

Chandrayaan-4, Venus mission, Indian space station and next-gen launch vehicle get Cabinet nod

New Delhi, Sep 18: Chandrayaan-4, Venus orbiter mission, Indian space station and next-gen launch vehicle development plan get approval from Narendra Modi government. Chandrayaan-4, the next phase following Chandrayaan-3's successful lander and rover landing on the Moon, received approval from the Union Cabinet on Wednesday. The Cabinet also cleared the plan for the Venus orbiter mission, the development of an Indian space station, and the next-generation launch vehicle development, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a press briefing. The moon mission, named Chandrayaan-4, aims to develop and demonstrate technologies for returning to Earth after a successful landing on the Moon. It will also collect lunar samples for analysis back on Earth. Share your thoughts about Hindustan Times and unveil a surprise! Submit Feedback! 1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will handle the development and launch of Chandrayaan-4, which is expected to be completed within 36 months. 2. The Chandrayaan-4 mission will cost ₹2,104.06 crore. This budget includes spacecraft development, two LVM3 launches, deep space network support, and special tests. 3. The mission will help India become self-sufficient in technologies for manned missions and lunar sample analysis, with significant involvement from Indian industries and academic institutions.

Atishi to take oath as Delhi CM on September 21

New Delhi, Sep. 18: Atishi, a prominent leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Delhi minister, is set to take her oath of office on September 21. The event will formalize her continued role in the Delhi government and further strengthen her position within the party. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has proposed September 21 for the swearing-in of Chief Minister-designate Atishi, following Arvind Kejriwal's resignation. Sources say that Kejriwal's resignation letter has been forwarded to President Droupadi Murmu. However, the AAP legislature has not yet confirmed a date for the oath-taking ceremony. Atishi, who was unanimously elected as the AAP legislature party leader, is set to become Delhi's third woman chief minister. She assumed leadership after Kejriwal resigned in a strategic move ahead of the

upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. Atishi, a close ally of Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, has vowed to bring Kejriwal back as CM. She will be required to prove the majority of her government in the Delhi Assembly, with a session scheduled for September 26-27. After staking claim to form the government, Atishi emphasised her commitment to protecting the interests of

Delhi's citizens. She also defended Kejriwal, calling the corruption allegations against him false, and criticised the central government's agencies for unfairly targeting him. The Delhi BJP and Congress have both criticised the AAP government. Delhi BJP President Virender Sachdeva dismissed the leadership change as ineffective, while Congress President Devender Yadav called for Atishi to address the city's pressing issues, especially those affecting women. The opposition parties view this political move as a tactic to deflect from the corruption charges AAP faces. Atishi, credited for many of the AAP government's reforms, particularly in education, is expected to serve as chief minister until the Assembly elections early next year. Her leadership is seen as a continuation of Kejriwal's vision while also positioning AAP for a renewed mandate from voters.



SC seeks Centre response on hybrid hearing in CIC, land acquisition cases

New Delhi, Sep 18: The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Centre and states on providing hybrid hearings in the Central Information Commission (CIC) and the authority hearing pleas for compensation in land acquisition matters on separate public interest litigations (PILs) pointing out the lack of such facility as a reason for case pendency in these forums. In an order passed on Monday, made public on Tuesday, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud issued notice on the two petitions filed by advocate Kishan Chand Jain who underlined the need to provide speedy and effective justice to litigants by the integration of technology. Jain said that the CIC, which has a nationwide jurisdiction, has to deal with appeals filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, which provides the backbone for transparency in matters of governance and decision-making. Instead of providing virtual hearing links to litigants and lawyers, the CIC conducts online hearing through the National Information Commission (NIC) studios, which are designated spaces, often located in government offices or district headquarters. This practice requires appellants to travel to NIC studios, causing inconvenience, time loss, and additional expenses, besides having to wait at these studios for their hearings.

Haryana election: Congress promises legal MSP, 6,000 pension in 7 guarantees

New Delhi, Sep 18: With the Haryana Assembly elections approaching, the Congress party on Wednesday announced seven key guarantees, including a legal assurance for Minimum Support Price (MSP) and a caste survey. Under its social security plan, the Congress guaranteed a monthly pension of



₹6,000 for the elderly, disabled, and widows. The party vowed to reinstate the old pension scheme, a move aimed at appealing to government employees. For the agricultural sector, the party pledged to introduce a legal guarantee for MSP, a longstanding demand of farmers across the country. Congress also assured voters it would conduct a caste survey and raise the income limit for the creamy layer from ₹6 lakh to ₹10 lakh. The guarantees were launched in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan and senior party leaders.

Police officer arrested in RG Kar hospital case suspended

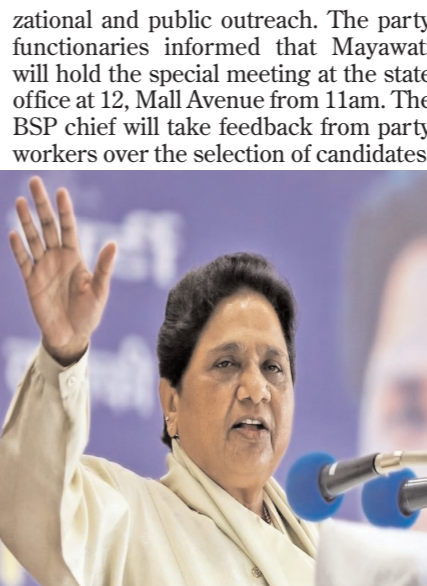
Kolkata, Sep 18: The Kolkata Police on Wednesday suspended Tala police station's officer-in-charge Abhijit Mondal who the CBI arrested in connection with the rape-murder of the doctor at the RG Kar hospital, officials said. As per the rules, a government employee, in custody for a period exceeding 48 hours under any law providing for preventive detention or as a result of a proceeding either on a criminal charge or otherwise, shall be deemed to have been suspended by an order of the appointing authority. Mondal was arrested on September 14 for allegedly tampering with evidence and delaying the registration of the FIR. He is at present in CBI custody. The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where the post-graduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered while on duty on August 9, is located in the Tala police station area in north Kolkata.

Delhi HC refuses bail to British national Jagtar Johal in UAPA cases

New Delhi, Sep 18: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant bail to British national Jagtar Singh Johal in several cases lodged against him under anti-terror law UAPA. A bench headed by Justice Prathiba M Singh rejected the appeals filed by Johal against the trial court orders denying him the relief in seven cases being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in relation to a series of alleged targeted killings and attempts to kill in Ludhiana and Jalandhar districts of Punjab in 2016-2017. The probe was transferred from the Punjab Police to the NIA after it was "identified" that the offences were part of a "transnational conspiracy that intended to destabilise the law-and-order situation" in the state, the court noted. Opposing the pleas, the NIA claimed that Johal, who was arrested in November 2017, was "highly radicalised" and an "active member" of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF). It was alleged that being one of the main conspirators, the accused provided funds that were used for the procurement of arms and weapons by two shooters. The bench, also comprising Justice Amit Sharma, dismissed five appeals for being filed beyond the permissible period under the law.

BSP holds positive view on simultaneous election decision: Mayawati

New Delhi, Sep 18: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Wednesday said that her party holds a "positive" view on the Union cabinet's approval of the proposal to hold simultaneous elections, but its objective should be national and public interest. "Our party's stand on the approval given today by the Union Cabinet to the proposal to hold simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha, Assembly and local bodies in the country under the system of 'One Country, One Election' is positive, but its objective must be in the national and public interest," she stated in a post on X. Mayawati will hold a meeting of all party office-bearers on Thursday to review preparations for UP assembly bypolls to 10 seats expected by the yearend. She will also take stock of the progress of work assigned to different people to enhance the party's organi-

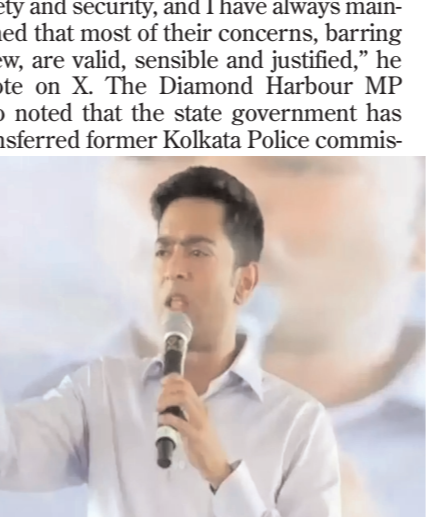


as per a release issued by the BSP office. "She will also address issues like confusion in giving tickets to candidates and

denial of tickets to stalwarts in the recently concluded LS polls," said a senior party functionary. The BSP is aiming to contest the bypolls more aggressively as compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and 2022 UP assembly polls to regain its vote bank. In four decades of its political journey since its inception on April 14, 1984, BSP has been going through a major crisis to regain its credibility after poor performances in the previous general and assembly elections. The BSP chief had re-announced her nephew Akash Anand as a national coordinator in June after restricting him from campaigning after the third phase of LS polls earlier this year. Mayawati also expressed serious concerns over the "rising" trend of using bulldozers for demolitions, saying it does not symbolise a just rule of law. She also stressed that the Centre and state governments must pay attention to the implementation of the Constitution and the rule of law.

Kolkata junior doctors: 'Should now consider calling of strike': Abhishek Banerjee

Kolkata, Sep 18: Kolkata rape-murder case: Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee urged the protesting junior doctors in Kolkata to end their cease-work protest and work "collaboratively" with the West Bengal government to implement safety measures for doctors across hospitals. Abhishek Banerjee also said, as per the Supreme Court's direction, most of the measures promised by the state government, including the installation of CCTV cameras and other infrastructural developments, are under progress and will be "completed within 14 days". The ruling TMC-led government announced several such measures after the rape and murder of a postgraduate doctor inside Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9 shocked the conscience of medical fraternity and led to nationwide protests. "Since day one, I have supported the doctors in their concerns regarding



sioner Vineet Goyal and other senior officials of the health department. "As a gesture of goodwill, the doctors should now consider CALLING OFF THE STRIKE AND WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH

GoWB to serve the people and expedite the implementation of the task force's initiatives to ensure these changes are promptly executed," the post added. Also read | Mamata Banerjee accepts '99% demands' of medics; junior doctors to continue 'cease work' protest Questioning the CBI's record, he also alleged that the agency has not completed "a single investigation" they have undertaken over the past decade. "Lastly, it is crucial to hold the CBI accountable and ensure that no perpetrators are spared, with swift punishment handed down at the earliest opportunity," Abhishek said. The TMC has been questioning the central agency ever since the probe was transferred from Kolkata police by the Calcutta High Court. In her address on TMC's foundation day, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also questioned the CBI for the alleged delay in completing the probe and said the Kolkata police would have completed the probe in seven days if the high court had not handed over the investigation to the central agency.

'One nation, one election' impractical in democracy: Kharge

New Delhi, Sep 18: Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday responded to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's criticism of the 'one nation, one election' initiative, in which Kharge called the proposal "impractical" and incompatible with democracy. The plan, which seeks to conduct simultaneous Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections across the country, was approved by the Union Cabinet earlier in the day. Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw responded to Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks over 'one nation, one election' Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw responded to



Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks over 'one nation, one election' Kharge, quoted by ANI, expressed strong opposition to the proposal, saying, "We don't stand with this. One nation, one election cannot work in a democracy. Elections need be held as and when required if we want our democracy to survive." In response, Vaishnaw said, "The opposition might start feeling internal pressure (about One Nation One Election) as more than 80% of respondents who participated in the consultation process have expressed positive support, particularly the youth, who are very much in favour of this." The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the 'one nation, one election' proposal based on recommendations from a panel chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind. The panel's recommendations include holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies as an initial step, followed by coordinated local body elections within 100 days. Additionally, the panel proposed the creation of an 'Implementation Group' to oversee the execution of these recommendations.

'One nation, one election' cleared by Modi cabinet

New Delhi, Sep 18: The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the Ram Nath Kovind committee recommendations to holding simultaneous elections in the country through the use of common electoral rolls. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the cabinet decision and said the agenda of simultaneous elections was passed unanimously and all BJP allies were on board. The minister said the cabinet accepted the panel's suggestions to roll out the plan in two phases. "In the first phase, simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies will be held. In the second phase, all local body elections will be held within 100 days of the conclusion of the national election so that for the next five years, everyone can work to further the mission of national development," Vaishnaw said. The government said the "One nation, one election" idea would be implemented through consensus and an implementation committee would be constituted to finalise the rollout plan, which would require legal processes and constitutional requirements to be met.

Under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, Bharat has been witnessing transformative reforms. Today, in this direction, Bharat takes a giant stride towards landmark electoral reforms with the Union Cabinet accepting the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on One... The Tribune reported on Tuesday that the government had decided to implement the "One nation, one election" plan in the current tenure of the NDA government. Vaishnaw, however, did not put a date to the rollout plan but said once consensus was achieved and legal requirements met, the plan would be implemented. Home Minister Amit Shah had yesterday said the plan would be implemented in this very tenure of the Modi government. Vaishnaw said the Kovind panel received widespread support for the simultaneous election plan during its meetings and a large number of political parties also backed the idea, which was mooted much before the 2024 General Election. Vaishnaw

said the simultaneous elections would have a good positive economic impact, strengthen democracy, remove impediments to growth and enhance national progress. "We call upon everyone to engage in detailed discussions on the plan," Vaishnaw said, adding that the discussions would be held nationally. The idea received a boost when the parliament committee on law and justice backed it in 2021. "Our

country remains in election mode throughout the year. We are of the view that the idea of "One nation, one election" is not new to our country as the first three elections (1952, 1957 and 1962) were held simultaneously," said the panel, giving the government a reason to move forward with the agenda. Conducting simultaneous elections would entail amendment to the Constitution to have fixed terms for local bodies, legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. Amendments would also be required for common electoral rolls. The government then established a committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind to examine the issue and the panel submitted its 18,626-page report to President Droupadi Murmu in March this year. As many as 47 political parties sent their suggestions to the Kovind committee, with 32, mainly BJP and allies, supporting the concept and 15 opposing it. Of the 32 supporters, 26 are part of the ruling NDA coalition. Among the 15 parties that resisted the idea, 10 are from the opposition INDIA bloc led by the Congress.



News box

A leg lost in accident, cow moos on slow and steady with prosthetic limb

MUMBAI. A cow that lost a leg to an accident last year is just getting back on all fours, one of them a newly fitted prosthetic limb. The five-year-old got the artificial leg three weeks ago and is slowly showing "signs of acceptance", said officials of Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals (BSPCA), Parel, where it is undergoing treatment, reports Alex Fernandes.

It was brought from a shelter in Palghar, where the accident happened. "So far, it has accepted the new limb well," said Dr Mayur Dangar, manager of BSPCA.

Initially, the prosthetic was placed on the stub of the right hind leg for about half-an-hour a day for a week, going on for a couple of hours daily, graduating to 4 hours in the mornings, another 4 in the evenings, slowly getting her used to the new part. "She's slowly inching forward with the prosthetic... But we will wait until we have kept it for 12 hours a day to be sure all is well," said Dr Dangar. Very few people make limbs for large animals, said Col B B Kulkarni, chief medical superintendent, BSPCA. "Acceptance of the new limb in large animals is rare," he said. "In this case, we've met with good progress so far."

New rail services off to a speedy start

Ahmedabad. The launch of the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro and the Namoo Bharat Rapid Rail Service kicked off with impressive passenger numbers on their debut day. The new metro line, stretching from GNLU to GIFT City, attracted nearly 5,000 passengers, while the Namoo Bharat Rapid Rail saw a turnout of 320 passengers from the Ahmedabad, Sabarmati and Chandlodia stations in the city alone. The high interest signals a promising start for these new transit options in the region.

S S Rathore, managing director of Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation, highlighted that initial estimate indicated close to 5,000 metro riders on Day 1, with final figures expected soon. Many of these passengers transitioned from crowded taxis and cabs, finding the Rs 35 fare a compelling draw. Metro officials anticipate even higher footfall once the line extends to Sachivalaya and Akshardham.

Meanwhile, the Namoo Bharat Rapid Rail, described as a local train by railway officials, recorded 200 passengers from Ahmedabad and Sabarmati stations, and 120 from Chandlodia. "Since the train operates on an unreserved basis, passengers purchase tickets at the counter. Its true popularity will be clearer in a month when monthly, fortnightly and weekly passes come into play," said a senior official.

The Rapid Rail, with a speed of 110 km/h, aims to make the 359km journey from Bhuj to Ahmedabad in just 5 hours and 45 minutes, compared to the seven hours by road. With fares starting at Rs 30 for the first 25km and Rs 1.20 per additional km, and options for regular passes, the train offers a cost-effective alternative to road travel, where state transport bus fares range from Rs 260 to over Rs 700. "Due to the speed, we are hopeful of daily commuters shifting to this train," the official added.

The train's 12-coach configuration accommodates 1,150 seated passengers and over 2,000 standing passengers. Rupesh Vora, a passenger from Sabarmati, praised the train for enabling same-day return trips from Bhuj. However, he noted that those travelling to Bhuj may need to plan for an overnight stay. "A morning train from Ahmedabad could enhance convenience for these travellers," he added.

Road rage: Realty firm owner threatened with hammer

Ahmedabad. A 42-year-old owner of a real estate company lodged a complaint with the Bodakdev police on Monday, alleging that an unidentified motorcyclist threatened to kill him with a hammer on Rajpath-Rangoli road on Sunday night. According to the FIR, complainant Naresh Sindhav, who resides in Binori Residency in Bopal, was out for dinner with his family on Rajpath-Rangoli road on Sunday night. During this time, a man on a motorcycle started honking behind Sindhav's car and then rode alongside him, accusing Sindhav of not driving properly.

Sindhav stated that the accused verbally abused him, but he continued driving. However, the man reappeared near Orbit Complex in Bodakdev, this time wielding a hammer. When Sindhav stopped his car, the man showed him the hammer and threatened to kill him. As per Sindhav's police statement, when he informed the man that he would call the police, the accused fled the scene. Following the incident, Sindhav approached the Bodakdev police and filed a complaint against the unknown individual for uttering abusive words and criminal intimidation under BNS.

Chennai sizzles at 39.2°C, new high for September in 22 years

The analysis was done by weather blogger K Srikanth. He told that this abnormal heat would grip Tamil Nadu for another 3-4 days before relief arrives.

CHENNAI. Chennaites are enduring one of the worst heat spells in September. The Indian Meteorological Department weather station in Meenambakkam recorded a maximum temperature of 39.2 degree Celsius on Tuesday, which is five degrees above normal and equals the highest recorded temperature during September after 2002. This number was first recorded as an all-time record since 1920 on September 28, 2002. Similarly, an analysis of the data available with the Climate Research and Services Division of the Met Department, revealed that seven IMD stations in Tamil Nadu recorded equal or highest temperature during September and nine other stations record top 10



hottest days during September. The analysis was done by weather blogger K Srikanth. He told TNIE that this abnormal heat would grip Tamil Nadu for another 3-4 days before relief arrives. Madurai is breaking all records with a heatwave. The airport weather station clocked a scorching 41 degree Celsius on Tuesday, which

is the highest recorded temperature during September in more than 60 years breaking the record set on September 5 this month. Another station in Madurai city recorded 40.8 degrees, which is the highest recorded there in 140 years. Madurai saw the temperature in excess of 5 degrees above normal.

Erode clocked 39.6 degrees, the highest temperature recorded during September in more than 25 years. Coonoor was also sweltering with 26 degrees, the highest in more than 90 years during September.

The regional meteorological centre has issued a temperature warning till Wednesday as maximum temperature is likely to be 2-4 degrees above normal. "Due to

humid air and high temperature, hot and uncomfortable weather is likely to prevail over isolated pockets of Tamil Nadu," the warning read. In Chennai, maximum temperature is likely to be 38-39 degree Celsius for the next two days.

Intense heatwave sweeps across Madurai

Madurai broke all records with an intense heatwave sweeping across the city on Tuesday. The airport weather station clocked a scorching 41 degree Celsius on Tuesday, which is the highest recorded temperature during September in more than 60 years. Erode clocked 39.6 degrees, the highest temperature recorded during September in more than 25 years.

Vigilance conducts probe into fund embezzlement in COVID treatment centre in Kerala

KOCHI. Corruption in the functioning of Covid First Line Treatment Centres (CFLTC) has come to the fore as the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) registered a case against three persons for diverting funds granted for the expenses of one such treatment centre in Vengola near Perumbavoor in Ernakulam. Vigilance Ernakulam Range team has registered a case against former Vengola panchayat senior clerk Shyjiil Kumar, Health Inspector Jomon Jacob and a person named Mahinkutty.

According to Vigilance officials, Vengola panchayat operated a CFLTC where patients were lodged after they turned positive during the test. As per the FIR of the case, the first accused was holding the post of CFLTC Nodal Officer.

"As the authority to prepare bills for food supplied to Covid patients admitted at the

CFLTC during the period of October 12, 2020, to October 31, 2021, he fraudulently prepared false and forged bills and made false entries in the official registers. This was done in collusion with the second accused, the health inspector of Vengola Community Health Centre who was holding the post of the coordinator responsible for the food supply at the CFLTC," stated in the FIR.

According to Vigilance officials, the duo conspired with Mahinkutty, and embezzled an amount of Rs 7.50 lakh intended for the food supplies to COVID-19 patients at the CFLTC. The cheques for diverting the funds were issued in the name of Mahinkutty.

"Bills of food products that were not procured and given to Covid-19 patients were included in the register. Mahinkutty had issued these bills so that the amount

could be diverted through this account. The case was only registered last week and a detailed probe has to be conducted to check whether more money was diverted. Also, the accused persons have to be questioned in this regard," said an officer.

The VACB had conducted a preliminary investigation following a complaint given by Kandanthara native Salim Rahmath. NO CASES YET DUE TO LACK OF COMPLAINTS

Even though there have been allegations in the operations of CFLTC before, no cases were registered due to a lack of complaints received by the Vigilance.

Kerala Lokayukta conducted a probe into Kerala Medical Services Corporation's (KMSC) alleged corruption in the procurement of PPE kits during the Covid period.

Retired IAS officers appointed as State Election Commissioner, Vigilance Commissioner

HYDERABAD. The state government on Tuesday appointed two retired IAS officers — I Rani Kumudini and MG Gopal — as the State Election Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioner respectively. Panchayat Raj & Rural Development department issued the notification, appointing Rani Kumudini as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) for a period of three years.

The term of previous SEC C Parthasarathi ended on September 8.

A 1988 batch IAS officer, Rani Kumudini held many posts in the state and Union governments during her service. Previously, she served as the Special Chief Secretary of Labour department, Secretary of Social Welfare Residential Schools, Rangareddy



District Collector, Managing Director of Housing Corporation, Commissioner of Labour and Horticulture departments in the state government. She worked as Joint Secretary of Agriculture department and Chief Executive of National Fisheries Development Board. This appointment has significance because local bodies elections in the state are due.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders appointing MG Gopal as the Vigilance Commissioner. Gopal's three-year term starts on the date of assumption of office. A 1983 batch IAS officer, Gopal held several posts in the state government.

KPCC spokesperson defends Siddaramaiah against Kumaraswamy's allegations of land misappropriation

MYSURU. Union minister HD Kumaraswamy has made baseless allegations that CM Siddaramaiah, during his tenure as DCM, had built a house on land allotted by MUDA in Vijayanagar to a Dalit with physical disability, KPCC spokesperson M Lakshmana said.

Speaking to reporters in front of the said house on Tuesday, Lakshmana said Kumaraswamy is popular for "making hit-and-run statements". "If he proves that Siddaramaiah snatched land belonging to a Dalit, we will ensure that he resigns from

the CM's post, but if Kumaraswamy fails to prove it, then he should resign from the post of Union minister. Kumaraswamy must stop making baseless allegations against Siddaramaiah. If he spreads false information by releasing fake documents, we will pursue legal action," he said.

Lakshmana said, "The land belongs to Sakamma, grandmother of Congress leader Rakesh Pappanna. In 1950, Puttegowda had divided the land in survey number 70/4 and given it to his children Chikkathammaiah and Sakamma, and each got 30 guntas.

The land survey number was changed to 70/4A (Sakkamma) and 70/4B (Chikkathammaiah). In 1967, Sakamma gave 10 guntas of land each to her sister's two children and kept the remaining 10 guntas with herself. In 1984, MUDA notified the land belonged to Chikkathammaiah and awarded him Rs 11,700 in 1986. In 1997, Sakamma sold her land to Siddaramaiah, who constructed a house on 100x120 sqft, with a loan from Merchants Coop Bank," he said.

Lakshmana said that after the bank issued

notice to Siddaramaiah for not repaying the loan, he sold the house to Khodays in 1999 for Rs 98 lakh, to clear the loan. But in 2018, RTI activist Gangaraju sought details of the survey 70/4. MUDA authorities gave information regarding 70/4B, which belonged to Chikkathammaiah and was notified. So he filed a complaint in the civil court in Mysuru, alleging that Siddaramaiah has constructed a house on notified land. The court judge directed Lakshmiapuram police to probe the case and submit a B report.

Kerala trucks discharge fish waste on Pollachi roads

On September 9, a truck carrying fish from Kozhikode to Thoothukudi was detained by public at Gomangalam when the driver tried to discharge waste on the roadside.

COIMBATORE. People living in Pollachi and surrounding areas complain that vehicles transporting fish from Kerala to Tamil Nadu dispose waste in the open. Since the beginning of this month, four trucks have been detained by public for letting waste water from the fish stock on the road. The public urge authorities to tighten vigil and stop dumping of waste and releasing waste water.

Fish is transported by trucks from Kerala to various parts of Tamil Nadu to poultry farms as chicken feed and food processing units. During transit, fish is packed with ice bars to prevent spoilage and the wastewater accumulate from the ice bars is used to store inside the truck. The truck drivers and assistants discharge the waste water on the road which leaves behind a strong stench and raises the risk of infection.

On September 9, a truck carrying fish from Kozhikode to Thoothukudi was detained by public at Gomangalam when the driver tried to discharge waste on the roadside. Due to the strong stench, locals caught two more

trucks carrying fish waste and handed them over to the police on the same day. On September 13, another truck was caught near Pollachi town.

Further, two truck drivers were caught by public near Gomangalam on Monday when they were discharging fish waste on the roadside. The issue was informed to the police and they were investigating. The truck drivers P Selvam (46) from Andipalayam in Thiruvananthapuram, and C Palanivel (50) from Vadakkuvellur near Cuddalore were arrested and the police registered a case against them under section 279 (fouling water of public spring or reservoir) and 280 (making atmosphere noxious to health) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Act. The accused were remanded to judicial custody and the trucks were seized, said police.

"Trucks transporting fish usually have a storage unit inside where they should store the waste and discharge them at their own place with proper mechanism. However, they dump the waste on roads while on the move.



THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

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NEWS BOX

EV charging infra in Noida Airport soon

Noida. The Noida International Airport (NIA) has partnered with Statiq, an electric vehicle (EV) charging network, which will set up, operate, and maintain an airside electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the airport. According to NIA officials, all concessionaires and airport vehicles will have access to this EV charging network, designed to support the airport's sustainability initiatives and reduce emissions across its operations. In the first phase of this partnership, Statiq will install a mix of 7.4 kW AC chargers for smaller electric vehicles, as well as 120 kW and 240 kW chargers for high-powered, rapid charging needs. NIA chief development officer Nicolas Schenk said, "With Statiq's expertise, we will ensure 24/7 availability of fast EV charging infrastructure for all airside operations, in line with our sustainable design and operations principles. The first phase of the airport — featuring one runway and one terminal — is likely to become operational by April 2025.

Collection agent, brother concoct loot story to cheat employer, held

Noida. A collection agent and his brother were arrested for conniving and fabricating a robbery to cheat his employer of Rs 17 lakh on Monday. The suspects are Rohit Bhati (24) and Rahul (28), residents of Dadri in Greater Noida, police said. Atul Agarwal, involved in construction work, filed a complaint with the police saying his collection agent, Rohit, was robbed near Hazipur underpass within the jurisdiction of Sector 126 police station, additional commissioner of police Manish Kumar Mishra said. The suspects were charged under relevant sections of BNS. Mishra said, "Rohit was hired as a collection agent by Agarwal around one-and-a-half months back. On Monday at 6.30 pm, Agarwal received a call from Rohit, who informed him that when he was returning after collecting money, two unidentified suspects robbed him at gunpoint near Hazipur underpass. However, when Agarwal questioned Rohit about the robbery, his statements were inconsistent. Upon examining CCTV footage and interrogating Rohit, it was discovered that he had conspired with his brother to deceive his employer and steal the money. Rohit had called his brother Rahul and given him the bag containing Rs 17 lakh in cash, along with his mobile phone, before contacting his employer to report the alleged robbery.

Discom team inspects substations, maintenance works

NOIDA: A team from PVVNL Meerut headquarters, under director (commercial) Sanjay Jain and executive engineer Krishna Kumar Bhargava, inspected substations — sectors 82, 83, 64, 63, Bahloipur and Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) — in Noida and Greater Noida. Officials said the maintenance works are underway, including smart metering, business plan works, review of Noida equipment store, and assessment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP) warehouse in Dadri. This move was prompted by instructions from the state headquarters to evaluate the progress of current projects. On Tuesday, a three-hour shutdown affected Sector 47 and part of Sector 51 due to maintenance and tree pruning activities. Harish Bansal, chief zonal engineer of the Noida power department at PVVNL, said, "The team led by Jain reviewed the progress of smart metering, standard operating procedures, and the status of long-term unpaid work. They also evaluated business plan works and project closures." Bansal added the team assessed ongoing changes to old cables, poles, feeders, and transformers in various city areas and reviewed the quality of work at power substations. Additionally, they investigated the maintenance and supply systems, asking questions about high line loss from the engineers at the substations, Bansal said. Jain also evaluated the power storage centre to determine the current inventory and future needs.

A drain runs through it: Panel to probe what's killing Surajpur trees

Noida. The Greater Noida authority has set up a panel to probe how untreated industrial effluents were making way into the Surajpur wetland, where numerous trees died earlier this year. The committee, comprising three senior officials from the Greater Noida authority, with representatives from the district forest office, irrigation department, and pollution department, will investigate and submit a comprehensive report on the wetland's status by the end of this week. The complainant, Vikrant Tongad, said, "I already sent two complaints regarding the matter. Despite the formation of a joint inspection team, there has been no action on the ground. No steps have been taken against those discharging untreated water into the wetland and causing loss of vegetation." Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad claimed there are about 100 industrial units near the wetland and most of them were discharging untreated water into the wetland. "We have already lost more than dozens of trees and many more will be destroyed if this continues," he said. According to the Provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units must install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. The central and state pollution control boards monitor industries' effluent discharge and act against non-compliance under these two acts. "Upon visiting the wetland, our team found numerous trees that had perished due to industrial waste. A drain that runs through the wetland requires proper channelisation to prevent effluents from leaking into the ecosystem. We have advised the pollution department to inspect nearby factories and take appropriate measures if their effluents are found to be contaminating the wetland", said GNDA general manager Indu Prakash. Residents living near wetland said they saw canopy thin, branches dry, and trees die on east bank over the last four years due to chemical discharge into the waterbody.

Dengue stings hard, city tally crosses 40

Gurgaon. The count of patients being diagnosed with dengue has gone up, with the city adding 18 cases over the first 17 days of this month, taking its total for this year to 42. The city reported three new cases on Tuesday. According to data by the health department, four patients with active infection are being treated at hospitals across the city and are recovering well. Of the 18 cases this month, seven are women and all others are men. They are all between 17 and 48 years of age. An official said that the health department has identified Wazirabad, Bhangrola, Nakhrola, Badshapur, Bhondsi, Bhorakalan and Garhi as dengue hotspots in the city. "We have been tracking down active cases and marking hotspots. MCG has been told to carry out fogging drives in areas with positive cases to curb breeding of dengue-causing mosquitoes," the official said. Experts have cautioned that warm and humid temperatures after showers or between spells of rain are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes that cause the illness. Dengue and cases of other mosquito-borne diseases, they said, are likely to increase in the coming weeks. Dr Tushar Tayal, lead consultant at the department of internal medicine at CK

Birla Hospital said OPDs have seen an uptick in the number of patients reporting dengue-like symptoms over the past two weeks. "Symptoms are milder compared to the typical range of illnesses. But it is crucial to identify them promptly and get tested. Emergency departments are witnessing an influx of dengue patients who are receiving symptomatic treatment in the form of intravenous fluids and antipyretics. There is no need for panic even if you are diagnosed with dengue. Paracetamol for fever and adequate hydration are the keys to recovery," Dr Tayal said. Commonly seen symptoms of dengue include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and a characteristic skin rash. Doctors emphasised the need for taking preventive measures to slow the spread of infections. They recommend wearing full-sleeved clothes, using mosquito repellents and cleaning any pools of stagnant water from containers, coolers, among other precautions. "Due to the accumulation of garbage, waterlogging, and humidity changes caused by waterlogging, the prevalence of these infections has become very high. We can prevent this disease burden through simple techniques like maintaining cleanliness in our

surroundings," said Dr Amitabh Ghosh, consultant for internal medicine at Manpal Hospital in the city. The city had recorded a total of 276 dengue cases, including a fatality, last year. In 2022, cases touched 440, and the year before that, 327 patients were diagnosed with the infection. On Tuesday, doctors said

dengue cases were likely to go up because of extended monsoon this year. "Several cases have been reported in Aug and Sept, and with the continuing rainy season, we anticipate the numbers to increase further. Our emergency departments are already managing a high volume of patients."

Extend social security benefits to gig workers, assn tells govt

Gurgaon. The Gig Workers Association (GigWA) has urged the govt to extend social security benefits such as employees' state insurance (ESI) and provident fund (PF) to gig workers, following the govt's move to register aggregators and their platform workers on the e-Shram portal. GigWA has proposed that costs of these benefits be shared among gig workers, aggregators, and the govt, citing current lack of social security for these workers. The association praised the ministry of labour and employment's initiative to register gig workers and establishment of a toll-free helpline (14434) to assist with the registration process. The ministry's advisory, which

includes a standard operating procedure (SOP) detailing aggregator responsibilities for worker registration and data updates, has been well-received. Under the new system, platform workers will receive a universal account number (UAN), granting them access to essential social security benefits. Nitesh Das, organising secretary of GigWA, said the need for social security through the employees' state insurance corporation (ESIC) and old-age protection via the employees' provident fund organisation (EPFO). He called for the same protections afforded to formal workers to be extended to platform-based gig workers.

Gadkari fumes over craters on EPE, says 'we'll not spare you'

Ghaziabad: Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari came down heavily on agencies and contractors over the poor condition of the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, saying good operators would be awarded but bad ones would be "driven out of the system". "We will not spare you. We'll ensure that bank guarantees of those doing bad work are forfeited and after this, we will blacklist you, not allow you to apply for new tenders," the minister said. Gadkari, who was in the city to inaugurate a tree plantation drive 'Ek Ped Ma K Naam' under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, took the EPE to reach the venue at the Duhai interchange and noticed rough patches on the expressway. Referring to winter air pollution when Delhi-NCR cities become a smog chamber, Gadkari said, "We have undertaken highway work



worth over Rs 65,000 crore in NCR, of which work worth Rs 32,000 crore has been completed. By Dec, there will be a marked reduction in pollution levels in the area. In addition to this, we are also adopting means to convert ethanol from crop residue, which in the long run will help control stubble burning cases in Haryana and elsewhere." The

minister also lauded the efforts of NHAH to reduce pollution. "Forty per cent of air pollution in the country is due to vehicular pollution, and NHAH is making efforts to reduce it. The NHAH is playing a key role in promoting environmental sustainability, having planted around 46 lakh trees this year. The dependence on fossil fuel should be kept at a bare minimum." NHAH has adopted the Miyawaki method of plantation and installed eco-friendly bamboo crash barriers along 10 km of national highways. "I have suggested to NHAH that metallic crash barriers should be replaced with bamboo crash barriers along all national highways. This will serve many purposes — it will generate employment in North-Eastern states where bamboo plantation is carried out in a big way," Gadkari said.

YEIDA master plan for aerotropolis, biz district gets town planner's nod

Noida: Nearly two months after it sought a report on zone regulations for data centres and green spaces, the UP Town and Country Planning Department approved on Tuesday the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority's (YEIDA) draft master plan 2041. A blueprint for the next 18 years for developing over 3,000 sq km in six districts under its jurisdiction, the draft plan focuses on boosting industrial development along the Noida International Airport, Heritage City in Mathura and other urban areas in GB Nagar and Bulandshahr. The draft, cleared by the Authority's board in Jan, was submitted to UP govt in July. However, the town planning department sent it back seeking details on data centres, green spaces, healthcare facilities, research centres, transport infrastructure and flood zones, among others. YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh said all the points were addressed in a

ICICI dy manager held for links with cyber fraudsters; 18th banker to be arrested this yr

Gurgaon. A deputy manager of ICICI Bank has been arrested for his alleged involvement in providing bank accounts to cyber cons to park defrauded money. His involvement came to the fore while cops were investigating a case in which a person was cheated of Rs 25.5 lakh by fraudsters who offered him good returns from an investment scheme. Since Feb, this is the 18th arrest of a bank staffer by city police for allegedly helping cyber criminals route the money. Akashdeep Singh is from Mandi Gobindgarh village in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib. Police said Akashdeep had been working with ICICI Bank since 2022. A police team led by inspector Sunil Kumar went to the village and arrested him on Monday. "On Feb 29 this year, a person filed a complaint at the Manesar cybercrime police station alleging that he was cheated of Rs 25.5 lakh through an app that promised high returns on investments in the stock market. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered under IPC Section 420 (cheating)." ACP (cybercrime) Priyanshu Diwan said. During the investigation, police found that the defrauded money was transferred to an IndusInd bank account in Fatehgarh Sahib owned by Patiala resident Devendra Singh. A team from Manesar cybercrime police station, headed by ASI Vijaypal, conducted raids in Sangrur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab to arrest him. Devendra was arrested in Patiala's Nohra village in May. The information he provided to cops led to the arrest of Harpreet Singh, sales manager at an ICICI Bank branch in Fatehgarh Sahib, on July 9. Akashdeep is the deputy manager at the same branch, police said. The duo allegedly opened a bank account in Devendra's name and provided it to cyber fraudsters. "Akashdeep will

Name Change
I, ADARSH KUMAR TRIVEDI S/O SUSHIL KUMAR TRIVEDI R/O H-17/246, SANGAM VIHAR, DELHI-110026, have changed my name from ADARSH TRIVEDI TO ADARSH KUMAR TRIVEDI for all future purpose.

Name Change
I, Rakesh Pawar/Rakesh S/O Gordhan Dass Pawar R/O 456/8, Brahma Mandi, Near Ganga Mandir, Rohitak, Haryana-124001 Have Changed My Name To Rakesh Kumar For All Future Purpose

Name Change
I, KRISHANA wife of BALJEET R/O 1467/30, GALI NO-1, SHASTRI COLONY, GOHANA ROAD, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001 have changed my name from KRISHANA TO KRISHNA DEVI for all future purposes.

Name Change
I, MD NAEEM ANSARI S/O HAFIZUDDIN residing at H.NO-44/147, INSIDE GHATA MASJID, ANSARI ROAD, DARYA GANJ, CENTRAL DELHI-110002 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD NAEEM for all future purposes.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
No.256-Sig-SPL-TKJ-232-EH-KJY Dated: 17.09.2024
By CST/E/SPL, Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 acting for & on behalf of President of India Invites E-tenders in One packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

- 1 Name of work: Replacement of old Panel Interlocking with new Electronic Interlocking at Khurja City (KJY) Station of Moradabad Division of Northern Railway.
- 2 Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 37055505.07/- (Rs. Three Crores Seventy lakh Fifty Five thousand Five hundred Five and Seven paise only)
- 3 Earnest money/Bid security (INR): Rs. 335300.00/- (As on www.ireps.gov.in)
- 4 Completion period 06 Months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance
- 5 Website address and Date and Time where tender available: www.ireps.gov.in
- 6 Closing date: 11.00 Hrs. on date: 14.10.2024.
- 7 Date of Opening of tender: 11.30 Hrs. on date: 14.10.2024.
- 8 Validity of offer: 60 days from the date of opening of tender.

(Tenders without earnest money will be summarily rejected)
Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored.
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e., www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum /addendum, if required, will be posted on this web site only. 2895/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	14240839	METAL CUTTING GAS	108458 KGS	09-10-24
02	77245628	MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY OF 11200 MM CURVED THICK	20 SET	22-10-24
03	08241521	PROCUREMENT OF SSD AC	118 NOSSET	22-10-24
04	08240027	PROCUREMENT OF SHUNT LED SIGNAL	3476 NOS	25-10-24
05	08240026	PROCUREMENT OF ROUTE LED	4878 NOS	28-10-24

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e., www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 Dated: 17/09/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2899/24

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

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Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e., www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 Dated: 17/09/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2899/24

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Satveer Singh S/o Brijpal R/O H.No-1150, Pocket-3, Lodhi Road, Lodhi Road Complex Delhi-110003. I have disowned /debarred my son namely Dilip Kumar and his wife Monu Ranig Anjali from his entire movable and immovable properties & other assets due to their misconduct. If any body deals with them he/she will do so at their own risks. I will not be held responsible for any acts and deeds.

Name Change
I, JC-334840L Rank-NB SUB Name-VIJAY KUMAR Father of VRI-GYANK SAHU have changed my name at HEAD QTR, CHIEF ENGINEER, AIRFORCE, WAC, PALAM, NEW DELHI-110010 have changed my son's name from VRI-GYANK TO VRI-GYANK SAHU for all future purposes. vide affidavit dated 18/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, MD RIZWAN ALI ANSARI S/o, MD HADHISH ANSARI R/o RZC-1/12, Nihal Vihar, Nangli West, Delhi, Delhi-110041 declare that name of mine and my wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as MD RIZWAN ANSARI and JAMILA KHATOON AND MD ARMAN ANSARI in my minor son MD ARMAN ALI ANSARI aged 16 years in his school records. The actual name of mine and my wife is MD RIZWAN and MD RIZWAN ALI ANSARI and JAMILA and MD ARMAN ALI ANSARI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Prabha Wo Mr. Sunil owner of Residential Plot land area measuring 150 Sq. Yards i.e. 125.41 Sq. Meters, out of Kharsa No. 1884, situated at Village Dhoom Manikpur, Pargana and tehsil Dadri, Dist. Gaurium Budh Nagar, U.P.-203207. She purchased the said property from Mrs. Satyendra through a Sale Deed dated 01.01.2024. The property is financed by M/S Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., with its branch located at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The Original Sale Deed, as Doc No. 21410, Volume No. 7480, in Book No. 1, on Page No. 375-396, reg. on 30.10.2014, in SR-Dadri, has been lost. Any person(s) found in possession of the said original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

LOST & FOUND
Payment Receipts in favor of M/s. UTSAV CORPORATION PVT. LTD. for Flat No. T-15/PH-1, La Troicana, Civil Lines, Delhi - 110054 issued by M/s. Parvath Landmark Developers Pvt. Ltd. The receipts Numbers are- S0001831 Dt.06/04/2007, S0002251 Dt.02/01/2008, S0002394 Dt.02/05/2008, S0002431 Dt.03/06/2008, S0002451 Dt.21/07/2008, S0002452 Dt.21/07/2008, S0002453 Dt.26/07/2008, S0003614 Dt.22/06/2010, S0005421 Dt.11/10/2011, S0005621 Dt.03/01/2012, S0006003 Dt.13/03/2012, S0006349 Dt.04/07/2012, S0006632 Dt.19/09/2012, S0006886 Dt.21/11/2012, S0007831 Dt.28/09/2013, S0008745 Dt.15/04/2014, S0009005 Dt.21/07/2022 are lost and not traceable. Finder Contact: 8743800057

Name Change
I, Anurag Prakash S/o Raj Kishor Lal R/O A-301, The Palm Drive, Sector-66, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018 Have Changed My Name To Anurag Prakash Lal For All Future Purposes

Name Change
I, Sonia Bhatnagar W/o Anurag Prakash Lal R/O A-301, The Palm Drive, Sector-66, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018 Have Changed My Name To Sonia Lal For All Future Purposes

Name Change
I, Jaspal S/o Hardev Singh R/O, L-1, 1125/27, Ashil Mandir Road, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062. Have Changed My Name To Jaspal Singh Viridi S/o Hardev Singh Viridi For All Future Purpose

Name Change
I, PIYUSH KUMAR NAHATA S/O RAJENDER SINGH NAHATA R/O 4311 Gali Bhatrown Wali Jogiwara Nai Sarak, Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor daughter SOUMYA NAHATA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as SAMRIDHI NAHTA.

Name Change
I, SARAGADA BHAGYALAKSHMI wife of NO-16120379N Rank-HAV Name-BASAVA RAMESH R/O D.NO-2-82, PAKADEBBA STREET, VILL-MULAKUDU, PO-CHITTIVIALASA, MANDALAM-BHEEMUNIPATNAM, DIST-VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-531162 have changed my name from SARAGADA BHAGYALAKSHMI to BASAVA BHAGYALAKSHMI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 18/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Name Change
I, Anju D/O Daulat Ram, W/O Pradeep R/O House No.168, South Side Central Park, Janta Flat, Pocket-1, Sector-6, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 have changed the name of my minor son Arman aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as SUNIL.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh R/O 566, West Guru Angad Nagar Laxmi Nagar, Sakarpur, East Delhi Delhi-110092 declare that name of mine, my husband and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as GURPREET KAUR ARNEJA, MANJEET SINGH ARNEJA AND ANVEET KAUR ARNEJA in my minor daughter namely ANVEET KAUR aged 14 year in her school record. The actual name of mine, my husband and my minor daughter are GURPREET KAUR, MANJEET SINGH and ANVEET KAUR respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Name Change
I, Baidh Nath Majhi alias Vidyayanth Manjhi s/o Amira Manjhi r/o 3096 Bheem Gali, Ram Bazar Mori Gate, Delhi 110006 inform that name of mine has been mentioned in my daughter Anjali Kumar's educational document as Vidyayanth Manjhi - the correct name of mine is Baidh Nath Majhi which may be amended accordingly.

Name Change
It is for general information that I, RAJ KUMAR RANA S/O OM KRISHAN RANA R/O Q.NO-379, TYPE-3, BLOCK-18, LODHI ROAD, LODHI COLONY, NEW DELHI-110003, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as RAJ KUMAR and OM KRISHAN in my 10th and 12th Educational Documents. The actual names of mine and my father are RAJ KUMAR RANA and OM KRISHAN RANA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh R/O 566, West Guru Angad Nagar Laxmi Nagar, Sakarpur, East Delhi Delhi-110092 declare that name of mine, my husband and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as GURPREET KAUR ARNEJA, MANJEET SINGH ARNEJA AND ANVEET KAUR ARNEJA in my minor daughter namely GURLEEN KAUR aged 15 year in her school record. The actual name of mine, my husband and my minor daughter are GURPREET KAUR, MANJEET SINGH and ANVEET KAUR respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

News box

Taiwan firm denies making pagers that detonated in Lebanon

World Gold Apollo, a Taiwan-based manufacturer that produces pagers, denied making the explosives-laden wireless devices which were detonated across Lebanon, killing at least nine people and injuring nearly 3,000 others. The company said the devices used in Tuesday's blasts were made by a European company called BAC which has a licence to use the Taiwan firm's brand name.

Addressing reporters at the Gold Apollo's office in the city of New Taipei, Hsu Ching-Kuang, founder and president of the company, said that the "product is not ours. It only had our brand on it". He, however, did not elaborate on the location of the European firm. "We may not be a large company, but we are a responsible one. This is very embarrassing," news agency Reuters quoted Hsu as saying. The company chief stressed that he did not have any knowledge as to how the pagers were rigged with explosives.

According to a Reuters report, the police arrived at the New Taipei offices while Hsu was meeting reporters. The development comes after a Lebanese security source told the news agency that the Iran-backed Hezbollah had ordered 5,000 pagers from Gold Apollo. The source identified the model of one exploded pager as the AP924 variant. Images of the damaged pagers also revealed a design and stickers on the back consistent with those produced by Gold Apollo.

Pagers: Lebanon blasts targeting Hezbollah bring vintage devices into focus

World Hundreds of pagers, a communication device used by Hezbollah members, exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and injuring nearly 3,000 in a major security incident in the region. The Iran-backed militant group has blamed Israel for the mysterious blasts.

The incident has brought pagers back into the spotlight, decades after they fell out of popular use. Here's what pagers are and how they operate:

WHAT ARE PAGERS

Pagers, once a staple of communication in the late 20th century, are simple, wireless telecommunications devices that receive and display messages. The rise of mobile phones, with their ability to make calls, send texts, and later even access the internet, rendered these devices obsolete. Traditionally, pagers are one-way communication devices, meaning they can only receive alerts but cannot respond. More sophisticated versions, known as two-way pagers, offer the ability to send and receive text messages.

HOW PAGERS OPERATE

The operation of a pager relies on a dedicated network of radio transmitters. When a message is sent, it first passes through a central terminal, which then broadcasts the message over a specific frequency. Radio antennas, part of the paging network, send out the signal to all pagers tuned to that frequency. Once the message is received, the pager alerts the user with a beep, vibration, or flashing light. Pagers operate on very high frequency (VHF) or ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio waves, differentiating them from mobile phones, which rely on cellular networks. The device typically has four key components: an antenna that receives the radio signals, a receiver that decodes the incoming messages, a display to show the message, and a battery. Each pager is assigned a unique identifier.

Image of Titan submersible, chilling 3-word message before implosion revealed

World The first picture of the Titan submersible that imploded in June last year during its descent to the Titanic wreckage site was revealed by the US Coast Guard on Monday at a public hearing into the deaths of five people onboard the vessel. A text conversation between the Titan's crew and the Polar Prince, a nearby support ship, was also revealed during the hearing. When asked if it was visible on Polar Prince's informational display, a chilling three-word text from the Titan's crew came, saying, "All good here," even as the sub descended further. The Guardian reported. The image of the ill-fated Titan, captured during the frantic search for the vessel last year, showed the sub's broken tail cone resting on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean at a depth of 12,500 feet, giving a chilling reminder to the viewers about the aftermath of the implosion. Fragments of the sub were also visible on the ocean floor -- the debris that was found by the search teams that confirmed the sub's implosion. According to the Marine Board of Investigation, the Titan's detached tail cone and other debris gave "conclusive evidence" that the sub suffered a "catastrophic implosion". CNN reported. OceanGate, the company that developed the Titan, had come under intense scrutiny as former employees and whistleblowers expressed concerns over the design of the vessel. Tony Nissen, the former engineering director, spoke about the pressure to expedite the Titan's launch despite his reservations. Another contractor, Tym Catterson, expressed his doubts about the suitability of the materials -- carbon fibre and titanium -- used in the submersible's construction, according to The Guardian.

Republicans block US Senate IVF bill despite Trump's support, Biden slams move

The IVF bill failed 51-44, falling short of the required 60-vote threshold in the US Senate after most Republicans voted against it for the second time. Following the bill's failure, US President Joe Biden slammed Republican Senators, calling their move "outrageous and unacceptable".

Washington A US Senate bill aimed at enshrining federal protections and expanding insurance coverage for fertility treatments failed on Tuesday, as Republicans voted against it days after Donald Trump surprised supporters by voicing support for such a policy. The bill failed 51-44, falling short of the required 60-vote threshold after most Republicans voted against it for the second time. Democrats control the chamber by a slim 51-49 margin. US President Joe Biden slammed the blockade of the bill, calling it "outrageous and unacceptable". "Yet again, Senate Republicans refused to safeguard access to



fertility treatments for women trying to get pregnant. Republican officials have had every opportunity to protect reproductive freedom -- from IVF to contraception -- but they refuse to do so. The disregard for a woman's right to make these decisions for

herself and her family is outrageous and unacceptable," the US President said. The bill's sponsor, Democratic Senator Tammy Duckworth, first attempted to get a vote on the same bill in late February, after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled the embryos

used in vitro fertilization, or IVF, should be considered children, jeopardizing access to the treatment used by millions of Americans every year. "The freedom to get reproductive care is at risk for millions of other women whose most desperate hope in the world is to have a little one of their own," Duckworth, who had her two daughters via fertility treatments, said in a Senate floor speech after Tuesday's vote. "Republicans only seem to care about protecting life when it supposedly consists of some cells in a medical lab freezer." Republican presidential candidate Trump said in August he would require the government or insurance companies to pay for IVF if he is elected, surprising some hardline Republicans for whom the treatment is controversial. "We want to produce babies in this country, right?" Trump said during a town hall-style campaign event in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Israel's Mossad planted explosives in Hezbollah's Taiwan-made pagers: Reports

World. Israel's Mossad spy agency planted a small amount of explosives inside 5000 Taiwan-made pagers ordered by Lebanese militant group Hezbollah five months before Tuesday's detonations, multiple reports claimed, citing senior Lebanese security sources. Pagers, wireless communication devices used by thousands of members of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, exploded simultaneously across Lebanon and parts of Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and wounding scores. Nearly 100 cases of blasts were reported in Syria. A senior Lebanese security source who spoke to news agency Reuters alleged that the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives. Mossad injected a board inside the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It's very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner," the source told Reuters. The Iran-backed militant group had ordered 5,000 pagers from Taiwan-based manufacturer Gold Apollo, which were smuggled into the country between April and May. A security source identified the model of one exploded pager as the AP924 variant. Images of the damaged pagers also revealed a design and stickers on the back consistent with those produced by Gold Apollo. The plot appears to have been many months in the making, according to the sources. Sources who spoke to Sky News Arabia alleged that the Israeli spy agency placed a quantity of PETN, a highly explosive material, on the batteries of the devices, and detonated them by raising the temperature of the batteries from afar. Qatar funded Al Jazeera channel, which also spoke to security sources, reported that the weight of the explosive placed in each device was below 20 grams, and that the pagers that were blown up



were imported five months ago. An investigation is being conducted into how the explosive charge was activated, the source added. Meanwhile, Hezbollah vowed to retaliate against Israel after accusing it of detonating pagers across Lebanon on Tuesday. The Iran-backed militant group stated that Israel would receive "its fair punishment" for the blasts. Condemning the attack, Lebanese

Information Minister Ziad Makary called it an "Israeli aggression." However, Israeli authorities or the army have not commented on the blasts and subsequent allegations. Hezbollah militants have been using pagers as a low-tech means of communication in an attempt to evade Israeli location tracking. The group has been in armed conflict with Israel since Hamas's October 7 attack. Israel has allegedly used similar tactics in the past as well. According to a former US National Security Agency intelligence analyst, David Kennedy, Israel had allegedly planted 15 grams of RDX explosive in a mobile phone to kill Hamas leader Yahya Ayyash in 1996. The device detonated when he made a call to his father.

Harvey Weinstein set to be arraigned on additional sex crimes charges in New York

NEW YORK. Harvey Weinstein is expected to be arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan on a new indictment charging him with up to three additional sex offenses, his lawyer said.

Weinstein's lawyer Arthur Aidala said the jailed ex-movie mogul will appear in court in person to face his latest legal hurdle after he was excused from a hearing last week while recovering from emergency heart surgery. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office disclosed at the Sept. 12 hearing last week that a grand jury had returned a new indictment charging Weinstein with previously uncharged offenses. The indictment will remain under seal

until Weinstein is arraigned. Prosecutors have said that the grand jury heard evidence of up to three alleged assaults: in the mid-2000s at the Tribeca Grand Hotel, now known as the Roxy Hotel, and a Lower Manhattan residential building, and, in May 2016, at a Tribeca hotel. At the same time, Weinstein is awaiting retrial in his landmark #MeToo case after New York's highest court overturned his 2020 conviction earlier this year. Weinstein's retrial is scheduled to begin Nov. 12. Prosecutors have said they'll seek to fold the new charges into the retrial, but Weinstein's lawyers oppose that, saying it should be a separate case.

Kamala Harris opposes Israeli reoccupation of Gaza, calls for end to war

Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire and a two-state solution to end the Israel-Gaza war, emphasising the importance of preventing Israel from reoccupying Gaza.

Washington US Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris called on Tuesday for an end to the Israel-Gaza war and said that Israel must not reoccupy the Palestinian enclave once the nearly year-old conflict comes to an end. Speaking in Philadelphia to the National Association of Black Journalists, she called for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants, a two-state solution and Middle East stability in a way that does not empower Iran. "We've made ourselves very clear this deal needs to get done in the best interest of everyone in the region," Harris, the US vice president, said in response to questions asked by three journalists. At least 41,252 people have been killed and 95,497 wounded in the Israeli offensive in the Hamas-ruled strip since October 7, the Gaza health ministry said. The

war began that day when Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Harris was asked about Springfield, Ohio, a city that 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. Former President Donald Trump, Harris' Republican rival in the Nov. 5 presidential election, has pledged to conduct mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from Springfield if elected, even though the majority are in the United States legally. "This is exhausting and it's harmful and it's hateful and grounded in some age-old stuff that we should not have the tolerance for," Harris said. The 45-minute interview began with economic issues. Harris said that if elected president she will work with



private investors to boost housing supply, acknowledging that more work was needed to lower prices for Americans. "One of the big issues that affects people right now in terms of the economy and their economic wellbeing is we have a shortage of housing supply," Harris said. "It's too expensive." Harris reiterated a plan to expand the child tax credit to \$6,000. She repeated a pledge that Americans not pay more than 7% of their income on childcare. The interview was scheduled after Harris did not attend the group's convention in Chicago in

July when Trump, in an interview, questioned her Black identity.

HARRIS, TRUMP COURT BLACK VOTERS

In the 2020 presidential election, Black voters supported then-candidate Joe Biden 92% to 8% over the then-incumbent Trump, according to the Pew Research Centre. Most Black voters, 63%, plan to support Harris, compared with 13% for Trump, according to an NAACP survey released this month. However, some Black voters are losing faith in the Democratic Party. Over one quarter of younger Black men say they would support Trump this election, the NAACP poll showed. "Black men are like any other voting group," Harris said. "You gotta earn their vote." The interview was conducted by NABJ members from TheGrio and Politico as well as an anchor for WHYY-FM, a public radio station.

What caused Hezbollah pagers to explode, and how Israel could be involved

Since the beginning of the Gaza war last year, Hezbollah members have been using some low-tech devices to evade Israel's sophisticated surveillance technology. However, reports suggest that Tuesday's pager explosions in Lebanon could be more than just a remote hack.

World. At least nine people were killed and 2,750 were injured in Lebanon on Tuesday after wireless communication devices used by militant group Hezbollah exploded in what appears to be a targeted attack. Multiple reports have now claimed that Israel's spy agency, Mossad, planted a small amount of explosives inside the Taiwan-made pagers five months before. Hezbollah and Lebanon blamed Israel for the wave of explosions, which lasted for about an hour,

even as Tel Aviv did not immediately respond to the charges. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has been engaged in cross-border warfare with Israel since the Gaza war erupted in October last year. The group had instructed its members to avoid mobile phones and to rely on its own telecommunications system instead to prevent Israeli breaches.

WHY WAS HEZBOLLAH USING PAGERS?

Reports suggested that following the killing of senior commanders in targeted Israeli airstrikes, Hezbollah has been using some low-tech devices, including landline phones and pagers, to try to evade Israel's sophisticated surveillance technology. Hezbollah has also been using its own drones to study and attack Israel's intelligence gathering capabilities in what the group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, described as a strategy of "blinding" Israel. These tactics have become crucial to facing a



formidable adversary like Israel, which uses hi-tech security cameras and remote sensing systems to identify and strike down its targets in enemy territory. Israel's electronic eavesdropping - including hacking into cell phones and computers - is also widely regarded as among the world's most sophisticated.

CAN PAGERS BE HACKED?

According to a Reuters report, some Lebanese sources told the agency that the pagers that

exploded were a modern model recently purchased by Hezbollah. Another report by Iran's Press TV suggested that the devices heated up before exploding. Since pager messages are typically transmitted over radio frequencies without encryption, hackers can use specialised radio equipment and software-defined radios (SDRs) to intercept large volumes of pager communications simultaneously. This allows them to capture and decode pager messages over a wide area, potentially affecting thousands of users in hospitals, industries, or government sectors that still rely on pager systems.

While encryption makes it harder for attackers to intercept and read pager messages, vulnerabilities may still exist. Hackers can exploit weaknesses in the encryption protocol, find flaws in the pager's implementation, or use brute-force attacks if the encryption is weak.

News box

AMC razes 23 illegal constructions in Fatehwadi area

Ahmedabad. AMC's south west zone teams demolished illegal constructions in the new Fatehwadi area of Sarkhej ward on Tuesday. In all, 23 illegal structures — 22 residential buildings and one commercial structure — were razed.

Notices were issued by the AMC to demolish 51 illegal units — 32 residential buildings and 18 commercial units — spread across four survey numbers in Fatehwadi. According to a press release issued by the AMC, the individuals responsible for the illegal constructions filed a petition in the Gujarat high court on Sep 11.

The release mentioned that the high court initially granted a status quo but later ordered the petitioners on Sep 13 to voluntarily remove the illegal constructions by Sep 15. Since the petitioners did not comply, the civic body proceeded with the demolition, starting with 23 structures on Tuesday, the release said. The demolition work will continue on Wednesday, said a source.

Six booked for serving liquor to Class 7 students in Kerala



ALAPPUZHA. Chertala excise circle office has registered a case against six people for serving toddy (palm wine) to Class 7 students at Pallichanda near Poochakkal. Employees of shop TS No 52 Pallichanda K Manoharan, manager Mohanan, and licensees Chandrappan, Rama Devi, Ashokan, and S Sreekumar were booked under the Abkari Act 56g 15G.

The incident relating to the case happened on August 13, on the occasion of Onam celebration at a school near Pallichanda. Seven students of Class 7 arrived at the shop and purchased two bottles of toddy. The students consumed a portion of the toddy in the bush near Pallipuram temple and kept it in their bags.

They drank the remaining portion in the school toilet. However, one of the students started vomiting soon after. He was then taken to Thuravoor Taluk Hospital by his parents. However, his condition deteriorated and he was shifted to Alappuzha Medical College Hospital. The boy was discharged from the hospital on Monday. The excise officials submitted a report on the incident to the excise commissioner on August 14.

"The commissioner has the authority to take action against the violators. We expect the department will take proper action in the coming days," said Chertala excise inspector P M Sumesh. Meanwhile, the department has decided to provide counselling for the children after their conditions get better. The samples of the toddy were collected from the shop and sent for laboratory examination to ascertain whether it had any adulteration.

Critics have unfulfilled agendas, says VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan

VELLORE. Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol Thirumavalavan on Tuesday told reporters that the critics of his liquor prohibition conference have "unfulfilled hidden agendas". He was responding to BJP leader L Murugan's accusations that the DMK and VCK had put on an act during their meeting on Monday.

Responding to BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan's comment on how the VCK could discuss prohibition while sharing a stage with the DMK, Thirumavalavan said, "I have the courage to do it. We have done this before, even with Kalaigarn. We have discussed the Eelam Tamils issue and have worked with AIADMK and other opposition parties on several social causes."

He emphasised that the liquor prohibition conference, planned for October 2 -- Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary -- is for a social cause and not politically motivated. "There are still over 15 months for the election. We will discuss electoral matters only then," he added. The call for liquor prohibition intensified after the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy, during which 65 people lost their lives after consuming illegal arrack.

Colourful adieu to lord Ganesha in Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inspected the Tank Bund and NTR Marg stretch and interacted with devotees and staff on duty.

HYDERABAD. Amid the chanting of Ganapati Bappa Morya, Mangal Murti Morya and under tight security arrangements, the Ganesha idol immersion procession marched peacefully through the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad on Tuesday. The idols were immersed in Hussainsagar at Tank Bund, NTR Marg, People's Plaza and Necklace Road (PVNR Marg) apart from other water bodies across the city. The immersion will continue till Wednesday.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inspected the Tank Bund and NTR Marg stretch and interacted with devotees and staff on duty. He also visited Platform No. 4 on NTR Marg before the Khairatabad Ganesha idol was immersed. The 70-foot-tall idol was immersed between 1.35 pm and 1.40 pm with precautions in place. Unlike previous years, when the idol remained on the water's surface for days, this year it was fully submerged due to the deepening of the shoreline. Hydraulic cranes were used to expedite the process. The Khairatabad idol immersion procession began around 7 am, passing through Sensation Theatre, Telephone Bhavan and the Telugu Talli flyover before reaching Crane No. 4 on NTR Marg for immersion. A special pooja for the idol began at midnight at the mandap, with the loading of the idol onto a special trailer taking place late at night. The Balapur Ganesha idol was also immersed in the afternoon at Tank Bund, a change from previous years when its immersion



occurred at night. "Second time in a row, the 70-feet Khairatabad Ganesha was immersed by 1.30 pm on the day of immersion. Despite the challenging procedure of moving the idol to the immersion point, de-welding and welding, our central zone police teams and the Utsav Committee members worked hard and succeeded. Congratulations to all of them," Hyderabad Commissioner of Police (CP) posted on X.

Several hundred water bodies and artificial ponds were set up around Hyderabad, deploying 335 cranes (140 static and 195 mobile) were set up for immersion. Authorities said several thousand idols were immersed in various water bodies and 71 artificial ponds in and around Hyderabad by Tuesday evening. However, the majority of the idols will be

immersed in Hussainsagar. A total of 13 cranes were stationed on Tank Bund, nine on NTR Marg Road and 7-8 cranes on People's Plaza for the immersion of large idols.

CM interacts with staff

The GHMC deployed 3,000 sanitation workers along immersion routes and water ponds. Over 100 expert swimmers were kept on standby.

During his visit to NTR Marg, Revanth interacted with sanitation workers, helpers and crane operators. He directed GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata to address their concerns and provide restrooms as requested. The commissioner spoke to zonal commissioners and arranged rest buses at Hussainsagar, Saroomnagar and IDL lakes as per the CM's instructions.

300 cops check for drugs at tenements in Perumbakkam, return empty handed

CHENNAI. Two weeks after nearly half a kilo of ganja was seized from 15 students following raids at 500 houses of a gated community in Potheri, the Tambaram police conducted a raid at 1,000 houses at the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) tenements in Perumbakkam on Tuesday. However, no seizure has been made.

Police said as many as 300 policemen conducted the raid which lasted several hours from early in the morning. A police officer said, "Many of the drug peddlers and people linked in drug cases have already been arrested. During the checks, we could not find any drugs or other related evidence."



Nobody was arrested."

Recently, the Madras High Court had directed the Additional Advocate General (AAG) J Ravindran to set up a clear action plan with senior police officials to counter drug trafficking in Tamil Nadu for safeguarding the future of students and to present the plan before the court by September 19.

Trivandrum zoo and museum see massive turnout during Onam holidays

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The zoo and museum in the state capital attracted large crowds during the Onam holidays, despite this year's lack of processions or illumination and government-sponsored celebrations. The two venues, which require separate tickets for entry, have consistently set records in ticket sales during the festival season, though this year saw a slight dip compared to previous years.

On the day of Onam, only the zoo remained open and it managed to collect Rs 2,53,280 in ticket sales. While on Uthradam, the previous day of Onam, both the zoo and the museum saw a combined ticket revenue of Rs 2,06,950. Despite the dip, Tuesday marked the busiest



day in terms of ticket sales, with a large number of visitors arriving at both the zoo and the museum. "Tuesday saw the largest crowd in days and managing the rush took some time. A revenue of Rs 4,99,150 was

received in ticket sales. By noon, it came under control," said the Director in charge of zoo and museum, Manjula Devi P.S.

Authorities said that most visitors were locals and from other districts along with a few visitors from neighbouring Tamil Nadu. However, due to the absence of processions, illumination, and other government-sponsored events that typically add to the holiday buzz, the crowd was comparatively smaller this year. "The turnout and sales have been lower than last year, primarily because there were not grand celebrations this time," added Manjula Devi.

Officials at the zoo said that measures were in

place to ensure the animals' well-being amidst the throngs of visitors. "Animals cannot be exposed daily to the large crowds. Since the zoo was open even on Onam day, we will be closing it on Wednesday to give the animals a break. Only the museum will be open for visitors on that day," said Manjula Devi.

Zoo authorities also said that the garden area, a favourite among visitors, was too busy not only during the holidays but also in the evenings. This area has become a gathering spot for locals seeking a relaxing environment during the festive break. As the festive season is still ongoing, authorities expect both locals and other visitors to make the most of their holidays at these city landmarks.

BJD cries 'step-motherly' attitude towards Odisha, hits out at Centre

BHUBANESWAR. The BJD on Tuesday targeted the Centre for neglecting Odisha during the last 10 years by ignoring demands for special category status to the state, and revision of coal royalty.

On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the biggest women-centric scheme in Odisha during his visit to Bhubaneswar, BJD leaders Sanjay Dasburma and Snehangini Chhuria told mediapersons that instead of prioritising the state, the Centre had meted out a step-motherly attitude towards it during the last decade. Stating that the BJD had been repeatedly raising the demand for special category state status to Odisha during the last two decades, the party leaders said the previous government had taken up the matter with the President of India and the NITI Aayog, and an unanimous resolution



was also passed in the Assembly in this regard. But the Centre ignored the demands, they added.

"In the 2024 election, people of Odisha elected 20 BJP MPs out of 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state. But the Centre's disappointing attitude towards Odisha

was exposed in the 2024-25 budget," the BJD leaders said further pointing out that while Bihar and Andhra Pradesh got special allocation of Rs 26,000 crore and Rs 16,000 crore respectively, Odisha was neglected.

Highlighting that coal royalty has not been revised by the Centre for the last 12 years, the BJD leaders said Odisha lost revenue of Rs 10,000 crore per year on this account.

"The then chief minister Naveen Patnaik had demanded revision of coal royalty from 14 per cent to 20 per cent at the Eastern Zone Council meeting but there was no response from the Centre in this regard," they said. On Subhadra Yojana, the BJD leaders accused the BJP of cheating the women of the state as the latter would get Rs 50,000 assistance over a period of five years instead of two as previously promised.

Telangana irrigation minister urges Centre to waive loans taken for irrigation projects



HYDERABAD. Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has called on the Union government to take steps to persuade central financial institutions to reduce or entirely waive the interest on loans taken by the previous government for irrigation projects in the state. He emphasised that these loans have become a financial burden for the current government and requested that the debt be cleared completely, or at least partially waived.

On Tuesday, Uttam attended the 8th International Water Week Summit - 2024, organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi. During his speech, he sought robust support and cooperation from the Centre to complement the government's efforts. He pointed out that while the Union government has allocated substantial funds for infrastructure development nationwide, similar financial support should be allocated for irrigation projects. He also urged the Centre to provide financial assistance and expedite the clearances needed for these projects.

Uttam highlighted the state government's goal of developing new irrigation facilities for approximately six lakh acres annually and noted that the state has allocated Rs 29,000 crore for the irrigation sector in the Budget.

Additionally, he requested the Central government to take the lead in obtaining all necessary clearances for the Sammakka-Saralamma project through consultations with the Chhattisgarh government. He appealed to Union Jal Shakti Minister Patil to not only consider waiving or reducing the interest on past irrigation project loans but also to expedite the NOC (No Objection Certificate) process with Chhattisgarh for this crucial project.

On the sidelines of the summit, the irrigation minister engaged with representatives from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to discuss the need for soft loans for various irrigation projects. He also met with Chhattisgarh Irrigation Minister Kedar Kashyap to discuss the Sammakka-Saralamma project, emphasising that part of the project lies within Chhattisgarh and an NOC from the state is required to move forward.

Footpaths encroached by vendors, turned into parking lots in city

BENGALURU. Footpaths in Bengaluru, if and where they do exist, are meant for anything but people to walk safely on. Footpaths in residential areas are used as permanent parking spaces for cars, autos or two-wheelers. People use footpaths to place tree pots. They use footpaths to dump construction material like bricks, bars, sand, waste materials and what not.

Rampant commercialisation in residential areas sees hundreds of offices, shops, godowns and others being set up, with customers parking their vehicles on footpaths, blocking safe and easy movement for pedestrians. This apart, as commercial buildings fail to provide adequate basement parking facilities as mandated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), vehicles end up on footpaths.

"In residential areas, footpaths exist only on paper. A majority of footpaths are turned into permanent parking spaces for cars, two-wheelers and autos. The kerb stones placed at the edge of footpaths to



separate walkways from roads are removed for easy entry of vehicles onto the footpaths. In many areas it is common to see permanent structures built by house owners on footpaths to protect their vehicles from rain and sun, without any sense of guilt that the pathways are meant for all and it's not anyone's personal property," says Purushotham Shiva, a resident of Chamrajpet. "Footpaths in the city should be walkable for all, including the elderly and those with knee issues. For this, footpaths need to be flat, without debris and building material piled on them and no parked vehicles. They need to be at a

height from the road where the elderly can easily get on to them. It needs to be clad with stones or concrete slabs, for easy maintenance, than having small tiles, which are not laid properly and keep coming out soon," said Rekha Chari from the Malleswaram Swabhimana Initiative (MSI), a neighbourhood organisation that is working to improve the quality of lives of residents of the area.

Sharing her experience in the USA, she says, "We can't help marvelling at their footpaths as I can walk so easily on them despite my knee issues."

Vikram Rai, president, Bangalore Apartments Federation, says, "Having good footpaths encourages residents to walk to the neighbourhood store or to the nearby darshini or simply take a nice walk around. It encourages simple healthy activity, in the midst of most of our urban lifestyles which have come to be remote, digital and unhealthy."

Our China policy needs diplomacy & deterrence

of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh continues, India's stance on the border issue has remained steadfast. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, while interacting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently on the sidelines of a meeting of the BRICS NSAs, emphasised that peace and respect for the LAC were precursors to the normalisation of India-China relations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also been reiterating this stand during his interactions with his Chinese counterpart, in Kazakhstan and Laos in July this year during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and ASEAN Plus meeting, respectively. A few days ago, speaking at the Global Centre for Security Policy in Geneva, Jaishankar said while negotiations were underway, about 75 per cent of the disengagement issues at the LAC had been resolved. He again highlighted that while there was violence between the militaries of the two countries, the rest of the bilateral relationship could not be insulated from it. There cannot be a clearer statement from the political executive about the state of affairs, future expectations and prerequisites for peace. Like Jaishankar, Wang Yi has also been a career diplomat, adept at handling sensitive situations. Beijing's stance has always been ambiguous, emphasising on niceties and engagement, with the Chinese media, controlled by the Communist Party, often misquoting contents of bilateral exchanges to gain a perceived moral high ground. Though there are indications of some progress in resolving dispute points in Ladakh, but caution should always remain the buzzword in dealing with China.

The Chinese are used to picking quarrels, flexing military muscle and browbeating their neighbours. This is particularly so with countries having legitimate claims in the South China Sea (SCS). While bullying is the hallmark of its diplomacy, whether it is Taiwan, Vietnam, Philippines or the WHO, it may not have bargained for such a firm resolve from India. In fact, China's inability to ride roughshod in the border dispute with India seems to have become a major irritant that it finds problematic to handle. It would surely wish to resolve the disputes along the LAC, entirely on its terms. Despite having been stymied at Doklam in south-west Bhutan or in east Ladakh, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has circumvented any disadvantage by encroaching upon Bhutan on the eastern flank of the Chumbi valley and by optimum use of the terrain that favours it along the LAC in Ladakh. Among China's pressing security concerns, like the Taiwan issue, sovereignty disputes with Philippines, Vietnam and other ASEAN nations in the SCS, the Himalayan borders appear to be the most vexing as the opponent can match up to it. Often enough, the difference between India and China in terms of comprehensive national power, which includes not only military muscle but also technology and economy, gets highlighted as a major concern for India. That may well be, but an armed conflict across the LAC will not be a viable option for China, and what Prime Minister Modi told Russia about "this not being an era of war," is equally applicable to Communist China. Instead, it will continuously endeavour to gain advantages through skirmishes on the northern border, while talking about peace and engagement. This would keep its manufactured claims alive and help in tying down India to an extent. The clear answer for India lies in considering the LAC in a holistic manner and not have a compartmentalised approach. Theatre commands have been on the anvil for quite some time and finally seem to be taking shape.

However, before a joint tri-services structure fructifies, it is imperative that the Army should look at a comprehensive application of its formations, from eastern Arunachal until Ladakh. Along the vast and hostile terrain in Kameng, Subansiri and beyond until the Lohit valley, the topography offers advantages to our forces. The watershed in Sikkim, especially in the east, which overlooks the Chumbi valley, is probably the most dominant stretch from the Indian perspective.

Sanjauli mosque row rooted in anti-minority sentiment

Rising Islamophobia, legal prohibitions and a deepening sense of insecurity have led many Muslims to seek refuge in ghettos.

AS I walked through Shimla one morning, a sanitation worker, Vinod (name changed), remarked, "Inn Mullon ne Shimla mein gandh daal rakha hai," (Muslims are causing a nuisance in Shimla). His comment reflected the widespread hatred fuelled by the controversy over the Sanjauli mosque in the town. He claimed that the mosque was illegally built. Ironically, Vinod's house is on government forest land, a fact I was well aware of from my time as deputy mayor when policies were introduced to provide basic utilities to residents like him. When I asked him about the legality of his house compared to the mosque, he fell silent. This highlights that the issue is not just about legality but also has a strong religious undercurrent, and thus a different narrative is being built. Across Indian cities, the distinction between 'legal' and 'illegal' is often blurred. Legality isn't just about land ownership but also about compliance with sanctioned building plans. Any settlement on government land is illegal unless legalised by special laws passed by the government. Even if a structure is built on privately owned land, it may still be illegal if it exceeds building plan limits. Government authorities, however, possess vast powers to convert illegal sites or structures into legal ones. Examples include the new Parliament building in New Delhi, where a designated district land use was changed and the building was constructed on it, and the entire Central Vista project. In Shimla, similar transformations include the state secretariat, the HP High Court and the lawyers' chambers there, Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital's 14-storey building and a building of a Hindu right-wing organisation at Nabha. Shimla's relationship with legality is complex. Built by the British, the town has one of the oldest municipalities in India, dating back to 1851. Over time, numerous land-use changes have occurred. While several areas merged into the municipal corporation are governed by the Town and Country Planning Act of 1979, other areas in old Shimla still operated under the Interim Development Plan till the Shimla Development Plan was finalised recently. Despite regularisation drives, an estimated 15,000 houses in Shimla remain classified as illegal.



Religious buildings, particularly Hindu temples (mandirs), gurdwaras and mosques, are often found violating the law of the land. The Sanjauli mosque stands on land owned by the Waqf Board, but additional floors were constructed without authorisation. The famous Ram Temple in Shimla stands over 140 ft tall, with no regularisation certificate and an encroachment on municipal land. Other religious buildings face similar issues. The Summer Hill temple, where 20 people were killed in a landslide in 2023, is built on forest land without permission. The bus stand gurdwara and the temple next to Dhalli police station also lack the necessary approvals; in fact, the temple is on government land. The temple between Tutikandi bus stand and crossing is likewise on forest land, violating numerous laws. This pattern underscores how even religious spaces fall in the ambiguous zone of legality. In her seminal work The Origins of Totalitarianism, political philosopher Hannah Arendt noted, "Only the mob and the elite can be attracted by the momentum of totalitarianism. The masses have to be won by propaganda." This is relevant to India today, where both elites and mobs have justified attacks on minorities. The controversy over the Sanjauli mosque is just one of the many recent incidents rooted in anti-minority sentiment, and part of the totalitarian design. A Netflix series, Leila, shows a dystopian future where Hindutva extremism merges with technology to segregate society. The definition of what is legal or illegal is relative. Anything constructed by minorities is often labelled illegal. A study by students from the School of Planning

and Architecture in Delhi, which I guided, examined how the State forced Muslims into ghettos over the last century. It found that Muslims were pushed into shanty towns and slums, occupying whatever land was available. This isn't unique to Muslims — large sections of the urban working class have also been relegated to slums due to exclusive city planning. However, under BJP rule since 2014, the situation has worsened, particularly for Muslims.

A striking example comes from a 1977 Delhi Development Authority (DDA) pamphlet on the Delhi Squatters Resettlement Project: "The urban poor live in dilapidated settlements that cling precariously to hillsides, line smelly canals, block roadsides, or crowd inner-city alleys. In their tattered misery, they mock the aspiration of all those who yearn to make their cities sophisticated and modern." The pamphlet clearly dehumanised the urban poor, especially migrants.

Archives of the Delhi Municipal Corporation's Slum Development Department mention the Turkman Gate massacre during the Emergency, when Muslims were targeted under the guise of a slum clearance drive and a sterilisation campaign. Jagmohan, then Vice-Chairman of the DDA, was allegedly asked whether displaced Muslims could be resettled in a new colony. His chilling response was, "Do you think we are mad to destroy one Pakistan to create another?" This mindset persists today, particularly against the Muslim community.

In her book Accumulation by Segregation: Muslim Localities in Delhi, Ghazala Jamil argues that Muslim ghettoisation is driven by neoliberal development policies and targeted persecution. Anything a Muslim builds is labelled illegal, and this justifies its demolition by the State. It's not just the physical structures that are being targeted — the goal is to attack the very idea of Muslim asset creation.

Rising Islamophobia, encounters with legal prohibitions, and a deepening sense of insecurity have led many Muslims to seek refuge in ghettos. This self-segregation further alienates them from urban development processes, exactly what the Hindutva forces desire. A few days ago, the Muslim community in Shimla offered to raise unauthorised portions of the Sanjauli mosque. Will such a proposal ever be made by the committees of temples, some of which are built on government land?

One nation, one poll

Govt not doing enough to build consensus

THE first 100 days of Modi 3.0 have been marked by policy flip-flops prompted by coalition pressures. Dependent on allies for the first time in a decade to stay in power, the ruling BJP has struggled to come to terms with the changed reality. In a desperate effort to assert itself and appear unfazed by its weakened position in the Lok Sabha, the party has gone back to its 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) plank. In his Independence Day address last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to various political parties to unite in backing this initiative. He reiterated that frequent elections were impeding India's progress. Now, it has been reported that the NDA government is optimistic about implementing this all-important poll reform during its current term.



This optimism, bordering on overconfidence, conveniently overlooks the fact that several Opposition parties have opposed the idea of holding simultaneous polls. The BJP's renewed push for ONOE is

understandable: it continues to be the predominant political party in the country despite the significant gains

made by the Congress in this year's Lok Sabha elections. The saffron party stands to benefit the most if voters exercise their franchise once in five years rather than every two years or so. However, regional parties not aligned with the NDA may be at a disadvantage if the Assembly and parliamentary polls — which are often contested on dissimilar issues — are held together.

A level playing field is a must in a democracy. The BJP would do well to try harder to build consensus on ONOE and dispel doubts raised by stakeholders regarding its feasibility. This will be an uphill task as the Opposition is no longer a pushover. The point that 'one election' will ensure continuity in governance and reduce the burden in terms of manpower and finances is well taken, but the threat it can pose to India's federal structure should not be dismissed lightly.

Go all out to combat toxic masculinity

Need to move towards a sane society reasonably free from the virus of sexual violence

IT's been over a month since a trainee doctor was raped and murdered in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. An incident of this kind — and that too inside a government medical college — shocked the city or, for that matter, the entire West Bengal. Not surprisingly, a spontaneous social movement initiated by a spectrum of people — ranging from young doctors, students and ordinary men and women to the cultural elite — has shaken an otherwise 'popular' Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The tales of massive corruption and political networking in government medical colleges; the danger to the safety and dignity of trainee doctors; and the lack of trust in the state government as far as an impartial inquiry is concerned — yes, it is not easy for the Chief Minister to overcome this 'legitimation crisis'.

I notice positive things in this movement: the determination of trainee doctors to fight for their case and the carnival of protest — the way ordinary citizens are coming to the street, occupying the public space even late at night and singing the songs of 'justice'. Moreover, an attempt to rescue this people's movement from the direct influence of mainstream political parties possibly indicates how 'politics' — particularly, the kind of politics professional politicians engage in — has acquired a bad connotation in our times.

However, the fact is that a movement of this kind will not last forever. The CBI will reveal its findings; the Supreme Court will give its judgment; the state government will try to negotiate with the doctors; the guilty will be punished; and some — including the CM — will continue to plea for capital punishment.

And then, everything will be 'normal'. Possibly, some of these young doctors who are protesting now will begin to prioritise more 'earthly' things, and eventually join corporate private hospitals, and sell 'good health' to their upper class clients as a commodity. And the cultural elite singing the songs of emancipation in the streets of Kolkata will come back to their own exclusivist spheres of work. And meanwhile, we will hear about yet another story of rape... Don't forget that we have almost normalised sexual violence in our society. As per the annual National Crime Records Bureau report, between 2017 and 2022, a total of 1.89 lakh rape cases were reported in India. And in a class-divided, caste-centric society, who bothers about the victim if she is a Dalit woman, a domestic help, or even a schoolgirl in an unknown village? No social movement will take place; nobody will sing the songs of gender justice in the streets of Kolkata and Delhi.

In fact, if we wish to resist this rot, and try to move towards a sane society reasonably free from the virus of sexual violence, we need to take part in yet another movement — psychic, educational and cultural — to combat the pathology called toxic masculinity. Well, in our families, boys grow up with a belief that they have to be bold, hard and courageous. However, toxic masculinity has got nothing to do with life-affirming courage, confidence and inner strength. Instead, it is a form of sadistic pleasure in causing harm to others. It is devoid of empathy and care. It glorifies violence and promotes sexual aggression.



As social psychologists would argue, it is "the constellation of socially regressive (masculine) traits that serve to foster domination, the devaluation of women, homophobia and wanton violence". It is difficult to imagine rape — the ultimate form of objectification of a woman, or her reduction into a soulless toy of sexual pleasure — without the poison of toxic masculinity. It is important to realise that the psychology of toxic masculinity is often promoted and encouraged through the celebration of war, militarism, hyper-nationalism, vulgarly competitive 'masculine' sports and divisive communalism. Yes, it is a fact that sexual violence has often been used as a weapon in conflicts to humiliate, subjugate and

terrorise people throughout history. To take an illustration, as many research findings indicate, between 200,000 and 400,000 women were sexually assaulted by Pakistani soldiers during the Bangladesh Liberation Movement. And a penetrating look at the Partition and the resultant communal hatred would reveal that women were sexually assaulted on both sides of the border.

Likewise, the prevalent culture industry is not altogether free from misogynic traits. The widespread dissemination of porn literature, the objectification of women, and the celebration of brute masculinity intoxicated with the desire for instantaneous sexual pleasure — yes, there are multiple reasons for the continuous degradation and humiliation of women. It is, therefore, not surprising that a film like Animal was one of the highest-grossing Hindi movies of 2023, even though it was heavily criticised for its misogyny and portrayal of toxic masculinity and extreme violence. Or, for that matter, it is not impossible to see noisy youngsters — even in our colleges and universities — dancing to the repulsive song Main hoon balatkari.



While checking the Maldives off my list of beach retreats, I felt an inexplicable sense of pride and joy. Pride for pulling off my second international travel seamlessly, and joy for discovering a place I'd love to keep going back to.

Maldives is paradise Period!

A holiday in the Maldives is like entering the world in a picture postcard where a turquoise sea gently laps the virgin sands as warm sunlight peeks through dense coconut groves, and everything is happy as the day is long. One full-fledged flight from Colombo and a seaplane ride from Male (capital of the Maldives), and you are in an island like Robinson Crusoe's where the sea dazzles you with its brilliance like its tropical sun, and the verdant wilderness comes into its own.

If you are arriving at an odd hour in Colombo and halting the night at the airport transit hotel like us, the anticipation for the onward journey can kill you especially if you haven't flown in a seaplane before, and that too, over a gorgeous reef-dotted ocean that changes colours as often as the clock time. Scheduled for an early morning flight from Colombo to Male, we could hardly sleep the night and landed up several hours early at the departure terminal only to discover that there were more like us, even those who chose to snuggle up and catch a wink instead on the waiting chairs. Finally, a little after sunrise we were aboard the SriLankan sailing among the clouds in the faint orange light of dawn enjoying as we did even the not so savoury vegetable burger and tea, musing about dreamy beaches and translucent waters.

Be glued to your window when landing in Ibrahim Nasir International Airport, Male, for you don't want to miss the vista to probably one of world's most scenic

airports surrounded by a cobalt blue sea dotted with white speed boats and a strip of tarmac running through its center. But once you arrive, the immigration clearance can be a bit of a dampener as the procedure is lengthy and you find yourself standing in a long queue that barely moves. About an hour later you'll be on the little red bus to the air taxi terminal, or if you please, the speed boat jetty. Now since our resort Adaaran Select Meedhupparu is on an island about 132 kilometers off the Male coast, we thought it best to fly and enjoy the magnificent aerial views. To not carry a good camera on a trip like this is sacrilege as you'll hover over a string of islands, sometimes from up close, sometimes from far behind. And you'll fly over brilliant patches of corals in colours unimaginable the whole time you are airborne.

Forty-five minutes hence we were careering across the bay towards a picturesque wooden pier. As we emerged the last monsoon shower came down sending the resort staff in a tizzy over equipping us with an umbrella and towel each. What a welcome! But none complained. There was so much to behold, the livid sky, the relentless downpour over a colourful sea, the tropical vegetation sapling green in the rain, a white beach, the endangered Maldivian Fruit Bats flying for cover, and divers scampering to the head of the pier. It was surreal, and I couldn't wait to explore the whole 42 acres of this rain and sun drenched wilderness.

In time for lunch, our host led us through a path among overhanging vines and creepers

that opened up to a thatched gazebo-style dining area. The rain had let up by then, the birds were singing again, and we were sitting down to a buffet meal of lobsters, crabs, sauteed vegetables and curries to go with a glass of chilled white wine. It was the beginning of our tropical experience.

We walked around the island a little more before we thought it best to confirm with a staff member the way to our beach villa. The property has on it an array of beach villas scattered around the island affording brilliant sea views. Ours had its deck almost jutting into the sea with a watchtower adjacent to it. First I walked into the sea to get a closer view of the corals, a stone's throw away from the shore. The sand is so soft that it sinks under your feet and can hence be slippery. Don't be surprised to see snorkellers lurking around the shore, for marine life abounds right from there. Simply swim up to your nearest reef and watch the magic unfold as baby Angel fish, Tiger fish and Parrot fish swim out of its crevices.

For fish spotting and some refreshing sea breeze, we walked up the pier on the other end of the island that straddles the reef all the way to the deep blue sea. You'll spot Angel fish in royal blue with yellow strips, the yellow and black striped Tiger fish, the aqua blue Parrot fish with dark blue fins and stingrays swim around with gay abandon. You can sit on the pier for hours and watch the gorgeous marine life. Divers love to launch into the waters from this point. Besides, the pier is a vantage point to get a panoramic view of the beach, the island and its luxurious water villas that stand on

stilts over the water in perfect symmetry. Their decks have a private pool and a staircase that goes down to the sea, a happy arrangement for diving enthusiasts. Dark clouds were gathering once again, and we decided to head to the poolside bar for a good sundowner. Evenings here are usually about guzzling beer over a game of cards, a quick table tennis match before settling down with a drink or reading in solitude, though the bar gets a lot of action by way of karaoke nights and some live orchestra. The highpoint of a stay here is certainly the fish feeding session in the night at the pier when the dainty, colourful ones are replaced by predators like Jack fish, Barracudas, Tunas that invade the waters in shoals in search of food. You need to finish dinner early and find yourself a spot on the busy pier to witness this fascinating feeding session where portions of raw fish and crabs are hurled at the shoals of big fish by the hotel staff. My heart went out to the lonely yellow-necked turtle who tried in vain to get through the labyrinth of powerful fish.

Sunset cruise, jet skiing and dolphin spotting, bird watching are among other activities you can pursue at the resort. Else you can pull your sunbed onto the beach and spend hours reading and soaking up the sun. When making your way from one end of the island to the other through the jungle, remember to mind your head as the Fruit Bats hang quite low from the branches and give amused



glances if you ran into them.

If unwinding is your idea of a holiday, you shouldn't miss out a nice, rejuvenating therapy at the spa. Typically the spa therapies offered here are avant-garde. After a sauna and steam bath, we went in for a traditional Balinese full body massage with hibiscus aroma oil followed by a refreshing cucumber facial performed by expert masseurs from Bali. Though a tad expensive, you get good bang for your buck. So much so that I went back the next day for a foot massage and manicure!

Seafood lovers, this is your place. From tunas, crabs, prawns, squids, lobsters, cuttlefish, to oysters your options are aplenty. Added to your rice, your broth, grills and curries, they are a core ingredient in every meal. But just as wonderful is sipping the nectar from fresh fruits anytime of the day you please.

At the end of our fourth and last night in the Maldives we still hadn't had our fill of its unpredictable showers, the bright morning sunshine, swimming with fish, the striking colours of the sea reflected in the open sky, the large meals and endless swigs of wine. Like in answer to our prayers it began to rain without ceremony as we took our seats in the little aircraft ready to fly out of paradise.



White sands, clean beaches and sun beds, are just a few things that will catch your eye in Cape Town. But the city has much more to offer



Cape Town's gorgeous white sands

There's something about Cape Town—this photogenic South African city is like a favourite child in a large swaggering family, loved to death by tourists and South Africans alike. And this glittering city with a lifestyle unmatched anywhere in Africa is one of the most geographically isolated of the world's great metropolises.

Indeed the city by the bay seems to be perpetually on holiday — Cape Tonians are forever sipping wine at open-air cafes, swinging up to iconic Table Mountain in a cable car, listening to strolling musicians at the vibey Victoria and Albert Waterfront... And the ideal prelude to a South African itinerary is a heli-ride over Cape Town prior to exploring the conventional sights.

There are a myriad fun things to do: revel in a wine tasting session in Groot Constantia, one of the oldest and most beautiful wine estates where wine making began in the country; hang out at Planet Champagne and Cocktail Bar at Mount Nelson Hotel with a pre-dinner champagne or cocktails; sample the sumptuous High Tea at Table Bay hotel;

wind up at trendy Balducci's for a drink after a shopping spree at V&A Waterfront.

Shopaholics can also head for Greenmarket Square for bargains from across the African continent and to Stylish Cavendish Square and



Tygervalley Shopping Centre. Canal Walk is Cape Town's biggest and busiest mall; Pan African Market in Long Street brims with trinkets and artefacts from across the continent.

On a spa trek in Cape Town you're spoilt for choice - the ones at The Vineyard Hotel, Cape Grace and Table Bay are outstanding. In the meantime, kids can have fun at Two Oceans Aquarium at the Waterfront; Ratanga Junction is a theme park with thrilling rides and a sense of fun. A 90-minute drive away is the picturesque town of Hermanus, which offers the best landbased whale watching. In the waters around Gansbaai village nearby, go shark cage diving or spy resident Bryde whales. The famous Southern Right Whales come a-calling between June and November.

How politics, like Bollywood, restricts entry of outsiders

If there's any profession that can match Bollywood in restricting smooth entry of outsiders, it is politics. Even as Iltija Mufti, daughter of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, makes her electoral debut, here's a study that reveals how 32% of MPs in the current Lok Sabha are political dynasts. Shah Rukh Khans are rare.

New Delhi: In a nation of over a billion people, the most recognisable faces are from the world of films and politics. While millions of Indians dream of attaining the celebrity status of a filmstar or a politician, it is very difficult to be one without being a nepo kid. Not just Bollywood, politics is notoriously restrictive when it comes to allowing the entry of newcomers without family connections. Though Bollywood's gatekeeping tendencies often spark debate and scrutiny, a report by Prajatantra Foundation, a non-profit organisation, highlights how politics mirrors the entertainment industry in erecting barriers for those outside the inner circles. The report reveals that just 20% (around 108) of the candidates winning the 2024 Lok Sabha poll were self-made individuals, while around 32% (more than 173) of the MPs belong to political dynasties.

BOLLYWOOD AND POLITICS, ENTRY ABOTTLENECK
The latest high-profile political entry is that

of Iltija Mufti, daughter of Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP chief and former Jammu and Kashmir CM. Iltija is also the granddaughter of PDP founder and former Union Home Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. She is contesting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election from Bijbehara, a family bastion of the Muftis. How often have you heard that a 37-year-old with near-zero electoral experience has been given a ticket by a prominent party, that too from a safe seat? Although Iltija has asserted her intentions to forge her own identity in politics, she acknowledges having derived a lot from her mother and her grandfather, who are known faces in the politics of Kashmir and beyond.

It's not just about Iltija Mufti. From Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, KT Rama Rao to MK Stalin, there is no dearth of politicians heading political parties because they were born in their first families. The Yadavs and



Gandhis of the political world will find their nepo matches in the Kapoor, Chopras, Deols and Bachchans of Bollywood.

This is not to say that we do not have an occasional Narendra Modi or a Shah Rukh Khan, who rose from humble beginnings to reach the top. But such examples are rather rare.

Indian politics is deeply rooted in family legacies, with 32% (more than 173) of MPs

in the 18th Lok Sabha (2024-2029) hailing from political dynasties. Among these, 21% are first-generation dynasts, 72.1% belong to the second generation, and 6.4% are multi-generational politicians. This trend spans across parties, making it difficult for non-dynastic candidates to gain entry and support.

DYNASTIC DOMINANCE AND PRIVILEGE IN INDIAN POLITICS

The study of the 18th Lok Sabha winners by Prajatantra Foundation provides compelling evidence of how politics, like Bollywood, remains a bastion for the privileged.

The report used the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, that saw 543 representatives take office, to make its point. Beyond familial ties that sent 32% of MPs to the Lok Sabha, wealth plays a significant role in securing political power.

A staggering 98.3% of MPs possess some form of privilege, translating to more than 530 MPs, whether it be dynastic

connections, declared criminal cases, or assets worth Rs 1 crore or more. More alarmingly, 79.6% of MPs belong to the 'strong privilege' category, characterised by dynastic backgrounds, serious criminal records, or assets exceeding Rs 5 crore. Money, therefore, acts as a predominant gatekeeper, preventing those without substantial financial backing from accessing political offices.

HOW MPs MADE IT TO LOK SABHA

While dynastic politicians clearly dominate the scene, non-privileged entry is far from a level playing field. Party organisational politics (16.2%) remains the most prominent non-privileged pathway, followed by local politics (14.4%) and student politics (9.2%). In particular, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sees many non-dynastic entrants coming from local politics, while the Indian National Congress (INC) relies more on party organisational pathways, according to the Prajatantra report.

Top Army officer JP Mathew to represent India at Hawaii Defence Conference

New Delhi: Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) Lieutenant General JP Mathew will attend the Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence (IP-CHOD) conference in Hawaii, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. The conference, scheduled from September 18 to 20, will bring together top military leaders from the Indo-Pacific region to discuss shared security challenges, enhance mutual understanding, and foster military-to-military cooperation. According to the ministry, discussions will focus on regional security, counter-terrorism, maritime domain awareness and cooperation, and commitment to



joint training and exercises. "The representation of the Indian Armed Forces at the event demonstrates our nation's commitment to regional stability and security," a statement from the Defence Ministry said. The IP-CHOD meetings, hosted quarterly by the United States Indo-Pacific Command, provide a forum for open dialogue between military leaders to discuss the regional security environment. The in-person meeting is held annually, according to the ministry.

Jagan Reddy government grabbed lands, misused it in Andhra: Chandrababu Naidu

Amravati, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday attacked former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and said that the previous state government had completely grabbed the lands near the Budameru River and misused it. "The negligence and irregularities of the previous government became a curse to the state," Naidu said, in a veiled dig at Jagan Mohan Reddy. He stated that if the Budameru river works had been completed, the state would not have faced a calamity. Naidu's remarks came in light of the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh, which heavily impacted areas like Vijayawada, and claimed around 40 lives.

Naidu said that the boats were released when the Krishna River received 11.43 cusecs of water due to the floods, and it took almost 10 days to get back to normalcy. "Had the previous rulers been in power it would have taken six months or more to restore normalcy," he added. The Chief Minister earlier this month criticised the previous government, attributing the severity of the flood damage to their "blunders." He emphasised that plans are in motion to prevent such calamities in the future. "The sins committed by the previous government have turned into a curse to the State," Naidu remarked.

Maintaining that the funds released for Polavaram and Rs 990 crore from the Panchayat Raj department been diverted, Chandrababu Naidu said that the expenditure was not shown in the accounts. "Now we need to clear the dues amounting to Rs 1,650 crore for the grain farmers and a Rs 10.5 lakh crore worth of loan to be cleared," the Chief Minister said. Chandrababu earlier referred to the Polavaram project as a "boon to the State," saying that he had secured Rs 12,000 crore from the Centre to support the project, which he promised would be relaunched soon. He also announced several benefits for Eluru, including the construction of a bridge near the Sanivarapupeta causeway with a budget of Rs 15 crore.

Chandrababu Naidu stated that the relief provided to flood victims has been met with a tremendous response. Every household is receiving financial assistance of Rs 25,000, while those residing on the first floors are being provided Rs 10,000 each. The Chief Minister also outlined the details of the various sections and the amounts being allocated to each flood victim, including insurance claims for owners of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

In Big Step Towards One Nation, One Election, Cabinet Clears Plan

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved the government's 'one nation, one election' push - which proposes simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with urban body and panchayat polls to be held within 100 days - accepting the report of a panel led by ex-President Ram Nath Kovind. The proposal will now be tabled in Parliament and must clear both Houses - the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - en route to becoming the law. More significantly, as it will require an amendment to the Constitution and that amendment has to be ratified by all states and union territories. Holding simultaneous poll will "transform the electoral process (and) governance" and "optimise scarce resources", the high-profile panel said, noting 32 parties and prominent judicial figures, including former Supreme Court Chief

Justices and High Court judges, had backed this measure. Among the panel's listed advantages for the 'one nation, one election' measure are that it makes the electoral process easier for



voters. Synchronising polls will also result in higher and faster economic growth, and therefore a more stable economy, the panel argued, claiming a single round of elections will allow

businesses and corporate firms to take decisions without fear of adverse policy changes. The panel has also reasoned that (eventually) holding elections at all three levels - for the Lok Sabha, for state Assemblies, and for panchayats - will "avoid disruption of supply chains and production cycles due to migrant workers seeking leave of absence to cast their votes". The 'one nation, one election' push will also "prevent policy paralysis", and do away with the "atmosphere of uncertainty" the government argues is brought on by frequent elections. The panel, which submitted its report in March, also said it had studied "best practices from other countries", and consulted economists and the Election Commission, before delivering its verdict, but also called for a legally sustainable mechanism.

India's Mobile Phone Manufacturing Rises To 4.1 Lakh Crore In Value: Report

New Delhi: India's mobile phone manufacturing in value has risen to 4.1 lakh crore in India in the last 10 years due to strategic government policy measures like product-linked initiative (PLI) and phased-manufacturing programme (PMP) schemes, a report showed on Wednesday. The electronics sector experienced rapid growth and local production nearly doubled from \$48 billion in FY17 to \$101 billion in FY23 and is around \$115 billion in the current fiscal year -- driven primarily by mobile phones which now constitute more than 43 per cent of total electronics production. As the country becomes the second largest mobile manufacturer in the world, global manufacturing companies like Samsung, Apple and Google are making their latest generation



smartphones in India. The report by Broadband India Forum (BIF), prepared by BIF's Koan Advisory, analysed the journey through an empirical study that investigates issues such as the impact of tariff and customs rates, India's global value chains (GVC) insertion, challenges related to the ease of doing business (EoDB), women workforce participation opportunities and ways of

reducing the gender gap and increasing the gender diversity. TV Ramachandran, President, BIF said that the 'Make in India' initiative has been instrumental in transforming the country into a global hub for mobile device manufacturing. "Through strategic policies and production linked incentives, the government has attracted major global players and encouraged domestic manufacturers to set up and enhance production facilities within India," he added. As a result, the country has witnessed a significant surge in mobile phone production, reducing gradual dependence on imports and creating thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector. According to S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, the country has emerged as the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones.

India recorded second warmest June-August this year since 1970: Study

New Delhi: Climate Central's seasonal analysis from June to August 2024 offers a striking look into the influence of human-induced climate change on global temperatures, with a detailed focus on India. The report leverages temperature anomalies and the Climate Shift Index (CSI) to illustrate the magnitude of climate change's role in raising temperatures across the region. India recorded its second-hottest season since satellite data tracking began in 1970. Over this three-month period, temperatures were at least three times more likely to spike due to climate change for 29 days. Approximately 20.5 million Indians faced temperatures influenced by climate change for at least 60 days (CSI 5), underscoring India's vulnerability to extreme heat compared to other



Southern Asian nations. Of India's 1.38 billion population, around 426 million people — almost a third — were exposed to potentially scorching temperatures for at least seven days, exceeding 90 per cent of the local temperature records from the 1991-2020 baseline period. More than 112 million people faced over a month of dangerous heatwaves, raising significant public health concerns.

Several Indian cities bore the brunt of climate change-fuelled heatwaves. Thiruvananthapuram, Vasai-Virar, Kavaratti, Thane, Mumbai, and Port Blair each endured over 70 days when temperatures were at least three times more likely due to climate change. Mumbai alone experienced 54 extreme heat days, while cities like Kanpur and Delhi saw temperatures soar above 39°C for prolonged periods, with climate change making these extremes four times more likely.

What Is The Climate Shift Index (CSI)?

The Climate Shift Index (CSI) measures the influence of climate change on daily temperatures. A CSI score between 1 and 5 reflects the probability that a day's temperatures have increased due to human-driven climate change.

Kolkata doctors to continue cease-work protest, seek fresh talks with government

Seeking a new round of talks, the protesting doctors said that the West Bengal government should provide them with a "democratic environment" and also listed fresh demands.

New Delhi: The protesting doctors at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where a trainee doctor was raped and killed, announced that they will continue their strike until all their demands are met, including the removal of the Health Secretary. They also sought fresh talks with the government, a day after holding meetings with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The doctors

made the announcement after a five-hour long governing body meeting, which ended at around 1 am on Wednesday. "Till all our demands are met with, the agitation and cease work will continue. We want fresh talks with the state government," the doctors said at a press conference.

The protesting doctors met Mamata Banerjee on Monday, after which the Chief Minister announced that the state had accepted the majority of their demands, including the transfer of Kolkata City Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal. Banerjee also announced the setting up of a high-level panel under the Chief Secretary to address the doctors' demands. The doctors had pushed for the Chief Secretary NS Nigam's removal during the meeting; however, the government did

not decide in their favour. Though the outcome of Monday's meeting was hailed by the doctors as a 'moral victory', they refrained from calling off the protest and stated that a decision



would be announced after further discussions. On Tuesday, seeking a new round of talks, the doctors said that the government should provide them with a "democratic environment" and also listed fresh demands.

The demands include measures to ensure adequate toilet arrangements for doctors, installation of the required number of CCTV cameras in government-run hospitals, proper accommodation for doctors, increased security, and the conduct of student body elections. The doctors also called for the withdrawal of the government directive barring female doctors from working night shifts. The protesters asserted that their agitation would continue until all their demands were met.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal government appointed senior IPS officer Manoj Kumar Verma as the new Kolkata Police Chief. Director of Health Services (DHS) Debashis Halder, Director of Medical Education (DME) Kaustav Nayak, and Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police's North Division Abhishek Gupta were also removed as promised by Banerjee during Monday's meeting.



Picture postcards from

Greece

Santorini, Athens, Mykonos and Thessaloniki—just a few reasons why Greece's old-world charm attracts travellers from across the globe. With over 60 inhabited islands, stellar historical sites that span four millennia, picture-perfect Mediterranean beaches and towering mountain ranges—it's easy to understand the lure of this country.

Athens
Named for Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and courage, Athens was once the most powerful city in ancient Greece. The capital city was the birthplace

of democracy, theatre and Western civilisation, and its cultural richness and history is evident in its architecture.

Acropolis in Athens
When the sun hits the Acropolis' high, stony hill, its monuments—made with Pentelic marble—gleam a brilliant white. Crowned by the famous Parthenon, it stands sentinel over Athens, visible from almost anywhere within the city.

Santorini
With multicoloured cliffs soaring over 300 m from a sea-drowned caldera, Santorini rests in the middle of the indigo Aegean Sea. With Cycladic white-washed homes that line the cliff tops and breathtaking blue-domed churches that spill along the terraced rocks, Santorini is the quintessential Greek isle.

Oia, Santorini

Perched on the northern tip of the island, the village of Oia is known throughout the world for its quiet life and fantastic sunsets. Sage green slopes filled with wildflowers, sun-bathed verandas and busy streets packed with shops, taverns and cafés—you will struggle to find a more stunning Cycladic village.

Mykonos

The low-lying, sun-drenched island of Mykonos in the Aegean has always been considered to be one of the most elegant Greek islands. From celebrities and writers to archaeologist and students, everyone has been lured by the island's glitzy nightlife and charming cafés.

Meteora

One of the most extraordinary sights in mainland Greece, the Meteora is a group of monasteries built into and on top of huge pinnacles of smooth rock. Seeking retreat from the expanding Turkish occupations at the end of the 14th century, the Eastern Orthodox monks found a perfect asylum in this

region's almost inaccessible rock pillars.

Delphi

Believed to be the centre of the earth in Greek mythology, Delphi has always been a place of historic and spiritual significance. It is home to the Sanctuary of Apollo, a fascinating pagan religious complex set on a stunning cliff, which comprises classical temples, a theatre and a stadium.

Mount Athos

Also known as 'Holy Mountain', Mount Athos is home to 20 orthodox monasteries, thousands of monks and an invaluable collection of frescoes and religious art. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the monastery only allows male visitors to enter its intriguing and awe-inspiring bastion.

Mount Olympus

Traditionally regarded as the legendary home of the ancient Greek gods, Mount Olympus is a landscape of spectacular plateaus and ridges. It is believed that it was here that Zeus mounted his throne, Hades ruled the Underworld, and Poseidon rocked the seas.

Lindos

Reached by foot or through Lindos' popular mode of transport—the donkey—this towering acropolis' landscape is filled with picturesque white-washed houses that tumble down towards the Lindos Bay. The town itself is a magical maze of hidden alleys packed with boutiques and effervescent bars and cafés set in old sea captain's houses.

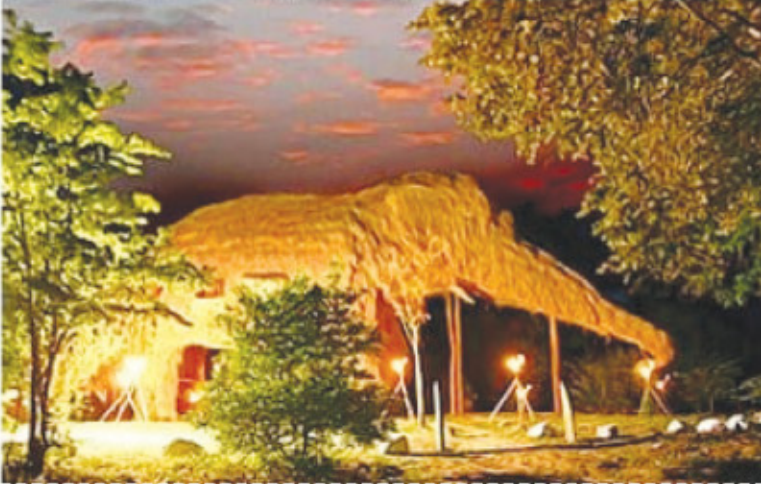
Sailing in Greece

With endless blue seas and countless islands, Greece is a sailor's paradise. Exploring Greece by sea puts you in touch with a side of this country you'd otherwise miss. Sail the islands of Aegina and the car-free Hydra, or take a two week tour along Mykonos and Santorini—this is the best way to get up-close and personal with this idyllic country.

Picture postcards from Greece

With a coastline punctuated by superb beaches, sun-bleached ancient ruins and a mountainous interior that urges you to dust off your hiking boots and explore—Greece inspires anyone with a cultural bone in their body.

Unusual hotels around the world



V8 Hotel, Germany

The V8 Hotel in Stuttgart is a car lover's haven. Part of an auto museum called Boblingen's Meilenwerk, the rooms in this hotel are guaranteed to rev the engine of any car enthusiast. The four-star hotel has 34 rooms, of which 10 have undergone extreme makeovers that allow you to sleep in a Mercedes, Morris Minor, Cadillac or Volkswagen. Collectors of classic cars may even park their car in glass viewing boxes, so that others can see the repair and service taking place.

Palacio de Sal, Bolivia

Located on the edge of the world's largest salt flat—the Salar de Uyuni—Palacio de Sal is a hotel built entirely out of blocks of salt. Everything from walls to furniture is constructed using pure salt and the only rule that guests are required to follow is 'Don't lick the walls!' This luxury hotel also features a golf course, a dry sauna, a steam room, a whirlpool and its own saltwater baths. Featuring chalk-white huts that blend beautifully with the salty landscape, the hotel provides excellent grounds for star-gazing.

Treehotel, Sweden

Having to haul your luggage up a treetop is worth it, when the dwelling is as undeniably cool as Sweden's Treehotel. Floating ethereally in the evergreen forests, this hotel is composed of five

individually designed 'treerooms,' each of which is created in collaboration with leading Scandinavian architects. The most distinctive room is a particularly futuristic suite that reflects the forest surroundings with its mirrored cubical walls. Other accommodation options include a bird nest look-alike, an alien UFO suite and a spacious cabin wedged between the trees.

Propeller Island City Lodge, Berlin

If the eccentric, avant-garde ethos of Berlin could be captured in one hotel, it would be the Propeller Island City Lodge—where a stay is akin to spending the night living in a work of art. Every room has a radically unique ambience constructed entirely by German artist Lars Strohschen. A preppy prison cell with coffin beds; a room covered with mirrors and a suite where upside-down furniture dangles from the ceiling and your beds are hidden beneath the floor—the rooms at this hotel range the gamut from kinky to creepy.

Jukkasjärvi Ice hotel, Sweden

For a few months each year you can experience a sensationalised Eskimo lifestyle in Jukkasjärvi, the world's first and largest hotel that's built entirely out of ice and snow. Every year, around 50 artists head to Sweden to help rebuild the structure, thus resulting in a hotel that looks a little bit different each time. The hotel also features a bar, with glasses made of ice, and an ice chapel that's popular amongst marrying couples. Each year the hotel receives applications from artists all around the world to

design imaginative suites and the actual construction of the structure starts in November, finally opening up for the guests in January.

Kakslauttanan, Finland

A crystal clear view of the Northern Lights from your own private igloo is exactly what Hotel Kakslauttanan in Finland offers. Nestled amidst the wilderness, the hotel promises the best views of the Aurora Borealis and you can choose to stay either in a glass igloo, a log cabin or a snow igloo. Each igloo is fitted with thermal glass walls and ceilings that insulate the interior to keep it warm at night.

Jumbo Stay, Sweden

Spend the night onboard a real jumbo jet thanks to the Jumbo



For the adventurous and quirky globetrotter, conventional hotels are a thing of the past. Whether you still harbour a childhood dream of living in a treehouse, or you love cars so much that you'd give anything to sleep inside one, there's a crazy hotel somewhere to fit your vacation needs. Here are a few of the world's most eye-popping and intriguing hotels

Stay hostel in Stockholm. Housed in the Arlanda Airport, the hostel is actually a decommissioned 747-200 jetliner that offers visitors the pleasures of first-class air travel, while staying firmly on the ground. Accessed via a 15-minute walk from the main terminal or via a five-minute shuttle bus, the hostel holds 79 beds and has a luxury suite, offering panoramic views of the airport, built inside the cockpit of the jet.

Dog Bark Park Inn, Idaho

For dog lovers looking to take a trip to Idaho, this is the perfect place to stay overnight. Dog Bark Park Inn is a whimsical two bedroom bed and breakfast that is shaped like a beagle and boasts of a number of dog-themed design choices. To add a dash of quirk to the hotel, the toilet is disguised as a fire hydrant! Lovingly known as 'Sweet Willy' by local residents, this unique building was created by wood-carving enthusiasts Dennis and Frances, who spent eighteen months building the structure. The guesthouse can be reserved from April through October for up to four people at a time.

The Hobbit Motel, New Zealand

From outside, these two self-contained underground dwellings look like they have come straight from Tolkien's Middle-earth. Don't worry if you're not three foot tall with hairy feet, everyone is welcome at the Hobbit Motel. This unusual motel was built using polystyrene blocks, keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Each Hobbit unit is built into the hillside, much like the hobbit holes from 'The Lord of the Rings', and can accommodate up to six people.

Giraffe Manor, Kenya

It's not everyday that you can enjoy a gourmet meal in a quaint historic mansion as giraffes lean in through the window over your shoulder. Giraffe Manor is located on a 140-acre sanctuary for one of the most endangered subspecies of giraffes in the world. The manor, which has ten guests rooms, offers up plates of giraffe food that you can feed to these hungry guests so they don't go after your breakfast.

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time high after early dip; Ola Electric shares up 4%

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices erased early losses on Wednesday to hit fresh all-time high on positive expectations of the US Fed rate cut to be announced later in the day. The S&P BSE Sensex added 188.33 points to 83,267.99, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 46.90 points to 25,465.45 as of 12 PM. Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The significance of the Fed rate decision expected tonight is evident from the wait and watch market mood across the globe yesterday. Perhaps more important than the Fed action would be the Fed commentary and the message." "An ideal and possible outcome would be a 25 bps rate cut with a dovish message indicating a series of rate cuts. Good retail sales data along with a weakening labor market point to such a possibility," he said.

Among the top gainers on Nifty50, Bajaj Finance led the pack with a 3.81% increase, followed by Shriram Finance at 3.10%. Bajaj Finserv also performed well, rising by 1.99%, while Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and Hero MotoCorp saw gains of 1.78% and 1.77% respectively. However, some stocks experienced losses. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped by 3.23%, while Tech Mahindra fell 2.68%. Infosys declined by 2.73%, Wipro decreased by 2.47%, and HCL Technologies saw a 2.21% dip.

18 of the 30 stocks on BSE were in green. Several sectors posted gains, with Nifty Financial Services leading the way, up by 1.70%. Nifty Bank followed closely with a 1.41% increase, while Nifty Private Bank rose by 1.35%. Nifty Financial Services PE 50 also performed well, gaining 1.69%. Other sectors in the green included Nifty Auto (0.51%), Nifty FMCG (0.09%), and Nifty PSU Bank (0.64%).

Gold, silver price: Yellow metal trades higher, silver records dip on MCX

New Delhi Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the higher side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a dip on Wednesday, September 18.

Gold futures, maturing on October 4, 2024, stood at Rs 73,175 per 10 grams, after recording a hike of Rs 81 or 0.11 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 73,094. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on December 5, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 370 or 0.42 per cent and were retailing at Rs 88,770 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 89,140. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

Samir Kumar named Amazon India's new head after Manish Tiwary's exit

New Delhi Amazon's 25-year-veteran Samir Kumar will take over the reins of its India consumer business as the company undergoes a leadership transition following the resignation of Manish Tiwary, the retail giant said in a release on Wednesday. Amit Agarwal, Amazon's SVP for Emerging Markets, announced in an internal email that Samir Kumar will take on the responsibility to lead India as its Country Manager, in addition to his current charter of leading Amazon's consumer businesses in the Middle East, South Africa and Turkey.

Samir, who joined Amazon in 1999, was a part of the original team that planned and launched Amazon.in in 2013, the release said. With this change, the current Amazon.in leadership team of Saurabh Srivastava (Categories), Harsh Goyal (Everyday Essentials), Amit Nanda (Marketplace), and Aastha Jain (Growth Initiatives) will now report to Samir. Kishore Thota (Emerging Markets Shopping Experience) will report to Amit directly. Samir is working closely with Manish Tiwary on the transition, and will assume operational responsibilities for India starting October 1.

Commenting on the transition, Amit Agarwal, SVP for Emerging Markets, said: "I am deeply appreciative of Manish's leadership in steering Amazon.in to become the de facto starting point for Indians to buy and sell anything online. I wish him the best for his next chapter."

Wipro implements strict work-from-office policy; Employees face leave deductions

New Delhi. Wipro, a leading IT company in India, has introduced a stringent work-from-office policy mandating employees to be present at least three days a week. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in deductions from their leave balance.

In an email sent to employees on September 2, Wipro's management instructed the human resources team to revoke any existing work-from-home approvals, emphasizing that any absence from the office would directly affect leave entitlements. According to an employee quoted in reports, missing a day in the office will lead to the deduction of one day of leave for each day not attended. This new directive applies only to certain projects within the company, rather than being a blanket policy for all employees.

Wipro's decision reflects a broader trend among Indian IT firms aiming to return to in-office work. LTIMindtree has implemented a similar policy requiring employees to work on-site four days a week, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has linked variable pay to attendance, necessitating a full five-day office presence. Infosys has also adopted a three-day attendance rule akin to Wipro's. These changes highlight a growing emphasis on reinforcing office culture as hybrid work arrangements continue to evolve within the industry.

SpiceJet yet to pay Rs 350 crore in TDS, PF of employees

SpiceJet has not paid Rs 220 crore in TDS deductions from employees' salaries between April 2020 and August 2023 to tax authorities.

New Delhi The turbulence for SpiceJet seems far from over as the airline has revealed it has yet to pay Rs 355 crore in Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and provident fund (PF) contributions owed to employees.

SpiceJet has not paid Rs 220 crore in TDS deductions from employees' salaries between April 2020 and August 2023 to tax authorities. Additionally, the airline owes Rs 135.3 crore in PF contributions for the same period. In a preliminary placement document (PPD) filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), SpiceJet mentioned that Rs 72 crore of TDS for the assessment years 2009-10 to 2013-14 is disputed. The company also mentioned disputes over customs, service

tax, and goods and services tax (GST). In an attempt to stabilise, SpiceJet plans to raise Rs 3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), selling shares to institutional investors. While Yes Bank has approved the QIP, the airline awaits approval from ICICI and Indian Bank.

The funds will primarily be used to pay off Rs 601.5 crore in overdue taxes and contributions, including TDS, PF, and GST. An additional Rs 750 crore will be used to clear debts with creditors, including aircraft lessors, engine suppliers, and financiers.

Pending lawsuits

The airline is also facing over 25 pending lawsuits, excluding those involving its promoter. Significant defaults under aircraft lease agreements have grounded more than half its fleet, and legal actions by lessors and other vendors are ongoing. "We have been in alleged default under several of our aircraft lease agreements, leading to the grounding of a large part of our fleet. This has triggered



legal or enforcement proceedings, including actions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, from aircraft lessors and other vendors," said the filing. The airline aims to use a large part of the money raised from the QIP to get its grounded planes back in service. SpiceJet believes that to become profitable in the future, it needs to expand its fleet, increase passenger traffic, and improve earnings. Grounded planes and falling market share As of June 30, 2024,

36 of SpiceJet's 64 aircraft were grounded due to financial difficulties and maintenance issues. SpiceJet has also faced multiple fines from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for non-compliance, with at least 20 instances reported in the past three years. The airline had been aggressively expanding before the pandemic, particularly after the collapse of Jet Airways, which initially gave SpiceJet growth opportunities. However, the global halt in travel during 2020, extended restrictions into 2022, rising aviation fuel prices, and the global grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft in 2019 all created significant challenges for the airline. While competitors like IndiGo, with a stronger financial base, managed to recover from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, SpiceJet has struggled. Its market share has dropped below 4%, with fewer than 20 planes currently in operation. Most of its fleet remains grounded due to financial stress and a shortage of spare parts and engines.

Centre asks edible oil industry to maintain prices amid duty hike on imports

NEW DELHI The government has advised edible oil associations to maintain the minimum retail price (MRP) of oil until the availability of edible oil stocks imported at 0% and 12.5% Basic Customs Duty (BCD).

The Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) chaired a meeting with representatives from the Solvent Extraction Association of India (SEAI), the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA), and the Soybean Oil Producers Association (SOPA) today to discuss pricing strategies. The leading edible oil associations were advised to ensure that the MRP of each type of oil is maintained until stocks imported at 0% and 12.5% BCD are exhausted. They were also asked to address this matter with their members immediately. Previously, following meetings held by the department with leading edible oil associations, the



MRP of oils such as sunflower oil, soybean oil, and mustard oil had been reduced by the industry. These price reductions were a result of falling international prices and reduced import duties on edible oils, making them cheaper. The industry has been periodically advised to align domestic prices with international prices to lessen the burden on consumers. The

Government of India has increased the basic customs duty on various edible oils to support domestic oilseed prices. Effective from September 14, 2024, the basic customs duty on crude soybean oil, crude palm oil, and crude sunflower oil has been raised from 0% to 20%, bringing the total effective duty on crude oils to 27.5%. Additionally, the basic customs duty on refined palm oil, refined sunflower oil, and refined soybean oil has increased from 12.5% to 32.5%, making the total effective duty on refined oils 35.75%.

The central government is also aware that there is close to 30 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of edible oil stock imported at lower duties, which is sufficient for 45 to 50 days of domestic consumption.

Government scrapes windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday scrapped the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil, set to take effect from September 18. The tax, imposed as a Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), was reduced from Rs. 1850 per tonne to nil.

This is the second time since the tax was introduced in July 2022 that it has been reduced to nil. The last time the SAED was reduced to zero was on April 4, 2023. The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel or ATF remains at nil. The windfall tax is levied fortnightly based on average oil prices in the preceding two weeks. The last revision took place on August 31, when the tax on crude petroleum was set at Rs. 1850 per tonne.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining other countries that tax the excessive profits of energy companies. The levy on exports of petrol, diesel, and aviation fuel was introduced to encourage private refiners to sell fuel domestically instead of exporting it to benefit from higher refining margins.

The decision to scrap the windfall tax comes as global benchmark Brent crude prices have fallen below USD 75 a barrel from over USD 92 a

Tupperware files for bankruptcy amid long-term sales struggles



Tupperware Brands Corp has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, reflecting years of declining sales and rising competition. The iconic kitchenware company reported assets between \$500 million and \$1 billion, with liabilities estimated between \$1 billion and \$10 billion. Since 2020, Tupperware has struggled to maintain its market presence, repeatedly warning of doubts regarding its long-term viability. In June, the company announced the closure of its sole U.S.



factory, resulting in the layoff of nearly 150 employees. This move highlights the severe challenges Tupperware faces as it attempts to pivot in a rapidly evolving retail landscape.

The bankruptcy filing in Delaware follows months of negotiations with lenders over more than \$700 million in outstanding loans. While creditors provided temporary relief, the company's financial situation continued to deteriorate, underscoring the need for more drastic measures.

Since 2020, Tupperware has struggled to maintain its market presence, repeatedly warning of doubts regarding its long-term viability

Founded in 1946 by Earl Tupper, the company became a household name through its innovative plastic products and the introduction of its flexible airtight seals. Tupperware gained popularity through independent sales parties held in suburban homes, creating a unique direct sales model. Despite its rich history and initial success, Tupperware's recent struggles serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by legacy brands in adapting to modern consumer preferences and competition. The company now seeks to restructure and explore potential pathways for recovery in the wake of its bankruptcy filing.



barrel in April. A windfall tax is a levy imposed by governments when an industry unexpectedly earns large profits, mainly due to an unprecedented event. This move may lead to expectations of price cuts for petrol and diesel, as the government reviews the decline in international crude oil prices. Recently, Pankaj Jain, Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, also mentioned that he is discussing the possibility of withdrawing the windfall tax on crude oil exports with the Finance Ministry. He also mentioned that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) may consider reducing petrol and diesel prices domestically if international crude prices remain low for an extended period.

India's richest and poorest states: South leads GDP race, West Bengal stumbles

New Delhi. A working paper from the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), released on Tuesday, has revealed significant disparities in the economic performance of Indian states.

While the southern states — Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — have emerged as major contributors to India's GDP, states like West Bengal, once economically strong, have witnessed a puzzling decline.

Southern states make up 30% of India's GDP

In 1991, the per capita income of the five large southern states was below the national average. However, the liberalisation of India's economy brought rapid growth, allowing these states to surge ahead. By March 2024, these states accounted for 30% of India's GDP. Karnataka, with its booming tech sector, and Tamil Nadu, with its industrial hubs, have been pivotal in this growth.

Telangana, India's youngest state formed in 2014, has also shown impressive economic performance, becoming a major player in India's economy.

West Bengal's sharp economic decline

In stark contrast, West Bengal, once a top contributor to India's GDP with a share of 10.5% in 1960-61, now accounts for only 5.6%. The state's per capita income, which was once 127.5% of the national average, has dropped to 83.7%. This decline places it below states like Rajasthan and Odisha, which have traditionally lagged behind. "West Bengal has experienced a continuous decline in its relative economic performance over several decades," the report said. Despite its strategic maritime location and historical advantages, West Bengal's economic trajectory has been one of steady decline. Experts are puzzled by the state's inability to maintain its early economic strength. The report highlights West Bengal as an anomaly among maritime states, most of which have prospered. The question of what went wrong in West Bengal, particularly with its industrial policies, has been a subject of debate. The state's political climate, which shifted drastically after liberalisation, may have played a role in its economic stagnation.

Punjab's and Haryana's contrasting paths

Punjab, once a beneficiary of the Green



Revolution, has also experienced a flattening of economic growth since 1991. The state's per capita income, which had risen to 169% of the national average by 1971, has now declined to 106%. In contrast, Haryana has seen a sharp rise in per capita income to 176.8%, with much of this growth occurring after 2000. The divergence between Punjab and Haryana is striking, as Haryana, once economically behind Punjab, has now overtaken it in key economic metrics.

Maharashtra still tops GDP but faces challenges

Maharashtra remains India's largest contributor to GDP, though its share has declined from over 15% to 13.3% in recent years. Home to the financial

capital, Mumbai, the state's per capita income grew to 150.7% of the national average by 2024. However, the state no longer ranks among the top five in terms of per capita income.

Poorest states struggle to keep pace

The report also highlights the challenges faced by the poorest states. Uttar Pradesh, once contributing 14% of India's GDP in 1960-61, now accounts for 9.5%. Bihar, despite being the third-most populous state, contributes only 4.3% to the national economy. While Odisha has shown marked improvement, shedding its image as a laggard, Bihar remains far behind other states in terms of economic growth. The report suggests that states have taken dramatically different economic paths since liberalisation. The southern states have capitalised on the reforms, driving national growth. However, the case of West Bengal stands out as an unresolved economic puzzle, as the state continues to fall behind despite its early promise. With these regional disparities widening, the report calls for deeper investigation into the policies and factors influencing state-level economic growth.

NEWS BOX

Indian players will enjoy coach Gautam Gambhir's aggression: Dinesh Karthik

New Delhi Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik believes that under head coach Gautam Gambhir, Indian players will thrive, as his well-known aggression often comes from a desire to protect his team. Karthik shared these thoughts while speaking to reporters at a Legends League Cricket event on Tuesday, highlighting Gambhir's passionate style and how it will benefit the current Indian squad. "His aggression has generally come out in protection of his players and that is something the current lot of players will enjoy. Knowing him, he is not someone who gets angry for the heck of it," Karthik told reporters on the sidelines of a Legends League Cricket event. "I'm sure he will have his turn with strong words for whoever it is required, and it is in his best interest to get the best out of the players," he added. While Gambhir's intensity has been a hallmark of his playing and coaching career, Karthik noted that his fiery demeanor is calculated and intended to serve the team's interests.



Gambhir is set to embark on his first Test series as head coach, with India facing Bangladesh in a series starting on Thursday. Though he has considerable experience coaching in T20 tournaments, this will be his first challenge in the longer format. Karthik acknowledged that this lack of experience might be on Gambhir's mind, but expressed faith in his ability to navigate the challenges. "He has been a part of numerous T20 tournaments. But this Test series will be completely new for him as a coach and it must be playing at the back of his mind," Karthik said. "He is someone who has navigated through tough waters. He's got the acumen to understand the pulse of the game, which is extremely important as a coach." "He is at a very early stage as a coach, so it will be interesting how it pans out. However, I have confidence that he will deliver on all aspects. So far, it has worked well for him," Karthik added.

BANGLADESH CHALLENGE

India's first Test in the Gambhir era will come against Bangladesh, brimming with confidence after their historic 2-0 series win against Pakistan. Karthik, however, warned that Bangladesh would face a different challenge when playing in India. "It will start with a lot of confidence from Bangladesh.

ENG vs AUS: Adam Zampa accepts slim Ashes hopes as milestone 100th ODI nears

New Delhi Australia's leg-spinner Adam Zampa is gearing up for a major personal milestone as he approaches his 100th one-day international (ODI) appearance. Despite his significant contributions to Australia's white-ball success, Zampa has come to terms with the reality that his chances of playing in the prestigious Ashes series are slim.

Zampa, who played a crucial role in Australia's title win in the 2023 World Cup, is set to reach his 100th ODI cap during the first match of a five-game series against England at Trent Bridge. While his achievements in the shorter formats of the game have been impressive, the 32-year-old has yet to make his Test debut and admits it's unlikely he ever will. "Realistically, I'm probably not going to play in an Ashes in my career," Zampa said at Trent Bridge ahead of Thursday's clash. "I'm OK with that. We have lots of Test cricket, and there's still a bit of drive to play, but playing in an Ashes, especially against England in England or Australia, doesn't seem to be on the cards." Australia's Test side has long relied on Nathan Lyon as their go-to spinner in red-ball cricket. With



emerging talents like Todd Murphy and Mitchell Swepson also in the mix, Zampa's opportunities in Test cricket have remained limited. Yet, he remains content with his white-ball career and the rivalry he enjoys with England in limited-overs formats. "I think rivalry in any sport gives depth to the games," Zampa noted. "The Ashes has its own charm, but playing against England in any format is special. It's a great rivalry, and it's always a battle we look forward to." As he nears his ODI century, Zampa reflects on his journey with gratitude. "I never thought I'd play this many matches for Australia," he said. "It's an incredible honor to represent your country, and to be doing it for the 100th time is special. Having my family here with me — my wife, son, and parents — will make it an even more memorable occasion." Though Australia will look to defend their 50-over crown at the 2027 World Cup in southern Africa, Zampa is not setting any retirement deadlines. "I'm still enjoying playing for Australia, and as long as I feel like I'm bowling well and contributing, I'll keep going. I love being part of this group, and while I'm still motivated, there's no need to think about the end."

Formula One races take an unpredictable turn as McLaren boss Zak Brown revels in 'best season'

There have been six different winners in the last eight races, representing four different teams. Verstappen, whose dominance in 2022 and 2023 broke records, still leads the standings but his last win was in June.



LEBANON. After a thrilling Azerbaijan Grand Prix, it seems like nearly half the field is capable of winning races in Formula 1. McLaren chief executive Zak Brown, whose driver Lando Norris is Max Verstappen's closest title challenger, says he's enjoying the best show he's seen in his eight years in F1. There have been six different winners in the last eight races, representing four different teams. Verstappen, whose dominance in 2022 and 2023 broke records, still leads the standings but his last win was in June. "I think this is the

best season I can think of ever in Formula 1 since I've been here," Brown told The Associated Press from the IndyCar season finale at Nashville Superspeedway in Tennessee. Could it even be better than the 2021 fight between Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, which was decided on the final lap of the year and helped fuel F1's Netflix boom? Brown thinks it might be. "That was mega exciting, but it's just two guys, two good guys. Now you've got four good teams in today's race," he said. "To have four teams that can win any weekend, and (Sergio) Perez was obviously back on form today,

eight drivers going into Singapore and we're going 'I don't know which of these four teams might win. I don't know which of these eight drivers might win,' I can't recall Formula 1 having that level of competitiveness."

There was non-stop action Sunday.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri took the win in Baku, but only after a daring overtake on Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Perez was in the mix for Red Bull until he and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. collided, handing third to Mercedes driver George Russell. Further back, Norris surged through the field from 15th on the grid to

finish fourth ahead of Verstappen and take another bite out of the champion's standings lead. Teams' performances fluctuate week by week, depending on upgrades from the factories, track conditions and setup changes, like the one which Verstappen blamed for ruining his weekend in Azerbaijan. Even a change of tires can turn an also-ran into a contender, Russell said Sunday. "Just in this one race, we had a car that could have won if you took the pace from half of the race and a car that should have been outside the top 10 from the other half," he said, adding: "So I hope we've got the faster version" for next week's race in Singapore. The Singapore street track hosted one of the most competitive races of an otherwise Red Bull-dominated 2023 season. On worn tires, Sainz held off Norris' McLaren and the two Mercedes of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and Russell, who crashed from third on the last lap. Piastri is F1's on-form driver with the most points of anyone in the last seven races. He knows just how many moving parts are involved in success this year, and how quickly it can all change. "We've been in with a chance everywhere, and I think today was definitely one of those days where we weren't necessarily the quickest."

'Golden girl' Manu Bhaker eyes hitting bullseye at Los Angeles Olympics

Manu Bhaker has claimed that her aim at the Los Angeles Olympics would be to ensure that she would change the colour of her medal from bronze to gold. Manu was one of the stars for India in the Paris Olympics.



New Delhi. Manu Bhaker has claimed that her aim is to hit the 'bullseye' at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 and change the colour of her medal from bronze to gold at the games next time. Manu was one of the stars of India in their 2024 Paris Olympics campaign as she won 2 bronze medals in the 10m air pistol individual and mixed team events. She came close to adding another medal in the 25 m pistol round but ended up finishing fourth. Speaking to Times Of India in an exclusive interview, the 22-year-old said being referred to as the 'golden girl' of shooting

was both humbling and motivating for her. Manu said that each stage of her training is now aimed at refining her precision and focus with the goal of winning the gold medal at the next Olympics.

"Being referred to as the 'golden girl' of shooting is both humbling and motivating. My sights are set on hitting the bullseye at the Los Angeles Olympics. Each stage of my training is aimed at refining my precision and focus, all with the goal of securing that gold medal. While I focus on the journey and

the hard work, the dream of standing on the podium and representing India keeps me inspired and driven," said Manu.

Journey to Olympics was a team effort

Manu said that her journey to the Olympics was a team effort and she wouldn't have succeeded without her coach Jaspal Rana. The Indian shooter said Rana's constant encouragement coupled with her family's support kept her motivated and grounded.

Manu also paid tribute to her teammates for providing crucial support and making her journey feel less solitary. "The journey to the Olympics was a team effort, and I couldn't have succeeded without my coach, Jaspal Rana, my family, and my teammates. Jaspal's constant encouragement guided me through challenging moments, while my family's unwavering belief kept me motivated and grounded. My teammates provided crucial support, making the journey feel less solitary. Their collective presence and support were essential, reminding me that every achievement is the result of many hands working together," said Manu.

You've had more altercations, Gambhir tells Virat Kohli in special interview

New Delhi. In a special interview set to be released by the BCCI on Wednesday, September 18, India coach Gautam Gambhir was seen engaging in some fun banter along with Virat Kohli ahead of the start of the Test series against Bangladesh. Gambhir and Kohli have been known for their aggression on the field, with the duo even having run-ins with each other during the IPL. However, since Gambhir became the coach of the Indian team, both men have solved their differences for the side. Gambhir and Kohli were seen sharing a few jokes during the training camp ahead of the Bangladesh series and in the



video released on Wednesday, the Indian star batter would even say that they were there to put an 'end to all the masala and all the spice.' In the video snippet shared by the BCCI, the duo showed their funny side with Kohli asking Gambhir how did he feel while having a chat with the opposition. Kohli asked Gambhir if he did ever feel he would go out of the zone or feel if he would get out.

"But when you're batting and you have a bit of a chat with the opposition, did you ever feel like this might carry on to you going out of the zone and you potentially getting out or it put you in a more motivated space?" said Kohli. To this, Gambhir had a cheeky response, saying that Kohli had more altercations than him and he could answer that question better than him.

"You had more altercations than I have. You can answer that question better than I can," said Gambhir.

Gambhir and Kohli begin mission WTC Final

Gambhir and Kohli will begin their journey to the World Test Championship Final as coach and player with the Bangladesh series. The two Tests against Bangladesh will kickstart a 10-match run in the longest format of the game, which will see India also face New Zealand at home and Australia down under.

Champions Trophy: ICC delegation to review security arrangements in Pakistan

A five-member ICC delegation visited Pakistan to inspect venues for the 2024 Champions Trophy. Discussions included the tentative schedule and the possibility of the Indian team playing in Lahore.



Manager of Cricket and Production Andy Atkinson is part of the delegation.

Islamabad A five-member delegation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) landed in Karachi on Tuesday for an inspection visit for next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Top officials of ICC's Events and Security Departments and the General

Manager of Cricket and Production Andy Atkinson, the ICC Pitch Consultant, has also visited Pakistan on three different occasions since April. According to details, the ICC delegation would discuss the tentative schedule of the tournament which

was prepared and sent by the Pakistan Cricket Board to them some months back. "The tentative schedule is important because it involves the Indian team being based in Lahore and playing all their matches in the city," a well-informed source said. The source said a scenario where the Indian government does not allow the Indians to travel to Pakistan will also be discussed. The delegation would inspect the ongoing construction work in Karachi and the team hotel arrangements before flying to Islamabad and Lahore for the same purpose.

"The delegation which includes their ICC Security Manager would also get briefings from security officials in Pakistan." The source said it is entirely up to the ICC when they decide to finalise and announce the tournament schedule.

Endrick has the gift that strikers dreams of: Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti

Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti was in awe of Endrick after the Brazilian forward's incredible goal against Stuttgart in the Champions League on September 17, Tuesday. Endrick's goal helped Los Blancos seal a win on Tuesday.

Stuttgart in the UEFA Champions League on September 17, Tuesday. Endrick scored the final goal in a 3-1 win for Los Blancos against the German side at the Santiago Bernabeu, in what was a tough test for Ancelotti's men. Endrick's goal was one of the highlights of the night as he made a darting run from close to the Madrid box all the way to the other side, before unleashing a fierce shot in the final minute of the game. Speaking to the reporters, as quoted by Reuters, Ancelotti claimed that the youngster is able to do things no one can think of. The Italian tactician also praised Endrick's courage for scoring such a goal in the final moments of the game.



something special, something I have never seen. And he has such a strong and very fast shooting." "Endrick had courage because it was the last ball of the game. The best solution was to take advantage of the three against one, with Vinicius and Rodrygo open in the wings, but he did it very well, even though it was perhaps the most complicated solution."

We are still trying to find our best version

Ancelotti expressed satisfaction with his team's opening performance in their Champions League title defence, despite a challenging start where Stuttgart controlled the early stages.

The German side created numerous opportunities, but Real Madrid's goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, delivered a series of outstanding saves to keep them at bay. Ancelotti also said that Real Madrid is still trying to find their best version. "If anyone thinks that winning games is easy, they are wrong. I have coached more than 200 games in the Champions League and I can't remember a game without suffering," Ancelotti said. "Nobody knows better than Real Madrid what it's like to win a Champions League with suffering. We are still trying to find our best version. It's a journey in progress."



Priya Prakash Varrier's

Golden Ethnic Ensemble Is The Perfect Festive Pick

South actress Priya Prakash Varrier has taken the internet by storm with her famous wink, which made her an internet sensation overnight. The actress' clip, which was a scene from her debut film Oru Adaar Love, went viral on social media. Ever since she has steadily progressed in her career in the Malayalam industry and has never looked back. Apart from her outstanding acting prowess, the diva is also known for her active social media presence, and she never misses a chance to keep her fans updated. Recently, Priya Prakash Varrier did a photoshoot session on the occasion of Onam; the photos are currently going viral. In the photos, Priya is seen slaying in an off-white and golden silk ethnic ensemble. She teamed it with a golden corset blouse. She chose for subtle makeup, including perfectly drawn eyebrows, back winged eyeliner, contoured cheeks, a nude brown lip shade, and added small bindis on her forehead. She tied her hair in a high-rise long braid and added flowers and golden hair accessories to it. She completed her look with a beautiful golden necklace set, nath, and bunch of matching golden bangles, which absolutely suited her look.

The photos went viral in no time. Fans showered hearts and fire emotions in the comment box. A few days ago, Priya Prakash Varrier shared another couple of pictures from her photoshoot diaries. In the photos, Priya was dressed in an emerald green floral lehenga set. She chose a soft base, including brown eyeshadow, kohl-rimmed eyes, and a brown lip shade. She tied her hair in a mid-parted bun and added a red rose to it. She summed up her look with a matching green bind, a golden sleek checker set, a matching bracelet, and a ring. She looked adorable.

Priya Prakash Varrier was recently seen in the Malayalam-language film Mandakini. The film is directed by Vinod Leela and produced by Sanju Unnithan under Spire Productions. It stars Althaf Salm, Anarkali Marikar, and Ganapathi S Poduval in the lead roles.



Munawar Faruqui Leaves Delhi and Rushes To Mumbai Over DEATH Threat, Delhi Police Probe Underway



Stand-up comedian and Bigg Boss 17 winner Munawar Faruqui left Delhi on Monday over a potential threat to life. As reported by ETimes, Munawar, who was in the national capital for the Entertainers Cricket League, left for Mumbai after Delhi Police received intelligence about a potential threat to the comedian's life. Reportedly, police officials got a hint about the potential threat on Saturday night when they were interrogating the suspects of another shooting case in New Delhi. During questioning, the suspects disclosed that they had recently been instructed to conduct reconnaissance of the hotel, where Munawar was staying, for a targeted murder.

Following the intelligence input, a search operation was conducted at the IGI indoor stadium and the hotel. Reportedly, Munawar was staying on the first floor of the hotel and his room was also examined by cops. "We were merely instructed to enhance security at the stadium where a match between two teams named Haryana Hunters and Mumbai Disruptors was scheduled to take place," a police officer from the south district said. Police officials are still stationed outside the hotel and further investigation is underway. However, it should also be noted that neither the management of ECL nor Munawar has issued any official statement as of now.

Meanwhile, on Monday, Elvish Yadav also allegedly received death threats. The Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner was attending the Entertainers Cricket League 2024 when he was supposed to play against Munawar Faruqui. As reported by Free Press Journal, the two engaged in fun banter ahead of the match. However, a little later, Elvish Yadav allegedly received death threats for playing against Munawar. Reportedly, the officials were also left shocked following which they decided to vacate the stadium. To ensure the safety of Elvish, all the fans were asked to leave and the entrance gates were also sealed. The players played the match without the audience.

When Amitabh Bachchan 'Couldn't Sleep For Two Nights' After Aishwarya Rai's Accident: 'She Suffered...'



In 2003, during the filming of Rajkumar Santoshi's Khakee starring Aishwarya Rai, Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar near Nashik, a terrifying accident involving Aishwarya occurred, leaving the entire cast and crew shaken. A stuntman lost control, driving too fast and skidding, resulting in the car ramming into Aishwarya's chair. Unable to move quickly enough, Aishwarya and her co-star, Tushar Kapoor, were caught off guard by the speeding vehicle. The situation was so critical that Akshay Kumar had to step in, pulling the car away and extricating Aishwarya, who was then rushed to the hospital. Amitabh Bachchan, who would later become Aishwarya's father-in-law after she married his son Abhishek, was deeply upset with the media's portrayal of her accident. The press downplayed her injury, calling it trivial, which struck a nerve with Bachchan. During a chat with Rediff, Amitabh spoke out about the incident, talking about the gravity of the situation and expressing his concern for Aishwarya's well-being during that traumatic event.

"I asked Aishwarya's mother if she wanted to take her daughter back to Mumbai. We organised Anil Ambani's private plane. Since there is no night landing facility in Nashik, we had to take permission from Delhi to land the plane at the military base which is 45 minutes away from the hospital. The seats had to be removed from the aircraft. And everyone is brushing it off as a small incident blown out of proportion," an upset Amitabh Bachchan had rued. He had also opened up on how the accident and Aishwarya's wounds had left a deep impact on his mind. "For two nights I couldn't sleep. To see this happen in front of my eyes! Her back was lacerated with cactus thorns. The bone in the rear portion of her feet is broken. She suffered severe cuts. And her injury was reported as trivial," Amitabh Bachchan had said. Aishwarya Rai married Abhishek Bachchan on April 20, 2007, in a grand ceremony, and became the "Bachchan Bahu." Aishwarya and Abhishek have a daughter named Aaradhya Bachchan. For a while now, Aishwarya Rai has been spotted solo or with her daughter. This has led to rumours that a Aishwarya Rai Abhishek Bachchan divorce might be on the horizon.

Kavitha Gowda To Welcome Baby In October, Shares Baby Shower Photos

Actors Kavitha Gowda and Chandan Kumar are looking eagerly to welcoming their first child in October. Recently Chandan shared some adorable pictures of Kavitha's pregnancy photoshoot on Instagram. He tagged her in the photos as well. She was draped in a saree with heavy embellishments including a maang tika, necklace, earrings and bangles. In the other pictures, the Lakshmi Baramma actress is draped in a green saree paired with a magenta-coloured blouse. Kavitha looks pretty as she smiles for the cameras while Chandan puts a garland around her and showers flowers on her in the baby shower. In the subsequent photographs, the Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru actor adorably kisses her baby bump and holds hands. Chandan wore a white shirt and colour-coordinated dhoti for the photographs. He attached the song Singara Siriye from the film Kantara to the photographs. He wrote some portion of the caption in Kannada which when loosely translated means, "Frontier moments!!". In the remaining caption, he wrote, "See scattered toys, tons of diapers, and sleepless nights in our future. Waiting for the fun to begin."



Chandan had talked about Kavitha's pregnancy in an earlier interaction with the Times of India. He replied, "We are all ecstatic to welcome a little one into our world which will further brighten our life. I am looking forward to enjoying every bit of parenthood which will be the new phase of our lives." He said that they don't have any specific gender in their minds and just want the baby to be healthy. The Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru actor called it their topmost priority. Kannada television couple Chandan and Kavitha tied the nuptial knot during the lockdown in Karnataka on May 14, 2021. Their wedding took place traditionally in the presence of close friends and family members. The couple, who first met each other eight years back on the sets of the Television show Lakshmi Baramma, got engaged in a private ceremony on April 1. In Lakshmi Baramma, Chandan enacted the male lead; while Kavitha played the titular role of Lakshmi. The former made his acting debut with the 2011 Kannada serial Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru. On the other hand, Kavitha made her debut with the Tamil serial Mahabharatham.

