

# Article 370: PM Modi hits out at NC-Cong alliance over Pakistani Defence Minister's remarks

#### Simmi Kaur Babbar

Katra (Reasi), Sep 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress and NC alliance following remarks by Pakistan's Defence Minister regarding Article 370 and accused the coalition of pursuing the neighbouring country's agenda. The Prime Minister asserted that Article 370 cannot be reinstated in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising that "no power on Earth can bring back Article 370". His attack came after Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif revealed that his country, the National Conference (NC) and the Congress are on one page on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the restoration of statehood. "You must stay vigilant. You have to be cautious. Every vote for the Congress facilitates the implementation of the manifestos of the National Conference and the PDP. What are they announcing? "They will restore Article 370 and bring back the era of violence and bloodshed. Maybe there is no enthusiasm about the alliance of the National Conference and Congress here, but the neighbouring country is very excited. 'Unki balle

# Open for talks to any farmers' group

New Delhi, Sep 19: Agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said the answer to farmers' issues was dialogue, for which he would start an initiative named Samvad Se Samadhan (solution through discussions) to interact with farm organisations directly. Union minister for agriculture and farmers welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan addresses a press conference on achievements of the ministry in the first 100 days of the government on Sept 19. Union minister for agriculture and farmers welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan addresses a press conference on achievements of the ministry in the first 100 days of the government on Sept 19. The minister said he would set aside the first half of every Tuesday for meetings with farmers, who can sit across the table with prior notice. Chouhan urged farm groups and organisations to come forward and raise their issues with him. "Direct talks with farmers...several issues can be resolved through it. So, I am trying to visit fields and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. But I have decided that every Tuesday from morning till lunch will be the time to meet farmers and farmers' organisations," Chouhan told reporters. Once an appointment is fixed, "we will talk to whoever and whichever organisation comes", the minister said, in what appears to be a gesture also aimed at farmers' groups protesting for a legal guarantee on floor prices for farm produce.

being celebrated in Pakistan)," Modi declared at a massive rally in Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishnodevi cave shrine. The prime min-

ister pointed out Pakistan's open support for Congress and NC, and said, "Nobody talks about them here, but they are in currency there. Pakistan is happy with their manifesto. Pakistan's defence minister has openly supported the Congress and the National Conference. "He said the agenda of the National Conference and the Congress on Article 370 and 35-A is the same as that of Pakistan. This is what their ministers are saying," he said. Modi said Pakistan itself has exposed the NC and the Congress, showing that the two parties want to implement the bordering country's agenda here. "The agenda of

Pakistan, which has destroyed generations and bled us in Jammu and Kashmir, is being implemented by these people here. The Congress and the NC have worked in a direction for decades that suited Pakistan," he said. Addressing his second rally of the day in sup-

balle Pakistan mein ho rahi hai' (They are port of BJP candidates in the newly formed Shri Vaishnodevi constituency in Reasi district, Modi said, "They (Congress-NC alliance) aim to revive Pakistan's old agenda. Today, they



Pakistan." Sending a clear message to Pakistan, he said, "Modi wants to convey to them in stern language that we will not allow Pakistan's agenda to be implemented in

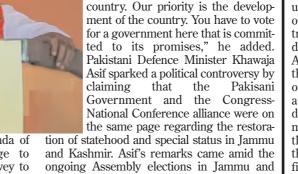
bring back Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir." The Prime Minister addressed a rally early in the day in Srinagar summer capital. It was after 10 long years that Modi

addressed a rally in Katra, where he had flagged off train service in July 2014. Modi emphasised the BJP's commitment to national development, urging voters to support a government dedicated to this cause. "For the BJP, there is nothing as big as the country. Our priority is the developthat the Pakisani

Kashmir, the first since the abrogation of the state's special status by the Narendra Modi-led government in 2019.

## Sandip Ghosh's medical registration cancelled

Kolkata, Sep 19: The West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) on Thursday cancelled the registration of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's former principal Sandip Ghosh, an official said. Ghosh, who is in CBI custody, has been removed from the list of Registered Medical Practitioners maintained by the WBMC, he said His licence was cancelled under various provisions of the Bengal Medical Act of 1914, the official said. He is an orthopaedic surgeon and without the licence, he cannot practice. Ghosh was arrested by the CBI on September 2 for his alleged involvement in the financial irregularities at the hospital amid the protests over the rape and murder of the on-duty trainee doctor. He was later accused of evidence tampering in the rape-murder case. Aniket Mahato, one of the leading faces of the junior doctors who have been agitating over the death of their colleague, described it as a "victory". "This is a victory for our deceased sister. The cancellation of Ghosh's medical registration should have been done the very next day of his arrest. We are happy that the West Bengal Medical Council has finally taken this step," he said. Ghosh was appointed the principal of the RG Kar Medical College in February 2021. Amid the protests, he resigned from the post.



Jammu and Kashmir. No power on Earth can

#### India rejects report on alleged arms diversion to Ukraine as 'mischievous'

#### ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Sep 19: The ministry of external affairs (MEA) on Thursday denounced a media report that implied violations by India in its defence exports as 'speculative and misleading." A Reuters report alleged that Indian-made artillery shells sold to European customers had found their way to Ukraine, where they



have been used in the ongoing conflict against Russia. Citing government officials and defence industry sources from both India and Europe, the report claimed that New Delhi had not intervened to prevent e resale ( these arms, despite multiple pro

## **TDP claims 'beef tallow' in Tirupati** laddus, shows 'lab report' from Gujarat was a usage of 'animal fat' instead of ghee in

#### Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Sep 19: The ruling Telugu Desam Party on Thursday claimed that a Gujarat-based livestock laboratory has confirmed the presence of "beef tallow", "lard" (relating to pig fat), and fish oil in the

ghee used for the preparation of the world-renowned Tirupati laddu. The report cited by Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu indicated that the ghee contained traces of fish oil, beef tallow, and lard, the latter being a semisolid white fat derived from pig fatty tis-

sue. The report cited by Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu indicated that the ghee contained traces of fish oil, beef tallow, and lard, the latter being a semisolid white fat derived from pig fatty tissue. TDP spokesperson Anam

Venkata Ramana Reddy displayed the purported lab report at a press conference. The sample receipt date was July 9, 2024, and the lab report was dated July 16. On Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu alleged that there the laddus offered as 'prasad' at Tirupati's shrine of Lord Venkateswara during the previous YSRCP government led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader cited a report from the Centre



of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) at the National Dairy Development Board in Gujarat, alleging the presence of animal fat in the ghee used to make the renowned Tirupati laddus during the YSRCP administration. It report indicated that the ghee contained traces of fish oil beef tallow, and lard, the latter being a semisolid white fat derived from pig fatty tissue. "The lab reports of the samples certify that beef tallow, animal fat - lard, and fish oil were used in the preparation of ghee supplied to

Tirumala, and the S value is only 19.7, TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy was quoted as saying by ANI. He also shared a copy of the lab report. On Thursday, the Karnataka Milk Federation said the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board has not purchased ghee from them in the past four years, according to News18. The board clarified that since the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), led by Chandrababu Naidu, came into power in Andhra Pradesh, it has been supplying Nandhini Ghee. The temple is dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, a

form of Lord Vishnu, who is believed to have descended to earth to help humanity overcome the challenges of the Kali Yuga. Consequently, the temple is known as Kaliyuga Vaikuntha, and the deity is called Kaliyuga Prathyaksha Daivam.

the curative petition was against this deci-

# SC rejects telecom companies' curative petition on AGR dues

#### Tejinder Kaur Babbar

NEW DELHI: Sep 19: The Supreme Court has dismissed curative petitions by telecom companies such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea against an October 2019 verdict that requires them to pay over ?1 lakh crore towards adjusted gross revenue dues (AGR) to the department of telecommunications (DoT). In an order dated August 30 and uploaded to the top court's website on Thursday, a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said, "We have gone through the Curative Petitions and the connected documents. In our opinion, no case is made out within the parameters indicated in the decision of this Court in Rupa

Ashok Hurra v Ashok Hurra (2002).' The 2002 decision lays down the parameters for entertaining a review or curative petition against the top court's order if the decision carries any apparent error or

causes manifest injustice. The curative petition challenged the court's October 24, 2019 judgment that ruled in favour of the government, permitting DoT to include all non-telecom revenue in calculations of AGR. As per the figures originally



placed before the court, companies such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea were required to pay ?43,980 crore and ?58,254 crore, respectively. Other firms included Reliance Telecom (?25,199 crore), Tata

group (?16,798 crore) and Aircel (?12,389 crore). Review petitions filed by the companies against the verdict were dismissed in January 2020. Saddled with a huge liability that threatened their business and with insolvency proceedings pending

against some of the companies - Aircel, Reliance Telecom, Sistema Shyam and Videocon Telecommunications - the Centre proposed to the court in March 2020 to permit the AGR dues to be paid by way of 20 equal instalments. The Centre's application was partly allowed on September 1, 2020. The court allowed the telcos to pay annual instalments for 10 years, from April 2021 to March 31, 2031. Companies were directed

to pay a penalty and penal interest in case of default besides being liable for contempt of court proceedings. Since this order effectively modified the October 2019 judgment, the effective challenge in

sion. During proceedings in the top court in 2020, the Centre said some of the AGR dues stood paid and revised the total outstanding dues to roughly over ?1.43 lakh crore. The Bharti Airtel group deposited ?18,000 crore bringing its outstanding balance to ?25,976 crore while Vodafone Idea deposited ?3,500 crore swelling its unpaid corpus to ?54,754 crore. Even Tata had dues worth over ?12.600 crore. Even government telecom providers BSNL and MTNL had accumulated dues to the tune of ?5835 crore and ?4352 crore respectively. To be sure, the concept of AGR is a revenue-sharing agreement which arose in the light of the policy framed by the government under provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act which gives the Centre exclusive privilege of establishing, maintaining and working telegraphs. The October 2019 judgment upheld the Government's interpretation that revenues from various heads will be included in calculating AGR.

# 'Look at our photos, decide': Akhilesh Yadav's fresh 'mafia' swipe at Yogi Adityanath

#### **Naresh Malhotra**

Lucknow, Sep 19: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday took a swipe at Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adithyanath, doubling down on his recent remark that there is not much difference between a mathadheesh (head of a mutt) and a mafia. When asked about his comment, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Meri bhi tasveer dekhlo aap aur unki bhi dekhlo, mafia kon lagega yeh bata do (You can look at my photograph and his too, tell me who would be considered a mafia)," drawing laughter from other SP leaders present at the press conference. The comment came a day after Uttar Pradesh minister Sanjay Gangwar accused Akhilesh Yadav of being a leader of mafia and criminals. Gangwar claimed that Yadav has lost his mental equilibrium following the recent Lok Sabha elections, resulting in erratic statements. "People have seen his relationship with the likes of Atiq Ahmed and Mukhtar Ansari," he

said, adding, "a donkey will see others move out of Kairana because of them," vailing in the state. Yadav's comments as donkeys." He suggested that Yadav's he added. Without naming Akhilesh equating mathadheesh with mafias have

perceptions are influenced by his own experiences during his time in office. "He himself is a leader of mafias and criminals," the minister asserted. On Wednesday, Adityanath also accused the SP of cowing down to criminals and denigrating religious leaders. "Samajwadi Party members used to rub their noses in front of notorious mafias and criminals. As per their culture, they call religious leaders

mafias," Adityanath said at an event, referring to Yadav's controversial statement. "They exploited the youth, forced farmers to commit suicide and traders were forced to migrate and incidents like the Kairana (exodus) happened because of them. Hindu traders had to also drawn the ire of Hindu outfits. The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) strongly condemned his remark and demanded an apology from the SP chief, calling his statement "highly condemnable

and objectionable." "This is not the first time Akhilesh Yadav has insulted Hindu beliefs and saints to please his vote bank. He should apologize to the entire Hindu society, including the revered saints," VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain said. 'Akhilesh Yadav and the lead-

ers of his alliance should apologise to the entire Hindu society, including the revered saints, for his anti-Hindu statement, else the Hindu society will not tolerate this insult and will give a befitting reply through every democratic means," the VHP functionary added.

Moscow. "We have seen the Reuters report. It is speculative and misleading. It implies violations by India, where none exist and, hence, is inaccurate and mischievous," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in an official statement. He said India has a "robust legal and regulatory framework" governing its defence exports, which ensures strict compliance with international obligations on non-proliferation. "India has been carrying out its defence exports, taking into account its international obligations on non-proliferation and based on its own robust legal and regulatory framework, which includes a holistic assessment of relevant criteria, including end user obligations and certifications," Jaiswal added. According to the report, the diversion of these munitions to Ukraine has occurred for more than a year, and customs data reportedly corroborated the transfers. However, the news agency acknowledged that it could not determine whether the munitions had been resold or donated to Kyiv by European buyers. Russia, a long-standing defence partner of India and its primary arms supplier, is reportedly unhappy with the transfers. According to Reuters, Moscow raised concerns about the issue on at least two occasions, including during a meeting in July between Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and Indian external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Iaishankar.

#### Bengal junior docs to partially lift 'cease work', resume emergency duties from Saturday

Kolkata, Sep 19: Agitating junior doctors announced that they will "partially" lift their 'cease work' and partially rejoin their duties at emergency and essential services in state-run hospitals from Saturday as the West Bengal government has accepted most of their demands. The medics, who have been on 'cease work' for the last 41 days following the rape and murder of a woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, announced that they would lift their sit-in outside Swasthya Bhawan on Friday. Before lifting the sit-in, they would hold a march from Swasthya Bhawan, the state health department headquarters, to the CBI office at CGO Complex in the Salt Lake area. "It has been decided that given the flood situation in West Bengal and the state government agreeing to certain demands of ours, we will be rejoining emergency and essential services partially from Saturday. We are withdrawing our cease work partially," an agitating doctor said after their general body meeting. The protesting doctors said they will not work in the Out Patient Department (OPD) but will work partially in emergency and essential services. "We will withdraw our sitin outside Swasthya Bhawan on Friday after the march to the CBI office. We will wait for a week for implementation of all the promises made by the West Bengal government and if unfulfilled, we will resume 'cease work'," the doctors said, adding that their fight for justice has not ended.



jodi" (two boys) is talking about devel-

opment in Uttar Pradesh and they have

forgotten the history of the last 10 years

when 'gunda' and 'mafia raj' were pre-

# STATE

# **Global mental health**

News box

## experts at meet in city this weekend

- Mumbai. As non-medical approaches to mental health slowly gain traction in India, Mumbai is gearing up to host the ninth edition of Frances Tustin Memorial Trust Conference from Sept 20-22. This international gathering, bringing together mental health experts-psychotherapists, psychoanalysts, special educators and other mental health professionals-is a step towards that shift.
- Focusing on the theme 'Early ruptures and their impact on the individual's psyche', the conference will explore how childhood psychological wounds can lead to lifelong conditions such as anxiety, depression and developmental disorders.
- A collaboration between Indian Psychoanalytic Society (Mumbai chapter) and Frances Tustin Memorial Trust in Israel, the meet will feature global experts like Alina Schellekes (Israel), Chiara Cattelan (Italy), Jeanne Magagna (UK) and Armelle Hours (France), and India's Micky Bhatia and Minnie Dastur, among others, who will present their research and share insights. The gathering aims to explore new approaches that professionals can use in their daily work with patients and find better ways to address deep-seated trauma across all age groups, from infants to adults.

The conference is inspired by Frances Tustin, a pioneering child psychotherapist from northern England who made groundbreaking advances in understanding and treating autism in both children and adults starting in the 1950s.Mumbai's own Psychoanalytic Therapy & Research Centre (PTRC) has been developing psychoanalysis therapy in India since the 1970s. Today, PTRC provides therapy for all age groups with fees on a sliding scale so that anyone can receive help. This conference is part of its ongoing efforts to enhance mental health care and broaden its reach.

### Driver crashes SUV into Nawab Malik's son-inlaw

- MUMBAI. NCP functionary Nawab Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan suffered a brain clot after his driver crashed into him with his SUV outside a Kurla hospital on Tuesday, pushing him for about 10-15ft and pinning him between the vehicle and the boundary wall of an SRA building.
- The driver, Abdul Ansari, told police he accidentally accelerated instead of hitting the brakes. He knocked down a few parked bikes and crashed into Khan. Police have prima facie ruled out foul play. Doctors have kept Khan, who also sustained fractures to his ribs, shoulder and neck, under observation in the ICU for 48 hours.
- Malik's brother Kaptan Malik said Khan and his wife, Nilofar, were waiting outside

# Six injured in fire cracker explosion at Telangana's Kishanbagh

The family is reportedly in the business of manufacturing firecrackers and storing them in their house.

HYDERABAD. Six people of a family, including a three-yearold and a nine-year-old, sustained injuries after the firecrackers they had stored in their house at Kishanbagh The victims have been identified accidentally exploded on Wednesday.

"Sixty-year-old Shakeera Begum sustained severe head injuries and is in a critical condition while the others are stable," the police said. The family is reportedly in the business of manufacturing firecrackers and storing them in their house.

"At around 4PM, a laisun pataka stored in the house caught fire and exploded. The blast led to a

massive sound causing the asbestos sheet, which was the roof, fell down on the family," DCP South Zone Sneha Mehra The AIMIM Bahadurpura MLA told

as Hafeez, Waseem, Shakeera Begum, Neha Begum, Begum. "Shakeera Begum sustained a head injury, while the others were injured on their faces and hands as per preliminary reports," Mehra said.

Hearing the explosion at the house, the family's neighbours rushed to help the injured persons. The Bahadurpura

police shifted the injured to Osmania General Hospital for medical treatment.

Mohammed Mubeen also rushed to the spot and facilitated in shifting the injured persons to the hospital. Sameena Begum and Saniya Taking to social media platform X, the MLA said that he spoke to the resident medical officer of the Osmania Hospital regarding the update on the health condition of the family. Those who are in a stable condition will be discharged

within two days, Mubeen said, sharing what the RMO informed him.



# **TISS** revokes its ban on student outfit, tweaks 'honour code'

MUMBAI. TISS has revoked its ban on

Progressive Students' Forum (PSF), Left-leaning students' collective, and modified its honour code to remove a mandatory pledge from students against "indulging in any political, anti-establishment, unpatriotic discussions, demonstrations, dharna or any form of activities that disturb the academic environment of the institute".

The ban, imposed on Aug 19 after calling PSF unauthorised and illegal,

was revoked on Monday evening after a review by the institute's "competent authority" and following "detailed deliberations", said TISS in its order. It said the decision was taken to "preserve the values of mutual respect, unity and academic integrity". PSF has been active The new honour code states: "...I on the campus since 2012.

Following the ban, it had sent a detailed appeal letter to the chancellor of the institute, seeking his intervention, and support for it had poured in from alumni and teachers.



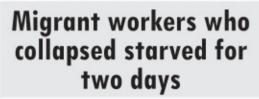
In the same Monday order, the institute asked students to adhere to a revised In a statement, PSF welcomed the honour code, dated Sept 16, which has toned down the controversial pledge. The pledge had been met with widespread criticism and students had termed it "undemocratic".

acknowledge that TISS reserves the right to take disciplinary action against the violations of its rules, policies, or for any other reasons as specified in the institute's regulations. I commit to refrain from any actions or activities that may disrupt the academic environment or damage the reputation of the institute ....

The institute urged students and faculty to "refrain from any actions or activities that may disrupt the academic atmosphere or tarnish the reputation of the institute". "TISS administration remains committed to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment for all members of the institute ... " it said.

revocation of the ban and said it will continue its struggle for the students' community.

It called the ban an "undemocratic" attempt to restrict the fundamental right of students to free speech and expression. "The revision of the honour code is an assertion that university campuses shall continue to be spaces for open discussions and debates that will provide a platform for students to put forward their opinions without any fear," it said in a statement.





CHENNAI. The condition of a migrant labourer from West Bengal who was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on Monday has improved, while the condition of one still remains critical on Wednesday, said hospital sources.

- Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital sources said the workers had last eaten white rice with onions on Friday, and nothing else for two days till Monday when they were admitted to the hospital.
- A senior doctor at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital said five of the migrant labourers were diagnosed with acute gastroenteritis and dehydration.
- Of the five, Samar Khan, who was critical, was taken off ventilator support and put on oxygen support on Wednesday. He had also been diagnosed with

CHENNAI. Chennai Corporation Mayor R Priva held an area sabha

meet in ward 74 at Perambur Jamalia on Wednesday, which was attended by



Criticare hospital after a routine check-up for their car."The driver did not pick up their calls. A security guard went and told the driver, who was fast asleep, that Sameer was calling him. In a hurry, Ansari started the vehicle. Seeing the vehicle approach, Sameer moved forward, but the driver accelerated it and rammed into him," he said. Nilofar escaped with minor injuries.

## CA says fiancee, kin framed him in stalking case after taking Rs 12L, kills self on FB Live

- MUMBAI. Accusing his fiancee and her family of framing him in a stalking case and assaulting him after taking Rs 12.5 lakh from him, a 33-year-old chartered accountant from Jharkhand allegedly hanged himself at his rented Govandi home minutes after going live on Facebook on Tuesday. He also alleged that police had refused to intervene in the financial dispute, which had prompted him to knock on the court's doors.
- Police said Sandeep Paswan had shown suicidal tendencies over the past year. They were alerted by friends and viewers to alarming live chats from him but were able to zero in on his location only after his death.



and after finding the Facebook Live video,

they were also adding the charge of abetment to suicide against the fiancee and her family.

Police said around 7am Tuesday, Sandeep went live on Facebook in his flat, showing bruises on his body and a torn T-shirt, and accused his fiancee and distant relative, Sapna Paswan, and her family of assaulting him and pushing him to take his life. "They told me, 'Why are you still alive? Just die, or we will kill you. They have humiliated me and ruined my life," he said.

corporation officials and representatives from all 10 area sabhas in the ward. Residents from Brislee Nagar, Jothi Nagar and others raised civic issues, including concerns about drinking water contamination. During the sabha, the residents brought up the issue of a possible sewage contaminating the metro water supply in Andiappan Street, as the drinking water has a foul odour. An official told TNIE that the contamination might be due to ongoing CMRL works. The

officials assured residents that the issue would be addressed. They also requested the conversion of

cement-concrete roads to bitumen roads, saying cement roads complicate service work for underground utilities. The mayor said that since the cement concrete roads have already been sanctioned, they cannot be changed now; however, it may be considered in future proposals.Residents requested the installation of transformers at four locations in ward 74 and the



officials said the matter would be escalated to Tangedco. Citing the presence of vacant land in Jothi Nagar and Brislee Nagar, residents requested the construction of an anganwadi. The other issues include non-functioning or missing streetlights, damaged manholes, clearing drain blockages, and paving of roads. The mayor directed the authorities concerned to take severe metabolic acidosis, a condition in which the acid level in body fluids is high, and hypovolemic shock, which occurs when the body loses too much fluids, doctors said.

Three patients, Manik Ghoroi, Samar Khan, and Sathya Pandit required dialysis due to severe fluid loss. They reported diarrhoea and vomiting, which doctors suspect to be from contaminated food or water.

Meanwhile, a press note from the Southern Railway mentioned that 12 passengers had unreserved tickets to Howrah and intended to board the Coromandel Express, from Chennai to Howrah. Among them, five passengers fainted, and railway officials gave them first aid at the emergency care centre in the station, before referring them to Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital.A corporation official informed that the West Bengal government has provided financial assistance of '10,000 to seven of them moved to a shelter, and '25,000 for those undergoing treatment at the hospital.

# Kerala: Improper waste dumping leaves Kalamassery residents worried

The municipal authorities have not taken any action, though the officials concerned were informed of the inconveniences caused by the mismanagement of waste.

KOCHI. Many areas in Kalamassery, including near Cusat and the Naval Armament Depot (NAD), have become dumping grounds despite a regular collection of food and plastic waste from households. The improper waste management has raised a fear of diseases among the local residents.

For several months, the waste dumped along the NAD Road has not been cleared, encouraging the public to throw even more waste at those points, according to local residents. The municipal authorities have not taken any action, though the officials concerned were informed of the nconveniences caused by the mismanagement of waste, they pointed out.

Shabeer Ahamed, who lives in the area, said the local body is not acting against violators.

"The waste has been dumped there for several months now. I wrote to Minister P Rajeeve,



who is also the local MLA, about the situation and the trouble we are facing. Though he has directed the local authorities and the district administration to take the steps necessary, the officials concerned haven't taken any initiative to solve the issue," he said. Shabeer pointed out that the

waste dumped carelessly is also leading to the spread of contagious diseases. "There have been reports that the number of dengue cases and other diseases reported in the area are rapidly increasing. Poor waste management also contributes to the situation. The authorities need to act

#### immediately," he said.

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## **DELHI/NCR**

## THE SIKH TIMES

#### **NEWS BOX**

## Four arrested for smuggling drugs into Bhondsi jail

Gurgaon. Four people, including an inmate, have been arrested for smuggling drugs into Bhondsi prison by concealing them in clothes, police said on Wednesday. Those arrested have been identified as Jitendra, Pradeep, Vijay, all residents of Najafgarh in Delhi, and Himanshu, a resident of Jacobpura, Gurgaon.

Jitendra has approximately 30 cases registered against him related to snatching, while Himanshu also has a case registered against him for attempted murder.

Police had received a complaint from the District Jail Bhondsi, saying that recently, Himanshu, the brother of convicted prisoner Manoj, and Chetan, the brother of undertrial prisoner Jitendra, had visited the jail to meet with the inmates. During their visit, they provided clothes for the prisoners. Upon searching the clothes, 72 grams of sulpha were recovered from Manoj's clothes and 70 grams of sulpha were found in Jitendra's clothes. With a total of 142 grams of sulpha seized, a case was registered against the accused under the sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and BNS at the Bhondsi police station. Soon, the Bhondsi police arrested four accused.



"During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused Pradeep, also known as Kale, had recently been released from jail. Before his release, he had instructed Jitendra and Manoj to arrange for the smuggling of narcotic substances into the jail from outside. Pradeep informed Jitendra's brother and Manoj's friend about this plan," police said.Jitendra's brother Chetan and Manoj's friend Himanshu, with the help of Vijay, who works as a tailor, filled some undergarments with the narcotic substance, they added. "Legal proceedings are being carried out," a spokesperson said.

## Township 'flouts rules', NGT serves notices to Centre and forest dept



New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought responses of the Centre, the forest and environment department of the Uttar Pradesh govt and others on a plea alleging environmental violations by a realtor in Noida. The green body was hearing a petition filed by the residents of Jaypee Wishtown alleging that the developer, Jaypee Infratech Limited, is making major changes in the townships in contravention of norms.In a recent order, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava took note of the allegations about the township being located on the Yamuna riverbed, around 2 km from the river, under the Okhla Bird Sanctuary. The bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel, took note of the claims about the realtor felling trees illegally and raising commercial construction in a green area. "The original application (OA) raises a substantial issue relating to the compliance of environmental norms. Issue notice to the respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing (on November 23)," the tribunal said.

# MCG steps up op as dengue cases rise, holds checks

Gurgaon. The city reported two new dengue cases on Wednesday. It has witnessed 20 cases over the first 18 days of this month — bringing its total for this year to 44 — with the number of patients being diagnosed with dengue on the rise. According to the health department data,

two patients with active infection are being treated at hospitals across the city and are recovering. An official said the health department has identified Wazirabad, Bhangrola, Nakhrola, Badshapur, Bhondsi, Bhorakalan and Garhi as dengue hotspots in the city.

In the first 18 days of Sept, MCG conducted inspections at 64,522 houses in the city. It has issued 103 notices to defaulters for not implementing protective steps against vector-borne diseases.Fogging has been carried out at 445 locations and it will continue, officials said. The teams are also persistently spraying black oil in water bodies to curb the proliferation of mosquitoes.MCG officials said humid



weather conditions have "contributed to a surge" in dengue cases. The fogging initiatives have encompassed a wide array of areas, including Sushant Lok 1, 2 and 3, all HSVP sectors, Palam Vihar, New Palam Vihar, South City 1 and 2, Uppal Southend, RD City, Suncity, Civil

Lines and numerous colonies, residential societies and market areas of zones 1 and 2 in old Gurgaon.MCG commissioner Narhari Singh Bangar has urged citizens to protect themselves from vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria and adhere to the recommended measures. "Fogging is being conducted using 42 hand-mounted machines and 10 vehiclemounted machines and larvicide activities are being carried out by visiting different areas," he said. According to experts, the warm and humid weather at present is conducive to the breeding of the Aedes mosquito, which transmits the dengue virus. Residents experiencing flulike symptoms should seek medical advice instead of self-medicating, while others should take preventive measures such as wearing full-sleeved clothing and using mosquito repellents, they advised.

Last year, the city documented 276 dengue cases and one fatality. In 2022, it recorded 440 cases, while in 2021, there were 327 dengue cases and one death.

The city witnessed the highest number of cases in 2015, when 451 people were infected. The figure stood at 86 in 2016, 66 in 2017 and 93 in 2018. While 22 cases were reported in 2019, 51 cases were recorded in 2020.

### Why Gurgaon still doesn't know own pollution load, sources

Gurgaon: The city's wait to identify the primary contributors to its air pollution levels has been extended by an additional six months. A source appropriation study focusing on identifying local polluters, which started on Feb 1 last year, is likely to be complete only by Feb 2025.

The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the organisation conducting the study, has requested an extension for the study, sources said. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) is currently evaluating the proposal. Every winter, the air quality in Delhi-NCR plummets to dangerous levels as the region is enveloped by a blanket of toxic haze due to a combination of cold weather and local emissions like garbage burning. Also, farm fires, commonly seen in north India's agricultural belt to clear tracts of land for another round of sowing after the paddy harvest, contribute significantly to the pollution during this period. The source appropriation study's findings will be crucial in assisting authorities to implement effective measures to combat air pollution, as the lack of uniformity in efforts to improve air quality has been a major challenge."We commissioned the study, which is being carried out by ARAI. They have sought a six-month extension as they require more time. We are currently examining the request," HSPCB chairman P Raghavendra Rao said.

ARAI officials couldn't be reached for a comment. Two similar studies have already been conducted in Delhi, by IIT Kanpur in 2010 and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in 2019. These studies have aided the capital by mapping pollution sources and proposing measures to mitigate pollution. The study focuses on identifying the ground-level concentration of

## 1k crore spent on flood-check plans, Gurgaon still goes under water every monsoon

Gurgaon. It was the infamous 'Gurujam' of 2016 when the city made national headlines. A bout of 52mm of rain trapped commuters in a mammoth jam on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, and many were forced to spend the night on roads till floodwaters receded. Back then, former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar had promised to

make the city free of waterlogging. Since then, civic and development agencies have spent more than Rs

1,000 crore to improve the city's stormwater drain network, but eight years on, the Millennium City comes to a standstill after every downpour.

After 'Gurujam', govt took to the drawing board and came up with three key solutions to the waterlogging problem - widening the existing Badshapur stormwater drain at Khandsa, construction of another stormwater drain parallel to the Badshapur one, and forming a new agency to streamline city's development work.Of these, one is under construction, another is still on paper, and the third has had limited effect on the ground. Work to widen the

Badshapur drain at Khandsa was part of Rs 453 crore plan sanctioned in 2018, but it is still ongoing. Construction of another stormwater channel to take the load off Badshapur is yet to move beyond the conception phase.And Haryana govt created GMDA in 2017 but the metropolitan authority is yet to implement a lasting solution to stop the city from going under water every year in monsoon.

Other than these three objectives, the district administration performs a monsoon ritual every year. It identifies areas prone to flooding and appoints nodal officials to ensure that water is drained out. It's the same list of 112 spots year in and year out, among them Narsinghpur along NH-8, Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road, Golf Course Road, Rajiv Chowk, etc."The promise of a waterlogging-free city has remained a jumla repeated by politicians and govt year after year. People are afraid to step out of their houses during monsoon,' said Nishant Sharma, a resident of Sector 48. Simultaneously, a lot of taxpayers' money has been spent on other projects.Overflowing of the

Badshapur channel near Hero Honda Chowk was recognised as the key reason for flooding of NH-8 in 2016. The plan to widen the Badshapur channel also extended to constructing drains and wells along the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) and the Dwarka Expressway. It is underway. Similarly, GMDA came up with a Rs 290 crore drainage plan for construction of check dams and revival of water bodies in the Aravalis in 2020. This, too, hasn't concluded. The authority, over the years, spent Rs 50 crore on cleaning and desilting master drainsacross the city. And in 2021, it started repairing a patch of the stormwater drain near Sector 9A with a budget of Rs 15 crore. Last year, Haryana govt approved another project - this one estimated at Rs 124 crore - to build a drain network in sectors 68 to 80, sectors 37 to 37D, and sectors 112 to 115. Another work in progress is GMDA's project to redevelop the stormwater drain between Rezang La Chowk and Railway Culvert 47. This Rs 13.9 crore project is expected to be wrapped up by the end of this year.

# Stray cattle, roads riddled with craters: What makes commuting a nightmare

Gurgaon. Navigating through the response from the authorities has Pramod Bansal, a resident of GPL Eden

The respondents or parties in the case are the Centre, the Noida Development Authority, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, the state forest and environment department and SHO of sector 126.

### 45 corporate office plots off Yamuna e-way fetch 265cr

- Noida. The e-auction for 45 corporate office plots, each measuring 1,000 sqm along the Yamuna Expressway, took place on Tuesday. In some cases, bidders offered up to 12 times the reserved price of Rs 2.5 crore for plots. The total amount generated from the auction of these plots was Rs 265.14 crore, surpassing the reserve price of Rs 112.50 crore.
- According to YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh, this initiative will attract over Rs 500 crore in investments and generate employment for 5,000 people. Singh added, "The operationalisation of these projects will drive substantial development in the Yamuna Expressway region."Officials said, the bids exceeded expectations, with three plots receiving offers nearly 12 times higher than their reserve price. Challenger Computer Limited, Alexis Global Private Limited, and Sanash Impex Pvt Ltd submitted bids of Rs 28.28 crore, Rs 26.64 crore, and Rs 25.84 crore respectively, totaling Rs 80.76 crore against a reserve price of Rs 2.5 crore per plot. Several other plots sold for between Rs 5 crore and Rs 6 crore.
- The e-auction is a part of a scheme launched on July 11, 2024, required a Rs 25 lakh Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), set at 10% of the plot price, with a reserve price of Rs 25,000 per square meter. Bidders could raise their offers in increments of Rs 1.25 lakh. Financial criteria included a net worth of Rs 1 crore, solvency of Rs 0.75 crore, and an annual turnover of Rs 5 crore.
- These plots are designated for corporate office use and allow additional facilities such as conference rooms, auditoriums, parking, and guest houses. Successful bidders must pay 30% of the bid amount within 60 days of receiving the allotment letter, with the remaining 70% payable in six half-yearly installments at 10% interest per annum.

city's roads has become a daily struggle for commuters, with stray cattle and potholes posing a significant threat to safety. Stray cows, often spotted on key roads, cause traffic to slow down, and avoiding collisions with them have become an everyday battle for residents, who also have to make their way through cratered roads.

Residents pointed out that the worst affected areas are the ones adjacent to villages. "The main road in Sector 21 is plagued with a persistent issue of stray cows, with a daily presence of approximately 100 to 150 bovines and cows. We have repeatedly sought assistance from MCG and lodged around 50 complaints through various channels. However, the

been inadequate, with their teams arriving only to remove just one or two at a time," general secretary of Sector 21 RWA Kundan Lal Sharma said. The situation is further exacerbated by the deplorable condition of the roads, Sharma said. 'The stray cows often position themselves in the middle of these damaged roads, seemingly unfazed by the surrounding traffic.

This combination of hazards poses a significant challenge for commuters, who must navigate the treacherous potholes while simultaneously avoiding collision with the stationary cows," he said. Those rearing cows in Mullahera wander in the sectors in the village's vicinity, Sharma added.

MCG to hire 600 more staffers, ramp up waste collection

reached out to Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRNL) with a proposal to facilitate the hiring process, an official said. The deci-

sion to expand the workforce is expected to enhance efficiency of waste collection and its disposal."MCG had sent a proposal to hire

sanitation workers through HKRNL before the poll code was implemented. Apart from employing workers directly, the corporation

has outsourced workforce to sweep roads manually and clean the city," said the official."By engaging HKRNL's services, we plan

to ensure a smooth and timely onboarding of additional staff, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment in the city," he

added. The civic body has around 3,025 sanitation workers on the payroll, who are engaged in manual sweeping of roads and the

GURGAON. MCG is all set to recruit 600 more workers bolster its sanitation efforts across the city. The civic body has already

Heights in Sector 70, said navigating through specific streets in the city can be a challenging task, particularly on SPR and other crucial roads in sectors 69 and 70, due to the presence of numerous cows "roaming freely".

These wandering cows significantly impede the flow of traffic and jeopardise the safety of commuters. On occasions, the cows engage in fights among themselves, creating an ever-present danger of them assaulting passersby. These animals are also vulnerable to being struck by trucks, resulting in distressing accidents. In one instance, we even had to call an ambulance to transport an injured cow to a veterinary hospital for treatment," Bansal said

pollutants and analysing data on emissions from vehicular and non-vehicular pollution sources. It involves preparing an inventory of various air pollutants, their emission rates, and pollution loads, as well as conducting PM10 and PM2.5 source apportionment studies. The study also aims to assess the impact of each pollution source on the city's ambient air quality and determine the relative percentage of each source's contribution to air pollution."Once complete, it will help us understand which industries to close down, when, and for how long. After data collection, validation, and interpretation, researchers will create a detailed roadmap for air quality improvement using all possible measures," an HSPCB official said. The official, however, declined to comment on why the study was initiated only last year instead of earlier.

#### Name Change GAUTAM CHAUDHARY S/O SHI SHAMBHU CHAUDHARY R/O C

2. BASANTPUR COLONY, AMAR

NAGAR, FARIDABAD, HARYANA 121003, have changed my name from GAUTAM TO GAUTAM CHAUD

Name Change

, Mukesh Kumar S/o-Ram Kumar R/c 360D gali no 5 Ashok Vihar Gurgaor Haryana 122001 have changed my name from Mukesh Kumar to Mukesh

aushik for all future purposes

IARY for all future purpose

Poonam W/O Ram Lalit R/o Rzf 222/5, Raj Nagar2. Palam Colony, New Delhi 11077 have changed my name to Poonam Sharma.

Name Change

#### Name Change

elhi, Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son Kartik aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as Kartik Kanojia.

Name Change I, KHODA DAD KHAN S/O ABDUL GANI KHAN R/O NAINAGHAT, NAINA GHAT, DARBHANGA, BIHAR 347239, I have changed my name from KHODEDA KHA TO KHODA DAD KHAN for all future purpose.

#### Name Change

SUSHILAGARWAL S/O H.KAGAR-WAL R/O J-1104, Fusion House Homes, GH-05A Techzone IV, Greater Noida West Bikhrakh Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201306 have hanged the name of my minor daugh ter MAHIKAAGARWAL aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as MAAHIKAAGARWAL

#### Name Change

Baidhnath Manjhi alias Viadyanath Manjhi s/o Amira Manjhi r/o 3096 Bhim Gali ,Ram Bazar Mori Gate , Delhi 110006 the correct name of mine is Baidhnath Manjhi which may e amended accordingly

#### Name Change JATIN KUMAR SANDHUJA S/ AM LAL R/O FCA-3462 GALI NO BLOCK -A SGM NAGAR FARIE ABAD -121001 HAVE CHANGE M NAME TO JATIN SANDUJA FOR AL URPOSE

Shankar Kumar S/o Duli Chano siding at 4/596, West Guru Angao agar, Street No.1, Laxmi Nagar, Eas

#### Name Change

B DASTAGIRMMA Mother of N 6115564X Rank- NK Name-BUDDA YAGANTI Residing at DOOR No-4/13 VILL-KALACHATLA, PO & MANDAL PEAPALLY, TEHSIL-DHONE, DIST URNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH 18221 have changed my name from 3 DASTAGIRMMA to B DASTAGI AMMA for all future purposes, in m son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/04/1967 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/09/1968 vide Affidavit dated 19/09/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to public in large that my client Rafiq Ahmed, S/o Ibney Ahmed, R/o N-95/130, Shahjadbag Inderlok, New Delhi-110035, is purcha ing property bearing No. 209, Kh.No.255 256, office 104-A, 1st Floor, Plaza-2 Village Masjid Moth, Kotla Mubarakpu N.D., area measuring 330 Sq. Ft., from Geetika Arora, W/o Rohit Arora, R/O B-253, Priyadarshini Vihar, Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, anyone havin laim/objection in the above said proper y contact my client on Ph.9871676295 9899358898, and written objection to the indersigned with legal authenticity docu nentary proof, if any, within 15 days fror date of this notice.

KARAN BANSAL ADVOCATE CH.NO.673, LAWYER'S BLOCK SAKET COURT, NEW DELHI

#### metric attendance for work-, hitherto known as HANSI DEVI alias HASULI DEVI D/O SWAROOP RAM ers and rationalising their timings to ensure that W/O LATE SH. BHAGAT RAM R/O 119 garbage from roads is BLOCK-P EXTN.-2, MOHAN GAR-DEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059 removed during periods of have changed my name and shall here-after be known as HASULI DEVI. reduced traffic flow," said MCG additional commission-

Name Change BHAGWATI PRADHAN W/O NO 3625584Y L/HAV NABIN PRADHA Vo VPO-SADAM, TEH-MELLI, DIS AMCHI (SIKKIM)-737128, have hanged my name from BHAGWAT PRADHAN to BHAGWATI CHETTR or all future purposes

areas under the corporation's jurisdiction. "The recent plan to

hire more workers is to improve the corporation's coverage in

the city and reduce reliance on contractors. MCG is also in the

process of introducing bio-

er Balpreet Singh.Last year,

around 3,480 sanitation work-

ers were unemployed after

MCG ended its contract with

seven agencies that had out-

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sourced these workers.

I, Shankar Kumar S/o Duli Chano residing at 4/596, West Guru Angao Nagar, Street No.1, Laxmi Ivagar, Loc Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed th name of my minor son Ekaksh aged s years and he shall hereafter be know as Ekaksh Kanojia.

#### Name Change

RADHA Mudgal W/O Sures arashar R/O D-31 Unit no-B-2, F/F F/I , hitherto known as ANJU D/O JATIN SEMWAL R/O 132, MOHAMMAD PUR VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST Budh Vihar Colony Tajpur Extension Badarpur Delhi-110044, have changed the name of my minor Daughter Kashish DELHI, DELHI-110066 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI SEMWAL. aged 10 years and she shall hereaft known as Gauri Parasha

/PO Harpalpur, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh-241402, Have Changed My Name To Kamal Gautam For All Future Purpose Name Change

#### Name Change

, Ritcha Malhotra W/o Vikram Malhotra R/o KCA0100805,8th floor, Towe Klassic, Jaypee wish Town, Sector -134, Noida, Gautam budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh -201301 have changed m ame from Ritcha Malhotra to Ritch lehta for all future purposes

nstead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1949 vide Affidavit dated 01/01/1949 vide Affidavit date 19/09/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

Name Change YASMIN W/O GULAB KHAN R/O E-16, 2ND FLOOR, VISHWAKARMA COLONY, LAL KUAN, PUL PEHLAD SOUTH DELHI. DELHI - 110044. have changed my name from NAR GISH KHANAM TO YASMIN for al uture purpose Name Change uture purposes. Name Change

MANZOOR HASSAN S/Õ ABDU AZIZ residing at A-34, A 3RD FLOOR SHAHEEN BAGH ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-2, JAMIA NAGAR DELHI-110025 have changed miname to MANZOOR HASAN for a RAMATHIMMULU Father of No 6115564X Rank- NK Name- BUDD/ YAGANTI Residing at DOOR No-4/13 VILL-KALACHATLA, PO & MANDAL PEAPALLY, TEHSIL-DHONE, DISTT PEARALLT, TENSIL-DIFUNE, DISTI-STRUCK, ANDI-RA PRADESH-518221 have changed my name from B RAMATHIMMULU to M BUDDA RAMATHIMAUAH for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 250/21957

Name Change

Kamlesh Kumar S/o Chiraunji R/o

is for general information that I Hema (umari W/O Suraj Kumar R/O B-232/ Birla Farms Chhattarpur Extn, Nev Delhi - 110074 ,declare that name of nine has been wrongly written Hema Kumri in my minor daughter Shambha Shreya aged 17 years in her 10th clas aducational document , The actua name of mine is Hema Kumari.which hay be amended accordingly.

future purpose. Name Change , gulab khan s/o khoda dal Khan R/o E-16, 2ND Floor, Vish KHAN and my Correct Date of Birth 01-01-1987 for all future purpose.

WAKARMA COLONY, LAL KUAN PUL PEHLAD, SOUTH DELHI DELHI – 110044, I have changed m ame from GULAB KHA TO GULA

Have Change my name from Aunabbar Ali To Munawwar Ali For All Future Purposes

Name Change Munabbar Ali S/O Akbar Ali R/O B

Name Change

S/O CHANDRIKA CHAUDHARY R/O C – 12, BASANTPUR COLONY AMARNAGAR, FARIDABAD HARYANA - 121003, have changed

my name from SHIV SHAMBHU TO SHIV SHAMBHU CHAUDHARY for all

SHIV SHAMBHU CHAUDHARY

# 86,Gali no-2,Kabootar Marke Velcome, Seelampur Delhi -110043

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

# WORLD

#### News box

## Pak minister on Article 370 restoration: On same page with **Congress alliance**

World. Pakistani defence minister Khawaja Asif has said that the Shehbaz Sharif government and the Congress-National Conference alliance were on the same page on the issue of restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The remark comes in the midst of Assembly elections in J&K, the first since the erstwhile state'sspecial status was scrapped in 2019.In an interview with Geo News, Khawaja Asif said there was a "high chance" that the Congress-National Conference alliance would win the Assembly polls and come to power in the Union Territory."They (the alliance) have made it an election issue. Pakistan and the National Conference-Congress alliance are on the same page in Jammu and Kashmir to restore Article 370 and 35A," Asif said.While the National Conference has vowed to restore Article 370, the Congress has been completely silent about it and has not even mentioned it in its manifesto. The Congress has, however, promised its commitment towards restoring full statehood status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories has remained an emotive issue for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those in the Valley. The restoration of Article 370 has prominently featured in the manifestos of the National Conference and Mehbooba Mufti's PDP.

## India abstains from UN resolution to end Israel's occupation of **Palestine**

World India abstained from voting in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Wednesday, as the 193-member body passed a resolution demanding that Israel end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territories within 12 months. The resolution received 124 votes in favour, 14 against, and 43 abstentions, news agency PTI reported.Among the nations abstaining were key players like Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Those opposing the resolution included Israel and the United States, who have consistently defended Israel's policies in the region The resolution officially titled in the region. The resolution, officially titled 'Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences Arising from Israel's Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", calls for Israel to "bring to an end without delay its unlawful presence" and notes that Israel's continued actions constitute a "wrongful act of a continuing character" that must be addressed under international law. The international community cannot look away while international law is repeatedly violated," said the Palestinian representative to the UN in a moving speech, calling for immediate action. The resolution also disapproved what it described as Israel's "continued and total disregard" of its obligations under international law, adding that such breaches threaten regional and global peace.Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, rejected the resolution, calling it "another politically motivated move designed to undermine Israel's legitimacy." The US also expressed concerns, stating that the resolution "will not contribute to peace but instead exacerbate tensions in the region."

# Iranian hackers sent stolen Trump campaign information to Biden's team: Report

Washington Iranian hackers sought to interest President Joe Biden's campaign in information stolen from rival Donald Trump's campaign, sending unsolicited emails to people associated with the then-Democratic candidate in an effort to interfere in the 2024 election, the FBI and other federal agencies said Wednesday. There's no indication that any of the recipients responded, officials said, and several media organizations who have said they also were approached with stolen material did not publish it. Kamala Harris' presidential campaign called the emails from Iran "unwelcome and unacceptable malicious activity" that were received by only a few people who regarded them as spam or phishing attempts. The emails were received before the hack of the Trump campaign was publicly acknowledged, and there's no evidence the recipients of the emails knew their origin. The announcement is the latest US government effort to call out what officials say is Iran's brazen, ongoing work to interfere in the election, including a

hack-and-leak campaign that the FBI and other federal agencies linked last month to Tehran.US officials in recent months have used criminal charges, sanctions and public advisories to detail actions taken by foreign adversaries to influence the election, including an indictment targeting a covert Russian effort to spread pro-Russia content to US audiences.It's a stark turnabout from the government's response in 2016, when Obama administration officials were criticised for not being forthcoming about the Russian interference they were seeing on Trump's behalf as he ran against Democrat Hillary Clinton. In this case, the hackers sent emails in late June and early July to people who were associated with Biden's campaign before he dropped out. The emails "contained an excerpt taken from stolen, non-public material from former President Trump's campaign as text in the emails,' according to a statement released by the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.



The agencies have said the Trump campaign hack and an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign are part of an effort to undermine voters' faith in the election and to stoke discord. The FBI informed Trump aides within the last 48 hours that information hacked by Iran had been sent to the Biden campaign, according to a senior campaign official granted anonymity to speak because of the sensitive nature of the investigation. The Trump campaign disclosed on August 10 that it had been hacked and said Iranian actors had stolen and distributed sensitive internal documents. At least three news outlets — Politico, The

New York Times and The Washington Post were leaked confidential material from inside the Trump campaign. So far, each has refused to reveal any details about what it received.Politico reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert"passed along what appeared to be a research dossier that the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Senator JD Vance. The document was dated February 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.In a statement, Harris campaign spokesperson Morgan Finkelstein said the campaign has cooperated with law enforcement since learning that people associated with Biden's team were among the recipients of the emails."We're not aware of any material being sent directly to the campaign; a few individuals were targeted on their personal emails with what looked like a spam or phishing attempt,' Finkelstein said.

# Trump says God saved him, promises to bring back religion in US

World Donald Trump, former US President and Republican candidate for the 2024 presidential race, rejoiced in the adulation of thousands of supporters on Long Island in New York, stated that the recent attempts to kill him were foiled by God.

Addressing the gathering, Trump said, "We're going to bring back religion into our country."Forecasting that he would be the first Republican candidate to win New York State in 40 years, the 78-year-old leader stated that the recent attempts to assassinate him had "hardened my resolve."The Republican presidential The rally, held at a stadium packed to nominee told a crowd of 16,000 at Nassau Coliseum that "these encounters with death have not broken my will," just three days after a gunman was discovered hiding in the bushes at Trump's Florida golf course as he was about to putt."They've given me a much greater and stronger mission, only hardening my resolve to use my time on Earth to make America great again for all Americans, to put America first," Trump stated while referring to an earlier assassination attempt at a July 13 rally in western Pennsylvania, where a bullet grazed his ear."The reason I'm here," Trump told the roaring crowd, was because "we are going to win New York.""That's the first time in many years that a Republican can honestly say it, and we're going to do it," Trump added.Trump, standing before an enthusiastic crowd of thousands in New York, made his case for a 2024 return to the White House with bold promises and an electric atmosphere. We have to do it We do it, and the election nationwide is over. We will take over the White House, and we fix up our country," Trump declared, eliciting cheers from the throngs of supporters who had come from all over



the state and even nearby regions to see the Republican candidate in person. capacity, had all the hallmarks of a Trump event: the red "Make America Great

Again" hats, blaring music, and a palpable sense of spectacle, the New York Post reported. For Trump, the stakes couldn't be higher, and he made sure to emphasise that as he spoke, often pausing to soak in the roaring approval of the crowd."We're going to have the greatest win in history when we pull this one-off. It will be legendary," Trump contemplated, with a trademark grin that signalled confidence.Yet, the former president's tone also carried an undercurrent of urgency. Crime, inflation, and immigration — Trump's usual talking points — were front and centre in his speech.

# Japan firm says production of devices used in Lebanon blasts discontinued in 2014

World. Japanese radio equipment maker Icom Inc stated that it cannot confirm whether the walkietalkies reportedly involved in explosions in Lebanon were shipped by the company. The device, which requires batteries that were discontinued nearly a decade ago, has been out of production since 2014, according to Icom. The company is currently investigating the reports."Earlier today in worldwide media, there have been reports that two-way radio devices bearing the Icom logo have exploded in Lebanon," the company said in a statement."We are currently investigaing the facts surrounding this matter. We will release updated information as it becomes available on our website," the Tokyo

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs to stay behind bars pending trial in sex trafficking case

New York. Rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs will remain imprisoned pending trial on racketeering and sex trafficking charges, after a judge denied his appeal upheld the previous day's ruling that the bail package proposed by his defence team -- which included a \$50 million bond secured by his Miami home -- was insufficient given his history of violence Along with racketeering conspiracy and and substance abuse, and the possibility of witness tampering."It did not go our way," Combs's lawyer Marc Agnifilo told journalists outside the federal courthouse in Manhattan following the

"Wherever he is, his resolve is the same. He believes he's innocent," Agnifilo said, adding that the prison conditions Combs is being held in are "inhumane." on Wednesday.Judge Andrew Carter On Tuesday, the 54-year-old Combs was indicted on three criminal counts that allege he sexually abused women and coerced them into drug-fuelled sex parties using threats and violence.

sex trafficking, Combs is charged with one count of transporting victims across state lines to engage in prostitution.Prosecutors say Combs was of a crimina ensnared women and forced them to commit sex acts under the threat of violence, financial insecurity and reputational ruin.



Stock Exchange-listed firm added.Images of the exploded walkie-talkies showed labels marked with "ICOM" and "Made in Japan," raising concerns over the origin of the devices involved.In the second wave of explosions on Wednesday, 20 people were killed and more than 450 wounded in Hezbollah-controlled areas of Lebanon, according to local officials.A source close to Hezbollah indicated that the devices used by its members detonated in their stronghold in Beirut, while state media reported similar blasts in the southern and eastern regions of the country, news agency Reuters reported. This came a day after hundreds of pager devices used by Hezbollah detonated.

## Social media posts falsely claim explosives found near Trump's New York rally

New York. Law enforcement officials on Long Island worked quickly on Wednesday to publicly knock down social media posts falsely reporting that explosives had been found in a car near former President Donald Trump's planned rally in New York. The false reports of an explosive began circulating hours before the Republican presidential nominee's campaign event at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, just days after he was apparently the target of a second possible assassination attempt.Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said police questioned and detained a person who "may have been training a bomb detection dog,<sup>7</sup> near the site of the rally and "falsely reported explosives being found."Lt. Scott Skrynecki, a spokesperson for the county police, said in follow-up messages that the person, who police have not yet identified, was a civilian and not a member of a law enforcement agency.He also said the person was not working at or affiliated with the event, which is expected to draw thousands of Trump supporters to the arena that was formerly the home of the NHL's New York Islanders.

The rally is Trump's first on Long Island, a suburban area just east of New York City, since 2017.In 2020, President Joe Biden defeated Trump by a roughly 4 per cent margin on Long Island, besting him in Nassau County by about 60,000 votes, though Trump carried neighbouring Suffolk County by more than 200 votes.Earlier on Wednesday, Skrynecki and other county officials responded swiftly to knock down the online claims, which appear to have started with a post from a reporter citing unnamed sources in the local police department. The claims were then shared widely on X, formerly Twitter, by a number of prominent accounts.

ruling.He vowed to keep pushing for Combs's release on bail and also said he would urge the trial to move forward "as quickly as possible."

## **Trudeau uses 'bad actors' grounds to further cut international study permits**

#### In its announcement on Wednesday, the Canadian government also said that it would

#### also tighten rules for foreign worker rules in an effort to reduce the number

of temporary residents in the country.

World The Canadian government announced a further cut in the number of study permits for international students, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying the nation will crack down on "bad actors" if they "abuse the immigration system and take advantage of students".In its announcement on Wednesday, the government also said that it would also tighten rules for foreign workers in an effort to reduce the number of temporary residents in Canada.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his government would grant 35 per cent fewer international student permits this year, and the number would be reduced by an additional 10 per cent in 2025."Immigration is an advantage for our economy — but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack

down," he added.As per the government, Canada plans to issue 437,000 study permits in 2025, which is down 10 per cent from the 485,000 permits issued in 2024. This number will remain the same in 2026.In 2023, the nation approved 509,390, and 175,920 in the first seven months of 2024.Earlier in January, the government had announced a cap on the increase of international student numbers for the next two years, leading to a predicted 35 per cent reduction in student intake in

2024 compared to 2023. Addressing the media, Foreign Minister Marc Miller said that "coming to Canada was a privilege, not a right"."The reality is that not everyone who wants to come to Canada will be able to, just like not everyone who wants to stay in Canada will be able to," he



added.Regarding work permits for foreign workers, the Foreign Minister said, "We are taking action to strengthen our temporary residence programs and roll out a more comprehensive immigration plan to meet the demands of today's changing landscape."The government also plans to implement additional restrictions on work permits for spouses of some international students and foreign workers, as well as heighten checks before issuing travel visas in a bid to curb an increase in fraudulent or rejected asylum claims.

The nation had already said earlier that it would reduce the number of temporary residents to 5 percent of the population, down from 6.8 per cent in April. Wednesday's announcement came two days after the Trudeau-led Liberal Party lost a key seat in a bypoll

in Quebec province and a week before Trudeau is set to face a confidence vote after the opposition Conservatives said it would not back an attempt to defeat his minority government.In recent months, the party has witnessed a drop in public opinion polls as Trudeau is under immense pressure over unchecked immigration, which is straining the nation's housing and social services.Reduction in the number of temporary residents.

# Harvey Weinstein pleads not guilty to fresh sex crime charge

-Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said the new indictment of Weinstein is for the sexual assault of a woman in a Manhattan hotel between April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006.

New York. Disgraced US movie producer Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to a new sex crime charge in New York.Weinstein, 72, who had emergency heart surgery just over a week ago, appeared in a Manhattan courtroom in a wheelchair to enter his plea to a single charge of committing a criminal sexual act. The once-powerful movie mogul was unshaven and appeared pale and visibly

frail during his brief court appearance.Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said the new indictment of Weinstein is for the sexual assault of a woman in a Manhattan hotel between April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006."Thanks to this survivor who bravely came forward, Harvey Weinstein now stands indicted for an additional alleged violent sexual assault," Bragg said in a statement. Weinstein is serving a 16-year prison sentence after being convicted on rape

charges in California. He was also convicted in New York in 2020 of the rape and sexual assault of an actress and of forcibly performing oral sex on a production assistant. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison in that case. A New York appeals



court, however, overturned that conviction in April and Weinstein is now awaiting a retrial on those charges.Judge Curtis Farber scheduled a next court hearing for Weinstein for October 2. The one-time Hollywood heavyweight has suffered from a raft of health issues while in prison and has

spent time in a secure hospital unit.On September 9, Weinstein was rushed to Bellevue Hospital from New York's Rikers Island prison for emergency heart surgery. Allegations against Weinstein helped launch the #MeToo movement in 2017, a watershed moment for women fighting sexual misconduct.More than 80 women accused him of harassment, sexual assault or rape, including prominent actors Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley

Judd.Weinstein claimed any sexual relations in question were consensual.Weinstein and his brother Bob co-founded Miramax Films. Their hits included 1998's "Shakespeare in Love," for which Weinstein shared a best picture Oscar.



## GMB searches for land near Gandhinagar for maritime varsity

News box

- Ahmedabad. The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) is actively searching for a suitable land parcel in the vicinity of Gandhinagar and GIFT City to set up a permanent campus for the Gujarat Maritime University (GMU), according to sources. Currently, GMU operates from a temporary campus at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in Gandhinagar. The new campus is expected to span at least 20 acres, with a total investment of about Rs 50 crore.
- A senior GMB official said, "We established GMU in 2019 and are offering various courses in maritime law, international trade law, and also MBA apart from other courses. Earlier, we planned to set up the campus within the Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City, but it is not possible to get the desired land there. So, we have started searching for a suitable land parcel of at least 20 acres near GIFT City and Gandhinagar."
- He said that the land was likely to be finalized in the next few months.
- The GMB aims to position GMU as a premier global institution for maritime education.
- A GMB official added, "The aim is to serve the global maritime community by producing educated and well-trained professionals in the maritime domain. GMU provides education focused on areas across the value chain of the maritime industry. The university will provide new career opportunities to the youth of Gujarat and other states as well."
- The Indian economy is growing rapidly, and our exports are set to increase with a growing manufacturing base, leading to a high demand for professionals in the maritime sector. Gujarat handles more than 30% of India's cargo, and therefore, we believe the role of GMU will be important," the official

#### Syro Malabar Church: Attempt to ordain new priests flouts papal order

- KOCHI. The Samyuktha Sabha Samrakshana Samithi has alleged that a move is happening within the Syro Malabar Church to ordain eight deacons as priests in the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese in violation of the instructions issued by the Pope.
- The samithi leaders alleged that discussions to this extent were held on Monday at the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archbishop's House. "It has come to light that discussions were held between those opposing the Uniform Holy Mass and the Apostolic Administrator Mar Bosco Puthur along with Mar Joseph Pamplani at the Archbishop's House.
- It is understood that the priests opposed to the Uniform Mass wanted the repeal of the order which said that only those deacons who give a written undertaking to offer only the Synod-approved Mass can be conferred the priesthood," said the samithi representatives. "The bishops told us that a consensus was arrived in which the newly ordained priests can offer Mass facing the people if circumstances are not favourable in the parish they are sent to with the permission of the head of the Archdiocese. This discussion is a violation of the Papal directives and ecclesiastical law," they alleged.

# Safe pavements boost public transport use in Bengaluru

#### Lack of footpaths, obstacle paths discourage people from walking, encourage use of pvt vehicles; good footpaths see encroachments

BENGALURU. The call for people to move to public transport in Bengaluru will remain futile as long as footpaths are not in place. Safe and well-designed footpaths are the essential precursors to encouraging people to leave their private vehicles behind. But that is far from happening in Namma Bengaluru.

Except for a few places in the city, most of Bengaluru has either no footpaths or very poorly laid ones, which discourage people from using them. They prefer their own transport or walking on roads. And where there are proper footpaths, most are illegally encroached.

As per the Indian Road Congress (IRC) 103-2012, there are standard rules for footpath measurements. It lays down

that for commercial areas, the minimum clear width of the footpath should be 2.5 metres, and if it is a high-intensity commercial area, the minimum width shall be 4 metres. If there is a shop frontage, the minimum width shall be 3.5-4.5 metres.Chetan Sodaye, programme manager, Integrated Transport and Road Safety, World Resource Institute (WRI) India, says, "In any given case, minimum

width clear of obstacles should be 1.8m.



But it means that if there are trees or any utilities on the footpath, the width shall increase by 1.8m beyond the width of the obstacles."Stressing on the crucial role of footpaths in urban mobility, Sodaye says, "Urban mobility is measured on how many people can move/travel in a given width in an hour in one direction. A Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) study on passenger travel capacity says if in a 3.5m width space we have mixed traffic (two-wheelers, autos, buses, cars, trucks etc) versus 3.5m of the footpath where people walk, in an hour

1,500 to 2,000 people, whereas a clear footpath can allow mobility of 15,000 people, which is at least 5-7 times more.

If the footpath's width, quality, continuous network and maintenance are good, then cases have shown that people shift to walking, at least for shorter distances between 500 metres to 3km, he says. "On Church Street in Bengaluru, DP Road of Aundh in Pune, Pondy Bazaar in Chennai and many such places, footfalls have increased after footpaths were widened and well-maintained,"

Sodaye says.

Alongside good quality footpaths laid with the right durable materials, a separate tender should be in place every two to five years based on the type of footpath and usage, which should include various types of maintenance - cleaning, repair, waste management, re-painting, re-surfacing, drainage system cleaning, desilting, etc, points out Sodaye, adding that without this, even the best designed and constructed infrastructure will fail to provide good service.

## Vigilance sleuths conduct raids on oil traders across Andhra, 87 cases booked

the mixed traffic can only move VIJAYAWADA. Vigilance and Enforcement (V&E) sleuths conducted surprise raids on edible oil millers, stockists, and retail outlets across the State, booking a total of 87 cases on Wednesday.

Based on complaints from the public that certain traders were indulging in irregularities such as hoarding oil and creating artificial scarcity, V&E Director General Harish Kumar Gupta instructed all regional vigilance officers to conduct surprise inspections and take strict actions against erring traders to control the sudden price hike, which is placing a heavy burden on the general public.

During the inspection, officials found that some millers, stockists, and retail outlets had raised the prices of edible oils under the guise of increased customs duty and were also engaging in unauthorised hoarding and trading of adulterated oils.

A total of 43 teams in 12 districts raided 92 establishments, seizing 14,293 litres of oil, 89,250 kilograms of groundnut seeds, and 298 bags of groundnut cake, all worth approximately Rs 1.75 crore. A fine of Rs 5.14 lakh was also imposed. Officials booked 70 cases under the Legal Metrology Act, 16 cases under the Food Safety Act, and one case under the Essential Commodities Act. The DG warned that those engaging in illegal business practices that cause hardships to the public would be dealt with sternly and stated that the surprise raids would continue.

## 48-year-old found dead in car at Thiruvananthapuram's Kulathoor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. have initiated an investigation The body of a man was found led by Kazhakoottam SP.

under the backseat of a car According to the Thumba parked near a service road near police, preliminary Kulathoor national highway investigations indicate that on Wednesday. The deceased Joseph died at least three days has been identified as Joseph ago. Locals reported last Peter (48), a resident of seeing him on Thiruvonam day (Sunday). Police traced the car's owner using the vehicle registration.

Joseph Peter by phone, they found the device switched off. Police then reached out to

Joseph Peter's brother, who arrived at the scene and identified the body. As per initial reports, Joseph Peter had a medical history of epilepsy."We are awaiting the postmortem report and forensic test results. The investigation is ongoing," said Thumba police. Joseph is survived by wife, son and daughter. His wife and son are currently living abroad while his daughter lives with her

## Central forensic team in Rayagada for murder investigation

TUMAKURU. In a heart-wrenching incident, two brothers carried their deceased father's body on a motorcycle after hospital authorities denied them an ambulance, in YN Hosakote town of Pavagada taluk on Wednesday afternoon.

The brothers, Chandranna and Gopalappa, put the body between the rider and pillion and rode to the village of Dalavayihalli, about 3-4km from the hospital.

They had brought their ailing father, Gudugulla Honnurappa (80) to hospital by ambulance, but doctors at the community health centre had declared him dead. They had sought ambulance service to ferry the body

back to their village, but the authorities refused. Even after Pavagada Congress MLA HV Venkatesh intervened, the issue was not settled, sources said.

After an altercation, they decided to carry the body on their motorcycle. "Administrative Medical Officer Lokesh Reddy had tried to arrange for another ambulance from Pavagada, but the brothers had left the place with their father's body.'

I will be visiting the spot to verify the incident", district health officer Dr B N Manjunath. "Since the local people feel scared to opt for the hospital's ambulance if a dead body is carried in it, the AMO has refused to offer the service", he said.

Kerala man attacks twomonth-old puppy, leaves it with critical injuries



Poundkadavu in Veli. His identity was confirmed by his brother, who was called to the scene after locals alerted When they attempted to reach the police about a foul smell emanating from the vehicle in the morning. Thumba police

### 55-year-old hostel warden booked for sexual assault on girls in Andhra's Eluru

- VIJAYAWADA. The police have registered a case under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against a 55year-old man accused of allegedly sexually assaulting students at the Swami Dayananda Saraswati Hostel in Eluru district on Wednesday,
- The minor victims reported the abuse to Eluru Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) K Sravan Kumar, who immediately registered the case and launched a manhunt for the accused and his accomplices.
- According to the DSP, the accused, B Sasi Kumar, an employee of the BC Welfare Department and hostel warden at Yerraguntapalli village in Chinthalapudi mandal, took over the hostel after the previous operator ceased operations due to financial losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to the investigation, Sasi Kumar had proposed teaching Photoshop and other courses. While some students accepted, others declined due to prior concerns about sexual advances. The victims also reported that Sasi Kumar took a minor girl to his home in Bapatla and returned her after 48 hours.
- The students and their parents, distressed by the incident, lodged a complaint with the police. The victims also alleged that the accused used to beam them and committed sexual assault by tying hands and legs.
- 'Sasi Kumar used to act as a chief warden of the hostel along with his second wife and other women. The accused also owned a photo studio in the town. In the guise of taking photos, he used to take the girls aged above 16 and committed heinous crime in the studio, promising them jobs. We are investigating the case thoroughly," added DSP Sravan Kumar.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a significant move to address the growing concerns and complaints regarding the poor upkeep of public restrooms, the state government has launched a comprehensive survey and geospatial mapping of such facilities across the state. The Suchitwa Mission has teamed up with WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Institute) - a registered non-profit organisation working in the sector - to assess the status of public toilets in urban areas across the state in terms of infrastructure, service delivery, operation and maintenance, aesthetics and hygiene,

and financial sustainability. The project aims to nurture a positive public toilet culture in the state.

The initiative aims at ensuring the availability of one 3-star toilet facility every five kilometres in urban areas and Poor location, inappropriate design and one 3-star toilet facility every 10km along major transport corridors in the state.A



Kerala govt launches new survey to

rate restrooms to ensure hygiene

husband.

Suchitwa Mission official told that the survey is progressing fast and has already been completed in seven districts. To assess the public toilets, WASH has developed an extensive survey tool. The survey, in the initial phase, will cover

around 1,200 public restrooms in urban areas, the official said. "Public toilets should be accessible, especially to women and children.

inadequate maintenance are the main constraints. Also, the toilets are not spread are concentrated in some locations while restrooms are absent in many other locations.

We launched take-a-break facilities, highquality toilets across the state but many of them have failed to serve its purpose because of various reasons. Through this initiative, we plan to improve the standard of the existing toilets," the official said.

The survey is expected to help officials come up with a comprehensive strategy to improve public toilet facilities, sanitation, operation and maintenance, promote public transit use and support tourism.

"A survey tool is being used to rate public restrooms on a scale of 1 to 5, and we have come across toilets with zero ratings. There are well-maintained ones too.

This survey will help local bodies plan such projects in such a way that public restrooms are more accessible and useful," the official added.

# **Tigers paint Thrissur streets** yellow, orange and black

THRISSUR. Seven teams, 359 artists sporting shades of yellow, orange, black and white, hundreds of spectators... The cultural capital of the state was captivated by the roaring 'tigers' rambling to the beats of 'Pulikottu' on Wednesday as the Onam celebrations of Thrissur came to a close with the traditional Pulikkali art form.

Famous for its unique pattern resembling the striped and spotted coats of tigers and

leopards painted on the face and torso of artists, Pulikkali has received immense appreciation across the world for its Other teams that participated included celebration of colours and the art of body painting. In an era where certain standards are considered as beauty, Pulikkali transcended all such notions and celebrates the beauty of curves and big bellies. On Wednesday, the Pulikkali was officially flagged off by Mayor M K Varghese as Patturaickal Desam



Pulikkali team entered Swaraj Round from Shoranur Road through Naikkanal Junction

Viyyur Desam Pulikkali Sangham, Yuvajanasangham Viyyur, Sitaram Mill Desam, Sankaramkulangara Desam, Chakkamukku Desam, and Kanattukara Desam. As the scorching sun subsided in the evening, the artists painted as tigers started dancing to the Pulikkottu, taking a round of Thekkinkadu Maidan.

"It is believed that King Sakthan Thampuran of Cochin introduced Pulikkali in its present form. For people in Thrissur, it is a celebration of coming together as the organisers are all residents of the localities surrounding Thrissur. Even those who left the city for jobs or after marriage come back for Onam to witness Pulikkali and enjoy its flavours and fervour with

friends and families here. The fest also gives a boost to the economy of the city as hundreds of people gather to witness the art form," said A K Suresh, of Sitaram Mill Desam team. Last year, only four teams participated in Pulikkali as post-Covid financial issues haunted the groups. However, with Thrissur Corporation hiking the financial assistance for each registered team, the number of participants increased this year.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In the latest incident of rising animal cruelty in the state capital, a two-month-old puppy was brutally attacked by a person in Vattiyoorkavu. The man attacked the puppy sleeping next to its mother with a stick, leaving the animal with critical injuries, including a fractured jaw, and broken thigh and hip bones.

On Wednesday, the Vattiyoorkavu police registered a case against the man under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and under Section 11 (1)(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The incident happened around 8.45pm on Monday on the Mannarathala Balakrishnan Road in the residential area of Valiyavila in Vattiyoorkavu. Subsequently, one of his neighbours and the People For Animals (PFA), an NGO, lodged complaints at the Vattiyoorkavu police station.

"My mother witnessed the entire incident. The man attacked the puppy without any provocation. When I came out, I saw the dog in pain. It was crying and unable to close its mouth because of the broken jaw," said Aravindan S S, who filed the complaint. Immediately after the incident, the dog was taken to a veterinarian."The attack was brutal and the injury is severe, and the dog needs a surgery. But given its poor condition, the doctor has ordered vaccination. They will be able to perform the surgery only after treating the infection," Aravindan said.

Due to its broken jaw, the puppy is unable to eat. "The dog is unable to eat and we are trying to feed liquid food to keep it alive and healthy," he said.

According to PFA, atrocities against animals are increasing in the state capital. The secretary of PFA Thiruvananthapuram, Latha Indira, said an incident of animal cruelty is being reported in the capital every other day."Seventy-five per cent of the cruelty cases involve stray dogs. Also, dog feeders are being harassed. Often, these issues escalate, necessitating police intervention," Latha said.

A lack of awareness among the police personnel about animal rights and the existing laws that offer protection to animals is a major challenge, she pointed out. "The police often try to settle such cases through compromise and are hesitant to proceed with the case. This is leading to recurring violence against stray dogs and other hapless animals. We are forced to file our complaints along with the relevant legal sections as the police are unaware of it," Latha said.

# EDITORIAL



# When separation of powers takes a hit

THE separation of powers among the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the government is indispensable to ensuring checks and balances, which in turn are essential for democratic governance. This is based on a fundamental principle of democracy - the state is accountable to the people and not the other way around. The people are accountable to the law of the land, administered according to the provisions and processes laid out by the Constitution.In India, the Constitution is not a gift of the state to the people. It is "We the people", as stated in the Preamble, who have given themselves a Constitution whose provisions bind the state.In addition to the separation of powers among the three branches, in a federal state like India, there are also checks and balances for the Centre and the states. The Constitution spells out the jurisdiction of the Centre and the states with respect to various domains. The states prevent overreach in the exercise of power by the Centre and vice versa. The objective is to achieve a diffusion of power of the state in a manner which safeguards the exercise of the fundamental and inalienable rights of citizens without impairing efficient governance. The role of independent and empowered institutions, including those that draw authority from the Constitution, such as the Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or the Union Public Service Commission, is another important safeguard against the arbitrary exercise of power by the state. The political history of India since the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950, has been a saga of inspiring wins for democracy, but also several setbacks. The adoption of the principle of the Basic Structure of the Constitution is an important safeguard against the denial of fundamental rights of citizens by a predatory state. According to this principle, enshrined in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment (April 24, 1973) of the Supreme Court, there are certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as its supremacy, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, which cannot be amended or abrogated by Parliament through a constitutional amendment. This principle has been attacked in recent years, but it must be upheld. Without this principle, it is conceivable that relying on a brute majority, a government could eviscerate the very foundations of Indian democracy.

There are threats to independent institutions which must be resisted. In a brilliant address to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai in December last year, eminent jurist Rohinton Fali Nariman drew attention to the danger in the passage of a law, which laid down the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. According to a Bill passed in December 2023, the CEC would be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). As Nariman pointed out, this provision means, in effect, that the CEC is appointed by the PM himself since the LoP will always be outvoted two to one. This would severely compromise the independence and neutrality of the CEC and undermine the credibility of the election process. The Bill has been challenged in court. The recent conduct of several Centrally appointed governors has also undermined Centre-state relations, weakened the federal structure and encouraged political horse trading and floor-crossing. Governors have sat on Bills passed by state legislators, openly

## Time ripe for the govt to fulfil social security promises

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



- Following the setback it received in the parliamentary elections, the BJP has set out to deliver in the social services sector to win back popular support. The ruling party is seeking to make good on some of the promises it had made during the election campaign.
- What we have to see is if the government has the financial resources and skills to fulfil these promises. Also, perhaps more importantly, what is its record in actually delivering on similar promises it made earlier?
- One promise is to make health insurance available to every citizen above 70, with few ifs and buts. This is vital, as the population is getting older. The other is to provide social security to gig workers, who currently have none. Their number is also likely to rise as online shopping increases with the spread of information technology.

The Union Cabinet has just expanded the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, touted as the world's largest public health insurance scheme, to make it applicable to all 70-plus people, irrespective of their income. It will have a cover of Rs 5 lakh per year and benefit around four crore citizens. This scheme will be available even to those who have private insurance cover. The social security plan for gig workers will cover 77 lakh people. The premium for the cover will be paid for by the aggregators who use the gig workers' services at 1-2 per cent of revenue. This will help create a social security fund, which will cover workers' health insurance and other benefits outlined in the Code on Social Security that was passed by Parliament in 2020. It has not been implemented yet as the rules are still being finalised. Why does the government feel confident that it has the resources to go through with these large social programmes? The economy is doing well, remaining the fastest-growing among all the large economies. In the last financial year, it clocked a record 8 per cent growth and remains highly robust in the current year with prospects of over 6 per cent growth. Helping it along is

the stock market that ended on a high this mid-month. There is also no chance of overheating, with inflation remaining within the bounden lines, courtesy in part the monsoon having arrived on time. Hence, the official interest rate is set to remain steady. Under these circumstances, the government has enough financial resources to pay for the outgo of the new project.

The health premium for the elderly will cost the Centre Rs 3,437 crore for the latter half of the current financial year and the entire second year. State governments will chip in with 40 per cent of the cost. The social cover for gig workers will, of course, be paid for by the businesses running the show, interestingly called aggregators.

But much more relevant is how other such programmes have been delivering in the past. Let's make a test case of how the rural employment guarantee programme under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has been faring. An active monsoon and a robust kharif season have led to an

## **Phasing out paddy**

Crop diversification vital for Punjab



anaemic demand for these low-paid jobs as better-paid farm jobs have become available. Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, the demand for these low-paid jobs kept reducing. Hence, the agriculture sector would appear to be doing fine.

- However, independent experts on the programme have a different understanding. They say that there is poor offtake for the low-paid jobs, not because better-paid jobs are available, but because the demand is kept low artificially because of the fund shortage for the programme. When wages are delayed or do not reach beneficiaries on time, they lose interest in the programme. Another allegation, which is quite serious, is that the actual demand is not being met at the panchayat level to keep budgetary outgo within limits.
- Bureaucratic systems add to the problem. Technological interventions like Aadhaar card-based attendance systems and GPS tracking of work sites have discouraged workers from seeking employment under this scheme.So, how do we go from here? How can we ensure that the elderly who seek medical service and the young gig workers get benefits of some of these promises? Besides, what we have seen earlier is that financial resources are not the issue.
- A good way to begin is to find out how and why health insurance services are denied and patients sometimes have to go from one hospital to another to find out which one would be willing to admit them. The common complaint on the part of hospitals is that it takes them months to get reimbursements for services delivered under the scheme.
- Experts across the country also need to devise a new system that can deliver a modicum of social security to gig workers, for whom it

One way can be to look at how the UK is trying to address the ills of the National Health Service (NHS), considered the grandfather among such national services across the world. The UK Prime Minister has said that the NHS is in a critical condition and warned there will be no fresh funds without reform. Three actions that have been identified are: transition to digital functioning; moving more care from hospitals to communities; and focusing on prevention before people actually need hospitalisation.In India, too, a new health insurance system has been introduced by Narayana Health Hospitals that needs to be scrutinised by both the government and private entities. Its key features are: the insurance policy is provided by a particular hospital; the focus is on preventive care and treatment; and this works out to cheaper costs and premiums. The crux of the matter is that at the first sign of trouble, you go to the hospital and get treatment. It will benefit both the individual and the insurance firms.

> prohibiting transplantation before the notified date, but these have only been partially successful. Unfortunately, crop diversification has been promoted in a half-hearted manner. Motivating farmers to shun paddy has to go hand in hand with encouraging them to go for alternatives that consume far less water.

In November last year, the Supreme Court had asked the Centre to seriously consider the Punjab Government's suggestion to phase out paddy cultivation and incentivise farmers to switch over to crops such as millets by offering them the minimum support price (MSP). However, the MSP regime remains confined largely to wheat and paddy. This glaring anomaly has to be removed in order to arrest Punjab's desertification. Considering the

obstructed the normal functioning of state governments and indulged in blatantly partisan behaviour. This not only undermines democratically elected governments but erodes the very fabric of federalism, without which a highly diverse country cannot be managed. Justice Nariman also touched upon this unhealthy development in his address. While there is the letter of the law which must be followed, there are also the more intangible dictates of constitutional morality and propriety. Revolution, and the food-deficient nation became foodsurplus. However, this led to far-reaching repercussions — agricultural as well as environmental.

PUNJAB's draft Agriculture Policy has laudably

recommended a ban on all long-duration paddy varieties

and paddy cultivation in 15 dark blocks, where the

groundwater extraction rate is well above the recharge

rate. Water-guzzling paddy has become a millstone

around the state's neck in recent decades. Its cultivation

was imposed on Punjab at a time when the country was

facing food insecurity in the 1960s. The state's gritty

farmers rose to the occasion, ushering in the Green

Though rice is not a staple food in Punjab, cultivators have stuck to paddy farming because of an assured procurement system. What's alarming is the enormous damage caused to the water table. According to doomsday predictions, Punjab — the fabled 'land of the five rivers' — may turn into a desert in two decades. Moreover, the rampant burning of paddy stubble aggravates air pollution in many parts of the northern

region in October-November every year. Successive governments in Punjab have tried measures such as encouraging short-duration paddy varieties and state's immense contribution to the Central foodgrain pool, the Union Government must help it turn the tide before it's too late.

## Western pressure no deterrent to India-Russia ties Need to move towards a sane society reasonably free from the virus of sexual violence

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Klemens von Metternich said two centuries ago: "When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches a cold." The prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict has made the whole of Europe catch a cold. Does the West now expect even faraway neutral countries like India and other non-partisan, non-Western nations to follow suit? Else, why should the democracy-championing West betray an imperialistic impulse to forcibly draw sovereign nations into Europe's conflict? Why do these countries need to toe the line and pay obeisance to the West?The message was loud and clear in a recent Financial Times report claiming that Russia had built a covert trade channel with India. The report said: "Russia has been secretly acquiring sensitive goods in India and explored building facilities in the country to secure components for its war effort." Elaborating on the modus operandi, the story obviously tried to show India's 'wrongdoing', thereby implying that it was damaging the 'just cause' of Western support to Ukraine against Russia. It was obvious that India was expected to mend its ways and do what the West wanted it to do.

The report, which implied that India and Russia had formed an 'unholy nexus', looked like an open threat with dire consequences for New Delhi. India is being painted as a villain for doing business with Moscow at a time when, in the eyes of the West, Russia is a pariah state. Hence, India is expected to choose between the US-led West and Russia. It is "my way or the highway". And the West wants India to discard Moscow.This is a bizarre and childish mindset, especially if one recalls the statement made by US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adevemo in July, when he wrote to three of India's top business organisations, warning them that "any foreign financial institution that does business with Russia's military industrial base risks being sanctioned itself." Perhaps the White House fails to see the irreparable damage being inflicted on America's global interests and the implacable hatred and hostility being generated towards Washington. This reckless business of sanctions will not lead US very far. It is instantly turning even a traditional friend into a potential foe. It smacks of unacceptable duplicity, hateful hypocrisy and inherent insincerity of the US of yore; the post-World War II Washington of Bretton Woods and the Marshall Plan - the mastermind and financier for the reconstruction of Europe. How would US arms company General Dynamics (the original maker of F-16 fighter aircraft from the 1970s) and the supplier of Patton tanks have reacted if they had got an 'open threat' from India with regard to defence contractors doing business with military dictators of Pakistan?One wonders how the US or Europe could not be aware that over the past seven decades, the Moscow-Delhi defence partnership has flourished in the best and worst of times. Logically, therefore, if India keeps buying defence equipment from Russia, what stops Moscow from purchasing military hardware from Delhi? Is India party to the Russia-Ukraine conflict? Is Delhi instigating and playing one against another? Can India's bona fide bilateral economic, commercial and military transactions with a friendly Russia be scuttled by the US, which is also a friend of Delhi?

Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo in July, The Joe Biden administration must not forget the



catastrophic damage done by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger to the India-US ties in the 1970s and beyond. Let the sordid past remain buried in the annals of history. Do not reopen it. Mutual trust and respect are a must. It took several years to heal the wounds of humiliation — the American duo had used abusive language while referring to then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi — and revive robust relations between two great democracies.

True, the ongoing conflict in Europe is a matter of grave concern for the world. But the primary responsibility to stop the bloodshed lies with the nations that are members of NATO and/or EU, and not with distant neutral nations. It again boils down to the fundamental folly being repeated by the West. Sanctions are proving to be the prime cause for the decimation of a globalised economy and the interlinked chain of economics assiduously built over five decades through the 'free trade' theory.

The US should remember that globalisation and sanctions are contradictory and mutually self-defeating. The former is a boon, the latter a bane. It will be most damaging for the globalised dollar and the universally accepted Belgium-based bank transaction system SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). Yet, the US treasury "routinely orders banks to freeze wire transfers that look suspicious or in breach of sanctions," resulting in Russian President Vladimir Putin's prescient 2018 statement: "We are not aiming to ditch the dollar. The dollar is ditching us." Thus

arises the need to skirt the greenback. Either way, time will reveal the repercussions of the story that could be anything but positive for 'the dollar that once was'. In the long term, the US is fairly and squarely creating a self-goal scenario.

Today, SWIFT handles 40 per cent of its payments in USD. Yet, it has to follow the diktats of America, thereby disrupting its business. The "business of the US threat" to India is also a bad omen. New Delhi is a friend of Washington. And Russia does not object to India's bonhomie with the US. Did Moscow express displeasure when India opted for Boeing, Lockheed or the Raytheon weapon system? Why, then, does the US employ archaic gunboat diplomacy of threats, sanctions and boycott of allies? Is America going against its own interests? Is the arm-twisting era of Kissinger back to hunt and haunt India?

# HEALTH

# THE SIKH TIMES (7)

reduce weight in kids

# Standing desks may help



Struggling to shed those extra kilos in your kids? Standing desks in schools may prove beneficial as they cut down on sedentary time in classrooms as well as help reduce body mass index (BMI) -- a key indicator of obesity -- by an average of 5.24 percentile points, new research has found. The findings showed that the students who had the standbiased desks for two years averaged a three per cent drop in BMI, while those in traditional desks showed the two per cent increase typically associated with getting older.

However, even those students who spent just one year in classrooms with stand-biased desks had lower mean BMIs than those who had traditional seated classrooms in their third and fourth grade years.



In addition, there weren't major differences between boys and girls, or between students of different races, suggesting that this intervention works across demographic groups.

"These types of standing desks encourage the students to move instead of being forced to sit in poorly fitting, hard plastic chairs for six or seven hours of their day," said

Mark Benden, Associate Professor at the Texas A&M School of Public Health, US.

Moreover, these standing desks might also help students who aren't overweight maintain their BMI, while at the same time help those who are overweight or obese get to a healthier weight, said the paper published in the American Journal of Public Health.

"Research has shown that standing desks are positive for the teachers in terms of classroom management and student engagement, as well as positive for the children for their health, cognitive functioning and academic achievement," Benden added.

Previous studies have also shown that children who stand burn 15 per cent more calories, on average, than those who sit in class

For the study, the team followed 193 students from three elementary schools in US, from their third grade to the end of fourth grade.

At each school, four classrooms were outfitted with standbiased desks (which allow students to sit on a stool or stand at will), and four classrooms in each school acted as a control and utilised standard classroom desks.

According to psychologist Daniel Goleman, "Emotional intelligence matters twice as much as technical and analytical skill combined for star performance... And the higher people move up in the company, the more crucial emotional intelligence becomes." Going back in time, there were jobs for everyone. However, since then the rules have changed drastically, giving no choice to employees to choose their own faith. Moreover, they have accustomed to shorter deadlines, long working hours with no promises of job security.

Recent rise in deadly health threats are mostly linked to hectic work schedule. Several organisations in India are taking steps towards better health for their employees, some have allied with wellness companies to monitor employees' health.

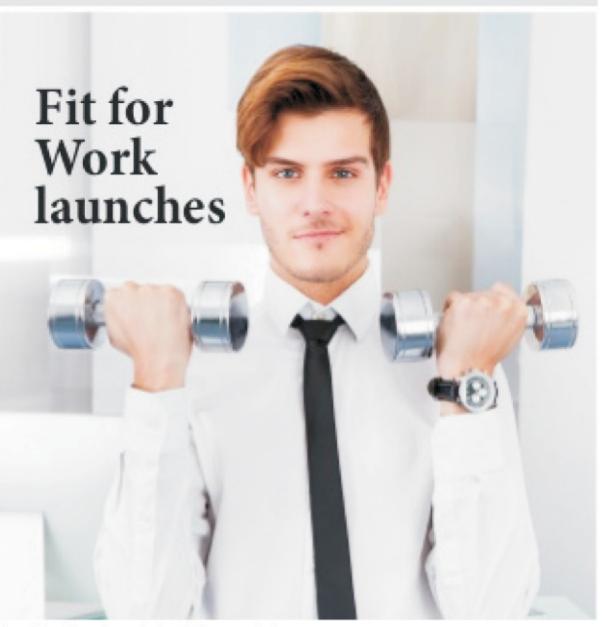
According to Ravi Krishnan, CEO & Co-founder, Stepathlon, "One of the biggest challenges we face is changing the mindset about fitness and embedding the gravity of the ill-effects of a sedentary lifestyle. Historically, in India, companies and employees have focused on illness, not on wellness. The rest of the developed world realised, more than two decades ago, that preventative programs benefit both individual and company from both a health and productivity perspective."

The companies should also take special interest in their employees and gain their trust by offering them options to work from home or reduce their hours of work. Recently, Cognizant Technology Solutions has asked its employees in India to work from home. Too add on "Developed countries realize this and lay a lot of emphasis on productivity and efficiency. Countries like Sweden have introduced 5-6 hour work days keeping in mind that employees are most productive in that time frame. Indian organizations must initiate employee wellness programs that enable them to live better personal and professional lives", remarks Ravi Krishnan.

However, some employees need to cut down on certain bad habits that can alter their life. For instance, cigarette breaks at work or going for drinks post work. These habits will only pile up more health issues while one is burdened with work. Time that's gone will never come back.

There are several ways to pursue healthy lifestyle. Nonetheless, it's crucial to segregate these issues into mental and physical categories. Usually, health deteriorates when one stops listening to body needs. It could be a simple thing like drinking water at regular intervals or stretching at your desk while working on computer. However, one of the most common health issues at work is stress. Stress alone can magnify issues that would lead to bigger risks. It is difficult to diagnose problems at the beginning, but it's not impossible-few good habits can do the trick!

How does one inculcate good habits? It's simple, one has to understand the knowledge, skill and desire to create a habit. For instance, an obese who wants to lose weight because it is affecting his health-is the



knowledge. To understand what skills are required to lose weight, he

has to find out different ways that will help him achieve the goal. At last, he requires motivation to persevere with his plan to lose weight. Nonetheless, according to psychotherapist Alfred Adler, "The hardest thing for human beings to do is to know themselves and to change themselves."

In some countries, like India, employees are usually over loaded with work without sufficient breaks, which can lead to stress. And stress increases the level of hormones-the rest is history when it comes to making bad choices at work in regards to health. However, it takes two hands to clap, which means organisations should help employees to work in a stress free environment. Companies can offer recreational activities to their employees-it could be a simplest thing like a small library or provide healthy food in the canteen.

"The World Economic Forum listed health as one of the top 10 global concerns last year. India's diabetes rate has gone up by 123% in the last 25 years. We are sitting on a ticking time bomb, with an alarming 70% of our urban population in the obese or overweight bracket. An ASSOCHAM survey shows that nearly 42.5% employees in the private sector suffer from general anxiety disorders. This highlights a burning need to address employee health and wellbeing across all companies and industries", adds Ravi Krishnan.

As an employee, it's important for him to be selfaware of his surroundings to choose what suits him in long run, rather than become part of a never-ending rat race. As rightly put by psychotherapist Alfred Adler, "The power-hungry individual follows a path to his own destruction." Nonetheless, all one has to do is break the bad habits, and follow a better lifestyle that will lead to his well being.

Wearable activity trackers may not boost

Weight loss



One week of Panchakarma programme -an Ayurvedic-based well being programme that features a vegetarian diet, meditation, yoga and massages -can lead to measurable decreases in a set of blood-based metabolites associated with inflammation, cholesterol regulation and cardiovascular disease risk, the results of a clinical trial have shown.

"It appears that a one-week Panchakarma programme can significantly alter the metabolic profile of the person undergoing it," said senior author Deepak Chopra, Professor at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and a noted proponent of integrative medicine.

The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, represent an attempt to use metabolic biomarkers to assess the reported health benefits of integrative medicine and holistic practices.

"As part of our strategy to create a framework for whole systems biology research, our next step will be to correlate these changes with both gene expression and psychological health," Chopra said.

The research team from the University of California San Diego School of Medicine noted that alternative and integrative medicine practices, such as meditation and Ayurveda, are extremely popular, but their effects on the human microbiome, genome

and physiology are not fully understood. "Our programme of research is dedicated to addressing these gaps in the literature," first author Christine Tara Peterson said.

"Panchakarma refers to a detoxification and rejuvenation protocol involving massage, herbal therapy and other procedures to help strengthen and rejuvenate the body," Peterson pointed out. The study involved 119 healthy male and female participants between 30 and 80 years of age who stayed at the Chopra Center for Wellbeing in Carlsbad, California.

Slightly more than half were assigned to the Panchakarma intervention and the remainder to a control group.

Blood plasma analyses, using liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, were taken before and after the six-day testing period. The researchers found that in the Panchakarma group there was a measurable decrease in 12 specific cell-membrane chemicals (phosphatidylcholines) correlating with serum cholesterol and inversely related to Type-2 diabetes risk.

"These phospholipids exert broad effects on pathways related to inflammation and cholesterol metabolism," Peterson explained.

"Plasma and serum levels of the metabolites of phosphatidylcholine are highly predictive of cardiovascular disease risk," Peterson noted.



# 4 stretches you must do every morning

Now finally, you have a legit reason to stay in bed a tad bit longer. And no, you won't be branded lazy for it! Experts say that stretching your body gently post waking up, helps deal with the sluggish earlymorning feeling, and also give relief to your aching and tight muscles. Do the following stretching exercises, before you kick-start your day.

Sit in Padmasan or with your legs crossed in the lotus position. As you stretch out your hands in front of you, slowly link and interlace fingers. Your palm should be facing outwards. Stretch your arms out as far and then slowly extend your arms up

above your head. Keep your fingers interlaced all the time as you stretch. Then, slowly (from your waist) bend towards your right as far as you can, come back straight up and then bend towards your left.

Lie down on your back. Now, raise your leg and bring one knee towards your stomach and hold it with your opposite hand. Next, gently twist your spine as you pull your knee towards the floor across your body. You don't need to touch the floor with your knee. The key is to keep both your shoulders on the floor as you stretch and twist your spine. Once back to the starting position, you can do the opposite side.

Sit with your legs crossed and place both hands behind you with palms flat on the floor and fingers pointing outwards. Shift your weight to your hands as you slowly let your head fall back. Apply pressure on your palms as you lift off your body and butt off the floor, and you slowly bring your chest and hips towards the ceiling. Pause for a few seconds, go back to the starting position and repeat.

Stand straight and inhale as you reach your arms high up over your head. Stretch your arms up as you gradually stand on your toes. Feel your entire body stretching. Exhale and return to the standing position. Now slowly bend forward and touch your toes. Feel every bone in your spine bend one after the other slowly. Avoid bending your knees. You can feel your entire torso stretch, beginning from your neck, to upper back, middle back, lower back, hamstrings, feet, shoulders and hands.



## NATIONAL

# Centre To Share Information With Supreme Court On Collegium Resolutions

## The submissions to this effect were made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it will be providing some details next week concerning the collegium's recommendations on the appointment of chief justces in several high courts in the country. The submissions to this effet were made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud while seeking an adjournment of the hearing on a PIL which is listed for hearing on Friday."I will be providing some details about the collegium's recommendations. Please list the plea (which is listed on Friday) after a week," the top law officer told the bench which also comprised justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The bench said the submissions for the adjournment can be made on Friday itself as the matter is already on board.Meanwhile, the CJI told the top law officer that the Jharkhand government has filed a contempt petition against the Centre for not appointing the Chief ustice in the high court in the state. The Hemant Soren-led JMM government has moved the top court against the Centre for not clearing the recommendation made by the Collegium to appoint Justice M S Ramachandra Rao as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court."I am not aware," the top law

officer said.Earlier, the attorney general on September 13 told the bench that the central government had received some "sensitive material" that had led to a delay in implementation of the apex court collegium's recommendations on appointments of chief justices to high courts. The top law officer said he received



certain inputs from the Union government which are sensitive in nature and revealing them in the public domain would neither be in the interest of the institution nor of the judges involved."I would like to place the inputs and my suggestions in a sealed cover for perusal by the judges," Venkatramani had told the bench. The PIL filed by

advocate Harsh Vibhore Singhal was then posted for hearing on September 20.Singhal has sought a direction that a time limit be fixed for the Centre to notify the appointment of judges recommended by the apex court collegium.It has also sought a direction to plug the 'zone of twilight' of there being no time for notifying the collegium's recommendations for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.

The plea said that in the absence of a fixed period, "the government arbitrarily delays notifying appointments thereby trampling upon judicial independence, imperilling the constitutional and majesty and sagacity of the court". The plea said if any name is not objected to or the appointments are not notified by the end of

such a fixed period, then appointments of such judges must be taken as notified. The three-member collegium headed by the CJI, on July 11, recommended to the Centre the names for the appointment of chief justices for seven high courts namely Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya. The recommendations are pending approval with the Centre. The Supreme Court collegium, on July 17, tweaked its July 11 resolution relating to the appointment of the chief justices for the high courts of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

democratic order and disparaging the There were speculations that tweaking of the collegium's July 11 resolution took place apparently after the Centre shared some crucial information with the collegium.

Coast Guard ship Sujay

reaches Bali, to take part in

various maritime activities

Additionally, 10 National Cadet Corpse (NCC) members

aboard ICGS Sujay will participate in an environmental

protection walkathon towards sensitising the

community on the ill-effects of 'marine pollution' in

## 7 dead, 11 injured in truck-auto collision in Madhya Pradesh

New Delhi:Seven people, including a 3-year-old, were killed, and 11 others wounded when a truck collided with a three-wheeler autorickshaw in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Wednesday. According to the police, a heavy vehicle dragged a loading auto for approximately 100 meters before overturning and landing on a three-wheeler near Lunji village on the Sehore-Majhgawan road at around 3:30 pm, news agency PTI reported. Soon after the incident, the police arrived at the scene and sent the injured to the nearby



hospital in Sihora for treatment. The dead have been identified as Shobharam (35), son of Chotu; Usha Bai (50), wife of Kothari Adivasi; Shivakul (18),

son of Rajesh Kol; Kallu Bai (30), wife of Shobharam; Ranu Kol (19), wife of Karan; Karan (20), son of Pardeshi Kol; and little Bhura Kol (3), son of Shobharam Kol. Those injured included six men and four women. All those dead and wounded were residents of Pratappur village.Expressing grief over the incident, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced financial aid of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the victims from his discretionary grant and Rs 50,000 to the injured."I express condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," he stated on X.Meanwhile, the police have arrested the truck driver and started their investigation. Bystanders immediately informed the police about the accident and rushed to rescue those trapped under the truck.

# **Employee blames rats for hole in Delhi-**Mumbai highway, company fires him

to be a part of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project was fired after he "It's likely that a rat or some small animal

stated that rats were responsible for the caving in the portion of road in Rajasthan's Dausa district. The employee, claiming to be the Maintenance Manager, was a junior staff member of KCC Buildcon. The firm clarified the situation in a letter to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The firm stated that the comment was made by a junior employee who had no technical understanding regarding the project and

confirmed that he had been terminated from the company. "The employee is not the maintenance manager; comments made were not based on stated in the letter.



Dausa, Balveer Yadav, the road caved

New Delhi: An employee who claimed technical understanding," the company in due to a water leak. As soon as the contractor got information about the matter, he immediately barricaded the area, and the pothole was

> repaired, Yadav said. The Delhi-1,386 kilometers, is the country's longest expressway, designed to cut travel time between the two cities from 24 hours to just 12-13 hours. The expressway traverses multiple states, including Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.As of

July 31, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha that 80 percent of the project is complete, with at least one more year required for its full completion.

#### collaboration with local youth organisations. Mumbai Expressway, spanning New Delhi:Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel Sujay, with an integral helicopter, made a port call at Bali, Indonesia on September 18, 2024, for a three-day visit, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to East Asia. During its stay in Bali, the crew of ICGS Sujay will engage in professional interactions with Badan Keamanan Laut Republik Indonesia (the Indonesian Maritime



Security Agency), focusing on operational turn around, marine pollution response, maritime search and rescue and maritime law enforcement.

dug a hole, allowing water to seep through," the employee told India Today earlier.Meanwhile, as per the project director of the expressway in

# Woman Says Daughter Died Of "Overwork" At EY India, Company Responds

New Delhi: Facing criticism over the viral letter of a woman who alleged that her 26-year-old daughter had died of "overwork" just four months after joining Ernst & Young, the consulting firm promised to make efforts to make the work environment healthier. "We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing in July 2024, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family," Ernst & Young, which is among the Big 4 consulting firms, said in a statement Wednesday. he company said they are providing all the assistance to the family and would find ways to improve and provide a healthy workplace to its employees. While no measure can compensate for the loss experienced by the family, we have provided all the assistance as we



people across EY member firms in India", the firm added.A letter vritten by the woman's mother to

## Rape case against Karnataka BJP MLA arrested for issuing death threats

New Delhi:A rape case has been registered against Karnataka BJP MLA Munirathna, who is already behind bars in connection to other cases for alleged harassment, death threats and casteist abuse. The alleged incidet took place at a private resort near Bengaluru. The rape case against the MLA and six others was filed on Wednesday night based on a complaint made by the rape survivor. police officer said "the case was registered under various sections for rape by public servant, sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy, voyeurism, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace", reports news agency PTI.

He said a probe into the incident is currently



underway. The latest development came days after Munirathan, an MLA from the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly seat, was sent to police custody following his arrest for allegedly threatening a contractor and using casteist slurs against him.

The two previous cases against the MLA were filed in Bengaluru on September 13. He was arrested from Kolar. The first case involved issuing a death threat and four individuals, including Munirathna, were named in the FIR. The second case charged Munirathna with casteist abuse against the contractor. The contractor had released an audio clip during a press conference, claiming that Munirathna harassed him for a bribe.

always do in such times of distress and will continue to do so"

"We are taking the family's correspondence with the utmost seriousness and humility. We place the highest importance on the well-being of all employees and will continue to find ways to improve and provide a healthy workplace for our 100,000

EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani was in wide circulation on social media on Wednesday. In the letter, she claimed that her daughter died of "overwork" just four months after joining the company and no one from the organisation attended her funeral. She also describe how her daughter was thrilled to be part of EY as it was her first job."She was full of life, dreams, and

excitement for the future. EY was her first job, and she was thrilled to be part of such a prestigious company. But four months later, on July 20th, 2024, my world collapsed when I received the devastating news that Anna had passed away. She was just 26 years old," she wrote.

The coast guards of both countries will also engage in activities like cross-deck training, joint yoga sessions and friendly sports events.

Additionally, 10 National Cadet Corpse (NCC) members aboard ICGS Sujay will participate in an environmental protection walkathon towards sensitising the community on the ill-effects of 'marine pollution' in collaboration with local youth organisations.ICG, on July 06, 2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BAKAMLA to enhance maritime cooperation and institutionalised its cooperative engagements.rior to the visit, ICGS Sujay had made port calls to Jakarta, Indonesia and Incheon, South Korea, demonstrating a seamless continuation of diplomatic maritime engagements in the region. The ship's deployment to East Asia reflects India's commitment to fostering warm relations with Indo-Pacific countries, promoting friendly relations through maritime cooperation.

# Villages relocated for Jewar airport construction flooded after rain

After local MLA Dhirendra Singh intervened and spoke with the authorities, the drainage of water and unclogging of drains started in the villages.

New Delhi: The villages that are being relocated for the construction of an international airport in Jewar near Delhi have been inundated for the last five days due to incessant rains.After local MLA Dhirendra Singh intervened and spoke with the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Public Works



international airport in the area. If the area is facing waterlogging, all officers member committee to get rid of the concerned should deal with it problem."The response of officers immediately. They cannot leave the concerned over the complaints of villagers on their own fate", said Jewar villages being inundated with storm MLA Dhirendra Singh.After the water is being really lethargic. This is not intervention from the higher officials, the way to treat the farmers who have the drainage of water and unclogging of

drains started in the villages."We received information about continuous waterlogging due to heavy rains in some villages in Jewar. We found that the drainage system was blocked at many points. We have started rectifying the problems and the water has started receding from the area. In a couple of days, all the water will be drained out of the villages", Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate Manish Verma said. This came a week after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted a site inspection of the airport and sought to address issues related to land acquisition for the mega project. He also directed officials to ensure that "no outsiders mislead the villagers" about the land acquisition process.Once all four phases are completed, the Jewar airport will have a capacity to handle 70 million passengers per year. The concession period for the airport, which commenced on October 1, 2021, will run for 40 years.

# HEALTH



Crunches serve as one of the basic exercises to tone and define your core, specifically the muscles of the rectus abdominus and transverse abdominus. With the festivities just round the corner, this simple, equipment-free exercise will help you flaunt the perfect abs in a saree. Instead of going in for the usual crunches which have been there for a while, we suggest a few interesting ones that will aid you tone your abs.

#### C-curve hold with pulses

This exercise works on your entire rectus abdominus and strengthens your core. How to do it: Sit with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Lower your elbows and tuck your tailbone by pressing your lower bone firmly on the floor. Breathe in so that you can feel your stomach going in. Lift your elbows and put your hands forward while slowly placing them on the sides of your thighs. Pulse your upper body up an inch and then down an inch. Continue this thrice, each with a 45second interval. If you wish to go a bit harder on yourself, you can release your hands from the side of your thighs while you are pulsing.

#### Side lying swivel crunch

This exercise will involve your whole core and will help improve balance and posture.

How to do it: Lie down on one side with the forearm of that side on the floor, with hips and feet stacked. Extend the other arm overhead and squeeze your glutes, while drawing your navel inwards. Contract your abs and lift your legs, three inches above the floor. Now, roll the glute on which side you are lying down, and lift the leg to about a 45-degree angle. Now, change sides and repeat the exercise for three sets in

# Ways to upgrade Your basic crunches

#### about 45-60 seconds per interval. Bird dog crunch

This workout will improve your flexibility and will strengthen your abs and lower back.

How to do it: Bend down on all fours with your wrists under the shoulders and knees under your hips. Look down towards the floor and keep your head and neck in a neutral position. Breathe in and hold your breath. Maintain a flat back and extend your left arm and right leg straight out. Now, bring your left elbow to your right knee and hold position for about 2 seconds, then return to position. Change sides and repeat this exercise 12-15 reps per side.

#### Standing oblique crunch

This helps improve your oblique and strengthens your sides.

How to do it: Stand with your feet wide; hip width apart. Extend your right leg out to the side and tuck your tailbone, engage your glutes and breathe in, so that your navel goes inside. Tilt to the left side while your right hand reaches overhead towards your left shoulder. Exhale while crunching to your right, while bringing your right elbow and right knee together. Inhale and then repeat exercise. Plank knee tuck

#### **Tones your lower abdomen**

How to do it: Start in plank position with your toes pressing into a towel. Breathe in and hold your navel and tuck your hips slightly higher than your shoulder level. Exhale and slowly pull your knees in until they are about 2 inches in front of your hips. Inhale and then reverse back to start position. Repeat the exercise.

#### Focus on your diet as well ...

Apart from exercising, one must also remember that the best way to get well-toned abs is by following a strict and a well-formed diet. Eat lots of green vegetables along with soups and salads. Avoid eating carbs post 7 pm. Also, remember to drink at least 2-3 litres of water everyday. This will help flush the toxins from your body, thereby giving a glow on your skin.

# Let's workout in between work!

no time to stand and stare;" so missing several times. Challenge yourself by daily exercises and looking after your health is inevitable. So Ashishh Gupta, fitness expert and director at Gold's Gym Secondly, glutes are of real help. Believe it in Gurgaon, has come up with some tips where one can work-out, while at work. wraps, and this isometric glutes exercise is "You may never know, you might end up one of them. To start toning, simply motivating people around

you and many more may join you for same," he said.

To start with, take stairs instead of lift and try to stand as much as possible

and start to move around as much as possible. According to Ashishh apart

from this, these sets of exercises for 15 minutes daily might work

for you. First, use your desk for workout, which you may term as desk push-up. This will strengthen your arms and shoulders. Stand up facing your desk, place your hands shoulder width apart, and slowly lower edge of the desk, facing backwards. Place your torso

"What is this life if, full of care, We have then slowly push back up, and repeat adding to the number of reps you complete each day.

> or not, some exercises can be kept under squeeze your buttocks hold for five to 10

seconds, and release. Repeat until the agenda wraps up or the glutes tire. The results will be uplifting in more ways than one.

Thirdly, try leg curl. While seated, straighten one or both legs and hold

in place for five or more seconds. Then lower the leg back to the ground without letting the feet touch the floor. Repeat (alternating legs if raising them separately) for 15 reps. Fourthly, go for tricep dips. Stand at the

toward the desk; your hands on the desk, shoulder width apart. Now push your legs a bit in front and with the help of your body weight, go up and down in 90 degrees

Fifthly, do shrugs. Stand against a wall with your back straight. Push your shoulders up and freeze for five seconds. You shall feel the shoulder trap muscle working.

Repeat these eight to ten times in three sets and get into the groove.



# Panchakarma Ireatment for a week may reduce heart disease risk

One week of Panchakarma programme -an Ayurvedic-based well being programme that features a vegetarian diet, meditation, yoga and massages -can lead to measurable decreases in a set of blood-based metabolites associated with inflammation, cholesterol regulation and cardiovascular disease



risk, the results of a clinical trial have shown.

"It appears that a one-week Panchakarma programme can significantly alter the metabolic profile of the person undergoing it," said senior author Deepak Chopra, Professor at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and a noted proponent of integrative medicine.

The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, represent an attempt to use metabolic biomarkers to assess the reported health benefits of integrative medicine and holistic practices.

"As part of our strategy to create a framework for whole systems biology

research, our next step will be to correlate these changes with both gene expression and psychological health," Chopra said.

The research team from the University of California San Diego School of Medicine noted that alternative and integrative medicine practices, such as meditation and Ayurveda, are extremely popular, but their effects on the human

microbiome, genome and physiology are not fully understood.

"Our programme of research is dedicated to addressing these gaps in the literature," first author Christine Tara Peterson said.

"Panchakarma refers to a detoxification and rejuvenation protocol involving massage, herbal therapy and other procedures to help strengthen and rejuvenate the body,

Peterson pointed out.

The study involved 119 healthy male and female participants between 30 and 80 years of age who stayed at the Chopra Center for Wellbeing in Carlsbad,

California.

Slightly more than half were assigned to the Panchakarma intervention and the remainder to a control group.

Blood plasma analyses, using liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, were taken before and after the six-day testing period.

The researchers found that in the Panchakarma group there was a measurable decrease in 12 specific cell-membrane chemicals (phosphatidylcholines) correlating with serum cholesterol and inversely related to Type-2 diabetes risk.

"These phospholipids exert broad effects on pathways related to inflammation and cholesterol metabolism," Peterson explained.

"Plasma and serum levels of the metabolites of phosphatidylcholine are highly predictive of cardiovascular disease risk," Peterson noted.





# BUSINESS

## Cisco cuts thousands of jobs in second biggest layoff of 2024: Report

**New Delhi** US tech giant Cisco has laid off thousands of employees in what is reported to be the company's second major job cut this year. According to a TechCrunch report, Cisco is cutting around 5,600 jobs, or 7% of its workforce, as part of its ongoing effort to manage costs amid falling demand and to focus on its investments in artificial intelligence (AI). This latest round of layoffs follows a previous cut in February when Cisco let go of about 4,000 employees.The company's decision has left many employees uncertain, with reports indicating that Cisco did not disclose exactly which departments or teams would be impacted until mid-September. The layoffs are part of a wider trend in the technology sector, where companies are cutting jobs to deal with economic challenges and a decline in demand.

- In total, over 136,000 tech employees have been laid off across 422 companies in 2024, according to industry data. Cisco's workforce was approximately 85,000 before these layoffs.Despite the layoffs, Cisco remains optimistic about the future of its business. CEO Chuck Robbins said the company expects a rebound in demand for its networking equipment in the coming months.
- As part of its strategy, Cisco is restructuring its business to focus on high-growth areas, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. To strengthen its position in AI, Cisco has allocated \$1 billion to invest in AI startups. Additionally, the company made a major move into the cybersecurity sector with its \$28 billion acquisition of cybersecurity firm Splunk earlier this year. These investments are part of Cisco's broader effort to shift its focus from traditional networking equipment to emerging technologies and subscriptionbased services. Cisco is expecting to face significant costs as it undertakes its restructuring plan. The company estimates that it will incur expenses of up to \$1 billion before taxes, with between \$700 million and \$800 million of that amount expected to be recognised in the first quarter of its fiscal year.

## EY India commits to providing 'healthy workplace' after mother says daughter died of overwork

**NEW DELHI** After a mother's anguished letter following the tragic death of her 26-year-old daughter and Ernst & Young (EY) employee Anna Sebastian Perayil, the company has issued a statement highlighting its "commitment to employee wellbeing."The letter that blamed the intense workload and pressures in the corporate sector for Anna's death has brought significant attention to issues surrounding workplace culture and the challenges faced by young professionals.Having joined the firm on March 19, 2024, Anna had passed away just four months later on July 20, 2024. In a poignant letter addressed to EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani, Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, condemned the firm for fostering an environment that glorifies overwork.

She described her daughter as a high achiever who had recently passed her Chartered Accountant (CA) exams with distinction. Despite her excitement about starting her career, Anna reportedly faced overwhelming stress and anxiety due to excessive workloads and relentless demands. Anita highlighted that Anna often worked late into the night and on weekends, taking on additional tasks beyond her official responsibilities. 'She confided in us about the overwhelming workload,' Anita wrote. "I urged her not to take on such tasks, but the pressure from managers was relentless."In response, EY released a statement expressing deep sorrow and extending condolences to her family. They acknowledged her brief tenure in the Audit team at S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, and described her passing as an "irreparable loss". The firm emphasized their commitment to supporting the family and assured that they are taking the concerns raised seriously."We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing in July 2024, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family. Anna was a part of the Audit team at S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, in Pune for a brief period of four months, joining the firm on March 18, 2024. That her promising career was cut short in this tragic manner is an irreparable loss for all of us," the statement read.

# FM introduces pension scheme for children, parents can enrol in bank

To open a Vatsalya account, a minimum initial contribution of Rs 1,000 is required, followed by an annual contribution of Rs 1,000.

NEW DELHI. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday introduced NPS Vatsalya scheme, enabling parents to invest in a pension account for their children. Parents can enrol in the scheme either online or by visiting a bank or post office.To open a Vatsalya account, a minimum initial contribution of Rs 1,000 is required, followed by an annual contribution of Rs 1,000. "NPS has generated very competitive returns and offers option to people to save while ensuring future income," Sitharaman said. This saving-cum-pension scheme is



regulated and administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and designed to allow parents to invest in a pension account for their minor children.

All Indian citizens below the age of 18 are eligible for the NPS Vatsalya scheme. Development Authority (PFRDA) and is An account can be opened in the name of the minor, but it must be operated by a guardian, ensuring that the minor is the

sole beneficiary of the funds. Parents can easily open the NPS Vatsalya account either online or through physical channels, including major banks and India Post, all of which are registered with PFRDA. A list of Point of Presence (POPs) can be accessed on the PFRDA website.

#### Account Opening Requirements

To open an NPS Vatsalya account, guardians must provide proof of the minor's date of birth, which can include documents like a birth certificate, school leaving certificate, or passport. Additionally, the guardian must submit their KYC documentation, including proof of identity and address such as Aadhaar or a driving licence.A Permanent Account Number (PAN) or a Form 60 declaration is also required. For guardians who are non-resident Indians (NRIs) or overseas citizens of India (OCIs), a NRE/NRO bank account for the minor is necessary.

# US Fed cuts rates by 50 bps: How will it affect Indian stock market

NEW DELHI The US Federal Reserve has cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points, bringing it down to 4.75-5%. This is the first time the Fed has reduced rates since 2020, and it has been done to address slowing economic growth and easing inflation in the US.The move has raised concerns about the stability of the US economy, and the impact is expected to be felt in markets across the world, including India.While the markets opened on record highs with Nifty breaching the 25,500 mark for the first time, will the market rally continue?

Short-term volatility expected Experts believe that in the short term, the Indian stock market might experience some ups and downs. This is because changes in US interest rates often lead to adjustments in global markets, and investors may react to the uncertainty. However, India's strong economic position could still attract overseas investments, which may benefit the

stock market in the long run. Swapnil Aggarwal, Director of VSRK Capital, said, "In the short term, the Indian market may face some volatility, but in the medium to long term, India could still attract overseas



investment due to its economic prospects. This would be good for the stock markets.

The rate cut could also have an effect on Indian exports, particularly in sectors like IT services that are heavily dependent on the US market. If the US economy slows down further, it could reduce demand for Indian goods and services. This might hurt India's export earnings.Aggarwal also pointed out that a slowdown in the US economy would mean reduced demand for Indian exports, especially in IT services. This could weigh on India's overall export performance.

#### Indian Rupee and capital flows

On the positive side, a stronger Indian rupee and potential capital inflows could benefit India in the short term. A

stronger rupee makes imports cheaper and can improve the country's trade balance. However, these benefits might not last if the US economy continues to struggle.According to experts, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) might also consider cutting interest rates to keep pace with the global trend. Some analysts suggest the RBI could lower rates by 25 to 50 basis points before 2025, though this will depend on how the US economy evolves and how global investors adjust their portfolios.

Caution in banking and financial sectors The performance of banking and financial stocks will be key in determining how the Indian market reacts to the US Fed's decision. While rate cuts generally help boost markets, a cut of this size can also signal concerns about the economy, which may dampen investor confidence.Palka Arora Chopra, Director of Master Capital Services Ltd, said, "A 50 basis points reduction signals major concerns about the economy. While rate cuts are usually good for markets, a large cut like this is seen as a sign of economic trouble, which can lower

### HAL, IRFC, BHEL stocks fall: Here's why PSU stocks are under pressure

NEW DELHI Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) stocks across the defence, railway, and nonbanking financial company (NBFC) sectors took a hit today, with shares falling by as much as 6%.This comes even as India's benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, rose on the back of higher-than-expected interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. The selling in PSU stocks was broad-based, with many seeing price corrections due to concerns about high valuations and a shift in investor focus to other market segments.A majority of the PSU stocks, especially from the defence and railway sectors, were under pressure.Out of 59 stocks in the PSU index, only 4 were trading higher today. Shares of Oil India fell by 5.92%, ending the day at Rs 559.55.Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), a key defence stock, saw a 4.61% drop, closing at Rs 4,232 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). As a result, the BSE PSU index dipped by 1.5%.

jit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking Ltd, explained, "The PSU basket has seen a remarkable rally in recent years, and many stocks are now undergoing a natural correction. This is likely to continue for some time."Several other major PSU stocks saw sharp declines. BEML Ltd fell by 4.95% to Rs sharp declines. BEML Ltd fen by 4,95% to Ks 3,564, while Bharat Dynamics Ltd and Cochin Shipyard Ltd each dropped by 5%. REC Ltd's share price dipped by 4% to Rs 523.70, and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) declined by 3.5%, closing at Rs 473.80.Nalco, MRPL, HUDCO, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), and GAIL all saw their shares drop by more than 3%. Other companies such as Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, SAIL, IRCON International Ltd, and IRCTC were also down by up to 3%. High

valuations leading to corrections Analysts believe that the sharp fall in PSU stocks

## investor sentiment. **OTT** communication apps excluded from authorisation regime

**NEW DELHI:** Despite demands from telecom service providers to bring them under licencing, the Telecom sector. Through these suggested reducing the licence fee. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has excluded over-the-top (OTT) communication apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram from its new authorisation regime.

enhancing ease of doing business in the

regime and at fostering growth and Telecommunication Service Authorization'. Additionally, TRAI recommendations, TRAI has It has suggested reducing licence fee for various telecommunication services including a major reduction in entry fees for different service authorisations. This is expected to encourage new entrants and boost competition. To achieve the objective of 'One Nation - One Authorisation', TRAI has introduced the Unified Service Authorisation.Entities holding this authorisation can provide a wide range of telecommunication services including mobile, internet, broadband, landline, long-distance, satellite communication, and M2M services on pan-India basis. Merging of bank guarantees and replacing affidavit with a self-certificate is expected to simplify procedures and enhance the ease of doing business.

In the statement EY said that they are dedicated to the well-being of all employees, stating they will continue to seek improvements to foster a healthier workplace for their staff across India.

## SpiceJet QIP gets huge response, overbooked

- NEW DELHI. SpiceJet's Rs 3,000 crore qualified institutions placement (QIP) has received an overwhelming response and attracted investment from family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, and Rohit Kothari.
- Further, investors in the placement includes big names such as Tata Mutual Fund, Bandhan Bank, Discovery Fund, Plutus, and Jupiter Fund Management. According to sources, the QIP was oversubscribed on Day 1 itself. "The total offers received exceed Rs 3,000 crore, underscoring the strong confidence and interest in the company's growth prospects,"' said a source aware with the development."Renowned



investors, including family offices and institutional funds, have participated in the QIP, further solidifying the positive sentiment towards SpiceJet. Notable investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, Rohit Kothari, as well as Discovery Fund, Plutus, Jupiter Fund Management, Think Investments, Tata Mutual Fund, and Bandhan Bank.'

The regulatory body on Wednesday released the recommendations on the Framework for Service Authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Telecom service providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea demanded to bring OTT services like WhatsApp, Telegram and Skype under regulation, referencing the Act. They argued that the bill's broad definition of "message" could encompass OTT communication services."These recommendations are aimed at a major revamp of existing telecommunication service licencing



recommended a new service authorisation framework, apart from detailed terms and conditions of various service authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023," rads the recommendation. TRAI merged commercial VSAT-CUG and GMPCS services into a single authorisation, dubbed 'Satellite-based

can be attributed to their high valuations. Many companies in sectors like defence, railways, and capital goods had rallied in recent years, driven by expectations of strong earnings growth. However, these high valuations are now leading to price corrections.

Mishra from Religare Broking further said, "Sectors such as defence, railways, and capital goods are trading at high valuations, which are based on expectations of strong earnings growth. Investors need to be cautious because if these expectations are not met, it could negatively impact stock valuations."Midcap and Smallcap PSUs under pressure

Many of the PSU stocks that fell today are part of the midcap and smallcap segments of the market, which have been under pressure lately. In contrast, largecap stocks have been performing better, as investors are now shifting their focus toward these more stable and less volatile companies.

# Explained: What US Fed's 50 bps rate cut means for Indian economy

New Delhi. The US Federal Reserve cut Meanwhile, Dr. V K Vijayakumar, its benchmark interest rate by an Chief Investment Strategist at its benchmark interest rate by an unexpected 50 basis points (bps) on Wednesday, a move that caught many by surprise. The Fed's decision signalled a shift towards easing monetary policy, with experts divided on its implications for the global economy, including India.Here's a detailed look at how the bigger-than-expected rate cut could impact the Indian economy and the broader market. The 50 bps rate cut was unexpected for most market participants who had anticipated a smaller 25 bps reduction.According to Apurva Sheth, Head of Market Perspectives at SAMCO Securities, the decision sparked mixed reactions in the market, with initial volatility calming down to modest gains by the end of the trading session.

Sheth added that the Fed's primary goal was to support the labour market, which has shown signs of stress. He suggested that investors focus on defensive sectors such as FMCG and pharmaceuticals, while also considering the potential of precious metals like gold and silver until there's more clarity on market direction.

Geojit Financial Services, described the Fed's move as one that could push equity markets into a consolidation phase.He pointed out that Fed Chair Jerome Powell's optimistic remarks on inflation reaching the 2% target were well-received, especially considering the solid US economic growth and robust labour market.For India, this could mean more accommodative

policies in the near future.Vijayakumar expects that the US Federal Reserve's aggressive cuts will pave the way for the Reserve Bank of India to lower interest rates. With India's consumer price inflation (CPI) already easing below the RBI's 4% target, two potential rate cuts of 25 bps each by March 2025 seem likely. He noted that the banking sector, particularly ratesensitive industries, could see favorable conditions as interest rates decline, benefiting sectors such as infrastructure. Vijay Bharadia, Founder of Wallfort Financial Services Ltd, also agreed that



the rate cut marks a bold move that may encourage other global central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to adopt a softer monetary stance. He pointed out that rate cuts would benefit leveraged sectors such as metals and infrastructure. However, the rate cut might put pressure on India's banking sector, especially with a declining CASA (current account savings account) base. As interest rates fall, bank deposits may become less attractive to customers, affecting banking profitability in the medium term.Deepak Ramaraju, Senior Fund Manager at Shriram AMC, echoed similar concerns. He believes that while the Fed's 50 bps rate cut may bring relief to equity markets, the domestic banking sector could face challenges due to outbound flows of foreign institutional investments (FII) in the short term.

Nevertheless, a weakening US dollar could draw capital back into India, stabilising markets by the end of the year.

#### Impact on bonds and rupee

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist at Acuité Ratings & Research, highlighted the potential impact on India's bond market. A cut in the US interest rate could increase foreign capital inflows into the Indian debt market, leading to lower domestic bond yields, Chowdhury said.

India's 10-year g-sec yield, which has already dropped below 6.8%, could fall further, benefiting both government borrowing and the corporate bond market, he noted, adding that lower borrowing costs could encourage Indian banks and infrastructure companies to issue long-term bonds, increasing fund mobilisation options.

# SPORTS

# THE SIKH TIMES (11)

#### NEWS BOX

#### IND vs BAN: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill fail in testing conditions in Chennai

New Delhi India captain Rohit Sharma failed to notch up a big score on Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The Indian skipper was dismissed for just 6 runs off 19 balls as he edged a delivery from Hasan Mahmud towards second slip where Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto took a comfortable catch.As a result, India lost their first wicket with just 14 runs on the board. Rohit looked precarious at the crease as he played and missed at a few deliveries. The opening batter got off the mark on his 11th ball stealing a single against Taskin Ahmed. Rohit also survived a close lbw call against Mahmud in the fourth over as he was trapped in front of the stumps but umpire Rod Tucker didn't seem interested in the appeal.The ball tracking showed stumps hitting on umpire's call which saved Rohit. However, Mahmud finally managed to get rid of his man in his very next over. Shubman Gill walked in at number three and also looked uneasy at the crease in seaming conditions.

India pick three seamers

The youngster was strangled down the leg side for a duck off eight balls as Mahmud got his second dismissal of the day leaving India on 28/2. Earlier, India were asked to bat first by



Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto who became just the second captain to choose to bowl first at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

India went in with three seamers in their playing XI as Akash Deep joined Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj. It was the first instance since November 2019 when India went ahead with three seamers in a home Test. The last instance was also against Bangladesh during the historic day/night Test in Kolkata. Bangladesh also went in with three seamers namely Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud.

#### Back your potential: Rohit Sharma's message to India as 10-Test run starts

# Cricket Australia bans Victorian women's coach Dulip Samaraweera for 20 years

Cricket Australia has banned Dulip Samaraweera, former head coach of the Victorian women's cricket team, for 20 years following an investigation into a coercive relationship with a female player. The decision underscores CA's commitment to player welfare and integrity.

New Delhi Cricket Australia (CA) has imposed a 20-year ban on Dulip Samaraweera, the former head coach of the Victorian women's cricket team, after an investigation revealed a "coercive" relationship between him and a female player. The decision marks a significant moment in Australian cricket as the sport's governing body continues to prioritize player welfare and integrity.Samaraweera, a former Sri Lankan Test cricketer, had resigned from his role in May 2024, only two weeks into a two-year contract. His resignation followed a dispute over a staff



appointment that was blocked due to Cricket Victoria's internal policies. Before his appointment, Samaraweera had been serving as interim head coach since November 2023 after the departure of Jarrad Loughman. The findings of the investigation

were released by CA's integrity department. which confirmed that Samaraweera's behavior violated section 2.23 of the organization's code of conduct. While specific details of the misconduct have not been fully disclosed, it was revealed that his actions were deemed inappropriate and coercive in nature. Cricket Australia emphasized the importance of safeguarding the wellbeing of players, with CEO Nick Cummins of Cricket Victoria commending the victim's resilience."The victim in this case has demonstrated incredible strength of character and courage in speaking up. She will continue to receive our ongoing support to allow her to achieve her goals on and off the field," Cummins said in a statement.

Cricket Australia has reiterated its commitment to fostering a safe and respectful environment for players and staff. "The CA integrity department investigates complaints brought to it under integrity codes and policies, which also apply to state and territory associations," read CA's statement. "We strongly encourage the reporting of inappropriate behaviors, which can be made directly to the CA integrity unit or via the core integrity hotline."

Samaraweera, who played seven Tests and five ODIs for Sri Lanka between 1993 and 1994, will not be eligible to hold any position within Australian cricket for the next two decades. This ban represents one of the harshest penalties handed down in Australian cricket in recent times, as the sport moves to confront misconduct and reinforce a culture of respect.

## IND vs BAN: Bangladesh end 42-year toss run in Chennai by fielding first

# IND vs BAN: Virat Kohli fails on India Test return, out for 6 in Chennai

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Virat Kohli's return to the India Test side is off to the worst possible start as he was dismissed for just 6 runs in the first innings of the Chennai Test.

New Delhi Virat Kohli's return to the Indian Test team hasn't had the best of starts as the star batter was dismissed for just 6 runs against Bangladesh during the first innings of the Chennai Test. Kohli was dismissed by the impressive Hasan Mahmud, who had wreaked havoc during the first session on day one of the first Test on Thursday, September 19.Kohli, who had missed the England Test series due to the birth of his son, was expected to be one of the key



players for India during the upcoming 10 Tests against Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia. He had joined the Indian camp before the first Test a week ago and looked to be in fine touch during the nets sessions. However, Bangladesh were truly on top on day one after they had won the toss

The Indian team was on the ropes early with Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed swinging the ball and having the openers on the ropes. The star batter was called into action early on as India lost both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill early. Kohli started off well with some good shots, but once again fell to the ball outside off-stump. He would get a nick while attempting a cover drive that went straight to the hands of wicketkeeper Litton Das. This

was the first time in 42 years that a team had opted to field first after winning the toss in Chennai and the decision seems to have worked out well for the visitors till now. India currently have Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant at the crease

# Bangladesh not underdogs: R Ashwin reckons Chennai pitch perfect for Test cricket

New Delhi Bangladesh ended a 42-year run in Chennai when they decided to field first at the Chepauk after winning the toss in the first Test against India on Thursday, September 19. The visitors only became the second team in the history of Tests in Chennai to have opted field first after winning the toss. Chepauk is always known to be a ground where a team usually wins the toss and opts to bat first. The last time this happened was in 1982 when England and India locked horns at the Chepauk. The visitors had won the toss on the day and they opted to field first. India had scored 481 runs in their first innings on the back of Gundappa Viswanath's 222 and Yashpal Sharma's 140. În response, England were bundled out for 328 runs as Dilip Doshi picked up 4 wickets. India would declare after scoring 160 runs in the second innings as the match ended in a draw.Bangladesh captain Najimul Shanto explained why he wanted to bowl first as there was moisture on the wicket and they wanted to make use of it. Shanto feels that the first session would be one that will be very good for the seamers.

"I'll like to bowl first. There's moisture on the wicket and we want to make use of it. Pitch looks hard and there's moisture. The first



New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma has

told his side to back their potential as the 10-Test run starts with the match against Bangladesh in Chennai on September 19, Thursday. India will be facing Bangladesh and New Zealand in 5 Tests at home before heading to Australia for the 5-match Border Gavaskar Trophy, starting from November. In the Chennai Test, Bangladesh had won the toss and opted to field first.Rohit, at the toss, said that India would have opted to bowl first as well given the challenging conditions on offer in Chennai. The India captain said that the team has prepared well and they would look to play the way they know. Rohit said that each match would be important in the upcoming 10 Tests and they want to focus on what lies ahead of them.

The India captain said that the team felt



confident heading into the match."I would have done that as well (bowl first). Little soft, the pitch. It's going to be challenging conditions. We have prepared well, so we should back our potential and play the way we know. Looking at the 10 Test matches, every match is important. But we want to focus on what lies in front of us. We came here a week back, we had a good prep leading up to this one. We feel confident. Three seamers and two spinners - Bumrah, Akash Deep, Siraj, Ashwin and Jadeja," said Rohit.

R Ashwin reckons that Bangladesh cannot be considered underdogs after their historic series win in Pakistan. Ashwin also shared his memories of playing Test cricket in his hometown, Chennai.

New Delhi Star Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin shared his fond memories and excitement of playing in his hometown, Chennai, ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. With four Tests already under his belt at his home ground, Ashwin expressed his emotional connection with the venue, particularly recalling the unforgettable encounter against England post the Covid-19 break.

"That game against England was special," Ashwin told the official broadcasters, Sports18. . "It was the first time the crowd was back, and the reception I received was beyond my expectations. To have the match

incredible memories, both old and new." Ashwin, who has established himself as a crucial player for India in Test cricket, emphasized the hard work and dedication it takes to maintain peak performance, particularly with age. "Cricket is a game I adore, and I've enjoyed every moment on



the field. Age is just a number, but the work you put in over the years takes its toll. You need to work harder to find that edge," he said.Reflecting on past matches at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Ashwin noted the balance the pitch offers to both batters and bowlers. "It's always been a good Test match pitch. Most games here, barring one against England, have seen huge scores.

bowlers."As India take on resurgent Bangladesh in the Chennai Test, Ashwin praised their opponents for their recent form, including a historic 2-0 series win against Pakistan. "Bangladesh have proven they are a team on the rise. They challenged us when we played them in Bangladesh, and

their recent win over Pakistan was exceptional. I've always loved seeing underdogs perform, but you can't call Bangladesh underdogs anymore,' Ashwin said.On Thursday, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Shanto won the toss and opted to bowl first, looking to exploit India's vulnerability against spin. India's stalwarts, including Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and KL Rahul, have seen their averages against spin dip since 2021, giving Bangladesh's spin trio of Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul

Islam, and Mehidy Hasan Miraz a potential edge

Despite India's formidable home record of 40-4 in the last decade, Ashwin acknowledged that Bangladesh are a dangerous side. Bangladesh recently trounced Pakistan in a 2-0 Test series, while India come into the series after a 0-2 defeat to Sri Lanka in the ODI format.

session will be very good for the seamers, said Shanto.Rohit Sharma would also admit that he would have opted to bowl first had he won the toss.

"I would have done that as well (bowl first). Little soft, the pitch. It's going to be challenging conditions," said Rohit. India vs Bangladesh: Playing XI

Both teams have decided to go with 3 pacers for the match, something that is usually not seen at the Chepauk. The ground is known to be a spinners' paradise. India have Akash Deep as the extra pacer while Bangladesh have Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana in their ranks.Bangladesh (Playing XI): Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto(c), Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das(w), Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana

# Coco Gauff parts ways with coach Brad Gilbert after early US Open exit

"Coco Gauff has parted ways with her coach Brad Gilbert following her early exit from the US Open 2024 following a loss against Emma Navarro.

New Delhi Coco Gauff has parted ways with her coach Brad Gilbert following her early exit from the US Open 2024. Notably, the 20- Gilbert also thanked the world number six year-old failed to defend her title at the Flushing Meadows as she got knocked out of

the tournament in the Round of 16 following a loss against compatriot Emma Navarro.

Gilbert became a part of Gauff's team 14 months prior and became her coach 10 months ago. The former American player has worked with several big names in the Tennis world in his illustrious coaching career namely Andy Murray, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick.Gauff took to her X account to thank Gilbert for his contribution and wished him well for his future endeavours." Thank you @bgtennisnation! We had an incredible run and I wish you all the best in the future!," Gauff posted on X.

player and her entire team for their collective effort and prophesied a bright future for



young star."Thanks to @CocoGauff and the entire team for an absolutely amazing summer run in 2023 and for 14 months of incredible team effort. Coco, at just 20 years

young, your future is incredibly bright, and I wish you nothing but continued success ahead. I'm excited for the next chapter in my Coaching career," wrote Gilbert on his X account.

#### Gauff's results under Gilber's tenure

After having Gilbert onboard along with her primary coach Pere Riba, Gauff enjoyed great success as she won the Citi Open, Cincinnati Open and the US Open. However, Riba and Gauff split shortly after, which left Gilbert alone in charge of Gauff. Under Gilbert's tenure, the former US

Open Champion failed to continue her successful run facing early exits in Paris Olympics, National Bank Open in Toronto, Cincinnati Open and the US Open.

FILM

# THE SIKH TIMES (12)

Ananya Danday's

# Call Me Bae Gets Renewed For Season 2, Actress Says 'Here We Come'

A nanya Panday recently made her OTT debut with Prime Video's Call Me Bae. The actress received immense love for playing Bella, who loses her fortune and has to build a new life for herself. The series also features Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Vihaan Samat, Muskan Jaaferi, Lisa Mishra and Vir Das in key roles. Call Me Bae has now been renewed for a second season. Ananya Panday dropped the announcement video on Instagram recently. The caption read, "Our day couldn't get any bae-tter Bella is coming to swoon us over again with a new season #CallMeBaeOnPrime, S2 in development." Check out the video here:

Call Me Bae caught everyone's attention for its Bollywood references. Ahead of Ananya Panday's Call Me Bae, Karan Johar called her character 'Poo's daughter' and called her a Gen Z version of the character. However,



Ananya claims that she did not try to touch Poo due to her legacy.Ananya Panday told Instant Bollywood, 'I don't think we are trying at all to touch or even come close to what Bebo (Kareena Kapoor) did because she is the literal icon and the queen. What she did was just a legacy. What she did was extraordinary. This is our homage to her. If Bae can be even one per cent as lovable as Poo, then I think we all will be happy."For the unversed, Karan Johar called Bae a 'glorious Gen Z 2.0 derivative" of Poo. He said, "If Rohan and Pooja now would have had to have had a baby girl, she would be Bae. I'm just talking because she really is glorious Gen Z 2.0 derivative of Poo. It's like where Poo ends, Bae takes off.

That's the best way that I can describe her because even when you saw the character of Poo, it started with all the fun and games and then, she contributes to the emotional gravitas of the ongoings in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham," Karan Johar had said at the show's trailer launch.Call Me Bae follows Ananya as a South Delhi girl who, after losing everything, relocates to Mumbai and starts anew as a journalist. The series chronicles her journey through the journalism world while maintaining her distinct style. The cast includes Vihaan Samat, Varun Sood, Gurfateh Pirzada, Muskkaan Jaferi, and Rakhi Sawant Recalls Selling Her House For Pardesiya Music Video And Receiving Praise From SRK



From her humble beginnings to being one of the leading entertainers, Rakhi Sawant overcame a number of difficulties and established herself in the industry. While she started with a couple of music videos, Rakhi eventually made her way into Bollywood, working in films like Agnichakra, Kurukshetra, Joru Ka Ghulam, Jis Desh Mein Ganga Rehta Hain, Main Hoon Na, Shootout at Lokhandwala, Dil Bole Hadippa, and many others. Talking about her music videos, the actress' Pardesiya song remains a top choice among fans.However, not many know that Rakhi Sawant had to sell her house to fund the video. Rakhi's former director and longtime friend, Farah Khan, recently visited the actor's Dubai home, where the duo made several interesting revelations. During their conversation, Farah also recalled when Rakhi sold her house for the music video.

As the duo got themselves into cooking a daal recipe, Farah said, "Rakhi, do you remember when you told me about making a music video by selling your own house?" further stating that she had advised against it. "Maine bola tha, tu pagal hai kya, tu apne paise kyu laga rahi hai? (I called you mad for investing your own money in the project.) But look at the conviction of this girl, she sold her home and made Pardesiya, the music video that became a super hit." Rakhi also spoke about receiving praise from Shah Rukh Khan for her video and said, "Shah Rukh Ji also said that I released a very good music video," to which Farah quipped, "And after that, Rakhi Sawant became Rakhi Sawant."For those unaware, the song Pardesiya came out in 2004, marking the actress's debut music video. It became a big hit, turning into an overnight sensation and a party favourite. Besides working in music videos and films, Rakhi Sawant also became a prominent figure on television and took part in several shows like Bigg Boss and Nach Baliye.

Diljit Dosanjh, Neeru Bajwa's Jatt & Juliet 3 Releases On OTT: Here's When And Where To Watch Film



Niharika Dutt. Produced by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment, the show offers a fresh narrative while paying respect to past cinematic icons.

# Kareena Kapoor Reveals She Controls Screen Time for Taimur, Jeh: 'They Ask Us Why We're On Phone...

Kareena Kapoor has reached a milestone of 25 years in Bollywood. Her latest film, The Buckingham Murders, is out now. To celebrate, PVR Cinemas is holding a film festival in her honour. At the Special Event and Announcement for the same, Kareena Kapoor spoke at length about her films. I always wanted to play a detective and now I have done that. I have to think of what else I have to do. So, I've never really thought of this is a particular genre. I look at characters as something that I would enjoy playing. Because, you have to spend, you know, 50, 60, 70 days with that character in you. So, you have to really enjoy doing it. That's the most important thing, I think, for an actor. To enjoy playing that part. Otherwise, how will you be able to spend so much time being that particular person?

When reminded that Kareena Kapoor had once spoken to News18 about how her older son Taimur had really enjoyed watching Bhool Bhoolaiya with his dad Saif Ali Khan, Kareena put up a big smile. On being asked if there is any film of hers that Taimur has watched, she said, "I guess maybe I should get them to watch something at the festival, I think. Because it's playing."

On being asked if she regulates screen timings for Taimur and

Jeh, Kareena said she has to do it – there's no option. "Monday to Friday, screen time is, like, no! But then he's always like, 'But then why are you watching TV?' 'Why are you on your phone?' These days, the parents also have to do what they want their kids to do. So, when we are wanting to put them to bed, then we are also reading and not watching TV till they go to sleep. Because I guess they learn from example – there's no other way. They're going to see us on the phone or on the screen. They'll want to do that.''Meanwhile, Kareena is currently seen in The Buckingham Murders. With a lot of love and appreciation from both the audience and critics alike, the film continues to prove its strong presence, and raked in ?8.82 Cr. NBOC, which is indeed a good number for a genre like mystery thriller.

Diljit Dosanjh and Neeru Bajwa reunited for yet another Jatt & Juliet film, Jatt & Juliet 3. The new Jatt & Juliet film came out earlier this year, 12 years after Jatt & Juliet 2 was released. The film brought back Diljit and Neeru as Punjab's beloved police officers, and this time around, Jasmin Bajwa was in the mix. A few months after its theatrical release, the film will not be out on OTT.Jatt & Juliet 3 is about a police officer named Fateh Singh from Punjab who lands in Canada and falls in love with Pooja, who is also a police officer there. The film revolves around a series of hilarious unfortunate events which eventually result in Fateh and Pooja falling in love. The film will be available to stream on Chaupal from tomorrow, September 19.

Jatt & Juliet 3 was written and directed by Jagdeep Sidhu. At the press conference for the film's trailer launch in Mumbai earlier this year, Diliit revealed he almost rejected the film."When Jatt & Juliet 1 was being made, Darshan Singh Grewal - the producer of Jatt & Juliet. We had problems with each other. So when the movie offer came to me, I wanted to go and reject the film in person. I had gone to his office to refuse the offer because of our history. When I reached his office, he signed a blank cheque in filmy style and told me, 'Paaji, fill the amount, I want to do a film with you.' I didn't foresee this," Diljit Dosanjh confessed.Meanwhile, Diljit Dosanjh has received a legal notice from a fan, who was left disheartened after she failed to get a ticket for the singer's upcoming India tour. As reported by Free Press Journal, the fan identifies herself as Riddhima Kapoor and is a law student based in Delhi. Reportedly, in her legal notice, she alleged malpractices in the ticket sales process and accused the organisers of the Dil-Luminati Tour of violating consumer rights. Besides Diljit, the legal notice has also been sent to Zomato, HDFC Bank and Saregama Pvt Ltd. However, they are yet to respond to the notice.Diljit Dosanjh's Dil-Luminati Tour will be an epic 10-city celebration. It will kick off at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on October 26, 2024. Following Delhi, the tour will make its way to Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Pune, Kolkata, Bangalore, Indore, Chandigarh, and Guwahati.

