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NSA should be used against Ghaziabad vendor who 'mixed urine in juice'

Sanjay Kumar

Lucknow, Sep 14: Nand Kishor Gurjar, who holds the Loni assembly seat of Ghaziabad, also condemned this act of 'jihad against Sanatan Dharma.' BJP leader Nand Kishor Gurjar on Saturday demanded a case under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against a vendor who was allegedly selling fruit juices mixed with urine in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.

Terrorism breathing its last in J-K, dynastic politics destroyed this 'beautiful region': PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Srinagar, Sep.14: Asserting that terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government projected new leadership to counter dynastic politics that has destroyed "this beautiful region".

dren. They only cared for and projected their children and did not let new leadership grow." Modi added. The prime minister said his government focused on carving out a



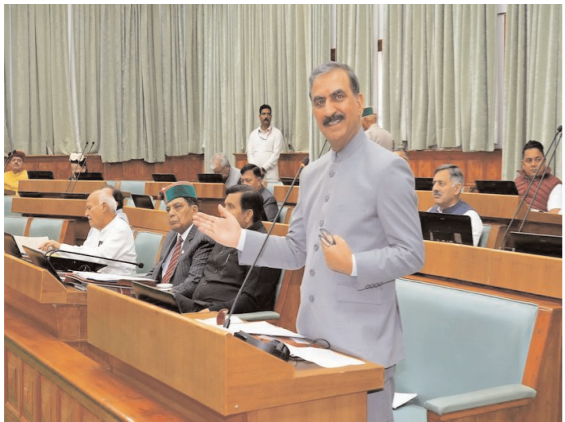
young leadership in Jammu and Kashmir soon after "we came to power at the Centre in 2014". "The youths of J-K used to face the brunt of terrorism. The parties which encouraged familism by misleading people enjoyed power and did not allow young leaders to take root."

polls had never taken place... After 2014, I tried to bring forth the young leadership, holding panchayat polls in 2018, BDC elections in 2019, and DDC in 2020. The reason for holding these elections was to take democracy to the grassroots so that the youth could take charge."

Himachal Pradesh first state to introduce provision for property seizure in illegal liquor trade

ST Correspondent

Shimla, Sep 14: Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to introduce a provision for property seizure in cases involving illegal and spurious liquor, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced today.



seizure of properties belonging to individuals involved in illegal activities, as well as their relatives and associates, which was previously absent from the Act," Sukhu explained. He emphasised that Himachal Pradesh is the first state to implement this provision, making these offenses cognisable and non-bailable to enhance effectiveness.

All about Navy's state-of-art 'Vineta' facility

New Delhi, Sep 14: A shortlist of the biggest headlines, recommended stories, and a special collection of news items that you should check out. A state-of-the-art submarine escape training facility, named "Vineta," was commissioned at INS Satavahana in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

Time has come for India to take lead in fostering culture of international arbitration: CJI Chandrachud

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Sep 14: Time has come for the country to take the lead in fostering a culture of international arbitration, providing a level playing field for dispute resolution beyond domestic courts, CJI DY Chandrachud has said.

courts." He also referred to figures about gross foreign direct investment inflows in India as well as the overseas direct investment. The CJI said respect for the rule of law promotes fairness, stability and predictability which in turn creates a conducive environment for economic growth as investors



thrive in a system where rights are protected, contracts are enforced and disputes are resolved efficiently. A strong rule of law framework also encourages foreign invest-

ment, promotes trade and enhances a nation's global competitiveness, ultimately driving sustainable economic development and improving living standards, Justice Chandrachud said. "The arbitration community across the world often emphasises the importance of commercial efficiency and ease of business, but these values are inextricably linked to a deep respect for the rule of law. Put simply, the rule of law heralds better economic and commercial outcomes," he said.

Leaders pay tribute to Yechury amid chants of 'Lal Salaam'

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 14 A sea of mourners cutting across political spectrum and age groups paid tributes to CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury at the CPI(M) party office on Saturday.

Karat, Pinarayi Vijayan and MA Baby also paid tributes. DMK MP Kanimozhi said, "I am here on behalf of my party and also on a personal level to pay my respects to a



very important and great leader of this country. He was a thinker, a writer and a philosopher." "Only when I saw him in a box could I believe that someone so full of life, wit, and love could just go, leaving us

in shock and disbelief. Highness, I wish it was not you in that box. I just can't accept it," she said. Recounting his meeting with Yechury, RJD MP Manoj K Jha said, "He was always full of ideas on what to do next. It is difficult to fill the void left by him. Without the mention of his name, no discussion in Indian politics will be completed. I was constantly in touch with him and always found him to be full of energy."

Lawyer Harish Salve's big claim on Paris Olympics: 'Wrestler Vinesh Phogat'

New Delhi, Sep 14 Top lawyer Harish Salve has claimed that Vinesh Phogat did not want to challenge the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) which disqualified her from the women's 50kg freestyle final at the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 7.



on behalf of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in her plea to get a joint-silver medal. However, they lost the plea and Vinesh Phogat had to return without a medal. In an interview, Harish Salve told TimesNow that Vinesh Phogat had not wanted to challenge the decision taken by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) even though he had offered. "Later on, we got everything and we fought hard. In fact, I even offered the lady that maybe we can challenge it in the Swiss court of appeal against the arbitration award but I was told by the lawyers that my impression is she didn't want to carry this any further," the lawyer said.

Came here as your 'didi' not as CM: Mamata to protesting doctors

Naresh Malhotra

Kolkata, Sep 14: Amid the continuing impasse, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday made a surprise visit to the site where the junior doctors were protesting, and assured them that she would look into their demands and take action if anyone was found guilty.

assured, I will not do anything of that sort. I am against taking any action against doctors. I know that you do noble work. The seniors (doctors) need you. Think about my proposal. If I can come to this protest site to stand by you, I can also ensure justice and listen to your demands," she said. "I respect democratic movements. I am also a product of student movements and have been on hunger strike for 26 days during the Singur anti-land acquisition movement," she said.

CM left the site, the agitating doctors said they were not ready to compromise on their



demands until discussions were held. "We welcome the gesture by the chief minister. We are ready to sit for talks. We too want to resolve this situation. But we will not compromise on our demands until discussions are held," an agitat-

ing doctor said. At present, the protesters are holding a meeting among themselves to discuss the situation and chart the future course of action. The medics have been camping outside Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of the state Health Department, since Tuesday with a host of demands, including better security at state-run hospitals and the removal of top officials over the rape and murder of the doctor. To end the impasse, the government had invited the doctors for a meeting with the protesters to livestream it. Banerjee had then said she was "ready to relinquish her chair for the sake of the people". The junior doctors have been protesting for over a month, affecting the public healthcare infrastructure of the state. The government claimed that 29 people have died due to the protests allegedly after not receiving treatment.

News box

Telangana announces transgender traffic troops under new recruitment programme

Hyderabad. The Telangana government has announced India's first-ever transgender-specific government recruitment and social welfare program, under which transgender persons will be trained and recruited for traffic management. As per the program, announced by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, once transgender individuals are identified and recruited, they will undergo specialised training to assist the Hyderabad traffic police. The introduction of transgender traffic support troops aims to ensure smoother road management while empowering an underrepresented community with stable government employment, according to state government officials. The government is also working on creating distinct uniforms for transgender recruits, with separate designs for "He/She" and "Him/Her" individuals.

In addition, the terms of employment, including salaries and benefits, are being finalised to ensure equality and respect for the recruits, officials added. After training, the transgender troops will be deployed in Hyderabad. According to the government, this move is not only unprecedented in India but is also a global first, aiming to address two key societal issues—employment for the marginalised transgender community and the city's traffic management challenges.

Panel on Dharani submits report to govt, recommends new revenue system

HYDERABAD: Resurvey of lands, implementation of Land Titling Act, a new revenue act, issuance of loan eligibility cards to tenant farmers, finding an amicable solution for lands placed under Part B of revenue records and Sada Bainama, and establishing a separate academy to train land administration officers are some of the recommendations made by the state government-appointed committee on Dharani. The committee, which was constituted to study the implementation of land transactions, has submitted a comprehensive report to the state government. The committee, which comprises senior Congress leader M Kodanda Reddy as its chairman and retired IAS officer Raymond Peter, land laws expert M Sunil Kumar and retired special grade deputy collector B Madhusudan as members, also recommended a new integrated land revenue management system, Bhumata.

According to sources, the Dharani committee's recommendations include creation of a window for online as well as offline applications, and linking land transactions to Aadhaar-based authentication, grievance redressal mechanism at village level, reviving community paralegal programme and setting up help desks at mandal-level revenue offices. The state government has already placed the Telangana Record of Rights Bill (Draft), 2024, in the public domain. Now, it is a matter of time before the state government makes the proposed draft Bill into a legislation.

One boat removed from barrage gate

VIJAYAWADA: Irrigation department officials and workers engaged in removing the three iron boats stuck at the 69th gate of the Prakasam Barrage experienced a breakthrough on Friday evening. The team led by Dharmadi Satyam managed to cut one of the boats and drag it away from the barrage. However, the boat has not yet reached the shore, and workers are using a traditional rope-and-pull method to bring it closer to Durga Ghat.

The 12-member team from Kakinada arrived in Vijayawada on Friday morning and inspected the boats trapped near the barrage's gate no. 69. They dived into the water, secured strong iron and steel wires to the boat, and used a large crane from Durga Ghat to create a gap between the three boats. After multiple attempts, the team finally separated one boat and dragged it some distance away from the barrage.

"We still need to bring the boat to shore, and there's a risk it could sink. We must act quickly to pull it further," said Abbulu, the temple head. "The remaining two boats will be removed within three days, though it's a challenging task."

Dharmadi Satyam's firm, Balaji Marines, had previously retrieved the capsized Royal Vashishta boat from the Godavari River near Kachchuluru in 2019. Meanwhile, Bekam company officials are also involved in ensuring the structure's safety.

Orissa HC seeks ATR on erring contractors for shoddy road works in Cuttack city

The bench also wanted to know if there was any provision in the agreement to take action against the contractors whose work was found to be substandard and the repaired roads were damaged within the guarantee period.

CUTTACK: Expressing ire over the dismal condition of roads in Cuttack city, the Orissa High Court has directed the civic authorities to file affidavits stating what action has been taken against the erring contractors for executing substandard works.

With officials of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and other departments concerned present in the court in virtual mode, the bench of Justice SK Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh asked if the work orders to contractors stipulated any guarantee period for the civil work and whether the officials checked the road works as per standard norms.

The bench also wanted to know if there was any provision in the agreement to take action against the contractors whose work was found to be substandard and the repaired roads were damaged within the guarantee period. With the officials submitting that there were suitable provisions in that respect, the special bench for PILs on civic problems in Cuttack city directed the superintending engineer of the Roads and Buildings department and the city engineer of CMC to file affidavits on the main roads and arterial roads respectively. The direction was given on Thursday after the bench took note of the report

submitted by president of High Court Bar Association (HCBA) Bijay Dash along with photographs on condition of roads in 15 of the 59 wards in the city. The reports were collected by advocates from each of the wards as per direction issued earlier by the court.

Expressing serious concern over the condition of the roads which were getting damaged within a short period after construction or repair, the bench fixed September 26 for further consideration of the matter. "The authorities concerned shall take immediate steps for repairing



the damaged roads in the aforesaid 15 wards and submit the progress report with the affidavit to be filed. Apart from the road works, the authorities shall also address the problems relating to the other civic amenities particularly street lights,

repairing of potholes, sanitation issues, waste disposal, covering of drains by concrete slabs, sweeping of streets at regular intervals and clearing growth of vegetation which provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes," the bench ordered. The HCBA president was also asked to collect reports on the condition of roads and other civic amenities by advocates in respect of the rest of the wards within a week and hand over the same to the CMC authorities to take necessary steps for addressing the issues immediately.

Telangana's iconic tourist centres to get global boost

HYDERABAD: The state government is exploring the development of three iconic tourism centres, Ramappa in Mulugu, Nagarjunasagar in Nalgonda and Nallamala Tourism Cluster in Nagarkurnool to a global scale under the Union government's Capital Assistance scheme.

The Telangana Tourism Development Corporation, the nodal agency for tourism development, promotion and management in Telangana, is seeking consultants to prepare detailed project reports for these tourism centres. The corporation has invited proposals for selection of consultants to develop the DPRs for the three centres. The Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, has issued guidelines for Special Assistance to States for Capital

Investments. One of the sub-projects under this scheme is the "development of iconic tourist centres to a global scale".



The Ministry of Tourism has issued operational guidelines and suggested the states submit DPRs. Projects funded under this scheme must be completed by March 31, 2026.

The aim of this scheme is to provide long-

term, interest free loans for up to 50 years to states for the comprehensive development of iconic tourist centres in the country.

These loans will support the branding and global marketing of these centres, and they are designed to foster local economic growth and create employment opportunities through sustainable tourism projects.

Projects under this scheme will be developed using a challenge-mode methodology. The scheme intends to create a comprehensive tourist experience while adopting responsible tourism practices.

Each project's funding limit is up to Rs 100 crore, with a maximum of Rs 250 crore per state. Only shortlisted proposals that meet the scheme's guidelines and objectives will receive funding support.

Jogaiah files PIL in Telangana HC for speedy trial of cases against Jagan

HYDERABAD: A division bench of the Telangana High Court, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice T Vinod Kumar, heard two suo motu PILs taken up following the Supreme Court's directive to expedite the disposal of criminal cases pending against MPs and MLAs in Telangana.

Another related petition, filed by Chegondi Venkata Harirama Jogaiah from West Godavari district, sought to speed up the trial of criminal cases against YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, former Chief Minister. In the PIL concerning the Supreme Court's order,



Telangana Additional Advocate General Md Imran Khan requested an additional three weeks time to submit a status report detailing the progress of ongoing cases in the designated courts handling the

criminal proceedings against MPs and MLAs. The bench granted the request and scheduled the next hearing after three weeks.

The division bench also heard the PIL filed by Harirama Jogaiah. The petitioner sought a direction to the Principal Special Judge for CBI cases, Nampally, Hyderabad, to expedite and conclude the pending criminal case trials against Jagan. It directed the petitioner to comply with its earlier orders issued on August 20, 2024, and adjourned further hearing on the matter, bundling it with other related PILs for consideration after three weeks.

Happy to be papaya, don't want to be banana: Chetan Bhagat on online trolls

One of the best-selling authors, Chetan Bhagat, attended India Today Mind Rocks Youth Summit 2024 on Saturday and spoke on his success formula, freedom of expression and online trolls and negativity.

Chetan Bhagat attended India Today Mind Rocks Youth Summit 2024 in Bengaluru

He said key to success is personal passion and not being swayed by feedback

Bhagat addressed growing trend of banning movies, books, and comedians

Renowned author Chetan Bhagat shared his unique way of handling online trolls and negativity. When asked by India Today's Consulting Editor Rajdeep Sardesai whether he gets upset by the constant trolling, Bhagat responded with a lighthearted yet philosophical answer. "I am a papita (papaya). I believe in the papita theory. It's one of those fruits that some people like, some people hate, but it has its own benefits," Bhagat explained, using the fruit as a metaphor for how he sees himself. "I am a papita and don't want to be a banana," he added, indicating that he embraces his individuality despite criticism.

FORMULA FOR WRITING BLOCKBUSTER BOOKS

At the India Today Mind Rocks Youth Summit 2024 on Saturday, Bhagat also shared his formula for writing a blockbuster book, emphasising that authentic creativity must come from within. He acknowledged experimenting with tools like ChatGPT but noted that they fall short in producing meaningful content. "Whenever you create something, create it for yourself. It should come from within. This is what works," Bhagat explained. He stressed that the key to success is personal passion and not being swayed by external



feedback, whether positive or negative, as getting too caught up in reactions can disrupt the creative process.

'IF U WANT GREAT ART, IT WILL BE OFFENSIVE SOMETIME'

Chetan Bhagat explained that writing about social issues inevitably

Cotton, meat waste dumped in irrigation canals; TN farmers enraged



TIRUPPUR: Farmers in Vellakovil complain that unidentified people have been dumping cotton waste in irrigation canals, including the PAP main canal, which blocked the flow of water. On Wednesday night, more than one tonne of cotton waste was dumped in the PAP main canal, following which farmers urged PCB, WRD, and police departments to take action. P Ashok, a farmer from Veppampalayam in Vellakovil, said, "We depend on PAP Irrigation. The PAP main canal and branch canals are very important structures for our livelihood. Waste cotton has been

frequently dumped in the canals for the past few months. Even on Wednesday night, more than a tonne of waste cotton in sacks was dumped along the PAP main canal in Veppampalayam.

We noticed this only on Thursday. But it is not known who brought it there and dumped it. We contacted the private company in Gujarat whose name was printed on the poly bags." "There are many spinning mills in Vellakovil area and people buy first-grade waste cotton from them. We suspect that after using it they dump the waste in irrigation

canals instead of disposing of it in the proper manner. It accumulates in irrigation canals and spreads to the grazing lands. This affects the environment and livestock. Most of the time we clean the waste from the canals ourselves. Officials should take appropriate action in this matter," the farmer added. P Velusamy, President of PAP Vellakovil Branch Canal Water Conservation Movement, said, "Apart from waste cotton, people also dump meat waste in these canals. The WRD, Pollution Control Board, and Police should prevent this."

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News box

MBA graduates and a Class 12 passout among 16 candidates in election fray

Gurgaon. Educational qualifications of all 16 candidates who are in the fray from Gurgaon assembly seat range from a Class 12 passout to one with an MBA degree from Belgium. While BJP's Mukesh Sharma dropped out after passing Class 12, Mohit Grover of Congress went abroad to study MBA. An analysis of candidate affidavits found that six of them have master's degrees, five are graduates, and the remaining did not pursue higher education. Mukesh Sharma's affidavit submitted to the Election Commission to file his nomination from Gurgaon showed that the 44-year-old BJP candidate cleared Class 12 from the National Institute of Open Schooling in 2010. A wrestler-turned-politician, Mukesh Sharma of Dundahera village, is the co-convenor of Haryana BJP's sports cell. After being denied a BJP ticket in 2014, Sharma had contested as an Independent but lost the election. Sharma's key rival Mohit Grover (31) has a postgraduate degree in business management from the International Management Institute of Brussels, Belgium. Grover's affidavit showed that he got the degree in 2014.

BJP rebel Naveen Goyal, who announced that he was contesting as an Independent after he was denied a party ticket from the city, is a graduate from the University of Rohtak. Among others in the race is Sanjay Lal, an Independent who is fighting the election on behalf of a group of RWAs. Lal has a master's degree in history from the University of Mumbai. He is an entrepreneur and consultant.

Ankit Alag of Jan Sewak Kranti Party holds an MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) and Independent candidate Akshat Gait is also an MBA postgraduate from Management Development Institute (MDI) in the city.

Another Independent, Narendra Kumar, is a retired post-graduate teacher (PGT). Though it is not a necessity, some residents believe that it is high time parties start considering a candidate's education parameters. "The city has offices of Fortune 500 companies. It is a hub of IT firms and startups, and there are several industries. Parties should consider all this before selecting a candidate for Gurgaon," said Varun Sharma, a city resident who works for an IT firm. Joseph Benjamin, a retired professor of political science and political analyst, said at the time of framing the Constitution, the demography of the country was different and literacy rate was low.

MCG hires 6 cos to dump building waste in Basai

Gurgaon. MCG has hired six private agencies for collecting construction and demolition (C&D) waste throughout the city. The corporation has temporarily suspended its decision to dump and process the collected waste at three out of the four sites which were identified earlier, following opposition from the public. The agencies have been instructed to dispose of the waste at the Basai C&D waste plant. "These agencies are hired at the rate of Rs 150 per metric tonne. We have not been able to make the other three sites operational because of public protests. However, we will proceed after the model code of conduct is lifted and elections are over," said a senior MCG official.

MCG had earlier identified Babupur, Basai, Baliawas, and Daultabad as potential C&D waste dumping sites. However, residents of these areas, especially Baliawas and Daultabad, protested this move. According to the C&D Waste Management Rules, 2016, "every waste generator will have to keep the waste within the premises or get the waste deposited at the collection centre made by the local body or hand it over to the authorised processing facilities". Furthermore, the rules mandate that the local authorities are responsible for transporting the "collected waste to appropriate sites for processing and disposal, either through their own resources or by appointing private operators."

According to MCG officials, residents can dispose of construction waste at the Basai C&D waste plant by paying a fee of Rs 360 per metric tonne. However, the waste generator will be responsible for arranging for the transportation and dumping of the waste at the designated plant.

1.2cr fines for using phones while driving in city this yr



Gurgaon. Around 10 persons are fined daily in the city for using mobile phones while driving. This year, 2,423 vehicle owners have paid Rs 1.2 crore in fines for being on the phone and at the wheels simultaneously. To curb this widespread wrong, police on Thursday organised a checking campaign and penalised 153 people in a day, fining them for Rs 7.6 lakh. A person caught using their phone while driving is liable to pay Rs 5,000 as fine.

"A special checking campaign was conducted by traffic police to discourage people from using mobile phones while driving," said DCP (traffic) Virender Vij, adding that the trend was a serious offence and a major threat to life of those inside the vehicle and on the road. "It is important for drivers to understand the dangers of using mobile phones while driving. It distracts the driver and takes their attention away from the road, which can lead to accidents. Even a momentary distraction can prove to be fatal," said the DCP. According to the police, most of the people penalised for using mobile phones while driving are those riding two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws. "The majority of people who die in road accidents are two-wheeler riders," said an officer.

Cratered & flooded every monsoon, but SPR waits for revamp since 2019

Gurgaon. With high-end condominiums offering the perfect backdrop, the 14km Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) was meant to seamlessly connect the new sectors with the established hubs off Golf Course Road and Sohna Road. For many, the promise of a well-connected, modern arterial road led to real estate investments in the area, with the belief that daily commute would improve. More than a decade after its initial development in 2012-2013, however, SPR is now synonymous with potholes, waterlogging, and traffic chaos. A redevelopment plan has been in the pipeline since 2019, leaving residents and commuters grappling with a road that seems to worsen with each passing monsoon. Frequent waterlogging and deep potholes pose constant threats to both vehicles and pedestrians, making the stretch dangerous during rains. GMDA's continuous back-and-forth and revisions have delayed progress on the ground. Despite sporadic repairs by the metropolitan authority, such as partial repairs of the stretch from Ghata T-Point

to Vatika Chowk earlier this year, the section between Vatika Chowk and the CPR-SPR junction remains neglected.

Residents of nearby condominiums said they have to battle deteriorating conditions just beyond their gated communities. Dhirender Kumar Singh, a businessman from Sector 78, said SPR is the backbone of connectivity to south Gurgaon. "But govt has failed to ensure smooth connectivity. Deep potholes are damaging our vehicles, and during rains, the road virtually turns into a river. The drive from home to the airport should be under 45 minutes, but I was recently stuck in SPR alone for over 45 minutes. I nearly missed my flight. Authorities have been talking about redevelopment for years, but nothing is happening on the ground."

SPR was never fully completed, with some portions of the right of way still awaiting land acquisition, which need to be addressed before the authority can go ahead with the redevelopment plan. This, coupled with subpar maintenance over the years, has worsened its condition. With the opening of Dwarka

Expressway earlier in March and further improved connectivity with Manesar, Tauru and other areas, the traffic volume on this stretch has increased manifold. "When we bought our flat, we were sold on the promise of excellent connectivity through SPR. But years later, it has been nothing but a hassle. Every day, we face traffic jams that sometimes last all the way to Badshapur. Even the pothole filling exercise is just an eyewash, as the repairs are washed away by the rains," said Harsh Mehra, an IT professional from Sector 69.

Though redevelopment plans have been on the cards since March 2019, with administrative approval granted in June 2022 for the upgrade of the 14km stretch from Ghata T-Point to NH-8, bureaucratic delays and continuous revisions have kept the project from moving forward. GMDA has worked on multiple proposals to improve SPR, each more ambitious than the last, yet none has materialised. In March 2019, the authority proposed two options — one with traffic signals costing Rs 132.5 crore, and another with signal-

free traffic movement through three flyovers and two underpasses, estimated to cost GMDA Rs 281.9 crore. The second plan was approved, but subsequent changes stalled the project. In 2020, the scope was extended to include a stretch from Ghata to Kherki Daula as traffic volumes increased. By Jan 2021, GMDA proposed constructing four flyovers and one underpass from Ghata to Vatika Chowk and an additional flyover between Vatika Chowk and NH-8, pushing the project cost to Rs 600 crore. These proposals, however, were constantly revised. In July 2021, GMDA altered the plan again, adding five flyovers, more green space, cycle tracks, and footpaths. By Dec 2021, a revised proposal costing Rs 541.9 crore was tabled, but soon afterwards, officials were once again directed to modify the plan to incorporate future metro corridor planning. Administrative approval was finally granted in June 2022 for eight flyovers, a six-lane main carriageway, and three-lane service roads at a cost of Rs 845.5 crore.

Sewer line, its boundary wall fall apart after rain; wastewater flows onto roads

Noida. A sewer line, the RCC boundary wall, and the mesh surrounding it near the Sector P3 roundabout were damaged after persistent showers since Thursday. The sewer line was already dilapidated and leaks had developed in several areas. The recent showers spilled sewage on the roads in Sector 36, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Pari Chowk, P3, and Swarn Nagari, among others. TOI reported on Aug 24 about the damaged sewer line that was leaking. Greater Noida Authority engaged in arranging an alternate concrete sewer line later in the day. However, its quality was so poor and broken in many parts that residents raised concerns and opposed



its installation. As a result, the structure was taken back. The Greater Noida Authority started working on installing a new concrete sewer line, but its poor quality and damage to multiple parts drew opposition from residents. As a result, the structure was removed.

Residents said the sewer leakage problem has persisted for over three months now and there has been no redressal. "We called GNIDA CEO Ashutosh Dwivedi, senior manager Vinod Sharma, and manager Shubhangi Tiwari to inform them about the damage to the sewer mainline. We also sent videos. Despite our efforts, no repair work has started in the last three months. As a result, the situation has worsened with recent showers, causing not only the sewer but also the surrounding RCC boundary wall and mesh to collapse. This poses a serious threat of a disease outbreak," said Harinder Bhati, a resident of Sector Beta 1.

Leaking ceilings, snakes: What's keeping students away from Noida schools

Noida: Classes were disrupted in several primary schools across the city as persistent rain since Thursday left ceilings leaking, floors wet and playgrounds waterlogged. At a few schools in the rural pockets, students were sent home early as there were no spare rooms to shift them once water started to drip from the ceilings of their classrooms. Praveen Sharma, the district president of UP Teachers' Association, told TOI that since Friday morning, teachers from across the city had flagged concerns over poor waterproofing and dilapidated school buildings on common WhatsApp groups. Principals of some schools claimed snakes were spotted on waterlogged playgrounds, triggering chaos among kids and staff.

Noida has 511 primary schools but most of them claim they do not have sufficient capital funding to maintain their buildings and facilities. In UP, schools receive a composite fund of Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, depending upon students' strength in each academic year. School principals claimed these funds are majorly utilised for purchasing classroom equipment, such

as benches, boards, wall painting and stationery, leaving little funds for renovating the infrastructure. Noida's basic education officer Rahul Panwar acknowledged the gap in funding and demand. "There are some schools with

In several schools, teachers say roof leaks every monsoon. So, on a morning, if it has been raining overnight, they must move the tables so that the children don't sit on wet chairs. Listing a series of problem at



dilapidated classrooms. However, in such situations, teachers can shift the students to other rooms and continue taking classes."

But teachers disagree. A teacher at a primary school in Jewar said, "There is not enough space in our school to keep shifting classes. So, there is little option other than sending kids home early on wet mornings."

Dhoom Manikpur primary school, principal Sushma Rani said, "On Thursday, there was an ingress of water in two of our classrooms, forcing us to accommodate students of two classes together. It was chaotic. On Friday, several of these students decided to skip school." Principal of a primary school in Dankaur block said following overnight rain, the building's ceiling had become damp, and plasters started to come off here and there. "We were scared that it could collapse anytime and could not let children sit in classrooms under such risky situations. There are not enough rooms for over 150 students here, so there was no question of shifting them to another classroom. What does the authority do throughout the year? Are they waiting for an accident to happen?" the principal said.

Leachate harming Aravalis, Bandhwari waste plant is set to lose its green NOC

Gurgaon. The wildlife department on Friday initiated the process to withdraw the no-objection certificate (NOC) it issued for the Bandhwari waste treatment plant. MCG has been given 10 days' notice before the department proceeds with the withdrawal of the NOC, which was initially granted to ensure the plant operated without causing any harm to the surrounding Aravali forest area. In the notice, the department also said there was non-adherence to directives such as orders by Supreme Court (SC) and National Green Tribunal (NGT) at the Bandhwari site, as well as infringements of legislations like the Indian Forest Act (IFA), 1927; Wildlife Protection Act (WLP), 1972; and Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980. A recent survey conducted by the department found that the revenue rasta, a road utilised for water filling and patrolling in the Aravalis, is being obstructed by solid waste from the landfill, hindering officials from accessing the forest. Furthermore, leachate from the landfill is seeping into the forest and accumulating in waterbodies and low-lying areas, contaminating groundwater and posing a substantial threat to the local wildlife,

officials said. Based on these findings, Gurgaon divisional wildlife officer Rajesh Chahal wrote to the chief conservator of forest and wildlife (south Haryana) AP Pandey, recommending that the NOC for the Bandhwari plant be revoked unless the issues are resolved. Subsequently, the process to revoke the NOC was initiated. MCG was granted the NOC in 2019 on the condition that the civic corporation and waste management concessionaire Ecogreen deposit Rs 2 crore with the wildlife department as environmental compensation. Apprehensions have been raised about the presence of leachate in a pond near the landfill in the Aravalis that was once a source of water for wildlife. The consumption of this contaminated water by animals could be lethal, officials said. Despite repeated communications to the MCG commissioner urging compliance with the conditions of the wildlife NOC for proper landfill management, no significant improvements have been observed, they added. The landfill's proximity to a richly biodiverse forest area with abundant wildlife is causing habitat disturbance and increasing the



potential for man-animal conflicts in Gurgaon and its vicinity, the department said in its notice.

"...inspected the area on Aug 28 and found that land and water in a pond just behind the landfill inside the forest area is encroached with municipal waste and leachate... A 1km-long black river of death with toxic leachate is flowing continuously to the Aravalis from the landfill," the notice stated. Officials said a survey by the wildlife department had also found in 2021 that Ecogreen was

"intentionally" spilling thousands of litres of leachate from the landfill onto mining pits in the eco-sensitive Aravalis. Spread over 33 acres on the Gurgaon-Faridabad road, lakhs of tonnes of waste from the two NCR cities has been piling up at the massive Bandhwari landfill — and an estimated 2,000 tonnes is added daily. Meanwhile, wildlife enthusiasts said they have complained of leachate spill into the Aravalis several times. "HSPCB has already collected samples near the Bandhwari plant several times to check if it is leachate, and it has been confirmed every time that the water is contaminated. Spilling of leachate is a grave issue in the area, but no concrete action has been taken by the civic agencies over the years," said Vaishali Rana Chandra, an environmental activist.

Meanwhile, MCG commissioner Narhari Bangar said, "We are 100% carrying out compliance and we are also ensuring that no environmental violations happen at the site."

News box

US Court in Pennsylvania rules against accepting misdated mail-in votes

World The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Friday reversed a lower court's ruling from almost two weeks ago that had said the two most populous counties of the battleground state will not be able to throw out mail-in votes over incorrect envelope dates.

KEY QUOTES

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Friday ruling said the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania "lacked subject matter jurisdiction to review the matter," according to a court filing.

The Republican Party welcomed the ruling. Voting rights advocates including the American Civil Liberties Union said they will look at pursuing additional legal options and said the ruling was a "setback for Pennsylvania voters."

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Pennsylvania is a key battleground state in a tight presidential race for the Nov. 5 U.S. elections in which Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris faces Republican former President Donald Trump.

Battleground states are those where elections were won by a narrow margin of 3 percentage points or less in the last contest. Pennsylvania is one of seven such states.

The ruling will mean that state election officials will not be counting misdated ballots in the election unless courts intervene again before the elections.

CONTEXT

The late August ruling in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania applied to the Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties. It had said that refusal to count undated or incorrectly dated, and timely mail ballots submitted by eligible voters violated the right to vote.

Netherlands announces toughest asylum policy ever to curb illegal migration

Amsterdam The Dutch government said on Friday it aimed to implement measures to limit migration in the coming months, including a moratorium on all new applications, days after Germany announced new border controls to keep out unwanted migrants. The new government, led by nationalist Geert Wilders' anti-Islam PVV party, said it would declare a national asylum crisis, enabling it to take measures to curb migration without parliamentary consent. Opposition parties have questioned whether the move is necessary or even legal, but the PVV's migration minister Marjolein Faber said she was acting on opportunities granted by the country's own migration laws. We are taking measures to make the Netherlands as unattractive as possible for asylum seekers," Faber said in a statement.

The Netherlands received two first-time asylum applications per 1,000 inhabitants in 2023, equal to the EU average. Eurostat data shows. Ten European countries had a higher relative number of asylum seekers last year.

But after years of budget cuts, the country's only registration center for asylum seekers has been struggling to deal with the flow of migrants, forcing hundreds of refugees at times to sleep in the rough. Despite the relatively moderate numbers, Prime Minister Dick Schoof said curbing the flow of migrants was necessary to deal with problems on the housing market and to improve access to healthcare and education.

"I don't want to label it the only problem, but the fact is, it isn't helping," Schoof said.

3 US citizens among 37 sentenced to death in Congo over role in failed coup

Kinshasa Three US citizens are among 37 defendants sentenced to death by a military court on Friday for their role in a May failed coup in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Armed men briefly occupied an office of the presidency in the capital Kinshasa on May 19 before their leader, US-based Congolese politician Christian Malanga, was killed by security forces. His son, Marcel Malanga, was among the Americans on trial, along with Marcel's friend, Tyler Thompson, who played high school football with him in Utah. Both are in their 20s. The third American, Benjamin Zalman-Polun, was a business associate of Christian Malanga.

All three were found guilty of criminal conspiracy, terrorism and other charges, and sentenced to death in a ruling read on live TV.

Malanga had previously told the court that his father had threatened to kill him unless he participated. He also told the court it was his first time visiting Congo at the invitation of his father, whom he had not seen in years.

The Americans are among some 50 people, including US, British, Canadian, Belgian and Congolese citizens, standing trial following the failed coup. A total of 37 defendants were sentenced to death.

The verdict was read out under a tent in the yard of Ndolo military prison on the outskirts of Kinshasa. The defendants were seated in front of the judge, wearing blue and yellow prison-issued tops. In Washington, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said embassy staff had attended the proceedings and would continue to follow developments closely.

Bomb threat sounded in Ohio's Springfield amid anti-migrant tensions

World Government buildings and an elementary school in Springfield, Ohio were evacuated Thursday after an emailed bomb threat, police said, rattling the small US city at the heart of an anti-migrant conspiracy theory amplified by Donald Trump.

Springfield has been thrust into the spotlight in recent days after an unfounded story of Haitian migrants eating pets went viral on social media, with the Republican ex-president and current White House candidate pushing the narrative despite it being debunked. Democrats have accused Trump and his running mate, Ohio Senator JD Vance, of fanning racial tensions as they use the Springfield conspiracy theory to elevate immigration as a campaign issue ahead of November's election. Trump doubled down on the rhetoric during a campaign rally in Tucson, Arizona on Thursday, saying that "migrants are walking off with the town's geese."

"Immediately after mentioning Springfield in his speech, Trump added: 'I'm angry about young American girls being raped and sodomised and murdered by savage criminal aliens,' though provided no specific details.

Springfield authorities said there were no credible reports of pets being harmed by members of the immigrant community - accusations that Trump also repeated in his Thursday debate against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. The White House condemned the claims on Thursday as "filth" and said they were endangering people's lives. On Thursday, Springfield police said that City Hall and several other government buildings had been evacuated after a bomb threat sent by email at 8:24 am (12:24 GMT).

"Authorities investigated and cleared all facilities listed in the threat with the assistance of explosive detecting canines," the force said in a statement. Fulton Elementary School and Springfield Academy of Excellence were also listed in the threat and evacuated, according to the statement. "We are currently partnering with the Dayton office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to identify the source of the email," it added.

TENSIONS IN COMMUNITY

Arriving at the school to retrieve his child, Haitian immigrant Mackenose Roseme told



AFP that the current tensions in the community were "worrying." "I'm a little stressed. I think something might happen," he said. A sign in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole informed Roseme and other parents that the students had been moved to a high school. Mayor Rob Rue told the Springfield News-Sun that the person who sent the bomb threat claimed to be from the city and mentioned Haitian immigration issues. Despite the bomb threats, Trump was still reposting memes related to the

conspiracy theory hours later on his Truth Social platform. He claimed Ohio was being "inundated with illegal migrants, mostly from Haiti, who are taking over Towns and Villages at a level and rate never seen before." Springfield, with a population of about 58,000, has seen an increase in Haitian immigrants in recent years -- 10,000 to 15,000 according to the Springfield News-Sun. Social services, schools and housing have been stressed in the city for years, with some pointing to migration as a factor. Ohio Governor Mike

DeWine -- a Republican like Trump -- gave some context to the situation in Springfield during an interview Thursday. DeWine said 15,000 immigrants from Haiti live in Springfield, "a dramatic change" for the city, and added they were there under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which allows foreign nationals to live and work in the United States. "Why did they come? They came for jobs," DeWine told Fox News reporters.

Iran sends satellite into space, 1st under President Masoud Pezeshkian: Report

Tehran. Iran on Saturday sent a research satellite into orbit with a rocket built by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The report said the Chamran-1 satellite has a weight of 60 kilograms and successfully reached a 550-kilometer (341 miles) orbit in space. It said testing space hardware and software is the main mission of the satellite. IRNA said land stations received signals from the satellite, too. It said the satellite-carrier rocket Qaem-100, using solid fuel, was designed and made by the Guard aerospace division. Iran says it has 13 more satellite launches in a row.



Though Iran has long planned to send satellites into orbit, this is the first launch under reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian after his headline predecessor Ebrahim Raisi died in a May helicopter

crash. In January, Iran said it successfully launched three satellites into space with a rocket. The program is seen by the West as part of the improvement of Tehran's ballistic missiles. The launch also comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, sparking fears of a regional conflict.

The United States has previously said Iran's satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. UN sanctions related to Iran's ballistic missile program expired last October.

One against migrants, other kills children: Pope Francis on Trump, Kamala Harris

Former US President Donald Trump has promised to introduce strong anti-immigration policies if elected to power, while Kamala Harris has supported abortion rights.

UPDATED Pope Francis on Friday said that he considered both candidates for the US presidency "against life," citing Donald Trump's anti-immigrant policies and Kamala Harris's support for abortion rights. "Both are against life. The one who discards migrants and the one who kills children. Both are against life," Francis told reporters aboard his plane returning to Rome after



a 12-day tour of Asia. "I am not an American and I will not be voting there. But let it be clear: both sending migrants away and not giving migrants the ability to work or welcoming them is a sin, it is

serious," he said. Former president Trump has promised to round up illegal immigrants and deport them as he seeks to return to the White House in the looming November election.

He also paved the way for a 2022 US Supreme Court overturning of Roe v Wade, the 1973 ruling that made abortion a national right for women -- a right that Harris has pledged to restore.

"One has to choose the lesser of two evils. Who is the lesser evil? That lady or that gentleman? I don't know. Everyone has to think and make this decision according to their conscience," Francis said.

Donald Trump vows to deport Haitians in Ohio if elected as President

World Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged on Friday to conduct mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from the Ohio city of Springfield, even though the majority of them are in the United States legally. The city for days has found itself at the centre of a social media maelstrom after right-wing agitators latched onto false claims that Haitian arrivals were eating household pets. "We will do large deportations in Springfield, Ohio," Trump said at a press conference at his golf resort near Los Angeles. The majority of the 15,000 Haitians in Springfield are there legally. Trump's long-standing pledge to conduct mass deportations usually refers to those in the country illegally. Trump did not repeat the assertion he made during Tuesday's presidential debate with Democrat Kamala Harris that immigrants were eating dogs and cats, remarks that have been widely mocked. No elementary schools were evacuated and one middle school in Springfield was closed on Friday after anonymous bomb threats were made against the community for the second day in a row, according to ABC News. At the White House, President Joe Biden urged the attacks on the Haitian community to cease. "It's simply wrong. There's no place in America. This has to stop - what he's doing. It has to stop," Biden said. The Biden administration extended Temporary Protected Status to hundreds of thousands of Haitians in the United States in June, a decades-old program that protects legal immigrants from deportation and gives them work permits. Gang wars in Haiti have displaced over half a million people and nearly five million are facing severe food insecurity. Trump has cited the tensions in Springfield as another example of the need for headline immigration policies. The influx of Haitians has boosted the economy but also has strained social services. "I'm angry about illegal Haitian migrants taking over Springfield, Ohio. You see that mess, don't you?" Trump said at a rally in Las Vegas, later on Friday.

Austrian court finds woman guilty of fatally infecting neighbour with Covid-19

A judge sentenced the 54-year-old on Thursday to four months' suspended imprisonment and an 800-euro fine (\$886.75) for grossly negligent homicide.

Vienna. A woman in Austria was found guilty of fatally infecting her neighbour with Covid-19 in 2021, her second pandemic-related conviction in a year, according to local media. A judge sentenced the 54-year-old on Thursday to four months' suspended imprisonment and an 800-euro fine (\$886.75) for grossly negligent homicide. The victim, who was also a cancer patient, died of pneumonia that was caused by the coronavirus, according to Austrian news agency APA. A virological report showed that the virus DNA matched both the deceased and the 54-year-old woman, proving that the defendant "almost 100 percent" transmitted it, an expert told the court.

"I feel sorry for you personally -- I think that something like this has probably happened hundreds of times," the judge said Thursday.



"But you are unlucky that an expert has determined with almost absolute certainty that it was an infection that came from you."

While the judge issued the sentence Thursday, APA reported that the

verdict isn't yet final. The names of the victim and defendant were not released in line with Austrian privacy rules. The woman was convicted of a Covid-related offence last summer, APA reported.

14 dead in Afghanistan in one of deadliest attacks this year by Islamic State

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the shooting, which took place on Thursday and targeted a group of minority Hazaras travelling between the provinces of Ghor and Daikundi.

Islamabad Islamic State militants killed 14 people in a Shiite-majority area in central Afghanistan in one of the deadliest attacks in the country this year. The militant group claimed responsibility for the shooting, which took place on Thursday and targeted a group of minority Hazaras travelling between the provinces of Ghor and Daikundi. Six other people were wounded in the attack. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility

for the shootings before the Taliban authorities in Kabul acknowledged the attack. The IS said its fighters used a machine gun in the assault, and claimed inflicting a higher death toll than the Taliban later reported. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying the gunmen targeted people welcoming Afghan Shiites who were returning home from visiting shrines in Iraq. He called for immediate action to punish those behind the crime. The Islamic State groups affiliate in Afghanistan is a major rival to the Taliban and has challenged their authority by attacking schools, hospitals, mosques and Shiite areas over the past three years.

In the village of Bandar in Daikundi province on Friday, mourners circled around two rows of bodies of the victims laid out and covered in multi-coloured fabrics. A relative of one of the victims, Reza Ali, said the government was responsible for security and that the

situation should have been avoided. We are worried about our wives and children being attacked in the city or at school, like it happened on the highway," he said. The Taliban's chief spokesman Zabihullah



Mujahid strongly condemned the attack, describing it as a "barbaric action" and said authorities would protect people and their property. "We are also making serious efforts to search for the perpetrators and bring them to justice," Mujahid added. The UN mission in Afghanistan expressed its "condolences to

the families of those killed" in a post on the social media platform X and called for an "investigation to hold those responsible to account." Earlier this month, an IS suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden vest at a prosecutor's office in the capital of Kabul. In May, a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded in northeastern Badakhshan province and killed at least three police officers who were part of a poppy eradication campaign.

A UN-appointed rights expert for Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, said he was alarmed by the spate of attacks claimed by the IS. The "appalling killings" of the Shiite Hazaras bore the hallmarks of international crimes, said Bennett, whom the Taliban have barred from Afghanistan. Hazaras make up around 9% of Afghanistan's population of about 40 million people and are mostly Shiite Muslims, despised by Sunni Muslim radicals like the Islamic State group.

News box

Ghaziabad shopkeeper thrashed by locals for mixing urine with juice, arrested

Ghaziabad. A shopkeeper was thrashed by angry locals in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad for allegedly serving fruit juices mixed with urine to customers. The police later arrested Aamir Khan, owner of Khushi Juice Corner, and detained his minor assistant. The matter came to light after some people noticed the shopkeeper mixing a yellowish liquid with fruit juice. Soon, a huge crowd gathered and they started beating the shop owner. After the police were alerted, they conducted a search in the juice stall and recovered a plastic can filled with urine.

Senior police officer Bhaskar Verma said the police were trying to find out the motive behind the act. Verma said the arrest was made after the shopkeeper could not give any satisfactory answer to the presence of urine in the shop. "After the information was received on September 13, the police promptly arrived at the scene and found approximately 1 litre of suspected urine from a can at the shop. The police have arrested Aamir Khan. An FIR has been registered, and further legal action is underway," Verma said. The contents of the can have been sent for analysis. Earlier this year, a Telangana kulfi and ice-cream vendor was arrested for allegedly masturbating and mixing semen in a container containing falooda. The vendor was caught red-handed by locals and handed over to the police.

54-year-old temple jumbo injured in fire accident dies, laid to rest in Kundrakudi

SIVAGANGA. A 54-year-old female elephant of the Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Peruman Temple in Kundrakudi, which sustained burn injuries after a asbestos-cum-thatched roof caught fire and fell on it, succumbed to injuries early on Friday.

Sources said the roof fell on the elephant, Subbulakshmi, at 2 am on Thursday. The jumbo sustained burn injuries to the back, stomach and tail. Veterinarians under the supervision of District Forest Officer S Prabha treated the elephant, but it succumbed to injuries around 1.45 am on Friday. The elephant was kept at Thirumadam in Kundrakudi for public viewing. Many paid their respects to the jumbo before it was buried at the Adheena Gurumoortham. To mark respects, local shop owners downed the shutters, and a silent prayer was conducted without ringing the bells. Locals claimed that the temple authorities could have prevented the accident by being more careful. Kundrakudi police said that the accident took place allegedly due to a short circuit and no case has been booked as on Friday night.

Aadheenam Ponnambala Adigalar said the elephant had shown bala and responded to treatment but it succumbed to its injuries. Sources said, the elephant was gifted to the temple in 1971, and it took part in all events and blessed devotees. It was maintained by the temple of the Kundrakudi Aadheenam. State Cooperative Minister KR Periakaruppan paid tributes to Subbulakshmi. HR&CE Minister PK Sekarbabu, State Animal Husbandry Minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan and the staff of their department supported the ceremonial activities.

Seven killed, 31 injured as APSRTC bus collides with two trucks in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh

HUBBALLI. Seven people were killed and 31 others injured when an APSRTC bus collided with two trucks on the Chittoor-Bengaluru main road near Mogili ghat in Bangarupalyam mandal of Palamaneru constituency on Friday. The accident took place when the RTC bus, travelling from Tirupati, collided head-on with a truck coming from Palamaneru. Following the initial impact, the bus rammied into another truck. Six people in the bus, including the driver and helper, died on the spot. The injured were shifted to Palamaneru Area Hospital.

While 25 of them are said to be in stable condition, the severely injured persons were transferred to a hospital in Vellore, Tamil Nadu for better treatment. S Vijayamma (53) of Pakala mandal in Tirupati, Hansika Yadav (6) of Maharaj Ganj in Maharashtra, Balaraju from Siddipeta in Telangana, Sonu Kumar (31) of Baliya in Uttar Pradesh, bus driver Tirupathi and truck driver S Manoharan (56) of Chamanthipuram were among those who lost their lives in the accident.

On learning about the incident, Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar and Superintendent of Police Manikanta Chandolu rushed to the spot and monitored the rescue operations. Sumit also announced that the State government will extend an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to families of each of the deceased.

JNTUK to boost engineering education with focus on innovation

Varsity plans to set up incubation centres in 160 affiliated colleges

VIJAYAWADA: Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Kakinada (JNTUK) is set to overhaul engineering education in the State to address a long-standing skills gap that has left graduates underprepared for modern industry demands. The university, which has approximately 2.2 lakh students enrolled across 160 affiliated colleges, is implementing a new strategy to align its academic programmes with real-world industry needs.

JNTUK vice-chancellor Dr KVSG Murali Krishna is leading the initiative, aiming to provide students with hands-on experience and practical knowledge to bridge the gap between academia and industry. As part of this effort, the university is incorporating international student and faculty exchange programmes, practical learning, and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

He, along with a JNTUK delegation, recently

visited Hyderabad's prominent innovation hubs, T-Hub and T-Works, to gain insights on how the university can address the skill gap. Following the visit, the university is planning to set up incubation centres in its affiliated colleges



to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship. Krishna said, "Our students need real-world exposure, not just textbooks. We are planning a student exchange programme across all 160 affiliated colleges to provide this."

T-Hub also suggested launching

mentorship programmes that would connect students with industry experts, giving them the practical guidance they often lack in traditional academic settings. They proposed integrating entrepreneurship courses into the core curriculum and organising innovation challenges to encourage creative problem-solving.

Inspired by T-Works, JNTUK also plans to set up mini prototyping labs across its main campus and affiliated colleges to offer students hands-on experience in product development. The university is also working to establish partnerships with local industries to enable knowledge exchange and resource sharing, ensuring students have direct exposure to real-world projects. "By adopting these practices, we can bridge the skill gap and prepare our students for tomorrow's challenges. We are not just tackling today's issues, we are building a future-ready workforce," V-C Murali Krishna added.

Cool Lip: High Court tells Tamil Nadu, central governments to launch probe

The court was hearing a bail petition filed by Aunestraj, arrested by the Kadayam police in Tenkasi district on August 25.

MADURAI: Taking serious note of the fact that school students are getting addicted to the banned tobacco product 'Cool Lip', the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court said that even as the state government has taken due care to ban such products, they are being manufactured and sold in other states. The court impleaded the authorities of the state and union governments to inquire into the matter in detail. The court was hearing a bail petition filed by Aunestraj, arrested by the Kadayam police in Tenkasi district on August 25. The petitioner had 27 packets of 'Cool Lip'. The



allegation against the petitioner is that he purchased the product from other states and smuggled it into the state. The court said that only after a detailed inquiry, the question of granting bail to such inter-state sellers can be determined. Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy took cognizance of the issue and said the

court has been witnessing large-scale seizures of 'Cool Lip' products and video footage show school students using the product behaving indifferently in classrooms and also engaging in acts of violence. Repeated incidents were brought to the notice of the court that the students were misbehaving and sitting in dazed conditions in classrooms. The teachers are finding it extremely difficult to handle such situations, and the parents of these students are also unaware of the same.

While tobacco itself is unsafe, such products will act as a gateway for the students to fall prey to other

narcotic substances once they become addicted to nicotine, the court observed. Further, the judge stated that despite best efforts by the state police and food safety officials, huge quantities of 'Cool Lip' are being smuggled into the state.

Observing that the matter has to be inquired in detail, the court suo motu impleaded the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the secretary of the school education department and the commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration as respondents in the case. Considering that the petitioner has been in judicial custody since August 25, the court granted interim bail.

Poor wages leave Kerala's handloom industry in disarray

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: For Things are looking bleak for traditional weavers and societies this Onam. "Last year, we generated around Rs 12 lakh during Onam. This year, we could raise just Rs 8 lakh so far," said an office-bearer of the society. There are also fewer working days. "We depend on the National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd to procure yarn at subsidised rates. There is often a supply delay, which reduces the



number of working days. We also have to make payments in advance, which is impossible for many societies," said the office-bearer. Of 520 societies registered in Kerala, just 300 are operational. Weavers' strength has also dwindled from 1.2 lakh in early 2000s. As per the data with the Directorate of Handloom and Textiles (DHT), just 25,000 traditional weavers are working under registered societies now. The annual turnover has dropped too. "In 2017, the industry registered an annual turnover of around Rs 400 crore. Last year, it was less than Rs 100 crore. Without government support, it is hard for the industry to sustain itself as there is tight competition from the powerloom industry," said a DHT official.

Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kannur are the three main hubs of traditional handloom in Kerala.

Onam market bleak

Appointments to panels: CM's bid to maintain grip over Congress

HYDERABAD: The appointment of chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committee, Public Undertakings Committee and Estimates Committee has a valid rationale behind it. The development is being perceived as part of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's strategy to retain total control over the party as well as to ensure inclusion of his people into the Cabinet, whenever it happens. With the appointment of BRS turncoat MLA Arekapudi Gandhi as the chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the assertion that he is a BRS MLA, since tradition dictates that the post should go to a member from the Opposition party, it has become clear that the legislators who had migrated from the BRS might not be accommodated in the Cabinet.

The appointment of N Padmavathi Reddy, wife of Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, as Estimates Committee chairperson is also intended to settle the chances of Munugode MLA K Rajagopal



Reddy getting into his Cabinet as Padmavathi is also from Nalgonda district. Rajagopal Reddy's brother Venkat Reddy from Nalgonda district is already in the Cabinet. The appointment of Shadnagar MLA Veerlapally Shankar as Public Undertakings Committee chairman has triggered speculation that a BC from the Mudiraj community might be inducted into the Cabinet.

Coveted posts Meanwhile, the race to corner the TPCC vice-president posts has become hot after MLC B Mahesh Kumar Goud was made its president. Revanth Reddy is also strategically handling the appointments to party working president posts so that there would not be much competition when the time comes for expansion of the Cabinet. According to party sources, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is trying to secure a working president's post. As he is a confidant of Revanth, chances of him obtaining the post are high.

Former Kalwakurthy MLA Ch Vamshi Chand Reddy is also trying his luck in landing a working president's post. He has served as president of NSUI and Youth Congress in the undivided Andhra Pradesh. Sources said ministers including Uttam Kumar Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka and others are also pushing his name for the post.

Another week needed to count damaged trees

MULUGU: An 185-member team of Forest department staff is collecting details of the trees damaged in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary in Mulugu due to a freak weather incident on August 31. Since the catastrophe that flattened thousands some estimates put the figure at around one lakh of trees, including some rare varieties, the forest staff has been busy trying to enumerate the extent of damage and possibly find the reason.

The forest department is collecting details of the uprooted trees using drones, from Medaram to Pasara and Medaram to Tadvai in the forest area of Tadvai mandal in the district.

Mulugu District Forest Officer Rahul Jadhav Yadav told TNIE: "We have deployed forest staff from the nine ranges in Mulugu. The staff are collecting details of the damaged trees and marking each trunk with paint. It will take seven to eight days to complete the enumeration and only then we would know the exact number of trees that have been damaged in the sanctuary." He said that the Central team visited the Forest department office in Hyderabad and collected details from the higher officials. The officials gave a presentation on the damage to the trees in Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary. "After their inquiry, we got to know the reason for the freak weather incident. As per directions of higher officials, the entire staff is working on a war footing to identify the damaged trees, measuring them and marking them with paint," said Yadav.

ADGP-RSS meet: CPM not to bow to pressure from allies

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The CPM has decided not to bow to the pressure exerted by front partners in the ADGP-RSS meeting row. The party leadership will uphold the stance taken by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan which was explained in Wednesday's LDF meeting. The CPM hardened its stand in the wake of public statements made by CPI and RJD leaders even after the issue was settled at the LDF meeting. The CPM is also closely watching the open invitation extended to the CPI by the UDF.

The CPM leadership is of the view that the public statements made by the CPI leaders were inappropriate and against the norms of front courtesy. "In the LDF meeting the CM had explained in length about the issue and the investigation being conducted by the DGP," a CPM leader told TNIE. "A government cannot take action against a senior civil servant based on an allegation. The allegation has to be proved first. A high-level inquiry is going on into the issue and a report will be submitted within a month. The CM has requested the leaders to wait for the report. We think there is an orchestrated move to defame the government and the LDF and to portray it as anti-Muslim," he said. The CPI continued its open pressure on the CM and CPM on Thursday with state secretary Binoy Viswam and veteran leader K E Ismail pressing for action. Speaking to the media Binoy Viswam said that there is no change in the stand taken by the CPI on the issue. "There is no change in the stand of the CPI. The issue is why the ADGP met RSS leaders. CPI will not back away from its position," he said. Veteran leader K E Ismail also demanded that Ajith Kumar should be removed from the post of ADGP as an investigation is on against him. "If he continues in the post, what is the relevance of the investigation? There is a common perception among the public that he had a role in disrupting the Thrissur Pooram. No one can view the meeting between the ADGP and RSS leaders as a silly matter," he said. There is also growing discontent in the CPM leadership against the role played by the CPI in keeping the issue live. CPM is also of the view that CPI has fallen into the trap laid by the Congress.

The all-out attack on the CM had brought together the sections within the CPM that previously held the position that that the ADGP should be removed. The CPM leadership has convinced the leaders about the alleged attempt to destabilise the LDF government. CPM is closely watching the developments within the front and outside. "We will not bow down to any pressure- outside or inside. It is very clear. The CPI leaders' open statements are against the understanding reached at the last LDF meeting. After hearing the views of various parties, the CM had categorically stated what the government intends to do.

J&K leaders must have an ear to the ground

KASHMIR is crisscrossing multiple fault lines ahead of the three-phase Assembly polls scheduled to begin on September 18. Most of these lines have been created by the traditional regional parties that are unable to explain why they are fighting as rivals when their manifestoes focus on two key promises — restoration of Article 370 and reclaiming the identity and dignity for the masses.

Both the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) claim to be anchors of Kashmir's aspirations but have accused each other of wrecking the prospects of unity of thought and purpose in the most critical elections in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The results of these elections will redefine J&K's place and claim to statehood, the biggest concern among its people. There are expectations that the polls will see the highest voter turnout ever. That is what makes the whole thing unpredictable. High voter participation will come with multiple claims and aspirations that have not been analysed so far. Nor can that be done until the votes are counted on October 8. The parties are also nervous, because it is difficult for them to decipher the trend. They know it through their recent experience during the Lok Sabha elections, in which both Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti lost to their rivals.

This time, the Assembly elections — a manifestation of the impatience of the people accumulated over the last 10 years (with greater intensity since the abrogation of Article 370) — rest on two basic factors. One, Kashmir has rediscovered normalcy, and the residents want it to pass through this transitory stage and arrive at long-term peace. The thrust is on peace with the recognition of their claims to jobs and no compromise on their land rights. This, in translation, means the restoration of the provisions of Article 35A, which was also scrapped along with Article 370 on August 5, 2019. They are willing to adapt to the idea of India on their own, and not through imposed narratives or optics. The NC, after having declared that it would go solo, took a U-turn and entered into a pre-poll alliance with the Congress, conveniently forgetting the bitter experiences of past partnerships. The ghost of the alliance not passing the test of transferring votes to each other has already emerged, with former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief and party candidate from Banihal, Vikar Rasool Wani, hurling invectives at the NC and its leadership, causing embarrassment to Rahul Gandhi, who had campaigned for him on September 4. Rahul had promised a victory for the alliance and a defeat for the BJP, but Wani was bent on rocking the boat. It was an alliance of compulsions for both parties. The NC wanted to silence a whispering campaign that it had a secret pact with the BJP. It chose to ally with the 'secular' Congress. Rahul wanted to showcase himself as the leader of the INDIA bloc and got the NC to his side. The idea of a friendly contest on five seats in itself is self-defeating, though.

The NC's manifesto, which is similar to that of the PDP, People's Conference and even the Awami Ittehad Party of Engineer Rashid, has landed the Congress in a catch-22 situation. It can neither support the demand for the restoration of Article 370 because of the nation's mood overwhelmingly favouring its abrogation, nor can it oppose it because that will undermine the NC's position in Kashmir. And the BJP will play it as an endorsement of its policies vis-à-vis J&K. Home Minister Amit Shah was quick to ask Rahul to say 'yes or no' to the NC's foremost agenda. For the Congress, ambiguity is the best shield. The BJP is striking hard at it, making the grand old party look vulnerable in the Hindu-dominated Jammu region. The party is also sowing seeds of suspicion among the Kashmiri Muslims who want straight answers.

The dominance of Article 370 in the political discourse helps both sides stoke emotions — regional parties in Kashmir are invoking the loss that the masses have suffered because of the August 5, 2019, decisions — it is not just that the symbolism of a separate flag and

Recalibrate strategy to protect railway network from sabotage

Like his counterparts in UP and MP, Sarma has been allowing the use of bulldozers as a retaliatory measure.

THE Central Government said on September 10 that 18 incidents of sabotage of railway infrastructure had occurred since August 1 this year; a total of 24 incidents had happened in the past two years. On September 8, an LPG cylinder was found on a railway track near Kanpur. A fortnight ago, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had expressed concern over recent train derailments and said that a "disturbing trend is being seen". As a result of this, the Railways and other agencies are investigating multiple attempts to derail trains. Terrorist involvement in the matter is also being looked into.

This spate of incidents to sabotage the railway network in India is not a new phenomenon. As per a press release of the Ministry of Railways, the Railways decided to undertake patrolling of tracks in the sections considered sabotage-prone, keeping in view the safety of passengers, in September 2003. Why target the Railways? Over the years, the establishment has focused largely on the security of the aviation sector and so the surface transport infrastructure has not received due emphasis. Terrorists are known for their ability and desire to innovate, both in terms of technology and tactics so as to be a step ahead of the security agencies to successfully carry out attacks. The railway network has always been a favourable target of terrorists due to its expanse, the high number of people who utilise it, as well as the vital logistics services it provides to the nation. The Railways is also expanding and this will likely result in it becoming increasingly vulnerable to attacks. The disruptive potential of such attacks can be gauged from the targeting of France's high-speed train lines that were targeted by 'malicious' acts, including arson and 'coordinated sabotage' to disrupt travel ahead of the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

While fragmented efforts have been initiated to enhance the safety and security of passengers and goods, a harmonised, coordinated and collaborative response by all stakeholders is required to prevent such attacks and reduce the vulnerability of rail infrastructure. The plan should also include measures to enhance our capability to minimise the damage and restore services promptly whenever such attacks occur. The first step is to understand the motives of the perpetrators. In Ajmer, Rajasthan, two cement blocks weighing 70 kg each were placed on the rail track. Despite hitting the cement blocks, the train was able to continue its journey without any damage. These are apparently attempts to derail trains with the aim of causing fatalities and destroying railway property. It seems that these attacks were carried out by rookies rather than by well-trained terrorists. These acts may have been executed by criminal elements; the terrorist-criminal nexus has existed since the advent of terrorism. More importantly, the execution



of such attacks has been outsourced to criminals who are acting like overground workers of terrorist organisations. As time passes, they can enhance the survivability and relevance of the terrorists to create an atmosphere of lawlessness and insecurity. Therefore, it is imperative to classify these intentional attempts to derail passenger and goods trains as terrorist acts and not sabotage by criminal elements.

Secondly, while the train operations are under the control of the Ministry of Railways, the guarding of tracks and bridges against miscreant activity is the statutory responsibility of the state governments concerned. The Railways also has the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police under it. In such a situation, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has to step in to assume the role of coordinating and 'de-conflicting' roles of various agencies and stakeholders. The MHA should order a review of the security of railway infrastructure, risk and threat assessment to prioritise vulnerabilities and gaps in the security architecture to prevent and deter both physical and cyberattacks. These risk-based plans should be tailor-made for specific areas, including measures to enhance information-sharing, protection and leveraging technology to improve rail security. The Railways will need to focus on training employees, improving technology, infrastructure and coordinating with law enforcement agencies, industry,

state, local and community officials, emergency responders and Central agencies to foster collaboration and integrate resources for enhanced deterrence and response capabilities. Measures like surveillance through CCTV cameras, drone monitoring, patrolling and regular track inspections will have to be dovetailed in the plans to prevent such incidents. In high-threat areas, it would be advisable to have pilot engines clear the lines ahead of the passenger trains.

The Railways will also need to evolve a system of public participation in ensuring security of the infrastructure. For this, it could look at the US system developed in 2010, called the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative throughout the entire rail system. This was a significant step toward enhancing the security of the national transportation infrastructure in partnership with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and report suspicious incidents or activity and share that information nationally so that it can be analysed in real time. One of the critical challenges will be to implement security measures to safeguard our rail system from terror attacks without compromising the accessibility and efficiency of train travel. In fact, the MHA should go beyond the railways and progressively prepare and implement a national infrastructure and key assets protection plan to remain ahead of the terrorists before they target other sectors

Puja curbs & trade ban

Dhaka's actions could strain ties with Delhi

BANGLADESH's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, has issued a directive mandating Hindu Puja committees to stop using musical instruments and sound systems five minutes before and during the Islamic azaan and namaz as the country prepares for Durga Puja. This move, ostensibly aimed at maintaining religious harmony, has the shades of a 'Talibani' order targeting the country's beleaguered minority Hindu population. It is a disproportionate imposition on an already vulnerable community in the garb of ensuring law and order during the largest Hindu festival of the region. The curbs may not only deepen the divide between the communities in Bangladesh, but they can also strain the country's relations with India. The timing is particularly sensitive, given the political situation following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as the PM. Dhaka's decision to ban the export of Padma hilsa — a beloved fish staple during puja festivities in West Bengal



— to India could also escalate tensions. This ban is a reversal of the goodwill established by previous governments through 'hilsa diplomacy'. The symbolic

exchange of fish had become a bilateral gesture of friendship. While these developments have not yet triggered an official diplomatic response from India, they raise concerns over religious and trade policies under Bangladesh's interim government. In this context, Yunus' statement on Wednesday that his country seeks strong ties with India based on fairness and equality contradicts his government's policies. Though the appeal highlights his government's intent on fostering regional cooperation and mutual respect, it is on an opposite trajectory, thus risking alienating India. The religious restrictions, along with the trade ban, could undermine the historic bond between the two countries. If Bangladesh seeks to maintain peaceful and fruitful relations with India, religious inclusivity and balanced diplomacy must guide its actions moving forward.

Riding roughshod over rules and laws

TRYSTS AND TURNS: Supreme Court has rightly taken a serious note of cow vigilantism and 'bulldozer justice'

COW vigilantes chased a car-borne youth on a national highway in Haryana for around 25 km, caught up with him and shot him dead. He happened to be Aryan Mishra, a forward-caste Hindu who obviously sensed that he was being followed but did not know why. He must have thought that the miscreants were robbers, and his first reaction would be to drive fast and escape. The vigilantes fired four bullets, two of which hit their target. When the victim's identity was established, the cow enthusiasts, whose sole interest is to punish Muslim butchers, beef-eaters and traders, were left with egg on their faces. The core of the BJP's support base before 2014 came essentially from the forward castes. This case of 'mistaken identity' could turn many of the faithful against the vigilantes, if not against the party that spawned them. Vigilantism is a double-edged weapon. It can frighten potential victims, but it can also turn these unofficially empowered 'policemen' into criminals! A parallel example can be found in the police establishment itself where the emergence of 'encounter specialists' has led to crimes being committed by men in uniform.

It is much more difficult to check criminals in uniform than it is to counter the underworld. An honest and determined police officer, respected by his own men and the public at large, can tame the gangsters. But 'encounter specialists', whose birth is the result of the failure of the criminal justice system, are decidedly more difficult to control. 'Encounter specialists' are drawn from the ranks of subordinate officers imbued with courage, initiative and a flair for leadership. They are accepted by the public as they dispense fast-track justice by assuming the roles of investigator, prosecutor and judge, all rolled into one. Public support translates into political support, and when the political establishment adopts them as the party's

saviours, it is well-nigh impossible for even enlightened police leaders to discourage them.

An identical principle applies to the cow vigilantes. They become a law unto themselves till a disaster like the 'mistaken identity' case occurs. Members of the Bajrang Dal are inducted into these vigilante groups as that is the most convenient source of recruitment for jobs that involve the use of muscle.

The Supreme Court recently took cognisance of this dangerous phenomenon. Poor Muslims, for whom the only source of protein is buffalo meat, are being serially subjected to vigilantism. The vigilantes barge into houses or stop vehicles if they suspect that beef is being stored or transported for sale or consumption. In states like Haryana, the police either close their eyes to these activities or support and encourage them. Lumpen elements find a very exciting occupation in these vigilante enterprises, like in the case of rape-murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata. The suspect was employed unofficially as a civilian volunteer and given free rein in the hospital. He even had access to the local police station and often used police motorcycles to go to work. In the examples quoted above, one factor is common. They have the sanction of those in power.

Besides fake encounters and cow vigilantism, the apex court recently took a serious note of 'bulldozer justice'. Most municipalities keep bulldozers to demolish constructions built without official permission. Most municipal officers desist from using bulldozers for the purpose for which they were purchased. Illegal constructions are a dime a dozen in my city, Mumbai, but bulldozers have not been used to punish criminals to the extent that CM Yogi Adityanath has done in Uttar Pradesh. When the

agitation against the Agnipath recruitment reached a crescendo in Uttar Pradesh and public buses and other government property were destroyed in many cities of the state, Yogi did not order bulldozers to respond. He reserved that usage to deal with crimes, even petty ones, committed by Muslims. He forgets that the Constitution makes no differentiation on the basis of the creed, caste or economic status of the



law-breakers. But in UP, Muslim boys falling in love with Hindu girls can expect the bulldozer at their doorstep. Talking about 'love jihad', my Christian Communion, the Roman Catholic, used to refuse to solemnise marriages of Catholics with non-Catholics (including with Protestants, who are Christians)

unless the non-Catholic partner converted to Roman Catholicism. That rule has been abandoned for the past six decades or more. And rightly so.

Islam, which is also an Abrahamic religion like Christianity, has not yet relented on this rule. If nikah has to be performed, the non-Muslim partner has to convert to Islam. If the parties to the marriage decide on a registered marriage, like the more educated and affluent do, the question of conversion does not arise. In that case, only 'love' remains — the jihad goes. The accusation of a Muslim boy going out of his way to find a Hindu or Christian girl with the sole intention of augmenting the number of the faithful is ridiculous and outrageous. In a multi-religious and multi-caste society, as exists in all states of the Union, a few inter-religious or inter-caste marriages are bound to happen. Some young people of different religions or castes are going to be attracted to each other. It is time to accept that fact and bury 'love jihad', and dispense with laws to prevent or punish such marriages that Uttarakhand and some other BJP-ruled states have enacted or are in the process of enacting.

In my immediate family and also in the families of some friends who have experienced inter-religious union, there has not been a single instance of conversion. The phenomenon affects the poorer sections of society, which are surprisingly more conservative in such matters. It is surprising that accusations of 'love jihad' are made only in their cases. Perhaps the solution lies in ensuring better standards of living for all, which is what our Prime Minister has promised, but that is not going to happen anytime soon.



Things to Consider before quitting Your job

According to a recent study by LinkedIn, Indians are more proactive at job search and job switch on a regular basis. For Gen Z, a higher salary is the biggest draw. Getting a job and holding on to it is no longer a matter of pride; job hopping is no longer considered frivolous but as an opportunity to learn and climb the corporate ladder faster. Often, employees do not seem to think that an opportunity similar to the one they are seeking outside can exist in the company they are currently employed with. To avoid this, firms should encourage employees to be more open about their professional aspirations. Even in the digital age, there needs to be more focus on increased face time, which

would make everything else fall in place as the employees will be well-informed.

Here are a few perks you can miss out on when you plan to quit your current job for another opportunity:

TRAINING SESSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Before you make a switch, you need to think if the new company offers you training that is more like spoon feeding aimed at only skilling you enough to go by a checklist or does it have a learning centric environment that allows you to grow as a professional and add life

IT startups to gain from IIT placements

In its bid to promote entrepreneurship in the National Capital Region, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell will be conducting a placement programme for students across disciplines, a move touted as the first such in India.

EDC-IIT Delhi has brought on board some of the country's top startups, a list that includes, News Corp-backed real estate portal PropTiger, TouchTalent, an online marketplace for creative talent, and video-based platform Frankly.me, which could potentially hire close to 300 students during course of the job fair, scheduled to be held later this month at IIT campus.

"Startups are always on the lookout for talent, and this event also helps in fostering the entrepreneurial environment in the Delhi-NCR region," said Navratn

Singh, director of the IIT Delhi cell.

The placement programme could see engineering students from Delhi College of Engineering, often preferred pick of startups looking to build further on technology platforms, duking it out with the best Delhi University has to offer, including students from high-profile colleges, such as Sri Ram College of Commerce, Lady Shri Ram College and Hansraj College.

"This isn't just for engineering students, or those with a tech background. It's for everybody who's looking to join startups in India," pointed out Ravish Ratnam, president, EDC-IIT Delhi. Additionally, SAIF Partners, Accel Partners and Matrix Partners -have signed up to participate in the programme.



skills that can transferred in any type of setting.

COMPANY CULTURE

Take a moment to think whether you feel disconnected to the company's culture. If you feel engaged in the work that you do and the space you are in and think highly of your peer group, do you really want to move? Given how much time you spend with your peers, good relationships at the workplace can boost your morale. Once you are in a comfortable zone with your peers, you are definitely more productive.

Changing to adapt to a culture and engage with a new workforce that you don't feel at ease with could lead to a difficult transition. Shift gears only if you are ready.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OFFICE SPACE

This may seem trivial but note how it makes a difference to your day-to-day work and productivity. A healthy workspace layout and well ness initiatives offered on the job will keep you fit and productive for the long-term.

DOES YOUR COMPANY TRUST YOU?

Think about the level of empowerment you have at your level. Do you feel confident in your independence to get things done and do you feel trusted by your seniors and team mates? An organisation that enables you to step up and interact with the leaders is an indication of the trust it places in you: How valuable are you to the company and does it appreciate and recognise that? Think over it before you take a leap.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Pay attention to the performance management system of the organisation. Most follow a model that is based on the

A higher salary should not be your only consideration while moving jobs. you need to carefully evaluate the perks your current job offers before deciding to finally make the switch.

principle of forced rankings.

This means your success will depend on how good or bad your peers on the project are. Firms that have performance review processes that are anchored in ongoing feedback and truly measure your impact and potential through a competency model are a better way of gauging your growth.

The competency model of your firm must allow for your growth through learning opportunities.

How to get Acquired

Bala Parthasarathy, managing partner at seed-stage fund AngelPrime, an early investor in ZipDial, writes about the 7 things they learned from Twitter's acquisition of the Bengaluru-based venture



Fortune favours the survivors -- The first rule in business is to survive. The longer you are around, the higher are your chances of being acquired or good things happening to you. Valerie Wagoner and Amiya Pathak (ZipDial founders) stuck it out through thick and thin. If they had folded their cards at the first hiccup, they would not have made history. Set your horizons for at least seven years. In the case of ZipDial, it happened to them in Year 5. If you want to start something and flip it in two years, you better be extremely lucky!

Traction, not just technology -- Amiya (Pathak) built an amazingly scalable architecture that wowed Twitter. But unlike most technology companies I see, they had 60 million users, a strong sales team, growing revenues and ubiquitous presence. These must have been compelling factors when someone inside Twitter did a build-versus-buy decision.

Armchair matchmaking never works -- At AngelPrime, I hear entrepreneurs telling me why Facebook or Google or some other company would acquire them because of this-that-or-the-other. It never works that way. Based on my own experience in selling Snapfish and being the acquirer of startups, most large companies operate like independent fiefdoms ruled by fiercely protective leaders whose idea of what is best for them and what is

best for the overall company are typically at odds. It is these leaders, not the M&A team, that makes buying decisions, especially in technology.

Sow the seeds and be patient -- You should cultivate a business relationship with the potential acquirer that makes business sense for you and the company. Specifically, you should engage with one or more teams for which your technology or product would be interesting. Think business first, not acquisition first. And focus on why partnering with you helps them. In the process, get to understand the company's internal goals, the people and culture. ZipDial had a two-year business relationship with Twitter where they had worked together on various campaigns, including Bollywood and Indian elections.

People, not companies -- People, not companies, do deals. Valley companies are generally very insular and rarely do deals outside Bay Area, let alone India (Israel is an exception to the rule). They first need to build a relationship with you as a person before they see the value in your technology and business. The ZipDial team had solid relationships at multiple levels with different teams at Twitter, long before the deal was conceived. Luckily, there are plenty of people who can help you connect, if you're not the networking

type. iSpirt M&A Connect is a very well designed programme which can formally help you forge relationships with many Valley companies.

Date many, marry one -- Though there might be one perfect company for you in the end, you should engage with multiple companies. And when I say engage, I mean build a business relationship.

There are so many rational and irrational factors that go into an acquisition decision from the acquirer's end that you'll never know about and thinking that THE ONE will eventually scoop you up, is foolish. Plus, your chances of being acquired are much higher when multiple companies court you. ZipDial had plenty of other business relationships, each of which could have been THE ONE.

Don't sell, be bought -- This cliché is certainly obvious to anyone who has ever bargained in a bazaar. If you're desperately looking to be sold, your chances of being acquired are very, very low. And even if you do get acquired, the price will be pathetic.

Indeed, the best way to be acquired is to go around building a solid business with traction, being patient and cultivating the relationships. And then, let the Gods of Luck play their role!

How Pacific Cyclone Yagi might bring another wet spell in Delhi next week

The remnants of Cyclone Yagi, originating in the Pacific, are expected to intensify into a depression within 48 hours, prompting alerts for East India, particularly Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Meanwhile, Delhi is set for drier weather with a potential wet spell.

► **Cyclone Yagi remnants may intensify next week**
► **Meteorological alert for East India particularly Bengal, Jharkhand, northern Odisha**
► **Delhi weather to stabilise soon**

New Delhi. The recent weather activity over North India has seen significant shifts. The depression that was previously active in the region has now dissipated, bringing a temporary respite from the wet conditions. However, the remnants of Cyclone Yagi are indicating resurgence, potentially intensifying into a new depression within the next 48 hours. This development prompts a meteorological alert for East India, particularly Bengal, Jharkhand, and northern Odisha, as significant convection and rainfall are expected to escalate.

How Cyclone Yagi, a Pacific cyclone, reached India

Originating in the northwest Pacific Ocean, Yagi, also known as Typhoon Yagi, transitioned into a cyclone with increasing force as it entered

the Bay of Bengal. The Bay of Bengal's warm waters are a perfect breeding ground for cyclones, providing the necessary energy to intensify such systems. Cyclone Yagi followed a well-observed course, starting as a low-pressure area over the western Pacific, gradually gaining strength and structure before being classified as a tropical storm. As it traversed over the Philippines Sea, it picked up momentum and headed towards the Bay of Bengal, where it drew further strength from the warm sea surface temperatures. What will be situation of rain in Delhi After rains for the last few days in Delhi and nearby areas, the weather over



Delhi and North India is set to stabilise, with dry air intruding at middle atmospheric levels, making the region largely unsaturated. While isolated rainfall may occur today, the weather is expected to turn dry and clear starting tomorrow, continuing through to September 16-17. Model forecasts present three possible scenarios for the incoming

depression, which is strong organisation and substantial progresses westward: 1. Dissipate over Madhya Pradesh: The depression could lose strength and dissipate upon reaching MP. 2. Recurvature towards Delhi: There's a possibility the system might turn towards Delhi, potentially bringing another wet spell from September 17-20. 3. Move towards South Rajasthan: Alternatively, the depression might track southward towards Rajasthan, continuing its westward journey. The uncertain pathway is largely due to the intrusion of dry air, which could weaken the system's intensity.

Which parts will be affected by Cyclone Yagi

Cyclone Yagi's remnants exhibit strong organisation and substantial convection, leading experts to predict the possibility of this system intensifying into a depression or even a deep depression. Accordingly, a 72-hour alert has been issued for the West Bengal, Jharkhand, North Odisha, and parts of Bihar, in anticipation of heavy rainfall and associated risks. On a related note, Asia's most powerful typhoon this year, Yagi brought gales and heavy rain in Vietnam, killing 152 people. Thousands of people living near the swollen Red River were evacuated. River as its waters flooded streets. The typhoon and subsequent landslides and floods have killed 152 people while 140 were missing, the government estimated.

Is Lesbianism a Sexual Offense? NMC's New Medical Curriculum Sparks Outrage

New Delhi. The National Medical Commission has reintroduced 'sodomy and lesbianism' as unnatural sexual offences in the forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for undergraduate medical students. It has also brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance besides defining virginity and defloration, legitimacy and its medico-legal importance.

The revised curriculum under forensic medicine and toxicology also includes "Describe legal competencies including Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)" besides "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Civil and Criminal Cases, Inquest (Police Inquest and Magistrate's Inquest), cognisable and Non-cognisable offences". It talks about discussing sexual perversions, fetishism, transvestism, voyeurism, sadism, necrophilia, masochism, exhibitionism, frotteurism, and necrophilia. However, distinctions between consensual sex between queer individuals have been removed, a source said.

The amended curriculum has done away with the seven-hour training on disability. At the end of teaching-learning in forensic medicine and toxicology, the student should be able to understand the medico-legal framework of medical practice, codes of conduct, medical ethics, professional misconduct and medical negligence, conducting medico-legal examination and documentation of various medico-legal cases and understand latest Acts and laws related to medical professional including related court judgements, the NMC said in its document. "It was time to have a relook at all aspects of the various components in the existing regulations and guidelines, and adapt them to the changing demography, socio-economic context, perceptions, values, advancements in medical education and expectations.

India successfully conducts first phase field trials of light tank in key step

New Delhi: Indian officials announced on Friday the successful completion of the first phase of field firing trials for an Indian Light Tank, a versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with industry partner Larsen & Toubro, the tank demonstrated "exceptional" performance, efficiently meeting all intended objectives, according to the Defence Ministry. "After producing the first prototype, it underwent preliminary automotive trials in-house. The field trials have successfully met the intended objectives in desert terrain. During the first phase of



field trials, the firing performance of the Light Tank was evaluated, and the tank demonstrated the required accuracy on the intended targets," the Army said in a statement.

The development of this Indian Light Tank strengthens indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities within the country, officials also noted. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO, the Indian Army, and the associated industries for the successful trials of the Indian Light Tank, calling it an "important step towards achieving self-reliance in critical defence systems and technologies". The Indian Army plans to deploy over 350 light tanks, primarily in mountainous border areas, to counter the increased military presence of China along the border.

Stones Thrown At Vande Bharat, Windows Broken Days Before Flagging Off

New Delhi: Five people have been arrested for allegedly throwing stones at the Vande Bharat Express train during its trial run in Chhattisgarh, officials said today. The train, scheduled to run from Chhattisgarh's Durg to Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam, was set to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. The stones were pelted on the Vande Bharat train at the Bagbahara railway station while it was returning from Visakhapatnam Friday morning, officials said. No injuries were reported but the multi-layered windows of three coaches of the train were

damaged. The accused, identified as Shiv Kumar Baghel, Devendra Kumar, Jeetu

the train, C2-10, C4-1, C9-78, officials said. A case has been filed against the accused -- residents of Bagbahara -- under the Railways Act, 1989. Besides Durg to Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat train, PM Modi is scheduled to flag off India's first Vande Metro from Gujarat's Bhuj to Ahmedabad and the first 20-coach Vande Bharat train from Varanasi to Delhi on Monday.

He will also launch Vande Bharat trains on the following routes - Tatanagar to Patna, Nagpur to Secunderabad, Kolhapur to Pune, Agra Cantt to Banaras, and Pune to Hubballi.



Pandey, Sonwani, and Arjun Yadav, broke the windows of three coaches of

Gang Rivalry, Torture, Web Of Conspiracy: Why Delhi Gym Owner Was Killed

New Delhi: The gym owner who was shot dead in South Delhi's upscale Greater Kailash area on Thursday night had come in the crosshairs of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang because he had asked his business partner not to pay ? 5 crore that the outfit had tried to extort from him, sources have told NDTV. Nadir Shah, who is of Afghan origin, was allegedly also friends with two South Delhi gangsters. This friendship was used by the Bishnoi gang to tap the enemies of the gangsters, who, in turn, roped in people who had been threatened by Shah earlier, building a complex web before finally carrying out the murder. Shah was shot dead on a busy road in Greater Kailash-1. A video of the shooting showed him standing and talking to one of his associates near some parked cars when a man in a checked shirt walked up to them and



began firing. Shah's associate managed to duck but the gym owner was shot six to eight times and was declared dead at a hospital.

While the shooter is on the run, four people have been arrested so far and their interrogation and the police's investigation have revealed that Shah was a business partner of a man called Kunal Chhabra, who runs several illegal call centres in Delhi. Some time ago, members of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang had tried to extort ? 5 crore from

Chhabra, but Shah had told him not to pay, saying he would protect him because he had friends in high places. Sources said this made Shah a target for the Bishnoi gang and he also spoke to Lawrence Bishnoi to negotiate a settlement, but was turned down. Around this time, Bishnoi was taken into police custody and allegedly tortured and he held Shah responsible for that. He allegedly declared in front of police officials that he would now take not five but ? 10 crore from Shah and Chhabra.

Spinning The Web Shah was friends with South Delhi gangsters Ravi Gangwal and Rohit Chaudhary, who were enemies of Hashim Baba, a North East Delhi gangster. Sources said Rohit Godara, a key member of the Bishnoi gang - who has claimed responsibility for Shah's murder - used this enmity.

Bank employees die after SUV gets stuck in submerged Faridabad underpass

A police official stated that the victims were warned about the underpass being submerged due to heavy rain in Delhi-NCR. However, the two insisted on driving through it.

Delhi. Two people, a bank manager and a cashier died after their SUV got stuck in a submerged underpass in Old Faridabad around 11.30 on Friday night. The underpass got submerged due to heavy rain in several parts of Delhi-NCR. The victims worked in a Gurugram branch of HDFC Bank and were heading to Faridabad when the incident took place.



According to one of their colleagues, the cashier was going to drop the bank manager at Greater Faridabad's Omaxe City, where the latter resided on Friday evening. The colleague claimed that no barricades were present near the underpass, due to which the victims tried driving through it. However, their car got stuck due to the extent of rainwater, leading to their deaths. He said that the bank manager's wife contacted him for

help after she found her husband's phone switched off. Upon reaching the underpass, police informed them about the tragic death of two people. He added that the incident could've been avoided had the police placed barricades, informing citizens about the submersion of the underpass. However, a police official denied the colleague's claims that there was no barricading at the spot. He instead stated

that the police had warned them about taking the underpass, but the two insisted on going through it and removed the barricades. "There was police barricading and caution boards near the railway underpass. However, the two removed the barricades and insisted on going through the underpass. Water entered their vehicle after it got stuck and locked in the underpass, leading to their deaths. We'll get to know if the two were intoxicated only after the postmortem," said sub-inspector Rajesh. He appealed to the public to pay heed to police warnings and instructions.

The official also urged everyone to remain cautious and adhere to police warnings and traffic regulations. Notably, several parts of Delhi-NCR received heavy rainfall on Friday, following which an orange alert was issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The national capital, parts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are likely to witness heavy rain over the weekend.

To regain Dalit support, Maharashtra BJP to target Congress on reservation

Mumbai. The BJP suffered a massive setback in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, where they were accused of being 'anti-constitutional' and planning to change the Constitution. BJP leaders acknowledged that this was one of the key reasons for the backlash among Dalits and the backward classes. With just months left for the Assembly elections, the BJP is planning to counter this narrative by accusing Congress of pushing an "anti-reservation" agenda abroad, following Rahul Gandhi's remarks on reservations in the US. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, during his visit to the US, told students at Georgetown University that the Congress would consider scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place," which he said it is not right now. These comments were met with massive criticism from the BJP. In Maharashtra, his statements led to statewide protests by the BJP, with party leaders condemning his remarks. BJP's Mumbai president Ashish Shelar and MLC Pankaja Munde staged a protest at Dr Ambedkar's statue in Ghatkopar, considered a stronghold of Dalit voters in Mumbai.

Ashish Shelar accused Congress of having defeated Dr Ambedkar in an election and opposing an Adivasi candidate for the Presidential post. "This shows Congress's anti-minority mindset," Shelar further charged. Additionally, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde held a program at the same location to distribute rent cheques for alternative accommodations to eligible tenants and to kick off the long-pending slum redevelopment project in Ramabai Nagar. Meanwhile, the scars of the 1997 police firing, in which ten locals were killed following a protest by Dalit activists reacting to the desecration of a statue of Dr Ambedkar in Ramabai Nagar during the then Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government, are still fresh. As a result, the Dalit community drifted away from the alliance and voted Congress-NCP back to power in the 1999 Assembly elections. Considering the complexities of the caste equation in the current political sphere, the BJP is facing challenges in retaining the support of Dalits and minorities.

According to political expert Abhijit Brahmanathkar, opposition parties in the Lok Sabha elections subtly painted the BJP as 'anti-constitutional,' leading to significant losses for the BJP in SC and ST constituencies nationwide. "Now, the BJP sees a new opportunity in Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks on reservations, which have sparked allegations of Congress's 'anti-reservation' stance.

10 types of People who get better Jobs



Research says the following 10 types are most likely to be gainfully employed. Do you see yourself here?

The cheerleader:

What's a good sport without a happy bunch of cheerleaders? All work and no promotion, makes the company disappear in the market.

So your small law firm maybe known in the circles, but a little push from a marketing guru will make the world aware of your facilities, capabilities, which will result in acquiring more clients. The marketer works in tandem with the founder to position the company that suits his or her vision and build the brand. This personality type is highly assertive, understands urgency and is willing to gamble (even when the founder develops cold feet).

The multi-tasker:

So your company is tiny and everyone is a bit stretched. There are some who just can't handle the pressure, but there are few who can grin and bear it all, and can put their hands in several puddings all at once -be admin one day, and a creative executor the next.

These multi-taskers serve as real assets to smaller firms whose budgets are meagre and manpower a handful. Young entrepreneurs are constantly on the look out of talent that not only can juggle many roles, but also switch parts as and when required.

The obligator:

What's the difference between an accommodator and multi-tasker? The former is a 'willing personality', while the latter is just blessed to focus on too many things at the same time. But as an owner of a small business, you need an accommodator in your squad, too. Read: These personalities are not spineless 'yes minister' kinds, but understand when they need to up their game, and do whatever it takes to work with impossible demands and deadlines.

Reverse role player:

Small firms have a strong tendency and leaning to employ people who are like-minded, but HR officials reckon that a personality whose views and beliefs are opposite of that of the company would do the latter good and result in growth. He/she would bring in the perspective and insight that owners would fail to notice. Sometimes, they'll also serve as mock rivals, thus further enhancing the chances of success and productivity.



The decision maker:

When an entrepreneur has just started off in

the business, he/she is always a bit averse to taking big risks and making concrete decisions. They are constantly turning to people who can use their own judgment and give them sound advice. Remember, they need someone who is not afraid to pull the trigger in times of distress. If you're a firm decision maker, then you are just the person your boss needs by his/ her side.

The cautious player:

Likewise, if you're the kind of entrepreneur who has a tendency to run with his /her dreams, an employer who likes to play it carefully is always a good hand in the team. You need this type of personality as a counterbalance to risk takers.

They are risk-averse, but sometimes you need such people to bring in stability and caution you from getting too excited and taking on more than your resources can manage.

The planner:

A person skilled in drafting policies and planning the next action the company must take is a key member to have in the team. Many serve as efficient executors, but few as effective planners (who essentially run the ship). These are the guys who can identify long-term goals, have a vision for the future and can work on a calculated measure to get there.

The organiser:

It's one thing to be a good strategist, and another to pull it all together. The best ideas go for a toss if you do not have someone who is task-oriented to put them into action. So if you are a master at organising, then it's imperative to add that in your CV.

The analyst:

While the strategist and organiser have their own skill sets to execute the idea into action, it takes an observant kind -who has one eye firmly on the markets and another on the rivals -to help you weigh the pros and cons and work accordingly.

The helper:

If you have wetted your hands in the hospitality business, and are looking to make a switch, be sure you retain the 'service-oriented' trait in your next job, too. A person who has a willingness to help others always makes for a great team player.

They balance administrative qualities, understand urgency and have the patience to deal with finicky clients.

Seven myths about Work

Near-constant distractions have become the norm in workplaces around the world. Workers are struggling to get more done and focus harder with little understanding of what attention is or how to attain or manage it.



I will be more productive if I respond to e-mail during this phone call
We cannot consciously keep more than two things in our brain at one time. When we think we are multi-tasking, we are really switching our

Here are seven myths about managing your attention at work.

I can pay attention from the back of the room

Attention depends on how close we are to sensory stimuli. To create new ideas, we have to work in spaces where people can hear well, have eye contact with one another and can view shared documents and materials.

Sitting down all day will help me focus more

Static sitting sabotages our ability to concentrate, but movement stimulates production of the protein brain-derived neurotrophic factor, which helps brain areas vital to learning, memory and concept thinking. Take a walk or encourage your workplace to add a treadmill desk.

Drawing is only for creative types

People think in shapes, pictures and patterns, not in numbers and letters.

Using digital and analogue tools to visualise information can support better thinking and increase focus. Help your brain organise information by sketching out your ideas.

attention rapidly between things the more we do it, the worse we become at prioritising.

Create workspaces away from distractions to encourage focusing on one task at a time.

My brain is easily distracted and cannot change

Keeping your mind tuned in to the current moment can train the brain. The practice has proven to increase gamma activity in the brain, indicating intensely focused thought. Consider identifying a place for moments of mindfulness and peace.

If I work more hours, I will get more done

The brain's capacity is limited and complete focus isn't usually possible for longer than 45 minutes. Take breaks throughout the day.

I can sleep when I'm dead

Sleep plays an important role in our ability to focus and hold attention. When we are sleep-deprived, our ability to learn and focus decreases. Consider adding nap rooms or short breaks to rejuvenate and refresh the brain.

Letting your employees review you can lead to personal and professional growth of the team, and you.

The dictionary meaning of the word review stands for a "formal assessment of something with the intention of instituting change if necessary". A review is typically on performance related parameters, on goals and objectives that an individual is committed to. And since the reporting manager's performance is most often a derivative cumulative impact of the performance of the team, the lack of timely and quality reviews of the team can lead to under-performance or nonperformance with its own consequence management.

Organisationally, we are far away from team members 'reviewing' their managers. Before we even reach an organisational development stage of an employee 'reviewing' a reporting manager's performance, there are a few hurdles to be crossed: a) Willingness of the 'boss' to receive feedback and do something constructive about it; b) 'Dare' in the employee to give feedback without fear of any consequence whatsoever; c) Acceptance on the part of the reporting manager that he may be and ideally should be having people in his team.

Structured interventions:

FORMAL APPRAISAL PROCESSES

In the mid-year and annual appraisal process, the management generally has two questions that the reviewee is expected to first fill online and then discuss in the face-to-face meeting with the reporting manager. First, two things that you should continue doing to enable my performance; and second, two things that you could do differently to help me perform better. While the first one was always filled up, we found the second one to be blank in almost 30-40% of the forms, a couple of years back. HR teams had to intervene and take some steps to

Identifying

core strengths through reviews

bring in the change.

UPWARD FEEDBACK

While annual and mid-year appraisals evaluate the accomplishment of the goals and objectives, in most cases, the manager does not really receive comprehensive feedback on his/her style of team management, since the manager's own supervisor has little view to the leadership style that is employed with the direct team. Therefore, in a way, a very critical developmental feedback related to organisational performance is missing in most cases! While a 360 degree feedback is a pretty much tested way of giving feedback to each

can lead to personal and professional growth of the manager.

Un-structured interventions

These would be more in the realm of building a culture of giving and taking feedback. Every team has a cadence of regular group meetings to do stock taking. Encouraging peer-review during these meetings is a great way of collectively uplifting each other's performance levels; the results will be for all to see in the team performance, typically reflected in the goal sheet of the reporting manager! Identifying core strengths of each team member like e-mail communication skills,



individual, the specific feedback by the team gets 'hidden' in the grossing-over exercise that is inherent in this process.

Those individuals working for a manager are the ones who are the absolute best witnesses of the behaviours of the manager. So, here comes the practice of upward feedback a tool to collate a collective team feedback based on individual responses. This would enable a manager to get objective feedback on aspects of his team leadership; aspects that play a big role in the motivation, retention and performance of his team. Actively encouraging the direct team to give feedback

project planning skills, data analysis skills, presentations skills, etc., and then building a work culture wherein these 'in-house experts' review the rest of the team as and when necessary, since everyone else would typically need to use these at some point of time or the other.

Needless to say, the reporting manager is the catalyst in bringing in a change for the better in the work culture, encouraging the team to give constructive feedback to him/her, at first specifically sought and then as and when required! These are tried and tested ways for personal and professional growth.

Coal production up by 5.85% to 412 MT in Fy25

NEW DELHI. India's coal production has increased 5.85% in the fiscal year 2024-25, reaching a provisional figure of 411.62 million tonne (MT) as of September 12, 2024. As per a statement, Coal India (CIL) has demonstrated resilience with a 2.80% rise in production to 311 MT. Coal dispatch has seen a substantial growth, reaching 442.24 MT, a growth of 4.97%. The dispatch to power plants is also up by 4.03% to 362.65 MT.

Currently, coal stock levels are high, with companies holding 76.49 MT, a 49.07% annual growth rate, and domestic coal-based thermal power plants holding 36.58 MT. "These figures underscore the sector's robust



performance and its enhanced capacity to ensure an uninterrupted power supply and effectively meet the nation's energy needs," said coal ministry in a press note.

Max to buy 64% in Jaypee Healthcare

NEW DELHI. Max Healthcare (MHIL) is acquiring 64% stake in Jaypee Healthcare for an enterprise value of Rs 1,660 crore. In a regulatory filing, Max said it has entered into a strategic agreement with Lakshdeep Group, the promoter of Jaypee Healthcare Ltd (JHL) which is undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). This Strategic Collaboration and proposed acquisition will give MHIL a controlling stake in JHL including its flagship asset, the renowned 500-bed Jaypee Hospital, Noida. Under the agreement, MHIL will organise debt for repayment of admitted claims of the financial creditors of JHL and proposes to acquire 64% stake in the company, with call and put option for remaining stake. The acquisition includes two operational hospitals i.e. 500-bed Jaypee Hospital, Noida and 200-bed Jaypee Hospital Bulandshahr, built on land parcel of 18 acre and 5.75 acre respectively. JHL owns a 100 beds hospital spread over 2.35 acres at Anoopshahar, which is non-operational. JHL reported revenue of Rs 421 crore and EBITDA of Rs 70 crore for the year 2023-24.

Abhay Soi, Chairman and MD, Max Healthcare Institute, said the addition of Jaypee to the network is an important milestone to build a formidable presence in NCR—a region which is not only home to 46 million people but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the Indian economy as an economic hub. "We remain focused on formulating a comprehensive strategy that addresses demands of stakeholders involved while prioritising delivery of quality healthcare services in a sustainable manner and expand the flagship Noida facility to 1200 beds over next few years."

Going once, going twice: Google's millisecond ad auctions are the focus of monopoly claim

ALEXANDRIA. It happens in milliseconds, ideally, as you browse the web. Networks of computers and software analyze who you are, what you are looking at and buy and sell the advertisements you see on web pages. The company that most likely determines which ads you get, and how much an advertiser paid to get on your screen, is Google. In fact, the Justice Department and a coalition of states say Google's dominance over the technology that controls the sale of billions of Internet display ads every day is so thorough that it constitutes an illegal monopoly that should be broken up. A trial under way in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, will determine if Google's ad tech stack constitutes an illegal monopoly. The first week has included a deep dive into exactly how Google's products work together to conduct behind-the-scenes electronic auctions that place ads in front of consumers in the blink of an eye. Online advertising has rapidly evolved. Fifteen or so years ago, if you saw an internet display ad, there was a pretty good chance it featured people dancing over their enthusiasm for low mortgage rates, and those ads were foisted on you whether you were looking at real estate or searching for baseball scores.

Now, the algorithms that match ads to your interests are carefully calibrated, sometimes to an almost creepy extent. Google, for its part, says it has invested billions of dollars to improve the quality of ads that consumers see, and ensure that advertisers can reach the consumers they're seeking. The Justice Department contends that what Google has also done over the years is rig the automated auctions of ad sales to favor itself over other would-be players in the industry, and also deprived the publishing industry of hundreds of millions of dollars it would have received if the auctions were truly competitive. Government witnesses have explained the auction process and how it has evolved over the years in detail at the Virginia trial. In the government's depiction, there are three distinct tools that interact to sell an ad and place it in front of a consumer. There's the ad servers used by publishers to sell space on their websites, particularly the rectangular ads that appear on the top and right-hand side of a web page. Ad networks are used by advertisers to buy ad space across an array of relevant websites. And in between is the ad exchange, which matches the website publisher to the would-be advertiser by hosting an instant auction. Publishers naturally want to receive as high a price as possible for their ad space, but testimony at trial has shown that didn't always happen due to the rules Google imposed.

For years, Google gave its ad exchange, called AdX, the first chance to match a publisher's proposed floor price. For instance, if a publisher wanted to sell a specific ad impression for a minimum of 50 cents.

Centre lifts minimum export price cap on onion, basmati rice to boost farmer income

New Delhi The government on Friday scrapped the minimum price thresholds for onion and basmati rice to boost outbound shipments and enhance farmers' income. The government also halved export duty on onion to 20 per cent from 40 per cent. The duty cut is effective from September 14. The 40 per cent export duty had been in place since May 4. The decisions, including removal of the Minimum Export Price (MEP) on both onion and basmati rice and a cut in the export duty, came ahead of assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. Haryana, along with Punjab, is the major producer of basmati rice. According to a communication from the Department of Commerce, the \$950 per tonne minimum export price on basmati rice has been removed. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the move will help boost exports and increase farmers' income. "It has been decided to remove the current minimum export price (MEP) of \$950 MT for issuing Registration-

cum-Allocation Certificates (RCAC) for export of Basmati Rice", the communication said. The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) has been requested to take immediate action to implement the decision, and it will also closely monitor export contracts for any non-realistic prices for basmati exports. In October 2023, the government reduced the floor price for basmati rice exports to \$950 per tonne from \$1,200 per tonne amid concerns that higher prices were hurting outward shipments. The government on August 27, 2023 decided not to allow exports of basmati rice below \$1,200 per tonne to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of white non-basmati rice in the garb of premium basmati rice. India's total exports of basmati rice stood at \$5.9 billion in 2023-24. During the 2022-23 fiscal, basmati rice exports stood at \$4.8 billion in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonnes. As per the Foreign Trade Policy, APEDA is



mandated to register all contracts for the export of basmati rice and issue the registration-cum-allocation certificate for the export of basmati rice. The basmati crop is grown in the kharif (summer-sown) season. In another farmer-friendly decision ahead of the assembly election in Maharashtra, the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) removed the MEP on onion with immediate effect. In May this year, the government lifted the ban on onion exports but had imposed a \$550 per tonne as the minimum export price (MEP), which essentially meant farmers

could not sell their produce overseas at lower than this rate. "The Minimum Export Price (MEP) condition on the export of onions is removed with immediate effect and until further orders," the DGFT said. India exported 2.6 lakh tonnes of onions till July of this fiscal year. The country had exported 16.07 lakh tonnes of onions in the last fiscal. The decision to remove the MEP on onion has been taken despite high retail prices of this key kitchen item. According to the data compiled by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the All-India average price of onion on Friday was Rs 50.83 per kg, while the modal price was Rs 50 per kg. The maximum price of onion was Rs 83 per kg and the lowest was Rs 28 per kg. On September 5, the Centre began the first phase of retail sales of onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 35 per kg to provide relief to Delhi-NCR and Mumbai consumers from rising prices of the kitchen staple.

Bajaj Housing Finance IPO: Will it double investors' wealth on market debut

New Delhi Bajaj Housing Finance shares are gearing up for an impressive debut on Dalal Street, following a stellar response to its initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO has generated immense interest, thanks to the company's solid financials and strong backing from the Bajaj Group, making it one of the most anticipated listings on Dalal Street this year. With the grey market premium (GMP) indicating a significant upside, all eyes are now on whether the shares will live up to the hype and deliver the bumper listing gains many expect.

Analysts bullish on IPO listing

As the market prepares for the IPO's debut, industry experts are upbeat about its performance. According to Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart, the company's strong fundamentals and backing by the reputable Bajaj Group have fueled investor optimism. Nyati pointed out that Bajaj Housing Finance has shown consistent growth in both revenue and



profits, further strengthening its financial standing. "The Bajaj brand's reputation provides credibility, and with reasonable valuations, the IPO is poised for a strong listing. The combination of robust financials, brand trust, and immense investor interest makes it likely that Bajaj Housing Finance will see a successful market debut," said Nyati. Meanwhile, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, echoed similar sentiments, noting that the IPO offers investors a unique opportunity to invest in one of India's leading housing finance companies. He highlighted the company's strong position in the

housing finance sector, with assets under management (AUM) of Rs 97,071 crore, and its ability to capitalise on growing industry demand. "Given its historical AUM growth rate of 30.9% between FY22 and FY24, Bajaj Housing Finance is well-positioned for a robust listing."

The stock may double investors' wealth on listing day, and potentially even exceed expectations," said Tapse. Tapse also advised conservative investors to consider profit-booking if the listing gains surpass initial expectations, while long-term investors should hold onto the stock to benefit from future growth in the housing finance sector. He noted, "At Rs 70 per share, the IPO is well-priced compared to its peers in the industry. Bajaj Housing Finance's strong credit evaluation framework, focus on low-risk, high-growth mortgage-centric markets, and backing by the Bajaj brand make it a solid long-term investment."

GQG Partners acquires 1.24% stake in Patanjali Foods for Rs 835 crore

NEW DELHI. GQG Partners on Friday increased its stake in Patanjali Foods by acquiring a 1.24% holding from promoter group entity Patanjali Ayurved Ltd for about Rs 835 crore through an open market transaction.

According to the bulk deal data available on the NSE, Billionaire Rajiv Jain-backed asset management firm GQG Partners purchased 45.03 lakh shares or 1.24% stake in edible oil major Patanjali Foods. The shares of the company were picked up at an average price of Rs 1,854 apiece. After the latest transaction, GQG Partners' shareholding in Patanjali Foods has increased to 4.43% from 3.19%.

Meanwhile, Patanjali Ayurved on Friday sold 97.92 lakh shares or 2.71% stake in the company for Rs 1,815 crore, the data showed on the NSE. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 1,854.08 per piece, taking the deal value to Rs 1,815.67 crore. After the



share sale, the promoter and promoter group entities' of Patanjali Foods has come down to 70.1% from 72.81%. Apart from GQG Partners, details of the other buyers of Patanjali Foods' shares could not be ascertained. Shares of Patanjali Foods fell 3.75% to close at Rs 1,858.90 apiece on the NSE. GQG

Partners, a key investor in Adani Group, last month increased its stake in GMR Airports Infrastructure to 5.17% by snapping up additional shares worth over Rs 433 crore. Incorporated in 1986, Patanjali Foods, erstwhile Ruchi Soya Industries, is one of the leading FMCG players in India. The company is present in edible oils, Food & FMCG and wind power generation segments. It markets its products through brands like Patanjali, Ruchi Gold, Mahakosh, Nutrela, etc. Picked up at average price of Rs 1,854 apiece. Asset management firm GQG Partners purchased 45.03 lakh shares or 1.24% stake in edible oil major Patanjali Foods. The shares of the company were picked up at an average price of Rs 1,854 apiece. GQG Partners' shareholding in Patanjali Foods has increased to 4.43% from 3.19%.

Govt To Start Satellite-based Toll Collection Soon, Here's How It Will Work

NEW DELHI. The Government of India has approved the satellite-based toll system. After the new toll system is fully implemented, you will not need to stop at the toll plaza and pay the toll; rather, the toll will be paid automatically when you come in the range of the satellite. Preparations are underway to introduce some vehicles with on-board units (OBU) next week for testing the new toll system. The on-board unit (OBU) unit will work like a tracker device that will send your vehicle's signal to the satellite. After the implementation of the new toll system, the existing RFID-based FASTag system will be completely abolished. The main feature of the new toll system is that the help of a satellite or a group of satellites will be taken to monitor the movement of vehicles. The toll or user fee will be fixed based on the exact distance of the journey. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the NH fee rules earlier this week to allow toll collection using a satellite-based toll collection system. According to the information, Indian satellite NavIC will be used to implement the new toll system. Currently, some vehicles will be run with



on-board units for testing the new toll system, but let us know how long you will have to install it in your vehicle.

Tracking devices will be pre-installed in vehicles: For the satellite-based toll system to work, it will be mandatory to install on-board units in vehicles. In the coming few years, new vehicles will start coming with pre-fitted on-board units. On-board units can be installed from outside in existing vehicles. On-board units will be issued like FASTag, and its work will be handed over to the issuing authority. On-board units will be installed in trucks first. The on-board units for the satellite-based toll collection system will first be installed in trucks, buses, and

vehicles carrying dangerous goods. Other types of commercial vehicles will be included in the next phase. Private vehicles will be included in the new toll system under the final phase in 2026-27. Toll collection with the new system will start in 2025. The satellite-based toll system will be implemented on 2,000 km of national highways by June 2025. It is targeted to increase it to 10,000 km in nine months, 25,000 km

in 15 months, and 50,000 km in two years. For this, the highway-owning agencies of the central government have completed geo-fencing of almost the entire length of national highways. Geo-fencing is important to mark accurate entry and exit points for the purpose of toll calculation. The total length of national highways in India is about 1.4 lakh km, out of which tolls are collected on about 45,000 km.

RBI Imposes Penalty On BNP Paribas, Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance and 2 Others

NEW DELHI. The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 31.8 lakh on BNP Paribas (the bank) for certain deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance. The central bank has also imposed penalties on Hewlett Packard Financial Services (India), SMFG India Credit Company, and Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance for non-compliance with certain norms. In a statement, the RBI said the penalty has been imposed on the bank for non-

compliance with certain directions issued by it on "Interest Rate on Advances". Giving details, it said the statutory inspection for Supervisory Evaluation of the bank was conducted by it with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2023. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to BNP Paribas, advising it to show cause as to why penalty

NEWS BOX

Jonty Rhodes gives hilarious rant on not being picked as India fielding coach

New Delhi. Former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes has given a hilarious rant on not being picked as India's fielding coach by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). Notably, after Gautam Gambhir was appointed as India's head coach there were widespread reports of Rhodes also becoming a member of the coaching staff as a fielding coach.

Given that Gambhir had worked closely with Rhodes during his stint with LSG, it seemed almost certain that the legendary fielder will join the coaching staff. However, the BCCI didn't go ahead with his appointment as they reportedly didn't want a foreign coach. Recently, he opened up on his rejection and hilariously proved his connection with India introducing himself in Hindi.

"Yeah! Can you believe it? I mean, they didn't want an international coach, and I'm so local. I mean, mera naam Jonty Rhodes! (I'm Jonty Rhodes) Come on. I'm based in Goa. Maybe



because I'm based in Goa. Maybe I need to be in a metro (city)." The South African said during a podcast on Aleena Dissects YouTube channel. Further speaking ahead, Rhodes praised India's last two fielding coaches R Sridhar and T Dilip. He also mentioned how former India captain MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli brought a fitness revolution in the Indian team. "I've taken my hats off to the last two Indian fielding coaches. And it comes from captaincy. Under Dhoni he had a lot of senior guys, and he just showed his physical ability, he still does at the end of his IPL career. Running between the wickets... amazing, and he's 40. It's incredible. He certainly showed, just through his example, the importance of fitness and strength," said Rhodes.

Rhodes praises Virat Kohli's special focus on team fitness

Rhodes mentioned how Kohli put special importance on fitness to earn selection in the national side during his tenure as the skipper. "Then Virat Kohli took over, and it was a part of the selection criteria. If you don't pass the fitness standards, it doesn't matter how good you are. Everybody was treated equally, and it took India to becoming a good fielding team," he added. After BCCI rejected Rhodes, they extended the contract of T Dilip under whom Indian fielding has excelled remarkably.

Paris Olympics 2024: Mondo Duplantis imitates Yusuf Dikec, shooter reacts

New Delhi. Suryakumar Yadav's wife, Devisha Shetty, wished him a happy birthday by sharing special pictures on Instagram. The romance and loving bond between the couple is well-known, as both Suryakumar and Devisha often express their love for each other. Devisha penned a heartfelt caption for her husband as he turned 34 on September 14, 2024. Suryakumar has always credited Devisha for her support and love in his success so far. Wishes have been pouring in from the cricket world and fans, as they recall his T20 World Cup-winning catch at long-off on his special day.

"Happy birthday to my best friend, husband, lover, my world and the best decision of my life! Thankful for you every single day. You make this world a better place and I don't know what I'd do without you. Love you now and forever," Devisha captioned the post. She shared some heartwarming moments shared between the two of them.

Special birthday post for Suryakumar Yadav



When will Suryakumar return to T20I action? Suryakumar Yadav is currently on break from national duties for India's upcoming home Test season. The 34-year-old expressed his desire to make a return to the Indian Test cricket team and wanted to make a mark with his domestic cricket performances. However, he was ruled out of the round one and two of the Duleep Trophy 2024 as he suffered a sprain to his right thumb while fielding in the Buchi Babu tournament. With India playing 5 Tests at home against Bangladesh and 5 away Tests against Australia on their soil, Suryakumar might not be seen in a lot of international action for the remainder of the year. However, he would be leading Team India in the 3-match T20I series against Bangladesh, starting October 6. Then he would lead the T20I side for a tour to South Africa, where they would play a four-match series.

Naomi Osaka parts ways with coach Wim Fissette after early US Open exit

Naomi Osaka split her ways with coach Wim Fissette after her round two exit at the US Open 2024 last month. She wrote a heartfelt message on her Instagram story to announce the decision.

New Delhi. Former World No. 1 Naomi Osaka chose to part ways with her coach Wim Fissette and the decision came after her early exit in the US Open 2024. Naomi took to Instagram to announce the decision as she shared a picture with her coach on her story. She captioned the post, "4 years, 2 Slams and a whole lot of memories. Thanks Wim for being a great coach and an even greater person, wishing you all the best." She expressed her gratitude towards her coach, under whom she won two Grand Slams. The Japanese star began her stint with the



Belgian coach in 2020 and had two stints with him. The 26-year-old won two of her four Grand Slams with Fissette by her side, which included the US Open in 2020 and the Australian Open title in 2021. Osaka admitted being frustrated with the recent results after her early exit from the recently concluded US Open 2024.

Naomi Osaka's Instagram story
"It's been a little difficult because obviously I

can only gauge how I'm doing by results," she said after exiting the US Open last month. "I feel faster. I feel better, but I lost in the second round. So it's a little rough. I feel like I'm working way harder than I've ever worked in my life, so it needs to turn into something." Fissette rejoined Osaka when she returned to tennis action this January after the birth of her daughter in July 2023.

Osaka's frustrating return
However, Osaka managed to reach the quarter-finals in only two of the 16 tournaments she has played following her 15 months away from tennis. The Japanese player has not gone past the second round of the last four Grand Slams. She further slipped to the 75th position in the WTA rankings ever since her return nine months ago after the maternity break. Naomi Osaka was heartbroken after she made an early exit from the US Open 2024. The 2-time champion crashed out after losing 3-6, 6-7 (5-7) to No. 19 seed Karolina Muchova at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in the second round.

Lovlina Borgohain vows to come back 'stronger than ever' after Olympics failure

Duleep Trophy 2024: Pratham Singh notched up his second first-class hundred during Indi A vs India D match in Anantapur. This was his first-ever century in the Duleep Trophy tournament.

New Delhi. India A and Railways team's batter Pratham Singh notched up his maiden Duleep Trophy hundred against India D on September 14, Saturday. The match was being played at the Rural Development Trust Stadium in Anantapur. The 31-year-old brought up his 2nd first-class hundred in style as he smashed Vidwath Kaverappa for a six and two fours to reach the three-figure mark. He was announced as the replacement for Shubman Gill, who joined the Indian team for the 2-match Test series against Bangladesh. The southpaw lived up to



expectations, as in the 49th over, Pratham was at 88 when he pulled Kaverappa's first delivery for a six over a deep square leg. After playing three dot deliveries, he punished a full toss delivery for a four. On the final ball of the over, he brought up his maiden Duleep Trophy hundred with a boundary and had a beaming smile on his face as he took off his helmet to celebrate. Who is Pratham Singh?

Pratham rose to the occasion and made the opportunity count as he scored 122 runs from 189 balls. He was part of Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2022 and also represented Gujarat Lions in 2017 earlier but

didn't get much chances. Before this contest, Pratham played 29 first class games and scored 1568 runs with 10 fifties and a hundred, averaging 35.63. His first hundred in the Ranji Trophy came this year when he scored an unbeaten 169 for the Railways and Tripura in February. His impressive Buchi Babu performances led to him getting selected in round two of the Duleep Trophy 2024.

India A vs India D: As it happened

He managed only seven runs on the opening day between India A and India D as the Mayank Agarwal-led side managed 290 runs on the back of Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian's gritty knocks. However, India D managed just 183 in response, conceding a 107-run lead in the first innings.

Pratham played a breezy knock in the 3rd innings, notching up his fifty in 60 balls and shared a 115-run opening stand with Mayank, before the India A captain was dismissed on the very first ball of Shreyas Iyer. The 32-year-old built on his overnight score of 59 and shared a 104-run stand with Tilak Varma.

Shreyas Iyer doesn't have the hunger for red-ball cricket anymore: Basit Ali

New Delhi. Former Pakistan cricketer Basit Ali feels that India batter Shreyas Iyer doesn't have the hunger to succeed in red-ball cricket anymore. Notably, the star batter was dismissed for a seven ball duck in the second round of the Duleep Trophy 2024 batting for India D. In a rare occasion on the cricket field, Iyer walked out to bat wearing sunglasses but failed to trouble the scorers and got dismissed by Khaleel Ahmed after chipping the ball straight to Aaqib Khan at mid on. Following his dismissal, Basit Ali questioned Iyer's concentration and mentioned that he should've used the opportunity to score 100-200 runs. "As a cricketer, it saddens me to see him. If you are getting out in front, your concentration isn't in the game. And especially the red-ball game. He has scored two centuries in the World Cup, he's an IPL-



winning captain, he should've scored 100-200 runs here. Iyer is so lucky that Rahane and Pujara aren't playing in Duleep Trophy," said Basit on his YouTube channel. Further speaking ahead, the former batter said that he doesn't have the hunger for the longer format and even questioned his inclusion in the Duleep Trophy. "Iyer doesn't have the hunger for red-ball cricket anymore. He's only hungry for boundaries. You should prioritise it. If he's thinking he is similar to Virat Kohli after hitting two centuries in World Cup, no, it doesn't happen that way. I'm sorry to Indians who like him, but if I was India's selector, Iyer wouldn't have been in the Duleep Trophy at all. He's not respecting the game," he added.

Iyer's downfall in Test cricket Iyer finds himself out of the Indian Test team after a prolonged run of low scores. The Mumbai-born batter hasn't scored a half century in his last 13 innings in the longest format which eventually led to him being dropped from the team after the second Test against England earlier this year. The rise of Sarfaraz Khan and Shubman Gill securing his place at number three hasn't helped Iyer's cause either.

Bengaluru FC deserves another title: Sunil Chhetri sets ISL plans straight

Sunil Chhetri, former Indian football captain, is determined to lead Bengaluru FC to another ISL title, marking his first season focused solely on club football after retiring from international duties earlier this year.

New Delhi. Former Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri is determined to lead Bengaluru FC to another Indian Super League (ISL) title as the 2024 season kicks off. For Chhetri, 2024 marks a new chapter, as it will be his first season solely focused on club football after retiring from international duties earlier this year. The 39-year-old forward, renowned for his leadership and goal-scoring prowess, is not slowing down. Chhetri expressed in a recent interview with ESPN that both he and his



team are determined to bounce back after a disappointing 2023 campaign. He emphasized that Bengaluru FC aims to right the wrongs of the previous season and target the top of the table. This club and its supporters deserve another title, and we are doing everything we can to make sure this season turns out to be special. "That we haven't won the ISL in five years is something that motivates me and all of us at the club," Chhetri said. I've always said that the moment I feel like I have nothing left to

give, I will walk away and that's the motivation to keep going... I have the urge to keep contributing. I'm feeling fit and that's why my story with Bengaluru FC continues," Chhetri added.

Although there has been speculation surrounding whether this season will be Chhetri's final one in club football, the veteran striker dismissed the rumors. He stated that he is far from ready to hang up his boots and will decide when to retire only when he feels the time is right. Chhetri's determination and drive remain as strong as ever, despite closing the curtains on an illustrious international career. With Bengaluru FC set to begin their ISL campaign on September 14 against East Bengal at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, all eyes will be on Chhetri as he aims to lead his side to glory once again.

Andriy Lunin continues with Real Madrid: Pens long-term contract extension

Andriy Lunin has signed a surprising contract extension with Real Madrid, committing to the club until 2030 after an outstanding season where he stepped up in Thibaut Courtois' absence and proved his value in goal.

New Delhi. Ukrainian goalkeeper Andriy Lunin has surprised many by signing a long-term contract extension with Real Madrid,

committing his future to the club until June 30, 2030. The announcement was made by the club after Lunin inked the new deal alongside president Florentino Pérez.

Lunin, who arrived at Real Madrid in 2018 at just 19 years of age, has been part of the first-team set-up since 2020. During his time in the famous white shirt, he has won an impressive 10 trophies: 2 Champions Leagues, 1 Club World Cup, 2 European Super Cups, 2 La Liga titles, 1 Copa del Rey, and 2 Spanish Super Cups. "I'm very happy to be at the best club in the world for a few more years. From day one, the club made me feel at home. I feel very comfortable, and happy to be in the best place for my professional and personal development," Lunin told Real Madrid TV. "I always try to improve in every way and to keep working hard but I still have a long way to go. The



2023/24 season was the one in which I played the most games and won three titles. It was unforgettable, important and a reward for the work done. I enjoy every day here," Lunin added. The new contract follows Lunin's outstanding 2023-2024 season, where he stepped up in the absence of first-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who was sidelined for most of the season due to injury. Lunin's performances were so

consistent that despite Real Madrid signing Kepa Arrizabalaga on loan from Chelsea, he became the preferred option in both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League under coach Carlo Ancelotti. Lunin played a crucial role in Real Madrid's success during the campaign, helping the team secure triumphs in both La Liga and UEFA Champions League, which also earned him a nomination for the Yashin Award for best goalkeeper.

However, he missed out on playing in the Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund due to illness, with Courtois returning to take his place. Although Courtois has since fully recovered, limiting Lunin's opportunities this season, his decision to commit to Real Madrid long-term has quashed rumors of a potential transfer.

Ileana D'Cruz

Drops Romantic Photos On Hubby Michael Dolan's Birthday, Says 'You Make Everything Better'

Ileana D'Cruz often shares photos with her son and husband Michael Dolan. Recently, she also took to her social media handle to share photos on her husband, Michael Dolan's birthday. The actress marked the special day by posting a romantic photo with Michael, accompanied by a heartfelt caption. In the picture, Ileana and Michael can be seen sharing a tender moment and she captioned it as 'Happy birthday baby cakes.' In the second photo, Michael is seen swimming while the actress is making a video and she wrote, "You make everything better. I Love You." Last week, Ileana shared an adorable photo that will instantly melt your heart. Her husband Michael Dolan is seen playing guitar for son Koa. The photo has gone viral on social media. Taking to her Instagram stories, Ileana shared a black and white photo in which we can see Michael sitting on a chair and playing guitar. Son Koa has joined him and is seen enjoying the music. "BRB, My ovaries just exploded..." read the caption. Recently she took to her social media and shared how badly she is missing her hubby Michael Dolan. Ileana shared an old goofy video and revealed that she looked through all these lovely videos when missing him. Recently, during an Ask Me session on Instagram, her followers were curious about her sleep patterns amid her maternal responsibilities. Ileana shared a story revealing the challenges of her sleep schedule as a new mom, reflecting on the demands of caring for her child. Ileana wrote, "Haha it's mostly nonexistent. I don't know how we, as full-time mamas, even function throughout the day. But we keep at it."

Ileana D'Cruz embraced motherhood last year when she welcomed Koa Phoenix Dolan with Michael Dolan in August. Previously, in an interview with ETimes, the actress revealed the reason behind naming her son Koa Phoenix. She shared, "I wanted to name my baby something unusual because I have a unique name, too. Koa somehow stood out. I spoke to Mike (Michael) about it, and even he found it cute. Phoenix is a name that's been on my mind for a while. Also, the line 'Rising from the ashes like a phoenix' is inspiring. In fact, I got a tattoo of a phoenix in 2018, which had a deep meaning for me. Mike loved the name, and I hope Koa likes it too when he grows up."

Work-wise, Ileana D'Cruz was last seen in Do Aur Do Pyaar co-starring Vidya Balan, Pratik Gandhi and Sendhil Ramamurthy in the lead roles. The Shirsha Guha Thakurta's directorial hit the theatres on April 19, 2024.



Ishaan Khatter Says Shahid Kapoor Was 'Taken Aback' by THIS in Perfect Couple: 'He Was Not...'



Bollywood star Ishaan Khatter surprised everyone when he appeared in The Perfect Couple. Sharing the screen with Hollywood stars like Nicole Kidman, Ishaan delivered a memorable performance. While the audiences have been raving about his performance, Ishaan revealed his brother, actor Shahid Kapoor and their mother, Neliima Azeem were also impressed with his work. Speaking with News18 Showsha exclusively, Ishaan revealed that Shahid was surprised by Ishaan's accent in the Netflix series. "I think (Shahid Kapoor) was really taken aback by the accent, which he was not expecting. These were all the decisions I took with Susanne (Bier, director of The Perfect Couple) when I was working there, so I guess they didn't know what to expect and there was a surprise, in a positive way," Ishaan Khatter told us exclusively.

"My mom really loved me in the show, which was really lovely. I do take her criticism and her feedback seriously, beyond of course the fact that I feel she could be biased towards me because she's my mom and I am a good son (laughs). She's also a very accomplished actor and artist herself so she sees things with a very keen eye and she would have told me if I hit a false note. So it was a relief to hear good things," he shared.

Ishaan added that his family doesn't get involved in his process. "I do my own thing and my family doesn't really see it till there's something more complete to show them," he shared. For the unversed, Ishaan plays the role of Shooter Dival, a friend of the groom whose wedding takes a dark turn after a murder at the wedding party. He is one of the many suspects on the show. Not only is his family showering him with love, but Ishaan said that he's been receiving messages from a lot of unexpected people as well. "A lot of unexpected people messaging, which is wonderful."

Sikandar: Salman Khan And Rashmika Mandanna Shoot Festive Song With 200 Dancers, Details Inside



The excitement surrounding Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna's upcoming film, Sikandar, has been steadily increasing. Recent reports suggest that the lead pair recently filmed a festive song accompanied by 200 background dancers. This celebratory track was composed by Pritam. According to a report from Middy, Salman Khan, after taking a break from intense action sequences, shot for a vibrant song alongside Rashmika Mandanna for Sikandar. The song, set against the backdrop of the slums of Dharavi, was filmed at Goregaon's SRPF Ground on a specially constructed set.

"The song features 200 background dancers and portrays the slum dwellers in a festive mood. Rashmika joined the crew on Thursday. Salman sports a unique look in the song, wearing a customized silver chain, earrings, a black vest, and a full-sleeved shirt paired with denim. Rashmika embraces a traditional look with a salwar kameez. Murugadoss has nearly completed the song's shoot, and the team will shift focus to action sequences over the weekend," a source shared with the publication. The report adds that if the current schedule progresses as planned, the Mumbai shoot will extend until October. Afterward, the team will travel to Europe by the end of the year to shoot two romantic songs. It was previously reported that due to a rib injury, Salman initially filmed lighter action scenes. Earlier, Pinkvilla reported that Salman began a 45-day shooting schedule for the movie in Mumbai in August. A source revealed that parts of Mumbai were recreated on a massive set in a local studio. It took more than three months to build the set, and the makers invested heavily to ensure the authenticity of every detail. This is a crucial schedule for Sikandar, as it involves shooting not just the action scenes but also emotional and dramatic sequences," the source said. Since its announcement on Eid earlier this year, Sikandar has generated immense buzz. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the film stars Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna, Sathyaraj, Prateik Babbar, and Kajal Aggarwal in pivotal roles.



Esha Deol

On Mom Hema Malini's Advice Over Comparisons With Her: 'Won't Work If It Affects You'

Veteran actor couple Dharmendra and Hema Malini's elder daughter Esha Deol followed her parents and took up acting as her career. But her journey wasn't as easy as she often used to get compared to her legendary actor parents, especially her mother. Recently, the 42-year-old actress, who made her acting debut with Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe, shared how Hema Malini's advice helped her handle such pressures in the industry. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Esha was quizzed about the guidance she received from her actor parents. She said that her parents never gave her unnecessary advice and would only step in when she would approach them. "The advice came gradually as I started working in films and faced certain challenges. My parents never offered unnecessary advice; they only stepped in when I approached them with an issue," added the actress.

Esha continued, "I remember after my first film, the comparisons between my mom and me began. I had a conversation with her, and she told me very clearly, 'This is going to be a part of your journey. You are here because you're passionate about your work, and it won't work if this is going to affect you. You have to learn not to let it get to you and just keep going.' And that's exactly what I did."

Well, this isn't the first time that the Dhoom actress has opened up about facing comparisons with her actress-mother. Earlier, in an interaction with Zoom, Esha recalled how the "pressure pump" started after the release of her first film, with even being "body-shamed for her baby fat." She mentioned, "The pressure pump started after the films were released, and things were written. Then I was like, they are comparing me in my first film to my mother, who has done 200 films. And they would say a lot about my baby fat. 'Oh, she has so much baby fat'. I had, I was 18, those cheeks were there. But they looked cute in those roles, the kind of roles that I did, I thought they looked nice." Esha became the epitome of a bold and daring persona after her electrifying performance in Dhoom Machale, the hit song from her 2004 film Dhoom.

