

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Lucknow building collapse: Police lodge FIR against owner

Lucknow, Sep 8: Police on Sunday booked the owner of the three-storey building here that collapsed a day ago, killing eight people, officials said. A senior police official said an FIR has been lodged against Rakesh Singhal, the owner of the Harmilap building in the Transport Nagar area. Eight people were killed in the incidents while 28 others were injured in the incident. The FIR against Singhal was lodged at the Sarojini Nagar police station here on the complaint of MK Singh, the police outpost in-charge at Transport Nagar, the officials said. According to the officials, the building had a motor workshop and warehouse on the ground floor, a medical godown on the first floor and a cutlery warehouse on the second floor.



Ready for dialogue with Pakistan if it stops terrorism in J-K: Rajnath Singh

Banihal, Sep 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Union MoS Jitendra Singh during a public meeting ahead of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, in Ramban district, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. (PTI Photo) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India is ready to start dialogue with Pakistan if it stops terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing an election rally in this assembly segment of Ramban district in support of BJP candidate Mohd Saleem Bhat, Singh said Article 370 of the Constitution that granted special status to J-K was revoked to end the misery of the people and make the region prosperous. "Pakistan, do one thing, that is, stop giving support to terrorism. Who would not like to improve relations with neighbouring countries? Because I know the reality that you can change a friend but not your neighbour. We want improved relations with Pakistan but first of all they should stop terrorism," Singh told a well-attended gathering

here. The defence minister said when Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in J-K, India will start dialogue with it. "Among those who fell to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, 85 per cent were Muslims. Terror incidents used to be routine in Kashmir. Were Hindus being killed in the terror acts? I have been a home minister and I know the highest number of Muslims lost their lives in the incidents of terror," Singh said. Earlier in the day, the defence minister addressed an election rally in nearby Ramban in support of party candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur and said more than 40,000 people lost their lives in terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.



Khattar steps in for damage control amid rebellion in Karnal Karnal, Sep 8: Former Mayor Renu Bala Gupta with her supporters at her residence. File photo Amid growing dissent for Karnal Assembly seat, Union Power Minister and former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday reached the residence of former mayor Renu Bala Gupta. CM Nayab Singh Saini had also attempted to placate Gupta on Saturday after she expressed displeasure over the party's decision to field Jagmohan Anand as the candidate from the Karnal seat. Khattar asked them to support party candidate Jagmohan Anand, but Renu Bala Gupta, her husband Brij Gupta and supporters remained firm on their decision. "We have conveyed to Khattar ji about our concern. We will take a final decision after a meeting of our supporters on September 10," said former Mayor Gupta. Khattar, while interacting with media persons, highlighted the role of Gupta family in his and CM Saini's victory. "The family members worked a lot with dedication for the party's candidates in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections. I have asked them to work for the party's candidate. "Such disagreements are common when large-scale decisions are made. Renu Bala Gupta had aspirations to contest this election. She, her husband and family members, had played an important role in my victory as well as in victory of CM Saini," said Khattar. "I hope she will join us and ensure BJP's third consecutive government in the state," he added.

Brij Bhushan Singh compares Bhupinder Hooda and his family to Pandavas

New Delhi, Sep 8: Brij Bhushan Singh has alleged that Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining the Congress proves the wrestlers' protests against him were part of a conspiracy. Former Lok Sabha MP and BJP leader Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Sunday compared former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his family to the Pandavas. He remarked that just as the Pandavas were not forgiven by the country, neither will the Hooda family be forgiven. "During the Mahabharata, Draupadi was gambled away and the Pandavas lost. The country has still not forgiven the Pandavas for this. Similarly, the Hooda family by compromising the dignity of our sisters and daughters will also not be forgiven in the future. They will always be seen as guilty for this," Singh told the media. His statement followed the joining of wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia into the Congress. Singh alleged that their joining proves the wrestlers' protests against him were part of a conspiracy orchestrated by the grand old party, with former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda as the mastermind. The two wrestlers led a major protest against Singh in 2023, accusing him of sexually harassing several female wrestlers during his time as WFI chief. Singh also said that he is facing three major cases and the matter is subjudice. He mentioned that his statements are on camera and as things unfold, the opposition will not be in a position to comment. In its first list of 32 candidates for the Haryana assembly election, Congress fielded Vinesh Phogat as its candidate from Julana constituency in Jind district. On Sunday, Vinesh Phogat received a warm welcome from party workers and supporters in Julana as she kicked off her campaign. "Whatever I have won in wrestling, it was because of people. Hopefully, I will be successful in this as well. I will talk about the wrestlers' protest at Jantar Mantar later, BJP had allowed us to sit there. Brij Bhushan is not the country, people are standing with me, they are my own."



EAM Jaishankar in Saudi Arabia for India- Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers' meeting

Riyadh, Sep 8: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Saudi Arabian Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs Abdumajeed Al Smari in Riyadh on Sunday. Jaishankar will take part in the First India-Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers' Meeting. ANI Photo External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived here in the Saudi Arabia capital on Sunday on a two-day visit to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting. Jaishankar is here on the first leg of his three-nation tour that will also take him to Germany and Switzerland. "Arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to take part in the First India - Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Thank Abdumajeed Al Smari, Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs for the warm reception," Jaishankar said in a post on X. The GCC is an influential grouping comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The total volume of India's trade with GCC countries stood at USD 184.46 billion in the financial year 2022-23. In Riyadh, Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of several GCC member countries.

Rahul Gandhi in US, look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions

Texas (US), Sep 8: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi receives a warm welcome on his arrival at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Texas, US. AICC/PTI Congress leader Rahul Gandhi began his three-day visit to the US, arriving in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday, where he was warmly welcomed by members of the Indian diaspora and the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC). Taking to his social media, the Congress leader shared the pictures of his welcome and wrote, "I am truly delighted by the warm welcome I've received in Dallas, Texas, USA, from the Indian Diaspora and members of the Indian Overseas Congress." "I eagerly look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions and insightful conversations that will further strengthen the bond between our two nations during this visit," he added. Earlier, announcing Rahul Gandhi's visit, IOC chief Sam Pitroda said that the Indian diaspora, including NRI residents, technocrats, business leaders, students, media fraternity and even political leaders, are eager to welcome the Congress MP and are looking forward to having an interaction with him. "There are lots of events planned with a variety of people because they also have interest in the states where Congress party runs governments, particularly the tech cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune. We see great interest in conversation with business and technological community," he further informed. "We look forward to a very successful visit and look forward to welcoming Rahul Gandhi to the US," Pitroda said on a concluding note. He also said that he was 'bombed' with questions about Rahul Gandhi's US visit from various quarters, and this video message was apparently to inform them about the Congress leader's short but highly anticipated trip to the US. Notably, Rahul Gandhi, after the 2024 Lok Sabha result, has been creating good momentum and garnering people's support with his views on many issues of public interest. Political watchers anticipate his US visit to be more newsworthy and stir larger controversy back home this time. Rahul won elections from two Lok Sabha constituencies - Rae Bareilly and Wayanad; however, he chose to retain the former and leave the latter for his sister, Priyanka Gandhi.



SC to hear RG Kar hospital incident case today

New Delhi, Sep 8: The Centre has recently filed an application in the apex court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal government in extending logistical support to the CISF, tasked with providing security at the hospital. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the case related to the murder and alleged rape of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. According to the cause list uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is slated to hear on September 9 the case, which was initiated by the top court on its own. The Centre has recently filed an application in the apex court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal

government in extending logistical support to the CISF, tasked with providing security at the hospital. In its application, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has termed the alleged non-cooperation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government as an example "symptomatic of a systemic malaise" and sought a direction to the state authorities to extend full cooperation to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). In case of their failure to do so, the Centre has urged the apex court to initiate contempt proceedings against the state government officials concerned for "wilful non-compliance" of the court orders. While hearing the matter on August 22, the top court tore into the Kolkata Police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the doctor. Making an impassioned appeal to the protesting doctors across the country, the apex court had also asked them to get back to work, saying "justice and medicine" cannot be stopped. Moreover, it said it was issuing all necessary directions to ensure their safety. On August 20, the apex court had termed the rape and murder of the doctor as "heinous" and issued a slew of directions including setting up of a 10-member National Task Force to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals. The murder and rape of the junior doctor inside a seminar hall of the state-run hospital sparked nationwide protests.



'Baramati should get an MLA other than me': Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar

New Delhi, Sep 8: Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday said the people of his constituency Baramati should get an MLA other than him, so that they could compare the developmental work he has undertaken in the constituency as a legislator, news agency PTI reported. At an event in Baramati, he said, "We have done all-round development in Baramati. Most funds in Maharashtra are sanctioned for Baramati. I am now 65 years old and I am satisfied. Baramatikars once should get someone other than me as an MLA. They can then make comparison between me and the new MLA." Get Unlimited access to Hindustan Times E-paper and Archives at 1199/- per year The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)



BJP says Jawhar Sircar's letter to Mamata exposes 'corruption, dictatorial attitude' within TMC

Kolkata, Sep 8: BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said that Sircar's letter indicates that every institution in West Bengal has been "corroded with corruption" by the Mamata Banerjee government. Share your thoughts about Hindustan Times and unveil a surprise! Submit Feedback! "The letter by Jawhar Sircar, TMC MP, exposes dirt, corruption and dictatorial attitude within the TMC. TMC means 'too much corruption,'" he said. Poonawalla also said the TMC MP's letter to Banerjee also reveals that her government's priority in the Kolkata medic rape-and-murder case "was not nyay (justice) for beti (the daughter)". "It was an institutional cover-up. There is total no-confidence against her as the movement against the incident is a people's movement, yet TMC leaders abused the protestors and threatened them," he wrote in his post on X. "The only question is how can Mamata Banerjee continue? Should she not resign?" Poonawalla asked, adding, "Instead of resigning, she protects CP

Kolkata, Sandip Ghose, and others. Why?" he added. Further targeting the Congress, the BJP spokesperson also sought to know why Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are "still silent" on the case. "Won't (they) visit the victim's parents?" he asked. "From the parents statement and other evidence, it is clear that a huge cover up was done (in the case) at the behest of the top leaders of the TMC," Poonawalla said. Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha member Jawhar Sircar, a retired bureaucrat, wrote to the party's chairperson and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday that he is going to resign from Parliament and also quit politics as he is unable to bear with corruption which, he alleged, has contributed to the

mass outrage against the August 9 rape and murder of a junior doctor at a Kolkata hospital. In his letter, Sircar expressed disillusionment with the state government's handling of corruption in the aftermath of the scandal involving the former education minister. "Believe me, the present spontaneous outpouring of public anger is against this unchecked overbearing attitude of the favoured few and the corrupt. In all my years I have not seen such angst and total no-confidence against the government, even when it says something correct or factual," Sircar wrote. "I have suffered patiently for a month since the terrible incident at RG Kar Hospital and was hoping for your direct intervention with the agitating junior doctors, in the old style of Mamata Banerjee. It has not happened and whatever punitive steps the government is taking now are too little and quite late. I think normal may have been restored in this state much earlier, if the caucus of the corrupt doctors was smashed and those guilty of taking improper administrative actions punished immediately after the scandalous incident happened," Sircar wrote, apparently pointing at the recent suspension of some doctors and health officials.



## News box

## Metro Pink Line will be operational in two years, says Minister for Industries P Rajeev

**KOCHI:** The construction of Phase II of Kochi Metro, named the Pink Line, has been hastened to cater to the ever-expanding Infopark campus, which is witnessing the growth of IT ventures, Minister for Industries P Rajeev said here on Saturday. He was speaking after attending the switch-on ceremony for starting the viaduct construction on the 11.2 km-long section from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium station to Infopark, a major milestone. The construction of the first pile is being done at Cochin SEZ station along the Seaport-Airport Road. "Kochi Metro is particularly beneficial to women. Hence the name 'Pink Line' is apt. The line will be operational in another two years. Several big companies, including IBM, TCS and Wipro, have opened spaces in Infopark. We are getting several proposals from new companies to set up offices there. In the third phase, the Metro is planning to expand operations to the airport and then to the Global City near Angamaly," the minister said. Hibi Eden, MP, Uma Thomas, MLA, and Thrikkakara municipality chairperson Radhamani Pillai too attended the ceremony. "The Pink Line will turn out to be the most financially viable section for the KMRL, as per the DPR. The maximum number of commuters are expected to travel in the section when it becomes operational," said Hibi Eden MP.

### Demand for solution to acute traffic congestion

Meanwhile, Hibi Eden and Uma Thomas brought the issue of severe traffic congestion on the stretch where Metro construction activities are progressing.

## Torture of convict in Vellore: FIR on prison DIG, 13 cops

**VELLORE:** In connection with the alleged harassment and torture of a prisoner sentenced to life at the Vellore Central Prison, CB-CID registered an FIR on Friday against 14 prison officials, including Vellore Range Prison DIG R Rajalakshmi,



according to official sources. The action follows a report submitted by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) of Vellore, confirming that S Sivakumar, the prisoner, was subjected to torture after being forced to do household work at the residence of DIG R Rajalakshmi. Sivakumar had been accused of stealing cash and valuables.

Taking cognisance of the report, the Madras High Court, on Thursday, directed the CB-CID to file criminal cases against the prison officials involved. A division bench comprising of Justices S M Subramaniam and V Sivagnanam issued the order while hearing the petition filed by Sivakumar's mother. The court instructed the CB-CID SP in Chennai to initiate criminal proceedings based on the CJM's report and to submit an action-taken report by September 20. Further probe is under way.

## Tiruchy-Karaikal DEMU passenger train halted after fire scare, passengers evacuated

**TIRUCHY:** Southern Railway suspended the operation of the Tiruchy-Karaikal DEMU passenger (Train no. 06880) on Saturday after smoke was detected in the rear carriage of the train. No casualty was reported as all the passengers were immediately evacuated and the smoke was put out within 10 minutes. Hundreds of passengers were on board at the time of the incident after the train started the trip from Tiruchy railway junction at 8.35 am. The smoke was noticed by the guard when the train reached Thiruverumbur station about 9 am. The train was halted there and the onward service was cancelled.

The railway's rapid response team and Tiruchy Divisional Railway Manager MS Anbalagan, along with other senior officials, headed to the spot and held inspections. The passengers who had deboarded were shifted to the Sawantwadi Road-Velankanni Special (Train no. 00107). This train was then allotted stoppages at all stations en route to ensure that the passengers on the Tiruchy-Karaikal train don't get affected from its cancellation. Sources said the special train left Thiruverumbur about 9.30 am.

The Tiruchy division has initiated an inquiry into the incident. Senior officials appreciated the alertness of the guard and the rapid response of the railway team, said sources. The Tiruchy division has initiated an inquiry into the incident. Senior officials appreciated the alertness of the guard and the rapid response of the railway team, said sources.

# Motivational speaker Mahavishnu arrested in Chennai over controversial remarks

He allegedly insulted a visually impaired teacher, who questioned the appropriateness of his speech.

**CHENNAI:** Police arrested Mahavishnu, a self-proclaimed motivational speaker, soon as he arrived at the Chennai international airport from Australia on Saturday. The speaker, founder of Paramporul Foundation, was arrested under the charges of provoking enmity between different groups of people and intentionally insulting a person with disability. During a programme at the Saidapet government school on August 28, Mahavishnu made controversial remarks about past-life sins and disability. He allegedly insulted a visually impaired teacher, who questioned the appropriateness of his speech. The video of the incident went viral on social media,

sparking a huge outrage from rationalists and disability rights activists. In a video statement on Friday night, he said he would meet presspersons at the airport regarding the allegations levelled against him. However, he was picked up by the police for questioning before the meeting. Sources said a police team was waiting for him at the airport and questioned him at an undisclosed location. Based on a complaint from N Vijayaraj, Saidapet police inspector K Settu registered an FIR under sections 192, 196(1)(a), 352, and 353(2) of the BNSS as well as section 92 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The complainant said the speaker had insulted a visually impaired



teacher and contended that students would lose respect for their teachers if the latter were addressed in such a language in front of them. Meanwhile, the chairman of the School Management Committee of Ashok Nagar Girls' Higher Secondary School, M Chitrakala, refuted allegations by the school headmistress and teacher that the speaker was invited by the

committee to deliver a motivational talk. She claimed neither the headmistress nor the teachers informed the committee about such an event. "The school officials, along with an alumni who is part of the SMC, organised the meeting," she said. The election for the SMC was conducted only on August 24, she said, and the meeting for the committee itself has not been convened yet. She added that the committee knew about the event only after it became an issue. Earlier, CM MK Stalin had ordered immediate formulation of guidelines on holding programmes in government schools after the controversial remarks of a 'spiritual speaker'. A committee

would investigate the matter within three to four days, the minister said.

### 'REMARKS ON PAST SINS'

During a programme at the Saidapet government school on August 28, Mahavishnu made controversial remarks about past-life sins and disability. He allegedly insulted a visually impaired teacher, who questioned the appropriateness of his speech. The video of the incident went viral on social media, sparking a huge outrage from rationalists and disability rights activists. In a video, he said he would meet press persons at the airport regarding the allegations but was picked up by the police for questioning before the meeting.

## Kerala to declare 25 spots as 'Green Tourism Destinations'

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Kerala is all set to declare 25 prominent tourist spots in the state as 'Green Tourism Destinations'. The initiative aims at transforming tourist centres into green destinations that promote sustainable waste management practices, hygiene, cleanliness and environmental conservation. The project is part of 'Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam' the campaign that aims to make Kerala a garbage-free state by March 30, 2025. The official declaration of the 'Green Tourism Destinations' will be made on October 2, along with the official launch of 'Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam' campaign. Kite Beach Park in Kasaragod, Iritty Eco Park and Chal Beach in Kannur, Lokanarkavu temple in Kozhikode, Nilambur Teak



Museum in Malappuram, Mangalam Dam Park and Kanjirapuzha dam in Palakkad, Peechi dam, Hill View Park and Malankara dam in Idukki, Konni Eco Tourism- Elephant Shelter in Pathanamthitta, Adichanalloor Chira Park and Meenmutti in Kollam, Alappuzha

beach, Thenmala Eco Adventure Park, Ponnudi, Ponnunthuru and Sasthampara in Thiruvananthapuram are among the destinations selected to be declared as 'Green Tourism Destinations'.

### 'Cleanliness among top priorities'

LSG Minister M B Rajesh told TNIE that keeping tourism destinations clean and attractive is one of the key priorities of the government and Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam also gives major focus on tourism centres. "Maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness is a must for tourism industry to attract tourists. We have tied up with tourism and forest departments and launched efforts to introduce sustainable waste management practices. We aim to transform all major tourism destinations into 'Green Tourism Destinations'.

## Monsoon preparedness: Tenders floated for 550 dewatering pumps in Chennai

**CHENNAI:** Chennai Corporation has floated tenders for the supply of 466 tractor-driven and 88 diesel engine-driven dewatering pumps, to address any waterlogging during the upcoming monsoon season, at an estimated cost of Rs 21 crore. The corporation aims to deploy these pumps across all 15 zones in the city - north region (zones 1 to 5) will get 120 pumps, central (zones 6 to 10) will get 170 pumps, and south (ones 11 to 15) will get 176 pumps. Each tractor-driven dewatering pump, equipped with 4"x4" suction and delivery pipes, will be contracted for 300 hours per pump in order to dewater flooded areas, especially low lying areas, in the event of heavy rain. Depending on the severity of rainfall, the



equipment will be in operation from September to December. Designed to handle sewage water mixed with debris like plastic bottles, stones, glass, and other solid waste, the dewatering pump will

have a capacity of at least 1,000 litres per minute and come with an additional 50m pipe for extended reach. The diesel engine-driven dewatering pumps will have a capacity of 80-100 HP and should be able to pump 6,000 litres per minute. As part of the contract, one labourer per shift will be deployed at each site to monitor the equipment, along with a supervisor to coordinate between corporation officials and on-site workers.

The corporation has been engaged in preparatory works over the past two months. These activities include mass cleaning operations and the collection of detailed reports on water stagnation from previous floods, with the assistance of volunteers.

## OHPC to set up pump storage project near Odisha's Balimela

**The solar-based pumped storage project will generate 1,095 MU power as part of OREP**

**MALKANGIRI:** Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) Limited, will set up a 500 MW solar-based pumped storage project (PSP) in the vicinity of Balimela hydroelectric station. The PSP will generate 1,095 million units (MU) power as part of Odisha Renewable Energy Policy which provides multiple incentives including provision of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to promote pumped storage projects in the state. The solar based project will have two units, each with capacity of generating 250

MW power. At present, the Balimela Hydro Electric Project (HEP) generates 510 MW power.

The hydro-electric project at Balimela is capable of producing average annual energy output of 1,183 MU. At present, OHPC is preparing a detailed project report (DPR) to construct a 500 MW (2 x 250 MW) PSP at Kharika Jhora Nala, located in the vicinity of Balimela town. The proposed Balimela PSP will utilise the existing Balimela reservoir as an upper reservoir and a new lower

reservoir will be constructed at Kharika Jhora Nala, and it will be used to store water for pumping it to the upper reservoir in a closed cycle operation. Bhubaneswar-based OHPC Limited corporate office director (operations) Asish Kumar Mohanty told The New Indian Express.

The proposed PSP will have an underground powerhouse located near the lower reservoir at Kharika Jhora Nala, equipped with two vertical-axis reversible-type francis

hydroelectric units having capacity of 250 MW each. The pre-feasibility report of Balimela PSP was prepared by OHPC through THDC India Ltd, a consultancy service provider. Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) Limited has been engaged for preparing the DPR for the project. Mohanty said the topographical survey, surface geological mapping and hydrology study has been completed. A geotechnical investigation to access the rock quality is underway.

# Minor rape survivor's parents allege assault by Chennai cops, police deny charge

Parents of a minor rape survivor in Chennai have alleged that they were assaulted and detained for hours at a police station after they reported the case.

**► Girl's father claims police mistreated family, video surfaces**  
**► Mother got to know about rape on August 30 after medical tests**  
**► Police deny misconduct, arrest 14-year-old juvenile**

**Chennai.** The parents of a 10-year-old rape survivor in Chennai have alleged that they were beaten by cops and detained at a police station for hours on August 31. However, the police denied the allegations. On August 30, the child's mother noticed a strong odour coming from her daughter after school. Suspecting something was amiss, she took the girl to a local clinic. Medical professionals there suspected sexual abuse and referred the family to a government hospital. According to the FIR, the mother initially withheld the information from her husband, but later sought further medical evaluation at the hospital. The doctors confirmed that the girl



had been sexually assaulted. According to the mother's complaint, the minor took the name of a man named Satish, a water delivery person, as the accused. The child even told her mother that Satish had abused her over a period of seven days and threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the abuse. Hours later, a police team arrived at the hospital to

record the mother's statement. The cops also questioned the minor and the medical staff. The situation took a dramatic turn with the release of a video purportedly recorded by an NGO worker. In the video, the girl's father, a construction worker, alleged that police officers had physically assaulted him and treated him unfairly. He also claimed that officers questioned his wife's behaviour and threatened to file a counter-complaint against him. "They raised questions about my wife's behaviour and even threatened to file an FIR against me," the father was heard speaking in the video.

## THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009  
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing  
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City  
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)  
Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi  
Editor-in-Chief  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517  
Website : www.thesikhimes.in  
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com  
RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

### Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid  
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh  
Advocate Manish Sharma  
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma



## News box

## Raging wildfire scorches area near California national park, evacuations ordered

**World** Evacuations were expanded Saturday as a wildfire with leaping flames scorched the foothills of a national forest east of Los Angeles, amid a days-long heat wave that pushed temperatures into the triple digits across the region. The so-called Line Fire was burning uncontrolled along the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of L.A. As of Saturday afternoon, the blaze charred about 11 square miles (28 sq. km.) of grass and chaparral, leaving a thick cloud of dark smoke blanketing the area. The fire began Thursday evening, and the cause is under investigation. About 500 firefighters were battling the blaze, supported by water-dropping helicopters that hovered over homes and hillsides, along with aircraft.

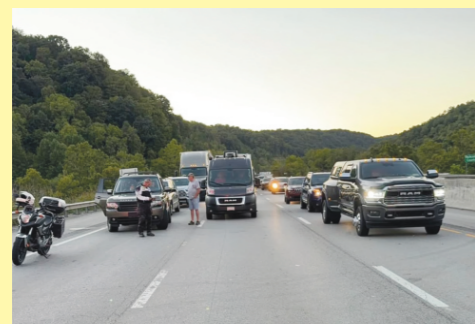
Firefighters said the blaze had the "potential for large fire growth" in the next 12 hours. The fire produced coiling clouds of dense smoke, and flames could be seen cresting hillside ridges. No injuries were reported, and no homes or other structures had been damaged or destroyed. The National Weather Service said downtown Los Angeles hit a high of 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44 Celsius) Friday, which marked the third time since 1877 that a high of 112 degrees or more has been reached there.

## Rare ancient copy of US Constitution, missing for centuries, up for auction

**World** Historical document appraiser and collector Seth Kaller spreads a broad sheet of paper across a desk. It's in good enough condition that he can handle it, carefully, with clean, bare hands. There are just a few creases and tiny discolorations, even though it's just a few weeks shy of 237 years old and has spent who knows how long inside a filing cabinet in North Carolina. At the top of the first page are familiar words but in regular type, instead of the sweeping Gothic script we're used to seeing: "WE, the People..." And people will get a chance to bid for this copy of the U.S. Constitution — the only of its type thought to be in private hands — at a sale by Brunk Auctions on September 28 in Asheville, North Carolina. The minimum bid for the auction of \$1 million has already been made. There is no minimum price that must be reached. This copy was printed after the Constitutional Convention finished drafting the proposed framework of the nation's government in 1787 and sent it to the Congress of the ineffective first American government under the Articles of Confederation, requesting they send it to the states to be ratified by the people.

It's one of about 100 copies printed by the secretary of that Congress, Charles Thomson. Just eight are known to still exist, and the other seven are publicly owned.

## Multiple people shot along highway in US state of Kentucky



**WASHINGTON.** Multiple people were shot along a highway in the southern US state of Kentucky, authorities said Saturday, as police hunted for a suspect considered "armed and dangerous." Our to six people had been shot, Kentucky State Police spokesman Scottie Pennington told local media. There were "multiple severe injuries" but no confirmed deaths, local news station WYMT reported, citing the Laurel County Sheriff's Office. Authorities were searching for Joseph Couch, 32, considered a person of interest in the shooting that closed Interstate 75 in both directions due to the "active shooter situation." "Consider armed and dangerous," the sheriff's office said in its Facebook post about Couch, following its initial report of "numerous persons" shot.

"Do not attempt to approach."

"The suspect has not been caught at this time we are urging people to stay inside!" Pennington posted on Facebook. He later told the Louisville Courier Journal that "we have no clue where (the suspect) is at."

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear asked people to avoid the area that had been shut down. Rural Laurel County is some 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of the city of Lexington along I-75, a major north-south artery cutting across the eastern half of the United States. Gun violence is common in the United States, a country where there are more firearms than people. Despite polls showing Americans favor more gun restrictions, a powerful gun rights lobby, constitutional protections and a passionate culture around firearm ownership mean that attempts to clamp down on gun rights are always met with stiff political resistance.

# Trump rebukes woman who accused him of assault ahead of debate with Kamala Harris

**World** Shortly after appearing in court for an appeal of a decision that found him liable for sexual abuse, Donald Trump stepped in front of television cameras on Friday and brought up a string of past allegations of other acts of sexual misconduct, potentially reminding voters of incidents that were little-known or forgotten. The former president has made hitting back at opponents and accusers a centerpiece of his political identity, but his performance at his namesake Manhattan office tower was startling even by Trump's combative standards. At times, he seemed to relish using graphic language and characterisations of the case brought by advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, which could expose the former president to further legal challenges from Carroll's attorneys. His remarks were especially striking given that they came four days before Trump will debate Vice President Kamala Harris, with early voting about to begin in some parts of the country and Election Day just two months away. Trump is doing his best to stay in the public eye while Harris prepares for the debate in private, meeting with her

advisers in Pittsburgh. That's a reflection of their divergent campaign styles, with Trump frequently engaging with reporters — albeit often in friendly settings — while Harris has done just one interview and no news conferences since taking President Joe Biden's place atop the Democratic ticket. His team had billed Friday's appearance as a press conference and Trump repeatedly brought up Harris' lack of news conferences. But Trump took no questions and instead talked about the cases against him for an hour while hardly mentioning any campaign issues. "I'm running for president, and I have all these cases all of a sudden come," he said. "And they're fake cases." Trump's campaign raised tens of millions of dollars off his previous indictments, convictions and appearances in court. But it's unclear how focusing on his legal woes will help him now as he works to win over undecided voters — including independents and those on the fence in critical swing states, ahead of a critical debate on Tuesday that will likely draw tens of millions of viewers. TRUMP HAS DISREGARDED HIS AIDES'



### ADVICE TO FOCUS ON POLICY

Trump's trying to seize the political offensive by bringing up allegations against him recalled 2016 when, in the weeks before Election Day, he attempted to dismiss as simple "locker room talk" a recording of him bragging about grabbing, forcibly kissing and sexually assaulting women, which triggered subsequent allegations of misconduct by a string of women. But on Friday, standing inside Trump Tower, where he lived for decades before moving to Florida, Trump had many moments that evoked a more distant past. He suggested

women have accused him of wrongdoing because he is famous. He made a trio of references to how he was already famous in some circles in the 1970s, and talked about his work in the real estate and construction worlds in the 1980s — before millions of today's voters were born. At one point, he referenced the New York Post's famous "Page Six" gossip section, whose writers have spent decades covering him, as being the internet of its day. Trump called Carroll's case against him "Monica Lewinsky Part II," referencing the then-White House intern who had a sexual relationship with President Bill Clinton, and recalled an infamous dress that played a pivotal role in the late-1990s impeachment proceedings against Clinton. The former president also repeatedly implied he would not have assaulted two of his accusers due to their looks. He said of a woman who had accused him of sexual misconduct on a plane in the 1970s, "she would not have been the chosen one," and of Carroll, "I never touched her.

## Israeli strikes 'targeting Hamas militants' across Gaza kill 61 in 48 hours

**World** Israeli military strikes across the Palestinian Gaza Strip killed at least 61 people in the space of 48 hours, medics said on Saturday, as Israeli forces battled Hamas-led militants in the territory.

Eleven months into the war, numerous rounds of diplomacy have so far failed to clinch a ceasefire deal to end the conflict and bring the release of Israeli and foreign hostages held in Gaza. The Israeli military said the strikes targeted Hamas gunmen who were operating in the compound. Five more people were killed in a strike on a house in Gaza City, Palestinian medics said, with a total of 28 people killed on Saturday. The armed wings of the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah groups said they had fought Israeli troops across Gaza with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs, and in some incidents detonated bombs to target tanks and other army vehicles.

The two warring sides continued to blame one another for the failure of mediators,

including Qatar, Egypt and the United States, to broker a ceasefire. The U.S. is preparing to present a new proposal, but the prospects of a breakthrough appear slim as gaps between the sides remain wide. CIA Director William Burns, the chief U.S. negotiator, told an event in London that a more detailed proposal would be made in the coming days.

Tens of thousands of Israelis joined protests in Tel Aviv and other cities, demanding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government make a deal under which the remaining 101 hostages would be released. The killing of six hostages last week triggered an outpouring of anger and grief that led to mass protests. The hostages had been shot in the head by Hamas, Israel said, not long before their bodies were found by troops in a Gaza tunnel last Saturday. They could have been saved," said Einav Zangauker, whose 24-year-old son Matan had been abducted by

militants from his home in Nir Oz kibbutz. "As long as Netanyahu is in power, we will keep getting the hostages back in body bags."

### POLIO VACCINATIONS CONTINUE

On Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was incumbent on both Israel and Hamas, which seized control of Gaza almost two decades ago and was responsible for the Oct. 7 killing spree in Israel that triggered the war, to make concessions to reach a deal. On Saturday, senior Hamas official Hossam Badran said the group had made no new demands and remained committed to a July 2 proposal put forward by the United States, accusing Netanyahu of attaching new conditions that would not end the war. Netanyahu says it was Hamas that introduced unacceptable conditions. Despite the deadlock, the United Nations, in collaboration with local health authorities.

## US believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia

**WASHINGTON.** The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter. They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers may have occurred, but they confirmed the US intelligence finding. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed. The White House declined to confirm the weapons transfer but reiterated its concern that Iran is deepening its support of Russia. The White House has been warning Iran for months not to transfer ballistic missiles to Russia. "Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran's support for

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians," National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement. "This partnership threatens European security and illustrates how Iran's destabilizing influence reaches beyond the Middle East and around the world." The US finding comes as the Kremlin tries to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has led to the seizure of about 500 square miles (1,300 kilometers) of Russia's Kursk region. Meanwhile, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is pressing allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. Iran, as it has with previous US intelligence findings, denied providing Russia with weapons

for its war in Ukraine. "Iran considers the provision of military assistance to the parties engaged in the conflict - which leads to increased human casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and a distancing from ceasefire negotiations - to be inhumane," according to a statement from Iran's mission to the United Nations. "Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict." CIA Director William Burns, who was in London on Saturday for a joint appearance with his British intelligence counterpart, warned of the growing and "troubling" defense relationship involving Russia, China, Iran and North Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East.

## Pak man arrested in Canada for plotting terror attack on Jews in New York

**The 20-year-old Pakistani citizen, Khan aka Shahzeb Jadoon, planned a terrorist attack in New York City (NYC) around October 7, according to officials.**

**New York.** A 20-year-old Pakistani citizen, residing in Canada, has been arrested and charged by the US for planning a terror attack targeting Jews in New York City around the October 7 anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel. Khan, or Shahzeb Jadoon, planned a terrorist attack in New York City (NYC) around October 7 with the "goal of slaughtering, in the name of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), as many Jewish people as possible," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement on Friday. Identified as an ISIS supporter,

Muhammad Shahzeb Khan was arrested on Wednesday in Ormstown town, about 60 km south of Montreal in Canada, and approximately 20 km from the US-Canada border. He also faces three charges in Canada. He was arrested in connection with a complaint filed in the Southern District of New York for attempting to provide material support and resources to ISIS.

If convicted, Khan faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Hamas militants based in the Gaza Strip launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by land, air and sea on October 7, 2023. As per Khan's preparation in connection with the planned attack, Khan attempted to reach the US-Canada border. He used three separate cars to travel across Canada towards the US before being stopped near Ormstown. Thanks to the investigative work of the American agency, "and the quick action of our Canadian law enforcement partners, the defendant was taken into custody", said Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC News) and added that Khan now faces three charges in Canada. The charges are, "Attempting to



leave Canada to commit an offence for a terrorist group", "Participating in the activities of a terrorist group", and "Conspiracy to commit an offence by violating US immigration law - entering or attempting to enter the US unlawfully", it added. According to the complaint filed in New York, Khan attempted to travel from Canada to New York City, where he intended to use automatic and semi-automatic weapons to carry out a mass shooting in support of the IS at a Jewish centre in Brooklyn, New York. Khan began posting on social media and communicating with others on an encrypted messaging application about his support for the IS in or

about November last year when, among other things, Khan distributed IS propaganda videos and literature. "If we succeed with our plan, this would be the largest attack on US soil since 9/11," he said in one of the messages. Khan began communicating with two undercover law enforcement officers, the statement said, adding, during those conversations, Khan confirmed that he and a US-based IS supporter, identified only as Associate-1 in the complaint, had been planning to carry out an attack in a particular US city, identified as 'City-1.' Among other things, Khan said that he had been actively attempting to create "a real offline cell" of IS supporters to carry out a "coordinated assault" in the city using AR-style rifles to "target Israeli Jewish Chabad... scattered all around" (the city). During subsequent conversations, Khan repeatedly instructed the undercover officers to obtain AR-style assault rifles, ammunition, and other materials to carry out the attacks and identified the specific locations in the city where the attacks would take place, the complaint said.

## No plan to change Bangladesh's national anthem, says Muhammad Yunus's advisor

**Dismissing recent calls to change the national anthem of Bangladesh, the country's Religious Affairs Advisor AFM Khalid Hossain, said the government will not do anything to create controversy.**

**Dhaka, UPDATED** There is no plan to change the national anthem of Bangladesh, the country's Religious Affairs Advisor AFM Khalid Hossain said on Saturday. "The interim government will not do anything to create controversy," Hossain told the media after visiting the Islamic Foundation in Rajshahi and attending a gathering of dignitaries.

This comes after Abdullahil Amaan Azmi, the son of former Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ghulam Azam, earlier this week

called for a change in the country's national anthem and Constitution. He said: "I leave the matter of the national anthem to this government. The current national anthem we have is contrary to the existence of our independent Bangladesh. It reflects the time of the Bengal partition and the merging of the two Bengals. How can an anthem created to unite the two Bengals become the national anthem of an independent Bangladesh? This anthem was imposed on us by India in 1971. Many songs could serve as a national anthem. The government should form a new commission to select a new national anthem." Hossain said Bangladesh, as a neighbouring country, wants a friendly relationship with India. "We have heard reports of attacks on our cricket team in India.



Since the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is in charge, they will decide on the necessary course of action," Dhaka Tribune quoted the advisor as saying. Terming attacks on mosques, temples, and shrines as

"heinous", Hossain said: "Those who attack places of worship are enemies of humanity. They are criminals, and they will be prosecuted under existing laws." Hossain further said local citizens as well as madrasa students will guard temples during the Durga Puja to prevent any attack or sabotage. "Madrasa students were never involved in terrorism. That was propaganda and conspiracy by the previous government." The advisor said that after the change in government, there had been attacks on the houses of some members of the Hindu community just as Muslim houses were attacked and this should not be viewed differently.

News box

**Madras HC issues notice to TN on PIL seeking compensation for firework unit blast victims**

**MADURAI:** The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court issued notice to the state government on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the families of the victims of the 2021 firecracker unit blast in Virudhunagar district, based on a direction by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). A division bench of Justices R Subramanian and L Victoria Gowri was hearing the petition filed by S Vijay Andrew (31) of Virudhunagar. The petitioner submitted that lakhs of people were employed in 305 fireworks factories, under the control of district revenue officers, and 775 factories under the control of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) in the district. Hundreds of workers were killed in different cracker blast incidents in the last five years. Particularly, 27 people were killed and 26 others injured in a blast at Sree Mariyammal Fireworks Factory on February 12, 2021 in Achankulam village, Virudhunagar. Following the explosion, the central and state governments announced a solatium of Rs 5 lakh for the family of the deceased and Rs 1.5 lakh for the injured persons. Subsequently, the NGT took suo moto cognizance of the incident and formed a committee which later filed a report. Based on the report, the NGT ordered a solatium of Rs 20 lakh for the bereaved families and Rs 2 to Rs 15 lakh for the injured depending on the degree of injuries, said the petitioner. He further submitted that the state, challenging the NGT order, filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, which was dismissed by the apex court. Moreover eight out of the 27 families of the deceased are yet to receive the solatium announced by the government. This apart, all the 27 families and 26 injured are yet to receive the NGT-directed compensation as well.

**High prices of vegetables dent household budget across Odisha's Sundargarh**

**ROURKELA:** The price of potato may have cooled down to some extent but the prices of other vegetables have risen sharply in the last few days in Rourkela city and rest of Sundargarh district. The price of onion in the district has shot up to Rs 55 per kg. Since the district depends on Maharashtra and a few other states for onions, the rise in price of the bulb is at the source. Similarly, drumstick is selling for Rs 120 per kg and capsicum for Rs 80 per kg. Bottle gourd, pointed-gourd and carrot are priced at Rs 60 per kg while the smaller variety of teal gourd is selling for Rs 200 per kg. The larger variety of the vegetable can be had for Rs 60 per kg. While the price of tomato has somehow moderated to Rs 40 per kg, brinjal and plantain continue to be sold at Rs 60 per kg. Even pumpkin and papaya have become costlier by Rs 10 and are being sold at Rs 30 per kg. Similarly, cow pea, cucumber and ridge-gourd are available for Rs 40 per kg. Bottle gourd too has seen a rise in price and is selling for Rs 30 per piece. The price of coriander leaf has shot up to Rs 300 per kg while garlic is priced at Rs 380 per kg and ginger at Rs 360 per kg. Green chilli is comparatively affordable at Rs 100 per kg. Vegetable vendors attributed rise in price at Rourkela markets to inadequate supply from farmers in adjacent Nuagaon, Bistra, Lathika and Kuanrunda blocks of the district. The district has set a target to grow vegetables on 35,800 hectare land during the ongoing kharif season. Chief district agriculture officer Harihar Nayak said given the usual vegetable cultivation pattern in the district shortage in the market during and after monsoon is quite common. He said new vegetable crops would start arriving soon.

**30-year-old Odisha YouTuber hosts rooster contest to bring villagers together**

**SAMBALPUR:** In a novel initiative, a 30-year-old YouTuber hosted a rooster catching contest in his native Andhari village in Kayakud gram panchayat of Jujumura block to unite locals during good and bad times. The competition was organised earlier this week by Sanjib Biswal, who also runs a shop in the village. "Every year, locals working outside come back to their villages for the festival. While on the day of Nuakhai, all of us celebrate with our families, those working outside leave soon after the festival. As we do not get to meet them after the festival, I decided to host the competition a few days earlier so that everyone in the village gets to meet each other and participate in something that they could take back as a memory." The competition was organised at the school field in the village and was highlighted through social media. In a bid to draw a large number of participants and audience, Biswal made extensive announcements for around three days before the event. It worked as people from different villages thronged the school field to witness the competition where as many as 44 participants showcased their skills. The winners were awarded the roosters they had managed to catch and a trophy.

**Many Tamil Nadu districts facing acute shortage of DPT vaccines**

**A senior health official in Coimbatore said, "We need 380 doses per week for Coimbatore district and we usually have a buffer stock for three months."**

**COIMBATORE:** Several districts in Tamil Nadu seem to be facing acute shortage of DPT (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) vaccine as Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in these districts have run out of stock of the vaccine that's part of the immunisation schedule of children. A senior health official in Coimbatore said, "We need 380 doses per week for Coimbatore district and we usually have a buffer stock for three months. But the situation now is at 'just sufficient' level and there is nil buffer stock in the district. The shortage is reflecting in the field, but the situation is being managed as children who suffer from cold would not be administered the vaccine until they recover. Since cold is common among children, we are able to manage the vaccine shortage. We have made a request to the state health department to give us enough vaccine doses to manage the demand."

promised to send us vaccine stocks in the next few weeks," he said. Speaking to this daily, Health Minister Ma Subramanian said that he would look into the issue and



would ask the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine about the demand and availability of the vaccine. "We are procuring the vaccine from the central government," the minister said. Director of Public Health TS

Selvavinayagam, however, said the state has sufficient vaccine stock. Recently a purported video recorded by a parent in Selvapuram area in Coimbatore city showed him arguing with a nurse at a PHC about lack of vaccines at the centre.

Some of the health staff that TNIE spoke to also said that there was shortage of DPT vaccines in Chengalpattu and Tambaram too. "The shortage is there for the last two months," a PHC staff said.

Under the government's immunisation programme, the state health department offers free vaccines to children and pregnant mothers to protect them from various diseases including TB, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis-B, Haemophilus influenzae B, Tetanus, Polio, Measles and Rubella. The immunisation programme aims to reduce mortality and morbidity, particularly among children, due to Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). While the vaccines are administered at PHCs in cities, they are administered through outreach programme in schools and at anganwadi centres through village health nurses in rural areas.

**Bihar sees massive bureaucratic reshuffle, 41 IAS officers transferred**

**Patna.** Forty-one IAS officers, mostly district magistrates, were transferred in a major bureaucratic reshuffle in Bihar. While Bhojpur DM Raj Kumar was made the managing director of Bihar State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (COMFED), Sheohar DM Pankaj Kumar was appointed director (primary education) in the Education Department, according to a



notification issued by the General Administration Department late on Saturday. Director in Mines and Geology Department Mohd Nayyar Iqbal was shifted to the Food, and Consumer Protection Department as special secretary. Jamui DM Rakesh Kumar was appointed director (chakbandi) in the Directorate of Land Records and Survey.

Director (Mid-day meal) in the Education Department Mithlesh Mishra was appointed DM of Lakhisarai, while Rohtas DM Navin Kumar was made commissioner in the Transport Department.

Araria DM Inayat Khan was appointed registrar in the State Cooperative Societies Department. Vidya Nand Singh, deputy director in the Panchayati Raj Department, was appointed director in the Planning Department.

**The gardener who prevents suicides**

**55-year-old Babuli Behera has saved more than 50 people from drowning after they attempted suicide by jumping into the Mahanadi river. Arabinda Panda speaks to him about his initiative**

**CUTTACK:** While tending to plants in the Jobra park at Cuttack, Babuli Behera keeps a close watch on the Mahanadi barrage. His vigilant eyes do not miss any suspicious movement or act. When he notices a person jumping into the river, he just dives and there's not a single time that he has come out of the river without saving a life. The 55-year-old garden supervisor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation has so far foiled over 50 such attempts. Belonging to the local fishermen community, he dropped out of school in Class VII to assist his parents in fishing. With their help, he learnt how to swim and navigate strong currents. "There was no concrete barrage over Mahanadi then. There was a wooden barrage a few

metres above the present barrage. I had mastered the trick of taking the perfect dive into Mahanadi from the wooden barrage," he recalled.

At the age of 15, Behera saw a woman jumping from the barrage while he was fishing in the river. "I was throwing my net into the river when I saw a woman jumping into the Mahanadi. Fortunately, before she was swept away in the strong water current, I could get a hold of her and took her to the river bank," he said.

Behera earned the appreciation of many who were standing on the river bank and since then, there has been no looking back. Of the people he has saved so far, Behera said at least 15 would have been students while the



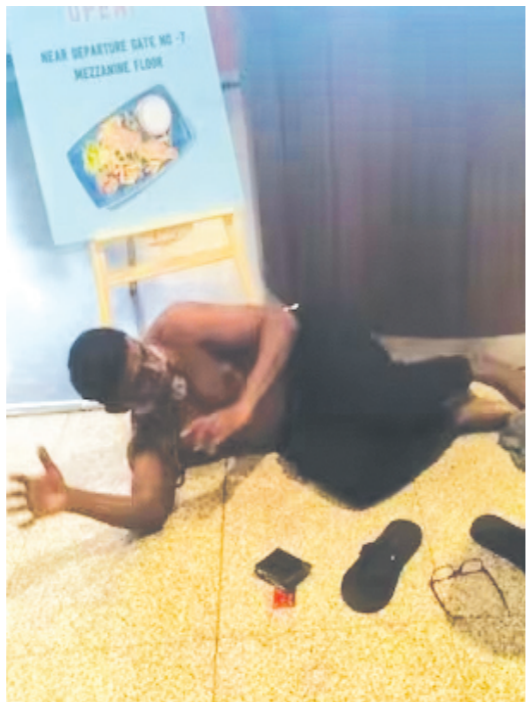
rest were women. "When we ask them why they want to end their lives, the students would blame it on exam failure. The women mostly jumped into the river due to failed affairs, marriages or domestic violence,"

said Behera who keeps a rubber tube and a plastic rope handy. He has bought them with his savings. He credits his wife Tukuni in assisting him in saving people from drowning. The couple has many times taken the survivors to hospitals and attended to them till their families arrived. Back in 2018, their son Chandan had also helped save many lives when a passenger bus skidded off the barrage and fell into the river.

Behera's last rescue was in the month of July when he saved an elderly woman who jumped into river Mahanadi from Jobra barrage. He fractured his left leg in the process. Prior to that, he had saved a girl from the same spot in the river.

**Malayalam actor Vinayakan detained at Hyderabad airport for misconduct**

**Malayalam actor Vinayakan, who acted as an antagonist in Superstar Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer, has been detained for creating a ruckus at the Hyderabad airport.**



**Hyderabad.** Malayalam actor Vinayakan, known for his role as a villain in Rajinikanth's film 'Jailer', was detained at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad for causing a disturbance and misbehaving with IndiGo gate staff. The actor was reportedly intoxicated and was behaving uncontrollably at a public place. Vinayakan, who had arrived in Hyderabad from Kochi and was on his way to Goa, was seen in a video sitting shirtless on the airport floor and shouting at the staff. The incident led the CISF security team at

the airport to detain Vinayakan and hand him over to the local airport police. "A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway," said Balraj, CI of the Airport Police Station. This is not the first time Vinayakan has been in trouble; in October 2023, he was arrested for creating chaos at a police station in Ernakulam, Kerala. The actor was questioned after complaints that he had caused disturbances at his apartment complex but was later released on bail.

**Amar Prasad Satpathy calls for introspection as leaders quit BJD one after another**



**The high-profile exits have raised concern among a section of leaders, who are beginning to come out in the open seeking immediate corrective measures to arrest the trend.**

**BHUBANESWAR:** At a time when there is a growing demand within the BJD for organisational restructuring in the wake of the party's humiliating defeat in the elections, resignation of two MPs from Rajya Sabha and the party in quick succession has sent a clear signal that all is not well in the regional outfit. The high-profile exits have raised concern among a section of leaders, who are beginning to come out in the open seeking immediate corrective measures to arrest the trend.

Senior BJD leader and former minister Amar Prasad Satpathy on Saturday said the desertion of leaders one after the other does not bode well for the party. "There is an urgent need for self-introspection to find out the malaise and take corrective action. Biju Janata Dal is still popular among the masses, especially in rural areas. The party needs the leadership of Naveen Patnaik and a strong organisation to win elections. Anything less will not do," Satpathy said. Taking exception to remarks made by some of his party colleagues on the two Rajya Sabha MPs after they quit BJD, Satpathy said their approach was not acceptable. They are trying to create a situation which is not healthy for the party, he said. "It gives a wrong signal when frontline leaders and members of Parliament leave the party. We must take the situation seriously and evaluate why this has happened. Timely corrective measures are required to plug the holes," he added. Reacting to assertion of a few BJP leaders including Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta, who resigned from the Upper House and the BJD on August 31, that many BJD leaders are in touch with the saffron party, Satpathy said he was not aware of what they said.

**Advocate Mohini Tomar's murder sparks outrage among lawyers**

**Agra.** The murder of senior advocate Mohini Tomar has sparked widespread outrage among the legal community in Agra and surrounding districts. Lawyers staged protests at the Agra Civil Court, demanding justice and calling for the immediate arrest and capital punishment of those responsible. Tomar, a respected advocate at the Kasganj District Court, disappeared mysteriously from the court's main gate. Her body was later found in the Rekhpur Minor canal near Rajpura village. Police retrieved the body and sent it for a post-mortem, which confirmed she was murdered before being thrown into the water, ruling out drowning as the cause of death. Tomar's body was taken to her home in

Madhopuri Colony, where senior judicial officials, including district judge Syed Mauz Bin Qasim, visited to pay their respects.



In Agra, lawyers gathered at the district court, protesting and demanding swift justice. Senior Advocate Naseem Qureshi urged

the government to implement the Advocate Protection Act, citing increasing attacks on lawyers in the state. He accused the authorities of failing to act against these growing threats. The High Court Bench Establishment Struggle Committee, meeting at the Agra Bar Association auditorium, expressed deep resentment over the murder. The committee demanded the state provide Rs 50 lakh in compensation to Tomar's family. An 11-member lawyer delegation from Agra will travel to Kasganj to meet the family. The Agra legal community held a candlelight vigil at the Martyr's Memorial, praying for Tomar and issuing an ultimatum: arrest the culprits within 48 hours and fast-track the trial with a verdict in two months. They also called for Rs 1 crore in compensation for Tomar's family.

## All eyes on Jats' resurgent politics in Haryana

AFTER 10 long years, things seem to be looking up for the Jats of Haryana. A Jat Chief Minister is a possibility in the upcoming Assembly elections. Even though the Jat community makes up just 26-28 per cent of the population, it has dominated the political and social landscape of the state because of its land-owning clout, its hold on government jobs and its sway over things that matter in the countryside. Jats were synonymous with Haryana until the BJP came to power in 2014. After winning the Assembly elections in the state for the first time on its own — without the crutch of a regional ally — the BJP installed a non-Jat Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, and began to patronise non-Jat communities such as other backward classes (OBCs), scheduled castes (SCs) and Punjabis, who had helped it win the polls. This diminished the Jat hegemony in the state civil secretariat and the channels of power that flow from it.

Before 2014, the BJP had been a junior coalition partner of a regional giant like the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) led by Om Prakash Chautala or the Haryana Vikas Party of strongman Bansilal. Three Chief Ministers prior to 2014 — the Congress' Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Chautala and Bansilal — who together ruled for almost two decades, pursued pro-Jat policies, and the community called the shots in governance. But as the Jat community began to be seen as a beneficiary of state largesse in government jobs and contracts, there was the inevitable disenchantment among the OBCs and SCs. The BJP successfully tapped into this resentment in the run-up to the 2014 Assembly elections, winning 47 of the 90 seats. Khattar, a Punjabi from Karnal, was appointed the CM, prompting derogatory remarks from prominent Jat figures in Haryana. But few could fault the BJP for breaking free from the Jat identity politics in Haryana, and the party quickly filled a political vacuum first created in the mid-1990s by non-Jat CM Bhajan Lal, a Bishnoi.

Less than a year and a half after the 2014 state polls, the Jats led a violent agitation for reservation in government jobs in the OBC category. It was preceded by months of acrimony between non-Jat BJP MP Raj Kumar Saini and some Jat khap leaders; the former had threatened to resign from his seat if Jats were given reservation. For about 10 days, Jat youth went on the rampage, causing destruction in which 20 persons died and over 200 were injured. Houses and commercial establishments of Sainis and other non-Jats in the Rohtak-Jhajjar Jat strongholds were vandalised. A cleavage between the two caste blocs began to take shape. The Jat angst seemed to stem from its fall from an exalted position and sudden political marginalisation, leading many observers to point out that this was the community's way of getting back at the powers who had "usurped their clout".

In the 2019 Assembly polls, the saffron party fell short of a majority but managed to form the government with the help of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which is led by the great-grandson of former Deputy PM Devi Lal, Dushyant Chautala. The JJP — splintered from the parent INLD — won 10 seats from its Jat stronghold, but the very act of aligning with the BJP government infuriated its Jat base. The party's vote share shrank to a mere 0.87 per cent in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The Jats have clearly hit back at the JJP for supping with the enemy. So, what's happening in this proud and once formidable community in the run-up to the state elections? Sensing that, perhaps, this is the time when it may be possible to reclaim the levers of power from non-Jats, the Jats are seeing value in unity. The polarisation between the two caste blocs that had its genesis in the 2016 Jat reservation agitation has taken root, and it will manifest itself during the elections.

## India must give its African outreach a new lease of life

The India-Africa Forum Summit can be an opportunity to devise a more contemporary agenda with a view to global rebalancing and strengthening of the Global South.



AFRICA is being wooed by many nations. China has been remarkably consistent with its three-yearly summits; the ninth edition of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held from September 4 to 6 in Beijing. Over the past two years, leaders of 54 African nations have been hosted by US President Joe Biden, his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni.

China's loan-giving spree has waned from \$28.4 billion in 2016 to \$1 billion in 2022 due to a slowdown in economic growth and its desire for a more sustainable development model, a shift away from direct infrastructure financing towards trade credit for regional exports, with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement offering businesses access to a larger unified African market.

African economies have benefited from China's unprecedented growth, but they must now adapt to a deceleration of export volumes, investments and loans. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), every percentage point decline in China's real GDP growth rate leads to about 0.25 percentage point decline in Sub Sahara Africa's total GDP growth within a year. Despite oil prices being high since 2021, China, the US and Europe are buying less crude oil from Africa, resulting in lesser earnings and a significantly heavier debt burden — on average, about 85 per cent of the GDP. This severely impacts the ability to close the \$400-billion financing gap that, according to the African Development Bank, the continent needs to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and achieve a just energy transition, especially for the poorer countries.

As China adjusts its approach to Africa to less costly commitments, the interest of several nations, including

Russia, India, the UAE, Turkey and Brazil, has increased. What keeps the spotlight on Africa, despite the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, is its growing population, high concentration of critical minerals and 54 votes at the UN. Africa has emerged as one of world's fastest growing regions with an estimated \$6.7-billion spending. Africa continues to have a seat at many high tables, and countries find it advantageous to negotiate with all African nations at once. This 'diplomatic polycentricity' presents opportunities while raising several questions. AAWorld Bank figures show that Africa has not significantly moved beyond primary production, and manufacturing has declined as a percentage of the GDP in sub-Saharan Africa. Most African countries are locked in a colonial-style trading relationship as exporters of raw materials and importers of finished goods. They may not have deepened their trading relations but have certainly broadened them which, nevertheless, carries the risk of borrowing too much with resultant defaults in payments. The IMF estimates that 25 African countries are on the verge of debt distress. Kenya's efforts to repay debt by overtaxing people backfired as massive street protests forced it to roll back its decision. Where does all this place India? Since 2008, when India substantially upgraded its traditional relations by holding the first India-Africa Forum Summit, the policy has been to help Africa help itself. The focus areas have been capacity-building, skill development, trade and investment, agriculture, energy, blue and ocean economy, infrastructure, education, health, peace and security, and cooperation in multilateral fora. India is Africa's third largest trading partner with \$85 billion in trade and \$75 billion in investments. India

also provides capacity-building in line with AU priorities such as 'Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century'. The opening of the IIT-Madras' Tanzania campus and the Indian National Forensic Sciences University's Uganda campus are recent examples. India's help to bridge the digital divide in Africa with tele-education and tele-medicine services is valued. During the Covid-19 pandemic, India aided Africa with medical supplies and equipment. The defence dialogue with Africa has re-emphasised the Indo-Pacific continuum. The Indian Ocean littoral states of Africa are crucial to the monitoring and protection of sea lanes. The AU vision of peace and security coincides with India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). We extend e-visa facilities to 33 African countries. Africa also stands to benefit from India's three significant multilateral initiatives: the International Solar Alliance, the Global Biofuel Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India and Africa have made effective contributions to protecting the interests of developing countries at international fora, including the Agriculture Framework Proposal and IP (intellectual property) waiver for Covid vaccines at the World Trade Organisation. India played a major role in the inclusion of African Union (AU) as a full member of G20. To provide a voice to Africa in the UN, India stands behind the AU's Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. India is among the biggest contributors to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force; we have 46 embassies in Africa. The twin shocks of Covid-19 and the Ukraine war have dealt a heavy blow to the African economies, which are reeling under debt distress. At the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave held last month in New Delhi, Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar said, "India is aligned with Africa's imperative to reduce its dependence on commodity exports and better integrate its production and trade activities into the global economy." The India-Africa growth partnership is a building block of the India-Global South partnership. The inordinate delay in holding the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit is worrisome; the previous editions were held in Delhi (2008 and 2015) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2011).

In this era of geopolitical competition and realignment, leveraging the historical partnership with Africa is imperative. India should work closely with the AU regarding the India-Africa Forum Summit and build on the gains made at the G20 Summit by spelling out the agenda, especially in areas like clean technology, climate-resilient agriculture, maritime security, connectivity and the blue economy. The India-Africa summit can be an opportunity to devise a more contemporary agenda for global rebalancing and strengthening of the Global South. Indian leaders should also resume bilateral visits to the continent.

## SC rap to Dhami

Blocks feudal approach to appointment

THE Supreme Court's rebuke to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Wednesday over his decision to appoint IFS officer Rahul as the director of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve underscores the critical importance of public trust in governance. The choice of Dhami, made against the objections of the principal secretary and forest minister, signals a troubling disregard for institutional checks and balances. The appointed officer was removed two years ago from the Corbett Tiger Reserve for alleged involvement in illegal tree felling, and the case is still being investigated.

In its sharp criticism, the Supreme Court reminded the CM that we were not living in a 'feudal era' in which leaders could bypass the due process. Justice BR Gavai's remark that Dhami should have provided detailed reasoning for his decision reflects a broader concern about the transparency of executive actions, particularly in matters involving environmental conservation. Even though the officer concerned has



since been removed from the post, the court's timely intervention shows that it takes swift action when deemed fit. The prompt action in this case underscores the need to

preserve the delicate ecological balance in wildlife reserves, as also the fact that compromises with the integrity of the system, including in appointments, undermine conservation efforts.

This episode serves as a reminder to all authorities across the country that governance must remain accountable, transparent and in the service of public and environmental interests. It raises concerns about political influence over appointments critical to environmental conservation. Political leaders must remember that their decisions can have long-lasting repercussions on sensitive ecological matters. Dhami's decision to ignore the objections of experts and sideline the due process reflects a worrying trend in which political considerations take precedence over environment. In a country already grappling with ecological degradation, such decisions jeopardise the wildlife and weaken the campaign against environmental crises.

## IC 814 lays bare an uncomfortable truth

THE GREAT GAME: Web series makes us realise that we were weak, and maybe, perhaps, still are

THE problem with a web series that looks like real life is that it brings back too many memories. The problem with IC 814: Kandahar Hijack is that it makes India look weak. Infirm. Enervated. Incapacitated. The problem is that the Narendra Modi government wants to bury those dark days and nights that broke between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve of 1999, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government released three terrorists in exchange for the safety of more than 300 passengers — and replace them with the fuzzy warmth and feel-good that comes with allying yourself to a strong leader who leads a strong state. The problem is that history takes no such prisoners. It was what it was. Here are some vignettes from that time. Indian negotiators looked and felt weak in Kandahar because they had little or no leverage. The Vajpayee government was blindsided with the families of passengers on the aircraft who threatened all kinds of harm if the government didn't do a deal. Omar Sheikh, the Britain-educated-and-accented terrorist — one of the three released by the Indian government — when asked by Anand Arni, an Indian intelligence official on the ground in Kandahar, what it meant to be free, let loose a string of expletives in reply. Pakistan's ISI, which was in control, changed the ground rules even during the negotiation — on December 29, the agreement was to release only Masood Azhar, but by the 30th morning the hijackers were demanding that three terrorists be released. It was what it was.

The problem, sometimes, is that people look at the past in the context of the present. They are embarrassed by the fact that then External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh flew to Kandahar in the same aircraft with the three terrorists sitting a few seats behind him, loudly abusing him. He shouldn't have gone, many say, why did he demean his position by going? But go back into the archives of The Tribune and look



at where India was in 1999. The nuclear tests had taken place a year prior and India was still in the international doghouse — the Clinton visit was still to come in the following summer. Hardly a few months before, the Kargil conflict with Pakistan had ended. That week when the hijacked plane flew from Kathmandu to Kandahar, via Amritsar, Jaswant Singh tried to call several of his counterparts in the US, UK and elsewhere for help — but no one took his call. It was also New Year's Eve. When a troubled man from a Third World country calls you when you would be rather celebrating, all you can think of is, why can't he take care of his own problems? That is what constitutes real weakness. When no one wants to take your call, even when you're desperate.

According to then RAW chief AS Dulat, Jaswant Singh was "a lonely man" that week in Delhi. He realised that if a senior person didn't personally go to oversee the exchange, something might happen at the last minute that could endanger the lives of the passengers. The truth is that Indian negotiators looked and felt weak in Kandahar because they had little or no leverage. The plane was in hostile territory. The ISI was the master puppeteer. It held all the cards. The Netflix series forces all those Indians watching to come to terms with this uncomfortable truth. That we are not the state we believe we are. That we were weak, and maybe, perhaps, still are. The web series has touched a chord with all of us because when the lights are out and we are

confronted just with ourselves, we know what's true and what's not. We know that we are not as strong as we think we are. Some may say that 25 years is a long time and that India has moved on — they point to the hard line PM Modi has taken with regard to talks with Pakistan. Others point to the never-before surgical strikes in 2016, when the Indian armed forces crossed the LoC and successfully carried out operations against terrorists being backed by the Pakistan army.

And yet, we know, the weakness remains, within and without. In Ladakh, where the Chinese have not allowed your soldiers to patrol large parts of territory they could patrol until 2020 — notwithstanding the swipe PM Modi took against the Chinese in Singapore earlier this week. In the Jammu region, where 18 armed forces personnel have been killed by terrorists. In Sindhudurg, where a statue of Shivaji collapsed within months because the contractor used material of a bad quality. In Punjab, where the drug problem is far worse than you can imagine it to be. In Manipur, where Meitei radicals are using drones against fellow Manipuris. So much better to admit that you cannot stand up to the Chinese. At least there's honesty in that admission. They are five times larger than you, in any case. So much better to confront the issue and ask yourself, Why, pray, can't you stand up to the Chinese?

Why is China's economy five times larger than India's, even though Mao's Long March ended in Beijing about the same time (in 1949) that India became independent? The answer is not always that China is a dictatorship and India is — a self-congratulatory pat included — a democracy. There's worse. The Shivaji statue contractor has finally been arrested, but it reminds us of the old Modi slogan, Na khaaonga, na khaane doonga — I will never be corrupted, and I won't let anyone be corrupt either.

Everyone commits mistakes, but to learn from them and move on is something professionals should work towards.

# Messed up at work? Bounce back!



To err is human...Nonetheless, when it comes to committing an error at work, perspectives often change. At work, if you make a big mistake, you instantaneously come under the scanner of everyone around you. When you mess up at the workplace, it is fatal for your reputation and relationship, not only with your managers, but also with the co-workers. Most of the times, it seems that if you have committed such a huge mistake, you are unlikely to recover from it. However, it is only partially true. You will not be able to recover, if and only if you do not make an effort towards the same. Remember, the organisation is not looking to fire you for committing the

mistake. Had it been the case, you wouldn't be sitting in your cubicle now. Therefore, if you are still able to retain your job after having messed up at work, it is a strong signal that the organisation has given you another chance, and you can make the most of it by working really hard and making up for that error! Lynette Dsilva, HR director, Amdocs India, gives an insight into how one can start working towards the goal of making up for that error. "The two key elements to keep in mind here are ownership and communication. Employees need to take ownership for what they are working on and this involves careful planning to get the desired output. Occasional misstep is where being transparent in your communication is

helpful," says Dsilva. Talking about that mistake to your managers might seem to be the most difficult task, but that is something that one should not refrain from. Monica Malhotra Kandhari, senior director, MBD Group, stresses on the importance of talking it out with the managers to get their feedback. "Be sincere in redressal. Bad situations, in many cases, can be reversed or the effect minimised. However, an arrogant or insincere approach will only alienate you further. Also, be willing to take feedback from your seniors. They will help you analyse where you went wrong. This will help you immensely in staying away from such a mistake in future and will also send

out a positive signal to the management that you have accepted your mistake and are willing to improve the situation," asserts Kandhari. Equally important are apologising and amending once you have acknowledged the mistake before your seniors. Shanthi Sundar, sr director and head HR India, Pegasystems Inc, talks about the importance of the two at the workplace when you are looking to rebuild your credibility. "If there are colleagues who have been affected by the mistake, talk to them and apologise. This can be very difficult at times, but if you have the right intent and genuinely believe in making up, this would seem like any other work-related conversation.

It goes without saying that you need to rectify the situation. It is equally important to talk to your colleagues and managers about how you intend to avoid making this mistake in the future, and make them understand how you are committed to help them. "Next comes building your lost trust. The best way to ensure this is to work really hard at the workplace and show it to your managers that you intend well and are willing to learn from your mistakes. Be ready to work extra and display a sincere approach towards work. Remember, an employee who learns from his mistakes is always a boss's delight. A mistake once is a learning, but to repeat it again would be foolish. So learn from it and move on towards a better and more credible future, professionally.

## How to manage the millennial Workforce

The millennial workforce looks for flexibility and wishes to connect to a larger purpose. The key is to manage them well.



The millennials in India who are accounting for over half the work force, are more educated than the previous generation with high expectations. We are living in a country which is proud to have diversity, and coming from different culture and states, most of us have family backgrounds wherein the grandparents are not well educated, but have great family values, while parents are better educated.

Now, we have come to the mammoth task of managing millennials in our country with diversity. Therefore, we have to be thoughtful about how we manage the millennials, as it is expected that when the economy turns around, the voluntary turnover is likely to increase, hence, the employer has to take care about the millennials. Only 18% of millennials think they have a future in the field they are presently working in, hence, employers will be forced to go to the market to recruit new talent. The three key expectations of the millennial workforce are good work-life balance, training and development and 20% of them seek to move up the corporate ladder faster. Millennials have a "cando" attitude about tasks at work and look for

feedback about how they are doing, frequently. They want a variety of tasks and expect that they will accomplish every one of them. For them, boring is bad. They seek ever-changing tasks within their work. What's happening next is their mantra. Don't bore them, ignore them, or trivialise their contribution. It is a thinking generation which believes in self-analysis, planning and prepping. They believe in respect more than monetary rewards, and wish for their work to be seen and spoken about by their seniors and peers.

Being born in the Internet age helps them dream big. It's a misconception that they are not rebellious and want to fight with the system. Millennials work flexibility They work well with clear instructions and concrete targets. Give them the freedom to have a flexible work schedule. Does it matter if they work from home or a coffee shop or wherever, if that's where they are most productive at? Set deadlines and if they meet them, don't worry so much about their tactics and the time they clock in and out. Get the 'deal' right: It's important for

employers to explain not only what they are offering a potential employee, but also what they expect in return. Think creatively about reward strategies and what motivates the millennials.

Millennial employees stand out for being skilled with technology. Not only are they adept at using technology, but they prefer it. No other generation has grown up steeped in technology like the millennials, and so what is seen as optional or gadgetry for older generations is natural and required for millennials.

Technology isn't novel It's always been there. And just as older generations leapt for new technology because it was something they were not used to, millennials may crave a sans-technology approach in communication. Remember, people and connections are important to them.

Millennials have grown up in a "maker-centric" age in which creating something is of utmost importance. They are used to having answers and information at their fingertips as well, and a simple online search can provide them with complex answers to just about any question. The speed at which they can find answers, feeds into their need to be creative. Remember, they grew up in a fast-paced information age, and their attention span might be shorter.

Millennials are concerned about giving back to the community. Millennials want to feel that they are doing something to help others. They want to work for a company that has a reputation for caring about people and important causes, or, at the very least, allows them to be active in supporting those causes themselves.

Millennials view work as a key aspect of life, not a separate activity that needs to be "balanced". For that reason, they place a strong emphasis on finding work that's personally fulfilling. They want work to be able to afford the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, and connect to a larger purpose. That sense of purpose is a key factor in their job satisfaction.

Ultimately, millennials want to feel that their work and their place in your business has some meaning.

The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined.

Every CEO wants to build a highly agile organisation, which can adapt to different circumstances. And, every employee aspires to be a part of an organisation that can understand their life stage needs and provide the 'flex', which enables them to integrate work-life. Hence, the days of onsize-fits-all is over. Flex in schedules and pay structure elements is not adequate. The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined as those that are applicable to all and flex benefits, which would be selected as per each employee's choice. Flex needs to be a part of the organisational total reward philosophy and should be aligned to the employee value proposition - a statement of why the total work experience at its organisation is superior to that at other companies. As per WorldatWork a global association, total rewards leverages five elements to attract, retain and motivate talent - compensation, benefits, worklife, performance and recognition and development and career opportunities. Issuing a policy is only the beginning but if it is not imbibed in the organisational culture, it has minimal impact. Organisations may have dialled down policies for those who need a temporary phase of reduced work responsibilities due to personal needs or part-time employment policies but these may not get widely utilised if they aren't communicated or encouraged by the organisational culture.

Regardless of how well-designed a company's approach to 'flex' is, if managers aren't on board and don't have the skills and attitudes to manage effectively, it will flounder. It's as simple as that. Multi-generational organisations are a reality. Each generation has its own distinct set of values, view of authority, orientation to the world, a sense of loyalty, and expectations from the work environment. Though we may



## Understanding the needs of Employees



say that the differences between these generations are hyped, there are clear perceived differences between the employee benefit needs of a 28-year-old employee and one who is approaching retirement. In urban cities, the youth may want to get on the housing ladder and any support the organisation can provide is highly appreciated.

When the benefit is understood and utilised well, employees naturally become its advocates, which in turn becomes a positive feedback that spreads across the organisation. On the other hand, older employees may

be more concerned about the cost of medical care, given the growing healthcare costs. Choice makes the employee experience fulfilling. By giving employees choice and implementing a self-service benefits portal with a user-friendly website supported by rigorous communication strategy, an organisation is able to increase the perceived value of its offerings. When organisations take time to explain their offerings to employees, it is a strong gesture of care.

# India receives 8% above average rainfall, but some states see uneven monsoon

As of September 7, India experienced an 8 per cent above average rainfall, offering much-needed respite to its agrarian economy. Despite the overall positive outlook, monsoon distribution across the country has been notably uneven.

**New Delhi.** With the Southwest Monsoon likely to withdraw from northwest India this month, the country has recorded an 8 per cent above average rainfall so far, but its distribution has been uneven in some states. Generally, the monsoon withdrawal usually begins around September 17 and is completed by October 15. Although these dates are tentative, deviations are common. Last year, for instance, the monsoon withdrawal was delayed until September 25. This year, the system seems to be following a similar pattern, hinting at a possible extension of the season. As of September 7, India experienced an 8 per cent above average rainfall, offering much-needed respite to its agrarian economy. Despite the overall positive outlook, monsoon distribution across the country has

been notably uneven. While Rajasthan enjoyed a 57 per cent surplus, which is crucial for its typically arid landscape, Manipur suffered a 30 per cent deficit, raising concerns about water scarcity and agricultural stress. India's diverse climatic conditions often lead to varied rainfall patterns, which can be classified into five major categories: Large Deficient (-99 per cent to -60 per cent), Deficient (-59 per cent to -20 per cent), Normal (-19 per cent to 19 per cent), Excess (20 per cent to 60 per cent), and Large Excess (60 per cent to 99 per cent). No state has experienced the extremes of Large Deficient or Large Excess rainfall this year. However, several states have experienced deficient rainfall. Manipur faced a significant shortfall at -30 per cent, closely



followed by Bihar at -26 per cent. Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir registered -23 per cent and -20 per cent, respectively. Similarly, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh recorded deficiencies at -21 per cent and -22 per cent. Some states have normal but still below-

average rainfall. Uttar Pradesh reports a -14 per cent shortfall, with Assam at -13 per cent. Haryana and Kerala face a -10 per cent deficit. Other states, including Odisha (-12 per cent), Jharkhand (-13 per cent), West Bengal (-7 per cent), Mizoram (-11 per cent) and Meghalaya (-3 per cent), similarly recorded below-normal rainfall levels. Delhi, on the other hand, stood at the threshold of the Excess category, recording a 19 per cent surplus in rainfall. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh received slightly above-average rainfall at 7 per cent. Conversely, many states recorded abundant rainfall. Rajasthan led the pack with a notable 57 per cent excess in rainfall, followed closely by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, both at a 51 per cent surplus. Goa experienced a 45 per cent surplus, while Ladakh recorded a 44 per cent increase. Andhra Pradesh (42 per cent), Telangana (40 per cent), Maharashtra (28 per cent), and Karnataka (23 per cent), Tripura (22 per cent) and Sikkim (21 per cent) also witnessed substantial excess rainfall.

## Railways initiate process to relieve Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia: Source

According to a source, the Northern Railway has initiated the process of accepting the resignation of wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia as they joined Congress party recently.

**New Delhi.** The Northern Railway has initiated the process of accepting the resignation of wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, with both players expected to be relieved "as early as possible," railway sources said on Sunday. Both Punia and Phogat recently joined the Congress and the latter has been given a ticket to contest election from Julana assembly constituency in Haryana.

"The provision of serving three-month notice period after resigning by a railway employee will not come in the way of relieving these two players as we have decided to relax the norm in their cases," a senior railway official told PTI.

Railways sources said both the players "will be relieved possibly today or as early as possible." The Northern Railway (NR) had earlier issued show cause notices to them after they met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to join his party. The NR had said the show cause notice was part of the service norm as they were government employees. Following the notice, both resigned from the Railways. Speculation was rife that Phogat might not be able to contest elections in view of the three-month notice period norm. According to election rules, she needs to get officially relieved from the Railways to be eligible to contest election. Now, since Railways has initiated her resignation acceptance process, there is no hurdle in her contesting election, a Northern Railway official said.

## 12 injured in jackal attack in UP's Pilibhit amid wolf terror in Bahraich

A pack of jackals attacked people in two villages in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district in which at least 12 people, including seven children, were injured.

**New Delhi.** At least 12 people, including five children, were injured after being attacked by a pack of jackals in two villages in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district. According to the locals, the jackals first attacked children in Suswar and Pansoli villages in Jahanabad area when they were playing outside their homes. When some elderly people rushed to protect the children, the wild animal also attacked them.

After the attack, all 12 people were admitted to Jahanabad's Community Health Centre (CHC), where they were receiving necessary treatment. Enraged by the attack from the jackals, the locals then kill one of them. Upon receiving an alert about the jackal attacks, a team from the local administration and forest department rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

The attack by jackals in Pilibhit came at a time when wolf attacks in neighbouring Bahraich district have killed a total of 10 people, including several children. About 36 people, including women, children and the elderly have also been injured in wolf attacks in Bahraich.

Speaking about the attacks by a pack of jackals, Pilibhit's District Forest Officer (DFO) Manish Singh said some villagers earlier claimed that the attack was done by a pack of wolves but it was later confirmed that a jackal was behind it. "We are monitoring the situation.

These jackals have become aggressive because the rains have flooded their hiding places, forcing them out. Also, it is their mating period, during which they tend to be more aggressive. We are keeping a close watch on them." Meanwhile, Pilibhit's MP Jitendra Prasad also spoke to the locals about the incident over the phone.

## Raghav Chadha cites 'win-win' condition for AAP-Congress alliance in Haryana

Speaking to the media, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chaddha said that "ball-by-ball commentary" on the alliance discussion cannot be done and people will be informed once the final decision is made.

**New Delhi.** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chaddha on Sunday said that discussions were going on between the AAP and Congress for an alliance in the coming

Assembly polls in Haryana. Chaddha further added that it was a "win-win situation" for both the national parties to forge an alliance for the welfare of the people of Haryana. "Ball-by-ball commentary cannot be done on which seat and how many seats. Regarding the alliance, we can only say that whenever the final decision is made, we will inform you. There is a desire, a wish and a hope to form an alliance," AAP's Rajya Sabha MP said while speaking to the media. "The last date of filing the nomination is

September 12, and I am sure a good result, in the favour of the people of Haryana and the favour of India, will come out before that..." he added. The comments by the AAP MP came a day



after its party said that it was "fully prepared" to contest all the 90 seats in the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls. On September 7, AAP

spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said, "Aam Aadmi Party is continuously working in Haryana. Today, there are public meetings by Sunita Kejriwal ji. We are fully prepared to contest all 90

seats, and our organisation is strong on the ground." She further stated that the party will announce its candidates in one-two days. "We hope some conclusion will be reached," Kakkar added.

The Congress and AAP had initially reached an in-principle understanding to jointly contest the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections, scheduled for October 5. But, according to sources, the talks hit a roadblock on September 6, as Congress leaders reportedly became reluctant to concede too many seats to AAP.

## Exclusive: Taslima Nasreen's India stay at risk? Says 'I'll surely die if...'

**New Delhi:** Exiled Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen is not only concerned about the recent political upheaval in her motherland, but also faces uncertainty about her future in India. She claims her Indian residence permit, which expired in July, is yet to be renewed by the government. "I like living in India, but it's been about a month and a half and my residence permit hasn't been renewed yet," Nasreen tells India Today's sister channel AajTak Bangla. Nasreen holds Swedish citizenship and has lived in India since 2011. She says she is "not getting any answers" from government officials regarding the

renewal of her residence permit, and is unsure of whom to contact within the Union Home Ministry for assistance.

"I don't talk to anyone," she says. "I keep checking my status online but haven't received any confirmation yet. Even now the status on the website shows 'updating'. This has never happened before." Asked if the current situation in Bangladesh is getting in the way of her permit renewal, she categorically denies any connection. "I have nothing to do with Bangladesh and its politics," she tells AajTak Bangla. "I live here as a Swedish citizen. And my permit was cancelled even before the current Bangladesh controversy," she adds,

referencing a similar issue in 2017, which she attributed to a "technical problem". An outspoken critic of religious fundamentalism, Nasreen now fears for her future if she is unable to renew her Indian residence permit.

"People think that I have connections with the government and politicians, but it's not so," she says. "Because if I don't get the permit, I will surely die, now I am in no condition to go anywhere." Nasreen claims that deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former premier Khaleda Zia played a role in keeping her out of Bangladesh. "Both of them did not allow me to stay in Bangladesh.

## Manipur forces seize arms, ammunition amid growing tensions after fresh attack

**Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh held an**

**emergency meeting with**

**MLAs from the ruling**

**coalition and also met the Governor in the wake of the fresh violence that killed five on Saturday.**

**New Delhi:** A massive combing operation to trace militants was underway in Manipur a day after at least five people were killed in fresh violence in Jiribam district amid drone and rocket attacks. The security agencies recovered large caches of weapons in a significant arms haul in the state, which has been on the boil since the ethnic violence began in May last year. The seized weapons include sniper rifles,

pistols, guns, short- and long-range mortars, grenades, and long-range rocket bombs, among other ammunition. Following the attack, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh held an emergency meeting with ruling coalition MLAs to review the situation. Later, he also met Governor L Acharya to appraise him about the security situation in the state.

**MANIPUR VIOLENCE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

Massive security measures have been put in place in Manipur after Saturday's violence killed five people. A military helicopter was deployed for patrolling and conducting aerial surveys, and a combing operation is also underway. Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, K Kabib claimed that the situation has been brought under control. Manipur Police say the Kuki militants deployed long-range rockets among the civilian population in attacks on two locations in Bishnupur district. This occurred after the militants entered the house of a person who lived alone and shot him dead in his

sleep, worsening the situation. In the ongoing combing operation, a large number of sophisticated arms, ammunition, explosives, and grenades were recovered on Saturday. A total of



nine sophisticated arms, 21 different types of ammunition, 21 explosives, grenades, and a wireless set were recovered, officials said. Security forces also destroyed three bunkers of militants in Churachandpur district after insurgents launched rocket attacks in adjoining Bishnupur, killing one person and injuring six others. The bodies of three armed militants were recovered in Jiribam. There was an attempt to loot arms from Manipur

Rifles custody at two locations, and combined security forces deployed at these locations dispersed the mob and repelled the attempt. Some vehicles belonging to the miscreants were also damaged, according to officials. Manipur Police also deployed anti-drone systems in response to recent drone and rocket attacks on civilians. On Friday, people near Bishnupur and Imphal East districts turned off their lights after multiple drones were sighted. Similar drones were also used by the militants on Saturday. A group of Meitei civil society organisations, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), declared an indefinite emergency in the state, citing increased Kuki aggression in the region. However, Kuki groups denied carrying out aerial bombing via drones. The apex body of the Kuki tribe has denied accusations that Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers used drones to drop bombs, claiming that their use of drones is limited to surveillance in adherence to international law.

## Death Penalty For Rape-Murder Convict: Siliguri Court Delivers Justice For Minor Victim In West Bengal

**New Delhi:** A court in Siliguri, West Bengal, sentenced a Rape-Murder convict named MD Abbas, to death for his involvement in the rape and murder of a minor girl on Saturday. The heinous crime, which occurred last year, has been met with a strict judicial response. Additional District and Sessions Judge Anita Mehrotra Mathur delivered the verdict after a thorough legal process.

The tragic incident took place on August 21, 2023, when a young girl was on her way to school. She was brutally raped and murdered in an isolated area within the jurisdiction of the Matigara Police Station. Swift police action led to the arrest of MD Abbas within six hours of the crime, reflecting the urgency and seriousness with which the authorities treated the case.



### Legal Proceedings

Special Public Prosecutor Bivas Chatterjee argued for the death penalty, emphasizing the severity of the crime. He highlighted that the case involved charges under three sections, including Section 302 (murder) and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, both of which carry the maximum punishment. Chatterjee presented his case as one of the "rarest of the rare" instances, leading to a prolonged one-and-a-half-hour hearing focused on securing the death penalty. Judge Anita Mehrotra Mathur's judgment came after recording testimonies from 33 witnesses and meticulously considering the prosecution's case. This sentencing coincides with ongoing national protests over another high-profile case involving the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The case has drawn significant public and media attention. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently stated that the accused, Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, acted alone and that there was no gang rape involved, contrary to earlier allegations.





Here's how to create a  
**Positive**  
 image at  
**Work**

Adopting the right approach towards your work life such as paying attention to your attitude, dressing style and your approach towards work can help attract a number of positive benefits. These can pave the way for building a solid professional life by helping you attract your superiors' attention, maintaining a healthy relationship with your immediate colleagues and coming across as a dependable employee. Here are a few things you should incorporate in your daily work life to create a positive image at your workplace.

**Fit in**

Every organisation has a different work culture. When you join a firm, try and understand its work culture and priorities. It is equally important to understand your job profile and what the organisation expects from you. "It is a good idea to be cautious of the conversation that you make with your co-workers. Do not intrude into your colleague's personal space. Compliment your colleagues and team mates for their achievements. Refrain from gossiping at

work, it will most likely back fire someday. Avoid using a commanding tone while you communicate. Instead of commanding while you manage a team, ask your peers for their opinion on a particular subject. This goes a long way in building a strong team," says Sheena Agarwal, Director, Urbanista Image Consulting LLP.

**Dress well**

It is essential to pay attention to how you dress at work. Groom yourself and

maintain a neat appearance keeping your job profile in mind. While dressing up casually at work may be acceptable at times, one needs to understand that they cannot dress casually while attending a meeting or presenting to a client. Another thing to keep in mind is that you are comfortable in the clothes you wear. This will help avoid distractions. "Grooming is important to the extent of being neat, tidy and professional. One doesn't need to wear expensive clothes, perfumes, makeup, etc, to be well groomed.

**Presenting yourself well at the workplace can help you boost your career.**

At the same time, one cannot sport an unkempt, dishevelled look or that which is unbecoming of the workplace culture," says Saba Adil, Head, HR, AEGON Life Insurance.

**Pay attention to your body language**

While we don't pay attention to our posture at work, it is important to understand that a professional's posture says a lot about his attitude. A professional with a straight posture suggests that they are attentive and enthusiastic about their work. On the other hand, being sloppy or sitting with your hands crossed suggests that you are rigid and are not open to suggestions.

**Value time**

Whether it means meeting deadlines or reaching on time at work, being punctual is crucial. Making sure that you meet your deadlines will not only help you develop a stress-free work atmosphere, but also displays your commitment towards your work. Additionally, maintaining a record of

the assignments you have completed will make you look organised. "Everyone likes employees who complete their assignments on time. Maintaining a punctual work schedule helps the team coordinate better and meet deadlines. Focusing on the projects at hand will also ensure that you don't get involved in office politics and gossips, thus keeping you at bay from a negative work environment," says Arun Bala, COO of Invenio Business Solutions.

**Be open to criticism**

Everything that your colleagues say is not always negative or to pull you down. At times, your peers' advice can be beneficial to you. Do not take every critical evaluation personally. Instead, trust that your colleagues have the intent of helping you execute and accomplish your tasks better. Be respectful, approachable and focused while at work. Bear in mind your organisation's expectations from you and conduct yourself accordingly.

**What to do when you have more than one boss**

**Sometimes, circumstances conspire to turn you into a 'shared resource' where you have to dance to the tunes of not one, but two or more bosses!**

So how do you walk the tight rope and emerge victorious? Dealing with one boss can be a challenge. But imagine dealing with two bosses, neither of whom is willing to cut you some slack in view of your multiple duties. You confront conflicting deadlines, confused priorities and dual expectations. In all the chaos, it seems impossible for you to ever take a break or get a breather. But it is possible to navigate this quagmire and many have done it before with success. Anil Salvi, group head, HR, JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd was placed in such a dilemma early on in his career. "At my first job itself, I was a shared resource between two bosses and had faced a lot of challenges as both bosses used to wonder for whom I was working more. Since I was a beginner, one of the ways that I used to adopt was to be brutally honest about my challenges with both of them and most of the times, they understood. And



there was the first lesson of the career that honesty works and it works well. Till date after 25 years of my career, that stint remains the most cherished one," he says. If your strategy is to let both your bosses remain in blissful ignorance about the other, you may be charting dangerous territory. It may not be pleasant to turn down a plum opportunity, but if it clashes with a commitment you've already made to your other boss, honesty really would be the best policy.

Being extremely organised is your bet as a shared resource. "It is the toughest position to be in since every manager wants full attention and contribution from the individual. The best thing for the individual to do is to set the objectives and role expectations with every manager they report to. Maintain a list of things to do and follow up whenever required. Let the others managers know if there are any priorities that you are working on, which could potentially delay theirs. It is key that a constant review and discussion is done with all managers to course correct if there are any gaps in their expectations," advises Mukund Menon, director HR and communications, HR and communications, International Paper India.

Salvi warns against showing one boss in bad light to the other in order to gain sympathy. "Being very honest is the most critical part as that would give you credibility. Being solution-oriented would be the next thing as at the end of the day, you are responsible for yourself, so you would need to take that initiative. Third, never ever play one boss against another as remember that they are

your bosses and you never know when they would share notes and also simply, it is not a right thing to do. Fourth, when you can't find a solution pertaining to the bosses, don't be ashamed to approach them and seek their help in finding one."

Of course, the above tips assume that all managers concerned are willing to make allowances for the employee. In some cases, bosses behave as though the other boss doesn't exist at all and all 8.5 hours of the employee are theirs to command. Menon agrees, "Most of the bosses are not empathetic.

Everyone has their own priorities and there is competition for attention as people suffer from the 'first service syndrome'. The best thing is to let the other bosses know on a constant basis how you are managing the issues and deliverables and build rapport and trust. It is mutual respect and honesty that brings it together. The key is to manage each person's ego. Additionally, having an informal chat will also help." A Thiru, president corporate HR, JK Organisation lays the onus of empathy at the bosses' doors, "Bosses are expected to be empathetic in such a situation. If they are not, it is their problem and not that of the shared resource as long as the shared resource does his/her best under the prevailing situation and stays tuned to the purpose (serving the external customer better/faster) than responding (wasting time) based on organisational hierarchy."

As Salvi says, continue to work hard and smart for the bosses as you are learning twice as much, compared to others who have a single boss.

## Vedanta will progress to asset owner with demerger: Anil Agarwal

**NEW DELHI.** The proposed demerger of Vedanta's diverse verticals that represent more than 15 commodities, will see the company progress from being asset managers to asset owners, Chairman Anil Agarwal has said. The proposed demerger will create independent companies housing aluminium, oil and gas, power, steel and ferrous materials, and base metals businesses. The existing zinc and new incubated businesses will remain under Vedanta Ltd. "Our expansionary moves are aligned with our business model transformation. The upcoming demerger of our diverse verticals that represent more than 15 commodities, will see us progress from being asset managers to asset owners," Agarwal said in a latest report. As the company passes through the transition phase, Vedanta is focusing on consolidating and strengthening its asset base to emerge as world leader in each of its verticals, the Chairman said.

Diversified natural resources company Vedanta Ltd has filed the demerger scheme with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after receiving a nod from lenders and is hopeful of completing the process by the end of this fiscal. Vedanta has received approval from 75 per cent of secured creditors for the proposed demerger of its businesses. The demerger will help in simplifying the company's corporate structure by creating independent businesses. Moreover, it will offer global investors direct investment opportunities in pure-play companies linked to the country's impressive growth.

From FY24 onwards, the company is investing USD 1.9 billion as growth capex across its businesses. Vedanta reported a 36.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,606 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, due to improved margins and robust cost reduction across all operations. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,640 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated income in the April-June period rose to Rs 36,698 crore over Rs 34,279 crore in the year-ago period.

Vedanta Ltd, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, is a diversified global natural resources company with operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, steel, aluminium and power across India, South Africa and Namibia.

## Air India sees 60 per cent fall in losses at Rs 4,444 crore

**NEW DELHI.** Tata Group-owned Air India reported 60% fall in losses to Rs 4,444.10 crore in FY24 over the previous year, as per Tata Sons annual report for FY24. The airline had reported a loss of Rs 11,387.96 crore in FY23. The turnover grew 23.69% to Rs 38,812 crore during the reporting year as against a turnover of Rs 31,377 crore, the report stated. It said the group is consolidating its aviation presence with the merger of AirAsia India (AIX Connect) with Air India Express and the ongoing merger of Vistara with Air India. The airline also said Air India has recorded its highest consolidated annual operating revenues of Rs 51,365 crore, up 24.5% over FY23 driven by growth in capacity to 1,059 million available seat kilometres, which was 21% higher over the previous year, it said.

It saw an improvement in passenger factor to 85% against 82% 2022-23. During the reporting year, 40.45 million passengers were flown by operating 800 daily flights, including 55 domestic and 44 international destinations, it said. Tata Group fully owns three airlines -- Air India, Air India Express, and AIX -- while Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between the group and Singapore Airlines. It has announced that Vistara will operate its last flight under its banner on November 11 and its operations will be merged with Air India on November 12.

## Banks To Hire Young Graduates As Apprentices With Rs 5,000 Monthly Stipend, Check Details Here



**New Delhi** Banks are mulling to hire graduates under 25 years of age as apprentices in a month. The move follows a budget announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, under which the government is targeting to provide internships at top-500 companies for up to 1 crore youth over the next five years.

The scheme is likely to be implemented within a month. Stipend. Lenders will be paying a stipend of Rs 5,000 a month to such candidates who will get trained on a specialised skill set during the stint, industry lobby grouping Indian Banks Association's chief executive Sunil Mehta told news agency PTI.

Explaining the banks' role in implementing the scheme, Mehta added, "There are a lot of areas where we don't need any skilled manpower for example marketing, recoveries. We can give them training in those areas and they can create employment for themselves."

### Eligibility

The candidates applying for apprentice should be a graduate between 21-25 years of age, should not be a taxpayer and must not possess a degree from top institutions like IIT or IIM, Mehta said. Mehta also hinted that such apprentices, who can be hired for up to 12 months, will also be hired in other areas like working as business correspondents to take the banking services to the last mile.

### Post-Apprentice Prospects

Such candidates will not "vanish" after their stints at banks, Mehta said, adding that there is also a possibility of some of them getting absorbed as employees. He, however, did not share the total number of interns or apprentices that the banks will be hiring but added that all banks will be participating in the initiative.

# India's power generation and transmission sectors 2.2 times by FY2030

**NEW DELHI.** India's power generation and transmission sectors are expected to witness significant growth in the coming years, according to a recent report by Jefferies. The report projects that the power generation and transmission sectors will grow 2.2 times to \$280 billion between FY24 and FY30 compared to FY17-23. Additionally, to sustain the economy's rapid growth, power consumption is expected to increase by more than 7 per cent annually. By FY30, India's total power generation capacity will need to rise from 442 GW in FY24 to 673 GW to prevent power shortages.

Thermal power plants, currently operating at around 65-70 per cent plant load factor (PLF), will play a crucial role in meeting this demand. The average annual PLF for thermal power plants is expected to exceed the peak levels observed in FY08 by FY28, with thermal utilisation rates already reaching 74 per cent in FY25 to date. However, the report also highlights



that peak power deficits are becoming more frequent due to years of underinvestment in the sector. To avoid regular power shortages, the focus will be on accelerating capacity additions and increasing investment in power

transmission and distribution (T&D) equipment. Capacity additions are expected to increase significantly, particularly in thermal power, where the annual addition rate is set to rise from the current 2-5 GW to 17 GW. Renewable energy capacity will also grow rapidly, with the annual capacity addition expected to increase 3.5 times between FY24 and FY27 compared to FY10-20. India has set a target to achieve 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

The power transmission sector is also poised for significant growth, with the bid pipeline increasing seven-fold over the past three years, from less than Rs 150 billion in February 2021 to Rs 1 trillion in projects currently up for bidding.

This rapid expansion will be driven by the government's focus on expanding renewable energy capacity and the growing needs for storage, green hydrogen, data centres, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

## Edtech: Focus shifts to offline mode

**BENGALURU:** The edtech landscape has been witnessing a rollercoaster ride since the pandemic, which led to a surge in online edtech start-ups and funding. Covid lockdowns shifted the focus to online from offline coaching centres. However, the trend reversed as the effects of Covid started fading. The online coaching and tuition companies stopped getting the generous funding they got used to during the pandemic, and many online start-ups that started during Covid had to shut down. Unacademy, Byju's, Teachmint, Skill-Lync and Vedantu had fired many employees. Now, these online companies have started focusing on offline centres. The fall of Byju's, valued at \$22 billion in 2022, has raised many questions including scope of online edtech and its future. Currently, Byju's has over 250 offline centres. Other edtech firms like Unacademy, Cuemath and Physics Wallah are also expanding their presence offline.

Physics Wallah operates over 120 offline centres. The edtech company, which has a presence in online, offline and

hybrid modes, became a unicorn in 2022, and its revenue in FY23 stood at Rs 772 crore. Over 2 lakh students are studying in offline centres.

Online to offline centres

Ganesh Mahadevan, Partner, thinksync consulting, says it is disheartening that edtech firms wasted the tailwind provided by Covid, which did all the selling for this industry by getting a large mass of relevant target segment to buy into the service and try them for a sufficiently long time. Mahadevan, who is also mentor to several start-ups, says if there are major drop-offs from customers after trials, it only points to the product not delivering. "The question to ask then is whether the product is good enough for the students to move from classroom to online," he adds. As per market intelligence firm Tracxn data, there are 7,431 offline and 16,333 online edtech companies. Till August 2024, online edtech companies raised \$223 million and offline firms raised \$21.1 million.

Since many edtech start-ups are opening offline centres, has the online model lost

its relevance? Mahadevan says moving offline doesn't seem to be a strategic decision, the business edtech firms were trying to disrupt is being given a thumbs up by moving offline.

Rather than addressing the core product-market fit problem with online education, the industry is jumping ship. For a developing country like India, online education is truly relevant with its ease of access and low-cost delivery. Abandoning this ship is doing injustice to a large mass of not so rich student community who can't afford high-cost offline education, he explains.

Hybrid learning model

Somdutta Singh, founder & CEO Assidua, and Angel Investor, says a survey by FICCI says 70% of students prefer a hybrid learning model that combines online and offline classes. This preference is echoed by broader trends. A report indicates 82% of students choose hybrid learning environments over traditional models, highlighting effectiveness of integrating both formats. Benefits of hybrid learning are manifold.

## The e-vehicle evolution is messier than we thought

**New Delhi** The government seems to be getting cold feet about continuing its raft of incentives for electric vehicles (EVs). Does the recent statement by Union minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari signal a possible derailment of long term goals?

Addressing a green mobility convention in Delhi, Gadkari said subsidies for electric vehicles (EVs) may no longer be necessary for consumers. He said EVs are charged a GST of just 5% compared to 48% for gasoline vehicles. If after this, people are expecting further subsidies from the government, "then my honest opinion is now we don't need the subsidies." The minister said considering the lowering battery costs, and the increasing volume of sales, he expected price parity soon between e-vehicles and their dirty-fuel cousins. So where's the need for government intervention? The minister's school of thought seems to be growing. The Delhi government has just announced it was rolling back the waiver of road tax on electric vehicles in its new policy. The old policy had made EVs cheaper by 10%, but the new impost has now resulted in a near-standstill of sales, one business daily reported.

Currently a slew of demand incentives by the Union and state governments have allowed EVs to compete with similar diesel/petrol models. The FAME incentives for instance subsidizes EV cars by Rs 1.5 lakh and 2-wheelers by Rs 20,000 each. Despite these incentives, EVs continue to be more expensive than their fuel counterparts. India being an extremely price sensitive market, has therefore been lagging on its EV targets. Despite the lofty goal of 30% conversion to EVs by 2030, since 2018 only 5.3% of all 2-wheelers sold are EVs, while cars account for just 2%. On the other hand, globally, about 20% of all cars sold in 2023 were electric.

The plateauing of demand for EVs has forced a change of business plans for many international auto makers.

Volvo Cars of Sweden has abandoned its EV-only target by 2030, and will now aim instead for a 90% mix of plug-in hybrids and EVs. It has cited a decrease in demand for electric cars as well as increasing tariff barriers in the US, and Europe against made-in-China cars. Volvo is majority-owned by the Chinese company, Geely. This is not to say that EVs are on reverse gear. In fact, in the US, projection for 2024 show EV sales rising by 9% - from one million units last year to 1.2 million this year. But what is happening is the EV revolution is taking longer than we expected. As the initial consumer excitement wanes, Ford US is delaying its three-row electric SUV and the launch of its pick-up EV truck has been rescheduled to 2027. Lithium Americas announced recently that General Motors had agreed to delay an additional investment worth \$330 million in the miner until the end of the year.

## Market Trends To Be Shaped By Inflation Data and Global Influences: Analysts

**New Delhi** Analysts suggest that macroeconomic data releases, global trends, and foreign investor trading activity will be the key drivers for equity markets this week. Among macroeconomic data announcements, industrial production for July and inflation data for August will be announced on Thursday. "Crude oil prices have seen a meaningful correction over the past few days with Brent crude now close to USD 73 per barrel. In India, investors will look forward to the release of macro data this week, including CPI inflation. Globally, investors remain optimistic about the possibility of a rate cut by the US Fed and would keenly look forward to the US Fed meet scheduled later this month," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research, Kotak Securities, said. Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,181.84 points, or 1.43%, while the Nifty declined 383.75 points or 1.52%. Falling for the third day running on Friday, the 30-share BSE



Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points, or 1.24%, to settle at 81,183.93. The NSE Nifty dropped 292.95 points, or 1.17%, to 24,852.15, its third day of decline. "We expect consolidation mode to continue in the market over the near term," Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. Investors would also track the movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trends. In the week ahead, US inflation data will

be closely monitored, Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Mcap of Eight of Top-10 Most Valued Firms Erode by Rs 2 Lakh Cr The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms got eroded by Rs 2,01,699.77 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest laggards, in line with weak trends in equities. The market valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 60,824.68 crore to Rs 19,82,282.42 crore. The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) slumped Rs 34,136.66 crore to Rs 16,12,762.51 crore. State Bank of India's valuation dropped Rs 29,495.84 crore to Rs 6,98,440.13 crore and that of Bharti Airtel diminished Rs 28,379.54 crore to Rs 8,76,207.58 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys tanked Rs 17,061.44 crore to Rs 7,89,819.06 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

## GST Council to deliberate on taxation of insurance premium, report on online gaming

**Sources said the Council would deliberate on the status of taxation on the sector and any change in tax rates is unlikely. Besides, the Council is likely to be apprised about the ongoing drive against fake registration, the success of the drive and action taken against such entities.**

**NEW DELHI:** The GST Council on Monday is expected to deliberate on a host of issues, including taxation of insurance premium, GoM's suggestions on rate rationalisation, and a status report on online gaming, sources said. Sources said the fitment committee, comprising Centre and state tax officials, will present a report on GST levied on life, health and reinsurance premium and the revenue implications. The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, will decide on whether to reduce the tax burden on health insurance from the



current 18 per cent or exempt certain categories of individuals, like senior citizens. The deliberations will also happen with regard to the goods and services tax (GST) cut on life insurance premium. In 2023-24, the Centre and states collected Rs 8,262.94 crore through GST on health insurance premium, while Rs 1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premium. The issue of taxation on insurance premium figured in Parliament discussions with opposition

members demanding that health and life insurance premiums be exempt from GST. Even Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote to Sitharaman on the issue. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her reply to discussion on the Finance Bill had said 75 per cent of the GST collected goes to states and opposition members should ask their state finance ministers to bring the proposal at the GST Council. West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya had raised the issue in the

meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation last month and the matter was referred to the fitment committee for further data analysis. The GoM had opined against any tinkering of four-tier GST slab of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent for the time being. The panel, however, had asked the fitment committee to look into any scope for rationalisation of rates of goods and services. With regard to online gaming, Centre and state tax officers will present a "status report" before the GST Council. The report would include GST revenue collection from the online gaming sector before and after October 1, 2023. From October 1, 2023, entry-level bets placed on online gaming platforms and casinos were subject to 28 per cent GST. We bet you didn't know these crazy facts about Vietnamese food. Prior to that, many online gaming companies were not paying 28 per cent GST, arguing that there were differential tax rates for games of skill and games of chance. The GST Council in its meeting in August 2023 had clarified that online gaming platforms were required to pay 28 per cent tax and subsequently Central GST law was amended to make the taxation provision clear.

NEWS BOX

**Paralympics, Day 11: India's schedule and closing ceremony full details**

New Delhi. As the Paris Paralympics moves into its final day of action on September 8, the world prepares to bid farewell to 11 days of inspiring athleticism and triumph. Following the conclusion of the Paris Olympics on August 11, the end of the Paralympics marks the closing chapter of the Paris Summer Games. The 2024 Paralympics have been a remarkable showcase of resilience, determination, and the indomitable spirit of athletes who have overcome physical challenges to compete at the highest level. This edition has seen the breaking of numerous records, highlighting the extraordinary dedication of these competitors. For India, the Paris Paralympics 2024 will be remembered as a historic milestone, as the nation achieved its best-ever medal tally. The Indian contingent secured an impressive 29 medals, including seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze. Among the standout performers were archer Sheetal Devi, javelin thrower Sumit Antil, and shooter Avani Lekhara, whose exceptional achievements brought pride to



the nation and highlighted the growing strength of Indian para-athletics on the global stage.

**India's Paralympics Day 11: Full schedule**

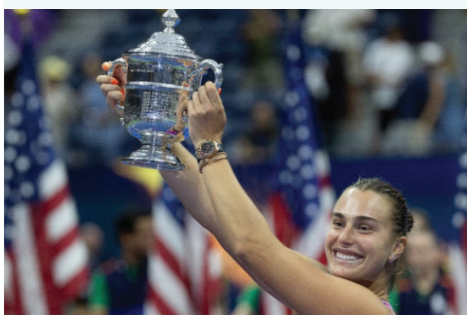
India will only have one single participant featuring in the final day of the Paralympics in Pooja Ojha, who will be competing in the Women's Kayak Single 200M - KL1 semifinals. 1:30 PM - Para Canoe - Women's Kayak Single 200M - KL1 Semifinals - Pooja Ojha. 2:55 PM - Para Canoe - Women's Kayak Single 200M - KL1 Final A (IF QUALIFIED) - Pooja Ojha. As the final day unfolds, attention will turn to the closing ceremony, which promises to be a fitting conclusion to this momentous event. The ceremony will feature a vibrant mix of performances, including jazz music, thematic dances, and speeches by dignitaries, celebrating the achievements of all the para-athletes who have left their mark on the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

**Sabalenka wants to 'put family's name in tennis history' after US Open triumph**

US Open 2024 winner Aryna Sabalenka dedicated her title triumph to her family, who never gave up on her. Sabalenka won her maiden US Open title as she beat USA's Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a thrilling final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. The three-time Grand Slam champion continued her dominance at the hard court, where she lost just one out of last 28 matches. She overcame the heartbreak from last year's US Open final loss to USA's Coco Gauff and emerged victorious this time. Sabalenka admitted that a lot has been happening in her personal life, as she lost her father Sergiy 5 years ago from meningitis at just 43, and her former boyfriend this March. The Belarusian said that her aim was to put her family's name in tennis history. She took pride in herself and was grateful to her family for not giving up on her tennis dream.

**Sabalenka wins US Open 2024**

After I lost my father, it has always been my goal to put our family name in the history of



tennis," the 26-year-old said. "Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything they could to keep me going. I had this opportunity in life so it really means a lot. It has always been my dream." "Every time I stop my arms and the ball flies in the stands, so a long time ago I decided for myself in those important moments I just have to go for it, I have to swing." Sabalenka took over her familiar weapons of super-charged serves and brutal groundstrokes to defeat the sixth-ranked Jessica Pegula. Sabalenka finished her Grand Slam season this year at 18-1. Her only defeat came against teenager Mirra Andreeva in the French Open. She missed the Wimbledon and Paris Olympics. After successfully defending her Australian Open title earlier this year, she also lifted the US Open at Flushing Meadows.

**Rebecca Cheptegei's death exposes a tragic pattern in Kenyan athletics community**

**Marathoner Rebecca Cheptegei, who competed in the Paris Olympics last month, was tragically set on fire by her boyfriend this week, according to police. This incident marks the fourth horrific killing of an Olympian in Kenya in the past three years. The rising statistics on domestic violence in Kenya underscore a troubling trend, with these tragedies bringing renewed global attention to the issue.**

New Delhi. The death of Ugandan Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei in Kenya has brought back painful memories for the athletics community. Cheptegei was set on fire by her boyfriend, marking the fourth female athlete in Kenya to lose her life to domestic violence in the past three years. Her loss is felt far beyond the track. Cheptegei, a 33-year-old Ugandan runner, died on Thursday in Eldoret, Kenya, after suffering burns to 80

percent of her body. Police reports indicate that her boyfriend doused her in petrol and set her alight during an argument. Despite efforts to save her, Cheptegei succumbed to her injuries after four days in the hospital. Her boyfriend, who was also injured in the attack, remains under treatment, but no formal charges have been filed against him yet. Just a month before her death, Cheptegei had competed in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, finishing in 44th place. She had recently built a home in Kenya's high-altitude training region, an area known for producing world-class distance runners. It was here, in this renowned athletic hub, that her life came to a sudden end.

**FOUR FEMALE ATHLETES MURDERED SO FAR**

The story of Cheptegei's death closely mirrors the 2021 murder of Kenyan runner Agnes Tirop, one of the brightest stars in Kenya's track and field community, who was also killed in a domestic dispute. Tirop, just 25 at the time, was found stabbed to death in her home in Iten, a hub for elite runners near Eldoret. Her husband, who fled after the attack, was later arrested and charged with her murder. Tirop had recently returned from



competing at the Tokyo Olympics and had set a world record in the 10-kilometer road race just a month before her death. Her killing sent shockwaves through the athletics world and sparked widespread outrage, particularly among Kenyan athletes and the public. It also highlighted the ongoing issue of gender-based violence within the running community, an aspect often overlooked despite the pressures female athletes face. The tragedy did not stop with Tirop. Just days later, Edith Muthoni, a 200-metre and 400-metre specialist, was also murdered by her husband in a domestic dispute in Kerugoya. Violence continued to affect the athletic world. Six months later, a decomposed body of Damaris Muthee

Mutua, an Ethiopian-born runner who had switched allegiance to Bahrain, was discovered in a rental house in Iten. Her boyfriend was identified as the prime suspect, with post-mortem results indicating strangulation. After Tirop's death, athletes across Kenya, both male and female, spoke out against domestic violence. Many shared their own stories of abuse, breaking the silence on an issue long shrouded in stigma. Former African steeplechase champion Ruth Bosibori and marathon runner Joan Chelimo both revealed their experiences with violent partners, voicing their fears for their lives. Their testimonies underscored the depth of the problem and the urgent need for change.

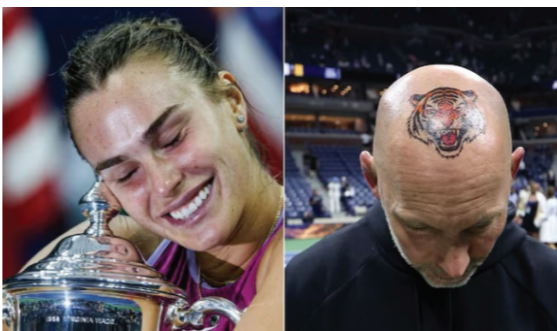
**CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN KENYA**

Statistics on domestic violence in Kenya paint a grim picture. In 2022, 725 women were killed in gender-related violence, the highest number recorded since 2015, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Femicide Count Kenya, which tracks media-reported cases, reported that 152 women were killed in 2023, though advocates believe the actual number is likely much higher.

**Sabalenka reveals 'Tiger-head' bet with fitness coach on US Open**

**Aryna Sabalenka's fitness coach Jason Stacy sported a tiger tattoo on his head which was part of a hilarious bet between the two, just before Sabalenka clinched her first US Open title by defeating Jessica Pegula in a thrilling final.**

New York Aryna Sabalenka shared a hilarious story behind her fitness coach Jason Stacy's new tiger tattoo, which he got inked on his head as part of a bet with the tennis star. Fans were buzzing with excitement ahead of Sabalenka's high-stakes US Open final against Jessica Pegula on September 8, as Stacy proudly sported the giant head tattoo in homage to Sabalenka's



own nickname: Tiger. In a post-match interview after clinching her first US Open title, Sabalenka revealed the origins of this quirky bet. Stacy had promised Sabalenka that if she reached the US Open final, he would get the tattoo. When Sabalenka defeated Emma Navarro in the semi-final, Stacy made good on his word, appearing at the Arthur Ashe Stadium with the freshly inked tiger design on his head.

"Jason promised me if I make it to the finals,

he's gonna put it on his forehead. I wish it was a little bit lower, it would be cooler right?" Sabalenka said. Sabalenka went on to win the US Open 2024 women's singles title, defeating Jessica Pegula in straight sets. The Belarusian needed just an hour and 53 minutes to secure the victory with a 7-5, 7-5 win on Saturday, September 7, at the iconic Arthur Ashe Stadium. Pegula, playing in her maiden Grand Slam final, put up a strong fight, pushing Sabalenka in both sets. However, Sabalenka's relentless power and precision saw her through, earning her the coveted US Open trophy.

This victory marked Sabalenka's third major title, adding to her back-to-back Australian Open wins. The light-hearted bet with her coach provided a fun and memorable moment in what was already a historic tournament for Sabalenka.

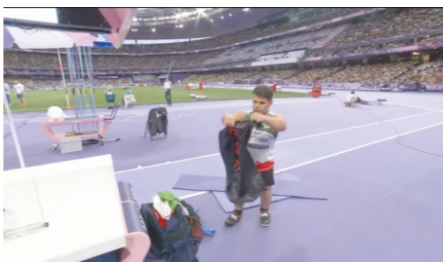
**Explained: Why Iran's Sadegh was disqualified from Paralympics javelin final**

**Iran's Beit Sadegh won gold in Men's Javelin Throw F41 at the Paris Paralympics, only to be shockingly disqualified for a code violation, turning India's Navdeep Singh's silver into an unexpected gold.**

New Delhi The athletics fraternity was left in shock when Iran's Beit Sadegh, who initially won the gold medal in the Men's Javelin Throw F41 at the Paris Paralympics, was stripped of his title due to disqualification. Sadegh's record-breaking effort of 47.64 meters, which seemed to have secured him the top spot, was nullified by the Paralympics regulatory committee on the grounds of a violation of the code of conduct.

This unexpected turn of events marked a significant shift in fortunes for India's Navdeep Singh, who had finished with a

silver medal. With Sadegh's disqualification, Navdeep's best attempt of 47.32 meters was upgraded to gold, a surprising yet celebrated victory for the Indian contingent.



**What happened to Sadegh?**

Sadegh appeared to have clinched the gold with his impressive fifth attempt of 47.64 meters, outdoing all other competitors. Navdeep Singh, whose best throw was 47.32 meters, was expected to settle for silver. Sadegh and his team were already preparing to celebrate his triumph, with his family cheering from the stands. However, the celebrations were abruptly halted when Sadegh and his team were informed of his

disqualification. The decision was made under rule 8.1 of the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations, which pertains to the Code of Conduct and Ethics. World Para Athletics (WPA) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and conduct in the sport of Para athletics. All participants in the sport, including athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators, have a responsibility to uphold these standards and ensure that the sport is conducted in a fair, honest, and transparent manner," WPA's statement read.

What was the reason for Sadegh's disqualification? The exact reason for Sadegh's disqualification has not been officially disclosed by the Paris Paralympics committee. However, speculation suggests that it may have been related to Sadegh flaunting a cryptic flag after his victory. The flag in all black, had Arabic text written on it in red, which has now become a talking point amongst fans on social media. The situation remains a subject of intense discussion within the athletics community, as the reason behind the decision continues to be a mystery.



**Avesh Khan's response after Chinnaswamy erupts with RCB chants in Duleep Trophy**

New Delhi Indian fast bowler Avesh Khan had a fun banter with the M Chinnaswamy crowd during the Duleep Trophy match between India A and India B in Bengaluru. Avesh was representing the Shubman Gill-led India A in the Duleep Trophy match. The day three of the match, being a Saturday saw a lot more number of crowd turning up to cheer the star-studded lineups participating. There was a significant increase in the number of fans who arrived at the stadium than the last two days because of the weekend. The crowd set the vibe with their cheering. However, M Chinnaswamy Stadium being Royal Challengers Bengaluru's home ground in IPL, there were chants of RCB all over. The stadium was reverberating with the chants of RCB team as the fans boast of one of the most loyal fanbases in the world. Meanwhile, Avesh Khan was fielding on the boundary and the fans teased him with their 'RCB-RCB' chants. However, Avesh being as chilled-out as he could be, he further motivated the crowd to increase the chants. In a video which went viral, Avesh was spotted encouraging the crowd to continue their

**Moeen Ali retires from international cricket after Australia series snub**

**England all-rounder Moeen Ali announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 37. He would continue playing franchise cricket and might consider taking a coaching role later on.**

New Delhi England's star all-rounder Moeen Ali announced His decision came after he was snubbed from England's white-ball squad for the upcoming series against Australia. His last appearance for England was in the semi-final against India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup on June 27 in Guyana. Moeen, 37, realised that it was the right time for him to call it a time on his international career and let the youngsters take over the reins of England cricket. "I'm 37 years old and didn't get picked for this month's Australia

series," Moeen said in a Daily Mail interview. "I've played a lot of cricket for England. It's time for the next generation, which was also explained to me. It felt the time was right. I've done my part, Moeen added, who made his international debut for England in 2014.

**Moeen Ali's celebrated career**

Moeen was a regular of the England side with contributions across all the formats. He played 68 Tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20I for the country. He finished off his international career on a high with 6678 runs, eight hundreds, 28 fifties and 366 wickets across all the three formats for England. "I'm very proud. When you first play for England, you don't know how many games you're going to play. So to play nearly 3000 games in your first few years were all about Test cricket. Once Morgs [Eoin Morgan] took over the one-day stuff, that was more fun. But Test cricket was the proper cricket. Moeen made his debut for his nation 10 years ago in Lord's



Test match, when Sri Lanka visited England later that year. "Team needs to evolve" "Even now, I've tried to be realistic. I could hold on and try to play for England again, but I know in reality I won't. Even retiring, I don't feel it's because I'm not good enough -- I still feel I can play. But I get how things are, and

the team needs to evolve into another cycle. It's about being real to myself." "People forget the impact you make in games. It might only have been 20 or 30, but it was a crucial 20 or 30. For me, it was about making an impact. I know what I brought to the side, on and off the field. As long as I felt people enjoyed watching me play, whether or not I did well, I was happy with that." Moeen also said that he will continue playing franchise cricket, and could himself getting involved in coaching in later years of his career. Moeen is currently taking part in CPL 2024 with the defending champions, Guyana Amazon Warriors. "A bit of franchise cricket, because I still love playing. But coaching is something I want to do -- I want to be one of the best. I can learn a lot from Baz [Brendon McCullum]. I hope people remember me as a free spirit. I played some nice shots and some bad shots, but hopefully people enjoyed watching me."

# Jacqueline Fernandez

## Pens A Short Message On Self Love



Jacqueline Fernandez is a well-known name in Bollywood, who has etched herself as a successful actress despite having foreign roots. The actress' latest social media entry has been a topic of a lot of attention among the fans, as she is seen penning words in perfect Hindi. Jacqueline took to Instagram to share a short yet wholesome clip, capturing herself writing a powerful thought about herself. It starts with the actress resting in a scenic garden, with a diary and a pen in her hand, scribbling something on the paper as she smiles to herself. The scene then changes to show her diary, and what is being written on it by Jacqueline. The lines read, "Storm Rider" as the title, under which Jacqueline has written in perfect Hindi, "Main kaafi, main kaafi hun mere liye, (I am enough, I am enough for myself)." She has opted to wear a colourful floral shirt, which is paired with striking blue jeans. While for her updo, Jacqueline has styled her hair in double braids, resting on each of her shoulders. The clip is shared with the caption, "my path, my pace, main kaafi hun mere liye." Fans react to the post, expressing excitement and appreciation towards her words. The first user opined, "Jackie can start a Hindi class for us." A second fan stated, "Inspiring from simple things which has deep meanings." While a third user wrote, "Love that mindset! It's inspiring to see someone so confident in their own journey." A fourth fan shared, "Omg your Hindi & Hindi handwriting is just too cute & nice." The clip has amassed over 2.1 million views and more than 144,000 likes on the platform so far. Jacqueline Fernandez is busy with the shoot of her upcoming projects, which include Fateh and Welcome To The Jungle. The former is being directed by Sonu Sood, who is also the lead of the project. The cast also includes Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz and Naseeruddin Shah.



## Own The Day Like Malaika Arora In Her Latest Instagram Post

'I'm just gonna take a nap' to 'I own this day'. Malaika Arora's latest Instagram post shows her impressive transition from a comfy look to a glam one. She is seen hopping to a trend depicting an instant shift from a comfy avatar to a glam look. The clip shows Malaika sporting an uber-cool look in an oversized graphic-printed sweatshirt before transforming into a stunning diva. She looks smoking hot in a dark green floor-length gown with a touch of bling. She wrote, "Watch me go from 'I'm just gonna take a nap' to 'I own this day' all before starting my day." Wait. Did you notice that she swapped her black pumps with the silver stilettos at the end? Highlighting the twist, she added, "Yeah yeah swapped my footwear."

Malaika never fails to impress one with her sartorial choices. A few days back, she was wearing a fitted, cropped black top paired with wide-legged, light blue jeans for her café visit in Mumbai's Bandra West. The belt she wore to elevate her look cinched her waist and perfected her look. Malaika has lately been in the news for her personal life. Her reported breakup with Arjun Kapoor caught everyone's attention as they ignored each other at a fashion event organised a few weeks back.

Amid the speculations, the actress also reflected on how the internet can be a toxic space. In a conversation with Hello magazine, she said, "I have somehow built a mechanism — or shield, I would say — around me where I don't let the negativity through anymore." Meanwhile, Malaika also sparked dating rumours when she was holidaying in Spain in July. In a picture added to Instagram stories, she offered a glimpse of the beach view and a man whose face was blurred. It led people to believe that the actress was dating again.



## Nawazuddin Siddiqui Puts 'Hardcore Pressure' On Daughter To Develop Good Taste in Acting: 'I Have Been Pushing...'



Nawazuddin Siddiqui recently shared insights into his role as a father and how he encourages his children, Yaani and Shora Siddiqui, to strive for excellence and appreciate the value of art. His daughter, Shora, who is training to become an actor, is currently attending acting school in London, where she's already participating in Shakespeare workshops at just 14 years old. In a conversation with ANI, Nawazuddin emphasized the importance of cultivating a taste for art. "Art is not a regular thing, you have to develop a taste for it," he said, adding that he actively pushes his children to engage with meaningful content rather than getting lost in what he calls "meaningless content" available online. He shared that he applies pressure on his children to choose wisely what they consume, guiding them toward more enriching experiences, "I have been pushing my kids to appreciate and learn about art. My daughter is 14 years old and she is already doing Shakespeare workshops, in London. From a very early age, I used to put hardcore pressure on them to decide what they wanted to see, otherwise, they'd get lost because there was so much meaningless content everywhere so you'd have to be selective about what you want to watch and not watch," he added.

Nawazuddin also highlighted the need for young people to read more and turn to the works of literary giants like Manto, Premchand, and Bharat Muni's "Natyashastra", expressing concern about the negative impact of constant online doomscrolling. He believes that nurturing a love for literature, poetry, and the arts is crucial in today's fast-paced digital world. Touching on the broader societal issue, the 'Sacred Games' actor noted that the current ecosystem of how children are raised needs a shift, saying, "The whole ecosystem is to be blamed. Entire fabric will have to be changed." On the professional front, Nawazuddin was last seen in Zee5's 'Rautu Ka Raaz' and has exciting projects lined up, including 'Section 108' and 'Noorani Chehra'.

## Jr NTR, Janhvi Kapoor's Devara-Part 1 Achieves This New Milestone Ahead Of Its Release



The excitement surrounding Devara: Part 1 has reached a fever pitch. Directed by Kortala Siva, the pan-Indian action drama is headlined by Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor. Ahead of its release on September 27, the film has already achieved a new milestone. Devara: Part 1 has become the fastest Indian film to sell 15,000 tickets in the USA. That too, just days after the launch of pre-sale tickets. The makers shared the happy news by dropping Devara's poster, featuring Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, on Instagram. The side note read, "Fastest 15K+ Tickets sold for any Indian film in the USA." In addition to Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, Devara: Part 1 boasts a stellar cast including Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj and Shruthi Marathe. Reports suggest that the film's runtime might stretch to around 3 hours and 10 minutes, though an official confirmation from the makers is still pending. Recently, excitement further intensified with the release of the film's third song, Daavudi, which features both Janhvi Kapoor and Jr NTR. Sharing a teaser on Instagram, Janhvi Kapoor captioned it, "Here's the #Daavudi Video Song to keep you on track for the Blast on the Big Screens." Earlier, the makers of Devara: Part 1 released the tracks Fear Song and Chuttamalle, both of which were met with enthusiastic responses from fans. On Saif Ali Khan's birthday, they also unveiled a sneak peek of his character, Bhaira. The teaser showcases a gripping fight sequence, with Saif Ali Khan looking intense and sharp as he runs through a jungle. Looking ahead, Jr NTR is set to collaborate with director Prashanth Neel on his upcoming project tentatively titled NTR 31. Additionally, he will star in Ayan Mukerji's much-anticipated film War 2, alongside Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani. Janhvi, on the other hand, will also be seen in the romantic drama film Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulse Kumari opposite Varun Dhawan. Backed by Karan Johar, the film is directed by Shashank Khaitan.