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Puja Khedkar submitted 2 disability certificates, suspect fraud

New Delhi, Sep 4: In another status report submitted to the High Court in the national capital, the Delhi Police have contended that former controversial Maharashtra IAS Probationary Officer Puja MD Khedkar has submitted two separate disability certificates for her UPSC exams...

Rahul Gandhi more intellectual, strategist when compared to father Rajiv Gandhi: Sam Pitroda

New Delhi, Sep 4: Rahul Gandhi is more intellectual and more of a strategist as compared with his father Rajiv Gandhi, says long-time Gandhi family confidant Sam Pitroda...

Lok Sabha. Rahul Gandhi will visit the US from September 8 to 10 during which he will hold numerous interactions in Washington DC and Dallas...

"Rahul is a strategist more so than Rajiv was. They are products of different times, different tools, different experiences. Poor Rahul has gone through two big shocks in life..."

(Maillkarjun) Kharge ji believes in it and collectively it is our job to build the India our founding fathers had envisaged...



PM Modi arrives in Singapore for two-day visit

Singapore, Sep 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Singapore on Wednesday to "deepen strategic partnership" with the Southeast Asian country...



Shanmugaratnam. This visit comes days after Wong took over and Modi began his third term as prime minister...

'He was not alone, why no one else was hurt'

Faridabad, Sep 4: The father of teenager Aryan Mishra, who was shot dead allegedly by cow vigilantes in a car chase in Faridabad, is restless with many questions about the death...

Resume work leaving justice to SC: IMA chief

New Delhi, Sep. 4: Members of West Bengal Medical Council, doctors and others during their protest march against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor...

Takes heart to handle bulldozer': Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow/Prayagraj, Sep 4: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday retorted sharply to Akhilesh Yadav's "all bulldozers will head towards Gorakhpur after 2027" remark...



Adityanath also made a pun on Yadav's nickname saying, "Now 'Tipu' is also trying to become a 'Sultan'..."

JJP-ASP's 1st list of 19 candidates out; Dushyant Chautala

Chandigarh, Sep 04: The Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) and Azad Samaj Party (ASP) alliance on Wednesday released the first list of 19 candidates for the October 5 Haryana Assembly elections...



will contest 53 seats, while the BSP will field candidates on 37 seats. At the launch of the JJP-Azad Samaj Party alliance...

SC raps Uttarakhand CM Dhami for appointing 'tainted' IFS officer as Rajaji Tiger Reserve Director

New Delhi, Sep 4: The Supreme Court on Wednesday took a strong exception to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami's decision to appoint as Director of Rajaji Tiger Reserve an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Rahul who was earlier removed from Corbett Tiger Reserve over allegations of illegal tree felling...



Justice BR Gavai said, "There is a specific note to the Deputy Secretary that the departmental proceedings are initiated against him (Rahul)..."

SEBI blames 'external elements' for toxic work culture claims

New Delhi, Sep 4 The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday categorically refuted the allegations of a toxic work environment within the organisation under its current chief Madhabi Puri Buch...

unachievable targets, and micromanaging to the point of monitoring employees' "minute-by-minute movements..."

ronment to gain leverage in their negotiations. Also Read | ICICI denies paying salary, ESOPs to SEBI chief Madhabi Buch

including the adoption of a new Management Information System (MIS) for Key Result Areas (KRAs)..."



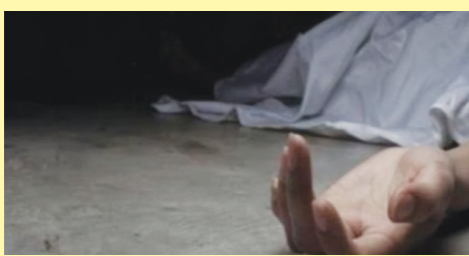
News box

Contractor strike to hit Ganesha idol immersion in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. With the BBMP contractors going on strike over the Palike reportedly withholding 25 per cent of the bill amount due to them, until April 2021, the contractors association on Tuesday said the 15-day deadline given to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to fix over 2,500 potholes will be impacted. Apart from this, the Rs1,800-crore white-topping work on all major roads and stormwater drain work, will also be hit, BBMP Working Contractors' Association president KT Manjunath said.

Over 700 contractors are expected to take part in a protest at Freedom Park on Wednesday. "We have got police permission for a day's agitation. We will observe a hunger strike, and later, will rope in garbage contractors too. We are only demanding our rightful money, which the BBMP is not releasing, despite the DCM's order," said Manjunath. He also added that since many contractors have decided to go on strike, the deployment of mobile tankers and support staff for the Ganesha idol immersion at pre-decided Kalyanis, will also take a hit.

Three kill Tipper driver over minor scuffle in Bengaluru, held



BENGALURU. A 30-year-old driver was murdered during a scuffle, after a pickup vehicle driver hit the headlight of a parked tipper truck while reversing his vehicle. The incident occurred at Green Park Dhabha near Kunigal Road on the outskirts of the city on Tuesday morning around 1am. Nelamangala Rural police arrested the three accused.

The deceased was identified as Pradeep (30), a tipper truck driver from Tavarekere. The arrested accused are Mahesh (33), poultry pickup driver Sunil Kumar (31), and Boglinga (23), all natives of Kalaburagi.

Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba told TNIE the incident occurred between the deceased was identified as Pradeep (30), a tipper truck driver from Tavarekere.12.30 am and 1.30am on Tuesday. Mahesh hit the tipper's headlight while reversing, leading to a verbal altercation between the two vehicle owners. The situation escalated when Mahesh brought a jack rod from his vehicle and hit Pradeep's head before fleeing. Passersby alerted police and rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries in the morning," the SP said.

Acting swiftly, Nelamangala Rural police based on CCTV footage, vehicle number and technical evidence, arrested the three accused within hours of the incident and registered a case under Section 103 of the BNS.

This is the second incident in the past one week. Last Wednesday, a 17-year-old was stabbed to death over a car park issue in Madanayakanahalli police station limits.

Scrap merchant kidnapped in Chennai, robbed of Rs 13 lakh by gang

CHENNAI. A 45-year-old man was kidnapped and robbed of Rs 13 lakh under the pretext of arranging admission in a medical college on August 23. The Kanathur police have registered a case.

According to the police, the victim, Moidheen Raja of Kanathur who is a metal scrap merchant, got acquainted with Loudvin Raj. Under the pretext of setting up a meeting with a medical college principal to arrange a medical seat for Raja's son, Loudvin had asked Moidheen to meet outside a theatre complex on ECR.



Loudvin picked him up from the location in a car and took him to a spot. From there, he was taken in another car in which a gang attacked and threatened him. They forcibly made him transfer

Rs 13 lakh in three online transactions, police added.

The gang said that they would ask for more money in the future and if he refused, they would attack his family, Moidheen said in his complaint. He was let go near the Kelambakkam bus stand.

Man tries to steal artefacts from Bhopal museum, falls while climbing 25-foot

A man managed to steal more than 200 coins from the Gupta to Mughal period and other artefacts from Madhya Pradesh's State Museum, but was arrested by the police after he failed to scale the museum's 25-foot wall.

Bhopal. A man was arrested in Bhopal after he attempted to steal artefacts valued at approximately Rs 15 crore from Madhya Pradesh's State Museum.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Vinod Yadav, entered the museum on September 1 (Sunday) after purchasing a ticket and hid behind a staircase when the museum was closed in the evening.

On Monday, when the museum was closed, he stole more than 200 gold and silver coins, dating from the Gupta age to the Mughal period, and other artefacts and tried to escape the museum by scaling a 25-foot wall.

However, his 'money heist' was not



successful after he failed to climb the wall and sustained injuries. Later, on Tuesday, museum officials alerted the police after finding

broken locks and empty boxes that contained gold and silver artefacts and coins among other materials. The police arrived at the museum

and conducted a search operation of the premises, during which the accused was found lying injured near the museum's wall and was subsequently arrested by the police.

A bag was also recovered from him which contained 98 gold and metal coins dating from the Gupta age to the Mughal period, 75 silver coins of various sizes, 38 copper coins, one gold medal, and 12 mixed-metal medals having an approximate market value of Rs 15 crore. Speaking about the incident, the Bhopal Police's Deputy Commissioner of Police Riyaz Iqbal said, "During questioning, the accused said that he had entered the State Museum

on Sunday afternoon after buying a ticket. He then hid under the stairs and, after the museum closed. He also noticed that a few home guards and private guards were patrolling outside. After stealing the artefacts, he attempted to scale the 25-foot wall, but was unsuccessful."

Iqbal also said that the security arrangements of the museum were substandard, which probably eased Yadav's robbery. The security alarm and CCTV cameras were not working, and the entry doors were weak and could be opened with a strong push, he added. A case was registered, and further investigation is underway, he added.

TISS 'honour code' for students: 'Won't participate in political, anti-establishment, unpatriotic discussions, dharnas'

MUMBAI. A pledge that is part of an 'honour code' signed by students at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) this year states that "I would not indulge in any political, anti-establishment, unpatriotic discussions, demonstrations, dharna or any form of activities that disturb the academic environment of the institute. I understand that any infringements would attract strict action against me". While the honour code has been in existence at the university for some time, the changes this year have raised some eyebrows on the campus.

The university has been in the news for all the wrong reasons, starting with the unofficial screening of a banned BBC movie last Jan, to the recent ban on a student collective, Progressive Students' Forum (PSF), which the institute claimed was 'unauthorised' and 'illegal'. PSF has been active on the campus for 12 years.

With the signing of the new Memorandum

of Agreement (MoA) early this year, the university, known for its contribution towards social work education, was brought under the ambit of the union ministry of education. The university was earlier managed by the Tata Trusts, which had its nominee as chairperson of the board. With the new MoA, the institute is now governed by the TISS Society, chaired by the union education minister. This was after the Central govt's decision to bring all institutions that receive over 50% grants from the Centre under its jurisdiction. TISS was one of them.

In April this year, Ramadas K S, the former general secretary of PSF, was suspended for two years for participating in 'unlawful' and 'anti-national' activities.

While his suspension matter is in the court, a TISS student said the revision in the honour code this year could be following this development. "How can an institute's honour code precede constitutional

rights?" asked the student, adding the institute has been making these norms stringent every year. He said the validity of this code should be challenged too. This year's code mentioned that 'the undertaking is legally binding'. It also mentioned that violation of the code could lead even to expulsion.

Speaking about the honour code, Medha Patkar, a respected alumna of TISS, said bringing students under such bondage will not resolve the conflict between the administration and students' community but will only worsen the situation.

"Students and alumni should appeal to the administration for more dialogue. The code that students have been asked to sign is also against the basic constitutional rights. TISS alumni are known for their work in peace and non-violent work in society. They can act as mediators between the institute and students too," she said.

Construction in Dharavi and on salt pan lands to be concurrent

Mumbai. The construction of housing for non-eligible Dharavi residents on salt pan lands will commence concurrently with the building of rehabilitation units for eligible residents in Dharavi.

The Union cabinet has approved the transfer of 256 acres of salt pan lands to the state govt, which includes land at Mulund (58.5 acres), Bhandup (76.9 acres), and Kanjurmarg (120.5 acres). However, the 28 acres of salt pan land at Wadala were denied as the Customs department has constructed its offices and residential quarters on the land. According to an MMRDA report, there are 40 salt pan lands spanning 5,221 acres in Mumbai city and suburbs. Officials stated, "The state govt in turn will transfer the 256

acres to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. The Special Purpose Vehicle — Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd will construct tenements on these lands and transfer them to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. The transfer is expected soon, possibly before the elections." Eligible residents will receive 350 sq feet tenements, while ineligible residents will be provided with 300 sq feet dwelling units. The state housing department, in a letter to the BMC in Jan, mentioned that around three to four lakh ineligible Dharavi residents are to be relocated into rental housing. A survey is currently underway to determine the total number of residents eligible for free housing, with the cut-off date being Jan 1,

2000. Approximately 11,000 households have been surveyed so far, and the survey is expected to be completed by March next year. Officials said that construction is likely to begin earlier. The relocation of Dharavi residents on salt pan lands, all of which are in the Mumbai North East parliamentary constituency, became a contentious issue during the Lok Sabha elections, with the BJP losing the Mumbai North East seat. There is strong opposition from Mulund and Kurla residents to the relocation of Dharavi residents. Mumbai: The construction of housing for non-eligible Dharavi residents on salt pan lands will commence concurrently with the building of rehabilitation units for eligible residents in Dharavi.

Andhra Congress chief YS Sharmila demands action on long-pending Kadapa steel plant

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee chief YS Sharmila on Tuesday submitted a memorandum urging the collector of YSR district to take immediate action on the establishment of a steel plant in Kadapa. The Congress had warned of statewide protest if demands are not met.

► **YS Sharmila submitted a memorandum urging establishment of Kadapa steel plant**

► **The Congress party threatened statewide protests if demands are not met**

► **The steel plant was promised during Andhra Pradesh's 2014 bifurcation, Sharmila said**

Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee President YS Sharmila on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the district collector of YSR district, urging immediate action on the long-delayed Kadapa steel plant project. The Congress party warned of statewide protests if the demands were not met. In her memorandum, Sharmila highlighted that her father, the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, had envisioned the steel plant to boost employment and industrial growth in the region. She criticised successive state and central governments for failing to complete the project.



Bengaluru student assaulted by seniors for refusing to shave beard, case filed

A student of Krupanidhi Group of Institutions in Bengaluru was assaulted by his seniors for refusing to shave his beard and moustache. A case has been filed against three accused.



Bengaluru. A college student in Bengaluru was assaulted by his seniors for allegedly refusing to shave his moustache and beard. The incident occurred at Krupanidhi Group of Institutions, and a case has been filed against the accused.

The accused, identified as Xavier Issac, Vishnu, and Sharath, allegedly asked the victim, Goutham, to shave his beard when he joined the college in April. After Goutham refused, the seniors

reportedly formed a group to intimidate him.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the assault took place on Friday (August 30) when Goutham was taken to a church in Hadosiddapura. His refusal to comply with their demands led to the attack, resulting in a fractured shoulder.

The student underwent surgery following the incident, and his family was allegedly threatened by the accused at the hospital.

A complaint has been filed under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 118(1) and 118(2) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 189(2) (unlawful assembly), 190 (every member of illegal assembly accountable for an offence committed to further common object), 191(2) (rioting) and 351 (criminal intimidation).

Police investigation into the matter is underway.

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NEWS BOX

Nepal to print new banknotes featuring Indian territories within a year: Report

Kathmandu Nepal's central bank is preparing to print new banknotes featuring the revised map that includes disputed territories with India within a year, a media report said on Tuesday. Nepal Rashtra Bank has already forwarded the process of printing the banknotes with the new map, which includes Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, the bank's joint spokesperson Dilliram Pokharel was quoted as saying by online news portal Nepalkhabar.com. The bank has already forwarded the process of printing the new notes, Pokharel said, adding that it would be completed in six months to one year. However, when sought his response to the news report, the bank's spokesperson was not available for comments. Nepal's cabinet led by then-Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on May 3 decided to print new banknotes with the inclusion of the new map showing these territories as part of Nepal. The Nepal government unveiled its new political map with the inclusion of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas within its territory in May 2020 during the government led by K P Sharma Oli. It was endorsed by Nepal's Parliament. After that, the government replaced the old map used in all the official documents with the new map despite objections from India. India maintains Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura belong to it. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Ketamine queen' doctor to face trial in March in Matthew Perry death

Los Angeles A California doctor and a woman charged with illegally supplying the drug ketamine to "Friends" star Matthew Perry before his overdose death will face trial in March, according to court documents released on Tuesday. Dr Salvador Plasencia, and Jasveen Sangha, whom authorities said was a drug dealer known to customers as the "ketamine queen," have pleaded not guilty to charges related to the October 2023 death of Matthew Perry. An autopsy determined that the 54-year-old died from "acute effects" of ketamine and other factors that caused him to lose consciousness and drown in his hot tub. Ketamine is a short-acting anaesthetic with hallucinogenic properties, sometimes prescribed to treat depression and anxiety but also abused by recreational users. Perry had publicly acknowledged decades of substance abuse, including during the years he starred as Chandler Bing on the hit 1990s television sitcom "Friends." Plasencia and Sangha are scheduled to be tried together in federal court in Los Angeles starting on March 4. Three other defendants have agreed to plead guilty in connection with Perry's death.

Four Indians killed in multi-car crash in US

World Four Indians, including a woman, have died in a massive crash involving five vehicles in Texas, reports said. The victims had connected through a carpooling app and were on their way to Bentonville in Arkansas on Friday when the tragedy struck. The crash led to a fire in the SUV they were in, and their bodies were charred. Authorities are relying on DNA testing to confirm their identities, NDTV reported. The victims have been identified as Aryan Raghunath Orampati, Farooq Shaik, Lokesh Palacharla, and Dharshini Vasudevan. Darshini



Vasudevan's father had tagged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a Twitter post three days back and sought help in locating his daughter. According to reports, a speeding truck rear-ended the SUV the victims were in. The car burst into flames and all the occupants burnt to death. The authorities are relying on DNA fingerprinting and teeth and bone remains to confirm the identities. "DNA fingerprinting will be done to identify the bodies, and the samples will be matched with the parents," a local authority said.

Vengeful Thai trans woman scams over 70 Japanese men for over a decade

World A vengeful Thai transgender woman duped over 70 Japanese men, defrauding them of nearly 30 million baht (approximately Rs 7.36 crore) for over 13 years. The police arrested the trans woman called Amy last month. The police disclosed that her criminal activities were triggered by a painful breakup with her Japanese boyfriend years ago, which left her emotionally shattered and financially burdened, as reported by the South China Morning Post. "When I was in college, my Japanese boyfriend abandoned me during a trip and left me to pay all the bills. I was heartbroken," she said. "I was also scammed out of money by another Japanese man I dated before, so I really hate the Japanese and wanted to take revenge on Japanese men." The police launched the investigation after a Japanese man complained that he was conned by Amy who posed as a Hong Kong tourist and had lost her passport and purse. She borrowed money for him to cover his hotel expenses, insurance and medical bills, costing to 15 million baht. They also developed an intimate relationship after exchanging contact details. On August 4, the 49-year-old Thai trans woman, whose real name is Uthai Nantakhan, was arrested in Bangkok. The police revealed that she had employed a modus operandi of pretending to be a tourist from Taiwan or Hong Kong who had lost her money, to manipulate men and gain their sympathy. She also lured victims into investing in fake businesses, later claiming the projects had failed and making off with their investment funds. Police reports indicate that Amy scammed 73 Japanese men out of 26 million baht between 2011 and 2024, reported South China Morning Post. In Thailand, people convicted of fraud can face up to three years in prison and a maximum fine of 60,000 baht (approx Rs 1,47,289).

Pakistan government bars public servants from using social media without permission

The Pakistan government has restricted all government employees from using social media without prior permission to prevent the leakage of official information. Employees are prohibited from sharing opinions or documents that could affect the government's reputation, policy, or national sovereignty. Institutions are required to monitor social media for any objectionable content.



ISLAMABAD. The Pakistan government has issued an order barring all government employees from using social media without permission to stop disclosure of official information and

documents, The News International reported. According to an office memorandum issued by the Establishment Division, government employees have been asked to adhere to the instruction under the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1964. As per the order, the government employees will not be allowed to use any social media platform without permission, The News

International reported. The memorandum stated, "Government employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect the reputation of the government," adding that employees are not permitted to speak against government policy, decisions, national sovereignty and dignity. It further stated that public servants cannot share their opinions or rhetoric on social media platforms without permission.

Strict action would be taken against government employees for violating the directives issued in the order, according to The News International report.

According to the memorandum, a government employee cannot share official documents and information with unrelated persons. It stated that employees cannot speak to the media in a way that impacts Pakistan's ties with other nations. The memorandum stated, "Civil servants have often been seen debating on social media. The guidelines are not intended to ban the positive use of social media." According to the memorandum, institutions have been asked to monitor their social media platforms to remove objectionable content. The memorandum stated, "Government servants of all services and groups are bound to follow the instructions. Violation may lead to misconduct proceedings against the employees concerned," according to the report. It asked federal secretaries, additional secretaries, heads of departments, and chief secretaries to execute the memorandum.

Four Ukrainian ministers resign ahead of major cabinet rejig

Kyiv, The Ukrainian minister in charge of weapons production resigned on Tuesday in anticipation of another defence role and four other ministers stood down in a major government shake-up at a critical juncture in the war with Russia. The resignations of Strategic Industries Minister Oleksandr Kamyshin, Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna and the justice, environment and reintegration ministers leave over a third of the cabinet vacant after sackings earlier this year. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his political allies could move to fill the positions to create order before he travels this month to the United States, where he hopes to present a "victory plan" to US President Joe Biden, a key ally. "Autumn will be extremely important for Ukraine. And our state institutions should be configured so that Ukraine achieves all the results that we need - for all of us," Zelenskyy said in his evening address.



Rostyslav Shurma, one of his deputy chiefs of staff whose portfolio is the economy, according to a decree published on the presidential website. David Arakhamia, a senior lawmaker for Zelenskyy's party, said there would be a "major government reset" that would see more than half of the ministers change. "Tomorrow a day of sackings awaits us, and a day of appointments the day after," he said.

"For this, we must strengthen some areas of the government and changes in its make-up have been prepared. There will also be changes in the (president's) office," Zelenskyy has also dismissed

Stefanishyna, whose portfolio has centred around Kyiv's bid to join the European Union and NATO military alliance, could be named as head of a bigger ministry that combines her old role and that of the justice ministry, the Suspilne public broadcaster cited a source in Zelenskyy's party as saying. Meanwhile, Kamyshin has spearheaded

Ukraine's effort to ramp up defence production of everything from attack drones to long-range missiles to battle Russia, a much better-armed and larger foe. "I will continue working in the defence sector but in a different role," Kamyshin, who is 40 and considered a rising star in government, wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

He was appointed in March 2023 after carving out an image as an effective manager of the national railways, a vital logistics artery for both civilians and the military in the first year of the Kremlin's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Since he took over defence production, Ukraine has produced thousands of long-range drones to attack Russia. Last month, Zelenskyy said Kyiv had for the first time used a new "drone-missile" and also test run a new ballistic missile.

CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN WAR

On the battlefield, Ukraine is pressing a risky cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk region as Moscow's troops inch forward with increasing speed in the east of Ukraine. Russia has stepped up its long-range missile strikes.

With or without British arms, Israel will win this war': Benjamin Netanyahu after UK suspends arms licenses

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the British government's decision to suspend thirty arms licences to Israel, asserting that regardless of the UK's support, Israel remains resolute in its determination to emerge victorious in this conflict. "With or without British arms, Israel will win this war and secure our common future," posted the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel on X. Denouncing it as a "shameful move that will not change Israel's determination to defeat Hamas," he said. "Instead of standing with Israel, a fellow democracy defending itself against barbarism, Britain's misguided decision will only embolden Hamas." Notably, Hamas savagely murdered 1200 people on October 7, including 14 British citizens. Moreover, Hamas is still holding over 100 hostages, including 5 British citizens. This comes after the UK announced to suspend 30 out of 350 arms export licences to Israel, citing a "clear risk" they could



be used in serious breaches of international humanitarian law. Foreign Secretary David Lammy told parliament on Monday that the partial ban covers items "which could be used in the current conflict in Gaza" against Hamas but did not include parts for F-35 fighter jets, according to Al Jazeera. "Israel is pursuing a just war with just means, taking unprecedented measures to keep civilians out of harm's way and comporting fully with international law," added Netanyahu. Netanyahu drew a historical parallel, and compared Israel's battle against Hamas to Britain's fight against the Nazi regime during World War II, and said, "Just as Britain's heroic stand against the Nazis is seen today as having been vital in defending our common civilization, so too will history judge Israel's stand against Hamas and Iran's axis of terror."

Netanyahu emphasised that Israel is conducting a just war, utilising just means, while taking unprecedented steps to minimise harm to civilians and adhering to international law. "Israel is pursuing a just war with just means, taking unprecedented measures to keep civilians out of harm's way and comporting fully with international law," he said.

Islamic State claims responsibility for suicide bombing in Kabul

An explosion in Kabul on Monday killed at least six people, and injured 13 others, the Kabul police and Ministry of Interior Affairs said.

KABUL: Islamic State (IS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Kabul that resulted in six people losing their lives, Al Jazeera reported. Notably, an explosion in Kabul on Monday killed at least six people, and injured 13 others, the Kabul police and Ministry of Interior Affairs said. Sharing a post on X on Monday, Khalid Zadran, Kabul police spokesman had said, "An explosion occurred in the 6th security zone of Kabul this afternoon in the area of Qala-e-Bakhtiar, which was caused by

explosives carried by a person. Unfortunately, six people, including a woman, were killed and 13 others were injured in the blast. The injured were



taken to hospital and investigations are underway." In a Telegram post on Tuesday, ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) said one of its members detonated an explosive vest in the Afghan capital the previous day (Monday), targeting the Taliban

government's prosecution service. The bomber waited until government employees finished their shifts and then detonated the explosive in the middle of a crowd, the post said, according to Al Jazeera. ISIL claimed that the attack resulted in the deaths of more than 45 people and was revenge for "Muslims held in Taliban prisons."

Notably, the most notorious attack linked to ISIL since the Taliban takeover was in 2022 when at least 53 people, including 46 girls and young women, were slain in the suicide bombing at an education centre in a Shia neighbourhood of Kabul. For which, the Taliban officials blamed ISIL for the attack. A United Nations Security Council report released in January stated that there had been a decrease in ISIL attacks in Afghanistan because of "counter-terrorism efforts by the Taliban". But the report also said that ISIL still had "substantial" recruitment

Former aide to New York's governor is charged with being an agent of the Chinese government

Linda Sun, who held numerous posts in New York state government before rising to the rank of deputy chief of staff for Hochul, was arrested along with her husband, Chris Hu.

NEW YORK. A former New York state government official who worked for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and current Gov. Kathy Hochul was charged on Tuesday with acting as an undisclosed agent of the Chinese government, federal prosecutors revealed in a sprawling indictment. Linda Sun, who held numerous posts in New York state government before rising to the rank of deputy chief of staff for Hochul, was arrested Tuesday morning along with her husband, Chris Hu, at their USD 3.5 million home on Long Island. Sun and Hu are expected to make an initial court appearance Tuesday afternoon, a spokesman for the US attorney's office in Brooklyn said. Prosecutors said Sun, at the request of Chinese officials, blocked

representatives of the Taiwanese government from having access to high-level officials in New York state, shaped New York governmental messaging to align with the priorities of the Chinese government and attempted to facilitate a trip to China for a high-level politician in New York, the indictment said. Hu is charged with money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to commit bank fraud and misuse of means of identification. In return, she and her husband received benefits including help for Hu's China-based business activities and undisclosed tickets to performances by visiting Chinese orchestra and ballet groups, the indictment says. A Chinese government official's personal chef prepared 'Nanjing-style salted ducks' that were delivered to Sun's parents' home, it adds. The couple then laundered the financial proceeds, using them to buy their property in Manhasset, a condominium in Hawaii for USD 1.9 million, and luxury cars including a 2024 Ferrari, the indictment says. As alleged, while appearing to serve the people of New York as Deputy Chief of Staff within



the New York State Executive Chamber, the defendant and her husband actually worked to further the interests of the Chinese government and the CCP, United States Attorney Breon Peace said. The illicit scheme enriched the defendant's family to the tune of millions of dollars. A lawyer for Sun, Seth DuCharme, did not immediately return an email seeking comment. The FBI searched the couple's USD 3.5 million home in Manhasset in

late July but declined to release details at the time. Sun worked in state government for about 15 years, holding posts in Cuomo's administration and eventually becoming Hochul's deputy chief of staff, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In November 2022, Sun took a job at the New York Department of Labor, as deputy commissioner for strategic business development, but she left that job months later in March 2023, the profile said. In a statement, a spokesperson for Hochul's office said the administration fired Sun after discovering evidence of misconduct.

"This individual was hired by the Executive Chamber more than a decade ago. We terminated her employment in March 2023 after discovering evidence of misconduct, immediately reported her actions to law enforcement and have assisted law enforcement throughout this process," the statement reads.

A spokesman for Cuomo did not immediately return an emailed request for comment. Sun and Hu live in a gated community on Long Island called Stone Hill. The couple purchased the house in 2021 but placed it in a trust earlier this year, records show.

News box

Telangana tax officer arrested for accepting bribe of Rs 10,000

Hyderabad. The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a deputy state tax officer in Mahabubnagar district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000. According to officials, the bribe was reportedly taken in exchange for the issuance of a GST license to a local trader. Dinner Venkateshwar Reddy was arrested by the ACB sleuth while he was accepting the bribe from the shop owner.

The incident came to light when a complainant, who had approached Reddy to obtain a GST license for operating a Seeds & Scrap Business in Marlu area in Mahabubnagar, reported the officer's unethical demand to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Acting on the complaint, the ACB launched an undercover operation, during which the tainted bribe money was recovered from Reddy's possession. The investigation revealed that a portion of the official file related to the GST license was contaminated with the bribe money, and a chemical test confirmed the presence of tainted currency.

"Reddy's actions were clearly aimed at securing an undue advantage through dishonest means," an ACB official said.

Following his arrest, Reddy was presented before the Additional Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases Court in Hyderabad's Nampally. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

Blood stains, 200 pieces of evidence: Chargesheet filed against actor Darshan



Bengaluru. The Bengaluru Police will file a chargesheet against Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa in connection with murder of his fan Renukaswamy on Wednesday. Darshan, who was arrested in the murder case, is in judicial custody till September 9. The police have collected over 200 circumstantial evidence in the case, including forensic reports of bloodstains on the clothes of Darshan and other accused.

The evidence also includes a photograph allegedly retrieved from the phone of an accused, where Renukaswamy can be seen pleading to the accused not to beat him, CCTV footage of Darshan, and bloodstains found on actor Pavithra Gowda's footwear, which she allegedly used to assault Renukaswamy. Renukaswamy, 33, an auto driver, was found dead near a flyover in Bengaluru on June 9. According to the police, Renukaswamy was kidnapped and murdered by a gang based on Darshan's direction, after Renukaswamy allegedly sent offensive messages to Pavithra Gowda on social media. The postmortem report revealed that Renukaswamy was brutally beaten and given electric shocks. His body had multiple bruise marks, a missing ear and ruptured testicles.

Darshan and Pavithra Gowda, along with 15 others, have been arrested by the police in connection with Renukaswamy's murder.

State-wide water conservation drive from Sep 6

Gandhinagar. The ministry of jal shakti, in association with the state govt, will launch a state-wide water conservation drive on Sep 6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the gathering virtually, while CM Bhupendra Patel and Union jal shakti minister C R Paatil will be present in Surat, from where the campaign will formally be launched.

On Tuesday, the chief minister convened a video conference with collectors of all districts and briefed them about the various aspects of the water conservation drive.

C R Paatil said that rainwater can be conserved by constructing percolation wells. Catch the Rain: Paatil urges people to conserve each drop. A public awareness event for the National Water Mission's Catch the Rain campaign took place in Surat, led by Union jal shakti minister C R Paatil. The initiative aims at rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. Multiple projects are planned across Gujarat to conserve water resources, with substantial public involvement encouraged. 112936756

Regional Sahbhagita Mission to boost wetlands conservation in eastern states of India. A two-day workshop under the Sahbhagita Mission took place in Kolkata to address wetland conservation in eastern India. Organized by MoEF&CC and ZSI, it featured discussions among diverse stakeholders on challenges, policy amendments, and private sector involvement. Recommendations were made for enhancing wetland management, including multi-stakeholder workshops and green-skilling opportunities.

Tamil Nadu woman cop assaulted, her hair pulled during protest: Caught on camera

When some of the protesters tried to block the road, DSP Gayathri and other police personnel tried to disperse them. This led to an altercation, during which a man pulled the DSP's hair.

Virudhunagar. A woman cop was assaulted by a man participating in a protest in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district. A video of the incident, which shows the man pulling the hair of the cop, led to his arrest.

The incident took place on Tuesday in Virudhunagar's Arupukkottai area. A man, Kalikumar, was allegedly murdered by a group of men on Monday due to previous enmity. Some people from his village, including his friends and family, staged a protest outside a government hospital in Arupukkottai where Kalikumar's body was kept, demanding the arrest of his killers.

When some of the protesters tried to block the road, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gayathri and other police personnel tried to disperse them. This led to a physical altercation between the police and protesters.

A video from the spot shows a protester pushing DSP Gayathri and later, another man is seen pulling her hair. The other cops immediately took DSP Gayathri to a secured spot. Based on the viral video, the police arrested Balamurugan, 30, who was seen pulling the DSP's hair. Four other people were arrested in connection with the protest. DSP Gayathri did not sustain any injuries, a senior police official told India.



Reacting to the incident, AIADMK leader and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami said, "Under the DMK regime, anyone can be attacked without any fear of the law. I strongly condemn the DMK government and the puppet chief

minister for creating an unsafe environment even for the police, who are supposed to protect the people of the state. Appropriate legal action should be taken against those involved in the incident of assaulting DSP Gayathri."

Man tries to fly to Canada on fake visa twice

Ahmedabad. In a brazen display of defiance of the law, a 24-year-old man from the city unsuccessfully attempted to fly to Canada from Delhi on the same counterfeit visitor's visa for which he was charged with forgery in 2019 after his first failed attempt to fly from Mumbai. According to sources in the bureau of immigration, a man identified as Krupesh Patel from the Ranip area of the city was apprehended at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in Delhi on Aug 22 on charges of forgery and cheating. "Patel had approached the immigration authorities seeking departure clearance. He intended to board flight AI 187 and presented a Canadian visa with the number E731696672 to support his request. During the scrutiny of Patel's travel documents, the authenticity of the Canadian visa was called into question," according to the FIR lodged with the IGI airport police in Delhi. The FIR further elaborates, "The matter was brought to the attention of the Canadian official due to the suspicious nature of the visa. Subsequently, the ALO confirmed via email that the visa in Patel's possession was counterfeit." Sources within the IGI police in Delhi revealed that Patel had previously been denied boarding on April 10, 2019, from a Canada-bound flight at Mumbai airport, and a case of forgery had been registered with the Mumbai police. "The case in Mumbai was registered when Patel attempted to depart for Canada using the same counterfeit Canadian visitor's visa," the FIR filed with the IGI airport police in Delhi states. Sources in Delhi Police disclosed that despite being released on bail and facing an ongoing trial in Mumbai, Patel had the audacity to attempt travelling on the same forged visa from the IGI airport in Delhi.

Contractor paves over manholes in Khadia

Ahmedabad. Complaints of waterlogging near Raipur Gate in Khadia ward three months after the road here was rebuilt, have revealed negligence from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) contractor. After complaints by locals and the MLA, it was found that the manholes on the road had been covered up during the construction, leading to the waterlogging.

On Monday, AMC started digging up the road to create new catch pits. Previously, Jamalpur MLA Imran Khedawala had written to the additional city engineer of the central zone, informing him about waterlogging issues after construction of the road from Raipur Gate to Sarangpur Bus Depot and

outside Raipur Gate. He emphasized the need to identify and resolve the causes.

Manholes sealed during roadwork in Khadia. Complaints of waterlogging near Raipur Gate in Khadia ward have surfaced three months after the road was rebuilt, exposing negligence by AMC's contractor. Manholes were covered during construction, leading to the problem. After complaints from locals and MLA Imran Khedawala, AMC began digging up the road to create new catch pits.

Ahmedabad in deep waters, but AMC can't see waterlogging in these 10 areas. Bapunagar MLA Dinesh Kushwaha apologized to Saraspur residents for failing to address

waterlogging issues. Despite AMC's assertion that Saraspur isn't a waterlogged area, local councillors report otherwise. Recent rains have highlighted significant discrepancies in AMC's list of hotspots, questioning the accuracy of their assessments and criteria.

At least 1,000 locations in Ahmedabad waterlogged, says opposition. In a heated AMC general board meeting, opposition leaders accused the ruling party of mismanaging waterlogging and hiring civic officers with fake degrees. They also pointed out SVP Hospital's inefficiency despite its high cost. The ruling party refuted these claims, emphasizing BJP MLAs' commendation for rainwater drainage efforts.



Union Minister apologies to 'people of Tamil Nadu' over controversial remarks

Bengaluru. Union minister and BJP leader Shobha Karandlaje on Tuesday issued an apology to the people of Tamil Nadu for her controversial remarks on the Rameshwaram Cafe blast which took place in Bengaluru earlier this year.

Following the low-intensity blast at the popular eatery in Bengaluru on March 1, Karandlaje had blamed "Tamilians" for coming to Karnataka to plant bombs. This led to a case being registered against her by the Madurai police.

The apology was submitted on Tuesday through an affidavit in the Madras High Court, where the minister expressed regret for any offense caused by her statements.

"I have the highest respect and regard for the history, rich culture, and traditions of Tamil Nadu and its people. I had no intention whatsoever to hurt their sentiments. Hence, I once again tender my apology to the people of Tamil Nadu for any distress caused by my comments," the



Shobha Karandlaje apologised to people of Tamil Nadu for her remarks linking the Rameshwaram Cafe blast to Tamilians, stating she had no intention to hurt their sentiments.

Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour & Employment said.

In her affidavit filed before the bench of Justice G Jayachandran, Karandlaje said that she made the remarks while addressing the media without any intention to hurt the sentiments and

feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu. "The comment made by me about the people of Tamil Nadu while addressing the media about the Rameshwaram cafe bomb blast case in Bengaluru was made without any intention to hurt the sentiments and feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu. Having understood that my comments had hurt the sentiments of some people, I have already retracted my previous remarks and tendered my profound apologies through social media platforms," the Union Ministers said.

Furthermore, Karandlaje said that she had already retracted her previous comments and tendered her "profound apologies through social media platforms." The affidavit was filed in connection with her plea to quash an FIR registered against her by the Madurai City Cyber Crime, based on a complaint by a local resident. The next hearing in the matter is scheduled to take place on September 5.

Naroda records 201mm of rain, city 82.5mm in 24 hours

Ahmedabad. The city has been experiencing rainy weather for two days. On Monday, it rained from 5pm to 7pm and again from midnight till 6am on Tuesday. The city's eastern area witnessed heavy downpour, with Naroda alone recording the highest amount of rainfall at 3.48mm, between 10pm on Monday and 6am on Tuesday.

From 6am on Monday to 6am on Tuesday, the city received 82.5mm of rain. The water level rose to 5 feet in Madhumalti Society, where the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation successfully evacuated 100 residents to safety using tractors.

Early in the morning, the residents of the society and nearby areas had gathered to protest against the AMC. Complaints of water accumulation were also reported from Vatva, Maninagar, Ramol and Naroda. According to the AMC, from 10pm on Monday to 6am (eight-hour duration) on Tuesday, Naroda recorded the highest amount of rain at 88.3mm, Kathwada 59.9, Nikol 55.88mm, Odhav 52.07mm, Science City 48.5mm, Maninagar 43.94mm, Memco 39.8mm, Chandkheda 39.1mm, Ranip 37.5mm and Kotarpur 35.5mm.

Ramol, Usmanpura, Chakudia, Jodhpur, Dudheshwar, Vatva, Viratnagar and Maktampura received 1 inch of rain each. As of 6pm on Sept 3, the water level at Vasna barrage was at 128 feet. Around 10,739 cusecs of water was released from there, with an inflow of 6,607 cusecs from the Narmada canal and 3,940 cusecs from the Sant Sarovar Dam. Seven gates of the barrage were opened, six of them up to three feet and one up to two feet.

1.85L cusecs discharged from Ukai dam, city on alert. Due to heavy rainfall, authorities plan to increase the Ukai dam's water discharge to 1.85 lakh cusecs by Monday night. The Surat Municipal Corporation and district administration are closely monitoring the situation, with emergency teams on standby and shelter homes ready for potential evacuees as the Tapi River's water level is expected to rise. 113001007

1 inch of rain in city in two hours, eastern areas waterlogged. Ahmedabad witnessed varied rainfall, with heavy downpours mainly in eastern areas and lighter showers in the west. Naroda recorded a notable 100mm of rain between 5pm and 7pm. Over 25 locations in the east faced waterlogging issues, leading to water entering shops and residences. Four gates of Vasna Barrage were opened to release excess water. 113000141

IMD warns of heavy rains till Tuesday. The India Meteorological Department has issued a heavy rainfall alert for Kerala until Tuesday, with yellow alerts for various districts over the weekend and early next week. Thunderstorms with lightning and strong surface winds are likely to occur till Sunday. Significant rainfall was recorded in Kalamassery, Kodungallur, and Vadakara on Friday morning.

Drones deliver aid to residents stranded due to severe flooding in Vijayawada

At least 10 drones have been deployed by Marut Drones, a Hyderabad-based drone company, to deliver food, medicines and essential supplies to the residents stranded due to severe flooding in Vijayawada.

Vijayawada. At least 10 drones have been deployed to deliver food, medicines, and drinking water to residents stranded by severe flooding in Vijayawada, which has been hit the hardest by record rains following a depression in the Bay of Bengal.

Marut Drones, a Hyderabad-based drone company, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation, is making 200 deliveries per hour, reaching at least 5,000 people affected by the floods. The company aims to assist at least 25,000 people during this crisis.

"During these challenging times, our drones are making a critical difference by reaching areas that manual aid struggles to access," said Prem Kumar Vislawath,



CEO and co-founder of Marut Drones. "Our technology is proving invaluable in navigating the floodwaters and delivering aid to affected communities," he added.

In addition to drones, helicopters have been deployed to distribute food items such as biscuits, fruits, milk, and medicines, according to an official press release.

"National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, central forces, and district officials are distributing food, water, and other essentials through helicopters," the release said, as quoted by news agency PTI. As part of the relief efforts, priority is being given to necessities, with 43,417 people moved to rehabilitation centres. A total of 48 NDRF and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams are assisting with relief operations, and 197 medical camps have been set up.

Spread awareness about mental health to tackle suicide epidemic

MORE people in India are dying by suicide than anywhere else in the world. The suicide rate per 1,00,000 people in India in 2016 was 16.5 against a global average of 10.5. What drives people to take their own lives? Is the malaise of suicide an individual phenomenon, or should our social, administrative, economic, educational and religious systems step forward and take responsibility for it, too? Mental illness, drug addiction, divorce, failed love affairs, sexual violence, bankruptcy, academic setbacks, unemployment and poverty are among the primary causes of suicide. Add to it a reason peculiar to South Asian countries: the loss of face in the community. The reasons behind the high suicide rate in India, specifically in particular sections of society, need to be probed. India has been ranked 126th out of 143 countries in the World Happiness Report 2024; it lies nearly at the bottom, even below the neighbouring Pakistan and Nepal. Why are so many people unhappy in India? Besides the common denominators, there is a peculiar pattern in the suicide graph of India; the rates are particularly high among the youth, low-income groups, farmers and women.

Suicide is responsible for a significant number of deaths among the youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years, who make up 53.7 per cent of the Indian population. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) reported in 2020 that over 35 students killed themselves every day. As many as 13 students have taken the extreme step in Kota this year, while 26 had died by suicide in the country's coaching hub last year. A cut-throat competition, high-performance anxiety and the ever-looming fear of failure, fanned sometimes by anxious parents, can be too much to deal with. There are too many job seekers and very few jobs. About 10 per cent of the Indian youth are jobless, unhappy, anxious and without the resources required to meet their daily needs. Women lag far behind men in employment. Not only are there too few jobs for a large number of candidates, but there is also a lack of fair play and merit-based recruitment, causing heartburn and resentment. The Rajasthan Public Service Commission had to cancel several examinations in the last four years because of litigation over paper leaks and manipulation of results. Other states have been roiled by similar incidents. People in the lowest income group make up two-thirds of deaths by suicide. Besides, the year 2022 saw 11,290 suicides by farmers and farming labourers. What are the baseline requirements for survival and human happiness? Roti, kapada aur makaan (food, clothing and shelter)? The average monthly buying power of 50 per cent of Indians is Rs 3,094 and Rs 4,963 in rural and urban areas, respectively, according to the NITI Aayog. Those falling in the bottom 20 per cent of the rural and urban populations have a daily spending capacity of Rs 70-100 to sustain themselves and their families. This money does not fulfil the needs of food, clothing and shelter by any stretch of the imagination. For every death by suicide, there are more than 200 persons with suicidal tendencies and thoughts. Alarming, Indian women have twice the suicide rate compared with the global average. An average of 86 rape cases were registered in 2021 every day, according to NCRB data. This may only be the tip of the iceberg, as a high number of cases remain unreported because of a victim's sense of shame and fear of stigma. A large percentage of women is subjected to physical and mental abuse, deprivation and oppression, with little hope of redressal from a law and order system plagued by corruption.

Disenchanted with farming and exposed to the dazzling allure of urban life, the rural youth look for an escape, leading to large-scale migrations to big cities. Urbanisation adds to the stress — high costs of living, fast pace of life and the struggle to succeed and find a foothold in the world. There is a breakdown of the security net of family and community. And it causes a sense of insecurity and inadequacy. Many who fail are stuck — they do not want to return to the village, but the city doesn't support them either.

This is no way to govern Delhi

Absence of consensual power division undermining the govt in the national capital

DELHI'S Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena's edit-page lament in *The Indian Express* (August 28) about 'misgovernance' by the government he heads and minister Saurabh Bhardwaj's riposte the next day, claiming that Saxena was not letting an 'elected government' function, have exposed the National Capital Territory's dirty linen in public. This squabble amid Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's dubious incarceration presents India's capital to the world as an example of how a city must not be governed. This at a time when the rains have inundated a large part of the megalopolis and littered it with stinking muck. The two articles, highlighting a decade-long slugfest, laid bare a number of chinks in the governance of Delhi. Governance of national capitals across the world has been a puzzle from the perspective of the balance of power. Historical Dilli has been tied up in knots since 1857, more particularly since 1911, when the British decided to shift the capital of the Raj to India's 'eternal' capital city and built Dilli's eighth city — New Delhi — with unrivalled grandeur. In contrast, countries around the world have found solutions regarding governance of their capital cities in a consensual division of power. For example, Berlin has an administrative structure that is autonomous of Germany's federal government. Washington DC, London, Ottawa, Amsterdam, Canberra, Paris and others have also traditionally been looked upon as city governments with urban service functions. In most of them, the Mayor remains the most visible face of the city government. In some cases, the police are also under the city government.

Between mythical Indraprastha of the Mahabharata era and Shahjahanabad of the mid-17th century, India's capital city has been the site of six more capitals. Lal Kot or Rai Pithora, Siri, Tughlaqabad, Jahanpanah, Feroz Shah Kotla and Din Panah were built by kings and emperors. Of these, only Shahjahanabad survived as a 'living' city when the British finally won India in 1857, exiling the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar to Rangoon. They reduced Delhi to a district town of Punjab, till its capital status returned in 1911, and Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker were tasked with building the imperial New Delhi. Dilli so charmed



the British that they held imperial durbars here in 1877, 1903 and 1911. The Central Public Works Department, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and private builders created the post-colonial Delhi since 1960 to accommodate Partition refugees and other migrants. This ninth city began bursting at the seams in just 25 years. The National Capital Region (NCR) then emerged as the 10th city in 1985, expanding the urban boundaries to the neighbouring states. The puzzle of governing Delhi was sought to be resolved by making it a Chief Commissioner's province in 1911 and a Part 'C' state after Independence till the States Reorganisation Commission classified it as a UT. Despite having an elected municipal corporation, Delhi demanded a representative body, for an administration with an appointed LG did not satisfy the people's democratic urge. In fact, the replacement of the Delhi Improvement Trust with the DDA in 1957 to create and implement a Master Plan for the city, and the existence of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Cantonment Board, had created a confusing polyarchy, a confusion that has not been resolved even now.

An elected deliberative Metropolitan Council, created in 1966, did not address the demand for a representative body. Political parties expediently demanded statehood for Delhi when in the Opposition and preferred status quo when in power. Eventually, the 69th Constitutional Amendment

(1991) transferred some of the powers to an elected government led by a Chief Minister; in 1993, Delhi had a dyarchy, though the MCD and the NDMC continued to exist. Critical subjects such as law and order (police) and land were left with the Union Government-appointed LG.

In 1998, the Congress led by Sheila Dikshit wrested Delhi from the BJP. A discomfiting relationship with the Centre ensued. In 2002, then Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani sought to clip the wings of the NCT Delhi's Congress government by reimposing Section 48 of the Transaction of Business Rules. But the leaders met and sorted out

the differences. The ascension of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) under Kejriwal in 2013 and his confrontational politics set off difficulties. Things became tougher after the emphatic win of the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. As the Delhi Government's claims regarding transfers and postings of senior civil servants were bolstered by the Supreme Court, the Centre amended the rules through an ordinance (May 2023) and a constitutional amendment (August 2023) to cripple the Kejriwal government. Saxena's appointment in May 2022 brought an ugly tussle between the BJP-ruled Centre and the AAP government to the fore. The abysmal deterioration of politics in the national capital was reflected in the Enforcement Directorate and CBI 'investigations' into the charges of corruption against ministers and the chief minister. The Supreme Court's strong comments in the bail order releasing Sanjay Singh and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia after months of incarceration reflect more than partisanship in play. The way the CM's bail dates are being pushed each time the matter comes up for hearing only confirms politics beyond constitutional morality.

The sufferer in the process is the national capital, nay the whole NCR, and its residents. Any resolution of the issues emerging from the immoral power play appears difficult in the near future.

Tytler in the dock

Hope for justice in 1984 riots case

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu has rightly flagged longstanding pendency of cases as a major challenge for the judiciary. Her clarion call for a change in the 'culture of adjournments' is also significant, as is her observation that people with resources continue to roam fearlessly even after committing crimes. These ills afflicting the justice delivery system are starkly visible in many cases pertaining to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The carnage is going to complete 40 years in a couple of months, but there is still no closure for countless families. Some victims have died in despair without seeing the offenders getting retribution. Offering a ray of hope, a Delhi court has ordered the framing of charges against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in connection with the Gurdwara Pul Bangash killings. The court has said that there are sufficient grounds to presume that he abetted the murder of three Sikhs by instigating rioters to attack the place of worship. However, this



is only half the battle won. It had taken litigants no less than 34 years to secure the conviction of another Congress leader, Sajjan Kumar, in another riots case. Sentencing him to imprisonment 'for the remainder of his natural life', the Delhi High Court had observed that the violence was a 'crime against humanity', plotted by politicians in league with the police. However, such cases being taken to their logical conclusion has been a rarity. No less appalling is the fact that the Congress has been reluctant to take stern action against riot-tainted leaders. The party persisted with Kamal Nath as the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister despite the reopening of a case against him. And Sajjan saved the Congress the trouble of expelling him by resigning from the party's primary membership. Amid the political rot, the onus is yet again on the judiciary to provide justice, albeit long delayed, and give people the hope that all is not lost.

More to institutional rankings than meets the eye

The ranking obsession tends to reduce the faculty to a machine continually manufacturing 'research papers'.

THESE days, our colleges and universities are hardly getting any breathing space to reflect on what really matters — the organic relationship between engaged pedagogy and meaningful research; classroom transactions and critical reflections on the world we live in; or the dynamics of foundational sciences, liberal arts and humanities for the making of a humane and just society. Instead, these centres of learning are required to be continually restless for evolving all sorts of strategies to prove their 'worth' in front of a spectrum of ranking agencies — from the QS World University Rankings to our own National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). Not to be included in the list of 'top' 10 colleges/universities is a matter of shame for many of our principals and vice-chancellors! It is not difficult to comprehend the reasons for this chronic obsession with ranking. Don't forget that we live in an age that loves numbers; in fact, everything — from the experience of happiness of the inhabitants of a nation to the 'intelligence' one possesses — has to be measured, quantified, ranked and hierarchised. In the age of techno-science and 'mathematical precision', we seem to be uncomfortable with what refuses to be measured. It is, therefore, not surprising that even a qualitative experience like the process of being educated — the way it shapes our ways of seeing the world or the way it enriches our thoughts and visions — has to be measured, ranked and hierarchised. No wonder, a college/university has been reduced to a mere number (say, as far as the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, or NAAC is concerned, the grade point of Jawaharlal Nehru University is 3.91 on a scale of four) that the ranking agencies calculate through a hugely problematic method. Likewise, in this market-driven age of ceaseless consumption, it is becoming increasingly

difficult to be free from the lure of 'brand consciousness'. A typical consumer, it seems, loves the brand Starbucks more than the flavour of a cup of coffee. Likewise, a college/university has to be transformed into a 'brand'. And in a neoliberal market, students cannot afford to be authentic seekers; they are consumers in search of a 'brand', be it Jadavpur University or the Indian Institute of Science. It is not important whether you really love to explore the domains of English literature or physics; what is important is your instrumental reasoning — the way the 'brand value' of your college/university enriches your CV for the job market! Moreover, as the ethos of hyper-competition is seen to be a necessary virtue for enhancing the 'productivity' of an institution, it is believed that the academic productivity of a college/university can be enhanced only if it is put under constant pressure to perform, chase for the mythical number or grade and 'defeat' other institutions. Even though there are many — including students and teachers — who are quite comfortable with the 'science' of ranking, we should not underestimate some of its damaging consequences.

In this context, let me make three points. First, as it attaches sole importance to what is measurable, it tends to devalue what is fundamentally qualitative — say, the experience of teaching and learning; the nature of the teacher-taught relationship; the cultural milieu of the college/university; and the psychic wellbeing of students. Think of a situation: A professor has worked rigorously, visited good libraries, discussed with the academic fraternity, evolved a new course, taught beautifully and aroused the critical thinking of young students. However,

because of this intense engagement with the new course, she has not published any paper; or for that matter, she has not attended any international conference. Now, in the eyes of experts of the ranking agency, she has done nothing; her contribution is nil because the quality of her intellectual labour cannot



be measured. In fact, the fetish for quantity often devalues the quality of publications. It is, therefore, not impossible to find a 'smart' professor with great 'networking' skills who might have published five research papers, attended three international conferences and authored an edited volume in a semester. Don't ask about the quality of his research. As the numbers are on his side, he is likely to be more valuable than a sincere teacher. Yes, the trivialisation of research or the devaluation of teaching as a serious engagement is a logical consequence of the politics of ranking. Second, the ranking obsession tends to

reduce the faculty to a machine continually manufacturing 'research papers'. Anyone who has a serious engagement with higher education knows that meaningful teaching and serious research require intensely contemplative and meditative moments; you cannot manufacture research papers the way a factory produces toothpaste. But then, if a teacher is constantly pressurised by the 'brand-conscious' head of the academic institution to produce research papers, manage the citation index, take up new projects or negotiate with the corporates so that the students get appropriate 'placements', there will be no qualitative difference between a professor and

And finally, ranking agencies are seldom interested in comprehending whether the quality of education the youngsters receive plays a transformative role, activates their humanistic/spiritual sensibilities, inspires them to resist war, xenophobic nationalism, marketfundamentalism and ecologically destructive developmentalism and equips them with appropriate knowledge, skills and politico-ethical sensibilities to heal this tormented world. Accept it — a 'top ranking' university need not necessarily be a good university, if by being 'good' you and I mean the cultivation of knowledge as awakened intelligence, love and the ethics of care.

However, who will tell these academic bureaucrats and their neoliberal bosses that there is something more to education than the statistics of publications, patents, 'international' conferences and placement narratives?



Alanna Panday

Is Living Her Dream Life With Husband Ivor McCray And Baby River

Alanna Panday's cousin sister and popular influencer Alanna Panday is over the moon, enjoying her new phase as a mother. Alanna welcomed a baby boy with her husband Ivor McCray in July this year. Now, the new mom is living the life she always dreamt of. No, we are not saying that. The proud mama of a baby boy herself told us, in a video shared on Instagram. The clip was captioned, "Everything I could ask for and more." The excitement and joy on Alanna Panday and her husband Ivor McCray's face, as seen in the clip, is palpable. Set to board a flight, the couple was joined by their newborn River for the trip. Do not miss Ivor's expression of love for his wife and baby boy as he plants a kiss on both Alanna's and their little munchkin's forehead. The video also has a message overlaying which reads, "You stop & realise you're living the life you've always dreamed of."

Both Alanna Panday and Ivor McCray were dressed in their casual best to catch the flight. While the influencer wore a beige comfy tracksuit with a crossbody bag, her husband opted for a nearly similar color set to complement her. In a video shared on September 1, Alanna Panday mentioned that it's her son River's first flight. The adorable video has Alanna and Ivor engrossed in their responsibilities as new parents as they feed their baby on the flight. Later, they are also seen playing with him in the clip. Sharing the video, Alanna wrote, "Baby River's first flight."

While the exact destination of Alanna Panday and Ivor's trip is unknown, it seems that they were travelling to India. What makes us think so? Recently, a video made it to the internet wherein Ananya Panday was seen visiting Alanna's Andhra house. Fans reacted to the video speculating that the new Maasi was busy doing a pre-prep of the baby's welcome.

Alanna Panday and Ivor McCray announced the news of the baby's arrival through a post on Instagram. The clip depicted the trio wearing shades of blue. "Our little angel is here," wrote the new mom on the photo-sharing application as she shared the clip.



Tahira Kashyap

Reveals She Stole Husband Ayushmann Khurrana's Jeans

It is no secret that many women find the ultimate comfort in wearing a cozy tee or shirt from the wardrobe of the men they love. The wife of actor Ayushmann Khurrana, Tahira Kashyap, is no exception to this rule. She does not just borrow clothes from her husband. She claims ownership over them too. Recently, she shared several photos that gave a glimpse into her daily life, including a selfie where she's seen wearing a pair of boyfriend jeans that belong to Ayushmann. The series of photos that Tahira posted on social media includes a selfie which she sent to her girlfriends and asked for their thoughts on the top she was wearing. Following that was a picture with her husband, Ayushmann Khurrana. In her caption, the writer and filmmaker mentioned that she walked out wearing her husband's boyfriend jeans, which she now considers her own.



Tahira continued to describe the other images in her caption. She wrote, "Stepped out of the gym after a workout session. Felt the core strong, but every week is so different for women. Actually every day! The circus of hormones. Recorded Stories In My Head. Squished my squirrel (who is a dog, by the way, but named after food) with all the love. She loves being near mama. Dug into the juiciest burger. Figured that I fit perfectly into a frame called life."

A couple of weeks ago, she also shared another life update, giving a peek into how she's

been managing life with her husband, their kids and loved ones. Captioning it as 'My life lately', she wrote, "Proof of I have been showing up. I Showed Up. Fam night out with matching T-shirts. Night out with my lovely buddies. Peanut with her secret treasure. Watched the Oscar-nominated animated short films (playing at PVR, you can watch it too). My favourite was Ninety-Five Senses. Peanut just doing peanut things. Some of the workouts I have been doing. Not every day is intense." On the professional front, Tahira Kashyap's latest directorial was Sharmajee Ki Beti which was released on June 28. It had Saiyami Kher, Divya Dutta and Sakshi Tanwar in key roles.



Why 1999 Was Salman Khan's Year In Bollywood



In 1999, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan had an incredible year at the box office. He starred in three films that not only became huge hits but also showcased his versatility as an actor. These movies, each from a different genre, impressed the audience and made Salman Khan the reigning star of the year. Let's take a closer look at these three films.

This film was the highest-grossing movie of 1999. Directed and written by Sooraj Barjatya, it was a family drama that resonated deeply with audiences. The film was made on a modest budget of Rs 10 crores and earned an impressive Rs 81.71 crores at the box office. Hum Saath Saath Hain was a multi-starrer, featuring big names like Karisma Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Tabu and Sonali Bendre, along with Salman Khan. The film's ensemble cast also included Mohnish Bahl, Neelam, Mahesh Thakur, Reema Lagoo and Alok Nath in significant roles. The second highest-grossing film of 1999 was Biwi No. 1, a comedy directed by David Dhawan. This film was a remake of the 1995 Tamil movie Sathi Leelavathi. With a budget of 12 crores, Biwi No.1 managed to collect Rs 49.81 crores at the box office. The movie's humorous storyline and lively performances won the hearts of the audience. Besides Salman Khan, the film starred Karisma Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Sushmita Sen, Tabu, and Saif Ali Khan. The chemistry between the cast and the film's engaging plot made it a box-office hit.

The third film that made 1999 a remarkable year for Salman Khan was Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam. Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, this romantic musical became an instant hit. Released internationally as Straight from the Heart, the film starred Salman Khan alongside Ajay Devgan and Aishwarya Rai. With a budget of Rs 16 crores, it earned Rs 51.38 crores at the domestic box office. The film's music, performances and emotional depth struck a chord with viewers, making it a beloved classic.

Krishna Shroff's Stunt On Khatron Ke Khiladi 14 Secures Her Victory With Shalin Bhanot



Actor Jackie Shroff's daughter and Tiger Shroff's sister, Krishna Shroff is leaving everyone stumped with her stunts on Khatron Ke Khiladi 14. With her spectacular comeback in the stunt-based show, she won the hearts of the audience with her performances. During Partners Week on Rohit Shetty's hosted show, Krishna was paired with Shalin Bhanot and they won the task. At the end of the episode, the duo emerged to be the strongest performers. The latest episode of Khatron Ke Khiladi 14 saw jodis like Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia-Abhishek Kumar, Gashmeer Mahajani-Niyati Fatnani, Shilpa Shinde-Karan Veer Mehra and Shalin Bhanot-Krishna Shroff. Krishna and Shaleen faced off against Gashmeer and Niyati in a fire stunt. The task required the partner to walk on a path and avoid fireballs. The first contestant had to move forward while the second had to avoid the fireballs and pull down a sandbag. During the stunt, Shaleen caught fire midway and had to jump into the water for their safety. Following the rules, Krishna continued the task alone and collected all five flags and won, while their opponent could collect just four flags. Shalin also shared a video on his Instagram account. The caption read, "Playing with fire. Quite Literally with my partner in crime, Krishna Shroff... and of course the fun of breaking all the cars. Thank you Colors TV for letting us scrap the cars like it's nothing."

Next, the contestants performed a car stunt where the driver of the car was blindfolded and had to drive with the help of a partner's instructions only. This stunt was performed by 3 pairs, Gashmeer Mahajani and Sumona Chakravarti, Karanveer Mehra and Shilpa Shinde and Shalin Bhanot and Krishna Shroff. Every pair was seated in a car and behind were four balls. During the stunt, they had to break the balls of the opponent's cars by hitting them. Shaleen Bhanot remained blindfolded while Krishna Shroff gave directions. She first targeted Karanveer-Shilpa's car and then the remaining two pairs were on equal footing. However, with Krishna's fine judgement, Shalin burst the last ball, won the stunt and saved themselves from the elimination round. The host of the show praised Shalin and Krishna Shroff for their spectacular performance.

IC 814 survivors say Netflix series shows truth but not all of what went down

Rakesh and Pooja Kataria, who spoke to India Today TV, were a young couple at the time of the incident. They were returning home from their honeymoon in Nepal. The couple asserted that the codenames used for the hijackers in the Netflix series is true.

► **IC 814 survivors Pooja and Rakesh Kataria were returning from their honeymoon in Nepal**
 ► **Rakesh refused to watch the Netflix show, did not want to relive the ordeal**
 ► **Couple asserted 'truth' shown in Netflix series, not fiction**

New Delhi. Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the Netflix series 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack' over the 'Hindu' codenames of the terrorists who hijacked the Delhi-bound Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu 25 years ago, two survivors have shared their insights into the row. One of the two survivors, however, said that the series did miss out on few incidents that took place internally and focused more on the political angle.

Rakesh and Pooja Kataria were a young couple who were returning home from their honeymoon in Nepal. Speaking to India Today TV, Rakesh Kataria said he refused to watch the Netflix show because "I did not want to relive the ordeal again".

I have heard about the controversies,

but what Netflix has shown is the truth," he said. Rakesh said out of the five hijackers, two were codenamed "Bhola and Shankar". "Those weren't their actual names, just aliases. Netflix did not make up the names. The five hijackers were Muslim, but the two had Hindu codenames. This is not made up, Netflix has tried to show the truth."

Echoing her husband's statement, Pooja Kataria told India Today TV that "Bhola and Shankar were the names used to call the two hijackers. This is not fiction, but the complete truth".

"Burger, Doctor, Bhola, Shankar and Chief, were the codenames of the five terrorists. What you see in the Netflix show, is what we actually went through," she said, adding that watching the series was like reliving

the incident 25 years later. Pooja also said that the Netflix series did not show much of what happened internally, but it focused more on the political side, including the negotiations between the hijackers and the Indian government.

She went on to recall that there were a total of 26 couples who were returning from their honeymoon in Nepal, including Rachna and Rupin Katyal, the latter who was killed by the hijackers. "The scene from when the terrorists announced that the plane had been hijacked, including asking the passengers to keep their heads down from shifting the seats, is exactly the same as what happened in reality." "We did not really understand at the time what was happening. The



term 'hijack' wasn't very popular back in 1999. We thought they would ask for some ransom and get it over with. Little did we know that the ordeal would last seven days. The hijackers also thought that it would end in two days because they asked the stewardess if there was enough water to last for two days," she noted. Pooja went on to say the hijacker named Doctor had given a speech where he asked the

passengers to convert to Islam. "He (Doctor) used to say Islam is a better religion, much better than Hinduism. He gave at least three such speeches and the people did get convinced. But on the 30th (December 30, 1999), the hijackers told us that 'we will have to start killing you now, your government is not doing anything (for your release)'. "During the interview with India Today TV, Pooja also showed some items that she kept as memorabilia from the flight, including a shawl autographed by Burger, which said "To my dearest sister and her handsome husband, Burger - 30/12/99". Other items included the tickets, boarding passes, a can of Pakistani Pepsi, toothpaste and a cigarette holder.

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

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

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

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

2 Bodies Found After Indian Coast Guard Helicopter Crashed In Arabian Sea

New Delhi: Two out of three bodies have been recovered after the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) crashed in the Arabian Sea during an emergency landing when it was approaching a vessel for the evacuation of an injured crew member. One crewmember was saved earlier when the wreckage was located.

The bodies recovered on Tuesday have been identified as Commandant Vipin Babu and P/NVK Karan Singh, as per the Porbandar Coast Guard DIG Pankaj Agarwal. The helicopter had saved the lives of 67 people during the recent cyclonic weather in Gujarat and was forced to make the emergency landing in the Arabian Sea during a rescue operation about 45 km



from Porbandar. The rescue operation was launched around 11 pm on Monday for the medical evacuation of a seriously injured crew onboard Indian flagged Motor Tanker Hari Leela, about 45 km from Porbandar into the sea, in response to a request received from the Master of the vessel, the Indian Coast Guard said in a statement.

Earlier on August 26, the Indian Coast Guard rescued 11 crew members from the distressed MV ITT Puma during a challenging night-time search and rescue operation, a press release said. According to the release, the Mumbai-registered general cargo vessel was en route from Kolkata to Port Blair when it reportedly sank about 90 nautical miles south of Sagar Island (West Bengal).

No pension for defectors: Himachal Pradesh introduces new bill in Assembly

New Delhi. A bill was introduced on Tuesday in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly seeking to halt pension benefits for members disqualified under the anti-defection law. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill 2024 was presented by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The bill stipulates, "A person shall not be entitled to a pension under the Act if they have been disqualified at any point under the tenth schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law)".

Earlier this year, six Congress

MLAs—Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Chetanya Sharma, and

discussions on a cut motion. Although Sudhir Sharma and Inder Dutt Lakhanpal regained their seats through by-elections, the other four failed to secure re-election.

These six MLAs had also supported BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha elections held on February 27, 2024, reported news agency PTI. The amendment's statement of objects and reasons highlights the need for the bill, citing the absence of provisions in the 1971 Act to discourage defection, prevent constitutional violations, protect the people's mandate, and uphold democratic values.



Manipur BJP MLA Asks Centre To Ban ITLF, Kuki Groups Raise Chief Minister Audio Tape Row

New Delhi: An MLA of the ruling BJP in ethnic violence-hit Manipur has called for banning a Kuki group that has been spearheading the call for a separate administration carved out of Manipur. The MLA, Rajkumar Imo Singh, who is also the son-in-law of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, appealed to the Home Ministry to ban the Kuki group Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) alleging the group has been taking financial aid to buy lethal drones, bombs and ammunition.

The MLA, who belongs to the valley-dominant Meitei community, in a post on X uploaded purported photos of a person with an identity card under the name 'Haopu Vaiphei' and the words 'ITLF Drone Squad'. "Who is this person with ITLF ID and who all are training these people to attack innocent civilians?" Imo Singh said. He also posted a purported ITLF-issued

receipt that claimed the Bnei Menashe community sent ₹ 3.9 lakh "financial assistance" to the ITLF defence department". The Bnei Menashe refers to some Kuki and Mizo people who claim descent from one of the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel.

Fake Receipt, Says ITLF

ITLF spokesperson Ginza Vualzong told NDTV the receipt posted by Imo Singh is "fake" and should not be taken seriously. On the visuals of the drone operator, Mr Vualzong said ITLF has no knowledge of it. "These are old videos, where some people were doing surveillance. ITLF has no knowledge of it," Mr Vualzong told.

Imo Singh made the allegations after two civilians were killed and nine were injured in firing and drone attacks by suspected Kuki insurgents in Manipur on Sunday. It was the first recorded use of drones to drop bombs on civilians

by suspected insurgents in India. On Monday, another drone dropped two bombs in Imphal West district's Senjam Chirang, leaving three injured, the police said. The bombs tore through the roof of a house, visuals taken by the police show. "As a legislator of the state of Manipur, I seek for the organisation namely ITLF to be declared as a banned organisation. If these pictures are all true, if they are taking financial assistance to procure lethal drones, other arms and ammunition including bombs to attack innocent people, they have to be banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," Imo Singh said. "As I said earlier, it's not just an ethnic conflict; it is an act of terror, an act of waging war against our country, the state of Manipur, its people, who are the citizens of our country," he added.

Delhi High Court Refuses Early Hearing To Sharjeel Imam's Bail Plea In UAPA Case

A bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait said since the matter was already listed for final hearing on October 7, there was no ground to advance the date.

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant an "early hearing" to student activist Sharjeel Imam on his plea seeking bail in a case registered against him under anti-terror law UAPA over the alleged larger conspiracy behind the communal riots that erupted in the national capital in February 2020. Bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait said since the matter was already listed for final hearing on October 7, there was no ground to advance the date. Imam, Umar Khalid and several others have been booked under the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

The violence had erupted during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). mam's counsel told the matter that his appeal challenging the trial court order rejecting his bail application has been pending for 28 months and despite the case being listed several times, it has not reached its conclusion. The bench, also comprising Justice Girish Kathpalia, observed that every day there are over 80 matters listed before it and Imam's appeal is listed only next month at a fixed time along with similar appeals by other co-accused.

"Since appeal is listed for final hearing on October 7 at 3:15 pm, there is no ground to prepone the date. The application is dismissed," the court said.

In his application seeking early hearing, Imam said his plea has been listed for hearing at least 62 times before seven different division benches of the high court after issuance of notice in 2022. "On account of frequent changes in the



composition of benches owing to roster change, recusal and transfer of honourable judges, the hearing in the matter never concluded and thereby having led to a fresh cycle of hearing beginning every such time," the application said. The plea also emphasised that the trial in the present matter has been pending before the special court since 2020 but the investigation was still ongoing and charges have not yet been framed so far. "The trial in the present case shall be protracted and will take a long time to

even commence, much less conclude. On account of appellant's continued incarceration for almost four-and-a-half years, the appellant, a research scholar who has spent his entire life seeking academic pursuits, is unable to pursue his education and graduate with a doctorate degree." The Supreme Court has ruled that bail applications ought to be decided expeditiously and preferably within two-four weeks, and the NIA Act also states that appeals have to be decided as far as possible within a period of three months from the date of admission of the appeal, the plea further said. Imam, in his appeal filed in 2022, has assailed a trial court order of April 11, 2022 that denied him bail.

Delhi Police, which arrested Imam in the present case on August 25, 2020, earlier opposed the bail plea on the grounds that he mobilised people from the minority community and "propagated" 'chakka' jam (strike) as a mode of disruption with "no window for peaceful protest". Police claimed the protests were part of a conspiracy to cause violence to coincide with the visit of then US President Donald Trump, and Imam, in his public addresses, propagated the idea of chakka jam as the plan of action to paralyse the government.

Meghamalai

Land of greens and blues

The misty Meghamalai, is a perfect weekend getaway to unwind. We explore the surprises in store for us..

As the dusk falls and city lights up on Friday, people with wanderlust break their heads over a weekend getaway. All one wants is a change from the week routine. One of the ideal weekend spots near the city is Meghamalai in Theni district where one can spend some quality time and re-connect with nature.

Land of greens and blues

Meghamalai is a misty mountain range located in Theni district (part of Western Ghats) at 1,500 metres above sea level. The place is more popular for the tea estates where access is restricted. However, one can still enjoy the sight of the lush green forests and valleys. Sivaraman, a tourist says, "Till now, we assumed Kodaikanal to be the only weekend spot. However, after visiting Meghamalai, we are happy to have found an alternative place to unwind." If you choose to travel via Chinnamanur, you cannot miss the scenic beauty along the way. "The main attractions include tea estates, forest, dams and water falls. If you are planning a day's trip, then you can reach by morning and spend the rest of the hours relaxing in waters and

scouting for elephants and bison. If you're lucky, then you can catch a glimpse of the jumbos quenching their thirst in the water," adds Sivaraman.

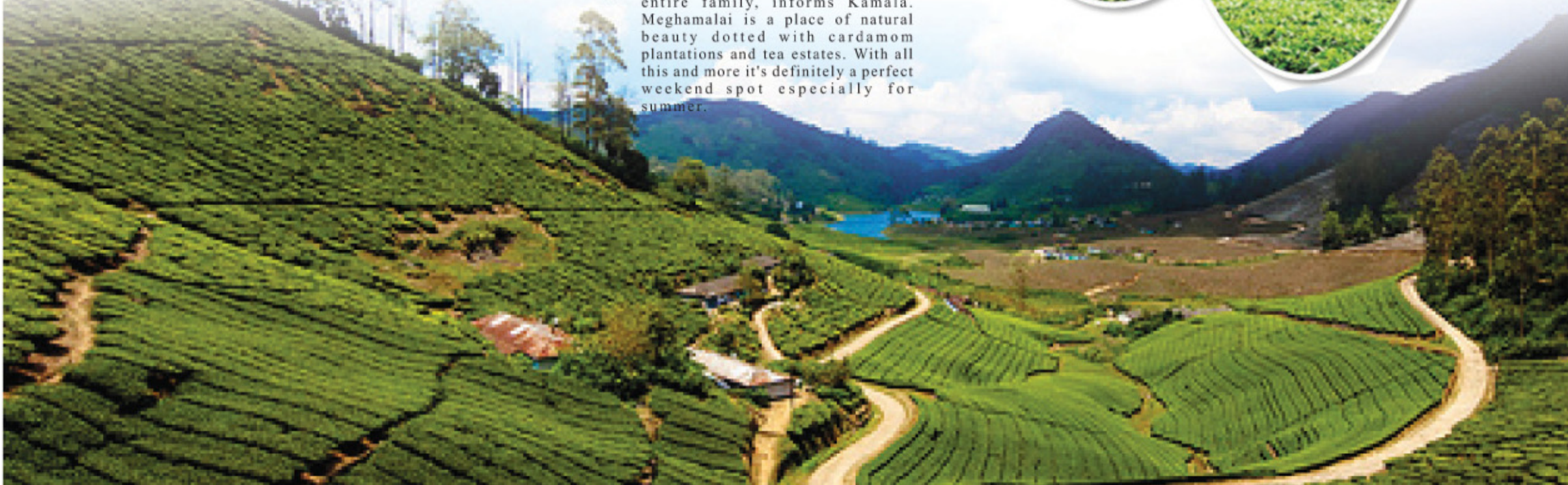
Bird's eye view

Meghamalai hills are the originating point of river Suruli. Hence, the twin waterfalls located at its course is perennial throughout the year. Karthikeyan, a tourist guide explains, "The tourism officials help tourists get a better view of the wildlife in this area. Due to the presence of water throughout the year, some of the wild animals like the spotted deer and gaur hit the spot frequently during sunrise and sunset." Apart from the waterfalls and the tea estates, the main attraction of Meghamalai is the Vellimalai (the silver mountain). Vellimalai is 1,650 metres above sea level. "This is the place from where the River Vaigai originates. The hills are also home to six dams, including the Manalar dam from where one can view the Cumbam valley. A weekend of fascinating facts is only a hours away our monotonous life," adds the excited tourist guide.

A haven for rare species

"Wild animals are spotted near the foothills,"

says Kamala Devi, a student who has returned from a recent visit to the hills of Meghamalai. "The hills opens up to a huge expanse of the tea and coffee plantations that is enveloped by the aroma of the spices. But the road narrows down as we approach the top of the hill and paves way for the dense forests that is least disturbed. Also, this place is a perfect spot for bird watching as different species of birds including the great Indian hornbills can be spotted here. The most adventurous part of the tour would be to spot a leopard or a tiger in the area." An endangered species of squirrel (flying squirrels) are found flying between the trees of the forest. However the major gripe tourists have is that the place lacks hotels for accommodation. Although the Panchayat rest houses and forest lodges can be booked much in advance to secure a perfect stay for an entire family, informs Kamala. Meghamalai is a place of natural beauty dotted with cardamom plantations and tea estates. With all this and more it's definitely a perfect weekend spot especially for summer.



Trichy is a city of a million sounds and sights. From the picturesque banks of Cauvery to the grand old Trichinopoly cigars, from the natural wonder Rockfort to religious shrines aplenty, there's something for everyone who visits the city...

Rockfort

A 3,800 million year old rock structure with a shrine on top is considered to be older than the Himalayas and is the pride of the

mentioned it in his books and Trichinopoly is synonymous with Cigar in the Oxford Dictionary - that is how world famous the cigar of the region is.

Grand Anicut

One of the oldest dam built around 2000 years is said to be a symbol of Dravidian engineering. Built by Karikala Cholan, it is used a model for building modern day architecture - probably one of the

Trichy

rich in heritage and history

From the pages of literature to the minds of historians, Trichy occupies a special place. Here's a look at all the things that our city can call its very own...



city. It is visible for miles around the city and a view from the top, is mesmerizing either by sunrise or sunset.

River Cauvery

The town is on the banks of the River Cauvery making it one of the most fertile regions in the state. A walk on the Cauvery bridge, a dip in the river and some classical music - this would make a perfect outing for most Trichiites.

Trichinopoly Cigar

Winston Churchill has claimed to have a long standing affair with this; Sherlock Holmes has said to have

oldest used dams in the world.

Sri Rangam temple

The biggest functioning Hindu temple in the world Sri Rangam, is the sacred amongst the Vaishnavites. The temple is on the island, Sri Rangam and the mythological stories that surrounds the history of the temple is fascinating.

The Southern Railways

Established in 1850 with its headquarters at the city, The Southern Railways played a prominent role during the British Raj. However, now it has been

shifted to Chennai - the Golden Rock Workshop is still one of the three mechanical workshops serving the Southern railways till date.

Natharvalli Dargah

A 1000 year old mosque once an Easwaran Temple - it is the tomb of Baba Natharvalli. It stands as a symbol of how the Trichiites are a group of peace loving people who accept all religions and co exist in harmony throughout the years!!

Lady of Lourdes church

A replica of the Lourdes Church in France is situated within St. Joseph's College compounds. Gothic architecture, intricately stained glass panels with its towering spire makes it remarkable of Indian craftsmanship.



Gold, silver price : Precious metals record hike on MCX

New Delhi. Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Gold futures, maturing on October 4, 2024, stood at Rs 71,485 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 104 or 0.15 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 71,381.

Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on September 5, 2024, witnessed a marginal hike of Rs 28 or 0.03 per cent and were retailing at Rs 83,280 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 83,252. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices held steady on Wednesday as investors braced for a monthly U.S. payrolls report that could influence how swiftly and deeply the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates this year, news agency Reuters reported.

According to the latest metal report, spot gold held its ground at \$2,495.00 per ounce by 0436 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures rose 0.1 per cent to \$2,526.40.

Sensex, Nifty decline as IT shares plunge; Coal India down over 3%

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened the trading session on a weak note as information technology stocks declined amid concerns over a slowdown in the US economy. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 404.78 points to 82,150.66 at 10:20 am, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 136.35 points to trade at 25,143.50.

Market analysts cited several reason behind the correction in the domestic market, especially the slowing economic growth in India and globally.

Heavyweight Nifty IT was down 1.4% and was the top loser among sectoral indices. Most other indices were also trading in negative territory. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Asian Paints, Grasim, BPCL, HUL and Ultratech Cement. On the other hand, the top losers were Coal India, ONGC, Wipro, LTIM and Infosys.

Several IT stocks fell in early trade due to nervousness over the fate of the US economy ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy meet later this month.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "Historically September has been a weak month for global markets. This has been true for the last four years. Going by early trends, this might again turn out to be true this year, too."

"The selloff in US markets yesterday was triggered by growth concerns. There are indications of US manufacturing moving into contraction thereby threatening the soft landing expectation, which has been the pillar of support for the mother market US and consequently for other markets, too," he added.

"The buy on dips strategy that has been working well in this bull run may play out this time, too. Retail investors waiting for a correction are likely to jump in on dips. Will the trend sustain remains to be seen," Vijayakumar noted. He suggested that quality largecap stocks are likely to offer safety to long-term investors in the "present stage of market where there is no valuation comfort in the broader market".

GSTN to roll out IMS from October 1 to match invoices

NEW DELHI. The GST Network will introduce the Invoice Management System (IMS) on October 1 to assist taxpayers in reconciling their invoices with those issued by their suppliers, ensuring they can accurately claim the correct Input Tax Credit (ITC).

With IMS, taxpayers can effectively manage invoice corrections and amendments with their suppliers through the portal. "This will also facilitate taxpayers to efficiently address invoice corrections/amendments with their records/invoices vis-a-vis issued by their suppliers for availing the correct ITC," GSTN stated.

The IMS will enable recipient taxpayers to accept, reject, or keep invoices pending within the system for future review. This feature will be accessible to taxpayers starting October 1 on the GST portal.

According to Rajat Mohan, Executive Director, MOORE Singhi, in the short term, this advisory could pose a considerable challenge for software companies, which will need to realign their processes to integrate with the



new system. The transition may be complex, but it is necessary to adapt to the evolving regulatory environment. "By maintaining a detailed record of all actions taken on each invoice, the Integrated Management System (IMS) creates a robust audit trail that is invaluable during GST audits. This feature provides tax authorities with clear evidence of the recipient's due diligence in managing ITC claims, potentially simplifying the scrutiny process," Mohan added. Additionally, the IMS could pave the way for future automation and AI integration, such as AI-driven predictive analysis for ITC claims, automated dispute resolution for invoice discrepancies, and enhanced fraud detection mechanisms. To implement this advisory, both state and central governments will need to amend and reissue the relevant tax rules and forms within their statutory frameworks.

Ebix becomes debt-free after acquisition by Eraaya LifeSpaces

Ebix's successful restructuring and debt-free status mark a new chapter for the company, setting the stage for continued growth and investment in its business operations globally.



New Delhi. Ebix Inc., a prominent player in the On-Demand software and e-commerce sectors for insurance, financial services, healthcare, and e-learning, has successfully exited Chapter 11 bankruptcy and has emerged debt-free.

The company has achieved this milestone in less than nine months after initiating the restructuring process, marking a swift and notable recovery for the company.

The restructuring plan was confirmed by the court on August 2, 2024, and became

effective on August 30, 2024. It involved global legal and financial teams from multiple offices, including Sidley AUSTIN LLP and professionals from major accounting and investment banking firms. The acquisition by Eraaya LifeSpaces Limited, a publicly traded company on the Bombay Stock Exchange, is a key component of Ebix's revitalisation strategy. Ebix will remain a US-based company, continuing its operations under US laws, while integrating its financial results into Eraaya. The transition is aimed at bolstering shareholder returns and

ensuring uninterrupted service for clients. Ebix's Founder and CEO, Robin Raina, will continue to lead the company, maintaining his roles as CEO and Chairman. Raina, who has been instrumental in shaping Ebix's global presence, highlighted the company's commitment to maintaining its strong market position. "Today marks a significant milestone in Ebix's 48-year history. Through the relentless efforts of our team of advisors and employees worldwide, we are moving forward in an incredibly strong market position with an exciting road ahead of us," Raina said.

He also highlighted the company's focus on "consistent profitable growth" and its strategic strengths, including its expertise in on-Demand software and expansive distribution network.

Business as usual for EbixCash

Ebix's operations in India, particularly through EbixCash, will continue as usual. EbixCash's extensive financial services portfolio includes domestic and international money remittance, foreign exchange, travel, and wealth management, serviced through numerous channels across India and Southeast Asia. With a clean balance sheet and an 85% recurring revenue base, Ebix is well-positioned to drive future growth and profitability. Raina expressed confidence in the company's potential, stating, "Ebix 2.0 intends to be lean, efficient, and focused on consistent profitable growth."

The company's strategic vision involves leveraging its strengths to deliver top-tier services and enhance shareholder value.

Ebix's successful restructuring and debt-free status mark a new chapter for the company, setting the stage for continued growth and investment in its business operations globally.

India's services sector growth jumps to 5-month high in August



NEW DELHI. India's services sector saw a significant boost in August, growing at its fastest pace in five months, according to a survey by HSBC and S&P Global.

The Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 60.9 in August, up from 60.3 in July, marking the highest level since March. This is well

above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction, indicating strong expansion. "This growth was largely fuelled by an increase in new orders, particularly domestic orders," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. The survey highlighted that new business orders, especially from within India, played a

key role in driving the growth, with the new business sub-index reaching a four-month high. While international demand for services remained solid, its growth slowed to a six-month low.

Despite this, companies in the services sector remained optimistic about future demand, although their confidence dipped to its lowest in over a year.

Hiring in the sector continued, though at a slightly reduced pace. Meanwhile, cost pressures, such as those from food, labor, and transportation, rose moderately. However, the increase in costs faced by service providers slowed to a four-year low.

"Input costs rose at their slowest pace in six months," Bhandari added, noting that this trend was observed in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Overall, with inflation easing, companies passed on costs to customers at a much slower rate compared to July. This was reflected in India's inflation data, which showed a near five-year low in July.

India losing out to countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam in manufacturing: World Bank

India's trade in goods and services has been declining as a percentage of gross domestic product over the past decade despite its economic heft, the World Bank said in a report on Tuesday.



New Delhi India's global trade share hasn't kept pace with its fast growing economy, and the country is losing out to rivals like Bangladesh and Vietnam

as low-cost manufacturing export hubs, the World Bank said according to a Bloomberg report. India's trade in goods and services has been declining as a percentage of gross domestic product over the past decade despite its economic heft, the World Bank said in a report on Tuesday. India's share in global exports of apparel, leather, textiles, and footwear has declined from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 3.5 percent

in 2022. In contrast, Bangladesh's share in global exports of these goods reached 5.1 percent, while Vietnam's stood at 5.9 percent in 2022, the report noted. India's export sectors, Bloomberg added, are increasingly capital intensive, though, and unable to absorb millions of jobless people in the country. The World Bank estimated that direct employment related to exports fell from a peak of 9.5 percent of total domestic employment in 2012 to 6.5 percent in 2020. According to the report, the World Bank expects India's economy to continue growing at a rapid pace of 7 per cent in the current fiscal year through March 2025 after expanding more than 8 percent in the past year. Growth will probably average 6.7 per cent in 2025-26 and.

Employment in exports sector falling

NEW DELHI. Employment generation in export-related activities is shrinking in India as it misses out to countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh and even Germany in taking advantage of China's declining share of low-skilled manufacturing exports, the World Bank has said in its latest India Development report. According to the World Bank, direct employment related to exports has fallen from a peak of 9.5% of total domestic employment in 2012 to 6.5% in 2020. There was a similar trend in indirect employment, which peaked at 9.6% in 2006 and then fell to 6.4% by 2020. The global agency argues that this has happened because the share of low-skilled manufacturing exports has fallen from over 50% in 2012 to around 35% in 2022.

"Because these (exports) sectors are highly capital-intensive, they are ill-suited to employ large shares of the Indian workforce," the World Bank says in its report titled India's Trade Opportunities in a Changing Global Context.

The report while raising India's FY25 GDP forecast from 6.6% to 7% noted that to reach its \$1 trillion export target by 2030, India needs to diversify its exports and increase its participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs). "Over the past decades, despite rapid overall economic growth, India's trade in goods and services has decreased as a percentage of GDP and India's participation in GVCs has fallen," says the World Bank. India's share in global exports of labour-intensive manufactured goods like apparel, leather, textiles, and footwear (ALTF) initially grew from 0.9% in 2002 to a peak of 4.5% in 2013, but it subsequently declined to 3.5% in 2022. In contrast, Bangladesh and Vietnam have achieved strong growth, with Bangladesh reaching 5.1% and Vietnam 5.9% of global ALTF exports in

According to the WB report, capital-intensive sectors in 2020 accounted for 70% of manufacturing GVA and 50% of formal manufacturing job in India. In contrast, labor-intensive sectors, such as apparel and textiles, which account for less than 20% of formal manufacturing GVA, were responsible for over 40% of formal manufacturing jobs.

The report also highlighted India's limited participation in Global value chains.

"Low-skilled mfg exports fell to 35% in 2022"

As per the World Bank, direct employment related to exports has fallen from a peak of 9.5% of total domestic employment in 2012 to 6.5% in 2020. There was a similar trend in indirect jobs, which peaked at 9.6% in 2006 and then fell to 6.4% by 2020. The global agency argues that this has happened because the share of low-skilled manufacturing exports has fallen from over 50% in 2012 to around 35% in 2022.

Sebi employees accuse top leadership of creating toxic work environment: Report

New Delhi Nearly half of the officers at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) have accused the market regulator's leadership of fostering a toxic work environment, reported The Economic Times. According to a letter sent to the finance ministry on August 6, Sebi employees alleged that "shouting, scolding, and public humiliation have become a norm in meetings," creating a hostile atmosphere that has negatively impacted their mental health and work-life balance.

'Harsh and unprofessional language'

The letter, titled "Grievances of Sebi Officers - A Call for Respect," was signed by around 500 of Sebi's 1,000 officers and marks a significant escalation in the tensions within the organisation. The employees claimed that despite raising these concerns internally, their complaints have been ignored, prompting them to seek intervention from the finance ministry. The officers criticised Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's leadership style, accusing her of using "harsh and unprofessional language" and



monitoring employees' "minute-by-minute movement." The letter also highlighted the imposition of "unrealistic work targets with changing goalsposts," which has exacerbated stress and anxiety among employees. "In the name of increasing efficiency, the management has overhauled systems and put in place regressive policies," the letter states, adding that fear has become the "primary driving force in Sebi over the last 2-3

years." The officers further noted that senior management often "calls names" and "shouts" at them, creating an oppressive work environment. The letter also raised concerns about recent measures introduced by the management, such as the installation of turnstile gates to monitor intra-day attendance, which employees argue is intrusive and particularly challenging for those with visual impairments. The officers have

demanding the removal of these gates, stating they represent an unnecessary level of control over their movements.

Sebi says issues resolved

In response to these allegations, Sebi has stated that the issues raised have been addressed. "The issues referred to in your mail have already been addressed by Sebi," the regulator said in an email. Sebi also noted that changes have been made to the format of review meetings to improve the work environment. The two associations representing Sebi employees have acknowledged these changes, according to the regulator. Regarding the turnstile gates, Sebi said they were installed recently, and a decision to review their necessity would be made in consultation with employees after six months. The letter also criticised the increased Key Result Area (KRA) targets, which have been raised by 20-50% this year with a deadline of December. The employees argued that these targets are unrealistic and have led to significant stress.

NEWS BOX

India wins 20 medals, betters Tokyo mark for best-ever Paralympics tally

New Delhi. The medal tally for India hit 20 on September 3, Tuesday after a late surge from the contingent on Day 6 of the Paris Paralympics 2024. Deepthi Jeevanji, Sharad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Ajeet Singh and Sundar Gurjar all clinched medals late into Tuesday to ensure that India finished the day on a high after a few near misses at the start of proceedings. Bhagyashri Mahavrao and Avani Lekhara finished 5th in the Women's Shot Put - F34 Final and Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1 Final respectively. India won 19 medals in Tokyo in 2021 — which was their best-ever tally in the Paralympics. With four more competition days left, India can dream of taking it past 25 and setting a new high.

Pooja Khanna was also eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Women's Individual Recurve Open as the onus fell on Jeevanji and the high jump and javelin athletes to make a mark. Jeevanji secured India's third track medal by winning bronze in the women's 400m T20 final. The world champion sprinter clocked a time of 55.82



seconds to claim the podium finish. At the Paris Paralympics, Ajeet Singh and Sundar Gurjar delivered outstanding performances in the men's javelin F46 event, securing medals for India. The duo achieved their season-best throws to claim silver and bronze, completing a remarkable 2-3 finish for the country. Ajeet Singh, who had been trailing Sundar Gurjar for most of the event, surged ahead with his fifth throw, recording a distance of 65.62 meters to clinch the silver medal. Sundar Gurjar followed closely with a best throw of 64.96 meters, earning the bronze. The event was won by Cuba's Guillermo Varona Gonzalez, who set a new Area Record with a throw of 66.14 meters.

India's third participant, Rinku, also recorded his season-best performance with a throw of 61.58 meters, finishing in fifth place in the event. India's Sharad Kumar won silver, and Mariyappan Thangavelu secured bronze in the Men's High Jump - T63 Final on Tuesday, September 3. Sharad achieved a top jump of 1.88 meters, setting a new Paralympic record in the T42 category.

Pakistan drop to eight in ICC Test rankings following loss to Bangladesh

The 2-0 series win has bolstered Bangladesh in the points table for the World Test Championship cycle 2023-25 as they are now placed fourth behind table-toppers India, Australia at second and New Zealand at third.

DUBAI. Pakistan's first-ever series loss to Bangladesh has resulted in Shan Masood's team slipping down to the eighth position in the ICC Test rankings besides hitting a historic low of lowest rating points since 1965. Pakistan was thrashed by 10 wickets in the first Test while the hosts lost the second by six wickets with Rawalpindi hosting both matches. The hosts were sixth in the rankings table before the series, but back-to-back losses have seen them drop below West Indies to eighth with 76 rating points. "This is the lowest rating points Pakistan have had in



the Test rankings table since 1965, barring a brief period where they did not have a place in the rankings due to an insufficient number of matches. "Bangladesh's chase in the second Test of 185 was also the third highest successful chase in Pakistan for any visiting side, but there was a little in terms of promotion for the Tigers". Bangladesh remained in ninth position and behind Pakistan despite gaining 13 rating points. However, the 2-0 series win has bolstered Bangladesh in the points table for the World Test Championship cycle 2023-25 as they are now placed fourth behind table-toppers India, Australia at second and New Zealand at third. Bangladesh, who will now focus their attention on a two-Test series against India starting in Chennai on September 19, have 45.83 percentage points and 33 points with three wins and as many defeats in six Tests. In WTC, teams get 12 points for a Test win, four for a draw and six for a tie while being ranked according to percentage of points won.

US Open: Injury haunts valiant Dimitrov, Tiafoe vs Fritz in all-American semis

After a heartbreaking Monday, three big names (two individual and one team) will be in action on Tuesday — the men's hockey team (semifinal against Germany), Vinesh Phogat (in the women's 50kg in wrestling) and Neeraj Chopra (in the men's javelin).

New Delhi. Frances Tiafoe's love story with the US Open continued as the 20th seed reached the semi-final stage at the season's last Grand Slam tournament for the second time in his career. Tiafoe progressed to the last-four stage after his opponent and veteran Grigor Dimitrov retired with an injury when trailing 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 4-1 in the quarter-final match on Tuesday evening at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. Frances Tiafoe will face 12th seed Taylor Fritz in an all-American semi-final on Friday and the 26-year-old is confident that the New York crowd will back him more than the highest-ranked American men's singles player.



Notably, this is the first time since 2005 that two Americans will face in the semi-final of a Grand Slam tournament since Andre Agassi-Robby Ginepri at the US Open in 2005.

US Open: Full Coverage
With Tiafoe or Fritz assured of a place in the title match, this will also be the first time an American man will be in a Grand Slam final since Andy Roddick took on Roger Federer

at the US Open in 2006. Fritz knocked out fourth seed Alexander Zverev in the first men's singles quarter-final in New York earlier in the day. On Tuesday, Tiafoe came out all guns blazing, taking the opening set 6-3. However, Dimitrov bounced back, dragging Tiafoe into a second-set tie-breaker. The Bulgarian, ranked as high as No. 3, showed glimpses of his vintage self, winning the second set. However, an upper-

leg injury surfaced in the third set, hampering Dimitrov's comeback bid. The seasoned campaigner carried on and tried to play the fourth set, but he retired when he was trailing 1-4. Dimitrov brought out his one-handed backhand to hit a sensational pass in the second set tie-breaker, reminding fans of his glory days. However, the Bulgarian was not able to sustain the level with injury robbing him of another crack at Grand Slam glory. It was a heartbreaking end to Dimitrov's campaign in New York. The 33-year-old, who was back in the top 10 this year, fancied his chances of making a deeper run in the tournament, especially after the early exits of Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. However, familiar injury issues halted his run. Notably, Dimitrov had retired during his Round of 16 match at Wimbledon with a similar injury. Dimitrov, who has been haunted by injury concerns throughout his career, reached his first Grand Slam quarter-final in three years at Roland Garros in 2024. "It's not how I want to get through. But I'm happy to be through. Another semifinal here. Incredible. It was a high-level match. I like where I was at in the third, regardless. But I didn't want to end it like that. Especially for me and for the crowd."

Drinks on me tonight: Sabalenka picks hilarious way to bag US Open fan support

Aryna Sabalenka playfully offered to buy drinks for fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium after her US Open quarterfinal win, securing her fourth consecutive semi-final appearance with a dominant performance against Qinwen Zheng.

New York. Aryna Sabalenka made headlines not just for her on-court performance but also for her lighthearted moment with fans at the Arthur Ashe Stadium after her US Open quarterfinal clash against Qinwen Zheng on September 3. Following her victory, Sabalenka humorously offered to pay for drinks for the crowd, seeking a bit of extra support from the fans. This playful gesture added to the celebratory atmosphere, further



endearing her to the spectators. Sabalenka secured her place in the US Open semi-finals for the fourth consecutive year by dominating Zheng 6-1, 6-2. "Drinks on me tonight? Drink on me and please give me some support in the next match," Sabalenka said. This victory marked Sabalenka as the first woman since Venus Williams to achieve

four straight semi-final appearances at the US Open, a testament to her consistency and skill on the big stage. From the start, Sabalenka showcased her clear superiority over her Chinese opponent. Her powerful strokes and strategic play left Zheng with few opportunities to gain any momentum. Sabalenka controlled the match with poise and precision, demonstrating why she remains one of the top contenders in women's tennis. As Sabalenka continues her impressive run at the US Open, her ability to connect with the crowd and maintain a lighthearted approach to the pressures of high-stakes competition makes her a fan favorite. With her semi-final spot secured, all eyes will be on Sabalenka as she goes up against Emma Navvaro, who defeated Paulo Badosa in her run to the same.

US Open: 'Terrible' Zverev loses to Fritz, semis-bound Sabalenka emulates Venus

New York. Taylor Fritz made history by securing his first-ever US Open semi-final spot, overcoming fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev in a thrilling quarter-final clash on September 4. As the highest-ranked American, Fritz delivered a performance that electrified the Arthur Ashe Stadium, defeating Zverev 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3). The match was a rollercoaster, with both players having moments of dominance. Fritz's relentless pressure, particularly targeting Zverev's forehand, paid off as he maintained his composure during crucial points. Zverev, however, showed his resilience by clawing back from a 0-40 deficit while serving to stay in the set, ultimately forcing a tiebreak. One of the match's standout moments came when Zverev, following a racquet change, unleashed a potential shot of the tournament. But Fritz's steady hand and mental toughness saw him through, setting up a chance to end America's long wait for a Grand Slam champion on home soil. This victory marks a significant milestone in Fritz's career, proving he's a force to be reckoned with on the biggest stages. Zverev even made sure to vent out his frustration during the post-match press conference where he effectively slammed his own performance against Fritz. The German had no hesitation in pointing out his flaws, and praising his opponent. "I played terrible. Just from the baseline -- I mean, serving and actually returning was actually okay. From the baseline I played absolutely terrible. I don't know," Zverev said. "My backhand, I don't remember since being on tour hitting my backhand this badly. I just don't. I mean, I was missing shots which were in the middle of the court with no pace, and bottom of the net. Terrible. Just absolutely terrible by me," Zverev added.

Sabalenka marches to semis
Aryna Sabalenka secured her place in the US Open semi-finals for the fourth consecutive year by defeating Qinwen Zheng in a dominant quarter-final performance. Sabalenka displayed remarkable composure and finesse, overpowering Zheng 6-1, 6-2 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. With this victory, Sabalenka became the first woman since Serena Williams, who achieved six straight appearances from 2008 to 2014, to reach four consecutive US Open semi-finals. Sabalenka's clear upper hand over her Chinese opponent was evident from the start, as she controlled the match with powerful strokes and strategic play.

Source of inspiration: PM congratulates Deepthi Jeevanji for Paralympics bronze

Prime Minister Modi praised Deepthi Jeevanji for her remarkable bronze in the women's 400m T20 final at the Paris Paralympics, marking another milestone in her inspiring journey overcoming challenges on the global stage.

New Delhi. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to extend his heartfelt congratulations to Deepthi Jeevanji for her remarkable bronze medal win in the women's 400m T20 final at the Paris Paralympics on September 3. Modi praised her perseverance and determination, highlighting her as a source of pride for the nation. Jeevanji's bronze medal was one of the standout performances on Day 6 of the Paris Paralympics, marking India's third track medal at the Games, which was only extended later in the day. She clocked a time



of 55.82 seconds, securing her place on the podium behind Ukraine's Yulia Shuliar and Turkey's world record holder Aysel Onder. Jeevanji had an impressive start in the final, with a swift reaction time of 0.164 seconds, and maintained a strong pace throughout the race. "Congratulations to Deepthi Jeevanji for her spectacular Bronze medal win in the Women's 400m T20 at #Paralympics2024!"

She is a source of inspiration for countless people. Her skills and tenacity are commendable," PM Modi said in his post. Despite her brilliant start, Jeevanji was narrowly edged out of the silver position in the final few strides of the race by Onder, finishing just 0.66 seconds behind the gold medal winner. Jeevanji, who previously won gold at the Para Asian Games and the World Championships, showed immense grit and determination, making up significant ground and holding the second position for much of the final third of the race. On May 20, 2024, Deepthi set a world record of 55.07 seconds in the 400m sprint (T20) at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan. This incredible performance not only secured her the gold medal but also qualified her for the Paris Paralympics. However, this record was later broken by Turkey's Aysel Onder, who clocked 54.96 seconds to win the silver in Paris.

Shan Masood clears air around Shaheen Afridi 'shoulder shrug': He was not angry

Shan Masood cleared the air on rumored tension with Shaheen Afridi, explaining viral incidents during Pakistan's Test series loss to Bangladesh, while emphasizing the need for more Test matches to improve the team's performance.

Rawalpindi. Pakistan Test team captain Shan Masood has put to rest growing speculation of a rift between himself and star pacer Shaheen Afridi. The rumors gained traction following Pakistan's humiliating home Test series defeat to Bangladesh, where several moments of tension within the team were visible. One of the most talked-about incidents was a viral video showing Afridi seemingly shrugging off Masood's hand during a mid-match team discussion.

Masood addressed the situation, clarifying that Afridi's action was not out of anger but due to caution. Masood explained that Afridi removed his hand because it was placed on an area where the pacer had sustained an injury. "There's nothing more to it," Masood stated, downplaying any suggestions of discord. "I think there was an incident going around where I had put my hands on Shaheen's shoulder, and he had shrugged it off. He was not angry with me. He had got hit by Nahid Rana and I had touched that exact place," Masood said during the post-match press-conference. Adding to the tension, another incident during the series saw Masood seemingly lashing out at Afridi after a boundary. However, the captain later explained that his frustration was directed at head coach Jason Gillespie for using an older ball during the match, not at



Afridi. "The next one was that I was angry at Jason Gillespie. But that was not the case. Our ball had gone into the stands after Litton hit a shot. That ball was 8 overs old. After the umpires replaced the ball, we noticed that it was much older, 18-19 overs old and I was arguing that we needed a better ball, and then I saw rumours of

resignation, rift with Shaheen. So we try to watch less social media during matches," Masood added.

The defeat in the second Test match in Rawalpindi, where Pakistan lost to Bangladesh by six wickets, marked Masood's fifth consecutive loss since assuming the captaincy in 2023. His tenure began with three Test losses to Australia Down Under, followed by the two recent defeats at home against Bangladesh. These losses were particularly embarrassing for Pakistan, as they had never before been beaten by Bangladesh in a Test match. Masood went on to emphasize that for Pakistan to improve in Test cricket, the team must play more Test matches. He pointed out that focusing solely on T20s will not contribute to the growth of their Test side.



8 ways to get off the beaten track in Thailand

Thailand is a major travel destination, and as a result, much of its once-untouched landscape and island culture has been modernised. Yet, it still seems remarkably easy to get 'off the beaten track' in Thailand. This is due, in large part, to the fact that many first- and second-time visitors simply choose not to (as knowing the language quickly becomes a legitimate necessity and the transportation infrastructure degenerates aggressively farther from the tourist hotspots). The majority of the wonders to be seen in Thailand have become top tourist traps by default, so getting off the beaten path is an undertaking for a different kind of thrill—the experience of true Thai life, synced with the ebb and flow of the weather and seasons. This makes exploring and experiencing the 'unseen' Thailand a great opportunity to break from the hustle of 9-5 culture, and to often find more eco-friendly and fulfilling experiences.

Travel till you run out of English speakers
This seems pretty obvious, but what acts as a deterrent to most travellers is a fantastic guide to determine your level of off-track-ness. Yes, it will mean you'll need to learn a few key phrases (such as 7-Eleven yoo nai

You know you're on the right track when the Wikipedia page for Isaan lists 'Buddhist monks' as the first subcategory under 'Notable natives or residents'. Literally translating to 'north east direction', this massive section of north-eastern Thailand is home to a third of the

and time should be allotted to teasing apart the Laotian and Burmese influences on Thai regions. Backpackers gravitate to the north to lose themselves in the legendary trekking and motorcycling circuits (such as the well-known ones in Chiang Mai, and the lesser-travelled ones in Nan), so it's a perfect place to get outdoorsy and carve your own path. The remote Nan province in particular, right at Laos border, is a great place to explore between its three major towns and six national parks.

Follow the coast

Thailand's beach culture is justifiably legendary, considering its 2,000 miles of coastline and 85-degree summer days. This becomes incredibly evident when travelling to any of the many heavily populated beaches, such as the majority of the Krabi coast. But follow that coast a little farther, and you'll discover beaches that don't make to the 'top 10' lists, but wind up more beautiful in their isolation. Take Railay Beach in Southern Thailand, for example. It's a killer beach, and many make a day trip out there for sun, surf, cave exploration, and climbing. As a result, it's also become home to a dozen or more luxury resorts and is now super touristy. Follow the coast north a bit, however, and you'll wind up at Tonsai Beach—just as sweet, less than a third as populated. Plus, Tonsai is super laid-back, and a great place to grab a freshly ground chai or coffee and learn some slacklining or fire dancing.

Explore the islands

Thailand has a ton of islands. For example, the island group in Phang Nga Bay comprises 67. Some islands are big enough to house full

best are the islands in Trat province off the Andaman coast. Take Ko Kut, which has been described as 'so off-the-beaten-path you might get bored', or Ko Chang, the second largest Thai island after Phuket and the last 'cheap' island—large enough to find some solid secluded spots.

Don't rule out any day trips

Many incredible Thailand experiences remain incredible because they don't, at the very first glance, seem quite as appealing. Take Doy Din Dang pottery studio, 7 mi north of Chiang Rai. Meaning 'Red Clay Hill', Doy Din Dang is a pottery studio in the middle of jungle nowhere, and is home to Somluk Pantiboon—an internationally renowned master potter. He gathers every material he uses from the land and supplies a lot of the ceramic ware you'll encounter at local restaurants. You can also sample some home-grown coffee that's supposed to be quite epic, so all around, it's an awesome trip that would likely never have occurred to you in the shadow of white temples and giant golden buddhas. Alternatively, check out Bo Klua salt wells outside of Nan. They're thought to have been in use for over 800 years and tap into brine from ocean water trapped underground for millennia. The water is pulled up to the surface and boiled off to access the salt. Again, totally remote and not terribly exciting at first glance, but an awesome way to get utterly off the tourist grid.

Ask the locals

If you must start your trip in one of the huge touristy cities in Thailand, fear not, there are still some amazing 'unseen' areas and neighbourhoods well within the city limits. Want to find where all the locals hide when the sea of tour buses shows up? Ask someone (and enjoy the benefit of being able to communicate with them in your native language). Of course, be wary, as some locals in the tourist districts will have their own agendas, but for the most part, you're likely to discover some legit locals-only spots by talking to the notoriously friendly people of Thailand. Want some peace? Try spending a stint at a wat and explore the Buddhist culture of the country. For something altogether different, have someone direct you to the part-store, part-museum Papaya Vintage Shop in Bangkok, or go to Phang Nga in Phuket on your own between tours. Finally, when you've exhausted all the resources within the city, venture just outside them—for example, to Amphawa, just west of Bangkok, where you'll find a kickass floating market on weekends.

Travel slow

The best way to get off the beaten track in virtually any destination is to give yourself enough time to do so. Sometimes this means having enough time to find that fork in the road that takes you to San Kamphaeng Hot Springs outside Chiang Mai. Sometimes it means having enough time to let a two- or three-day stay at Wat Suan Mokkh become a week-long experience. The only way to find what you're looking for, to touch those furthest obscure regions, is to be around long enough to identify what those regions are, and the idiosyncrasies that define each and its inhabitants. If you've come to experience true Thai living, you really have to give yourself the opportunity to live it—slow down, stay awhile.



krap—where is the 7-Eleven?), keep some key photos on your phone (you know, like a bathroom door), or perhaps have a pencil and paper handy for notes and drawings; but the only way to get properly remote and utterly off the beaten track is to cut yourself off from the world, you and more importantly, all the other tourists are comfortable with. This will not only help you accomplish your travel goals and facilitate that proper adventure, but it will also seriously help the local economy, which suffers in areas not immediately adjacent to key tourist destinations.

Travel by motorbike

One of the easiest ways to traverse Thailand and the easiest way to find the path-less-travelled is by motorbike. Even on well-worn circuits (like the 3-hour stretch from Chiang Mai to Pai via Route 1095) becomes very much an individualised experience as you

travel farther north and with the freedom a motorbike provides. Additionally, the motorbike is probably the most ideal way to explore the multitude of islands surrounding Thailand. Yes, some may get a little hairy if you're an inexperienced biker (like the rougher and steeper roads to the better beaches on the northern and eastern edges of Ko Pha Ngan), but by and large, the best (and most cost-effective) way to set out is on a motorbike—particularly since the cost of motorbike freedom is about 600 baht (\$18.61) daily out of Chiang Mai, and fuel only 39.27 baht (\$1.22) per gallon.

Go north (east)

Generally, the northern half of Thailand is the best place to leave the souvenir stalls behind and enter the true 'land of smiles'. Some key regions to visit when planning your trip off the beaten path are Isaan and North.

native population, but only sees about 0.31% of the nation's overall annual tourists. Sure, there are some key tourist hotspots in Isaan, but even those get routinely skipped over by the week- to week-and-a-half traveller starting in Bangkok. Perhaps you'll hit up the Mekong riverside in Sangkhom to do a little hammock lounging. Perhaps you'll go to Nakhon Phanom province to see the oldest temple in Thailand (That Phanom), before reaching Loei province at the northern tip of Isaan, to explore its many peaceful river towns. Regardless of where you wind up, Isaan has it all—national parks, mountains and rivers (often with accompanying temples, like the Wat Phu Tok mountain temple and Erawan shrine), ruins, and a near-endless sea of rice paddies. Moreover, Northern Thailand is something of a hub for backpackers and long-holidayers. As the nexus between Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar, Northern Thailand is a cultural blend of the three,



resorts, while others (many of which are privately owned and readily and cheaply available for rent) are much smaller and have accommodations for only a few, but are as off-the-beaten-track as they are ideal getaways for a peaceful and remote stay. Among the