid

The floods have caused more than just property damage and financial loss. As the community begins recovery, there is an urgent need for psychological assessment and counselling to help victims cope with their trauma.



VIJAYAWADA. Even four days after water began receding in flood-hit areas of Vijayawada, victims continue to endure profound trauma, highlighting the need for both material assistance and psychological support. The floods have left a trail of destruction, with many families struggling to cope with their losses. Sharing her harrowing experience with TNIE, Sriramani, a resident of YSR Colony, said, "We lost everything, just like all the other flood victims. All our belongings were damaged, and we don't have hope that they will function properly even after

repairs," she said. Among the losses were her husband's medical bed and their essential medicines, all submerged in the floodwaters. "The force of the water is still vivid in my mind. I can't forget how much water surrounded our home, something we had never experienced before," she added. Similarly, in Rajarajeswari Peta, Anupama, a private teacher, described her ordeal stating, "The sight of the floodwater still haunts us. It was the worst experience of our lives," she said. Fearing another flood from Budameru, she sent her children to relatives for

safety. The floodwaters not only destroyed their home but also wiped out their fancy shop, their sole source of income. "Our lives have been plunged into darkness. We pray this devastation never happens again," she lamented. The floods have caused more than just property damage and financial loss. As the community begins recovery, there is an urgent need for psychological assessment and counselling to help victims cope with their trauma. Speaking to TNIE, psychiatrist Dr Vemireddy Radhika Reddy explained.

Flood situation in control, relief in full swing: Odisha Disaster Management Minister



BHUBANESWAR. The Odisha government on Tuesday said relief and restoration work is underway in full swing in Malkangiri and Koraput districts which were impacted by heavy rains and flood-like situation. At least 15 blocks in the two districts were affected by the deep depression-induced rain. Around 12 gram panchayats and three wards of four blocks - Malkangiri Sadar, Kalimela, Podia and Mathili - in Malkangiri and 121 villages of 11 blocks in Koraput were affected. Road communication remained affected in 14 places in Malkangiri and six places in Koraput following the heavy showers and subsequent floods. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the situation in both Malkangiri and Koraput is under control. Pujari chaired a review meeting with special relief commissioner (SRC) DK Singh and other senior officials on scenario in the two rain-battered districts. The district administration is in constant touch with the authorities of the affected blocks and has been authorised by the SRC's office to continue its relief operations as long as it wants in this adverse situation. "All line departments have also been directed to join the local administration in restoration work," he said. The minister said after heavy rainfall of around 100 mm in three blocks of Malkangiri on Monday, emergency health service is being provided to people in the affected areas on priority with the help of 14 medical teams. The 2,300 people shifted to 14 temporary relief shelters in Malkangiri will stay there till the water level recedes.

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News box

16L cash & 120g gold stolen from bizman's house, help on the run

Gurgaon. More than Rs 16 lakh in cash, 120 grams of gold, and \$6,000 were stolen from a businessman's house in DLF Phase-2. An FIR was registered on Tuesday. On Sept 7, the 57-year-old complainant, who runs a clothing business in New Delhi, reported the theft to the police.

Heavy rain likely for 3 days in Gurgaon: IMD

Gurgaon: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for the next three days for heavy rain and thunderstorms at isolated locations. Several areas of the city experienced light rain, with Gurgaon recording 5mm of rainfall by 5 pm on Tuesday.

9 names in AAP 2nd list, 2 of them shifted from BJP

Gurgaon: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came out with its second list of nine candidates on Tuesday, including those for Faridabad, Tigoan, and Rewari. The party has fielded Praveesh Mehta from Faridabad, Abhish Chandela from Tigoan, and Jawahar Lal from Bawal in Rewari, among others, and has announced 29 names so far.

In the second list, AAP also gave tickets to Mukhtiyar Singh Bazigar (Ratia), Rita Bamaniya (Sadhaura), Hawa Singh (Indri), Advocate Bhupendra Beniwal (Adampur). AAP's second list has led to speculation that an alliance with the Congress in Haryana is unlikely to materialise.

3 minor girls missing from govt hostel

Ghaziabad: Three girls, aged 14 to 16 years, went missing from Kasturba Gandhi School's hostel in Ghaziabad's Sihani Gate on Tuesday. One of the girls had taken admission to the hostel on Monday, the warden said.

Tunnel work on NH48 clogs Gurgaon-Delhi route, no respite anytime soon

NEW DELHI. Driving to Delhi or to Indira Gandhi International Airport from Gurgaon is set to become an ordeal with the National Highways Authority of India starting the construction of a tunnel on NH48 between Rajokri in south Delhi and Sarhau in Haryana.



internal roads of Udyog Vihar completely choked. "With the closure of the service lanes, the traffic situation is likely to deteriorate further," conceded a Delhi Traffic Police officer.

Border, Old Gurgaon Road-Kapashera-Samalkha Road, Gurgaon-Dwarka Expressway-Dabri-Gurgaon Road-Dwarka Flyover-Dwarka Road-Station Road and Parade Road. To reach IGIA and New Delhi Railway Station, travellers should take Delhi Metro's Airport Express Line from Dwarka Sector-21 station, the advisory stated.

norm on the NH48 stretch. "There is an MCD toll plaza in front of Ambience Mall where commercial vehicles arriving from Jaipur and Gurgaon crowd into 4-5 lanes, posing a significant threat to road safety of commuters," he remarked.

Prince Singhal, founder of CADD - Community Against Drunken Driving, enumerated the problems. "First, the NH 48 between Gurgaon and Delhi sees numerous accidents due to the poorly managed jams, with vehicles failing to remain in their designated lanes," he said.

Ignored minister who called BJP candidate 'bhoo mafia' in 2nd list

Gurgaon: In its second list of 21 candidates for the Oct 5 Haryana polls, BJP replaced another sitting MLA to field Bimla Chaudhary from Pataudi and accommodated disgruntled minister Sanjay Singh — who was denied a renomination from his constituency, Sohna — in Nuh.

and quit last week, took the decision to nominate Singh from Nuh to placate him. BJP has never won from Nuh, a constituency dominated by Muslim voters who have historically supported Congress and INLD.

announcement, BJP — which faces anti-incumbency after having led Haryana for a decade — has replaced all of its three sitting MLAs from Gurgaon district. Wrestler-turned-politician Mukesh Sharma has been fielded from Gurgaon in place of incumbent Sudhir Singla.

New block, library & hostels: GIMS set for 152cr revamp

Noida: The Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Greater Noida is set to get Rs 152 crore in funds for a major revamp, of which Rs 40 crore has been received by the institution recently, its director said on Tuesday.

62 FIRs filed in Gurgaon for flouting model code

Gurgaon: A total of 62 FIRs have been filed in the city against those who violated the model code of conduct (MCC) so far. Officials have removed banners and posters from 2,155 areas and seized liquor worth Rs 7 lakh.

Name Change I, RAKESH Resident of G-227, PALAM VIHAR, GURUGRAM HARYANA-122017 have changed my name from RAKESH to RAKESH KAUSHIK vide Affidavit IN-DL5245219899520W dated 11/09/2024 at New Delhi

Name Change I, AARTI wife of ANUSH AGGARWAL, residing at H NO-5566, SHORNA KOTHI, PAHAR GANJ, DELHI-110055 have changed my name to AARTI MITTAL for all future purposes.

Name Change I, Burhan Arshad, S/O Arshad Hassan R/O C-126, A Second floor chhatrapur EXTN chhatrapur Near JYTS GARDAN chhatrapur south delhi Delhi-110074 Have Changed my name to Burhan Hassan for all future purposes.

Name Change It is for general information that I, MANOJ SAKLANI R/O-115, CHANAKYA PLACE PART-2, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as MANOJ and SONI in my minor son RONAK SAKLANI aged 09 years in his birth certificate-MCDOLIR-0115-006579474. The actual name of mine and my wife are MANOJ SAKLANI and SONIYA, which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change I, SHIDDHAMMA Mother of No. 134614M, Rank-SFR, Name- RAJESH GUPTA, Presently residing at VILL-BHATAPANA-HALLI, PO-MANDALGA, DISTT-KOPPALL, KARNATAKA-583232, have changed my name from SHIDDHAMMA to SID. DAVVA for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 10/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change I, No-4202369M Rank-HAV Name-YOGENDRA YADAV Father of KUMARI ASHMA R/O VPO-SHUK-LAWAS, TEHSIL-KOTPUTLI, DISTT-JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-303105 have changed my minor daughter's name from KUMARI ASHMA to ASHMA YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change I, Anurag Kishor S/o Son Kishor R/O Plot-1365, Flat No-303, Rathni Steel Gali, Laxman Vihar, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Anurag Kishore S/o Son Kishore For All Future Purpose

Name Change I, Anam Sufyan wife of MOHD SUFIYAN R/O 2332, Gali Mohd Saim Shah, Kucha Kucha Chellan Darya Gari New Delhi-110002 have changed my name to ANAM permanently

Name Change I, Mohd Sufyan S/o Mohd Farooq R/O 2332, Gali Mohd Saim Shah, Kucha Chellan, Darya Gari, New Delhi-110002 have changed my name to MOHD SUFIYAN permanently

Name Change I, Balraj Singh W/o Vijay Kumar Singhal R/O D-15, 2nd Floor, Front Side, D-Block, Kiran Garden, Dwarka, Delhi-110059, Have Changed My Name To Rajni Singhal For All Future Purpose

Name Change I, BABEEN KAUW w/o MR. TEJESHWAR SINGH GILL and d/o SH. JOGINDER SINGH KHURANA r/o A-105, SOM VIHAR APARTMENTS, R.K. PURAM, SEC-10, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 have changed my name to BABEEN KAUW KHURANA for future purposes.

Name Change I, ANANTASIA LAKRA mother of NO-16117409P Rank-NK Name-POLLER-ANC TOPPO R/O WARD NO-4, VPO-KALIGHAT, TEH-DIGLIPUR, DIST-NORTH AND MIDDLE ANDAMAN, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND-744202 have changed my name from ANANTASIA LAKRA to ANASTASIA LAKRA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1966 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1971 vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change I, PRAMILA DEVI W/o JASWANT SINGH R/O LIG FLAT NUMBER-3333RD FLOOR, GR-2, SECTOR-16 B PKT-3-C, DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name from PRAMILA DEVI to PARMILA DEVI for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Karik Pundir S/O Vikram Singh, H. No. 145, IIT Gate Police Colony, Hauz Khas, VTC: Hauz Khas, PO: Hauz Khas, District: South Delhi, State: Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced BUD-DHISM and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 21-05-2023. I have change only my religion not my name

Name Change I, JULLIUS TOPPO father of NO-16117409P Rank-NK Name-POLLER-ANC TOPPO R/O WARD NO-4, VPO-KALIGHAT, TEH-DIGLIPUR, DIST-NORTH AND MIDDLE ANDAMAN, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND-744202 have changed my name from JULLIUS TOPPO to JULIUS TOPPO for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1962 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1965 vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform all concern that my client Saleem Ahmad, S/o Jarif Ahmad, R/o Sanpla Khatri, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247554, (Aadhar No. 5421 3399 1587) having disowned his son Mohammad Farad from all his existing and future property (both movable and immovable) and he is no more his legal heir. He has been disowned with free will and consent and my client is not responsible for any of his activities. Whosoever deal with the person will deal at their own risk and responsibility.

Name Change I, No-4202369M Rank-HAV Name-YOGENDRA YADAV Father of KUMARI ASHMA R/O VPO-SHUK-LAWAS, TEHSIL-KOTPUTLI, DISTT-JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-303105 have changed my minor daughter's name from KUMARI ASHMA to ASHMA YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

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Name Change I, BABEEN KAUW w/o MR. TEJESHWAR SINGH GILL and d/o SH. JOGINDER SINGH KHURANA r/o A-105, SOM VIHAR APARTMENTS, R.K. PURAM, SEC-10, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 have changed my name to BABEEN KAUW KHURANA for future purposes.

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Name Change I, NABAB SINGH father of NO-15711552M Rank-SIGMN Name-JITENDRA KUMAR residing at VILL-NADEBAND, DIST-SAHARANPUR, TEH-KHAR, DIST-ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH-202137 has changed my name from NABAB SINGH to NAWAB SINGH ATTRI for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1955 instead of my correct date of birth as 07/08/1956 vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE To Whom so ever it may concern This declaration is executed on 10th day of September 2024 by my clients Tanveer Ahmed (the under-signed) S/o Late Sh. Iqbal Ahmed aged about 50 years R/o House No. A-1/2, Bhaskar Compound, Abul Fazal Enclave, Part-1, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, New Friends Colony, having Aadhar Card No. 528146506459. This Declaration is being drafted on the instructions of my Client Qaisar Jahan on her free will and under no influence. That my Client Qaisar Jahan hereby declares that she is disowning Mr. Kashif Iqbal (s/h) & his family members from her legal heirs category. That after execution of this declaration Mr. Kashif Iqbal will not be having any rights or shares in the immovable and moveable properties which belongs to or is in the ownership of my Client Qaisar Jahan. Any illegal acts or any commission of any offences as punishable under Law of the Land by Mr. Kashif Iqbal or his family members will have no effect on my Client, Qaisar Jahan (the under-signed) and will lead to no consequences/impediments for my Client. Whosoever deals with Mr. Kashif Iqbal and his family members will deal on their own risk, responsibility and consequences.

PUBLIC NOTICE To Whom so ever it may concern This declaration is executed on 10th day of September 2024 by my client Qaisar Jahan (the under-signed) W/o Late Sh. Iqbal Husain aged about 71 years R/o House No. A-1/2, Bhaskar Compound, Abul Fazal Enclave, Part-1, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, New Friends Colony having Aadhar Card No. 638161486075. This Declaration is being drafted on the instructions of my Client Qaisar Jahan on her free will and under no influence. That my Client Qaisar Jahan hereby declares that she is disowning Mr. Kashif Iqbal (s/h) & his family members from her legal heirs category. That after execution of this declaration Mr. Kashif Iqbal will not be having any rights or shares in the immovable and moveable properties which belongs to or is in the ownership of my Client Qaisar Jahan. Any illegal acts or any commission of any offences as punishable under Law of the Land by Mr. Kashif Iqbal or his family members will have no effect on my Client, Qaisar Jahan (the under-signed) and will lead to no consequences/impediments for my Client. Whosoever deals with Mr. Kashif Iqbal and his family members will deal on their own risk, responsibility and consequences.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform that Mrs. Shashi Goyal intends to purchase the Second Floor Right Side Portion, without Roof/Terrace Rights, built on property bearing No. M.C. No. 2424 & 2430, measuring 126.78 sq. meters, located at Chhipipwara Kalan, Jama Masjid, Delhi, from Mr. Raj Kapoor, Mrs. Neena Kapoor, Mr. Tarun Khanna, and Mrs. Madhu Khanna. The entire property was purchased by Mr. Ram Kumar Singhal and Mr. Raju Singhal from Mr. Prem Chand Jan through a Sale Deed dated 15.05.1989. Prior to this Sale Deed, Mr. Ram Kumar Singhal had executed a Registered Will dated 04.04.1985 in favour of Master Raju Singhal. Subsequently, Mr. Ram Kumar Singhal passed away, and his wife, Mrs. Sushila Devi Singhal, also passed away. They left behind only one legal heir, Mr. Raju Singhal. Therefore, Mr. Raju Singhal sold 1/4th share to each of the entire property to Mr. Raj Kapoor, Mrs. Neena Kapoor, Mr. Tarun Khanna, and Mrs. Madhu Khanna through individual Four Sale Deeds. They constructed a building on the property and now agree to sell the Second Floor jointly. The same property is being financed by RBL Bank Limited, located at AF 19, 20, 21 F Aditya Mall, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. 201012. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit higher objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

PUBLIC NOTICE To Whom so ever it may concern This is to inform the public at large that I, BAL RAJ @ BALRAJ SINGH Son of late Sh. Hari Singh resident of House No. 168, Type 2, Police Colony, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 do hereby declare that my full name is Balraj Singh, however on some documents, it is mentioned as Bal Raj. In future, I may be known and named as Balraj Singh for all future purposes/communications.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Name of work with its location Provision of Telecom Facility in Delhi area along with railway officers colony App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 43,62,428.91/- only Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 87,300.00/- only Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender 04.10.2024 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.irops.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-1005 Dated: 10.09.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2835/24

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News box

Flash flood sweeps away hamlet as Vietnam storm toll rises to 141 dead

Hanoi, Vietnam. A flash flood swept away an entire hamlet in northern Vietnam, killing 16 people and leaving dozens missing as deaths from a typhoon and its aftermath climbed to 141 on Wednesday. Vietnamese state broadcaster VTV said the torrent of water gushing down from a mountain in Lao Cai province Tuesday buried Lang Nu hamlet with 35 families in mud and debris. Only about a dozen are known so far to have survived. Rescuers have recovered 16 bodies and are continuing the search for about 40 others. The death toll from Typhoon Yagi and its aftermath has climbed to 141 as 69 others remain missing and hundreds were injured, VTV said. Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit the Southeast Asian country in decades. It made landfall Saturday with winds of up to 149 kph (92 mph) and despite weakening on Sunday, downpours have continued and rivers remain dangerously high. Floods and landslides have caused most of the deaths, many of which have come in the northwestern Lao Cai province, bordering China, where Lang Nu is located.

Israeli airstrike kills 5 in West Bank's Tubas



Cairo, UPDATED: At least 5 people were killed in an Israeli air strike on Tubas in the West Bank, the Palestinian Red Crescent reported on Wednesday. Its crews were able to retrieve the bodies of five people from the bombing site, and they were transferred to the hospital, Red Crescent added. "As part of the counterterrorism activity, an IAF aircraft struck an armed terrorist cell a short while ago in the area of Tubas", the Israeli army said in a statement.

Anti-war protests turn violent at Australia's largest defence industry event

World. Anti-war protests in Melbourne, Australia turned into violent clashes with police on Wednesday, as demonstrators gathered outside the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition. Australia's largest defence expo event saw hundreds of protesters chanting pro-Palestine slogans and waving flags. At the same time, riot police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and pepper spray to disperse the crowd. The protest is being described as the largest police operation in Melbourne since the 2000 World Economic Forum. Demonstrators, equipped with loudspeakers voiced their opposition to the defence exhibition. Officers and riot police attempted to control the situation behind barricades. According to ABC News, some protesters threw dumpsters towards police lines, while others shouted at the event's delegates. One protester climbed on top of a truck stopped at traffic lights. The demonstration resulted in several arrests, with police detaining several protesters in handcuffs. Several major roads in Melbourne were closed as a result of the protests, with police urging motorists to avoid the affected areas. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese addressed the situation, saying, "People have the right to protest but had to do it in a peaceful manner."

South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson collapses from stroke-like symptoms at DC event

World. South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson experienced stroke-like symptoms and collapsed on Tuesday while attending an event in Washington, D.C. He later received medical treatment. On X, the Congressman's office stated, "Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) was taken ill and is being evaluated at a local hospital in Washington, DC." South Carolina's Attorney General, Alan Wilson (R), said in a statement to WSPA that the congressman "experienced stroke-like symptoms" but was in stable condition, according to The Hill. "I just spoke to my mom, who is currently at the hospital with my father. Doctors have confirmed that he has experienced stroke-like symptoms," Wilson said. "I was able to speak with him moments ago, and I am incredibly thankful that he is stable and being monitored by medical professionals." Ukraine's Ambassador to Washington, Oksana Markarova, who was present at the event, described Wilson's on-the-spot treatment as "nothing short of a miracle." She said, "It reminds me that we all have to learn how to do CPR. We in Ukraine, unfortunately, know how to do it because we have to perform it daily, but even in other countries."

Protesters storm Mexico's Senate over judiciary overhaul proposal

Mexico City. Hundreds of protesters broke into Mexico's Senate on Tuesday as lawmakers weighed a contentious plan to overhaul the country's judiciary, forcing the body to take a temporary recess for the safety of the senators. The shutdown came just hours after Mexico's ruling party, Morena, wrangled the votes it needed to jam through the proposal after one member of an opposition party flipped to support it. That move and other political manoeuvring ahead of a vote on the plan championed by outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador fuelled even more outrage after weeks of protests by judicial employees and law students. Critics and observers say the plan, in which all judges would be elected, could threaten judicial independence and undermine the system of checks and balances. Some protesters entered the Senate chambers in an effort to block the vote after they said lawmakers were not listening to their demands. Protesters broke through the door of the Senate chamber pushing aggressively, using pipes and chains. At least one person fainted after protesters broke in. The judiciary isn't going to fall," yelled the protesters, waving Mexican flags and signs against the overhaul. They were joined

by a number of opposition senators as they chanted in the chamber. Others outside the court roared when newscasters announced the Senate was taking a recess. Among them was Alejandro Navarrete, a 30-year-old judicial worker, who said that people like him working in the courts "knowing the danger the reform represents" came to call on the Senate to strike down the proposal. "They have decided to sell out the nation, and sell out for political capital they were offered, we felt obligated to enter the Senate," he said, carrying a Mexican flag. "Our intention is not violent, we didn't intend to hurt them, but we intend to make it clear that the Mexican people won't allow them to lead us into a dictatorship." Despite unrest in recent weeks, the plan sailed through the lower chamber of Congress last week, and was passed onto the Senate, where Lopez Obrador's Morena party lacked the necessary supermajority to approve it. In recent weeks, it was able to peel off two senators from an opposition party, but came into this week still missing one more.



It was unclear where that vote would come from because the country's opposition vehemently opposes the plan. But over the

weekend, observers began to speculate that a senator from the conservative National Action Party (PAN), Miguel Angel Yunes Marquez, would support Morena as he refused to answer calls from his party leadership. On Tuesday, Yunes Marquez announced he would take leave due to health issues and be replaced by his father, Miguel Angel Yunes Linares, a former governor of Veracruz, who said he would vote for the plan. He said he knew the plan was "not the best" but said more laws down the line could improve it. "Mexico is not going to be destroyed by approving this reform, nor will the reform automatically change the reality of a justice system that is calling out for

fundamental change," Yunes Linares said. Yunes Linares strolled into the Senate chambers and was met with applause and chants of "hero!" by Morena senators and screams of "traitor!" from his own party. One PAN senator, Lilly Tellez, even threw dozens of coins at Yunes Linares, calling him a "traitor who sold out his country" for his own benefit. A Senate vote was expected Wednesday. The national head of PAN, Marko Cortes, claimed that it "is evident" that there was an "impunity pact" between the Yuneses and the government so he would vote in favour of the overhaul. Cortes was referring to a July arrest order for Sen. Yunes Marquez, for alleged falsification of documents and fraud related to his candidacy. Yunes had challenged it and got a temporary suspension, calling it a political persecution by the governing Morena party, the same party his father now appears ready to support. His father, Yunes Linares, dodged questions from the media about how he would vote but accused Cortes of "lynching" him and claimed it was "absolutely false" that he had been coerced to vote for the overhaul.

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams to celebrate 59th birthday in space

World. NASA astronaut Sunita Williams is set to celebrate her 59th birthday aboard the International Space Station (ISS) on September 19, 2024. This will be the second time she marks her special day in space due to the ongoing technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which has delayed her return to Earth. Williams, who has been aboard the ISS since June 6, is currently accompanied by fellow astronaut Barry Wilmore. Born on September 19, 1965, in Euclid, Ohio, to Dr. Deepak Pandya and Bonnie Pandya, Williams attended Needham High School in Massachusetts and graduated in 1983. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987 and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the Florida Institute of

Technology in 1995. Williams first ventured on an extended space mission July to November 2012, during which she celebrated her birthday in space for the first time. Known for her strong ties to her Indian heritage, Williams once carried a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, samosas, and a figurine of Lord Ganesha with her on a space mission. Williams and Wilmore are slated to return to Earth in February 2025 aboard SpaceX's Dragon Crew space capsule, which is now configured as their emergency return spacecraft until the arrival of NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission, scheduled for no earlier than September 24, 2024. With her current mission, Williams will have spent a cumulative total of over 322 days in space.

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Kamala Harris confident, unscathed; Trump fails to deliver a knockout

World. The second US presidential debate offered ample hints at how the race for the White House has changed in just two months as an aggressive Vice President Kamala Harris managed to get under her rival Donald Trump's skin, hammering him over his criminal convictions, his views on abortion rights and the size of his rallies. Harris's debate performance is being seen by experts as a major win for Democrats after President Joe Biden dropped out following his miserable performance in June. Buoyed by her performance, Harris called for a second debate even as Trump remained non-committal. The body language of the two leaders was also a study in contrast. Harris was the first off the blocks as she walked to Trump's podium to extend her hand before the start of the debate. The Republican, taken aback by the sudden gesture, accepted the handshake. Interestingly, Trump and President Joe Biden did not shake hands when they met for their presidential debate two months ago.

On several occasions during the debate, Harris was seen looking directly at Trump while answering questions and countering him. She was also seen cracking a smile and shaking her head in disagreement whenever Trump made a baseless claim or resorted to personal attacks. At one point during the debate, Harris placed her hand on her chin when Trump referred to her as a Marxist. The Democratic presidential candidate also looked directly into the camera while speaking on core issues like the economy and abortion. It seemed as if Harris was speaking directly to the millions of voters tuning in. On the other hand, Trump, his usual combative self, hardly looked at Harris in their first-ever face-to-face meeting. The former President became visibly agitated during an exchange on abortion and appeared to fumble when asked if he would veto a national abortion ban if elected as president. Harris also managed to get Trump irritated after she claimed that people left his rallies out of "exhaustion" and "boredom" as the former President brought up "fictional characters" like Hannibal Lecter.

Carnival Cruise ship hits ice in Alaska, passengers compare it to 'Titanic moment'

World. A Carnival Cruise Line ship was struck with ice in Alaska when passengers compared the incident to "modern Titanic moment". "The ship was struck with an errant piece of drifting ice last Thursday while sailing in Tracy Arm Fjord, Alaska," the company operating the cruise said in a statement to Fox Business. After the incident, the company assessed the impact of the ice on the cruise ship and concluded that the vessel remained undamaged, the company said in a statement. An X user shared pictures of the cruise ship along with the piece of ice and wrote a message stating, "From April Futrell, Good evening James! We are on the carnival



spirit and hit an iceberg just outside of Sitka and Tracy arm fjord! Here's some pictures! We are safe and after assessing for damage we are back on track headed to Skagway!" The ship got struck with a

piece of ice in Alaska but it continued its seven day ride without any delay as no damage of any sort was reported from the incident. As per a report in Fox Business, the Carnival said, "The vessel continued on its cruise and there has been no impact to operations." The ship's final destination is Seattle in Washington and it is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday. The ice struck incident happened last week but the social media reactions have been dramatic toward the cruise. In a separate incident, another carnival ship, Carnival Vista, had to reroute its trip to the Caribbean owing to an issue in its engine.

BSF personnel injured in cross border firing by Pakistani troops

It was an incident of "unprovoked firing" from Pakistani troops targeting Indian posts in the Akhnoor area on Wednesday, a report said.

World. A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel was injured early Wednesday when Pakistani troops opened fire on Indian positions along the border, officials told news agency PTL. According to Times of India, it was an incident of "unprovoked firing" from Pakistani troops targeting Indian posts in the Akhnoor area on Wednesday. The incident occurred at around 2:35 am. One BSF personnel sustained injuries in Pakistan firing and now troops are on high alert, the BSF spokesperson added. According to India Today, the Indian troops retaliated to the unprovoked firing from the other side of the

LoC and gave a befitting reply to the Pakistani Rangers. However, there was no immediate report of any casualties or injuries on the other side. According to a BSF spokesperson, Indian forces are maintaining high alert and closely monitoring both the International Border and the Line of Control, PTI said. India and Pakistan, in February 2021, had reaffirmed their ceasefire agreement following which these incidents had become rare. However, last year, a BSF jawan was killed in a similar attack by Pakistani Rangers in the Ramgarh sector — the first fatality in over three years. A top BSF officer on Tuesday claimed that counter-infiltration measures have been put in place along the borders to ensure that terrorists don't infiltrate and disturb the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, according to PTL. Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu frontier, D K Boora was speaking to reporters in Bhandarwah area of Doda district which along with six other districts covering



a total of 24 assembly segments in south Kashmir and Chenab valley region of Jammu is going to polls in the first phase on September 18. The borders are completely secure as the BSF in coordination with sister agencies, including police, have taken all necessary counter-infiltration measures. "I want to assure everyone that no such activity (infiltration of terrorists from across the border) will be allowed during the election process," the BSF officer said. He said the BSF is capable of dealing with any situation and will play its role in ensuring the

conduct of free and fair elections. "The BSF is an able force and you will find our troops deployed more in difficult terrain as they are capable of dealing with any type of situation and do their job bravely. The BSF is deployed here (in Chenab valley) for safe conduct of the elections," Boora said. Referring to recent terror incidents in Doda and Kishtwar districts, the BSF officer said the commanders on the ground are aware of some incidents and are conducting their activities in a tactical way to sanitise the whole area, and "I am hopeful that no untoward incident will happen during elections." Earlier, the BSF IG reviewed election security at a meeting with 20 commanding officers of the force whose units are deployed across all the three districts, informing that traces of militancy were found in this area in the recent past. "They (terrorists) are not in large numbers but since the area has vast forest cover, they are getting an opportunity to survive," he said, asking his men to be alert and foil any nefarious design of the terrorists.

Giant plumes of smoke dot Southern California skies as crews fight several major wildfires

TRABUCO CANYON. Apocalyptic-looking plumes of smoke dotted skies over parts of Southern California on Tuesday as firefighters continued to battle at least three major wildfires that erupted amid a blistering heat wave and were threatening tens of thousands of homes and buildings. In Orange County, firefighters used bulldozers, helicopters and planes to control a rapidly spreading blaze that started Monday and spread to about 3 square miles (8 square kilometers) in only a few hours. The blaze was ignited by a spark from heavy equipment being used by public workers, officials said. By Tuesday, it had charred more than 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) and was heading over mountainous terrain into neighboring Riverside County with no containment, said Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Steve Concialdi. It burned

some communications towers on top of a peak, though so far officials said they did not have reports of the damage disrupting police or fire communication signals in the area. Two firefighters who suffered heat-related injuries and a resident who suffered from smoke inhalation were treated at a hospital and released. Sherri Fankhauser, her husband and her daughter set up lawn chairs and were watching helicopters make water drops on a flaming hillside a few hundred yards away from their Trabuco Canyon home on Tuesday. They didn't evacuate even though their street had been under a mandatory evacuation order since Monday. A neighbor did help Fankhauser's 89-year-old mother-in-law evacuate, Fankhauser said. The flames died down last night but flared up again in the morning. "You can see fire coming over the ridge now," Fankhauser said

Tuesday afternoon. "It's getting a little scarier now." She said she trusted the crews would get things under control and that firefighters were keeping them informed. Meanwhile, in the San Bernardino National Forest, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, some 65,600 homes and buildings were under threat, including those under mandatory evacuations and those under evacuation warnings, nearly double the number from the previous day. Residents along the southern edge of Big Bear Lake were told to leave the area Tuesday night, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. It's unclear how many people were affected in the area, which is a popular destination for anglers, bikers and hikers. The blaze had charred about 44 square miles (114 square

kilometers) of grass and brush and blanketed the area with a thick cloud of dark smoke Tuesday. The acrid air prompted several districts in the area to close schools through the end of the week because of safety concerns. Three firefighters have been injured since the blaze was reported Thursday, state fire managers said. The fire was 14% contained and was affecting small mountain towns where Southern California residents ski in the winter and mountain bike in the summer. Other major fires were burning across the West, including in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada, where about 20,000 people had to flee a blaze outside Reno. Firefighters hope to gain the upper hand as cooler weather moves into California later in the week. An excessive heat warning issued for the Los Angeles area will expire Tuesday night.

News box

Century Textiles buys 10-acre land in Mumbai's Worli for Rs 1,100 crore

MUMBAI. Century Textiles and Industries Ltd (CTIL) on Tuesday said it has acquired ownership rights of about 10-acre leasehold land parcel in Worli, Mumbai from Nusli Wadia for Rs 1,100 crore and expects Rs 14,000 crore revenue from real estate development on this site. With this transaction, the existing leasehold interest of the company is merged with the ownership rights. "The amount paid for this transaction is Rs 1,100 crore," the company said in a regulatory filing. The land will be developed through its wholly owned subsidiary, Birla Estates. "This 10-acre land parcel adds an approximate booking value potential of Rs 14,000 crore to the company," CTIL said.

The acquisition also paves the way for a gross 30-acre contiguous landholding in this prime area, with an overall booking value potential of about Rs 28,000 crore.

This includes Birla Niyaara, the flagship project of Birla Estates, launched a few years ago. The project is one of the fastest selling Uber luxury projects in MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region), with cumulative sales of over Rs 5,700 crore since its launch, the company said.

With a 125-year legacy that started as a single-unit textile entity in 1897, Century Textiles and Industries Ltd, which is part of Aditya Birla Group, has a presence in real estate and pulp and paper sectors. Birla Estates is the real estate venture of the Aditya Birla Group. It develops premium residential housing in key markets. It is developing land parcels both through outright purchases as well as asset-light Joint Ventures apart from developing its own land parcels. Birla Estates has a commercial portfolio with 2 grade-A commercial buildings located in Worli, Mumbai with around 6 lakh square feet of leasable area.

18 farmhands injured after load van falls sideways near Sriperumbudur



CHENNAI. At least 18 people sustained injuries when driver of a load van carrying farm labourers, lost control and the vehicle fell sideways near Sriperumbudur in Kancheepuram district. The victims are undergoing treatment at a government hospital. Pooneri police said the load van, carrying more than 30 people, was travelling near Vedal village along Chennai-Bengaluru Highway towards Ranipet around 10 pm on Monday, when a bike stopped suddenly in front of it. While swerving to avoid crashing into the bike, the van driver lost control and the vehicle fell sideways. A case has been registered.

Sudden breaches led to flooding

VIJAYAWADA. On August 31, as per regular practice, the irrigation department officials notified about the rise in floodwater level of the Budameru and the Krishna river in the WhatsApp groups of the administration at mandal and district levels.

However, the alert was about the increasing floodwater and operating the Velagaleru Head Regulator gates, and they failed to anticipate that heavy inflows more than the capacity of Budameru Diversion Channel would result in breaches, leading to the Budameru original course in the night, which in a matter of a few hours flooded half of Vijayawada, which was lashed by torrential downpour since Friday night. A senior official said normally for the rivers and streamlets, IMD alerts from the CWC are taken as warnings, and based on the rainfall and floods in the catchment areas upstream are taken into consideration to calculate the time the flood would reach the Prakasam Barrage or other places and accordingly the revenue department will take informed decisions.

"However, sometimes flash floods occur due to sudden rains in upland and hilly areas, which is difficult to anticipate. In the case of rivulets like Budameru, the flood assessment is based on IMD forecast and local rainfall. On August 31, a flash flood occurred upstream of head regulator, with several tanks upstream breached following heavy rains in their catchment areas. Even in the influence sphere of Budameru like G Konduru, Mylavaram and A Konduru, there were flash floods in the streams feeding Budameru," he explained. The flash flood was not anticipated though an increase in the floodwater level of up to 30,000 cusecs was anticipated and the officials concerned were alerted to lifting the gates of regulator.

Builder must pay buyer Rs 85 lakh for the delay in handover: Tribunal

The order was issued on September 9 by GR Reddy, Member of the fifth additional bench of K-RERA, in favour of Srinidhi A Muralidhar and his wife Nappina Sampath, residents of JP Nagar, 7th Phase

BENGALURU. A bench of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has ordered the promoters of the BDA-approved residential villa project 'After the Rain' to pay Rs 85.47 lakh to a couple as penalty for delay in handing over their home. Their villa was supposed to be handed over by the promoter on March 31, 2021, but it is still not done.

The order was issued on September 9 by GR Reddy, Member of the fifth additional bench of K-RERA, in favour of Srinidhi A Muralidhar and his wife Nappina Sampath, residents of JP Nagar, 7th Phase. The promoters are Total Environment Building Systems Pvt Ltd and Pragathi Group. The project is located on Sir MVIT College Road in Bettahalsur village, Bengaluru North. 'After the Rain' Phase I was supposed to be ready with 245 units, but only 55 have been handed over so far, say home buyers. "I have only received partial justice. K-RERA has not taken into consideration the point that the builder has taken 86 per cent as advance amount instead of the 10 per cent mandated by the RERA Act. An advance of Rs 2.23 crore (out of total cost of Rs 2.59 crore) was taken from us in February 2015, while they



signed the agreement for sale only in 2018. When taking the advance, they promised handover date by the builder was December 2018," Muralidhar told TNIE. He added, "The main reason we bought the villa was for the sake of our parents, who were 75-plus, and could live in comfort, but the handover has been delayed by nearly six years as on date. My parents are in their eighties now. The Club House and other amenities promised are nowhere near completion. They are very disappointed and upset over this whole affair." Anu Chandok, another home buyer, said, "I purchased my home in 2015 by paying Rs 1.35 crore upfront. However, the builder handed over the sale agreement only in 2021 after much request. We are in 2024 now and only 55

units have been handed over." She added that she was charged Rs 50 lakh extra for a garden view. "I was charged preferential location charges. Instead of a garden view, the view I have is a construction dump now," Chandok said.

"The builder has constructed the Sewage Treatment Plant and the Waste Water Treatment Plant within the 30 metres buffer zone of the Railways. The original plan was only to build 89 apartments, but the builder kept approaching BDA and got their plan modified repeatedly to build more villas without completing the original promised number," Stephen Verghese, another aggrieved owner, charged. Kamal Sagar is the founder of Total Environment, and he and his wife Shibane Sagar are listed as its Directors. TNIE got in touch with the CEO of the firm, Karthik Dhanasekaran, a couple of days ago. He requested for an hour to get back with the company's response. Two days later, he was yet to respond. A top BDA official told TNIE that it was well within Town Planning rules to modify the plans repeatedly as requested by the builder.

Subadhra murder: Son clueless about mother's acquaintances

Radhakrishnan and family members reached Alappuzha on Tuesday to identify her body.



Ernakulam Junction railway station. Subadhra's husband died 15 years back. She had three sons and the elder one passed away a few years back. The other two sons are living in Gandhi Nagar and

Tripunithura respectively. "We don't know the accused persons involved in the incident. My mother never told me about them. We don't know how she got acquainted with them. My brother who lives in Gandhi Nagar, used to visit her daily and give her food. On August 3, we visited her. She did not complain about anything and she looked happy. On August 4, she was not found at the house," Radhakrishnan, younger son of Subadhra, said. Initially, Radhakrishnan thought that Subadhra was on pilgrimage. Subadhra

spent most of her time daily visiting temples in Kochi. "She was a devotee and regularly visited temples. We approached the police when there was no information about her for three days. Following a complaint, a missing case was registered at Kadavanthra police station on August 7. Police as part of the investigation checked CCTV footage and found her crossing the railway track with a woman on August 4. We came to know that she was seen last at Kalavoor in Alappuzha. Thus the case was transferred to Alappuzha police," Radhakrishnan said.

Radhakrishnan and family members reached Alappuzha on Tuesday to identify her body. The identification procedure and autopsy will be completed by Wednesday.

HC orders to send GRT's in-charge chairman on leave

AHMEDABAD. The Gujarat high court has directed the state govt to send the in-charge chairman of the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal (GRT) on administrative leave. This happened after the HC was informed that the tribunal passed two "diametrically different" orders in one matter. According to the case details, two tenancy appeals were filed before the GRT against a common order passed by Anand's deputy collector in 1996 regarding land disputes in Khambhat. Since the appeals were filed after a delay of 22 years, GRT rejected one appeal by saying that it did not contain a reason for the delay to be condoned. However, the tribunal decided to hear the second appeal by condoning the delay, though there was no separate application made to seek pardon for the delay. These two decisions were challenged before the high court. Justice Nikhil Kariel, in the order, stated, "To this court, it would appear that considerations

with regard to condonation of delay should have weighed uniformly..." The HC called upon the advocate general (AG) and brought these orders to his notice. The AG promised the HC that a decision would be taken in this regard in eight weeks as the matter is being considered at the highest level. The HC on Monday quashed both the orders passed by the tribunal and asked its member to decide it afresh in three months.

The court further said that if the tribunal's order was implemented by the revenue officials, there should be a status quo. The HC order stated, "The state i.e. the secretary, revenue department shall also ensure that appropriate instructions to the in-charge chairman, Gujarat Revenue Tribunal, are issued before the end of the day, directing him to step down on administrative leave while the state takes an appropriate decision into his conduct as a chairman of the tribunal

concerned." The order further stated, "It is clarified at this stage that the legality and validity of the orders are under challenge before this court and inquiry by the state is whether it would behave a chairman of the quasi-judicial body like the Gujarat Revenue Tribunal to pass such orders, and whether a person who passes orders which are contrary to the settled proposition of law, contrary to decisions of the high court and the Supreme Court and passes orders, which are without any reasons whatsoever, should be permitted to continue on such a senior position." As the state authorities are to take a decision in this regard, the HC stated further in its order, "It is further observed that all observations hereinabove are prima facie and whereas the same should not be treated as this court having finally opined as regards the conduct or competence of the member in question."

Finally, water supply restored in Thiruvananthapuram after four days



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. After four harrowing days, the Kerala Water Authority on Monday finally restored water supply in the capital, bringing huge relief to the citizens. Though the KWA authorities restarted pumping, many areas located on higher ground in the capital continued to face disruption in water supply. According to city corporation officials, they supplied around 53 truckloads of water to various areas. Nedungad, Thirumala, Jagathy, Melamkode, PTP Nagar, Pangod, Thiruvallam, Peroorkada, Ambalamukku, Puthenpally and Melarannur were some of the areas that continued to face water

supply disruption. In the past four days, the civic body supplied around 28.7 lakh litres of water to the public. Water supply was suspended in various wards of the capital to facilitate pipeline realignment work, initially scheduled to be completed within 48 hours. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, KWA had to postpone the water supply restoration to Sunday but the work continued late into the night, prompting the authorities to declare a holiday for educational institutions.

A KWA official said water supply to the higher areas will be restored by Monday night. "A few pockets are still suffering from disruption. We have made all

Though pumping was restarted, many areas located on higher ground in the capital city continued to face disruption.

arrangements necessary and water supply will be fully restored tonight," the official said. An official with the Thiruvananthapuram corporation alleged that as per an existing bylaw, the KWA should inform the civic authorities in advance before launching such work that will hit the water supply.

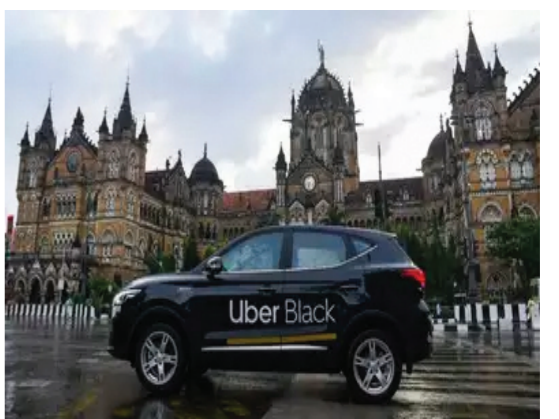
"We will be giving an official letter to the KWA authorities on Tuesday. Such a situation should not be repeated. We were not prepared because the KWA didn't inform us. The tankers were inadequate and we had to mobilise the tankers from Ernakulam to meet the demand," said an official of the City Corporation.

Senior IPS officer CV Anand takes charge as Hyderabad CP

HYDERABAD. Senior IPS officer CV Anand, on Monday, took charge as the Hyderabad city Commissioner of Police (CP) for the second time. Previously, he served as the CP of the commissionerate between December 2021 and October 2023. Before the Assembly elections in 2023, he was transferred by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and posted as the Director-General of the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB). Speaking to reporters at his office in Banjara Hills, he said his top priority would be "easing traffic congestion, intensifying H-NEW operations to control the drug menace and improving law and order through effective policing and crime control measures". He emphasised that his immediate focus was to ensure the peaceful conduct of Vinayak Chavithi and Milad-un-Nabi. A thorough review of the idol immersion arrangements and associated action plans will be done, the CP said. Through an official order released on Saturday, Anand has now returned as the 61st 'Kotwal of Hyderabad'. "The Kotwali system of policing was started to manage law and order and civic issues in 1847 in the city by the Nizam. Even today, old Hyderabadis refer to the Hyderabad CP as Kotwal," posted Anand on his X account. During his previous tenure as the CP, Anand was credited with appointing women inspectors as Station House Officers, reorganising the city police, H-NEW and introducing a series of IT initiatives and other policing reforms.



Uber announces premium cab service, Uber Black, in Mumbai



MUMBAI. Uber has announced the introduction of a premium service, Uber Black, in Mumbai from today and this will cater to increasing demand for luxury travel options among Indian customers.

It promises to provide passengers with an elevated ride experience, featuring high-end vehicles and professionally trained drivers. The Uber Black service is designed to set a new standard for premium on-demand transportation.

The company has meticulously selected a fleet of brand new, top-of-the-line vehicles to ensure a consistent level of quality across all rides. The drivers assigned to Uber Black have been carefully chosen and trained by Uber's fleet partners to deliver exceptional service and prioritise passenger comfort. Passengers can tailor their ride experience with a variety of features designed to enhance comfort, style, and convenience. For example, if you require a quiet environment to prepare for an important meeting or conference call, you can request a "quiet mode" trip, where the driver will refrain from playing music or engaging in conversation. Additionally, you can adjust the temperature inside the car to your preference before entering the vehicle. "Uber Black also provides assistance with luggage, making it a convenient choice for travelers or those with extra bags to carry. The in-app experience has been optimized to simplify the booking process and ensure a seamless, trouble-free experience from beginning to end," added Prabhjeet Singh, President of Uber India and South Asia. He added: "We are thrilled to bring Uber Black back in an all new avatar to meet the evolving aspirations of Indian customers and introduce the business class of back seats on Indian roads."

Manipur crisis holds lessons on internal security

THE use of rockets and drones carrying bombs by Kuki insurgents to attack Meiteis in Manipur marks a dangerous escalation in the unrest in the state. It will give ideas not only to the Meiteis and other militant outfits in the Northeast but also to J&K militants and insurgents, Naxals and many other forces within and outside that are inimical to India. These drones have been mostly used by highly organised militant groups like the Hamas and Hezbollah against Israel and by countries like Israel, Russia and Ukraine in wars and conflicts. But these may now also serve as yet another lethal weapon in the hands of criminals.

The Manipur Government, the security forces and the Centre have all been caught unawares by the fresh wave of violence. Either the intelligence agencies failed to anticipate the escalation or the response was missing, which is unfortunate. The Central Government has the wherewithal to counter this threat. The Army, the Assam Rifles and the Indian Air Force must quickly get their act together and rein in this new menace. Hopefully, they will do so soon. But training and equipping the Manipur Police will be a challenge, as it is a different ball game altogether. The police there have to be reorganised, considering their unenviable track record. Intelligence agencies, both internal and external, also have to step up their work considerably.

Kuki militants have been able to carry out the recent attacks because of the huge support from drug lords, who are mainly responsible for the turmoil that has roiled Manipur since last year. The surge in the cultivation of poppy in Churachandpur and adjoining areas, primarily done by Kukis, is because of the arrival of their kin from Myanmar amid mounting pressure by the military there. Manipur lies at the tip of the Golden Triangle, and the route of this business for India and other countries runs through it. So, the drug lords want to have complete control over Manipur. They have no dearth of money to finance the Kukis' activities. The order by the Manipur High Court last year, asking the state government to consider Scheduled Tribe status for Meiteis and make a recommendation to the Centre, was deliberately misrepresented to spark a Kuki-Meitei conflict. Kukis now want not only a separate state but a separate country, Kukiland, comprising the entire Northeast and some areas of Bangladesh. Nagas, on the other hand, want Greater Nagaland, including parts of Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar, as a distinct country. And so does Assam's ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom). China, Bangladesh and Pakistan are aggravating this conflict to serve their own interests. Beijing has been claiming Arunachal Pradesh as a part of China. Notably, in 1962, China had invaded India from two sides — the Northeast Frontier Agency (which is now Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Assam) and around the Ladakh region. When Pakistan was being formed, some Muslim leaders wanted the Northeast to be a part of East Pakistan. They had said that Assam was a natural extension of the new country. That thought still lingers somewhere in Bangladesh. The Northeast is undoubtedly the soft underbelly of India. Many powerful nations would be interested in weakening India. The neglect of the Northeast, especially Manipur, over the years by the Central Government is evident. The failure to control the conflict that broke out last year has emboldened hostile forces. These elements have now come together to destabilise the Northeast and, hence, the whole of India. The deteriorating situation in Manipur — which has alarmed not only the state residents but people across the country — is a cause for concern. Other countries must be following the developments in India and waiting to see how it responds. An emerging power like India cannot allow the situation to further go out of hand.

India needs a two-track policy to handle China

India needs to move on to a positive track to manage China. It should also take advantage of China's growing disconnect with the West.



TEN years ago, the rise of China suddenly hit the world. The US, which had viewed the East Asian country as a partner, realised that it was dealing with a putative rival. As its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) swamped the world, reports of China's burgeoning influence and power became a global narrative. In 2020, symbolising the stupendous growth of Chinese military power, the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy surpassed the US Navy in terms of numbers of ships. China's military became more assertive in the arc from Taiwan, the South China Sea to Doklam and Ladakh.

Today, however, China is facing internal and external challenges impacting its rise. Its fabled economic growth has faltered and youth unemployment has become a major threat to social stability. At the global level, Beijing is facing a pushback against its export-oriented growth strategy. On the security front, other countries have ganged up on China. The revival of the Quad in 2017 was the first sign of the new geopolitics of the region; it was followed by the revival of the US-Philippines alliance and the slow-motion growth of India-US security ties. Whether China is flourishing or is down and out, it still remains a major threat to the world as long as it is ruled by the Communist Party. The party is ideologically driven and believes that China is destined to become a global power, and it is the West that is declining. Given China's military and industrial strength, there has never been a question of coercing or inducing it

to follow any specified course. The main challenge is to manage Beijing's rise, just as today we must deal with its downturn that could leave it stagnating in what is called the middle-income trap. The shift in the American and European view of China from being a partner to a systemic rival has led to shifts in their strategy. From the somewhat chaotic Trump administration's handling of China, the Biden administration has adopted a more systematic approach. The progressive ban on semiconductors' export to China, since 2022, was aimed at not just military applications, but also to restrain China's development as an economic power.

The Biden administration's China management strategy included vital plans for the revival of American manufacturing. The US passed the CHIPS and Science Act to provide \$52-billion subsidy for chip manufacturers to build plants in America and another \$200 billion to revitalise US science institutions.

Biden also devoted significant time to promoting the Quad and the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance, besides creating the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum to support the economic component of a military, political and diplomatic framework of the US-led policy of containing China.

India, however, has a unique place when it comes to managing China. In terms of their GDP, both countries were once approximately equal and keen to maintain an even keel in their political relationship. This was

manifested in a series of agreements in 1993, 1996 and 2005 to not just establish peace and tranquillity, but actually resolve their most vexed problem — their disputed border. But as China moved up in global rankings, especially after the global financial crisis of 2008, the dynamics of its relationship with India changed. Beijing became more assertive on the international border and in the South Asian region; within a decade, it began to mark its presence in the Indian Ocean Region as well. The 2020 eastern Ladakh crisis was a culmination of that process.

India's only option to manage this situation has been to use negative incentives — restrict Chinese investments in India, block the increasingly popular Chinese apps in the country and downgrade aviation links. Simultaneously, it took decisions to signal to the US that it would be part of its larger Indo-Pacific coalition to check Chinese assertiveness. Yet, India has not been able to take advantage of the growing disconnect between the West and China that has resulted in its so-called 'China Plus One Strategy'. Neither has it been able to break its dependence on China for a range of industrial products and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

So far, the Indian policy to deal with China remains negative — a refusal to normalise ties till the Chinese agree to a status quo ante as of March 2020 in eastern Ladakh. This has been the nostrum that has been retailed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his several meetings with his counterpart Wang Yi.

What India now needs to do is move on to a positive track to manage China. This has to be a two-track policy of self-strengthening. Last month, in a signal of sorts, the Ministry of Finance sprang a surprise when, in the annual Economic Survey, it called for increased FDI (foreign direct investment) flows from China to upscale India's participation in the global supply chain and exports. It added, "It is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from China, adding minimal value. India also needs to build strategic deterrence to ensure that Beijing does not repeat the 2020 LAC misadventure. This is essentially a military project to build effective military capacity along the land border with China as well as in the Indian Ocean Region. One area that needs greater attention now is nuclear capability, as China is rapidly enhancing its nuclear capability.

There is little doubt that this management exercise requires New Delhi to cooperate with like-minded partners in other parts of the world, not just the developed world, but the Global South as well. These are all a medium for long-term objectives, but it would be best to begin now.

Manipur in a mess

Central, state govts have fared poorly

MANIPUR has become a rather bad advertisement for a double-engine government. The left hand doesn't seem to know what the right one is doing. Amid a fresh surge in violence, Chief Minister N Biren Singh has appealed to the Centre to take steps to protect the state's territorial integrity. At the same time, he has demanded that the charge of the Unified Command — including the Central Armed Police Forces — be handed over to the state government. He is asking too much of the Centre, considering that his own handling of the situation since the Meitei-Kuki clashes broke out in May last year has left a lot to be desired. Despite his underwhelming performance, the ruling BJP has persisted with Biren. Even the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — the Congress won both seats in Manipur, defeating the saffron party and the Naga People's Front — has not triggered a much-needed



shakeup. Both the Central and state governments have let things drift for far too long in the troubled northeastern state. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, who has been visiting one country after another, has not set foot in Manipur after February 22, 2022. That election-related trip took place just a couple of days before the Russia-Ukraine war began, and the PM has toured both nations in recent months. Defending the indefensible, Biren has stated that the PM did send Home Minister Amit Shah to the state and also spoke about Manipur in Parliament as well as in his 2023 Independence Day speech. But all that has certainly not proved enough to defuse tensions and reduce hostilities. The use of drones by militants to carry out bombings has caught the security forces off guard. They need to recalibrate their strategy to curb violence and restore the rule of law. Also, the Centre must be proactive about bringing the warring sides to the negotiating table. The PM's direct intervention is a must to save Manipur.

Challenges galore for 'secular' civil code

Need to dispel suspicion that general Hindu concept of marriage may become basis of pan-India statute

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi continues to be the tallest political leader in the country, notwithstanding the results of this year's Lok Sabha elections. His comments and statements on key issues merit close scrutiny. This is more so if he uses new terms. This was witnessed in his use of the term 'secular civil code' in addition to the constitutional term 'uniform civil code' (UCC) during his Independence Day speech this year. Modi correctly noted that the Supreme Court had repeatedly addressed the UCC issue. Article 44 in the chapter on 'Directive Principles of State Policy' in the Constitution requires the State "to endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". It is noteworthy that Article 37, which is hardly ever referred to by the political class as a whole or even by the judiciary, is the core of the chapter. It prescribes that "the provisions contained in this Part shall not be enforceable by any court but the principles in it laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws".

Since the promulgation of the Constitution, the Articles contained in Directive Principles have figured selectively on the agenda of different governments and political formations in accordance with their ideologies and policies. Thus, the promulgation of the UCC has been on the agenda of the Sangh Parivar but not the provision which insists that the State shall 'minimise' inequalities in income. Does Article 37 give any government the right to pick and choose which Directive Principle to adopt and which to ignore? This question is relevant for it clearly implies that the principles contained in all the Articles in the chapter are "fundamental in the governance of the country"; in other words, all policies have to conform

to them. Returning to Modi's comments on the UCC, he said the court had issued numerous orders "reflecting the belief of a significant portion of our population — and rightly so — that the current Civil Code resembles a Communal Civil Code, one that is discriminatory". There are two problems with Modi's words. First, the court has only given suggestions or asked questions. It has not issued any 'orders' because it cannot do so. Second, there is no single civil code at present for there are a number of religion-based codes as well as a non-religion one for marriages. Parliament has intervened extensively in personal laws of some religious groups but less so of others. Modi wants this issue to be extensively discussed with "diverse opinions and perspectives to be thrown up so that the "vision of the framers of the Constitution is realised". This constitutes a judicious approach as on an issue such as the UCC, it would be advisable to attempt to evolve a consensus among various social sections, even if the majority will ultimately prevail. In his comments, Modi set out a principle which cannot be confined to the UCC. He said, "Laws that divide our nation based on religion and foster discrimination have no place in modern society". This laudable conception of a modern society has wide implications and applications. Modi has often asserted that his welfare policies and schemes do not discriminate among religious groups. This is correct. If he is now seeking to incorporate this principle into laws, can he deny it in reservation, even if that requires constitutional amendments? And what about

the Citizenship Amendment Act, which is based on religion? Indeed, it assumes that persons pursuing the faith on which a theocratic state is based cannot suffer discrimination. What this assumption overlooks is sectarian discrimination within faiths. After advancing this basic principle, Modi urged that a



'communal civil code' should give way to a 'secular civil code' (SCC). Thus, his advocacy of an SCC derives from his general position on "laws that divide our nation based on religion and foster discrimination". Modi's view is a welcome development, but some questions need to be raised because it has been the position of a section of ideologues that Hinduism is inherently secular. Hence, the suspicion that the general Hindu concept

of marriage may become the basis of an SCC will have to be decisively removed. This is all the more necessary because of some ideas relating to marriage that figure in the Uttarakhand UCC. The Uttarakhand UCC has adopted the list of prohibited relationships for marriage from the Special Marriage Act of 1954.

The latter provides that marriage within these relationships may be allowed if permitted by the custom prevailing in a group. And, state governments are required to notify rules applicable to the group concerned. While doing so, the governments have to ensure that such rules are "certain and not unreasonable or opposed to public policy". The Uttarakhand UCC also waives prohibited degrees on account of the custom and usage but adds that these should not be "against public policy and morality". The concepts of decency and morality are located within Article 19, which relates to freedom of expression, assembly, movement and includes freedom to pursue businesses and professions. Decency and morality can curtail these freedoms as part of the doctrine of reasonable restrictions. The idea of morality in the context of the custom relating to prohibited degrees for marriage has been introduced for the first time. Obviously, there is common social sanction for a large number of prohibited degrees, but what of first-cousin marriages which are customary among adherents of some religions? How will an SCC treat these? Will it adopt the morality of the group which permits such marriages or will it go by the morality of the majority, which in India does not allow them?



route is Iravikulm National Park. The sanctuary was established to protect species of Eucalyptus. Munnar is the highest in the cultivation of tea. Nilkurnji in forests and green meadows, a flower is found. It flowers only once in twelve years on the hill turns blue. Anamudi is climbing with permission from the forest department.

Agstykudm
Agstykudm magnificent peak of the Western Ghats as a sharp cone 1890 m. Located at an altitude of 1890 m. Located at an altitude of. Surrounded by dense forest around it. According to one theory, it was the abode of sage Agastya top. The summit of the climb to the top women are not allowed. On top of this rare herbs - herbs and plants are found. Nilkurnji on its slopes colors - colorful flowers bloom. Nilkurnji is a flower which blooms once in twelve years.

Chembra
Chembra Meppdy peak in Wayanad district is located near the city, and it is the highest peak in the district. This peak is situated at an altitude of 2100 m above sea level. The peak is a part of the western valley. The peak can be seen from any part of Wayanad. This tracking is a favorite of tourists. Some wild animals are on the summit. Trekkers can get a chance to see them.

Cimmini
Chemmini Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur district of Kerala, bird watchers is the perfect

hideout. Trekkers can travel from the outskirts of the sanctuary. Travel through dense jungle forests is a good choice for lovers. Punda peak is the highest point. Cimmini tracking program is organized by the Forest Department. The October to March is the best time to visit.

Pythl Garland
Garland Pythl a hill station located in Kannur district of Kerala which is surrounded by thick forests and the like. It is part of the Western Ghats. Even animals and trees - many diverse species of plants. Tourists in the area 6 km. The distance can track on top of the hill. Tourists looking at the wonderful views of the valleys are natural to experience peace. It is an ancient palace of the old-fashioned tribal rulers (Vathleon) is named. Hill station is located on the same name. Wattle Pythl Rosary beads are also known.

Tracking these places in Kerala



If you are a nature lover and want to spend time in the lap of nature, Kerala is the best place for you. If you are planning to vacation in Kerala has much to tourists such as the beach (the beach) and colorful scenic views of the forest. Kerala has many attractions such as mountains - mountains, meadows, tea gardens and wildlife. In Kerala you can visit these places will be filled with passion and enthusiasm. Seeing the natural beauty because you get great satisfaction and enjoyment. Kerala to enjoy trekking in these places can be visited.

Munnar
Is a beautiful hill station of Munnar, Kerala. Anamudi is the highest peak in Munnar South India has a height of about 2695 m. This top is the perfect location for trekking because of its natural beauty. The trekking



Maharani Temple

With its bright red sloping roof framed against the snowy peaks in the background, this small Shiva temple presents a striking picture in a corner of the main meadow in Gulmarg. Its claim to fame is derived from Bollywood: the site where the popular 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar,' song in yesteryear's hit 'Aap Ki Kasam,' was shot, it's a popular spot with visitors for a photo-op. It's also a big destination during the festival of Shivratri.

Gulmarg Golf Club

The Gulmarg Golf Club, is amongst the most spectacular courses in the country, possibly the world, to tee it up at. With 18 holes stretching over 7505 yards, including the 665 yard par-5 fourth hole, coupled with the elevated tees, up and down fairways, and penalising rough, it presents a severe test of physical and golfing abilities. It is also the highest green course in the country and indisputably the most authentic Scottish links-style layout in the land.

Al Pather Lake

A gorgeous alpine lake, accessible after an arduous trek past a ridge of Mt. Apharwat (reached via the cable car) Al Pather remains frozen for most of the year. While serious trekkers can contemplate making the entire trek from Gulmarg—a one-day affair—most people will find the taking a pony ride up adventurous enough. Al Pather Lake's environs are freezing, even in the summer, and susceptible to sudden showers. It's essential to carry woolens and adequate protection against the elements.

Khilanmarg

You can trek up from the Gulmarg bus stand if you like but a more prudent way up involves perching yourself on the back of a pony. After a bone-crunching hour long ride, Khilanmarg emerges in view as a carpeted meadow of flowers in the summer, and a frozen expanse of snow in the winter. There's some ice in the upper reaches even in the summer months and there are sled-operators who'll take visitors on hair-raising ride from one end to the other. Scenic views abound from almost any corner—the southeast edge affords magnificent vistas of the twin peaks of Nun and Kun.

Gulmarg Gondola

A huge attraction: lines start forming at the gondola ticket office almost two hours

5 sights to tick off in Gulmarg

before it opens in the morning. The cable car takes visitors all the way up to Mt. Apharwat Mountain (3747 metres) from where you can get panoramic Himalayan views including major peaks like the Nanga Parbat. The ride has two phases: those who're not comfortable with heights can opt to come back from the Kondoori valley a mere 400 metres up the mountain. Tickets can also be booked at the tourist office in Srinagar or online.

The country's premier, and possibly only bonafide ski resort town, Gulmarg and its pine-fringed meadows encircled by Mount Apharwat and surrounding snow-capped mountains have been part of popular culture and Bollywood since aeons. Even today, the 'meadow of flowers,' attracts droves of visitors in the summer who come here to ride in the world's second highest cable car, play golf, and take back rides to the glaciers at Khilanmarg and further up to Al Pather Lake. In the winter, Gulmarg transforms into a faux Alpine ski resort with its famed powder attracting extreme skiers from across the world. Gulmarg is a four hour drive from Srinagar.



How Buddhism rode on mangoes to spread in India and abroad is aam kahani

►The story of Buddhism is intricately woven with the mango. The fruit plays a crucial role in Jataka tales, which suggests how Buddha must have used the fruit to explain difficult concepts to the aam janta of his time. Buddhism also rode the mango to spread in India and abroad, writes Sopan Joshi in his new book.

New Delhi. Alphonso, Dasher, Langra, Kesar, Banganapalli, Chaunsa, Neelum, and Rajapuri: the list of varieties of mangoes is as long as the wait for the season of mangoes each year. These names alone makes us crave, reminding us of mangoes' succulent flesh offering a burst of tropical bliss with each bite. But mangoes are more than sweet fruits loved by everyone, they also played an important role in the spread of Buddhism in India and abroad. "The Buddha who, in a previous life, was King Mahajanaka didn't need to study very much. All he had to do was observe a mango tree," wrote a Buddhist monk, Ajahn Chah, in his collected writings on Buddhism. In Buddha -- the enlightened one's story, the mango groves are ever-present. Buddha is found meditating under a mango

tree. He is gifted with mango groves by his followers and even the story of his birth is not devoid of the presence of mangoes. It is as if Buddha and Buddhism's rise in India cannot be told without the presence of mangoes. The mangoes are not just present as rich fruits, they are present as a symbol of a larger life lesson from Buddha. Before his enlightenment, Buddha was known as Siddhartha. According to some sources, Buddha's mother, Maya, while she was pregnant, was on her way to her parents' house in Lumbini, when she gave birth to Siddhartha under a mango tree. Twenty-nine years later, Buddha would renounce the world and leave the royal palace. He would attain enlightenment and



would go from one place to another to spread his teachings. At times, he would stay under mango trees. Mangoes were also metaphors in Buddha's teachings. **METAPHOR FOR LIFE, LESSONS: MANGOES AND BUDDHA'S LIFE** "Anybody can relate to mangoes. The fruit would be used by Buddha to explain complex ideas to people," Sopan Joshi, the writer of

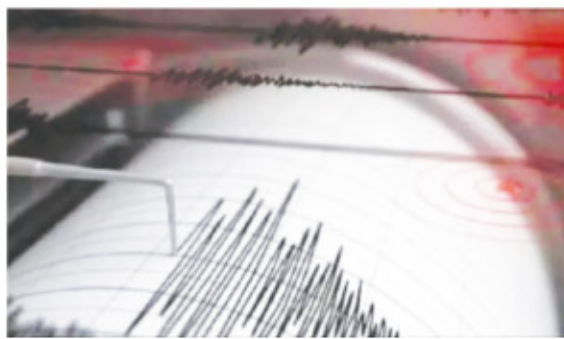
'Mangifera Indica: A Biography of the Mango', tells India Today Digital. Several complex ideas and life lessons, like karma, were explained lucidly through the mango metaphor. "Karma is not said to be stored somewhere in this fleeting consciousness or in any other part of the body. But dependent on mind and matter it rests manifesting itself at the opportune moment, just as mangoes are not said to be stored somewhere in the mango tree, but dependent on the mango tree they lie, springing up in due season," reads the Visuddhi Magga, a book by Buddhagosha on Buddhist teachings and practices. Buddhist preachers didn't just use mangoes to explain tough concepts, they used the fruit to spread Buddhism throughout the

world. "Mangoes were used by Buddhist monks to spread Buddhism to Sri Lanka, Burma and several countries in the world," Sopan Joshi tells India Today Digital. Mangoes are present and are an important character in the story of Buddha and Buddhism. They again make an entry when Buddha visits his disciple, Amrapali. He comes under her mango grove when he pays her a visit. She then hosts Buddha and his disciple and gifts them mango saplings. The men from Lichchavi kingdom of Vaishali had also invited Buddha and made fun of her as 'mango woman'. She told them Buddha was coming to her home and not to their kingdom. Buddha even headed to Varanasi, a centre for learning and mango orchards.

Tremors felt in Delhi-NCR as 5.8 earthquake jolts Pakistan

An earthquake of magnitude 5.8 struck Pakistan on Wednesday. Mild tremors were felt in Delhi and surrounding areas.

New Delhi. Mild tremors were felt across Delhi and most parts of North India after an earthquake of magnitude 5.8 struck Pakistan on Wednesday. Tremors were also felt in Islamabad and Lahore. The epicentre of the earthquake was near the Dera Ghazi Khan region in the southwestern part of Punjab at a depth of 10 kilometres. Tremors were felt in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir. Afghanistan was also jolted by sudden tremors. In Pakistan, massive tremors rocked the cities of Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Kamalia, Khanawal, Bhalwal, Chiniot, Hafizabad, Toba Tek Singh. However, no casualties or



property damage has been reported yet. This is the second time in two weeks that Delhi and its neighbouring regions experienced mild tremors. On August 29, an earthquake of magnitude of 5.7 struck Afghanistan at a depth of 255 kilometres below the Earth's surface. Videos shared on social media showed ceiling fans, chairs and other objects shaking during the tremors, which lasted for a few seconds.

Delhi, parts of north and central India to see heavy rain for next 4 days

A depression that formed over the Bay of Bengal and currently lying over Chhattisgarh is expected to result in significant rainfall across Delhi as well as east Haryana, west Uttar Pradesh (UP), Uttarakhand and north Madhya Pradesh (MP) between September 11 to 14.

New Delhi. Parts of central and northern India are expected to witness heavy rainfall accompanied by thundershowers over the next few days due to a depression that formed over the Bay of Bengal and is currently over Chhattisgarh.

On Tuesday, the national capital Delhi woke up to rain and cloudy skies from the impact of this weather disturbance. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted further rainfall across Delhi as well as east Haryana,



west Uttar Pradesh (UP), Uttarakhand and north Madhya Pradesh (MP) between September 11 to 14. The depression over Chhattisgarh is expected to move through west Uttar Pradesh towards Uttarakhand and is

predicted to bring spells of intense rainfall to these areas, the weather department said. Meanwhile, a cyclonic circulation over Gujarat is expected to bring heavy to extremely heavy rain in regions such as west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Konkan and Goa, and coastal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the IMD added. Light to moderate rain is also predicted in coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, with scattered rainfall.

BSF soldier injured after Pak violates ceasefire near LoC in Jammu: Report

The Indian troops retaliated to the unprovoked firing from the other side of the LoC and gave a befitting reply to the Pakistani aggression.

Pakistani Rangers resort to unprovoked firing in Jammu's Akhnoor sector

BSF retaliates, no report of casualty or injury on Pakistani side

Ceasefire violation comes days ahead of Assembly elections

New Delhi. A personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) was injured after Pakistani forces violated ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu on Wednesday, news agency PTI reported. The Indian troops

retaliated to the unprovoked firing from the other side of the LoC and gave a befitting reply to the Pakistani Rangers. However, there was no immediate report of any casualties or injuries on



the other side. At about 2.35 am, an incident of unprovoked firing in the Akhnoor area from across the border happened, and which was befittingly responded by the BSF. One BSF personnel sustained injuries in Pakistani firing", a spokesperson of the force was quoted as saying by

PTI. Following the Pakistani offensive, Indian troops along the International Border and the LoC have been put on high alert, he added. Notably, the frequency of incidents of ceasefire violations has been very low since 2021, when the two countries renewed the ceasefire agreement. However, in the first casualty on the Indian side in over three years, a BSF personnel was killed in a Pakistani firing in the Ramgarh sector last year.

The latest ceasefire violation by the Pakistan forces comes when Jammu and Kashmir is preparing to vote for an Assembly election for the first time in 10 years. The three-phase elections in Jammu and Kashmir are slated to begin on September 18, with the second and third phases to be held on September 25 and October 1, respectively. The counting of votes will be done and results will be declared on October 8.

Swami Vivekananda's Speech, 131 Years Ago, Inspired PM Modi's Self-Discovery

New Delhi. As the nation celebrates the Digvijay Diwas, honouring the legacy of Swami Vivekanand and commemorating his historic speech in Chicago, here is a throwback on how his historic address, 131 years ago, inspired Narendra Modi to embark on a journey of self-discovery to the Himalayas. It was on September 11, 1893, that Swami Vivekanand delivered his timeless speech at the Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago. His words not only introduced the world to India's rich spiritual heritage but also inspired countless individuals in future generations, one of whom was a 17-year-old young boy - Narendra Modi. Modi Archive, a popular X handle narrating the life journey of the Prime Minister via its archives shared an old photo of Narendra Modi on Wednesday and informed about what impact Swami Vivekanand's speech had on his



young, impressionable mind. Narendra Modi was so inspired by Swami Vivekanand's teachings at such a young age that he left his abode in Vadnagar for the Himalayas, on a journey of self-discovery. The popular X handle also shared a photo of Narendra Modi, from a wedding ceremony in his village, just a day before

leaving for the Himalayas.

It also informs that the young Narendra Modi got to know and understand Swami Vivekanand's works from Dr Vasantbhai Parikh, a local native of his village. It was 131 years ago that Swami Vivekanand delivered his memorable speech at the Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago and left the world stunned with knowledge of ancient Hindu scriptures and a visionary outlook. To date, the speech is remembered by every Indian as path-breaking and also a landmark moment in the history of inter-faith dialogue as it introduced Indian spirituality and the Vedas to the Western world. PM Modi has time and again spoken about the impact of Swami Vivekanand's teachings on his life and has often reflected in his years of public service.

Israel turns to India again for recruitment of 10,000 construction workers

Israel is recruiting 10,000 construction workers and 5,000 caregivers from India to address skill shortages in infrastructure and healthcare amidst the ongoing war with Hamas.

New Delhi. Israel once again turned to India to recruit a robust workforce of 10,000 construction workers and 5,000 caregivers to address skill shortages in its infrastructure and healthcare sectors amidst the ongoing war with Hamas. This follows a similar request from earlier this year. The Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA) of Israel specified its need for construction



workers across four job roles: framework, iron bending, plastering, and ceramic tiling. A team from PIBA will visit India to conduct skill assessments and select candidates meeting their criteria. The recruitment drive for construction workers will be held in Maharashtra. Concurrently, Israel requires 5,000 caregivers to bolster its healthcare services. Candidates for this role should

have studied till the Class 10 and possess a certificate from a recognised Indian institute. Additionally, a caregiving course with at least 990 hours of on-the-job training is necessary for the eligibility. In an earlier recruitment round, 16,832 candidates appeared for skill tests, and 10,349 were selected to work in Israel's construction sector. These selected individuals earn a monthly

salary of Rs 1.92 lakh, with added benefits like medical insurance, food, and accommodation with a monthly bonus of Rs 16,515. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) notified all states to facilitate recruitment following the government-to-government (G2G) agreement signed in November 2023. The initial recruitment round was conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Telangana. The G2G agreement on temporary employment of Indians, initiated in May 2023, mandated pre-departure orientation training for all selected candidates. This training includes a manual to familiarise them with Israeli culture and lifestyle. "This international mobility initiative aims to align with the Indian government's vision of transforming India into the Skill Capital of the world. NSDC supports this mandate by creating a pool of skilled individuals, providing essential training, issuing technical advisories, and fostering knowledge exchange with global partners," said a spokesperson of NSDC.



Places to see in

Goa for free

The original backpacker hub, Goa is synonymous with sand-kissed beaches, affordable seaside accommodation and inexpensive-yet-delicious food. With plenty of free places to see in Goa, you can be assured of a great holiday even if you're travelling on a tight budget. From discovering Goa's cosmopolitan past through its grand churches and forts to walking under the shade of soaring trees and discovering its rich wildlife, here are a few ways to experience Goa absolutely free of coast.

Dudhsagar Falls
Locals say that Goa is never prettier than when it rains. Far from the beaches and tourist hotspots, the forested hinterland of the State literally comes alive during the monsoon. And amongst the most popular attractions off the beaten path are the Dudhsagar Falls. Located 60 kilometres from Panaji on NH4A, the Falls are so named for the white frothy appearance of the water here. During the monsoon, the Falls become exponentially enraged with water plummeting 1017 feet and crashing with an ear-splitting roar on the surface. Part of Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, the Falls also attract trekkers who come here to climb through challenging terrain to the head of the falls.

Beaches in Goa
The coastline of this state in west India boasts of innumerable beautiful beaches that offer everything from parties and adventure to solitude and sunbathing. Most beaches in Goa are lined with luxury resorts, makeshift huts and beach shacks

which stay open until the wee hours. While the easily accessible Baga Beach and Calangute Beach are the tourist hotspots, the trio of Arambol, Ashvem and Morjim towards the northern end of Goa are relatively less-crowded and dotted with some exciting bars and restaurants. Trance lovers can head to Anjuna Beach—the hub of late night revelries in north Goa. Dotted with luxury resorts, the unspoilt beaches in Goa's south—Varca, Cavelossim and Morbor to name a few—are ideal for visitors who want to splurge on a swanky accommodation and relax during their beach holiday.

Old Goa
The former Portuguese capital of the region before Panjim, Old Goa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that's home to several magnificent churches and cathedrals. Primarily constructed during the 16th and 17th centuries, these buildings have lofty exteriors and exquisitely decorated interiors. The most famous among them is the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which contains the remains of St Francis Xavier, who

arrived here in the 16th century as a Jesuit missionary. His three-tiered marble tomb is the highlight of the church, but it also has gilded altars and striking baroque architecture.

The imposing Se Cathedral, the largest church in Old Goa, is an excellent example of Renaissance architecture, and has 15 impressive altars. The convent and church of St Francis of Assisi is known for its intricate gilded woodwork and murals, and houses an archaeological museum within its premises.

Fort Aguada
There are numerous remains of rugged forts scattered along Goa's coast and rivers. The most famous of them is Fort Aguada, located next to the Candolim beach. It was built in the 17th century by the Portuguese, as defense against invasions by the Marathas and the Dutch. Hike up to the fort for great views of the sea, especially at sunset. There's also an old 19th-century lighthouse located on this hilltop, which offers even better views of the coastline.

Fontainhas

It has been described as India's only Latin quarter. The quiet charm of this Panjim neighbourhood's narrow streets and tiled-roofed houses is best discovered on foot. Walk around to admire its well-maintained Indo-Portuguese houses and the small but pretty Chapel of St Sebastian, built in the 1880s. Don't forget to pop into the Confeitaria 31 de Janeiro, one of the oldest bakeries in Goa, for traditional sweets and breads. You can also take a guided tour with resident expert Luis Dias, whose neighbourhood walks are laced with local trivia and anecdotes. Alternatively, book a guided walk at Panjim Inn, a 19th-century colonial mansion converted into one of the city's best heritage hotels.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church
One of the oldest chapels in Goa, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church is one of the most prominent landmarks of the state's capital city Panaji. The distinctive architecture of the church includes a series of criss-crossing steps that lead you to the prayer hall

and massive bells on its rooftop. If you're visiting Goa in December, then head to the chapel on the 8th of December (celebrated as Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception) for a special service and lively fair earmarked for this day of the year. The monument is best viewed at night, when it is ablaze with lights that add to its spiritual charm.

Goa State Museum
Housing an eclectic mix of artefacts from Goa's past, the Goa State Museum is located in the capital city of Panaji. Opened in 1996, it is regarded as one of the most well-known museums of the state. The museum displays a comprehensive collection of 8,000 curios that include beautiful Hindu and Jain sculptures, Portuguese-era furniture, a few ancient coins, paintings, manuscripts and two vintage lottery machines. Home to as many as 14 galleries—furniture, geology, cultural anthropology, religious and sculpture galley among others—the museum is a must-stop for history buffs.

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
Take an early morning walk on the criss-crossing pathways of the beautiful Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and you are likely to spot a variety of flora and fauna. Climb up to the treetop watchtower positioned above the watering hole used by the animals of the park and take in the views of the verdant landscape. Eight nature trails traverse the sanctuary, ranging from 500 m to 5 km, shadowed by soaring deciduous trees. Best visited between October and March, the sanctuary is home to the Indian pangolin, four-horned antelope, white-bellied woodpecker, mouse deer and the Malabar trogon among other birds and animals. Offering an interesting contrast to Goa's picturesque beaches, Cotigao is located in Canacona Taluka in south Goa.

The most interesting things to do in Diu

Go birdwatching
A well-kept secret, birdwatching in Diu is hours of solitary bliss. Fudam Bird Sanctuary is home to flamingoes, western reef egrets, spoonbills and a host of migratory birds. Diu also houses a bird watching tower and a lake near the Hare Krishna Mandir, both the places are frequented by ornithologists. A number of trails near the temple lead to dense groves, an area that sees as many as 200 bird species. You will find just a few people on these trails,

making it an all the more interesting experience.

History lessons at the Diu Fort
A brilliant example of Portuguese architecture, Diu Fort stands proud by the side of Arabian Sea. It was built in 1535 to protect the territory against Mughal invasion. This fort remained the centre of Portuguese rule until 1961 when Indian government merged Diu in India. A magnificent structure that was

impenetrable against attacks, it has many a stories to tell. It also houses an impressive lighthouse that is open to visitors and a must-visit for photographers. Interesting frescoes adorn most of the walls here, quite a lure for the lovers of art and architecture. A perfect battle fort, it has centuries old cannons perched on its terrace. Other than an insight into the history and times of this region, a visit to Diu Fort will get you some very fascinating views of the stark blue Arabian Sea and the terrain around.

Cave-hopping
This maze of caves is strewn outside the territory walls of Diu Fort. Quite an offbeat attraction, it sees the more ardent of explorers. A labyrinth of underground caves, their walls eroded by wind, these are perfect to lose

yourself in your own company. Visit the caves when the Sun is high above as it lights up the rather dark insides and puts up a very fascinating natural light show. These caves are located near the Jallandhar Beach and are just a stroll away from the town centre. Explore these for some solitary time or set your kids playing a game of hide and seek in a setting that is more than just perfect.

Test yourself at water sports
Parasailing, surfing, banana boat rides, jet skiing, water zorbing and even hot air balloon rides over the Arabian Sea—Diu has all this for adrenalin junkies. Most of these activities are organised at one of the two main beaches here—Ghoghla and Nagoa. Kids too can have a gala time here with special activities including boat rides and beach biking. A carnival-like mood at the beaches is another lure. Early



evenings are the perfect time to go splashing in the blue waters.

Go wandering at the Seashell Museum
This tiny museum in Diu is perhaps one of its most offbeat attractions. Conceptualised by Captain Devjibhai Vira Fulbaria, this museum houses his personal collection of sea shells, collected by him from over 50 years of sailing. A rather rundown place for a museum, it will surprise you with more than 3000 seashells of different varieties. This museum is a short distance away from Nagoa Beach and the airport, and makes for a perfect pitstop option. There is no entry fee for the museum, with a jolly guard showing you around the establishment.





Selena Gomez

Says She Was 'So Nervous' To Star In Emilia Perez, Her First Spanish Film

Selena Gomez's first Spanish-speaking film, *Emilia Perez*, made its grand premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Monday. The 32-year-old singer-actress made a stunning appearance at the event, looking gorgeous in a black sequined gown. Weeks after the first trailer came out, Selena has finally spoken about her role in the musical drama. She also revealed why the film remains very special to her.

During the Q&A session following the screening, Selena said, "It was actually really interesting because I ultimately ended up getting to develop a character who is very similar to myself." The *Only Murders in the Building* star plays Jessi Del Monte, the onscreen wife of drug cartel leader Emilia Perez (Karla Sofia Gascon).

She also went on to speak about her personal connection to the role, owing to her Latin American roots. "And actually, I believe a lot of Latinx communities in America. I think it's also everywhere. But I'm just really, really glad that we were able to make her Latin American because that's who I am. I can understand when anyone has a conversation but do not ask me to answer. And I'm really grateful though that we were able to pull that off," she said.

During the conversation, Selena also admitted to being nervous while working in the film, considering she never acted in Spanish. The star was also seen heaping praise on her director Jacques Audiard, crediting him for the whole idea of the film. "And I think it's really empowering and a unique story that hasn't ever quite been told like this. So I'm really honored to be a part of something that's making an impact already and hopefully will continue to do so," she told Access Hollywood on the red carpet. Directed by Audiard, the film also stars Zoe Saldana and Adriana Paz alongside Selena and Gascon.

It tells the story of a cartel leader in Mexico who fakes her own death to live as her true self. Netflix released the film's trailer on August 26, giving a glimpse into the tale of four women.

Bobby Deol Says 'It Took A Long Time' To Get Close To Sunny Deol, Dharmendra: 'Had 2 Father Figures'



Bobby Deol often expresses his fondness for his older brother Sunny Deol and father Dharmendra on social media. However, their relationship was not as friendly when Bobby was younger. The actor mentioned that growing up, he felt like he had two fathers and it took a while to get friendly with Sunny and Dharmendra. Appearing on the *Humans of Bombay* YouTube channel, the actor said, "There's a big age difference between me and my brother. He's the eldest and I'm the youngest. So, he's always treated me like a son. He's always been protective about me, he's always correcting me and saying that I get the best. It took a long time for me to get close to him, to become a friend. I had two father figures in my house," Bobby said.

Speaking about Dharmendra being a strict dad, he said, "That was normal then. It was also because my dad came from a small town. The society, and the culture, and the way people thought and lived was very different in small towns. The city changes your whole life. His dad was always strict with him, so it came naturally to him. My dad wasn't strict, but he was never a friend while growing up. He was very busy, he was always at work. I would get to see him only for a few hours, and that would also be late at night or early in the morning."

However, things have changed for the better now. Bobby said, "When you're growing up, you get confused between respect and being scared. But it wasn't being scared. It was respect, but we didn't know how to communicate easily with our parents. But the story has changed now. The whole thing is reversed. They've become older, so vulnerable. You have to look after them. Things change, that's the circle of life." Meanwhile, on the work front, Bobby Deol's role as Abrar Haque in *Animal* marked a strong comeback in his career. Despite limited screen time, his portrayal of the menacing antagonist was highly praised by both fans and critics. His ability to convey intensity with minimal dialogue has been a standout moment in his career.

Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain Get 'Hot and Sassy' In New Cozy Clip



Actress Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain on Tuesday have set the internet on fire, with their 'hot and sassy' photoshoot, giving major couple goals to their fans. Taking to Instagram, Ankita, who has 5.3 million followers on the photo-sharing application, has shared a Reel video in which we can see her wearing a black blazer with a deep neckline, and paired it with a matching short frill skirt. She has opted for a natural makeup look, her hair tied in a neat ponytail, and rounded off the look with stud earrings and black heels. Vicky looked dapper in a white tee-shirt, matching blazer and trousers. The video shows the couple holding close to each other and posing for the lenses. The clip further shows 'the stills' of Ankita posing in a bathtub. She captioned it as: "We wrote 'hot and sassy' as our middle names".

A fan commented: "Easily the hottest couple out there". Another user said: "That was hott". A user wrote: "Slayyyy". On the personal front, Ankita tied the knot with businessman Vicky on December 14, 2021, in a traditional ceremony in Mumbai. On the work front, the couple had participated in the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 17'.

They are currently seen in 'Laughter Chefs-Unlimited Entertainment'. The show also stars Krushna Abhishek, Rahul Vaidya, Karan Kundra, Nia Sharma, Jannat Zubair Rahmani, Reem Shaikh, Sudesh Lehri, and Kashmera Shah. It is hosted by Bharti Singh, and judged by chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, and airs on Colors.

Ankita made her acting debut in 2009 with the role of Archana in 'Pavitra Rishta'. The show starred actor Sushant Singh Rajput as Manav. She has also been a part of 'Ek Thi Naayka', 'Jhalak Dikhla Jaa 4', and 'Comedy Circus Ka Naya Daur'. Ankita made her Bollywood debut with the 2019 historical biographical action drama 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi', based on the life of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi. The 39-year-old was last seen in the movie 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar', based on the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. It is directed, co-written, and co-produced by Randeep Hooda, who also essayed the titular role.

Kajal Aggarwal

Joins Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna Starrer *Sikandar*? Here's What We Know

Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna are all set to share the screen in an action drama *Sikandar*. The shooting is going on in full swing. And now a report is coming in that Kajal Aggarwal has joined the cast. Filmfare has reported that the details of her role have been kept under wraps. Filmfare reported that actress Kajal Aggarwal has come on board *Sikandar*. She will be joining the stellar cast of Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna, Sathyaraj, and Prateik Babbar in a pivotal role. Earlier, Bollywood Hungama reported that Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna will head to Europe by the end of this year to shoot a few songs. "Pritam has composed two chartbusters for *Sikandar* and producer Sajid Nadiadwala plans to shoot it on a big scale in Europe. The recce is presently underway and the exact locations will be locked soon. Sajid is confident to deliver a chartbuster album with Salman Khan and Pritam, yet again after *Kick*," a source told the portal.



The film was announced this Eid and is slated for release next Eid. Not long back, Pinkvilla exclusively reported that Salman Khan has resumed filming despite a rib injury, with a photo of him recently going viral on social media. According to the portal, the film's team is currently working on a meticulously designed set depicting Dharavi and Matunga, costing around Rs 15 crore. The shooting schedule will last

45 days before the crew moves to a palace in Hyderabad for the next phase. Despite his injury, Salman Khan is committed to his role and performing with full dedication. *Sikandar* also represents AR Murugadoss's highly anticipated return to Hindi cinema after an eight-year hiatus following *Akira* (2016). This film also reunites Salman Khan with producer Sajid Nadiadwala, a duo known for their blockbuster successes such as *Kick*, *Judwaa*, and *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*.

