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Youth's death at RG Kar hospital 'without treatment' sparks row

Kolkata, Sep 7: Trinamool Congress's Kunal Ghosh claimed that Bikram Bhattacharjee did not receive proper treatment. RG Kar hospital refuted the allegations. The death of 28-year-old Bikram Bhattacharjee who died at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Friday after being hit by a truck, has sparked controversy. The incident took place a day after the state health department reportedly had to close down help desks at all the five medical colleges in Kolkata following the agitation of 'Joint Platform of Doctors'.

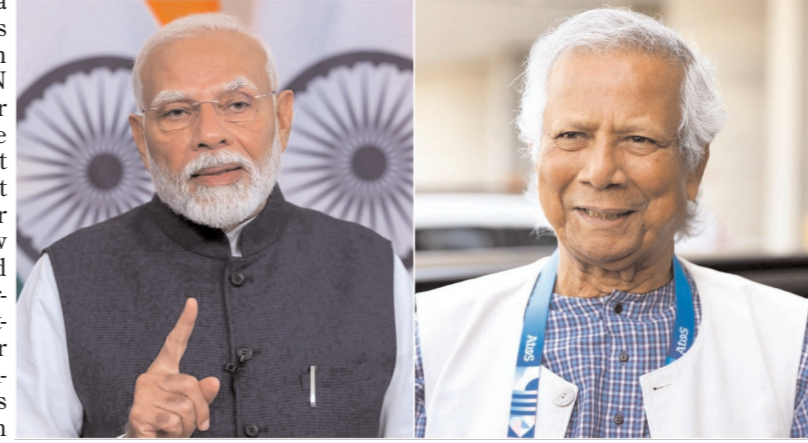
India yet to take call on Bangladesh's request for Yunus-Modi meeting

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 7: The Bangladeshi side made a formal request earlier this week for a meeting between Yunus and Modi, who will both be in New York for the UN General Assembly later this month. The Indian side is yet to take a call on Bangladesh's request for a meeting between interim government head Muhammad Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York, people familiar with the matter said on Saturday. Muhammad Yunus (right), sworn in as leader of Bangladesh's interim government on August 8, spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) on phone on August 16. (File Photos) Muhammad Yunus (right), sworn in as leader of Bangladesh's interim government on August 8, spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) on phone on August 16. (File Photos) The people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said a meeting appears unlikely following comments by Yunus in an interview with an Indian media outlet earlier this week. Yunus's remarks had not gone down well in New Delhi, they said. Get Unlimited access to Hindustan

Times E-paper and Archives at 1199/- per year. The Bangladeshi side made a formal request earlier this week for a meeting between Yunus and Modi, who will both be in New York for the UN General Assembly later this month, the people said. The Indian side is yet to decide on this request and Modi's agenda for bilateral meetings in New York is still being firm up, they said. In an interview this week, Yunus criticised former premier Sheikh Hasina for commenting on developments in Bangladesh while in exile in India. He suggested Bangladesh can seek her extradition and said India should move beyond the "narrative" that every political party other than Hasina's Awami League is "Islamist". "If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," Yunus said. "Sitting in India, she is speaking and giv-

ing instructions. No one likes it. It's not good for us or for India." The Bangladeshi side has country at short notice after she stepped down on August 5. The external affairs ministry has declined to comment on any possible Bangladeshi request for her extradition, describing it as a hypothetical matter. Yunus, sworn in as leader of Bangladesh's interim government three days after Hasina fled to India, spoke to Modi on phone on August 16. At the time, Modi urged Yunus to ensure the protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh following attacks after the ouster of the previous government. Yunus had said Bangladesh will give priority to the security of all minorities. In recent weeks, Yunus has repeatedly described reports in the Indian media about attacks on Bangladesh's Hindus as "exaggerated". During their phone conversation, the two leaders also discussed ways to take forward bilateral relations in line with national priorities. However, the people said there was a growing sense that Bangladesh's interim government was not fully in control of the situation and elements within the caretaker setup are working at cross-purposes.



Bomb threat diverts Vistara flight to Turkey, new aircraft deployed

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, Sep 7: Vistara on Saturday said it is dispatching an alternative aircraft along with a fresh set of crew to fly the passengers of its Mumbai-Frankfurt flight to their destination after it was diverted to Erzurum Airport in Turkey due to an alleged bomb threat on Friday. The substitute



aircraft is expected to arrive at the Turkish airport by 12.25 (local time) and depart for Frankfurt with all passengers by 14.30 hours (Local time). Vistara said in an updated statement of X (formerly Twitter). The flight UK 27, operating on Mumbai-Frankfurt route, departed from Mumbai at 1.01 pm on Friday after a delay of an hour and was scheduled to arrive in Frankfurt (Germany) at 5.30 pm (local time). The Dreamliner 787-9 aircraft was, however, diverted to Turkey after the airline's crew on-board found a paper note stating that there was a bomb on the aircraft, Vistara sources had said. "Since the crew have exceeded their duty time limitation, we are sending an alternate aircraft, with a fresh set of crew, to Erzurum Airport, Turkey, which is expected to arrive there by 1225 hours (local time) and depart for Frankfurt, with all customers, by 1430 hours (local time)," Vistara said in its updated statement. It said that all the necessary checks have been conducted and the customers, along with the crew and aircraft, have been cleared by the security agencies. In the meantime, all efforts are being made to minimize inconvenience to customers, including offering them refreshments and meals, Vistara said in the statement. On Friday the airline had said its Flight UK27 from Mumbai to Frankfurt, "has been diverted to Turkey (Erzurum airport) due to security reasons and has landed safely at 1905 hours", without divulging the number of passengers and crew on board the aircraft.

Release of Indians from Russian Army held up, & more

New Delhi, Sep 7: A shortlist of the biggest headlines, recommended stories, and a special collection of news items you should check out. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that all new Aadhaar card applicants in the state must submit their National Register of Citizens (NRC) application receipt number. He stated that the move aims to curb the influx of illegal foreigners and ensure stricter issuance of Aadhaar cards. Sarma noted that the number of Aadhaar applications exceeds the population, suggesting the presence of "doubtful citizens." However, the rule will not apply to the 9.55 lakh individuals whose biometrics were locked during the NRC process. Sarma also mentioned efforts to identify illegal foreigners, with several Bangladeshis recently apprehended and deported. Dig deeper More news on Assam: Assam assembly scraps 2-hour Friday namaz break for Muslim leaders Assam CM warns of 'dangerous trend' against indigenous Hindu MLAs in Assembly The release of nearly 70 Indians serving in the Russian Army has been delayed as Moscow's authorities have yet to annul their military contracts, sources revealed. This issue gained urgency following the deaths of at least nine Indians in the Ukraine war, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to raise the matter with Russian President Vladimir Putin in July.

India presents a different picture than 10 years ago: Dhankhar

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Sep. 7: With foreign exchange reserves of USD 680 billion, India has come a long way since the time it had to pledge its gold to tide over a financial crisis, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday. Dhankhar was speaking during the inauguration programme of Uttar Pradesh Sainik School in Gorakhpur. "Today's India presents a completely different picture than what was 10 years ago. There was a time when the same country, which was referred to as 'sone ki chidiya', had to pledge its gold in foreign banks. Back then, our foreign exchange was between USD 1 billion and USD 2 billion. Today, it is USD 680 billion. Look at the kind of progress we have made since," he said. India's foreign exchange reserves jumped by USD 2,299 billion to a new high of USD 683,987 billion for the week ended on

August 30. The vice-president also showered praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's turnaround and said Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also played a crucial role in it. "A deserted Srinagar welcomed me



when I visited Kashmir in 1990. Now, over the last two to three years, two crore tourists have visited (Kashmir)," Dhankhar said. This has happened in present-day India. Article 370 was described by the Constitution makers as

"temporary" but some people mistook it as "permanent". It was again in the present that Article 370 was scrapped. This is the present-day India, he added. Dhankhar further said, "If we compromise with nationalism, it will be a betrayal to the nation. Those who are doing this need to be made to understand. Otherwise, the public will have to spiritually retaliate against them. How can anyone imagine that conditions like those in the neighbouring country can take place in this great India? It cannot be done." "Whenever someone questions the nation, we will not tolerate it. I am sure that this will not happen," the vice-president said. He claimed India was on a very big journey, which will culminate in 2047 on the centenary of Indian independence. "In this marathon march, Sainik School will contribute through its students," Dhankhar said. "I request you that everyone should sacrifice themselves in the 'havan' that is being performed to make India a developed nation.

Centre discharges Puja Khedkar from IAS with immediate effect

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 7: The central government has discharged Puja Khedkar from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with immediate effect, over a month after the Union Public Service Commission cancelled her selection, official sources said on Saturday. Khedkar, who was a trainee officer from the 2023 batch, has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing Other Backward Classes (OBC) and disability quota benefits to ensure her selection in the government service. She has denied all allegations. The central government, vide order dated September 6, 2024, "discharged" Khedkar from the Indian Administrative Service under Rule 12 of IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954, with immediate effect, the sources said. An IAS officer is "dismissed" from service while a probationer is "discharged". One of the provisions of Rule 12 provides for discharge on the grounds of a probationer being found to be ineligible to be recruited to the Service, they said. Khedkar,

who was provisionally allotted the Indian Administrative Service (Maharashtra cadre), on the basis of the result of the civil services examination (CSE)-2022 taken by her, was



also accused of misusing power and privileges during her training in Pune. A criminal case was registered against her in July by Delhi Police for "misrepresenting and falsifying facts" following a "thorough investigation" by the UPSC into allegations of misconduct. As reports emerged that she may have

been ineligible to be a candidate at the CSE-2022 and previous exams, a single-member committee was constituted on July 11, 2024, to verify her candidature claims. The panel submitted its reports on July 24, 2024. Taking note of the findings and conclusions of the committee, the government proceeded for a summary enquiry according to the provisions of Rule 12 of IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954, including giving Khedkar a reasonable opportunity. It was seen that she had applied and appeared for the CSE between 2012 to 2023, the sources said. According to the information submitted by herself in her civil services examination application forms between CSE-2012 to CSE-2023, it was seen that she had availed more attempts at examination than the maximum permissible limit of nine in her claimed category (Other Backward Classes and Persons with Benchmark Disability), which she had exhausted by attempting the civil services examinations between 2012 and 2020, i.e., prior to the CSE-2022 itself, they said.

BJP slams Omar Abdullah's remark on Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru's execution

Jammu, Sep 7: "I don't believe that any purpose was served by executing him," Omar Abdullah said on Afzal Guru's execution in 2013. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday lashed out at National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah over his remarks on the execution of 2001 Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. "The unfortunate thing was that the J-K government had nothing to do with Afzal Guru's execution. Otherwise, you would have had to do it with the permission of the state government, which I can tell you in no uncertain terms would not have been forthcoming. We wouldn't have done it. I don't believe that any purpose was served by executing him," Abdullah, who was serving as the chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, told ANI. Abdullah's remarks have triggered a storm ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. Union minister of state for home Nityanand Rai said, "Omar Abdullah's statement is extremely objectionable and anti-India, any amount of criticism is not enough... He is speaking in favour of such terrorists... The Congress is with such anti-India statements. There is no difference between Abdullah and Congress... The people of India will not forgive this." Former J&K deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta told ANI, "After all, what does Omar Abdullah want to solve? If anti-national elements who hatched a conspiracy against India are given the death penalty, why do they object to this? They want to create a situation by taking support from terrorists. They are taking support from terrorists; that is why he is speaking such language." "Omar Abdullah is openly supporting Pakistan's policy and Pakistan so that he can win the election. He is scared after the loss in the Parliament election," BJP leader Altaf Thakur said. On December 13, 2001, five terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad attacked the Parliament, before being neutralised by the security personnel deployed there. Guru, a former Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) terrorist, was convicted and hanged on February 9, 2013.

Kolkata horror: SC to consider CBI's status report on Monday

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Sep 7: The Supreme Court - which took suo motu cognizance of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata following a nationwide outrage and protests by doctors - will hear the matter on Monday. The matter is listed for hearing on September 9 before a Bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra. The Bench - which had on August 20 asked the CBI to submit a status report on the probe into the case - was likely to peruse the report and issue any further directions, if needed. While ordering the Centre to deploy CISF personnel for security of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and its hostels, it had also asked the West Bengal Government to furnish a separate status report on the mid-night vandalism on the Hospital campus in which peacefully protesting doctors were allegedly targeted. However, alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal Government and Kolkata Police in providing logistical support to the CISF, the Centre on September 3 moved the

Supreme Court seeking a direction to state authorities to extend full cooperation to the central force. In an affidavit filed in the top court, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) urged the top court to direct the West Bengal Government to extend full cooperation to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and ensure full compliance, in letter and spirit, of its orders in the Kolkata rape and murder case. It requested the top court to initiate contempt proceedings against the state government officials/authorities concerned for wilful non-compliance of the orders, if they didn't extend cooperation to the CISF. Describing the West Bengal Government's conduct as "unexpected", "unjustifiable", "contemptuous" and "unpardonable", the MHA said that such a course of action adopted by the state government "goes against all the constitutional and moral principles which the state should abide by". The top court will also take up the

Centre's plea alleging non-cooperation by the state government and Kolkata Police in pro-



viding logistical support in terms of adequate accommodation, vehicles and security gadgets to the CISF. In compliance with the top court's order, the Centre has deployed two companies of CISF - each having 92 personnel of various ranks, including 54 female per-

sonnel under the command of a lady officer in three shifts with effect from August 22 at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Terming the 'non-cooperation' of the TMC Government as an example "symptomatic of a systemic malaise", the MHA sought a direction to the state authorities to extend full cooperation to the CISF. Expressing serious concern over "virtual absence for safe working conditions" for doctors and health professionals, the Supreme Court on August 20 set up a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to frame a national protocol for ensuring safety and basic facilities/amenities for them. On August 22, it pulled up the Kolkata police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the doctor and appealed to the protesting doctors across India to get back to work, saying "justice and medicine" cannot be stopped. A badly injured body of the post-graduate trainee doctor - now being called Abhaya - was found in the seminar room of the RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata on August 9.

News box

UP woman beaten, head shaved after complaining of nephew's harassment

Kannauj. A woman in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj was brutally beaten and had her head shaved after complaining that her nephew sexually harassed her. A disturbing video of the incident went viral, sparking outrage and prompting police to arrest six people, including the woman's husband. The incident occurred on September 3, but the video only recently came to the fore. The footage shows the woman, with her head shaved and hands and legs tied, being beaten repeatedly with a wooden stick by her husband in front of a small crowd. The men take turns to assault the woman, who winces in pain and cries before collapsing.

The woman claimed that her nephew, Raja Nath, had been harassing her for some time. When she went to his house to complain, her husband and his family attacked her, shaving her head and beating her with sticks. Police took cognisance of the viral video and launched an investigation.

"A video of a woman being beaten is being shared. The man seen beating in the video is the husband of a woman. Six people have been arrested and an inquiry is underway," said Kannauj Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Anand.

After UP's Bahraich, wolf attacks 5 people in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa

Khandwa. Five people were injured after a wolf attacked them while they were sleeping outside their home in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa, police said on Saturday. This incident comes amid reports of a series of wolf attacks in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich, which has left the entire region in fear. The incident occurred early on Friday when the family was sleeping outside their house near a field in the tribal-dominated Khalwa area. A woman sustained wounds on her hands, while four men were bitten on their hands. All of them have been hospitalised.

Following the attack, the villagers caught the wolf, beat it, and tied it with a rope. The animal was seen motionless in visuals. However, forest department officials have not confirmed whether it was killed. They stated that action will be taken after investigating the entire matter.

According to forest department officials, the area, which is just 20 kilometres away from the district headquarters, frequently sees animals like wild dogs, wolves, and foxes roaming around, as it is near forests. The wolf attack has left 35 villages in the region in a state of fear.

Indian Army trains people in Jammu and Kashmir to secure villages from terrorists

Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, has launched an initiative to train Village Defence Guards (VDGs) to enhance local security against terrorist threats. The program aims to equip civilians with skills to protect their villages, strengthening the region's overall security. Nearly 600 people are undergoing intensive training in handling automatic rifles, squad post drills, and minor tactics. Training sessions are conducted close to the villages, allowing participants to quickly use their skills in real situations. Each VDG unit receives a minimum of



three days of structured training. The training is led by Indian Army formations with support from instructors and resources from the Corps Battle School in Sarol.

The program was initiated at the request of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and has already trained around 500 individuals in Rajouri and 85-90 in Doda and Kishtwar. VDGs are also being equipped with Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs) provided through a joint effort by the Army's Ordnance Depots and Jammu & Kashmir Police, further empowering them to defend their communities. This initiative underscores the commitment to protect the lives of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chola-era precious Lord Krishna idol repatriated to Tamil Nadu from US

A Chola-era precious idol of Lord Krishna, that was stolen from a Tamil Nadu temple before 2005, has been repatriated to Tamil Nadu from the United States.

An 11th-12th century Chola-period idol of 'Kaliya Marthana Krishna' (Lord Krishna dancing atop the serpent Kaliya) has been returned to Tamil Nadu from the United States, with the help of Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID police. To locate precious idols smuggled from temples in Tamil Nadu, the special teams of the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID police routinely search websites of foreign museums, art galleries, and private collectors. During one such search, the team discovered an article titled "Gold of the Gods," published in November 2008 by author Luis Nicholson,

which featured an image of the stolen idol. Further investigation led the team to an article on the website of the Association for Research into Crimes Against Art, revealing that Douglas Latchford, an art collector who died in 2020, had purchased the idol from notorious smuggler Subash Chandra Kapoor in 2005. Documents showed that the idol was valued at Rs 5.2 crore at the time of purchase. Nancy Weiner, a US-based appraiser, is suspected of assisting Kapoor in creating fake documents. The idol wing police believe that the idol was stolen from a temple in



Tamil Nadu by Kapoor and his accomplices before 2005, and then sold to Latchford. A case was registered by the Idol Wing CID police based on this information. The idol was recovered by Homeland Security Investigations in the US and handed over to the Bangkok government on September 11, 2023. It was then transferred to the High

Commission of India in Bangkok. After diplomatic efforts involving the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID police, India's Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, and Archaeological Survey of India, the Thai government returned the idol to India on June 25, 2024. The idol was received by the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID police in New Delhi on September 4. Efforts are ongoing to identify the temple from which the idol was originally stolen. Tamil Nadu DGP Shankar Jiwai inspected the idol and commended the special team for their efforts.

Raids lead Enforcement Directorate to RG Kar ex-principal's luxurious bungalow

Kolkata/Canning. An Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into alleged financial irregularities at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered, led investigators to a sprawling, two-story bungalow in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The property belongs to former RG Kar principal Dr Sandip Ghosh and his wife Sangeeta Ghosh, sources said. The luxurious bungalow, located in Canning, is surrounded by hundreds of acres of vacant land. Local residents said the property, which bears the nameplate 'Sangeetasandip Villa' is named after Ghosh and his wife, Sangeeta. Locals, who refer to the bungalow as "Doctor Babu's house", claimed that they often see the Ghosh visiting the residence with family members.

They also alleged that several farm houses had been constructed in the area apparently



on the instructions of Dr Sandip Ghosh, whom they accused of buying up vast swathes of land in the block. The ED is carrying out raids as part of a broader investigation into alleged financial misconduct at RG Kar during Ghosh's tenure as principal. Raids were conducted Friday at multiple locations in Kolkata and its suburbs, including Ghosh's residence and properties belonging to his relatives. The ED had filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against

Ghosh, which is similar to an FIR in criminal cases. The doctor is currently in CBI custody, after the central probe agency arrested him and three associates in connection with the corruption case earlier this month. The case stems from allegations levelled by Dr Akhtar Ali, a former deputy superintendent at RG Kar. Ali accused Ghosh and his associates of wastage of government funds, nepotism, and irregularities in vendor selection and recruitment. He also suggested that corruption at the hospital might be linked to the death of the trainee doctor who was allegedly aware of the misconduct.

Meanwhile, on Friday, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea filed by Ghosh challenging a Calcutta High Court order rejecting his request to be added as a party to the corruption case. The court stated that as an accused, Ghosh has no legal right to intervene in the matter.

Two bikers held for raping 42-yr-old woman after offering lift in TN's Budalur

THANJAVUR: The Budalur police on Thursday arrested two youths for the alleged gang-rape of a 42-year-old woman after offering her lift to her village. Sources said the woman from a village near Budalur is as a construction worker. The crime occurred on Tuesday night when she was on her way to her village from Thanjavur after the day's work.

She reached Budalur junction from Thanjavur in a bus. She used to board another bus from Budalur to her village but on Tuesday night she missed the last bus as she was a little late. While she remained at the bus stop, two men on two bikes approached her and offered her a lift to her village. The woman rode

pillon on one of the bikes while the other rider followed. Midway, near Palayeevayal, the duo stopped their vehicles, dragged her to a fallow paddy field and sexually assaulted her, sources said. Later the duo dropped her midway, threatening her not to disclose the incident to anyone, and sped away. Meanwhile, worried over her not returning home for long, her son went looking for her and found her on the road.

He took her back to their village where she narrated the incident to the family members. Following this, she lodged a complaint with the Budalur police. The police registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS, including that for

gang-rape and criminal intimidation. The woman was admitted to the Government Raja Mirasdar Hospital (RMH).

Based on inquiries, the police identified the accused as A Praveen Kumar (34) and R Rajkapur (26) of Rayandur near Budalur. Police said when they tried to arrest the two they tried to flee and in the process "fell down and fractured their limbs".

The police arrested them and admitted them to the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital. Former chief minister and Leader Edappadi K Palaniswami condemned the incident and demanded the state government for appropriate steps to ensure the safety of women.

YS Sharmila urges Centre to supply drinking water to people in flood-hit Vijayawada

Vijayawada. Andhra Pradesh Congress chief YS Sharmila Reddy on Friday wrote to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging him to allow the Railways to supply bottled water from Rail Neer plant in Visakhapatnam to the people of flood-hit Vijayawada. For the past few days, Vijayawada and other parts of Andhra Pradesh have been battered by heavy rainfall, leading to flooding and restricting access to potable water. "I write this letter to draw your attention to the severe situation currently faced by Vijayawada. As you are aware, the city has experienced an unprecedented rainfall of approximately 40 cm over two days, which has caused extensive damage. The rivulets

and drains in and around the city are overflowing, leading to widespread inundation and isolation of numerous colonies," Sharmila wrote in the letter.

"To begin with, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I appeal to you to consider supplying water from the Rail Neer plant for the next few days. Your prompt action would be greatly appreciated and would significantly aid in the faster recovery of the city in these challenging times, she said. Sharmila pointed out that people's lives have been hit hard in the floods and that the lives of children, the elderly, and those who are suffering from ailments, were the worst affected. "The city now encounters a major

challenge as the drinking water supply pipelines have been heavily silted up. This has made water unsafe for drinking and cooking," she said.

"The process of clearing the silt and making the water safe again will be time-consuming. Until then, there have to be alternate ways through which the people of the city will get drinking water," she added. The Andhra Pradesh Congress chief also highlighted that the Vijayawada division, under the South Central Railway zone, contributes an annual revenue of close to Rs 6,000 crore. She said it was the duty of the Indian Railways to help the people in the region. "We understand that a Rail Neer plant has recently commenced operations

near Visakhapatnam. I request you to consider exploring the possibility of arranging water supply from the plant to the affected areas in Vijayawada," she added. "In light of this urgent situation, your immediate intervention will be of immense help to the people," Sharmila further said. Till September 3, at least 19 people died in Andhra Pradesh due to rain-related incidents, prompting the Chandrababu Naidu-led government to take effective relief measures. Naidu described the floods as the "worst devastation" he had ever witnessed. The Chief Minister announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to families of those who lost their lives due to the floods.

BJP plans major overhaul in Uttar Pradesh after poor poll performance

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The BJP is planning a large-scale reorganisation in Uttar Pradesh, with district presidents in about 50 districts where the party faced defeats likely to be replaced. As the BJP's ongoing membership campaign wraps up, the party will initiate organisational elections, signalling a major shift.

The district presidents in Lok Sabha constituencies where the BJP lost will be replaced, along with district and Mahanagar presidents who have served two terms or have complaints against them. The party aims to restructure from divisional to state level, with Uttar Pradesh currently divided into 98 districts for organisational purposes. The BJP is currently focused on a two-phase membership drive. The first phase, from September 2 to 25, involves enrolling ordinary members, while the second phase, from October 1 to 15, will target active members.

Organisational elections will begin as soon as the membership drive concludes in October. The BJP's performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, where it dropped from 64 to 33 seats in Uttar Pradesh, has raised concerns from the state to the central leadership, as the seat reduction affected the party's majority at the Centre. The upcoming organisational elections will tighten control over irregularities, targeting district presidents and other leaders who are inactive or disruptive. State General Secretary, Dharampal Singh, hinted at these

changes in a recent meeting with state officials and district in-charges. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak told India Today that the current focus is on expanding membership, aiming to add over two crore new members in Uttar Pradesh.

Haryana man held in Coimbatore for online sale of sedative pills

COIMBATORE: A special team from the Enforcement Bureau Crime Investigation Department of Coimbatore city police arrested a Haryana-based drug supplier on Friday and seized 19,500 sedative pills from his possession. The accused has been identified as R Sachin Garg (41), a native of Naraingarh in Haryana. He operated a pharmaceutical company that mostly sold sedatives and scheduled drugs. On July 16, a police team busted a drug peddling racket and arrested C Mariya (30), and her friends S Yashik Elaki (26), M Poochi Krishnan (24)

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News box

Guv hands out pre-school kits to Anganwadi workers at univ

Noida. UP governor Anandiben Patel handed out around 700 pre-school kits to Anganwadi workers during a programme held at Sharda University in Knowledge Park, Greater Noida on Friday. The kits included tricycles, reading horse ABCD sets, animal sets, storybooks, and other materials. The move aimed to make Anganwadi centres child-friendly.

Patel said that economically weaker people send their children to Anganwadi centres for education, while economically stronger people send their children to creches. "The govt aims to eliminate the disparity between the two. Just like teachers in govt schools, Anganwadi workers will also receive training at major institutions and will be relieved of non-teaching duties," she said. She also emphasised that both the govt and society should focus on Anganwadi centres as a strong foundation is essential for a developed India. "A developed country is one where most people are educated and can lead the nation towards progress," she said.

Buyer alleges worms in milk packet

Noida. A resident alleged that they found worms in the milk packet purchased from a Mother Dairy near Janta Flats in Sector 71 on Thursday. The man filed a complaint with Mother Dairy. In response to the complaint, the company collected a sample of the milk on Friday afternoon for further investigation. "I purchased a one-litre pack of Mother Dairy toned milk from the store in our society premises. When I was filtering the milk using a strainer, I noticed tiny worms on the mesh. I promptly set the milk aside. Without delay, I returned to the store and lodged a complaint," said Amit Chaudhary, the complainant.

Sarvesh Mishra, assistant commissioner of FSDA, said, "We got the details of the case through X. We will investigate the matter and do the needful."

This is not the first time renowned brands have come under the scanner over the quality issue. In May, food safety and drug administration teams collected samples of palm oil, cheese, and mayonnaise from a McDonald's outlet in Sector 18 and pineapple cake from Theobroma after customers' complaints.

Kidnapped man rescued from Mathura, 2 held

Ghaziabad. Police successfully rescued a 35-year-old YouTuber on Friday after he was kidnapped from the Vijay Nagar area the day before. The Ghaziabad resident was safely rescued from Mathura and two accused were arrested for their alleged involvement in the abduction scheme. Four other accused are currently absconding. The arrested accused were identified as Manish Kumar (36) and Surendra alias Saurabh (32) from Mathura.

According to DCP (City) Rajesh Kumar, police received a complaint from Jagadu Singh on Thursday evening alleging that his son Praveen had been kidnapped. Praveen runs a YouTube channel (Godpraveen YT) with over three lakh subscribers. Multiple teams were formed and initial investigation revealed that Praveen developed a Tiranga gaming app and has been promoting it on social media.

"Rahul Gupta, who is absconding, is a Delhi-based businessman and a good friend of Kumar. He had lost over Rs 1.5 crore on Praveen's app after putting money in several games after Kumar forced him. Later he decided to take revenge," he said. Gupta and Kumar planned to kidnap Praveen and extort money from his family, the DCP said. Kumar called four of his friends from Mathura, who have criminal histories, to execute the plan. On Thursday morning, Praveen was on his way to pick up his father, who was being released from a hospital. The accused hit Praveen's car from behind on NH-9 in Vijay Nagar. When Praveen exited the car, the accused kidnapped him at gunpoint and began driving Praveen towards Mathura. When Praveen didn't reach the hospital by afternoon his father approached police. Mathura police stopped the accused's car, leading some of the accused to flee. Surendra was arrested after an encounter and Kumar was later arrested on Friday. The accused were booked under BNS Section 140 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder).

BSP announces candidate for Gzb assembly seat, wait on for BJP & Cong

Ghaziabad. BSP announced Ravi Gautam as its candidate for the Ghaziabad assembly constituency, which is among the 10 seats set to go to bypolls later this year. The seat fell vacant after the incumbent MLA Atul Garg was elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. Last week, Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), led by Chandrashekhar Azad 'Ravan', announced former journalist Satpal Choudhary as its candidate for the seat and all eyes are now on BJP and the INDIA block, who are yet to announce theirs. The 31-year-old BSP candidate belongs to the scheduled caste category and is an advocate. His roots go deep into the party as he is the third generation in his family to be associated with it. "I met Mayawati on Aug 30 and presented to her my credentials. A day after the meeting, the party announced my name for the Ghaziabad assembly seat," said Gautam. "My family has been with the BSP for three generations now. Members of my family have held positions like the party's booth-level president and sector-level president, and I head an organisation called Yuva Shakti Dal, which works for the BSP and assists it in organising rallies and public meetings across the country," added Gautam. In the last two assembly elections—2017 and 2022—Ghaziabad was won by Atul Garg, but in 2012 it was won by a BSP candidate.

Meanwhile, ahead of announcing the names of candidate for the seat, chief minister Yogi Adityanath recently held a closed-door meeting with party workers in the city. The party has received 13 names of people willing to contest from the seat. Of the ten seats that will go to bypolls, five were won by the Samajwadi Party (SP) in 2022, one was won by the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), which was then in alliance with the SP but is now part of the NDA, three were won by the BJP and one went to its ally Nishad Party. When asked whether he thinks the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) will pose a challenge for the BSP because they share their core vote bank, Gautam said, "The BSP's cadre is intact, and Azad has no footing in Ghaziabad. Our party is a prominent player here."

Faridabad youth murder: Shanky, who was in car when Aryan was shot, named in 7 chargesheets

GURGAON. As Anil Kaushik and other cow vigilantes chased the Duster for 29km on Aug 24, they were convinced the car was carrying beef as it tried to speed away. And the reason why it didn't stop was Shanky - who has been named in seven chargesheets since 2021, mostly related to attempted murder cases.

Shanky or Sagar Gulati was one of five occupants in the Duster that night when Aryan Mishra was shot dead by a group of cow vigilantes led by Kaushik on the Delhi-Agra highway in Palwal.

Aryan, his landlord's wife, two sons and a neighbour had gone out to have noodles at Vardhaman mall in Faridabad around 10pm when a white Swift started chasing them on their way back. Shanky - who was out on bail in an assault case - asked his brother Harshit to step on the accelerator as he feared he was being chased by cops in civvies. As bullets were fired behind, Shanky apprehended the attackers could be his rivals he had assaulted in the past. It was only when one of the bullets hit Aryan - who was seated in front - in the back of his head that Harshit pulled the car over near Gadpuri



toll plaza. Kaushik and the others ran to the window where Aryan was sitting and fired at his neck again from close range. When they peered into the car, they realised it was not Aryan they were looking for. With two women seated behind, the vigilantes were convinced the occupants of the car weren't cattle smugglers. The 20-year-old succumbed to injuries hours in hospital. Kaushik and his aides, according to police, have admitted the murder was a case of "mistaken identity". In a brief exchange

with Aryan's father, the attackers also apologised for it. Since then, Shanky has been picked up again in connection with an old case. His criminal record, police said, includes not just assault, but rioting and cases registered under Arms Act too. The last police complaint against Shanky was registered on Aug 15, when Chirag Bhatia of NIT Colony in Faridabad alleged that his house was attacked with liquor bottles and stones in the dead of night. Shanky and at least six others allegedly fired at Bhatia's

neighbour too, but the bullet missed him. A case of attempt to murder and under provisions of the Arms Act was registered against Shanky and his friends. He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody. He was out on bail when Aryan was attacked. Earlier, on June 25, a gang led by Shanky allegedly abducted Mohit of AC Nagar in a car and tried to rob him.

"I was on my way to Santosh Hospital around 2.30am on June 25 when they stopped our car at gunpoint. They pulled me out and bundled me in their car. Seated next to the driver, Shanky turned back and pointed his gun at me again, asking me to hand over whatever I had. He pointed his gun at my leg and pressed the trigger. I removed my leg in reflex, but the gun didn't fire. Its magazine fell down," Mohit said in his complaint.

As they stopped the car and started looking for the magazine below the seat, Mohit opened the door and ran away near Bikaner Sweets. A case was registered against Shanky, Shivam, Bharat and Lucky.

Man gets 20 yrs' RI for rape of girl (4) in 2021

Gurgaon. A man was handed 20 years' rigorous imprisonment for the rape of a four-year-old girl in Panipat in 2021. The girl - who lived in his neighbourhood - was alone at home when she was assaulted. The fast-track court for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which awarded the sentence, also directed the District Legal Service Authority to give compensation to the girl's family under the victim compensation scheme. Public prosecutor Kuldeep Dhull said that on Dec 20, 2021, the girl's mother, who had gone to the fields for some work, found her daughter crying upon her return. When she asked her child what the matter was, the latter told her that she was sexually assaulted by her neighbour,

Pintu. The complainant then went to Pintu's house and confronted his mother, Neelam, who in turn allegedly threatened her. The accused was arrested the next day under Section 6 of the POCSO Act, and his mother was arrested under the charges of criminal intimidation on January 15, 2022. Meanwhile, Ravita Kumari, counsel for the accused, argued during the trial that both the accused were being framed with the intention to extort money and that the statements of the witnesses were not consistent. She also said that the police had not carried out a proper investigation in the case.

The court rejected her arguments, observing that the testimonies of the victim and her mother inspired complete confidence and were duly

corroborated by evidence. "There is no evidence to conclude that the occurrence in question did not take place and that the accused Pintu was being falsely implicated in the case," the court observed. In his order on Thursday, additional sessions judge Sukhpreet Singh observed that the offence of rape was not only against the victim but also against the whole society. To ensure such cases do not repeat themselves, the court should deal with perpetrators with a heavy hand, he said. "The act committed by the accused is highly condemnable. The nature, extent, and gravity of the crime are such that the accused deserves no leniency," the court stated, and convicted Pintu, who had been in jail since his arrest.

Student abducted, made to sell Rs6L superbike & withdraw Rs1L

Gurgaon. Three men were arrested for allegedly abducting a 19-year-old B.Tech student on Aug 28, keeping him captive for seven hours and robbing him of Rs 6.8 lakh last month.

The trio called the victim out of his PG and forced him into a car, following which they made him withdraw money from his bank account, sell his bike for Rs 5.8 lakh to a dealer in Delhi and stole his gadgets. Atharv, who is Palwal and a second-year student at Gurgaon University, stayed at Hello World PG in Sector-55. A few months ago, he met Bhanu, Tilak Tewatia of Palwal, and Gaurav of Faridabad through his friend Pankaj. According to Sector 56 police, the accused are graduated and unemployed. On the evening of Aug 28, when Atharv was in his room, he received a call from Tilak. "I reached the PG room at 4.15pm and got a call from Tilak. He asked me to come outside. I went out and saw Bhanu's car parked there. When I approached it, they forced me to sit inside the car. They threatened to kill me and made me withdraw Rs 1 lakh from my bank account," Atharv said, adding that Bhanu also stole his iPad, PlayStation, watch, AirPods and power bank from his room and made him sell his bike.

"In addition to all the gadgets, Bhanu stole my Kawasaki Z900 bike which was parked at the PG," Atharv said. Following this, Tilak and Gaurav drove the victim to the dealer in Delhi's Naraina from where he had originally bought the bike, while Bhanu rode the bike to it. The victim didn't enter the showroom but he was made to convince its owner to buy back his bike and make payment to his "friends" in cash. "Atharv had purchased the superbike from the same showroom and when he wanted to sell it there, the owner accepted the offer. He gave the accused Rs 5 lakh in cash and transferred Rs 80,000 to the victim's bank account. This amount was also later transferred to the accounts of the accused," Gurgaon police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar said on Friday. After extorting the amount, the accused dropped off the victim on the Golf Course Road in Sector-56 at around 11pm. The victim then contacted his cousin who lodged a complaint with Sector-56 police early on Thursday morning. All three accused were arrested from Sector-80 on Thursday night and police recovered a car, an iPad, and a PlayStation from them. They are currently in police remand.

E-rick stops to pick up passenger, drunk driver rams car into it; 2 die

Ghaziabad. An e-rickshaw driver and his teenage nephew died when a speeding Honda Amaze car crashed into their three-wheeler from behind near Haldiram on Kalka Garhi junction in Sihani Gate. The car was seized, and the driver, who was drunk at the time, was arrested. Another passenger, Sonu Kumar (25), in the e-rickshaw suffered critical injuries due to the severe impact of the collision. According to Piyush Singh, additional DCP (traffic), Rinku Singh (34), who was returning home with his nephew, Shaksham Singh (15), stopped the vehicle to pick up another passenger after crossing the Kalka Garhi junction near Haldiram around 10pm on Thursday. A speeding Honda Amaze (UP14DR-1386) coming from the Old Bus Stand collided with the e-rickshaw from behind. "The impact was so powerful that the e-rickshaw went for a toss in the air as well. Rinku was flung in the air, and his landed on the road on his head, while Shaksham received severe injuries. Both died on the spot. A police team reached the spot immediately and took the injured persons to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, but Rinku and Shaksham were declared dead on arrival, and Sonu was admitted for treatment. Later, he was referred to



Safdarjung hospital for better treatment," Singh said. The accused, identified as Pranav Mittal (28), is a resident of Ghantaghar and a scrap businessman. He had consumed alcohol with his friends before the accident and was intoxicated when the accident happened, cops said, adding he was on his way to meet his other friends for another alcohol party. After a complaint from the

family of the deceased, an FIR was registered against the accused under sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Sihani Gate police station. According to police data, from Jan 1 to July 31 this year, a total of 329 accidents took place in the city, killing 145 and injuring 322.

Colleague kills man in Greater Noida, dumps body near factory over 'affair with wife'



NOIDA. A 21-year-old man was found dead with his neck slit in Greater Noida's Surajpur was allegedly killed by a colleague who suspected him of having an affair with his wife. Santosh Kumar, also known as Kalu, was found dead on the 130-metre service road, barely 2-3 km from a factory where he was employed.

Surajpur SHO Vinod Kumar told TOI that Santosh had not reported on duty for nearly 2-3 km before his body was recovered on Thursday morning.

"When we questioned his colleagues, the needle of suspicion pointed at Umesh, a 26-year-old resident of Dadri, as he was last

spotted with Santosh on Wednesday night. Since then, both men were missing. "Four teams were set up to nab Umesh. On Thursday night, when the police team was checking near the 130m road, Umesh was spotted on a motorcycle. When a police team chased him, he fired back and was injured in a retaliatory firing," ACP (Central Noida) Sumit Shukla said.

Umesh allegedly told interrogators that he and Santosh had shared a few drinks on Wednesday night. "Umesh ensured that Santosh was inebriated and took him to the usually desolate 130m road. There he slit his throat with a knife and left him bleeding on the spot," the SHO said.

According to police, Umesh suspected Santosh was having an illicit relationship with his wife and had planned to kill him. Police recovered Santosh's motorcycle, a country-made pistol, two live cartridges, and two empty cartridges from Umesh's possession. He was booked under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita after a case was registered at Surajpur police station on Thursday.

Thieves on prowl in trans-Hindon: 10 bikes & 4 chains stolen in 3 days

Ghaziabad. Trans-Hindon areas saw a significant rise in street crimes over the past few days, with 10 bike thefts reported in Indirapuram and Kaushambi over the last three days.

Four chains and two mobile phone snatching cases were also logged in the two areas within the same period. A bike owned by Dharmendra Kumar, a channel manager at RBL Bank in Indirapuram, was stolen on Aug 3. "Around 10am, I parked my grey TVS Radeon bike at RBL Bank in Aditya Mall and went for a briefing. When I returned, I didn't find the bike where I had parked it. I parked my bike with other colleagues, but only mine was missing. I called the police, who came to investigate. Indirapuram police lodged an FIR in the matter on Thursday evening," he said. Kaushambi police registered another FIR on Thursday regarding the theft of a Blinkit delivery executive's bike. Indirapuram resident Khadimul Byapari reported he parked his bike outside the Blinkit store in front of Cloud 9, Sector 1 in Vaishali, around 7.30pm on Aug 25.

"When I returned after ten minutes, I couldn't find my black Hero Splendor BS6. I dialed 112 and cops reached the spot. They advised me to

register a complaint through UPCOP. A person I know typed my complaint in English in the app as I did not find an option for Hindi," he said.

Varsha Saxena (29), a resident of Lajpat Nagar in Sahibabad, was a victim of mobile phone snatching while traveling in an auto-rickshaw on Aug 3. Another woman received minor injuries on her neck after two boys on a scooter snatched the gold chain she was wearing when she was



crossing Rajbagh Metro Station with her eight-year-old daughter. Her father, Bishwajit Sharma, filed a complaint on Aug 31. "The incident occurred around 2pm. After snatching Julie's chain, the two fled towards Sunday Bazaar Road in Shalimar Garden," he said. Nimish Patil, DCP Trans-Hindon, said the criminals flee to Delhi after committing crimes.

News box

Israel strikes school, residential building in Gaza, 13 Palestinians killed

World At least 13 Palestinians were killed and 15 wounded in Israeli strikes on a school sheltering refugees and a residential building in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa reported early on Saturday. At least eight of the dead were in refugee tents at Halima al-Sa'diyya School in Jabalia in northern Gaza, Wafa said. The Israeli army said in a statement it had "conducted a precise strike on terrorists who were operating inside a Hamas command and control center embedded inside a compound that previously served as the 'Halima al-Sa'diyya' School in the northern Gaza Strip." In a separate incident, five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike on a residential building in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza. The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered on October 7 last year when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has since killed over 40,800 Palestinians, according to the local health ministry, while displacing nearly the entire population of 2.3 million, causing a hunger crisis and leading to genocide allegations at the World Court that Israel denies. According to the United Nations, at least 1.9 million people in the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including some uprooted more than 10 times.

Panama deports 130 Indian 'irregular' migrants under US-backed repatriation deal

World Panama on Friday deported 130 Indian irregular migrants who had entered the country via the inhospitable Darien jungle, under a deal on repatriations signed with the United States in July. This was the first such expulsion outside the Americas under the deal, and the fourth in total.

Washington pledged \$6 million for migrant repatriations from the Central American nation in the hopes of reducing irregular crossings at its own southern border. Panama's director of migration, Roger Mojica, told reporters the Indians were deported on a charter flight to New Delhi for "irregular migration." At the same press conference, US Security Attaché for Central America Marlen Pineiro said Washington was "very grateful to the government of Panama for all this support," adding that "Irregular migration cannot continue."

The Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama has become a key corridor for migrants traveling overland from South America through Central America and Mexico to the United States. Despite the dangers, including attacks by criminal gangs, more than half a million undocumented migrants—mostly Venezuelans—crossed the Darien last year.

Transit countries such as Panama and Mexico have come under increased pressure from Washington to tackle the highly contentious migration issue in a US election year.

Joe Biden to host UK PM Keir Starmer in White House on September 13

Washington US President Joe Biden will host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on September 13, the White House said on Friday. "The leaders will have an in-depth discussion on a range of global issues of mutual interest, including continuing robust support to Ukraine in its defense against Russian aggression, securing a hostage release and ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza, protecting international shipping in the Red Sea from Iranian-backed Houthi threats, and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific," it said in a statement.

UN investigator accuses Israel of a 'starvation campaign' in Gaza that Netanyahu denies

UNITED NATIONS. The UN independent investigator on the right to food accused Israel of carrying out a "starvation campaign" against Palestinians during the war in Gaza, an allegation that Israel vehemently denies. In a report this week, investigator Michael Fakhri claimed it began two days after Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel that killed some 1,200 people, when Israel's military offensive in response blocked all food, water, fuel and other supplies into Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said accusations of Israel limiting humanitarian aid were "outrageously false." "A deliberate starvation policy? You can say anything — it doesn't make it true," he said in a press conference Wednesday. Following intense international pressure — especially from close ally the United States — Netanyahu's government gradually has opened several border crossings for tightly controlled deliveries. Fakhri said limited aid initially went mostly to southern and central Gaza, not to the north where Israel had ordered Palestinians to go.

Pak man arrested for plotting attack in US on anniversary of Hamas attack



New York A Pakistani man was arrested in Canada this week and accused of plotting a mass shooting at a Jewish centre in Brooklyn on the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the latest conflict in the Middle East, federal authorities announced Friday. US Attorney General Merrick Garland said Muhammad Shahzeb Khan had attempted to travel from Canada, where he lives, to New York City with the "stated goal of slaughtering, in the name of ISIS, as many Jewish people as possible." The 20-year-old, who is also known as Shahzeb Jadoon, was apprehended on September 4 and charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to the terror group, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. Jewish communities — like all communities in this country — should not have to fear that they will be targeted by a hate-fueled terrorist attack," Garland said in a statement. It was unclear if



Khan has a lawyer, where in Canada he was being held and when he may be brought to the US to face the charges. The Manhattan federal prosecutor's office, which is handling the case, deferred to Canadian national police, which didn't respond to an email seeking comment but said in a statement posted online that Khan will appear in the Superior Court of Justice in Montreal on September 13. "This planned antisemitic attack against Jewish people in the US is deplorable and there is no place for such

ideological and hate-motivated crime in Canada," Michael Duheme, commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said in the statement. US authorities said Khan began sharing ISIS propaganda videos and expressing his support for the terror group in social media posts and communications with others on an encrypted messaging app last November. In conversations with two undercover law enforcement officers, he said he was trying start a "real offline cell" of ISIS in order to carry out attacks

against "Israeli Jewish chabads" in America. Khan said he and another ISIS supporter based in the US needed to obtain AR-style assault rifles, ammunition, hunting knives and other materials, according to the Justice Department. Khan also provided details about how he would cross the border from Canada and said he was considering conducting the attacks on either the October 7 anniversary or on October 11, which is the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, authorities said. On August 20, he told the undercover officers that he had settled on targeting New York because of its sizeable Jewish population and sent a photograph of the specific area inside a Jewish center where he planned to carry out the attack, according to the Justice Department. His online messages described the Brooklyn site, which is not named in court documents, as "the ultra orthodox hasidic jews world headquarters."

US teen shot dead by another during altercation in school bathroom

World A student at a Maryland high school died after being shot by another student during an altercation on Friday in a school bathroom, Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said. Warren Curtis Grant, 15, died after the shooting at Joppatowne High School, the sheriff said at a media briefing.



A 16-year-old student whom police identified as the shooter fled shortly afterward but was caught minutes later nearby. "He has yet to be charged, but will be charged, and at the time those charges are preferred as an adult, we will release the name of the suspect," Gahler said.

Gahler also said that the sheriff's office has had more than 10 incidents since 2022

"where the suspect was either the victim, witness or the suspect in an incident handled by the Harford County Sheriff's Office," adding that the investigation was

in its early stages.

Shortly after the shooting, the sheriff's office asked people to avoid the area, but emphasized that the confrontation was an "isolated incident, not an active shooter." A parent-student reunification centre was established at a nearby church. More than 100 personnel responded to the high school about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore, Gahler said.

The fight happened two days after a shooter whom authorities identified as a 14-year-old student killed four people at a high school outside Atlanta. Wednesday's attack renewed debate about safe storage laws for guns and had parents wondering how to talk to their children about school shootings and trauma.

Turkish-American Woman "Shot In The Head" After Israeli Forces Open Fire

Nablu. A Turkish-American woman was shot dead Friday while demonstrating against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank town of Beita, where the army acknowledged opening fire. Turkey identified the woman as Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, condemning her death, while the United States called it a "tragic" event and called on its ally Israel to carry out an investigation. While Washington stopped short from blaming anyone, the UN rights office directly accused Israeli forces of killing Eygi, saying Israeli security forces "shot in the head and killed" her. The incident occurred as Israeli forces withdrew from a deadly 10-day raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, another flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, amid the ongoing Gaza war. The raid, part of broader Israeli military

operations, has drawn international criticism, with Israeli ally Germany warning against escalating military actions in the West Bank. The UN said Eygi, 26, was participating in a "peaceful anti-settlement protest" in Beita, scene of weekly demonstrations. Israeli settlements in the West Bank — where some 490,000 people live — are illegal under international law. She arrived at the Rafidia hospital in Nablu "with a gunshot in the head" and was later pronounced dead, said hospital director Fouad Nafaa. Turkey said she was killed by "Israeli occupation soldiers". President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the Israeli action as "barbaric." "We are deeply disturbed by the tragic death of an American citizen," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

aboard Air Force One travelling with President Joe Biden. "We have reached out to the government of Israel to ask for more information and request an investigation into the incident," she added. The Israeli army said it was looking into her death. Eygi was a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a pro-Palestinian organisation, and was in Beita for a weekly demonstration against Israeli settlements, said Neta Golan, the group's co-founder. Beita mayor Mahmud Barham said he was told an Israeli soldier "fired two shots" at protesters demonstrating against an Israeli settlement outpost, with one bullet hitting Eygi "in the head". An ISM activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shot that killed Eygi was "a shot to kill" and

UK man gets 9 years in jail after far-right riot at hotel housing asylum seekers

World. A man who helped fuel a fire outside a hotel housing more than 200 asylum-seekers was sentenced Friday to nine years in prison, the longest punishment handed so far to those involved in last month's wave of far-right riots in England. At the sentencing hearing at Sheffield Crown Court in the north of England, painter and decorator Thomas Birley pleaded guilty to the charge of arson with the intent to endanger life at the Holiday Inn Express hotel in nearby Rotherham last month. Judge Jeremy Richardson told Birley, 27, that his case was "unquestionably" one of the most serious of the dozens he has dealt with in the past month in relation to the rioting outside the hotel on Aug. 4. He said he needed to pass an extended sentence due to Birley's danger to the public, and ordered that when he is eventually released he should be on licence for five years, meaning that if he reoffends he would be liable to go back to prison. The judge said he was particularly concerned about aspects of a presentence report that said Birley had an interest that "borders the territory, if not crosses it, to a white supremacist mindset." Birley, who has previous convictions, including for racially aggravated harassment, admitted arson with intent to endanger life, violent disorder and possession of an offensive weapon at a previous hearing. Overall, the judge said that like the other outbreaks of violence in England in early August, the case around the attack on the hotel was "suffused with racism." The court heard how the masked Birley was involved in many of the worst incidents on that Sunday afternoon, including adding wood to the fire in a bin that had been pushed against an exit, and helping place a further bin on top of the one ablaze. Birley was also filmed throwing projectiles at the police, squaring up to officers while brandishing a police baton and throwing a large bin that crashed into a line of police with riot shields.

Goats, rabbits, horses: US man kills 81 animals in 3-hour shooting spree

The accused went on a shooting spree in Northern California and killed 81 animals, including miniature horses, goats and chickens.

San Francisco. A man suspected of going on a three-hour shooting rampage in Northern California and killing 81 animals, including miniature horses, goats and chickens, pleaded not guilty to animal cruelty and other charges.

Vicente Arroyo, 39, made his first court appearance Thursday after Monterey County Sheriff deputies arrested him earlier in the week for allegedly using several weapons to shoot the animals being housed in pens and cages on a lot in the small community of Prunedale. The animal owners do not want to be identified or speak with the media, Monterey County Sheriff Commander Andres Rosas told The Associated Press Friday.

"I went out there, and it was a pretty traumatic scene. These were people's pets," he said. One of the miniature horses belonged to the owner of the lot where the animals were housed, and the other 80 belonged to someone who rented the

land to house their pets, Rosas said. According to court records, Arroyo was charged with killing 14 goats, nine chickens, seven ducks, five rabbits, a guinea pig and 33 parakeets and cockatiels. Arroyo is also charged with killing a pony named Lucky and two miniature horses named Estrella and Princessa. KSBW-TV reported. Some animals survived the shooting that lasted several hours but had to be euthanized because of the severity of their injuries, Rosas said. Rosas said Arroyo lived in a camper in a vineyard next to the lot where the animals were kept and that a motive is not yet known. His attorney, William Pernik, said that after talking to Arroyo and his family he became concerned about his client's mental competency and asked the judge for a mental health evaluation. "We're dealing with an individual who has very serious charges and who does not appear to be in the



right state of mind to understand the proceedings against him," Pernik said. Pernik said that Arroyo's family had reached out to various country agencies to get help for him but that "unfortunately, he did not receive that mental health help in time before this tragic incident."

The judge ordered Arroyo, who is being held on a \$1 million bail, to undergo a mental evaluation. The court will get an update on Arroyo's mental status in two weeks, Pernik said. Authorities received multiple 911 calls around 3.25 am Tuesday reporting shots being fired in

Prunedale, an incorporated community about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the city of Salinas, he said. Deputies who arrived on the scene could hear shots being fired, and a shelter-in-place was ordered for a five-mile radius. Monterey County SWAT members were sent in, and the sheriff's office also requested drone assistance from the nearby Seaside Fire Department and Gonzales Police Department, Rosas said. Officers in an armored vehicle arrested Arroyo without incident, he said. Deputies found a crashed pickup truck and recovered eight firearms, including long rifles, shotguns and handguns, at the scene. After executing a search warrant on Arroyo's camper, they found another seven firearms, including an illegal AK-47 assault rifle, two ghost guns, and about 2,000 rounds of various calibers of ammunition, Rosas said.

He Is "Very Pro-India": Hindu Group Endorses Trump Over Kamala Harris

Announcing the decision on Thursday, Hindus for America First chairman and founder Utsav Sanduja claimed that Harris would be "very destabilising for Indo-US relations".

Washington. Hindus for America First, a newly created grassroots organisation, has announced it will endorse Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and launch a campaign against Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in the key battleground states of Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina. Announcing the decision on Thursday, Hindus for America First chairman and founder Utsav Sanduja

claimed that Harris would be "very destabilising for Indo-US relations." "The concern is that if Kamala becomes the president of the United States, then she might put in some liberal wolves on the bench who may actually reverse the Supreme Court on this (and) that impacting the Asian-American voters," he said. The Biden-Harris administration has not kept the border secure. Harris is the second in command after President Joe Biden and did nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the US, he said. "As a consequence of all these illegal immigrants, we've seen record crime, record drug smuggling... and it ends up affecting minority communities, in particular many of the Asian-American business owners," he said. On the other hand, Sanduja praised Trump's efforts to make the immigration system more merit-based. He also lauded the



former president's efforts to bolster defence and technology cooperation with India. Trump is "very pro-India". He was able to cultivate an excellent relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and collaborate on many defence projects that would enable India to take on China, he said. Unlike Harris, who made a lot of "disparaging remarks" about the government and people of India, Trump did not interfere in the

country's internal affairs, Sanduja said. "Kamala Harris would be very destabilising for Indo-US relations," he claimed. He said Hindus for America First is organising efforts among Hindus in battleground states like Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Nevada against Harris. Sanduja said the global Hindu community is concerned about the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. "We would request all political entities concerned to raise this issue," he said, adding that the Hindus of Bangladesh are suffering. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. I give President Trump a lot of credit. Under his leadership, the State Department acknowledged the persecution of Hindus in various parts of the subcontinent, like in Afghanistan...Pakistan, it was President Trump that took the leadership in acknowledging Hindu genocide," he said.

News box

TN health authority to attempt whole genome sequencing of dengue virus

CHENNAI: In a first, the State Public Health Laboratory under the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (DPH) is attempting to carry out whole genome sequencing (WGS) of the dengue virus to determine the strain and severity of the disease, as was done in the case of Covid-19. Speaking at a presser on Friday, Health Minister Ma Subramanian stated that this is the first time that genome sequencing of the dengue virus is going to be attempted at the State Public Health Laboratory, DMS campus. Since there are no Covid-19 cases at present, the lab can be utilised for this purpose. Testing kits will be imported from the US, he added. Director of Public Health Dr T S Selvavinayagam said that after Covid-19, dengue is currently growing into a challenge and this research attempt will help take preventive and control measures for dengue. "We will also know the severity of the disease. So we can take measures," he added.

Selvavinayagam said the technicians at the lab were trained in genome sequencing as they already performed it for Covid-19. The minister further cautioned that dengue cases may rise this year, based on the pattern of such cases spiking once every five years. Since January, Tamil Nadu has reported over 12,000 dengue cases and five deaths so far.

Bharat Electronics Limited proposes to fell 900 trees on campus, enraging greens in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has proposed to fell over 900 trees on its campus to create infrastructure facilities for production, testing, storage and upgradation for export manufacturing, including the production of large-scale EVMs. The proposal has been submitted to the tree committee, which directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to issue a paper notification inviting objections. Bengaluru Biodiversity member Vijay Nishanth, objecting to the move said that the ten-day timeframe for objections is insufficient and that enough time should be given to consider the proposal. "There should be public consultation on the same, as the number of trees to be cut is a huge figure. The primary purpose of the tree committee should be to conserve trees and not merely approve or deny the felling of trees when an application is filed," said Nishanth and added that the committee has not yet published any report about the planting of tree saplings as a backup, its success rates and the current status. Dattatreya Davare, Trustee of Bengaluru Environment Trust, opined that a conclusion about the felling of the trees can be drawn only after an inspection by the authorities. BEL may have carried out plantations in the past due to the availability of land. The question here is whether such expansion is required or another location should be preferred, he added.

New biotech policy to boost sector in Karnataka

BENGALURU: Aiming to solidify the state's position as a global leader in the biotechnology sector, Minister for IT/BT Priyank Kharge unveiled the Karnataka Biotechnology Policy 2024-2029 on Friday. The new policy is targeting a market value of \$100 billion by 2030. The policy is centred on 'Focused transformation through impactful implementation' aiming to synergise with existing state policies, while addressing the specific needs of the biotechnology sector. Key objectives of the policy include: Strengthening biotech education through skilling programmes, streamlining biotech regulations to facilitate business setups and attract investment, and supporting biomanufacturing aligned with health, climate and energy goals to enhance food security. It also focuses on providing continued support for early-stage biotech startups with funding and mentorship, and for mid-stage ventures with growth facilities and market access through preferential procurement of local products, apart from enabling preferential procurement for local biotech products and expediting innovation through a Regulatory Sandbox, and supporting research and development and commercialization in genomics, molecular biology and related fields.

The goal is to facilitate the creation of 300 biotech companies, including 50 innovative firms with a robust incentive package, generate 30,000 high-quality jobs in biotech by 2029 and partner with over 200 institutions to train 20,000 individuals in specialized skills. The updated policy is built on six pillars - skill development for a future-ready workforce, streamlining regulatory frameworks, specific support to biomanufacturing activities, scaling up biotech startups and MSME ecosystem, preferential procurement and sandbox, and fiscal incentives and concessions. The policy works on emerging areas such as bio-agriculture, bio-industrial applications, marine biotechnology, synthetic biotechnology, medical.

Kerala High Court says study needs to be carried out to know capacity of hill stations

The court said the carrying capacity may be estimated using the available data with the respective district administrations concerning assessment of footfall of tourists per day.

KOCHI: Taking note of the spate of natural disasters that have affected the hill stations in the state, the Kerala High Court held there is an emergent need to regulate the unbridled inflow of tourists to such hill stations.

The court suggested estimating carrying capacity and capping the number of vehicles and visitors entering the hill stations, he court said, "A carrying capacity assessment can be done to guide policy makers and district administrations to devise a system of management of tourist areas in the interest of ecology and preservation."

"It also issued a directive to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the SDMA on the allegations of three persons who witnessed the disaster that the district disaster management issued no alert regarding extreme rainfall.

When the suo motu case initiated following the Wayanad landslide came up for hearing, a division bench comprising Justice A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and Justice Syam Kumar V M said hill stations

in Kerala are among the most sought-after tourist destinations in India and the increasing number of tourists and corresponding unscientific infrastructure development in response to it, pose a grave danger to the spots. Overcrowding or saturation of tourists leading to

increased footfall, congestion, traffic and limited resources like water and electricity affect the quality of residents' lives.

The court said the carrying capacity may be estimated using the available data with the respective district administrations concerning assessment of footfall of tourists per day during peak and non-peak

seasons, assessment of the number of all types of vehicles entering the district during peak and non-peak season, available accommodation facilities determined from only the facilities that have all legal permits, together with parking space, to assess whether it is commensurate with accommodation facilities, and assess water availability in the district and determine the water that is available to tourist facilities after accounting for and preserving water resources for local use. The court directed the government to file a report on October 25.

Wayanad tunnel road on HC radar

Kochi: The HC orally directed the government to inform it about any construction related to Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi Tunnel Road in Wayanad.

"There are reports that both the government and opposition are supporting the project. We may not be in its favour considering the environmental impact," said a division bench, while directing the state not to commence any work without notifying the court.



Hike security at all PHCs: DPH to dist health officers in TN

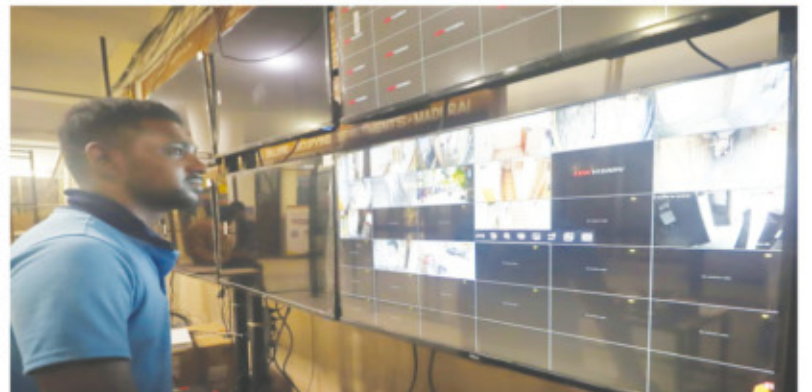
Access to the key areas within the premises of PHCs should be regulated, he added.

CHENNAI: Director of Public Health Dr T S Selvavinayagam has instructed all district health officers to enhance security in all primary health centres (PHCs) after the union health ministry directed all states to submit action-taken reports on immediate security measures implemented at medical institutions, in the wake of the rape-murder of a PG doctor in Kolkata. In his communication to all district health officers on Thursday, Selvavinayagam said

that a hospital security committee and violence prevention committee should be constituted at all PHCs immediately. Access to the key areas within the premises of PHCs should be regulated, he added. Proper functioning of CCTV cameras and ample lighting in all areas in and around the PHC premises should be ensured and is to be monitored continuously. Regular patrolling by police should also be ensured, he said. Selvavinayagam also

instructed all doctors and health care workers in PHCs to install the Kaaval Uthavi application on their phones.

Action should be taken to display the punitive, penalty provisions of the Tamil Nadu Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2008, in conspicuous locations within the premises of the PHCs in both Tamil and English, he added.



Relish 'Onasadya' on board with Emirates flights on this Onam Godavari recedes at Dowleswaram Barrage

Authentic Onam dishes will be served across all cabin classes till September 16 as part of celebrating the Onam festival.

KOCHI: Passengers on board Emirates flights to and from Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram to Dubai can now savour Onasadya (the grand traditional feast), and watch their favourite Malayalam movies on this Onam. Authentic Onam dishes will be served across all cabin classes till September 16 as part of celebrating the Onam festival. "Onboard the 14 times weekly Emirates flight to Kochi, and the 7 times weekly Emirates flight to Thiruvananthapuram, curated menus with the distinctive flavours of Onam will be

offered, giving travellers a taste of home," said an airlines spokesperson. Emirates customers can savour traditional appetisers of sharkara upperi (banana roasted in sweet jaggery), kaya varuthathu (crisp banana chips) and kondattam mulaku (fried sun-dried chillies steeped in yoghurt). They can also indulge in a selection of tasty dips essential for Onam, including kaalan (made of coconut, fresh yoghurt and yam), cucumber pachadi (a garnished salad), and puli inji (a sweet and tangy ginger-based chutney). First and Business Class customers will also be served Kerala-style pappadam and piquant mango pickle. A delectable choice of main courses will follow, including Alleppey kozhi curry- spiced chicken in coconut sauce, served with avial, chembra rice and cabbage-carrot thoran, or vegetarian sadya - sambar and kootu, paired with matta rice and carrot pea thoran. Non-vegetarians can also enjoy spicy chicken sukka - pan-fried chicken with coconut and spices, and steamed rice. First class customers can also choose the tasty option of mutton pepper fry. Desserts will include Onam favourites like palada pradhaman-creamy rice pudding served with roasted

pistachios, raisins, and cashew nuts, or parippu payasam - the popular sweet lentil pudding topped with roasted coconut flakes. Staying true to the festive season, all meals will be served on banana leaf dish liners to offer an authentic feel for Keralites. To make the journey even more memorable, those celebrating Onam can enjoy 17 Malayalam movies on 'ice', the inflight entertainment of Emirates.

Welfare pension: Finance dept allocates Rs 1,700 cr to 62 lakh beneficiaries

Thiruvananthapuram: The finance department has allocated D1,700 crore to distribute two instalments of welfare pensions to 62 lakh beneficiaries for Onam. Finance Minister K N Balagopal has said. Beneficiaries of social security and welfare pension will get Rs 3,200 each. "These instalments are supplementary to regular monthly pensions currently being distributed and will be delivered starting Wednesday," Balagopal said.

Rs 4,000 Onam bonus for govt staff, teachers

Thiruvananthapuram: Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Friday announced a Rs 4,000 Onam bonus for government employees and teachers.

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM: The Godavari flood began to recede at Dowleswaram Barrage on Friday, with officials closely monitoring the situation. River conservator Kasi Visweswara Rao said 10.36 lakh cusecs of flood water was discharged into the sea, and further reduction is expected by Saturday morning. Officials remain on high alert as the receding waters continue to pose a risk. It is expected that normal conditions will return within 24 hours. The first alert will be withdrawn once inflows drop below 9 lakh cusecs, as per the flood control room. Flood inflows at Bhadrachalam are gradually decreasing, although the water levels are still above the first warning level. The water level at Dowleswaram Barrage stands at 12.10 feet, while at Bhadrachalam, it is 42.10 feet. Meanwhile, several villages in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district are receiving floodwaters due to the discharge at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage. Floodwaters have entered Bodasakuru village in Allavaram mandal, K Yenugupalli, Shivayilanka, Nagullanka villages in P Gannavaram mandal, and a few island villages in Mummidivaram. Pasarlupadi, Appanapalli causeways were submerged.

Telangana inks pact to make World Trade Centres Association a reality

HYDERABAD: The state government on Friday signed a MoU with the World Trade Centres Association (WTCA) for the establishment of a World Trade Centre Future City (WTCFC) within the proposed AI City. With a built-up space of 10 lakh square feet, the proposed WTCFC will house companies at the forefront of AI and emerging technologies and is poised to be one of the largest capacity building initiatives in global AI domain. IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said that the upcoming AI City is pivotal to the state government's target of increasing IT exports from \$32 billion to \$200 billion. "This partnership is a testament to Telangana's commitment to driving economic growth through global collaboration. It will accelerate our IT export goals and position Telangana firmly among the world's leading AI innovators," he added. WTCA executive director (business development) Robin Van Puyenbroeck expressed admiration for the speed at which

the WTC license for Telangana was granted. "Typically, securing a licence for a new World Trade Centre is a lengthy process. However, given the bold vision of Telangana's leadership, we expedited the process, approving



the licence within a record one week," Puyenbroeck told TNIE. **AI City campus to have world class facilities** Touted to be a mini smart city, the campus in the AI City will house world-class office spaces, trade services, training facilities, retail and entertainment zones, co-living spaces, a luxury hotel, and a primary healthcare facility. "In addition to office space, it's going

to have residences for employees to truly bring in the element of 'walk to work' enabling them to save valuable time on commutes and thus allowing them to improve their quality of life. It's going to bring all of these together, and that's what really makes it the first of its kind," Bhargava Srivari, vice-president, WTC Shamshabad, told TNIE on the sidelines of the AI Summit. It may be mentioned here that WTC Shamshabad is different from WTCFC. WTC Shamshabad is expected to be operational by the Q4 of 2025. Srivari disclosed: "WTC Shamshabad will be a part of a 20 lakh sq ft facility, which will host GCC and other tech Fortune 500 companies as well. The idea is to expand it to one crore sq ft in a phased manner. WTC Shamshabad has also earmarked two lakh sq ft for AI and emerging technology companies to base their offices before expanding to the AI City. The area could go higher if there is demand from AI companies."

India not yet ready for AI regulations says Experts

HYDERABAD: On the second day of the Global AI Summit 2024 at HICC, experts from various fields discussed key aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In the panel discussion on 'Building Trust into AI Systems', experts emphasised the importance of transparent, ethical and accountable AI practices. Opinions varied on how to adapt regulations similar to the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act. Arghya Sengupta, Founder & Research Director of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, said that India is not yet ready for AI regulations and that small innovators and developers could be most affected and recommended adopting certain codes of practice to make AI more responsible. Sunil Abraham, Public Policy Director, Data Governance & Emerging Technologies at Meta, stressed the importance of focusing on model development, with developers playing a key role in creating AI models. Experts from

Georgia University discussed how AI could improve society by integrating technology into daily life and governance. Dr Devesh Ranjan, Eugene C Gwalney, Jr School Chair and Professor, George W Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia



Institute of Technology, highlighted five areas where AI could enhance services in India: improving government services (natural disaster and risk assessment), increasing access to services (digital extensions for farmers), maximising effectiveness of frontline workers (upskilling Anganwadi workers and healthcare professionals), reducing.

China shifts gears to combat strong rivals

THE Chinese military is shifting its focus to winning wars against stronger opponents amid mounting challenges. According to a South China Morning Post report, President Xi Jinping, who is also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), China's highest defence body, has directed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to enhance its strategic capabilities to defend the country's sovereignty and developmental interests. Xi unveiled the new directive while commemorating Deng Xiaoping's 120th birth anniversary on August 22. He highlighted Deng's vision for the PLA — which was instrumental in developing it into a strong, modernised and well-organised force — emphasising the importance of 'fewer but better troops'. General Miao Hua, a member of the CMC, stated while commenting on the strategic shift, "In the new journey, we should focus on strengthening capabilities to defeat strong enemies and opponents." A recent article in the PLA Daily, while referring to Deng's 1980 strategic judgement that "a world war can be postponed or avoided", noted that China now faces great changes unseen in a century. It asserted the need for the armed forces to remain vigilant and maintain strategic clarity on the possible risk of war, make full preparations for military struggle, effectively deter war and resolutely win it. The Chinese leadership has refined its warfighting doctrines of winning local wars since the 1990s through white papers and strategic guidelines. The first 'White Paper on National Defence' was published in 1998. Following the release of 'White Paper on National Defence (2006)', the PLA adopted the 'local wars under informationised conditions' doctrine to match technologically superior adversaries. Through the 'informationised war' doctrine, China sought to impose high costs on conventionally superior opponents by targeting command, control, communication, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) networks. The recent directive to the military to prepare for wars against strong enemies marks another strategic shift, primarily as a response to the challenges China is facing, both in the maritime domain and on the land borders. Incidentally, Xi, on assuming power in 2012, had initiated a slew of deep-rooted military reforms as he had envisioned the PLA to play a key role in realising the 'China Dream' of a prosperous and powerful China by the middle of the century. Sovereignty was identified as one of the key national objectives. Besides fostering nationalism, it was to ensure the security of periphery and the integration of Taiwan and all claimed territories with the motherland. To provide strategic direction to implement Xi's vision, the 'White Paper on National Defence, 2015' (China's Military Strategy) was released. Its theme was 'active defence', and its focus was on winning 'local wars under conditions of modern technology'. It implied a major transition in the naval strategy from 'offshore waters defence' to a combined strategy of 'offshore waters defence and open sea protection' to secure China's maritime interests.

To operationalise the new doctrine, the CMC was restructured and military regions reorganised into theatre commands. A number of measures were instituted to enhance military capabilities across the spectrum. PLA navy (PLAN), numerically the biggest navy today with more than 350 ships, is expected to reach a strength of 450, including six aircraft carriers, in the next few years. The Chinese Coast Guard is the largest in the world, with over 100 vessels. The PLA air force is in the process of building an 'air space defence force' to enhance its power projection capabilities. It is expected to have a fleet of over 1,000 stealth and fifth-generation fighter aircraft by around 2035. Besides, the Rocket Force arsenal is anticipated to go up to 700 before the end of the decade, duly complemented by hypersonic glide vehicles and cruise missiles.

Crumbling statues, falling standards

TRYSTS AND TURNS: The fear that haste may lead to waste does not seem to worry the authorities

A 35-ft statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great Maratha warrior known for his guerrilla warfare skills — which he successfully used against the Mughals — was knocked down by strong winds blowing across the coastal town of Malwan in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. The statue had been erected in a hurry prior to the Lok Sabha elections this year to permit Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate it. Modi, always willing to perform such pre-election chores, obliged. Just six months later, he was forced to apologise for the mishap, though he himself could hardly be blamed for nature's vagaries. His sycophants were the real culprits.

Around Rs 83 crore were spent on the statue's construction, which was entrusted to the Navy in deference to the memory of Maratha admiral Kanhoji Angre, who commanded the Maratha navy in those glorious days. The original plan, it now appears, was to build a six-ft statue and the design for it was scrutinised and approved by the Directorate of Art as per the prescribed procedure. One wonders who raised its height and why. Those who would have claimed credit for the statue will now seek anonymity for valid security concerns.

Stories of incompetence and blatant corruption are doing the rounds, all leading to the doorstep of Mahayuti leaders Eknath Shinde, the Maharashtra Chief Minister who leads a faction of the Shiv Sena, and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, one of the two deputy chief ministers. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who abandoned his uncle Sharad Pawar for personal aggrandisement, is the other Deputy CM, but he has distanced himself from his partners because he had sensed the Maratha anger against the toppling of the statue.

The BJP realises that Ajit is proving to be a liability in the three-party alliance. Ajit's uncle still commands the loyalty of the Maratha community, as was proved in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Fadnavis, the BJP's loyal pointsman in the state, had erroneously calculated that the ambitious Ajit would be able to bring in the bulk of the NCP's vote bank, but that was not to be. Sharad continues to be the Maratha strongman, despite his advancing age and ill health. Ajit's tirade against his friends in the

Mahayuti is not going to help him advance his political career. At present, it has only succeeded in weakening the ruling alliance's chances of retaining power. The molestation of two four-year-old girls in a school at Badlapur in Thane district had already done harm to the fortunes of the Mahayuti. And now, nature has joined forces with the Opposition MVA (Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi), led by the Congress and consisting of a resurgent Shiv Sena-UBT



(Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the presently dominant Sharad-led faction of the NCP.

As of today, the dice is loaded against the parties in power. The BJP had made inroads in urban areas of the state. It will hold on to its voters, but the two parties on whose strength it relied will not be able to contribute to the extent Fadnavis expected them to do. In fact, there is the distinct possibility of the NCP's Ajit faction gradually fading into oblivion. When the foot soldiers find that their leader will not be able to provide the expected goodies, they will gravitate to those in a position to oblige.

Reverting to the matter of the statue, it is quite obvious to even the poorly informed that such construction needs expertise of a superior calibre. It also needs supervision of a higher order with officials for the purpose being chosen from among those with a reputation for integrity. Fortunately, there still remain many in the IAS with that qualification.

The pressure to complete works expeditiously, which is happening often when elections are round the corner, should be avoided. The PM inaugurated the

new Parliament building in a bit of a hurry and very soon it developed leakages and defects. Modi did not apologise for that fiasco like he did for the fall of Shivaji's statue! According to his statement, the Maratha warrior was a 'god'. Agreed that a building cannot be deified, but a Parliament building is a sacred place, because like the poet Byron wrote about the Castle of Chillon in Switzerland, "May none those marks efface! For they appeal from tyranny to God." A massive project is underway in my city of Mumbai. It is the Coastal Road project that has reclaimed acres and acres of land from the sea to decongest the heavy traffic caused by the proliferation of cars. The work goes on relentlessly day and night since targets are set (as they should be) and important leaders are eager to inaugurate even minor sections of the project. The fear that haste may lead to waste does not seem to worry the authorities like it worries thinking citizens. I remember the car journey I took once from Kowloon to the mainland of Hong Kong through an undersea tunnel. It was a feat of engineering. A similar tunnel was a part of Mumbai's Coastal Road. Very

soon, it developed leaks. When the media carried the news, many senior citizens decided against travelling by car through that tunnel. I am told that the leaks have been patched. That is a consolation, but why are we so tolerant of shoddy work which is inevitable if it has to be completed in a hurry to accommodate leaders who want their names embossed on stone? Bihar has not yet received its annual quota of rainfall, but as soon as the first showers fell, as many as a dozen newly constructed bridges collapsed! In Rajkot (Gujarat), a bridge collapse resulted in the death of car passengers. Are our engineers and contractors incompetent or, as is more likely, have they dipped their hands into the till? Since no one is held responsible and punished, Modi's promise of remaining squeaky clean himself and ensuring that his administrators also remain above board is like his promise to show no mercy to those convicted of molesting women — only an empty promise meant for luring voters to keep double-engine governments in office.

A desperate step

Bengal Bill mandates death penalty for rapists

IN a dramatic response to the public outcry following the recent rape and murder of a young doctor in Kolkata, the West Bengal Assembly has passed the Aparajita Anti-Rape Bill, which mandates the death penalty for rapists if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state. The swift passage of this Bill comes amid protests from the public, demanding justice and accountability from the Mamata Banerjee-led government. The Bill seeks to reassure citizens of the state's commitment to protecting women.

However, it has sparked a debate about whether such measures are merely a politically motivated reaction to silence the growing unrest. Party leaders continue to face a public backlash. Comments comparing protesting doctors to 'butchers' have only intensified public ire, further alienating the government from those it seeks to placate. Also, the fact that the new



Bill is in conflict with the Centre's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which does not prescribe capital punishment for

rape, creates a legal conundrum. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have struggled to secure the presidential assent on similar Bills. Plus, even as the death penalty has not proved effective as a deterrent, the irreversible nature of such a punishment raises human rights concerns.

The passing of the Aparajita Bill is a desperate move by the TMC government, aiming to restore public faith and regain control over the narrative. Whether this legislation will bring the desired change or simply add to the long list of unimplemented laws remains to be seen. As the Bill awaits approval by the Governor and President, the broader question of its efficacy and ethical implications looms large. The state would do well to focus on improving the investigative and judicial processes, ensuring a swift and fair trial and addressing the systemic issues that lead to such heinous crimes.

Food processing sector symbolises India's growth story

We are not merely advancing an industry but also embracing a shared vision of a future in which innovation, sustainability and prosperity uplift every corner of our nation.

THE food processing sector in India stands out as a beacon of our nation's ambition, symbolising the strides we are making toward Viksit Bharat. No longer just a contributor to the economy, this sector is rapidly transforming into a cornerstone of India's growth story. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a masterful blend of policies, initiatives and infrastructure development has catapulted the sector to new heights, turning it into a formidable force on the global stage. India currently boasts a thriving economy valued at \$3.7 trillion, with ambitious goals of reaching \$30-35-trillion economy by the nation's centenary of Independence in 2047. At the core of India's transformation lies its rich agro-climatic diversity, empowering our farmers to cultivate a remarkable variety of crops. As a global leader in producing pulses, millets, milk, wheat, rice and a vast range of fruits and vegetables, India possesses an unparalleled resource base for value addition. This agricultural abundance, meticulously nurtured by our hardworking farmers, has sparked a wave of innovation and entrepreneurship, giving rise to a thriving food processing sector. This sector has become a keystone of India's economic development, driving growth through employment generation, technological advancements and the creation of new market opportunities. India also boasts the largest and youngest working population among the top global economies, further fuelling this dynamic transformation. By harnessing advanced processing technologies, the industry has been instrumental in reducing post-harvest losses, extending the product shelf life and ensuring that farmers receive better returns for their efforts. As India's food processing sector continues to evolve, it not only meets international quality standards but

also diversifies its offerings to cater to the ever-changing tastes and preferences of global consumers. The close synergy between agriculture and food processing has thus become a powerful engine of economic progress. It underscores the vital role that our farmers and agriculture play in shaping the nation's future, ensuring that India's agricultural produce reaches every corner of the world with enhanced value and quality. Through this integration, supported by a vibrant and youthful workforce, we witness the emergence of a resilient, globally competitive sector that is poised to lead India toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

As an inflection point, the Covid-19 pandemic revealed the sector's impressive resilience, swiftly adapting to the rising demand for processed foods. The gradual shift towards ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook and value-added products emphasised the sector's crucial role in food security and nutrition. A strong food processing sector is essential for addressing food and nutritional security challenges in India, providing convenience, a longer shelf life and better access to remote areas. It also ensures improved price realisation for farmers and enhances market opportunities, making a significant impact on the GDP and supporting livelihoods.

At the forefront is the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), championing flagship programs like the PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). This initiative is transforming the sector by developing cutting-edge infrastructure and optimising supply chain management from the

farmgate to retail. Complementing these efforts, the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme propels the growth of micro food processing units through support for technology upgrades, capacity-building and marketing. The Production-Linked Incentive Scheme further energises domestic manufacturing and export growth by offering financial rewards tied to incremental



sales. Additionally, the Special Infrastructure Fund of Rs 2,000 crore under NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) plays a crucial role in reinforcing the sector's infrastructure. This coordinated approach underscores a comprehensive strategy to elevate the food processing industry and related sectors, ensuring a robust, integrated and forward-looking growth path. India's rapidly growing economy and its demographic

dividend create a unique and unprecedented opportunity for the food processing sector to reach new heights. The government's pro-business reforms, including strategic tax incentives, streamlined ease of doing business initiatives and significant infrastructure development, have fostered an environment ripe for investment and growth. This supportive landscape not only attracts global attention but also positions India as a dynamic hub for innovation and expansion in the food processing industry. After the resounding success of the 2023 edition of World Food India, the ministry is organising the third edition of the global event from September 19 to 22. Stakeholders from every facet of the food industry will come together to exchange ideas, explore opportunities and contribute to the overall development of this crucial sector. It will be a one-of-a-kind gathering of manufacturers, producers, investors, policymakers and organisations from across the global food ecosystem. World Food India serves as a platform where stakeholders converge to explore innovations, forge partnerships and chart a course towards a sustainable food future. Let us seize the opportunities and embark on a journey towards a more prosperous and resilient food system that benefits all stakeholders across the value chain. In this moment of convergence, we are not merely advancing an industry but also embracing a shared vision of a future in which innovation, sustainability and prosperity uplift every corner of our nation.

Restaurant review: Moonshine Café & Bar

Wondering how the concept of Moonshine and a cafe-bar could go together? This place truly resonates the American concept of distilling liquor at night "by the light of the moon,"



Aventure by five friends - Kabeer Marwaha, Anuj Pawra, Nitin Chaudhary, Ankit Dayal, Amit Saxena kicked off pretty well. Surprisingly none of the group members come from a hotel management background but have crafted a good way to attract the customers. The Moonshine Cafe & Bar occupies largely young adults, where the big space transforms into a dancing floor in no time. Decor & Music Located at Hauz Khas Village, Moonshine Cafe & Bar seamlessly divides the interiors into sections which play different genres of music suiting your aural senses. American pop-culture is the core of the theme: Chicago's skyline on the walls, posters (ad or film??), in the backdrop of an industrial design, softened with dim-lighting. The place is furnished with tall wooden tables and chairs and long couches. The music stays the focal element of Moonshine Cafe & Bar: Wednesdays are Sufi

men are, midori illusion, Irish passion and Charlie Chaplin. Food/snacks And to compliment your cocktail, Cheese and Jalapeno croquettes would be good - these barrel shaped deep fried fritters are served with barbeque sauce and house salad; thinly sliced jalapenos, beetroot and tomatoes give you a perfect taste. For the non-vegies, Beer Batter Fish served with tartar sauce and french fries, is a fine choice. The upper crust of deep fried fish is crispy and melts down with the tangy sauce within). Apart from the regular chart, Moonshine burgers are worth a try. These small-sized burgers could be eaten in one go and act like a topping. Enjoy these burgers with your personalised drink. However, you feel there are lesser options for the mains, apart from Thai green curry, fajitas, keema pao and few more dishes; the menu could be pushed further to choose from a varied range. People looking for a party place with friends/colleagues and even family, Moonshine Cafe & Bar could be a good option, not certainly you should wait for the weekend to move to this place.

hts; the cafe also has live performances and the performers do play music on demand. While electronic, house, classic rock and popular jazz are regular on cafe's playlist, series of medley keeps the sensation at the top of barometer. Cocktails Try the Refresh Cooler (a blend of white rum, old monk, fresh pineapple juice, orange juice and grenadine syrup), because when you are having a grilled platter the ingredients of refresh cooler do quench the thirst better than others. You get a refreshing kick back of your mind. People looking for something in-house can try the Moonshine Caprioska (a mixture of orange juice, vodka, orange chunks, chat masala topped with soda). Caprioska describes the taste of an ardent cocktail admirer, the spice of chat masala lingers on your tongue. Try for a fine balance of tanginess and masala. A few other good options from the bar

Recipe: Mutton Curry in mustard oil



Cooking mutton curry in pressure cooker involves a few easy steps
Ingredients: One kg mutton, salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil, ginger garlic paste, dahi, garam masala, potatoes, four or five big onions, green chillies, one big tomato.

Method: Lightly wash the mutton pieces, remove water and keep in mixing bowl. Do not over wash mutton. Sprinkle salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil and a little bit of ginger garlic paste, and let it marinate for a while. You can add a spoon of dahi too. The onions need to be thinly sliced. In a

pressure cooker, heat mustard oil till it starts smoking and add all the Bengali garam masalas (cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and tej patta) and green chillies according to your taste. When they start spluttering, add the chopped onions and saute till they are almost red. Now add the ginger garlic paste and stir well. Add tomato and fry till oil separates, then add turmeric powder, dhaniya and jeera powder. Stir well and cook for about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the mutton pieces and stir well. Cook for at least 15-20 minutes by stirring occasionally. This is a crucial step. Next, taste and fix the salt. You can add a little bit of garam masala and pepper powder according to your preference. Add warm water to get the gravy. Now, add the potatoes. Generally, a big one is sliced into halves. You can fry the potatoes at the onset and leave them aside, before adding them at this point. Cover and cook on high flame till you get about 5 or 6 whistles in pressure cooker. Now reduce the flame to check the seasoning and adjust salt. Add some ghee to it if you want it rich.



Despite her busy schedule, the beautiful actress never misses a date with her first love—cooking

It was a foregone conclusion at her para in Jalpaiguri that one day she would become a chef or open her own restaurant, but Mimi Chakraborty ended up entertaining her neighbours and other Bengal residents alike as an actress. That, of course, didn't mean a premature end to her love affair with all things culinary. "As it is said, you shouldn't marry your best friend. Likewise, I believe not every passion should be transformed into a profession. Cooking is my stress-buster, my hobby, my love," said the actress with a twinkle in her eye.

"Not many know that I go shopping for various spices ahead of Puja to rustle up special dishes during the festival," said the actress, who is busy adding to her sari collection for Puja. "I love experimenting with spices and coming up with exotic dishes. After all, proper seasoning is crucial. I once made brinjal curry with thyme leaf paste and my friends said that it tasted like heaven. Why, one day, I might even mix oregano in gourd curry!" laughed Mimi, who can cook for at least 50 people without aid.

"On Saptami, at least 30 of us go pandal hopping all night long and the meeting place is my house. So, dinner is on me. My friends can digest anything under the sun; so, the best thing to cook for them is khichuri! But then again, they hate veg khichuri. So, this year, I'm cooking keema khichuri for them. But that's not enough for my friends, who are always dying of hunger! Some of them want kebabs to go with the khichuri," the actress said, her glowing face showing how much she loved to cook for her friends.

Mimi was always keen about cooking and used to help out her ma and kakima to prepare items for their food stall near their neighbourhood Durga Puja pandal in Jalpaiguri. "Ma is an awesome cook and the egg devils and fish chops used to sell like hot cakes from our stall. I wish to write a cook book some day," smiled the actress, before sharing her own keema khichuri recipe with us. "I've altered the traditional khichuri recipe handed down to me by ma to

Mimi's kitchen Escapades



make it tasty yet healthy. And it takes just 30 minutes to cook! After all, during Puja, the priority is to look my best. So, cooking any dish that takes too much time is a no-no," she said.

Keema Khichuri (serves 4)

Ingredients:
Mutton keema: 250 gm
Rice: 2 cups
Moong dal: ¼ cup
Masoor dal: ¼ cup
Onion: 3 (chopped)
Ginger paste: 3 tsp
Garlic paste: 3 tsp
Tomato: 1 (chopped)

Bay leaves: 2
Red chillies: 2
Garam masala (whole): 1 tsp
Garam masala (powder): 1 tsp
Turmeric powder: 1 tsp
Olive oil: 3 tsp
Salt: to taste

Method
Wash the mutton keema, mix with salt and keep aside for an hour. Soak the rice and dal separately in water. Heat two-three tablespoons of olive oil in a pressure cooker and once it's hot, add the bay leaves, red chillies, whole garam masala, garlic paste, ginger paste, chopped tomato, onion slices and salt. Stir fry for a while. Add a little water and let it boil on a medium flame for a while. Add the keema and cook for five-seven minutes. Strain the soaked rice and dal and add to the keema mixture. Add water and turmeric powder and stir for a few minutes. Pressure cook till three to four whistles. Once done, add garam masala powder and stir the khichuri for three-four minutes. Garnish with fried onions and serve hot.

Taking the place of My Humble House, it uses all the possible scientific methods to not just infuse taste but also enhance the flavours of ingredients. You not only watch the drama unfold at this grand five star eatery right in front of you on your table, but also participate in this stimulating dining.

Name the technique, and chef Vikramjit Roy has used it. Cooking the meats sous vide, using dehydrated fruits and veggie slices to having soups ooze out of an infuser—there's no trick in the book that Vikramjit has not tried. It is no wonder that it is being hailed as a 'game-changer.' Be prepared to enjoy a Thai dish with lemongrass smoke to awaken your olfactory system or tickle your taste buds with frozen fruits used as dry ice.

One has to give it to chef though that despite using all the avant garde cooking techniques, he has kept the fare familiar. It's a lot of fun on every plate. The menu also steers clear of regular nomenclature and terms starters as 'The curtain raiser' with lamb satay and Thai fish cakes with peppery condiments while soups are named 'The prelude' featuring purity of earth soup high on dehydrated sliced carrots and mushrooms with an infuser pouring the stock! The main course dishes are named 'Star cast' featuring herbed John Dory served with garlic spinach and kabocha (Korean squash) mash and duck red curry (their very own version of Thai red curry) made sous vide in a coconut shell.

The staff has been trained to inform each diner about the ingredients and process of preparing each dish. The

Restaurant Review: Tian

Tian calls itself 'Asian cuisine studio.' It could well call itself a food lab too. For a meal at this new restaurant is nothing short of delectable experiment.



While each dish is a star in its own right, the real star of the dining experience remains the 'eat off your table' dessert. Frozen chocolates here, nitrogen cooled ingredients there and you have special sweet treat on your table. That may be part of chef's special menu only though.

It's a five star treat you mustn't miss. Try it for novelty sake and we bet you can't have it just once.

Must Try: Red duck curry, purity of earth soup, lamb satay, Thai fish cake with spicy mango

dish es are also classified under the ingredients with poultry, vegetarian, shellfish, pork, scallops and fish being a section each. It took close to two years for chef and the hotel to finally come up with menu!

relish
Where: ITC Maurya, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi
Meal for two: Rs 5,000 approx; Timings: 7-11.30 pm

AAP leader Kuldeep Kumar downplays Rajendra Pal's exit from party

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Kuldeep Kumar dismissed Rajendra Pal Gautam's move to Congress, calling it a routine move before elections.

► Party-switching before elections is common, AAP leader Kuldeep Kumar said
 ► AAP stayed calm about Gautam's departure to Congress
 ► The party viewed Gautam's move as a routine election shift

New Delhi. Senior AAP leader and Delhi State Vice President Kuldeep Kumar downplayed the recent exit of ex-AAP MLA Rajendra Pal Gautam, who joined Congress on Friday. Kumar described the move as routine, noting that party-switching before elections is common. "When tickets are in doubt, some jump ship," Kumar said, emphasising the party's calm response. Addressing Gautam's departure, Kumar highlighted that leaders often come and go during election seasons. "The AAP gave all due respect to Rajendra Pal Gautam, entrusting him with significant responsibilities as a minister and overseeing multiple departments," Kumar stated. Kumar explained that switching parties is typical when candidates sense their

chances of securing a ticket are uncertain. He emphasised that this trend is not unusual in politics. Wishing Gautam well, he said, "I wish him all the best in his future political endeavors, and may he enjoy good health and happiness."

Gautam, a prominent Dalit leader, joined the Congress in the presence of party leaders KC Venugopal, Devender Yadav, and Pawan Khera. Gautam joined AAP in 2014 and was elected as an MLA from the Seemapuri constituency in the 2020 Delhi Assembly polls.

Gautam's departure from the AAP is the third high-profile exit from the party in recent times, following the exit of MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar and ex-Minister Raaj Kumar Anand.



Delhi govt to pay Rs 7.5 lakh relief for prisoners dying in jail

NEW DELHI. Delhi government has decided to pay a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh to the next of kin or legal heirs of prisoners who die due to unnatural reasons while confined in the jails of Delhi. The city government has submitted a proposal in this regard to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) for his nod. Unnatural custodial death could be caused due to quarrels among inmates, beatings by prison staff, torture, negligence by prison officers, or negligence by medical or paramedical officers. However, compensation will not be admissible in cases of unnatural death due to suicide, escape attempts from jail or lawful custody outside the jail, or in cases of natural death, disaster, or calamity. It will also not apply to deaths due to illness. Commenting on this, Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot, stated, "The state government believes that this measure will act as a deterrent against misconduct and negligence in our jails." Once approved, the policy will take effect from the date of notification, he added. The superintendent of the jail concerned will be required to submit a detailed report, including a copy of the magisterial enquiry report, postmortem report, final cause of death, medical history at the time of admission in jail, and details of any medical treatment provided before the custodial death. The report will be sent to the Director General (DG) of Prisons, Delhi, for onward submission to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Dengue cases dropped by 94 per cent this year, says NDMC

NEW DELHI. Over 94% drop in cases of dengue were recorded this year, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) said on Friday. According to the data released by the civic body, seven cases of dengue were recorded till August 29, in comparison to 131 of the last year. Moreover, no case of Chikungunya was recorded this time. Previous year, one case was reported. The data showed that the NDMC has issued 1,679 notices this year so far where mosquito breeding was found and 104 challans were issued till now. NDMC Member Kuljeet Singh Chahal said that the NDMC is making all efforts to identify and eliminate existing mosquito-borne breeding conditions to prevent the outbreak of malaria and dengue in the area. "Due to surveillance and awareness, cases of mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue, have come down by 94 per cent. This year only seven patients of dengue have been detected as compared to the last year of 131." There was one patient of malaria, not a single patient of chikungunya has been registered this year. As compared to the MCD, it has reported 237 cases of malaria, 578 cases of dengue, and 30 cases of chikungunya," Chahal said. The NDMC area divided into 14 circles wherein 15, anti-malaria mate 15 surveillance worker, 83 anti-malaria gangman, and 29 seasonal anti-malaria workers with 30 additional workforce from civil department during monsoon seasons developed to prevent and checked the area by providing the machines like knap sack, battery spray machine, puls fog, vehicles mounted fogging machines, he said.

Probe agency NIA charges UK national for 2023 attack on Indian Mission in UK

According to the NIA chargesheet, Inderpal Singh Gaba was one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest outside the Indian High Commission on March 22 last year.

New Delhi. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against a key accused, Inderpal Singh Gaba, in connection with the 2023 attack on the Indian High Commission in London. Gaba, a resident of Hounslow, UK, was arrested by the NIA in April this year in connection with the attack by pro-Khalistan supporters on March 19 and 22, 2023.



According to the NIA chargesheet, Inderpal Singh Gaba was one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest outside the Indian High Commission on March 22 last year. On that day, over 2,000 pro-Khalistan supporters vandalised

the High Commission buildings, throwing various objects, including ink, to deface them. Three days earlier, a mob had pulled down the Indian flag, injuring some embassy staffers in the process.

The attack was allegedly orchestrated by Avtar Singh Khanda, a UK-based leader of the Khalistan Liberation

Force (KLF), who later died in a UK hospital in June last year. Meanwhile, Inderpal Singh Gaba was detained by immigration authorities at the Attari border in December 2023 upon his arrival from London via Pakistan. The detention was based on a lookout circular issued against him.

According to the NIA, a probe was initiated and Gaba was instructed not to leave the country while the investigation was ongoing. The NIA stated that it seized his mobile phone and analysed the data, uncovering several incriminating videos and photos of the incident, which eventually established his involvement.

India's second nuclear-powered submarine enhances strike range to 3,500 km

New Delhi. India has officially unveiled the advanced capabilities of its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighaat, which can hit targets at longer ranges than its predecessor, INS Arihant. While INS Arihant is equipped with ballistic missiles capable of striking targets up to 750 kilometres away, INS Arighaat has been fitted with missiles that can reach up to 3,500 kilometres, top sources told. INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018, was the first boat of its class to join the Indian Navy. The second Arihant-class submarine, INS Arighaat, was commissioned on August 29, 2024, in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In his address, Singh expressed confidence that INS Arighaat would bolster India's nuclear triad, enhance deterrence, and play a critical role in national security,



strategic balance, and regional peace. Singh praised the Indian Navy, DRDO, and the defence industry for their collaboration in developing this advanced capability, highlighting the project's positive impact on the country's industrial sector, especially MSMEs, and the creation of new employment opportunities.

Reflecting on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's role in establishing India as a nuclear power, the Defence

Minister said, "Today, India is surging ahead to become a developed country. It is essential for us to develop rapidly in every field, including defence, especially in today's geopolitical scenario. Along with economic prosperity, we need a strong military. Our government is working on mission mode to ensure that our soldiers possess top-quality weapons and platforms made on Indian soil."

INS Arighaat's construction involved advanced design and manufacturing technology, in-depth research and development, specialised materials, complex engineering, and skilled workmanship. It features indigenous systems and equipment conceptualised, designed, manufactured, and integrated by Indian scientists, industry experts, and naval personnel.

Gayatri Devi's days in Mrs Gandhi's Emergency: Marriage proposals and sewer rats in Bihar

The Princess of Cooch Behar and Maharani of Jaipur, Gayatri Devi, was jailed for five-and-a-half months during the Emergency. She spent those months in Bihar jail with political prisoners, pickpockets, prostitutes, and sewer rats for company.



New Delhi. "Once the news of my imprisonment got around, I was flooded with presents from my friends... People whom I did not know were sympathetic and astounded by my imprisonment. I even received letters from strangers proposing marriage from abroad, presumably calculated to get me out of India beyond the clutches of this dictatorial regime," recounted Gayatri Devi, the Princess of Cooch Behar and Rajmata of Jaipur, in her autobiography, A Princess Remembers: The Memoirs of the Maharani of Jaipur. It was end-July 1975. Gayatri Devi was 56. She, the Jaipur MP, was at her Delhi home to attend Parliament when she found police officers at her door. She was arrested under COFEPOSA (Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities) Act and thrown into Tihar, the place of incarceration of prisoners of the Emergency, political and otherwise. Nineteen British pounds in loose change, and a few gold coins did Gayatri Devi in. It was the Emergency and rules were flying out of the window faster than you can complete reading this sentence.

'She brought the worst out in Indira Gandhi' For Indira Gandhi, contempt for Gayatri Devi ran deeper than skin-deep but skin did have a role to play. "Indira could not stomach a woman more good-looking than herself and insulted her in Parliament, calling her a bitch and a glass doll. Devi brought the worst out in Indira Gandhi: her petty, vindictive side," wrote Khushwant Singh. Indira and Ayesha, as Gayatri Devi was known to her friends and family, go back to their early years in Shantiniketan.

Delhi government approves compensation for unnatural custodial deaths

The Kejriwal government has approved a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for the families of those who die under unnatural circumstances in Delhi's prisons.

New Delhi. The Delhi government has approved a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for the families or legal heirs of prisoners who die under unnatural circumstances while in custody in Delhi's prisons. The proposal has been submitted to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena for final approval.



Unnatural custodial deaths may include incidents caused by inmate fights, beatings by prison staff, torture, or negligence by prison officers, medical, or paramedical staff. However, compensation will not be provided in cases of death due to suicide, escape attempts, lawful custody outside the jail, natural causes, disasters, or illness. Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot said the measure aims to deter misconduct and negligence in prisons. The policy, once

approved, will take effect from the date of notification.

The jail superintendent must submit a detailed report, including a magisterial inquiry report, postmortem results, the final cause of death, medical history upon

admission, and any medical treatment provided before the death. This report will be sent to the Director General of Prisons for submission to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

A committee led by the Director General of Prisons, including the Additional Inspector General, Resident Medical Officer, DCA, and Law Officer, will review the reports and decide on compensation according to the rules. The committee is required to meet quarterly or as needed to review cases of custodial deaths and must inform the NHRC when compensation is awarded.

The policy also includes provisions for recovering compensation from the salaries of prison officials found responsible. If staff involvement is proven, the committee may order the

► Delhi government approves Rs 7.5 lakh compensation for unnatural custodial deaths
 ► Compensation covers deaths due to negligence, torture, or inmate fights
 ► Compensation can also be recovered from responsible prison staff's salaries

recovery of the compensation amount from the salaries of the erring officials as deemed appropriate.



Boost your child's Energy with Coconut water

Coconut water is a wonder tonic for treating the cold and flu. It's also a great source of calcium and vitamin C.

Coconut water is a naturally refreshing and energising liquid inside the coconut fruit. Coconut water is low in fat and calories but immensely filled with minerals, vitamins and other nutrients. Key nutrients include iron, chloride, potassium, sodium, phosphorus, magnesium, lauric acid and calcium. It is known to consist of twice the potassium content than one banana. One coconut offers an 11 ounce serving of water. Packed with nutrients and offering a sweet taste, coconut water is great for your little one. It's also a great source of calcium and vitamin C and can help prevent dehydration when your tot is unwell as it replenishes the natural salts that are lost

when they're sick or have diarrhoea. Coconut water is a wonder tonic for treating the cold and flu. It contains the exact portion of vitamins, minerals, and salts for treating fever and even aids with gastrointestinal diseases. For the best natural remedy against the cold and flu, coconut water is your ultimate option. Infants between six months to eight months are fed coconut water, and experts recommend not giving the child coconut chunks but rather, coconut water alone. Babies and infants usually can digest coconut water from the moment they start consuming solid foods.

Coconut water should not be given to babies below six months as there might be chances of allergic reactions. Coconut water is known to have high sugar and sodium content, which is why, it is recommended to mix it with rice before serving it to babies to dilute its contents. Health benefits:

•Boosts Skin Health

Drinking coconut water moisturises your child's skin from within and eliminates the excess oil. Coconut water possesses anti-bacterial, anti-microbial, and anti-viral properties that help cure skin infections effectively. Hence, it prevents blemishes and acne from surfacing on the skin when you apply it topically. Coconut water tones your little one's skin and helps them have clean, clear and healthy skin.

•Promotes Digestion

If your kid is constantly suffering from digestion disorders, drinking coconut water provides great relief to your little one. Coconut water contains a high concentration of fibre, which promotes digestion and minimises the occurrence of acid reflux.

•Develops Strong Bones

Coconut water contains a high amount of calcium. So drinking the calcium-rich water helps your kid have strong and healthy bones.

•Boosts Energy

Coconut water contains low sugar and sodium, and high amounts of calcium, chloride and potassium. The abundance of various nutrients helps rehydrate, replenish and refresh your child's body. Your little one will feel energetic after drinking a glass of coconut water. Regular intake of coconut water for kids can prove to be healthy and extremely nutritious. Keep your child energetic, enthused and refreshed with this



Thai chicken Salad Recipe

- 2 red onions, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh mint
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped Thai basil leaves or regular fresh basil
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped cilantro leaves
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 head romaine lettuce, washed and chopped

Method

Place the chicken breast into a 2 quart saucepan with water (the water should cover the chicken breasts), the kosher salt and half of the lemongrass. Bring to a boil and lower to a simmer for 20 minutes. Remove chicken and cool completely. When cooled chop into 1/2 inch cubes and reserve in refrigerator. Sauté garlic, remaining lemongrass and



Radhika Khanna chef and owner of Lotus Blossom, a Thai Party Service tells you how to prepare this dish at home.

- Ingredients**
- 2 pounds boneless chicken breast
 - 3 cups water
 - 1 tablespoon kosher salt
 - 2 stalks lemongrass (chopped)
 - 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
 - 2 teaspoons Thai chili powder
 - 3 tablespoons canola oil
 - 4 stalks celery, finely chopped

chilli powder in oil for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely. Next, toss together the celery, onions, mint, basil and cilantro. Combine chicken with sautéed garlic mixture and the salad components. Add salt, lime juice and honey to taste and place on the lettuce to serve. Note: If you want to make lettuce rolls, then leave a few leaves whole and remove the stiff vein from the lower portion of the leaves. Roll chicken salad up in lettuce leaves for a delicious salad wrap.

Soon, you'll be spraying not drinking coffee

A Harvard researcher has developed a spray that will give you your much needed caffeine fix without having to drink it.

Harvard undergraduate Ben Yu and Venture Capitalist Deven Soni are betting that their new product, Sprayable Energy, will give coffee and energy drinks a run for their money as the world's stimulant of choice. The concept is refreshingly simple. Sprayable Energy consists of water, caffeine and an amino acid that helps the body absorb it.

Four sprays of the odorless solution on a person's neck or wrists will provide roughly the same caffeine as a small cup of coffee, but because the product is absorbed through the skin, it comes with less of a jolt and fewer lingering jitters than your average Starbucks coffee or Monster energy drink.

Soni told the New York Daily News that their goal is not for people to feel like they've had that big caffeine rush, but to make them feel more awake.



Four years in the making, this independent house finally got an identity and a new lease of life with D-Cafe. D-CafeAnd it has the warmth — literally — and the feeling of openness with plants, gardens and relaxed ambience. This works to make it a chilled out hangout place.

Decor

I loved the mystery of walking alongside the house, on wood stumps and round white stones strewn to make a pathway that led me to a bridge. I wondered what awaited me on the other side. "Backyard," my brain said, gleefully. "Maybe, but a beautiful one," my heart said, optimistically. My heart won when I saw this lovely burst of smiling greenery in a quiet space. I could not miss this huge cup sitting in a corner. It reminded me of an amusement park ride with gleeful kids in it. Looking down at my table, where the digital menu was placed, I saw a whimsical use of buttons in different shapes, sizes and colours. "The owners manufacture buttons from natural sources," the chef informed me as he showed me around. I liked the warmth of this place, its colours, and laidback feel. "The fine dining space will be air conditioned, and is scheduled to open in a couple of weeks," the chef added.

Food

Navigating a digital menu is quite unlike flipping through proper paper pages, but still, we managed to zero in on the main course. No starters this time. We went for the Poulet Champignon, which, roughly translated, is chicken, French style. It is a char grilled piece of slightly chewy boneless white meat, coated in a mushroom sauce and served with herbed rice and a sauce on the side. If you like your

Restaurant review: D-Cafe

Four years in the making, this independent house finally got an identity and a new lease of life with D-Cafe. D-CafeAnd it has the warmth — literally — and the feeling of openness with plants, gardens and relaxed ambience. This works to make it a chilled out hangout place.



go with my cilantro rice. Plates cleaned, we moved to dessert. I particularly wanted to try the strawberry cheesecake, but no such luck. It's not available, I was told. I settled for chocolate cake; it turned out to be nice and heavy.

Plus and minus

Its ambience is soothing, just like the seating. The waiters could do with a little more clarity in terms of accent and knowledge of the food on the menu and what to recommend. Times food guide

chicken like that, fine, but if you want melt-in-the-mouth stuff, let the chef know. The sesame teriyaki fish — the chef's interpretation of a classic Japanese fish dish — is interesting. To my delight, I could actually taste the sesame seeds, but felt slightly deprived that I didn't get any sauce to

D-Cafe: 35A, Bazullah Road, T Nagar, Chennai
Meal for Two: Rs 1,200
Timings: 11 am to 11 pm; AC: Partly; Liquor: No; Home Delivery: No
Rating: Food: 3.00 Service: 2.50 Decor: 3.00

Swiggy incognito mode feature for food delivery

BENGALURU. PO-bound food aggregator Swiggy has launched an Incognito Mode feature, which allows users to place orders privately across food and quick commerce platform Swiggy Instamart. It said this is to ensure privacy as with shared accounts being common, not every order is meant to be seen by family, friends or partners. This feature is currently available to 10% of Swiggy users and will be rolled out to all users soon. "As social as our lives are becoming, there are still things we prefer to keep private, and Incognito Mode is designed to address that need," said Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy's Food Marketplace. In recent weeks, Swiggy has been introducing a range of new features and products. As per its FY24 results, it posted Rs 2,350 crore net loss in FY24 as against Rs 4,179 crore in the last fiscal. In June 2024, asset management firm Baron Capital marked up valuation of the firm to USD 15.1 billion from USD 12.1 billion in December 2023.

Spicejet, Carlyle pact to restructure plane lease



NEW DELHI. A Spicejet on Friday said it entered into an agreement with Carlyle Aviation Management Limited (CAML) to restructure certain aircraft lease obligations of the airline aggregating USD 137.68 million (as of June 30, 2024), which upon settlement/waivers will be adjusted to USD 97.51 million, owed to various lessor entities managed by CAML or its affiliates. Carlyle Aviation would raise its stake in SpiceJet via equity conversion at Rs 100 per share. "Part of the outstanding lease arrears due to aircraft lessors i.e. aggregating to USD 137.68 million (as of June 30, 2024), as adjusted to USD 97.51 million are proposed to be restructured through issuance/purchase of securities, subject to compliance with applicable Indian law, approval of shareholders and execution of definitive agreement between the Parties, as under: Such a number of equity shares of the company for Rs 100 per share, subject to an aggregate amount of not more than USD 30 million. LesSarres, compulsorily convertible debentures of SpiceXpress & Logistics in a principal amount of USD 20 million," said SpiceJet under a regulatory filing.AA

India beats China in MSCI EM market index

NEW DELHI. India has overtaken China in the MSCI EM Investable Market Index (IMI) on September 4 to become the largest weight, and is nearing the threshold to surpass China as the top weight in the broader MSCI Emerging Markets index as well. The weight of India in MSCI EM IMI stood at 22.27% compared to 21.58% of China. MSCI IMI consists of 3,355 stocks and includes large, mid and small cap companies. It captures stocks across 24 Emerging Markets countries and targets coverage of nearly 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalisation in each country. While main MSCI EM index covers large and midcap space, the IMI includes large, mid, and small-cap stocks. India's heavier weight vis-a-vis China in MSCI IMI stems from greater small-cap weighting in its basket. The rebalancing reflects broader market trends. While Chinese markets have struggled due to economic headwinds, Indian markets have benefitted from favourable macroeconomic conditions. In recent past, India posted a much better market performance, driven by macroeconomic fundamentals as well as robust performance by corporates.

Indices fall over 1 per cent ahead of US jobs data release

NEW DELHI. Following three weeks of a bull run, domestic equity market corrected sharply on Friday with the benchmark indices - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty - crashing more than 1% each. BSE Sensex closed 1,017 points or 1.24% lower at 81,183 levels while the Nifty shut shop 293 points or 1.17% lower at 24,852 levels. Investors lost a whopping Rs 5.31 lakh crore as the market capitalisation came down to Rs 460.37 lakh crore on Friday against Rs 465.68 lakh crore in the previous session. The fall is attributed to the nervousness ahead of the release of the US job data as this would give clarity on the state of the world's largest economy and its willingness to go for a rate cut in near future. Profit booking at record high levels took place due to the Sebi's deadline over foreign institutional investors (FIIs) disclosure norm. Vishnu Kant Upadhyay, AVP, research and advisory at Master Capital Services, said investors are opting to stay on the sidelines, holding cash in anticipation of the US jobs report's release. "This fall is attributed to concerns over a potential slowdown in the US labour market, following the ADP non-farm employment report, which revealed that private businesses added only 99,000 jobs in August, much below the forecasted 144,000. Market participants are awaiting official non-farm payrolls report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, expected later today," added Upadhyay. Additionally, nervousness in banking stocks has surfaced ahead of the release of loan and deposit growth data. Nifty50 has fallen below the critical 25,000 mark, prompting put writers to cover their short positions, exacerbating the market downturn, he said.

Council may cut GST on health insurance to 5 per cent

As per sources, among the proposals under consideration are options to allow mediclaim companies to charge a reduced GST rate of 5% without the benefit of input tax credit (ITC).



NEW DELHI. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is set to discuss crucial matters that could reshape tax implications for mediclaim policies during its meet on September 9.

The meeting will focus on proposals aimed at rationalising the current GST structure, which currently imposes an 18% tax on mediclaim premiums, which many stakeholders argue is unsustainable for consumers and insurers alike.

As per sources, among the proposals under consideration are options to allow mediclaim companies to charge a

reduced GST rate of 5% without the benefit of input tax credit (ITC) or to implement a uniform 5% rate specifically for business-to-consumer (B2C) supplies.

"In the interest of common people, the best way for the GST Council it seems would be that the GST rate on mediclaim be reduced to 5% or 12% with the benefit of ITC available to the suppliers of the

policy. This would mean a pure vanilla reduction of the GST rate for common people. Insurance companies are duty bound to pass on this benefit as they can't make profit from rate reduction due to anti-profiteering provisions under GST," suggested Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP.

As per sources, the Council may also announce extending GST amnesty

scheme for another year i.e., FY21. However, all the states need to be in consensus on providing amnesty scheme for another year, say sources. This paper had reported in August that the Ministry of Finance will issue a circular regarding the Amnesty scheme, recently proposed in Budget 2024. The scheme aims to provide relief to taxpayers by waiving interest and penalties under certain conditions for tax matters arising between July 1, 2017, and March 31, 2020. In addition to these topics, the agenda may also include a discussion on the refund of excess payments made by the Centre to states during the GST compensation period. The issue of compensation has become increasingly pertinent as states continue to raise concerns about financial challenges. Valuation of services for related-party payments. Another important item on the agenda will be clarification regarding valuation of payments for services received from related parties, in light of recent cases involving Infosys. This clarification is expected to provide much-needed guidance to businesses that engage in inter-company transactions under the GST framework.

Maharashtra govt nod for USD 10 billion Adani-Tower Semicon proposal

NEW DELHI. The Maharashtra government approved a USD 10 billion semiconductor investment proposal from a joint venture between Tower Semiconductor and the Adani Group on Friday. As per Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, the unit will be established in Talaja, Panvel. While the government has approved the proposal, it has not yet received approval from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which has allocated USD 1 billion for semiconductor projects in the country.



As per the reports, the joint application by Tower Semiconductor and Adani Group is still under consideration by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the IT ministry.

According to the reports, the unit located in Navi Mumbai suburbs of Raigad district will have an initial overall

capacity of 40,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM) and a capacity of 80,000 WSPM. Of the total investment, Rs 58,763 crore will be allocated to the first phase and Rs 25,184 crore to the

second phase, deputy chief minister said. If approved, this project will be the country's second chip manufacturing facility and the sixth semiconductor plant for manufacturing or testing and packaging silicon chips. Earlier this week, the government had approved a Rs 3,307 crore outsourced assembly and testing (OSAT) unit proposal by Mysore-based Kaynes Semicon.

The OSAT unit will be set up in Sanand, Gujarat, with a capacity of 6.3 million chips a day. So far, the government has approved several semiconductor projects, including a chip fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat, and four chip packaging units: three in Sanand, Gujarat, and one in Morigaon, Assam. The cumulative investment in these projects is Rs 1.50 lakh crore.

'Multiple call recordings exist': Byju's cries foul after auditor BDO resigns

New Delhi. Embattled edtech firm Byju's has hit back at its former auditor BDO (MSKA & Associates) after the latter resigned citing financial discrepancies and governance concerns.

In a strong response to BDO's resignation, Byju's has accused the audit firm of making unethical requests and manipulating the audit process, including suggesting the backdating of financial reports. "Multiple call recordings exist, where BDO representatives explicitly suggest backdating these documents, which BYJU'S refused to do," the Byju's statement noted. The company highlighted that its decision to stand firm on ethical grounds was the real reason for BDO's resignation, not the concerns the auditor raised publicly. BDO had earlier raised doubts about Byju's ability to recover Rs 1,400 crore from a Dubai-based reseller, More Ideas General



Trading LLC, and noted delays in financial reporting and insufficient management support. The auditor also highlighted ongoing litigation and liquidation proceedings initiated by creditors as additional red flags. However, Byju's pointed out significant gaps in BDO's handling of the situation. The edtech company claimed that BDO had requested clarifications on transactions from the company's suspended board shortly after Byju's entered insolvency proceedings on July 16, 2024. However, Byju's claimed that BDO failed to communicate with the appointed Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), the entity in charge during this period. The edtech company further claimed that despite repeated efforts from the IRP to engage with BDO, the auditor did not respond, which led to misunderstandings and eventually their resignation. "BDO's lack of communication with the IRP is surprising and suspicious," Byju's added. The edtech giant stated that it had proactively initiated a forensic audit of its transactions with its Dubai-based partner before BDO raised the issue, but the audit was paused due to the insolvency proceedings. Byju's, which has seen its valuation fall from a peak of \$22 billion, is now facing mounting challenges on multiple fronts.

Bengaluru leads in manufacturing sector job openings

In its report on Talent Insights Manufacturing Sector, the firm said the sector is expected to lead in salary hikes as compared to other sectors.

age IT companies differ significantly as in the manufacturing sector, a larger proportion of jobs fall within



BENGALURU. Bengaluru is not just a hub for tech innovation, the city is also emerging as a powerhouse for manufacturing factories. With 21%, it leads in the manufacturing sector job openings. The city is followed by Mumbai with 16% job openings, according to consulting firm Ishwa Consulting. In its report on Talent Insights Manufacturing Sector, the firm said the sector is expected to lead in salary hikes as compared to other sectors. The salary structures of manufacturing companies and new-

the lower salary range of 0 - Rs 6 lakh. Whereas, new-age IT companies predominantly offer job openings in the mid-range salary bracket of Rs 6 - 25 lakh. For high salary packages of Rs 25 lakh and above, the number of job openings is similar in both sectors.

Ishwa's 2024 Appraisal Report which covers last financial year's appraisals reveals higher average increases were reported by manufacturing hubs in Western and Southern India, compared to their Eastern and Northern counterparts, with a lesser increase.

"The reason behind this could be industry concentration and the dynamics of the talent pool in different regions. In the manufacturing sector, certain subdivisions like automotive showed a better appraisal outlook. This also indicated the sector's focus on innovation and technological advancements," as per the report.

Western and Southern hubs see higher pay raises. Ishwa's 2024 Appraisal Report which covers last financial year appraisals reveals higher average increases were reported by manufacturing hubs in Western and Southern India, compared to their Eastern and Northern counterparts, with a lesser increase.

Maximising returns: How to select top mutual funds for your portfolio

New Delhi. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a simple way to grow your money while you sleep? In today's world, everyone is looking for ways to invest and grow their savings. Some are diving into stocks, while others are exploring cryptocurrencies. But for many, mutual funds have emerged as a popular investment option, offering a balanced approach to growing wealth without the complexity of managing individual stocks. If you're thinking about mutual funds, you might be wondering—how you choose the right one? With so many options available, making the right choice can feel a bit like picking a meal from a menu—one wrong move, and you could end up with something that doesn't suit your taste. Mutual funds can be a smart way to maximise returns, but knowing how to select the right one is key to building a strong portfolio. Whether you're a first-time investor or someone looking to diversify, here are some simple things to keep in mind before you decide. Key factors to consider when choosing

mutual funds. Long-term performance - The first thing to check is the fund's performance over a long period. A fund might show impressive short-term gains, but how has it fared during different market cycles? Look at the returns over the past five to seven years, not just the most recent data. This will give you a clearer picture of the fund's consistency and help you avoid being misled by short-term spikes. "For prospective investors to decide which mutual fund is best to invest in, there are certain important aspects that should be focused on, while selecting the fund. Primary focus must be on the performance of the fund over a longer tenure. This helps them see the consistency of the fund in various market cycles and not just recent performances which can be misleading over a period of time," said Swati Saxena, Founder and CEO, 4Thoughts Finance. Compare with peers - It's not just about how the fund is performing on its own; it's also important to compare it with others in the same category.



For example, if you're looking at large-cap funds, compare it with other large-cap funds to see how it stands over time. A good fund will show consistent results compared to its competitors. Stability of the fund management team - The people managing the fund can significantly impact its performance. If the team changes frequently, the fund's management style could change as well. So, look for a stable management team that has a proven track record of

delivering results. A fund's success often hinges on the people behind it. "Of late, there have been many fund houses where the entire team gets changed and consequently, the style of the fund and the way it's being managed changes with the transformation in the team," said Saxena. Assess underperformance - Sometimes, funds underperform due to specific investment decisions or market conditions. Before dismissing a fund that has had a poor quarter or year, try to understand why it underperformed. Was it a temporary setback, or does it signal deeper issues? Understanding the reason behind a fund's performance can help you make a more informed choice. Swati Saxena said that depending on the call, which is basically what kind of stocks they are investing, one should at least have a look at these aspects before completely negating a fund or selecting a fund. Assets under management (AUM) - Another factor to consider is the size of the fund, measured by its Assets Under Management (AUM).

NEWS BOX

UTT: Diya helps Delhi set up summit clash with Goa

CHENNAI. Young Diya Chitale turned out to be the game-changer for Dabang Delhi TTC, as she kept her cool in the dying moments of the second semi-final to help the 2018 Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) champions edge out debutants Ahmedabad SG Pipers 8-6 and charge into the final of the IndianOil UTT 2024 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Friday.



The G Sathiyani-led team from Delhi will now take on defending champions Athlead Goa Challengers in the clash for the title on Saturday. Ahmedabad SG Pipers were off to a promising start with Lilian Bardet defeating Sathiyani 2-1 (11-4, 5-11, 11-5) in the first men's singles. Orawan Paranang, who was later adjudged the Foreign Player of the Tie, outclassed the in-form World No.13 Bernadette Szocs by a 3-0 (11-7, 11-9, 11-9) margin to hand a 4-2 lead to Dabang Delhi TTC. Today's defeat was only the second for Bernadette in the entire season and ended a winning streak of four matches for the Romanian star.

Fritz and Pegula: First time an American man and woman in US Open final since 2002

New Delhi. USA natives Taylor Fritz and Jessica Pegula reached the respective final in the men's and women's singles at the US Open 2024. This is the first time since 2002 that an American man and woman will compete in the singles event of US Open final. Defending champion from the USA Coco Gauff might have suffered an early exit in the quarter-final, but others ensured American representation at the event. It was an all-American semi-final between Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe, which happened for the first time since US Open 2005. It was Fritz who emerged victorious with a 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Tiafoe at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on September 7, Saturday (India time). In the women's singles semi-final, USA's Jessica Pegula reached her maiden Grand Slam final by beating Karolina Muchova 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. She set up a final clash against women's world No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and Fritz will face men's world No. 1 Jannik Sinner. Going into the final, Fritz and Pegula might not be



ranked favourites against Sinner and Sabalenka who have been tough to beat at hard courts and won the Australian Open 2024 this year in the men's and women's draw categories.

2 Americans in US Open final

Seatings wise, Fritz and Pegula might not be favourites, but they would be having full support of the New York crowd who would be expected to be really noisy on the day of the finals. Sabalenka knew how to win not just the matches, but the crowds as well. A day after promising "drinks" to the New York crowd if they support her in the US Open 2024 semi-final against home favourite Emma Navarro, the World No.2, following her win against the 13th-seeded American, teased packed Arthur Ashe Stadium by saying their cheers came "a bit too late". As she would face Pegula, she already promised Margaritas to the crowd if they would cheer for her in the final.

This Italian town bans cricket as mayor targets Bangladeshi immigrants

Monfalcone has officially banned cricket, with fines up to €100 for those playing the sport within town limits. The ban is part of a broader anti-immigrant crackdown by the town's far-right mayor.

New Delhi. A town in northern Italy has banned cricket, a decision made by its mayor, who views the sport and the Bangladeshi immigrants who play it as foreign and "incompatible" with local culture. According to a report by the BBC, the town of Monfalcone officially banned the sport and has imposed fines of up to €100 on those found playing cricket within its limits. The ban has become a symbol of the broader ethnic tensions in Monfalcone, which is situated near Italy's Adriatic coast. The town—with a population of about 30,000—has nearly a third of its residents as

foreigners, mainly Bangladeshi Muslims who came in the late 1990s to work at a major shipyard. Monfalcone's cultural landscape has been reshaped with Bangladeshi restaurants, halal shops, and a network of cycle paths frequented by the South Asian community.

Mayor Anna Maria Cisint, representing former Prime Minister Matteo Salvini's far-right Lega party, campaigned on an anti-immigration platform and has made efforts to "protect local culture" and "Christian values." "Our history is being erased," she told the BBC, lamenting the changes she believes are negatively impacting the town.

Miah Bappy, a Bangladeshi migrant worker at Italy's largest shipyard, Fincantieri, told the BBC that he and his fellow countrymen are forced to play cricket on the outskirts of the city. Bappy explained that playing within Monfalcone attracted immediate police intervention. He cited a recent incident where Bengali teens were fined after being caught on security cameras while playing in a local park. But the cricket ban is merely the tip of the iceberg, reflecting a wider anti-



immigrant crackdown spearheaded by the mayor. During her two terms, Cisint has removed benches from the town square and criticised the attire of Muslim women at the beach. Tensions escalated when Cisint reportedly banned collective prayer at the town's two Islamic centres, citing urban planning issues. She also accused the Bangladeshi community of fostering "Islamic fundamentalism." On the cricket ban, Cisint told the BBC that the Bangladeshi community has contributed nothing to the city and should play elsewhere. She argued that there is neither space nor funds to build a cricket pitch and cites safety concerns over cricket balls. "They've given nothing to this city, to

our community. Zero." "They are free to go and play cricket anywhere else...outside of Monfalcone," she told the BBC. The mayor is also facing death threats due to her views on Muslims and has been under 24-hour police protection. Meanwhile, Cisint has accused Fincantieri of wage dumping, paying below market rates, but Cristiano Bazzara, the shipyard director, asserts that wages comply with Italian law. "We are not able to find trained workers. In Europe, it's very difficult to find young people who want to work in a shipyard," Bazzara told the BBC. Notably, Italy faces significant labour shortages and has one of Europe's lowest birth rates, necessitating a continued influx of foreign workers. The country is projected to need 280,000 foreign workers annually until 2050 to address the shrinking workforce. This has prompted Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to increase work permits for non-EU nationals despite running on an anti-immigration platform. Bangladeshi residents, such as 19-year-old Meheli, feel targeted by the mayor's actions and report harassment due to their heritage.

Jürgen Klopp returns to Borussia Dortmund for special testimonial match

Jürgen Klopp's return to Borussia Dortmund, seen in the club's official training kit, has fans buzzing with nostalgia. Back for a special testimonial match, his presence fuels speculation about his next managerial chapter.



New Delhi. Jürgen Klopp was spotted back at Borussia Dortmund's training ground, donning the Bundesliga side's official training kit, sending fans into a frenzy of excitement. The beloved manager has returned to Dortmund for a special testimonial match honouring club legends Lukasz Piszczek and Jakub Błaszczykowski.

This marks Klopp's first time managing a match since his departure from Liverpool earlier this year. He will be taking charge of B.A.szczykowski's special eleven, which is set to face off against Piszczek's team, comprising a mix of current and former Dortmund players. The event is highly

anticipated, with fans eager to see Klopp back on the sidelines at a club where he made a significant impact. Before making his mark in the Premier League with Liverpool, where he led the team to both Premier League and UEFA Champions League glory, Klopp's managerial career truly began to shine during his time at Borussia Dortmund. As head coach from 2008 to 2015, he led Dortmund to back-to-back Bundesliga titles in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons, solidifying his reputation as one of the top managers in football. Klopp's return to Dortmund has reignited speculation about his future, as he has yet to decide on his long-term plans with any club. During his final days at Liverpool, Klopp mentioned that he would take time before choosing his next chapter, leaving fans and pundits alike wondering where his next destination might be. For now, though, his return to Dortmund is a nostalgic moment for fans who remember the glory days under his leadership.

Manav Suthar auditions for spinner's role with a 7-wicket haul in Duleep Trophy

New Delhi. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar shone on Day 3 of the Duleep Trophy with a seven-wicket haul for India C. With Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja dominating red-ball cricket with their finger spin for more than a decade, the realisation has recently come about who would succeed them. The team has rarely looked past them, and with the veterans now nearing the twilight of their careers, the hunt is on for another finger spinner. While the likes of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav are already flourishing in their roles, Suthar's impressive performance has brought a breath of fresh air.

The Rajasthan-born spinner picked up seven wickets at the Rural Development Trust Stadium in Anantapur on Saturday, September 7. These are also the best figures by a spinner at the venue in first-class cricket. His exploits with the ball began by the end of Day 2 in the match between India



C and India D. India D captain Shreyas Iyer and Devdutt Padikkal played counter-attacking innings, both scoring fifties. However, the team lost five wickets in the final session, with Suthar claiming all five of them in the last 15 overs of the day. Manav Suthar's 7-star performance Manav Suthar impresses

The Anantapur pitch offered a sharp turn and bounce, and Suthar made full use of the conditions. The 22-year-old orchestrated a remarkable collapse, reducing India D from 186/4 to 203/8. His key scalps included Padikkal and the well-set Ricky Bhui. Suthar also cleaned up the tail, finishing with magical figures of 7/49 in 19.1 overs. Suthar made his Ranji Trophy debut for Rajasthan in 2022, boasting 65 wickets in 14 First-Class matches. His breakthrough season came in 2022-2023, when he emerged as Rajasthan's leading wicket-taker with 39 scalps. This year, he was part of India A, which hosted three unofficial Tests against the England Lions. He played one game and picked up five wickets across two innings.

ENG vs SL: England's Ollie Pope scripts Test cricket history with unique feat

England vice-captain Ollie Pope registered a unique feat as he scored his seventh Test century on Day 1 of the third Test against Sri Lanka. Pope scored an unbeaten 103 (103) on Day 1 at

January 2020. He further scored 145 in June 2022 against New Zealand in Nottingham to register his second ton. Pope brought up his next four centuries against Pakistan (108), Ireland (205), India



(196) and West Indies (121). The best innings of his career so far came against India earlier this year in the opening Test of the five-match series at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. He scored a phenomenal 196 (278) in a master

class of reverse sweeps on a spinning surface to help England come back in the Test after conceding a 190-run lead in the first innings. England finish Day 1 on 221/3

Courtesy of his effort, the Ben Stokes-led side set a target of 231 runs to chase down for India in the fourth innings and managed to win by 28 runs. Meanwhile, coming back to the third Test against Sri Lanka, England were asked to bat first by the Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva on a cloudy morning. Daniel Lawrence departed early scoring just 5 in the tenth over but Pope and Ben Duckett continued to keep the scoreboard moving with their 95-run stand. Duckett was dismissed for 86 by Milan Rathnayake while in-form Joe Root had a rare failure and departed for just 13 to leave England on 191/3. Following his dismissal, Pope (103*) and Harry Brook (8*) took England to stumps with the score on 221/3.

Dybala opens up on donning Messi's Argentina number 10 kit: I know it's not mine

Paulo Dybala embraced the honor of wearing Lionel Messi's iconic number 10 jersey during Argentina's World Cup Qualifier against Chile. Despite Messi's absence, Dybala expressed his determination to live up to the legendary number's values, contributing to Argentina's 2-0 victory.

New Delhi. Paulo Dybala had a heartwarming response when asked about the honor of wearing Lionel Messi's iconic number 10 jersey during Argentina's FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Chile on September 6. Messi was absent from the match due to an ankle injury sustained during the Copa America 2024 Final, which has also sidelined him from Inter Miami CF's ongoing Major League Soccer season. Dybala, who stepped into Messi's shoes, acknowledged the immense privilege and responsibility that comes with donning the legendary number 10 jersey. He expressed his deep respect for Messi and emphasized that he did his best to live up to the values associated with the iconic



number. The 30-year-old added that it was a decision made by the Argentinian coaching staff and supported by his teammates. "I know it's not my shirt, we all know it's Leo's shirt but well, I tried to represent it in the best way, to give my best and I think I was able to do it," Dybala said. "It

was a decision made by the coaching staff, some of the boys said that it had to be me because I didn't know whether to accept it or not because, well, it is a responsibility," Dybala added. Initially, Dybala wasn't part of the first 23 players called up for the qualifier but was eventually

included in the squad. He began the match on the bench and was brought on as a substitute in the 79th minute, replacing Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister. At that point, Argentina was leading 1-0, thanks to a goal by Julián Alvarez.

"Paulo deserves it. He has the experience and talent to carry the number, and we shouldn't put too much weight on it. It's an honour," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. Shortly after Dybala entered the field, Alvarez extended Argentina's lead, making it 2-0 and then it was the additional time which saw the AS Roma attacking midfielder score the third goal for his side and extending the special occasion for him up by another notch.

Sonalee Kulkarni

Makes Ganesha Idol At Home With Brother

Ganesh Chaturthi is a major Hindu festival that marks the birth of Lord Ganesha, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The festival is celebrated with great devotion for ten days, culminating in the immersion of Lord Ganesha's idol. In 2024, Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations will begin on Saturday, September 7, with the ten-day Ganesh Utsav concluding on Tuesday, September 17. Everyone is getting ready and are busy decorating their Ganesha idols. As Bappa is coming, there is a happy and festive atmosphere everywhere. Marathi actress Sonalee Kulkarni is also preparing for the Ganpati celebration. She has shared a video showing how hard she is working for the arrival of Lord Ganesha. Her video has caught everyone's



attention. Sonalee Kulkarni is ready to welcome Bappa. This year's Ganapathi Bappa has also been made by the actress at home. She has made a special Ganesha idol from Shadu soil. She shared a video of making a Ganesha idol. This video is

going viral on social media.

In the video shared by Sonalee, she along with her brother Atul Kulkarni are making a special idol of Ganpati Bappa together. From Shadu clay, they have made an idol in which Ganapati is sitting beside Lord Shiva's idol, and his mount mouse is also seen in front of him. This special concept of Sony is getting liked by netizens. People are seen pouring likes and comments on the video.

The 10-day Ganapati festival starts on the fourth day (Chaturthi) of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada, typically occurring between August and September in the Gregorian calendar. Hindus observe Ganesh Chaturthi, which is also known as Lord Ganesha's birthday, with great fervour and devotion in order to honour the Hindu deity and ask for his blessings on living a prosperous and trouble-free life. Sonalee Kulkarni was recently seen in the epic action drama film Malaikottai Vaaliban. This film is directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery and written by PS Rafeeqe from a story by Pellissery. The film stars Mohanlal in a dual role, alongside Sonalee Kulkarni, Hareesh Peradi, Danish Sait, Manoj Moses, Katha Nandi, and Manikandan R Achari in supporting roles.



Shilpa Shinde Alleges Sexual Assault by Bollywood Filmmaker: 'He Tried to Force Himself on Me'



Ever since the findings of the Justice Hema Committee Report were made public, several actors have come forward with shocking stories of sexual assault and harassment in the Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu film industries. Now, actress Shilpa Shinde has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by a Hindi filmmaker during the early days of her career. In an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Shilpa Shinde claimed that she was once asked to seduce a filmmaker under the guise of an audition. She explained that she was "very innocent" at the time and, as a result, agreed to do the scene. However, when the situation escalated, she realised the producer was crossing boundaries and managed to push him away before running out. "It was during my struggling days, around 1998-99. I cannot take names, but they told me, 'Aap yeh kapde pehno aur yeh scene karo' (wear these clothes and do this scene). I didn't wear those clothes. In the scene, he told me he was my boss, and I had to seduce him. I was very innocent then, so I did the scene. That person tried to force himself on me, and I got so scared. I pushed him away and ran out. The security staff realised what had happened and asked me to leave immediately. They thought I would make a scene and call for help," she shared. However, the former Bigg Boss winner chose not to reveal the producer's name. "He was from the Hindi film industry. I agreed to do the scene because he was also an actor," she said, adding, "I'm not lying, but I cannot take his name. His children are probably a little younger than me, and if I name him, they will suffer too." Shilpa also recounted an encounter with the same producer years later. "After a few years, I met him again, and he spoke to me kindly. He didn't recognize me and even offered me a film role. I refused. He still doesn't remember me." The actress, who rose to fame with Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai!, went on to say that similar experiences have happened to many others in the industry. "These things happen to everyone."

Ravi Dubey's Birthday Wish For Wife Sargun Mehta Is All Things Love



Ravi Dubey never shies away from PDA for his wife Sargun Mehta on social media. On Sargun's 36th birthday on Friday, the actor dropped an Instagram post featuring photos of the duo looking at their ravishing best. The post was accompanied by a heartwarming birthday note for Sargun, "Happy birthday to my life, my wife, my deity, my everything... I love you my darling," Ravi wrote in the captions.

In the images shared with the post, both Ravi and Sargun are dressed in traditional attire. While the actor is wearing a black sherwani with a contrasting golden and silver waistcoat, Sargun looks straight out of a dream in a golden lehenga set. Ravi Dubey is completely smitten by his wife Sargun Mehta and his social media timeline is proof of it. The actor's birthday post for Sargun from last year screamed just love. Dropping an album that featured their pictures from various occasions, Ravi wrote, "Humesha lagta tha mujhe ki Sargun meri kismet hai...magar Sargun sirf meri kismet nahi, woh sakshaat kismet hi hai...Jis cheez ko haath laga de woh sona ho jaye...jise dekh bhar le uspe rehmat baras jaye, meri hasrat, neymat, shohrat, Barkat sab tumse hai...janamdin mubarak kismet. P.S. This is your world Sargun Mehta, we just live in it. happy birthday."

Talking about her relationship with Ravi, Sargun powered her heart out. "I felt that he was like those men you read about in books. If I had typed it out on the computer with all the things that I liked, I would have printed it out! He checked every checkbox that I ever had, the actress said. "But when he proposed to me for marriage, I was a bit taken aback. It was out of the blue, but after some point, there was no second thought about it. It just felt perfect right from the beginning," added Sargun Mehta. Ravi Dubey proposed to Sargun Mehta in a dramatic manner in December 2012 during their appearance on Nach Baliye Season 5. Right after their performance, he knelt and popped the question with a solitaire ring. On December 7, 2013, the couple exchanged vows in a traditional Hindu ceremony.

Rakul Preet Singh

Jackky Bhagnani Step Out Of Gym After Intense Workout



Couples who workout together, stay together. It seems Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani are by this principle. A video showing the couple stepping out of a gym after what appears to be an intense workout is going viral. Carrying their water bottles in one hand and mobile phones in another, their post-workout glow was on-point. Twinning in all-black, the actress wore a black sports bra with matching tights and a sheer top and Jackky's wore a T-shirt and shorts.

Rakul and Jackky got married in an intimate wedding ceremony in Goa on February 21 this year. Earlier in May, Rakul Preet Singh decided to treat fans to a cute story of how her beau Jackky Bhagnani proposed to her before her wedding. Or, we should say how she 'forced' him to propose to her. In an interview with Zoom, she shared, "No one knows the proposal story. I forced him to make a proper proposal for me. I said, 'I am not walking down that aisle till you propose.'"

Because the shaadi date was fixed, the parents have met and wedding prep is going on. So why hasn't he proposed? I was like I need a story. I know we are getting married but I need a story for life."

Rakul, then, went on to add that Jackky Bhagnani proposed to her on their combined bachelor's trip in December 2023. In an interesting revelation, the actress divulged, "Bhumi (Pednekar) played a big role. Because she orchestrated it, I couldn't guess." The actress was last seen in Indian 2 which had Kamal Haasan playing the lead role. Next, she will be seen in Meri Patni Ka Remake, co-starring Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar. It is directed by Mudassar Aziz. The actress also has De De Pyaar De 2 in her kitty. It is expected to arrive in cinemas in May 2025.

