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Shashi Tharoor moves SC in defamation case

New Delhi, Sep 9: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Monday sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on his plea against a Delhi High Court verdict refusing to quash the defamation proceedings against him on a complaint over his alleged "scorpion on Shilving" remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Kolkata horror: Supreme Court flags missing post-mortem challan

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 9: Surprised over a missing challan of the body of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case victim when it was handed over for post-mortem, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the State of West Bengal to produce the crucial document on September 17.

Government, sought to emphasise that the post-mortem was conducted in the presence of a judicial magistrate and it was videographer as well. Mehta and Kapil Sibal accused each



other of politicising the issue. As Sibal said the document in question was not present in the documents produced before the court, the Bench directed the state government to produce it on September 17 - the next date of hearing. Noting that the challan would have

entries regarding the articles and materials sent along with the body for autopsy, the Bench said the probe agency should ask for it from the state. It also asked the CBI to file a fresh status report outlining the new developments by the next date of hearing even as it said, "We don't want to guide the CBI on its investigation."

Bench - which had on August 18 taken suo motu cognisance of the horrific incident that triggered nationwide doctors' protest. It also ordered immediate removal of photographs of the victim from all social and electronic media platforms to protect the dignity and privacy of the deceased after being informed that her photographs were being circulated online.

Mamata Banerjee denies offering money to RG Kar victim's parents

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Sep 9: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed she never offered money to the deceased doctor's family, referring to the reports of her offering money to the kin of the Kolkata doctor who was raped and murdered in the RG Kar Hospital.



tor's parents that if they wanted to do something in their daughter's memory, our government will help them", Banerjee told at a press conference in Kolkata on Monday. Several Puja committees have refused the Rs 85,000 government honorarium in protests against the RG Kar rape-murder.

Maharashtra BJP chief Bawankule's son's Audi hits multiple vehicles in Nagpur Nagpur, Sep 9: A luxury car owned by Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son Sanket hit several vehicles in the early hours of Monday in the Ramdaspath area of Nagpur, following which two occupants, including the driver, were arrested, a police official said.

Himcare will not be stopped but reformed: CM Sukhu

Shimla, Sep 9: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu addressing the House during the Monsoon Session of the Vidhan Sabha, on Monday. Tribune photo

India, UAE sign agreements on long-term LNG supply, civil nuclear cooperation

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Sep 9: India and the UAE on Monday concluded agreements for long-term supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and civil nuclear cooperation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan explored opportunities to expand cooperation to new areas such as AI and critical minerals.



Unlimited access to Hindustan Times E-paper and Archives at 1199/- per year The Indian side rolled out the red carpet for Sheikh Khaled, effectively next in line after UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the crown prince was accorded the protocol usually associated

with visits by heads of state or government. Sheikh Khaled, also chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, is accompanied by a delegation that includes ministers, senior officials and business leaders. Modi and Sheikh Khaled discussed the multifaceted relations and "avenues to broaden the comprehensive strategic partnership to new and emerging areas", external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X. The two leaders emphasised the need to explore new areas of collaboration, especially nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technologies.

RSS and BJP want women to stay at home, Rahul Gandhi tells Indian diaspora in US

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Washington, Sep 9: Love, respect and humility are missing in Indian politics, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said while addressing the Indian American community in Texas, where he also accused RSS and BJP of believing that women should stay at home. Gandhi was addressing the Indian American community in Texas on Sunday in Dallas during his first interaction with the Indian diaspora after becoming Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha this summer.

should cook the food, they should not talk too much and we believe that women



should aspire to whatever they want to do," the Congress leader said. "RSS believes that India is one idea. We believe that India is a multiplicity of ideas," he said during his address to the Indian

American community. "Very much like the United States, we believe everybody should be allowed to participate. We believe that everybody should be allowed to dream, (and) everybody should be given space, regardless of their caste, language, religion, tradition, history," he said. "This is the fight. The fight crystallised in the election when millions of people in India clearly understood that the Prime Minister of India was attacking the Constitution of India. Because what I am saying to you is the union of states, respect to languages, respect to religions, respect to traditions, respect to caste. This is all in the Constitution," Gandhi added. Gandhi said his role was to inject values of love, respect and humility into Indian politics. "I think what is missing in our political systems and across parties is love, respect and humility. Love to all human beings, not necessarily only people of one religion, one com-

munity, one caste, one State, or to those who speak one language," he said. "Respect to everybody who is trying to build an India, not just the most powerful, but the weakest and humility, not in others, but in oneself. I think that is how I see my own," he added. Making an indirect reference to the Lok Sabha results in which BJP failed to get a majority on its own, Gandhi said, "The people were saying BJP is attacking our tradition, attacking our language, etc. What they understood was that anybody who is attacking the Constitution of India is also attacking our religious tradition." "We saw that immediately, within minutes of the election result, nobody in India was scared of BJP, of the Prime Minister. These are huge achievements. These are huge achievements of the people of India who realised democracy, of the people of India who realised that we are not going to accept an attack on our Constitution. We're not going to accept an attack on our religion."

LPG cylinder, petrol bottle, matchboxes found on tracks in Kanpur

Naresh Malhotra

Lucknow, Sep. 9: A major train accident was averted as the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi Express was brought to a screeching halt after hitting an LPG cylinder placed on the tracks here, police said on Monday, adding a bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also recovered from the site hinting at a sabotage bid. They said the incident occurred around 8.20 pm on Sunday when the train was running at a high speed. An FIR has been registered in the matter and multiple teams have been formed to probe the incident.

team was also called in and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) is also investigating the matter, they said. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chandra said the loco pilot saw that the LPG cylinder was placed on the tracks and applied emergency brakes. However, before it came to a halt, the train hit the cylinder, throwing it away from the tracks, Chandra said, adding the loco pilot informed the guard and the gateman about it. The train remained at the incident site for about 20 minutes and was again stopped at the Bilhaur station for a check, the ACP said. The damaged cylinder has been recovered. A bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also recovered from the spot, Chandra said. He said efforts were being made to iden-

tify the culprits and they will be dealt with sternly. The Railways, meanwhile, lodged



Nyaya Sanhita, Explosives Act and the Railways Act, police said. After registering the FIR, top officials formed five teams headed by senior officials to investigate the matter. DCP (West) Singh said the police teams will probe the matter in detail and initiate action against those involved. Additional DCP (Local Intelligence Unit) has also been asked to gather criminal intelligence about the conspirators and assist police teams in cracking the case, he added. It has also been decided to look for 'Jamatis' (an Islamic congregation) in the vicinity and question them, official sources said. A police team has also been dispatched to Kannauj after a sweet box (Siyaram sweets) was found near the site, with officials saying it could possibly lead them to the perpetrators.

Kharge attacks Modi for 'abject failure' in ending Manipur violence

New Delhi, Sep 9: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge attacked Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh saying he has set a record in "shamelessly brazening out his rank incompetence" Opposition Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "abject failure" in ending ethnic violence in Manipur, calling it unforgivable. "People of Manipur are asking, why doesn't Modi ji want to end violence in the state?" he asked on X. The violence, which was triggered in May last year, has escalated with the use of drones and rockets in attacks over the last week. A former soldier was killed after he accidentally crossed the "buffer zone" between the Meitei and Kuki areas late on Sunday night. Kharge said former governor Anusuiya Uikey echoed Manipur's people when she said they were upset and sad and wanted Modi to visit them. He said Modi has not spent a single second in Manipur over the past 16 months even as violence continues unabated in the state and people suffer the consequences of the "complicity" of the prime minister and Union home minister Amit Shah. Kharge attacked Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh saying he has set a record in "shamelessly brazening out his rank incompetence" and reportedly demanded the transfer of the Unified Command to the state government to oversee security operations. Kharge noted a team of Union home ministry officials, the state security adviser, and the army were handling the command.



## News box

### Train hits LPG cylinder on rail tracks in Kanpur, cops hint at sabotage

**Kanpur.** A passenger train hit an LPG cylinder placed on a stretch of railway tracks in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district on Sunday, police said. No passenger was hurt in the incident.

According to the police, the incident happened when Kalindi Express, travelling from Prayagraj to Bhiwani in Haryana, was passing through Kanpur's Shivrajpur area.

The locomotive pilot spotted an LPG cylinder and other suspicious items on the tracks, after which he applied brakes, but even after that, the train hit the cylinder before coming to a halt. After the incident, senior police officials of the Kanpur Police and Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrived at the spot and recovered the LPG cylinder along with a bottle of petrol, explosives and matchboxes.

The train was stationed at the incident site for about 20 minutes. It was again stopped at Kanpur's Bilhaur station for an investigation, the police said. An FIR was registered by the Kanpur Police in connection with the incident and at least two people were also detained for questioning.

The Kanpur Police has also constituted five teams to investigate the case. Additional Commissioner of Police of Kanpur Harish Chander said, "Railway authorities informed the police that a train, travelling from Prayagraj to Bhiwani, hit a gas cylinder. Senior officials and a forensics team are present at the spot. The police have recovered a damaged cylinder and other objectionable items. We are probing the incident and strict action will be taken against the accused after that."

Last month, 22 coaches of the Sabarmati Express, en route from Varanasi to Sabarmati, derailed in Kanpur, triggering panic among passengers.

### Diwali air fares up to 3 times higher than usual

**Ahmedabad.** Those booking air tickets for vacations in the Diwali holidays are having to cough up between 38% and 212% higher than the usual fares.

For major cities such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai or Kolkata, you could pay between 20% and 102% higher.

With demand high, airfares for the holidays have spiked. A return flight to Chandigarh, which usually costs around Rs 10,500, is priced at Rs 32,835 on the peak Diwali holiday dates, Oct 29 to Nov 4. The situation is similar for flights to Kochi, Bagdogra and Dehradun, where connectivity is relatively lower.

"With fewer direct flights to destinations such as Kochi, Dehradun, Chandigarh and Bagdogra, these fares are particularly high. This is because these sectors have higher tourist footfalls in the vacation season as they're gateways to popular holiday destinations," said Virendra Shah, chairman of the Gujarat chapter of the Travel Agents' Association of India (TAAI).

"Wherever you travel, the average return fare from Ahmedabad for these dates is between Rs 12,000 and Rs 15,000 per person. Airlines tend to raise prices ahead of the Diwali holidays anticipating high demand. In many cases, travel agents also make bulk bookings for tickets to hot destinations," he added. When booked through bulk booking agents, attractive fares are available which are very much in line with normal fares. For instance, Kochi return flights are priced at Rs 10,000, Bagdogra at Rs 12,400, Dehradun at Rs 8,400, Srinagar at Rs 11,000, Goa at Rs 6,900, and so on.

### Isro study identifies Ahmedabad's heat islands

**Ahmedabad.** A new study by scientists at Isro's Space Applications Centre has found significant temperature disparities within Ahmedabad, known as Intra-Urban Heat Islands (IUHI). The study employed a mobile vehicle equipped with a HOBO thermo-hygrometer to measure air temperature in various zones, including commercial areas, residential localities, near water bodies and in green spaces.

The mobile experiments by Neeru Jaiswal, Sanjib Deb, Sambit Panda Anup K Mandal, Aman Khan and C M Kishtawal of the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Group at Isro-SAC demonstrated noticeable temperature variations, sometimes within a distance of less than 1km. These variations were particularly prominent in urban areas, traffic junctions, market zones, and near water bodies. A 2.5°C difference was noted within a 10km range through Ahmedabad's central region. The team measured temperature during month of May since 2019, focusing on how urban structures and green spaces contribute to heat exposure. "Areas with higher vegetation, water bodies or barren land displayed a cooling effect," the study states. Temperature dropped by 0.8°C near Ghuma, while rose by 1.5°C as the vehicle passed through Bopal market. It further adds, "The temperature at traffic junctions is higher by 1°C than in nearby areas." Areas like Vikram Nagar, Sanand and Paldi showed temperature variations due to a combination of vegetation, market activity and traffic conditions.

# Rameshwaram Cafe blast: Anti-terror agency to file chargesheet against 5 accused

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will file a chargesheet today in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, linking the conspiracy to an overseas handler known as 'Colonel'. The blast, which occurred on March 1, left 10 people injured.

**-Conspiracy orchestrated from abroad by handler 'Colonel'**  
**-Mastermind Abdul Mateen Taha communicated with attacker Musavir Hussain Shazib**  
**-Blast injured 10 people at Brookfield outlet in Bengaluru on March 1**

**Bengaluru.** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is set to file a chargesheet today in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, according to reports. The chargesheet will be submitted in a special NIA court in Bengaluru. Sources reveal that the conspiracy for the blast was orchestrated from abroad. NIA is expected to file charges against five individuals involved in the plot.

Abdul Mateen Taha, the mastermind behind the blast at the Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru, and Musavir Hussain Shazib, who placed

the bomb at the cafe on March 1, were arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday from their hideout near Kolkata.

Taha is believed to be one of the Islamic State terrorist group's "high value assets" in India. NIA investigations revealed that Taha was in direct contact with the handler of the blast, who goes by the codename 'Colonel'.

Further findings by the NIA suggested that Shoaib Mirza, who had been released from prison after serving time for involvement in a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) case, rejoined



terrorist activities and became involved in the cafe blast conspiracy. In 2018, Shoaib Mirza befriended Abdul

Mateen Taha and introduced him to an online handler based abroad. Mirza also provided an encrypted email

ID for communication between the handler and Taha. Shoaib Mirza was arrested on April 12, from his hideout in Kolkata along with co-accused Musavir Hussain Shazib and Abdul Mateen Taha. The anti-terror agency said that Musavir Hussain Shazib had placed the bomb at the cafe and Abdul Mateen Taha was the mastermind of the blast. The blast, which happened on March 1 at the cafe's Brookfield outlet in Bengaluru, was of low intensity but left 10 people injured, including customers and hotel staff.

## 38,094 Ganesha idols immersed in Mumbai, half in artificial tanks

**MUMBAI.** As many as 38,094 Ganesha idols were immersed in the city till 9pm on Sunday - a marginal drop from last year's 38,415 idols-as chants and the beating of drums filled the air on Day 2 of the 10-day festival. Over 49% of these idols were immersed in artificial tanks created by BMC across the city. Last year, that figure hovered at 45%.

Only 195 of the 38,094 idols were sarvajanik community ones, while 37,879 were from households and 20 were Hartalika idols. Among the 18,696 idols immersed in artificial tanks, 143 were community ones, 18,537 from households and 16 Hartalika idols. As per a BMC release, no untoward incident was reported during the immersion processions. Naresh Dahibavkar, president of Brihanmumbai Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Samanvay Samiti, said, "Among household idols, a

majority seemed to be eco-friendly. The artificial tanks are getting a good response. There is an increasing trend towards making Ganeshotsav environment-friendly. There has been an increase in household idols, especially among the youth, including students, and those who moved to the city for employment."

He suggested that govt provide subsidies to those making eco-friendly idols "as plaster of Paris is still attractive in terms of costs". CM Eknath Shinde had last Friday urged people to celebrate the festival in an eco-friendly way. Devotees thronged several sites, including Girgaum Chowpatty, which typically sees the most immersions in the city. Various civic services and facilities have been provided by D ward officials to devotees at Girgaum Chowpatty. According to deputy municipal commissioner Prashant

Sapkale, preparations at the site began two months ago, and 478 steel plates and 43 German rafts have been arranged at various locations to allow for immersions of small idols to prevent vehicles from getting stuck in the sand. Forty-eight motorboats with 761 lifeguards have been deployed at the site. For collection of garlands and flowers offered by devotees, 274 'Nirmalya' vehicles, along with 163 'Nirmalya Kalashas', have also been provided by the civic body.

Devotees can access information on artificial lakes in the city through QR code pasted outside sculptors' workshops. Scanning them will generate Google Maps links.

BMC has issued precautions to be taken while carrying out immersions and to be on guard against blue button jellyfish and stingrays.

## Caught & let go? Thief to go to court in Mumbai, not freed

**MUMBAI.** A Juhu lawyer was left stunned after discovering that the police had released a suspected thief, apprehended from their building on Saturday, without taking any action. The building supervisor had visited the Juhu police station to inquire about the progress of the case, only to find that "the accused had been let go".

Zonal DCP Raj Tilak Roshan dismissed the allegation, clarifying that the suspect, being a minor, was not released but will be presented before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) as per protocol.

The boy, aged 17, was apprehended when he entered the building in the early hours with the alleged intent to commit theft.

DCP Roshan clarified, "Action has been initiated against him. We cannot arrest a minor. A case has already been registered... The claims made by the residents are false; police did take action."

Rakesh K Singh, the lawyer, later took to social media to question the police's actions. His post garnered over 3,900 views on X (formerly Twitter). In it, Singh described the incident: "...around 1:45am, two thieves broke into our society's property at Gandhigram Road, Juhu, and attempted to commit theft. Our society supervisor, along with his son and the security team, chased the thieves and managed to catch one of them. The police

emergency number (100) was dialed, but it took an hour for the police van to arrive. Once the police arrived, the apprehended thief was handed over to them. Today, around 11am, when the society supervisor went to the police station to follow up on the case, he was informed that the thief had been released and allowed to go home. What kind of policing is this?"

Singh reached out to @CPMumbaiPolice on X, questioning "the effectiveness of the CrPC and Bombay Police Act". He urged the commissioner of police (@MumbaiPolice on X) to take cognizance of the matter and initiate action against the "erring officers".

## Two terrorists killed as Army foils infiltration attempt in J&K's Rajouri district

**The Army foiled an infiltration attempt at the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, killing two terrorists.**

**Jammu.** Two terrorists were killed as the Army foiled an infiltration attempt on Monday at the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

The Army conducted the anti-infiltration operation in the Nowshera sector of the border district during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the official said. The security forces killed two terrorists and seized a cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles. A massive search operation is

underway in the region as the forces suspect that at least a couple of terrorists were hit in the crossfire. Officials said that the area was illuminated and kept under strict surveillance before a search was launched.

This comes just days after a gunfight between security forces and terrorists in the same district. On September 3, a group of terrorists fired a few shots at



the Army during a search operation and then fled the scene. No one was injured in this incident.

Another encounter occurred in Rajouri in the last week of August when the Army targeted a suspected terrorist hideout in the Lathi area. In July, one jawan was injured after terrorists attacked a security post in the Gundha area of the same district. The infiltration attempt and the encounters come ahead of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, which will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25, and October 1. Results are expected to be declared on October 4.

## Man who posed as CBI officer arrested in Haryana for fraud

Bharat Chhabra, who posed as a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer, was caught after a months-long search, and a local court has granted a 10-day remand for further investigation.

**Man arrested for posing as CBI officer**  
**Arrested in Haryana after months-long search**  
**Solicited money for fake favors, fled hotels without paying**

**Ahmedabad.** A man accused of defrauding people by claiming connections with high-level politicians, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Chief Minister's Office (CMO), was arrested in Haryana by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch. Bharat Chhabra, who posed as a CBI officer, was caught after a months-long search. The arrest follows a peculiar case in which Chhabra, 40, impersonated a CBI officer at a hotel in Ahmedabad and fled without settling his bill. Gujarat police had been on the lookout for Chhabra for over a month and a half. He was arrested in Karnal, Haryana. According to the police, Chhabra also solicited Rs 2.22 lakh



from an individual to secure the release of a prisoner from jail. He claimed to have sway over matters pertaining to the CBI, Home Ministry, PMO, and even influential figures in the BJP and RSS. Promising extraordinary favours, he would even encourage people to call him at midnight to demonstrate his supposed clout. Chhabra, originally from Haryana's Karnal, is said to have used his skills to weave an intricate web of deception across

several states, including Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Telangana. His reputation for political connections was so widespread in Haryana that Gujarat Police faced significant challenges in arresting him. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Bharat Patel of the Ahmedabad Crime Branch said that Chhabra, who holds a Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) degree, had been engaging in such fraudulent activities for the past four years. "He is a frequent traveller to Ahmedabad and has multiple cases registered against him, both at the Ahmedabad Crime Branch and Adalaj Police Station," ACP Patel stated.

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News box

It may not be smooth sail for Rao Narbir as BJP sees revolt ahead of assembly polls

Gurgaon. Former Haryana minister Rao Narbir Singh clinched BJP's nomination from Badshapur assembly seat in Gurgaon despite pushback against his candidature within the party, but his battle is far from over. Fighting for a second term from Badshapur, a first for the MLA, Narbir Singh won't just have to fight off an electoral contest from rivals in other parties, but also within his own. Sources told TOI that there may be resentment on the ground from the supporters of BJP's district president Kamal Yadav and former state secretary Manish Yadav, both of whom were denied tickets from the constituency. Other than that, Narbir Singh's nomination was opposed by prominent BJP faces, including Union minister former MP Sudha Yadav, they said. According to a party source, Sudha Yadav had called for disciplinary action against Narbir for allegedly criticising his own party in recent years. Narbir Singh, ahead of the announcement of assembly election schedule in Haryana, had said at an event in South City that if denied a BJP ticket, he would consider running for Congress. Narbir Singh's path to get the ticket wasn't without its hurdles. In the 2019 assembly polls, BJP fielded Manish Yadav, who lost the election, though Narbir was backed by then chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Since then, Narbir Singh has remained consistently active in the constituency and engaged with the electorate.

It is this engagement that also makes him a strong favourite to win the seat. He is backed by Yadavs, a key voter base in Badshapur, and leads a team with strong organisational skills to run a campaign. His influence extends to both rural and urban areas, and during his tenure as a minister in the Khattar cabinet from 2014 to 2019, he gained a reputation for addressing issues flagged by common people. Badshapur's electorate has risen 35.5% over the past five years, with the constituency of 5.1 lakh registered voters now the largest in Haryana in this count. An increased voter turnout could play a crucial role in determining the outcome of the coming election.

Woman (23) strangled in pvt guest house, man arrested

Gurgaon. A 23-year-old woman was allegedly throttled to death by a 40-year-old man at a private guest house in Jharsa on Saturday evening following a dispute over payment. The accused, Anil Pahal, a customs broker, was arrested on Sunday for murder and rape.

According to police, the woman, originally from Uttar Pradesh, had come to the city two months ago to work as a consultant massage therapist but was also soliciting clients for sexual services online. Pahal had asked her to come over through the internet, agreeing to pay Rs 5,000. However, after the meeting, the woman reportedly demanded an additional Rs 2,500, which led to a heated argument. Police said, "Anil transferred Rs 5,000 to a man who dropped the woman at the guest house. After the dispute over extra payment, he strangled her and fled, taking her phone and locking the door." Guest house staff grew suspicious when Pahal hurriedly left, leaving the woman behind. Upon opening the room, they found her unconscious and immediately called the police. She was declared dead at the Civil Hospital in Sector 10.

"Through CCTV footage, room booking details, and call records, police were able to trace both the accused and the woman," said a Gurgaon police spokesperson. A case was registered against the accused under BNS sections 103 (1) (murder) and 64 (rape) on Sunday. The accused was arrested from yoti Park on Sunday morning. "The stolen mobile phone has been recovered from the accused. He will be produced before court on Monday," the spokesperson said.

Roads riddled with craters, no lights: Residents protest, flag safety fears

Gurgaon. Scores of residents from Sector 109, drenched in rain and holding posters, staged a protest on Sunday against DTCP and MCG for failing to address their civic grievances. Their main concern is the deteriorating condition of a 24-metre internal road that connects major residential societies like ATS Tourmaline, Chintels Serenity, Brisk Lumbini, and Sobha Villas. The 500-meter stretch, laid by developers during construction, has been in disrepair for the past four years. Deep potholes, frequent waterlogging, and the absence of street lighting have made the road unsafe, especially at night. Despite multiple complaints, residents say the developers refuse to maintain the road, and DTCP and MCG have failed to take action. The MCG, in particular, has distanced itself, claiming the road is outside its jurisdiction, despite collecting house taxes from the residents.

"While we continue to suffer with unsafe and poorly maintained roads, the authorities and developers are simply shirking their responsibility," said Gaurav Prakash, a resident of Brisk Lumbini.

Amit Vats, a resident of Chintels Serenity, added, "Despite assurances from DTP planning, there has been no meeting of all the stakeholders to address this issue. We are still waiting for the DTP to issue written directions to the developers." According to residents, the problem stems from policy loopholes regarding shared responsibility among developers, who each built portions of the road within their licensed areas. After project completion, these sections should have been handed over to the DTCP and local authorities, but this process is not properly enforced, leaving residents to deal with the consequences. NK Sharma, president of Brisk Lumbini RWA, called for immediate action: "It's been nearly a decade of suffering from poor infrastructure. We need a permanent solution, not a quick fix." Responding to the concerns, senior town planner Renuka Singh said, "We will call a meeting with stakeholders and developers to resolve the issue and ensure compliance."

Elongated tortoise spotted in Damdama for first time

Gurgaon. An elongated tortoise was spotted in Damdama area for the first time on Sunday. The reptile, known for its yellowish-brown to olive shell adorned with black blotches, was not documented to be present in the region under Wildlife Institute of India (WII) study conducted in 2016. The species is widely distributed across northeast India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia. Specifically, it is found in the Manas-Bhutan transboundary landscape, Corbett-Rajaji-Nepal Terai landscape, and northeast Myanmar and northeast Bangladesh transboundary landscape, with an isolated presence in Odisha. However, the species, which has the scientific name Indotestudo elongata, is not abundant in any region and is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Sunil Harsana, an animal enthusiast and wildlife researcher who encountered the tortoise in Damdama, along with his teammate Nitesh Kaushik, had deployed numerous cameras in and around the Asola Bhatti Wildlife sanctuary and the Aravallis in Mangar. Harsana is part of a

project, supported by the organisation Coexistence Consortium, that requires him to analyse animal movement around Damdama. "This is an incredibly rare find. An elongated tortoise has never been observed in the region before," he said, adding that it was found in a nearby waterbody and left undisturbed in its natural habitat. The path and colony of the tortoise remains unknown. Meanwhile, experts have emphasised the importance of connecting fragmented habitats of the species through increasing the number of community forests and participatory monitoring in the vicinity of the Aravallis for wildlife conservation. The species, also referred to as the Sal Forest Tortoise, typically inhabits open deciduous forest patches, including Sal (Shorea Robusta) and evergreen forest habitats, dry thorn forests, and savannah grasslands. Robin Panjekar, a wildlife biologist, herpetologist, and assistant professor at Delhi University, said, "Nowadays, people are exploring new territories, leading to spotting of more rare species." The sighting comes at a time when the population of elongated tortoise is declining, he added.

In India, the Sal Forest Tortoise is one of the

29 species (24 turtles + 5 tortoises) of freshwater tortoise and turtles and is listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act.

NBCC out with three-phase plan to ready 50k Supertech flats in 3 years

New Delhi. Providing a confidence boost to several thousand homebuyers, state-run NBCC has proposed a three-phase construction plan spread over three years to complete all the 50,000 apartments spanning across 17 projects of Supertech Ltd, which is being run by an insolvency professional and whose promoter is facing multiple charges including fund diversion and money laundering. The public sector construction company has sought the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) permission to enter as a project management consultant, a task it is performing at Amrapali. NBCC has estimated the cost of completing all the projects at close to Rs 9,500 crore and the receivables are pegged at Rs 16,000 crore, including Rs

14,000 crore that can be generated from unsold inventory of 10,000 apartments. The insolvency resolution professional had estimated the construction cost at Rs 6,406 crore. Tentative time period for completion of various projects shall vary from 12 to 36 months from 'Day Zero', it has proposed. Day zero includes everything from access to land to receipt of approvals and availability of funds. Underlining the availability of funds as a key, NBCC has sought an "unencumbered designated project account", where an initial Rs 100 crore will be required. Besides, it has sought the support of local authorities and from Supertech as well as homebuyers. NBCC proposes to charge a fee of 8% on the actual cost of work and 1% marketing fees.

Rain brings relief from humidity, max temperature drops by 5°C

Gurgaon. The city on Sunday witnessed a rainfall measuring 21mm until 8.30 am. The minimum temperature was recorded at 25.6 degrees Celsius, a marginal increase from the preceding day's 25.4 degrees Celsius. This temperature still surpasses the seasonal average by 24.5 degrees. The overnight precipitation offered a long-awaited respite from the stifling humidity; however, it also resulted in the accumulation of water in certain low-lying localities. The maximum temperature, recorded at 27.1 degrees Celsius, plummeted 5.3 notches from 32.4 degrees Celsius on Monday and remained at 4.2 degrees below the season's average. At 98, the city's average air quality index (AQI) improved but remained in the 'satisfactory' category on Monday. It was 72 the previous day. In New Delhi, The capital experienced a gloomy day with overcast skies and intermittent very light rain throughout the city

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert on Sunday. "The district is likely to experience sporadic light rain on Monday, but from Tuesday to Friday, the city will witness partly cloudy skies. On Saturday, it is likely to experience partly cloudy sky with the possibility of rain or thunderstorm," an IMD official said. Despite waterlogging in certain areas of the city, no significant traffic congestion was seen. The civic authorities deployed additional pumps to clear the waterlogged areas and advised people to refrain from venturing out unless necessary. Scattered light rain is likely to continue until Thursday. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate rain for Friday and Saturday. The low clouds prevented the temperature from rising significantly. The maximum temperature was 29.6 degrees Celsius, four degrees below

normal. The minimum temperature was 25.2 degrees Celsius, which is around normal. The gap between the day's maximum and minimum temperatures was just 4.4 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature on Saturday was 34.4 degrees Celsius. Met officials attributed the presence of low clouds in Delhi-NCR and parts of the city's lowest visibility was recorded at 900 metres around 10.30 am on Sunday. "Scattered very light rain was received across the city. Similar rain activity is expected for the next few days," said an IMD official. IMD said light rain is expected until Thursday, but no color-coded warning has been issued. Delhi's air quality remained in the 'satisfactory' category, with an air quality index (AQI) of 91 on Sunday, up from 70 a day earlier. It is likely to stay in the same category until Sept 11, according to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

Protest at Adani Aangan over wall breach; co says rain slowing repairs

Gurgaon: Agitated over the continued neglect of their concerns, residents of Adani Aangan in Sector 89A staged a protest on Sunday against the developer for failing to resolve their "safety concerns" in the society.

The protest comes over a month after a portion of the boundary wall adjoining the main gate of the society settled, leading to rapid soil erosion that has now reached close to one of the towers in the residential complex. Despite repeated complaints to the developer, the residents allege that no corrective measures have been taken, leaving them feeling vulnerable and unsafe. "Initially, it was just a small area adjoining the boundary wall that settled, but now, with the soil erosion progressing rapidly, it has become a serious threat to the structural integrity of the tower. This is not the first time. Last year too, the area adjoining the boundary wall settled, damaging a car," said Manoj Kumar, one of the residents. Launched in 2016, possession of flats started in phases in 2021.

**Dushyant Chautala, JJP workers fined for riding bikes without helmets in Faridabad**  
GURGAON. Former deputy CM Dushyant Chautala and 14 others were penalised by traffic police on Tuesday for riding two-wheelers without helmets in Faridabad. Dushyant was riding a motorcycle without a helmet as part of a bike rally in the NIT Faridabad assembly constituency

**Name Change**  
I, Ashish Kumar S/O Gajraj Singh R/O 14 Girraj nagar lawyers colonyagra PO New agra DIST Agra Uttar Pradesh-282005 Have changed my name to Ashish Kumar for all future purposes.

**Name Change**  
I, RAJJI Mother of No. 16134134H Rank SPR Name-ADARSH B Presently residing at THEJUS HOUSE, KUZHAVAKKAD VILL+TEH-PATHANAPURAM, PO-KUNDAYAM, DIST-KOLLAM, KERALA-686955 have changed my name from RAJJI to RAJI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, K THAMAYANDHI Mother of No. 15321618X Rank-HAV/Name-SUNDEEP KUMAR B R/O 3122, KURUTHUKULLI, UDHAGAMANDALAM, NILGIRI, TAMILNADU-643004 have changed my name from K THAMAYANDHI to TAMAYANDHI B for all future purposes, in my son's service record as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 20/05/1966 Vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, JC-571367M Rank-SUB Name-HELODE RAHUL KESHAORAO father of MAYURESH R/O VILL-PLASKHED-NAGO, PO-PADLI, DISTT-BULDANA, MAHARASHTRA-443001 have changed my minor son's name from MAYURESH to HELODE MAYURESH RAHUL for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 09/09/2024 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rakesh Sharma S/o Mr. Jai Parkash Sharma is the owner of Freehold Residential Built up Second Floor (without rooftop terrace rights) Part of Property Bearing Municipal No. WZ-3502 (also known as WZ-3732) built on Plot No. 110, area measuring 83-1/3 Sq. Yds., i.e. 69.68 Sq. Mtr. situated in the area of Village Shakur Pur, Delhi State, abadi known as Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, and Delhi 110034. By Virtue of Sale Deed dated 07.12.2023 in the Chain Documents below mentioned document not available i.e. Death Certificate of Late Mrs. Saraswati Devi & Probate Order of WII dated 17.07.2009. My client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold too to Mrs. Alka Chawla and same has been finance by ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. Branch, Janakpuri, Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.  
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate  
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghazabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0958871432

**Name Change**  
I, ISLAMASIMUL S/O FAUZIL ISLAM residing at FLAT NO-43-16, JASWANT APARTMENT, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025 Declare that ASIMUL is my given name and my surname is ISLAM

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as Prabh Haldar S/O, Nirmal Haldar R/O House No. 410, Pooch 4, Metaraja Agrasen Institute Of Management Studies, Rohini Sector 22, Begumpur, Po. Begumpur, DIST. North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRABH KUMAR HALDAR.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as PRABH MALIK W/O MOHAMMAD MUHAMMAD ANSARI R/O 137A FLAT NO-194, STREET NO-10, K BLOCK, NEAR LABOUR CHOWK, MAHAIPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAHIM MALIK.

**Name Change**  
I, TUSHAR YADAV S/O CHHATER PAL residing at H NO-509, NEAR N S G GATE, MANESAR, GURGAON, HARYANA-122051 have changed my name to TUSHAR for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
It is for general information that I, ABDUL SHREEF S/O RAMJANI R/O 1-15 Block -1, Gali No.-22 Near Sanjay Park, Bajaj Nagar, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi-110008 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor Daughter have been wrongly written as ABDUL SHARIF, SAMINA NAAZ and ALISHA NAAZ in my minor Daughter namely ALISHA NAAZ, aged 13 year in her school record. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor Daughter are ABDUL SHREEF, SHAMEENA NAAZ and ALISHA NAAZ respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**Name Change**  
I, JOGINDER SINGH RANDHAWA S/O GULJAR SINGH residing at 2611 HUDSON LINE KINGSWAY CAMP G T B NAGAR DELHI -110009 have changed my name to JOGENDER SINGH for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as SHEENA KHAN W/O VINOD R/O JHUGGI -5, SECTOR-7, FUSH VIKAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI, 110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VALLI

**Name Change**  
I, KHUSHBOO wife of JC-386088P Rank-SUB Name-KANIHYA R/O VILL-SHAHPUR, PO-HARI-DASPUR, PS-NATHNAGAR, DISTT-BHAGALPUR, BIHAR-812006 have changed my name from KHUSHBOO to KHUSHBOO KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Correction**  
I, Jitender Singh Sangwan, W/o. Shri Bhoop Singh, R/o. H.No. RZ F-299, Gali No.-4, Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed my name from Jitender Singh Sangwan to Jitender Singh for all future purpose. That Jitender Singh Sangwan and Jitender Singh is one and the same person.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as KANCHAN DEVI W/o SAKAL DEV R/O Gali No.-5, Gorakh Nath Mandir Kari Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARI DEVI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**CHANGE OF RELIGION**  
I, PRATIBHA MALIK D/O BIJAY GOSHA MALIK R/O 137A FLAT NO-19/4, STREET NO-10, K BLOCK, NEAR LABOUR CHOWK, MAHAIPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced ISLAM Religion and renounced HINDU Religion w.e.f. 01.09.2024.

**Name Change**  
I, AKRAM S/O ISMAEL residing at E-368, GALI NO-12, SHASTRI PARK, DELHI-110088 have changed my name to MOHD AKRAM KHAN for all future purpose.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as KANCHAN DEVI W/o SAKAL DEV R/O Gali No.-5, Gorakh Nath Mandir Kari Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARI DEVI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
I, BIJUKUMAR P C Father of No. 16134134H Rank SPR Name-ADARSH B Presently residing at THEJUS HOUSE, KUZHAVAKKAD VILL+TEH-PATHANAPURAM, PO-KUNDAYAM, DIST-KOLLAM, KERALA-686955 have changed my name from BIJUKUMAR P C to P C BIJUKUMAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as SNEHA alias AKANKSHA D/O RANDHIR KUMAR PANDEY R/O Jhuggi No. D-304, Shahid Sukh Dev Nagar, Wazir Pur-3, Ashok Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SNEHA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
I, INDRA KALI PATEL, wife of No. 15689754K Rank-HAV Name-AMRIT LAL PATEL R/O VPO-KHAJUHA KALA, TEHSIL-GURH, DISTT-REWA, MP-486553 has changed my name from INDRKA KALI PATEL to INDRAKALI PATEL for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/03/1984 instead of my correct date of birth as 05/06/1985 Vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, KAMALA W/O of NO-2610034L Rank-HAV/Name-PALLASAMPATI RAO R/O H NO-4686, AYYAPPANAGAR, WIARD NO-1, TEKKALI, SRIRANGAPET, AP-532201, have changed my name from A KAMALA to PALLAKAMALA for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 18/08/1986 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1988 vide affidavit dated

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as KANCHAN DEVI W/o SAKAL DEV R/O Gali No.-5, Gorakh Nath Mandir Kari Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARI DEVI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as SNEHA alias AKANKSHA D/O RANDHIR KUMAR PANDEY R/O Jhuggi No. D-304, Shahid Sukh Dev Nagar, Wazir Pur-3, Ashok Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SNEHA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
I, S SIVAKUMARI Mother of No. 1613302L Rank-SPR Name-SAKTHI WEL S residing at H NO-105, VPO-ANJIKONDAPU RAM, TEHSIL-VELLORE, DISTT-VELLORE, TAMIL NADU-632312 have changed my name from S SIVAKUMAR to SIVAKUMAR S for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, SUBBEREDDIGARI HEMAVATHI wife of No. 16113717X, Rank-HAV, Name-YCHANDRASEKHAR REDDY residing at 4-14, BALAJURAJAH GARI P.O.6, KUMMARANATTHAM, PUNGANUR, DISTT-CHITTOOR, ANDHRA PRADESH-517247 have changed my name from SUBBEREDDIGARI HEMAVATHI to SUBBEREDDIGARI HEMAVATHI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as SNEHA alias AKANKSHA D/O RANDHIR KUMAR PANDEY R/O Jhuggi No. D-304, Shahid Sukh Dev Nagar, Wazir Pur-3, Ashok Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SNEHA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
I, KULJEET SINGH S/O ROHTASH SINGH residing at House No. -39, Begumpur Extension, Begumpur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed the name of my minor Son RAKSHIT aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as RAKSHIT DAHYA.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as KANCHAN DEVI W/o SAKAL DEV R/O Gali No.-5, Gorakh Nath Mandir Kari Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARI DEVI. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**Name Change**  
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**Name Change**  
I, S SIVAKUMARI Mother of No. 1613302L Rank-SPR Name-SAKTHI WEL S residing at H NO-105, VPO-ANJIKONDAPU RAM, TEHSIL-VELLORE, DISTT-VELLORE, TAMIL NADU-632312 have changed my name from S SIVAKUMAR to SIVAKUMAR S for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 09/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**Name Change**  
I, hitherto known as SNEHA alias AKANKSHA D/O RANDHIR KUMAR PANDEY R/O Jhuggi No. D-304, Shahid Sukh Dev Nagar, Wazir Pur-3, Ashok Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SNEHA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

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**News box**

**Philippines arrests pastor wanted by US for child trafficking, no extradition**

**World** The Philippines is not currently looking to extradite a Filipino pastor wanted for child sex trafficking in the United States, President Ferdinand Marcos said Monday after the suspect's arrest.

Apollo Quiboloy, a self-proclaimed "Appointed Son of God" and ally of former president Rodrigo Duterte, surrendered in the southern city of Davao on Sunday amid a massive two-week police search of his sect's sprawling compound. The US charged the Kingdom of Jesus Christ preacher in 2021 with sex trafficking of girls and women aged 12-25 to work as personal assistants, who were allegedly required to have sex with him. For the moment, we are not looking at extradition. We are focusing on the cases filed in the Philippines," Marcos told reporters on the sidelines of a Manila conference. It is not known if the United States has formally sought the extradition of Quiboloy, aged at least 74, according to the FBI. Quiboloy, whose sect claims millions of followers, is facing charges in Manila of child abuse, sexual abuse and human trafficking. Marcos also congratulated the police for arresting the pastor.

"We will demonstrate once again to the world that our judicial system in the Philippines is active, is vibrant, and is working well," the president said.

**Israeli strikes in Syria kill 4, damage highway, claims state media**

**World.** A series of Israeli strikes hit multiple areas in central Syria late Sunday, killing at least four people, wounding 13 and sparking fires, state media reported. Syria's state news agency SANA reported that Syrian air defenses "confronted an aggression that targeted several points in the central region," damaging a highway in Hama province and sparking fires that firefighting teams were battling to control early Monday. At least four dead and 13 wounded people arrived at the Masyaf National Hospital in western Hama province, SANA said, citing hospital head Faysal Haydar. It was not immediately clear if they were civilians or militants. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based war monitor, reported that one of the strikes targeted a scientific research center in Maysaf and other sites where "Iranian militias and experts are stationed to develop weapons in Syria." Local media also reported strikes around the coastal city of Tartous.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of war-torn Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations.

**Kamala Harris recalls long walks with grandfather in India**

**Washington.** Indian-origin Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris on Sunday, recalling her fond memories with her grandparents in India, wished National Grandparents Day to all the grandparents who help shape and inspire the next generation. "As a young girl visiting my grandparents in India, my grandfather took me on his morning walks, where he would discuss the importance of fighting for equality and fighting corruption. He was a retired civil servant who had been part of the movement to win India's independence," Harris said in a post on X. "My grandmother travelled across India-bullhorn in hand-to speak with women about accessing birth control," the incumbent vice-president said. The Democrat added that her grandparents' "commitment to public service and fight for a better future" lived in her today.

**Bangladesh to take necessary steps to extradite deposed PM Hasina from India**

**DHAKA.** Bangladesh will take necessary steps to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led mass movement against her government, the newly-appointed chief prosecutor of the country's International Crimes Tribunal said on Sunday. Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

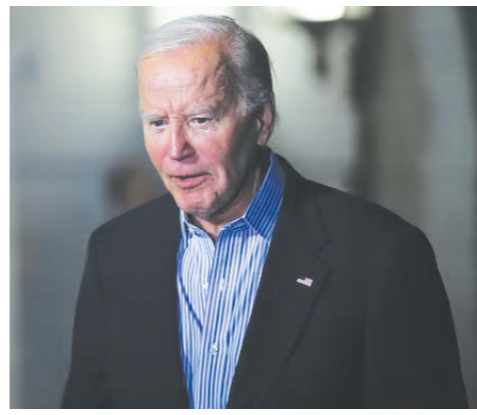
Necessary steps will be taken to bring former prime minister Hasina back under the extradition treaty with India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led protests in July and August, International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. We will file an application with the International Crimes Tribunal, when it resumes functions, to issue arrest warrants against all the absconding accused including Sheikh Hasina in connection with the cases filed for mass killing and crimes against humanity," he said at a press briefing on the ICT premises in Dhaka.

**Republican report slams Biden's 'failures' for chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan**

**World** U.S. House of Representatives Republicans will release a long-awaited report on Monday blasting Democratic President Joe Biden's administration for failures surrounding the chaotic and deadly U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. The report contends that the administration made its decision to evacuate noncombatants far too late, formally ordering it only on August 16, failed to communicate between departments in Washington and amongst officials in Afghanistan, and botched the paperwork for the departure of Afghan civilians eligible to leave the country. It is the result of a three-year investigation led by Representative Michael McCaul, Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. America's credibility on the world stage was severely damaged after we abandoned Afghan allies to Taliban reprisal killings — the people of Afghanistan we had promised to protect," the report said. "And the moral injury to America's veterans and

those still serving remains a stain on this administration's legacy." The withdrawal has become intensely politicised ahead of the November 5 US presidential election. Last month, the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, shot video for his campaign at Arlington National Cemetery where he appeared at a ceremony honouring troops killed in the evacuation. Trump has also attacked Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris over the exit from Afghanistan during campaign appearances, blaming them personally for the deaths at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate. On August 26, 2021, as U.S. forces were trying to help Americans and Afghans flee as the Islamist Taliban movement took control of the country, a suicide attack at the Abbey Gate entrance to Kabul's airport killed 13 Americans, compounding the U.S. sense of defeat after two decades of war.

Harris is the Democratic presidential nominee. Democrats have insisted that some blame for the messy end of the war - less than seven



months into Biden's presidency - should be laid at the feet of Trump, who began the withdrawal process by signing a deal with the Taliban in 2020.

"When former President Trump took office, there were approximately 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan. Days before leaving office, the former President ordered a further

reduction to 2,500," Representative Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs panel, said in a letter to committee Democrats about the investigation.

Republican committee aides dismissed the contention as partisan politics, saying Biden could have ignored Trump's agreement or enforced it, accusing officials who served during Biden's presidency of allowing the Taliban to disregard its commitments. Some 800,000 U.S. service members served in Afghanistan following the U.S.-led invasion triggered by the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the U.S. by Afghanistan-based al-Qaeda.

During the war, 2,238 U.S. service members died and nearly 21,000 were wounded. Independent estimates put the number of Afghan security forces and civilians killed at more than 100,000.

McCaul has subpoenaed Secretary of State Antony Blinken three times in connection with the Afghanistan investigation, most recently last week, saying that he wants him to testify in person.

**Thousands protest in Mexico against controversial judicial reform proposal**

**World.** Thousands of Mexicans, mainly court employees and law students, protested in the capital Sunday against a controversial judicial reform proposal that would see judges elected by popular vote. They gathered in Mexico City as the Senate began to debate the initiative pushed by outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and approved by the lower house, called the Chamber of Deputies, in which the ruling party holds sway. The proposed reform, which would see the election of judges of the Supreme Court and other tribunals as well as magistrates, has sparked diplomatic tensions with the United States, prompted protests by opponents, and upset financial markets. The judiciary will not fall," chanted protesters who marched on the Senate, expected to vote on the proposal Wednesday. Striking judicial



workers have asked the Supreme Court to intervene in the matter, a request that López Obrador has said has no legal basis. In rare public remarks, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Norma Pina, appeared to lash out Sunday at the reform proposal, although she did not name it specifically, saying Mexico risked "the demolition of the judicial branch." Pina

said last week the court would discuss whether it has jurisdiction to halt the reform. In her remarks Sunday, carried on social media, Pina presented two alternative reform proposals and called on López Obrador and congress to listen to Mexicans' comments about the reform package. "Today it is still possible," Pina said. "We can change things." The United States, Mexico's main trading partner, has warned that the reforms would threaten a relationship that relies on investor confidence in the Mexican legal framework. López Obrador, who will be replaced by his ally Claudia Sheinbaum on October 1, argues that the change was warranted because courts currently serve the interests of the political and economic elite.

**Marine Le Pen urges Macron to hold referendum in bid to break political deadlock**

**World.** French far-right leader Marine Le Pen on Sunday urged President Emmanuel Macron to hold a referendum on key issues such as immigration, suggesting that giving the French a direct vote might help break the political deadlock. Last week Macron appointed the centre-right Michel Barnier, a 73-year-old former foreign minister who acted as the European Union's Brexit negotiator, as prime minister, seeking to move forward after June-July snap elections that resulted in a hung parliament. But analysts say the country is set for a period of instability, with Barnier's hold on power seen as fragile and dependent on support from Le Pen's eurosceptic, anti-immigration National Rally (RN) party, which is the largest party in the new National Assembly. A left-wing coalition, which emerged as France's largest political bloc after the elections, although short of an overall majority, is also piling pressure on Barnier.

ore than 100,000 left-wing demonstrators rallied across France on Saturday to protest against his nomination and denounce Macron's "power grab". Le Pen, who leads RN lawmakers in parliament, has said her party would not be part of the new cabinet. 'POWER TO DECIDE DIRECTLY'

On Sunday, she urged Macron to conduct a referendum on key issues such as immigration, health care and security to give the people a direct vote. The RN "will unreservedly support any approach aimed at giving people the power to decide directly", Le Pen said, speaking in the northern town of Henin-Beaumont, the far-right's traditional stronghold.

"Emmanuel Macron himself, in the chaos he has created, has levers to keep our democracy live," she added. To prevent the RN from having an absolute majority and forming a government, around 200 candidates stood down ahead of the final round of the snap legislative polls in July, sparking the far-right's outrage. Le Pen also indicated she would watch Barnier's every move. "If, in the coming weeks, the French are once again forgotten or mistreated, we will not hesitate to censure the government," she added.

**Kentucky highway shooter still on the run, cops continue manhunt**

**World** Kentucky police were searching a remote, heavily wooded area on Sunday for a suspected gunman who opened fire on vehicles traveling a rural stretch of Interstate 75 a day earlier, shooting and injuring five people. Authorities urged residents to stay away from the site of the manhunt, as search teams scoured a rugged, rocky area near the interstate some 8 miles (12.9 km) from the city of London in southeastern Kentucky where they believe the gunman was contained. Officials named Joseph Couch, 32, as a suspect after discovering a car registered to him parked on a service road near the shooting site. A rifle case was recovered from the vehicle, and an AR rifle was found near the car on Sunday afternoon, the Laurel County Sheriff's office said. Laurel County public schools cancelled Monday classes out of



an abundance of caution on Sunday evening, and the mayor of London, Kentucky, Randall Weddle, urged residents to steer clear of the shooting scene. "Stay home. Let the first responders do their jobs," Weddle told a news conference on Sunday evening. Difficult terrain has complicated the manhunt, which includes a helicopter and a drone with infrared technology and involves federal, state and local agencies.

"That's probably one of the most remote exits on I-75," Deputy Gilbert Acciardo of the Laurel County Sheriff's Office told reporters. "It's a big task. We want to get him before it gets dark again." Investigators have not determined a motive for the shooting, Acciardo said.

The incident began around 5:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) on Saturday, when officers responded to reports of gunshots at vehicles on the highway. The shots came from a hillside overlooking the highway, Acciardo said, describing a chaotic scene with bullet-riddled cars pulled onto the shoulder. Five people were in stable condition despite some serious injuries, including one victim who was shot in the face and another in the arm. Nine vehicles in all were struck by bullets, according to the sheriff's office. The attack shut down the highway for several hours.

**Ukraine attacks oil storage depot in Russian border region**

**Ukraine has launched an attack on an oil storage depot in a Russian border region, leading to a significant fire. Russian authorities are monitoring the tense situation closely as emergency services work to control the blaze.**



**Belgorod.** The governor of Russia's southern Belgorod region said on Sunday Ukrainian forces attacked a fuel depot, triggering a series of fires after Moscow and Kyiv accused each other of launching overnight attacks on border regions. "The Ukrainian military, aided by lethal drones, attacked a fuel storage site in Volokonovsky district," Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on Telegram, referring to an area near the border. Several reservoirs caught fire in an explosion. Firefighting crews are putting out the

blaze. Gladkov also reported drone attacks on three other localities. There were no casualties reported in the incidents. In the overnight air attacks, Ukrainian officials said two people died and four were

injured in Sumy region. Gladkov reported three civilians were injured in Belgorod. Two children were among those injured in Sumy, the military administration of the northeastern Ukrainian region said on

Sunday on Telegram. Several homes and cars were damaged. In Belgorod region, three civilians, including two children, were injured. Gladkov said two residential buildings were destroyed and more than 15 buildings in total were damaged.

The Russian defence ministry said it had destroyed one drone over Belgorod region and another over Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces launched a cross-border incursion last month. It said two drones were intercepted over Belgorod overnight.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports. Border regions on both sides have been subject to frequent attacks. Both Moscow and Kyiv deny targeting civilians, saying the attacks are aimed at destroying each other's infrastructure critical to war efforts.

Thousands of civilians have died in the war, which Russia started with a full-scale invasion on Ukraine in February 2022. Millions of Ukrainians have also been displaced, while their cities and villages have become piles of rubble.

**Protests held in 25 countries over Kolkata rape-murder**

**The protests started in large and small groups across Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Singapore, before spreading to cities in several European countries. At least 60 were planned in the US alone.**

Sunday, organisers said, to demand justice after last month's rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a hospital in the city of Kolkata. The protests started in large and small groups across Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Singapore, before spreading to cities in several European countries. Sixty were planned in the US.

They added to ongoing protests around India after the August 9 killing of the 31-year-old postgraduate student of chest medicine. A suspect has been arrested along with the former principal of RG Kar Medical College where the victim was studying. At one of the protests in the Swedish capital Stockholm, scores of mainly black-clad women gathered in Sergels Torg square



to sing songs in Bengali and hold signs, demanding accountability for the crime and safety for Indian women.

"The news of this heinous crime committed on a young trainee doctor while on duty numbed and shocked each of us at the sheer ruthlessness, brutality and disregard of human life," said Dipti Jain, an organiser of the global protests. Ms Jain, now a British citizen and alumni of the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, had last month organised a female doctors protest in the UK. The Supreme Court has listed the next hearing of the trainee's case for Monday. Although tougher laws were introduced after the 2012 gruesome gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, activists say the Kolkata case shows how women continue to suffer from sexual violence.

News box

**Brawl at celebrations in Shela business school gets ugly**

Ahmedabad. Five persons were seriously injured and cross-complaints were filed after an altercation during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations on a B-school campus in the Shela area on Saturday night turned ugly. The dispute, at Shanti Business School, started after a student objected to a female junior student standing above the idol to watch the celebrations taking place on the lower floor. The student of postgraduate diploma in management was in the building's second floor lobby when the senior threateningly told her to move. She stated in her complaint that other seniors jeered at her as she left the spot. She informed her family of the incident, after which her father and brother arrived at the campus to speak to the senior. Her FIR further stated that as they approached the senior to talk, his female friend abused them. Things escalated quickly with the senior and his eight friends allegedly attacking the diploma student and her brother with a stick and a sitting stool. The brother suffered injuries to his head and broke two teeth, while the father lost consciousness after crashing his SUV into a wall in the melee, the complaint stated. The senior student filed a counter-complaint accusing the father and brother of trespassing on the campus and injuring two students with their reckless driving. He accused the brother of entering the campus by bringing down its security cabin gate with the SUV, badly injuring two students by speeding the vehicle in reverse, driving over a motorcycle and trying to run him over. Bopal police registered two complaints and launched an investigation. Dr Neha Sharma, director, Shanti Business School, said, "In an incident which happened last evening, i.e. Saturday, Sept 7, during the Ganpati celebrations, a minor internal altercation between two sets of students flared up into a major incident when the family of a student intervened and endangered the lives of students and staff on campus. The matter was reported to the police last night itself and is being investigated. Shanti Business School is cooperating fully with authorities to ensure the safety of its students and staff."

**Threats, run-over attempts: Brawl at celebration gets ugly**

Ahmedabad. Five persons were seriously injured and cross-complaints were filed after an altercation during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations on a B-school campus in the Shela area on Saturday night turned ugly. The dispute, at Shanti Business School, started after a student objected to a female junior student standing above the idol to watch the celebrations taking place on the lower floor. The student of postgraduate diploma in management was in the building's second floor lobby when the senior threateningly told her to move. She stated in her complaint that other seniors jeered at her as she left the spot. She informed her family of the incident, after which her father and brother arrived at the campus to speak to the senior. Her FIR further stated that as they approached the senior to talk, his female friend abused them. Things escalated quickly with the senior and his eight friends allegedly attacking the diploma student and her brother with a stick and a sitting stool. The brother suffered injuries to his head and broke two teeth, while the father lost consciousness after crashing his SUV into a wall in the melee, the complaint stated. The senior student filed a counter-complaint accusing the father and brother of trespassing on the campus and injuring two students with their reckless driving. He accused the brother of entering the campus by bringing down its security cabin gate with the SUV, badly injuring two students by speeding the vehicle in reverse, driving over a motorcycle and trying to run him over.

**Scandals that hit Kerala's power corridors**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Kerala politics had its first accidental brush with a sex scandal about six decades ago when a senior politician met with a minor accident. Not only did it cost him his position within the party and the government but also led to the formation of a regional party that eventually altered the course of state politics. The MeToo storm that has hit the Malayalam film industry has rekindled memories of sex scandals rocking the political milieu, which saw stalwarts losing their ministerial berths. A regional political party in the state was born because of a sex scandal that shook the R Sankar ministry in 1964. If not for the ouster of 49-year-old Congress stalwart P T Chacko from the ministry, and his subsequent death due to a heart attack, Kerala Congress would not have come into existence. Interestingly, Chacko had to step down as home, revenue and law minister as he was seen travelling with a woman Congress leader, Padmam S Menon, in his car. Kerala has since then seen a slew of political sex scandals that have also tickled the conservative minds of society. At least a few politicians were guarded in their approach when controversies raged in the aftermath of the Justice Hema Committee report's release in August.

**CPM unhappy with ADGP row, but won't disown CM Pinarayi Vijayan**

**The stance of the party was spelt out by CPM state secretary M V Govindan, who termed UDF's attempts to drag the CM into the controversy as "absurd".**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Wary of the political damage ADGP M R Ajith Kumar's meeting with the RSS leadership would cause, the CPM has distanced itself from the episode, calling it an issue that does not concern the party but the government. However, the CPM made it clear that it would resist attempts by the Opposition UDF to derive political mileage by alleging that the meeting was held at the behest of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to scuttle the Thrissur Pooram and give BJP the advantage. The stance of the party was spelt out by CPM state secretary M V Govindan, who termed UDF's attempts to drag the CM into the controversy as "absurd". Speaking to reporters in Kasaragod on Sunday, Govindan expressed, though indirectly, the party's displeasure over the controversy. "Do you think I am pleased?" he shot back when reporters asked him about the LDF ally CPI's displeasure over the senior police officer's meeting with the RSS functionaries. "Who someone meets is not our concern. The attempt to link this with the CPM is baseless. Everyone knows where the CPM stands on the matter," said Govindan. The CPM leader said the RSS



was an organisation that was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of CPM members, underscoring the ideological opposition between the two groups. Govindan also accused the UDF of forging ties with the BJP and pointed out that the UDF votes had drifted to the BJP in Thrissur during the Lok Sabha elections. He also criticised the practice of exaggerating minor incidents, using the phrase "turning a goat into a dog" to describe the Opposition's tactics. Meanwhile, the home department feels there is nothing unusual in ADGP's personal meetings with RSS leaders. However, considering the sentiments within the CPM, the government is weighing its options on the next possible course of action, including moving the ADGP out of his current position. The government is also likely to come out with an explanation on the whole controversy surrounding Ajith Kumar. Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan alleged that Ajith Kumar met Sangh Parivar leaders as an emissary of the CM. Unholy nexus between CPM & BJP, says Kunhalikutty "Opening an account in Kerala was the biggest dream of the BJP. The CM extended help to them through the ADGP. This was in exchange for not troubling him with various cases. The Thrissur Pooram was later scuttled as part of this deal," Satheesan alleged. The BJP countered the leader of the Opposition's argument by alleging that Satheesan and Pinarayi were "two bodies but one soul". BJP state president K Surendran asked why the state government kept the Punarjani case against Satheesan in cold storage. "Wasn't it the same ADGP who said a probe against Satheesan was not necessary in this case?" Surendran asked.

**CBI arrests CGST official seeking Rs 60L bribe after dramatic chase**

MUMBAI. A central GST (CGST) superintendent, accused of detaining a businessman for 18 hours and demanding a bribe of Rs 60 lakh, was nabbed by CBI last week after a dramatic chase in the middle of the night near Oshiwara police station. In his bid to escape, the official, Sachin Gokulka, dumped one of his aides - a consultant who had allegedly accepted the bribe on his behalf - on the road but was soon caught by the CBI team in pursuit. The consultant and a chartered accountant (CA) were also arrested, and an FIR was filed against two IRS officers - additional commissioner, CSGST, Deepak Kumar Sharma, and joint commissioner Rahul Kumar - as well as three other CGST superintendents. CGST officials coerced bizman into arranging Rs 30L for release. Rahul Kumar, currently posted in another state but who previously worked in Mumbai, is accused of facilitating the deal by contacting Sharma. CBI has searched the premises of Sharma, the four superintendents and the other two aides. As per a complaint, Gokulka and the other three GST superintendents - Nitin Kumar Gupta, Nikhil Agrawal and Bijender Janawa - detained a Goregaon businessman for 18 hours on Sept 4 and threatened to arrest him if he failed to pay a bribe of 60 lakh - reduced from the original demand of 80 lakh - to settle a pharmaceutical company's issue. The businessman was allegedly abused and slapped multiple times, and coerced into calling a relative to arrange 30 lakh, which was to be delivered to a middleman, chartered accountant (CA) Raj Aggarwal, through hawala.

**Teenager fires at girl with airgun in Dindigul, tries to kill himself**

**Shocked relatives took the girl to Natham Government Hospital. She was later sent to Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.**

DINDIGUL: A 17-year-old girl was shot allegedly by her 19-year-old boyfriend with an airgun at Natham in Dindigul on Sunday. After the incident, the youth attempted to kill himself and both have been admitted to a government hospital. According to the police, V Selvam, a native of Madurai, shot her for questioning his relationship with another girl. A police source said Selvam was in a relationship with the girl from

Thumarapathi in Natham taluk. The girl has completed her school studies and was planning to take up higher education at a college in Dindigul. According to sources, the incident happened at his uncle's house at Thumarapathi. Selvam and the girl moved behind the house and during the conversation, the girl objected to Selvam's relationship with another girl. This resulted in a heated argument between the



two. In a fit of rage, Selvam went inside his uncle's house and took the airgun that was mounted on a wall, walked out and allegedly shot her. The girl received injuries on her chest.

Shocked relatives took the girl to Natham Government Hospital. She was later sent to Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai. "The injury isn't serious and it looks like a minor abrasion. But the girl is yet to come out of the shock," said a doctor. Meanwhile, Selvam attempted suicide and was admitted to Natham Government Hospital. A case was registered by the Natham police and the airgun was seized.

**Continuous rains cause landslides, floods in Andhra Pradesh's north coastal districts**

**Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the situation with officials and directed them to take measures to mitigate the loss of lives and property.**

VISAKHAPATNAM: Continuous rainfall since Saturday night has caused widespread disruption across the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Alluri Sitarama Raju and erstwhile Vizianagaram and Srikakulam. The downpour has led to overflowing of water streams, landslides in hilly areas, road blockages, drainage overflows, and severe flooding in low-lying areas. Later in the evening, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the situation with officials and directed them to take measures to mitigate the loss of lives and property. Further, he appealed to people to stay alert as there was a possibility of flash floods and more landslides. In Visakhapatnam, continuous downpours triggered landslides in Gopalapatnam, particularly near the



Chinna Konda area, endangering several homes. Under MLA Gana Babu's direction, officials have evacuated residents from the most vulnerable areas and moved them to safer locations. "We have successfully evacuated all individuals from the affected areas and ensured their safety in rescue shelters. We have cut off power to all electric poles in the area to prevent further risk. We are

currently in talks with engineers to explore options for diverting the water flow and mitigating potential damage in this area. Our goal is to prevent additional harm and minimise the impact of the situation," said Gana Babu. Despite these efforts, many homes remain at risk, prompting the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to urge residents to stay alert. The area is home to several houses built along the hillside, increasing anxiety among locals. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall in Alluri Sitarama Raju district has caused significant damage, washing away bridges on canals and severing road links to over 30 villages. The Chamagedda bridge in GK Veedhi collapsed due to heavy water flow, disconnecting roadways to nearly 30 villages.

**Telangana HC directs assembly secretary to act on disqualification petitions of defected MLAs**



**The High Court instructed the Secretary to submit a status report regarding the Speaker's schedule to the Judicial Registry within four weeks.**

HYDERABAD. In a significant development, Justice B Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court has directed the Secretary of the Telangana legislative assembly to present three pending writ petitions before the Speaker, seeking the disqualification of MLAs who defected from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to the Congress. The directive includes fixing a schedule for filing of pleadings, submission of documents, and personal hearings in the matter. The High Court instructed the Secretary to submit a status report regarding the Speaker's schedule to the Judicial Registry within four weeks. Justice Reddy also made it clear that if the Speaker failed to act and schedule hearings on the disqualification petitions, the court would reopen the cases and issue further orders. Among the three petitions, one petition was filed by Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, a BJP MLA from Nirmal. He urged the court to direct the Speaker to disqualify Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, who defected from the BRS to join the Congress and contested in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Maheshwar Reddy claimed that his efforts to submit the petition to the Speaker's office on July 1, 2024, were thwarted as he was denied an acknowledgement by the staff. The second petition was filed by Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy seeking the disqualification of Danam Nagender. The third petition was filed by Kuna Pandu Vivekananda, seeking the disqualification of Bhadradi Kothagudem MLA Venkata Rao Tellam and Ghanpur (SC Reserved) MLA Kadiyam Srihari, who defected to the Congress from the BRS.

**With 18 buses hired in a day, it's double bell for KSRTC's wedding trips**

KOCHI. While private luxury buses are often hired for marriage trips, the growing popularity of the Budget Tourism Cell initiative of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) shows that the 'common man's vehicle' is increasingly becoming a preferred choice for wedding rides. A total of 18 KSRTC buses were hired for private marriage trips on Sunday alone, with the corporation raking in around Rs 3 lakh. It was in Pathanamthitta that the highest number of KSRTC buses were booked on Sunday, an auspicious day for weddings. Here, nine buses, including two AC low-floor buses, became a part of the most memorable moment of the lives of newlywed couples. This was closely followed by Alappuzha, where seven buses with floral decorations were hired by private parties for the grand celebration. One bus each was hired in Kollam (Pathanamthitta depot) and Thiruvananthapuram (Attingal depot) districts, also on Sunday. "My wish came



true today. I've rented out two Fast Passenger buses for the wedding of my son Ananthu, who married Athirambuzha native Sajjaana. The buses becoming part of my son's marriage lent an altogether different experience. The crew was very co-operative," said a beaming Uthayappan

(59), a native of Chertala. "I was a regular user of KSRTC buses. Also, I worked in a PSU until my retirement and wanted to hire the buses of the public entity. My only concern was whether the buses would come on time," he said with a laugh. "And they did! The floral arrangements were simple. Also, they washed the buses which were neat and clean," said Uthayappan, who retired as an employee of Autokast Ltd, Chertala. While the Fast Passenger buses, with green and yellow paint, are the most hired ones, the AC buses too fit the bill. "Two out of the five buses hired from Pathanamthitta depot were AC low-floor buses. Three buses also operated the wedding trips from Adoor. In Alappuzha district, three buses operated from Mavelikkara, two from Harippad and two from Chertala," said a senior BTC official. "The demand is mostly in the central parts. A total of 22 wedding trips were operated from April 21 to September 1," the official said.

## GOOD SPORT: Para-athletes, champions all

In a cruel world that emphasises limitations, the greatest service a para-athlete performs for society is to normalise physical disability — to bring it right under the public eye, and then perform sporting acts of such skill and courage that even ‘normal’ people can’t emulate.

Several years ago, when a para-athlete was awarded the Khel Ratna, the country’s highest award for sportspersons, hitherto won only by ‘normal’ athletes, a colleague couldn’t hide his contempt: “These ‘non-elite’ athletes getting the top sports award — the very idea!”

Having watched para-sports over the years, this person is now a fan, for the story of each para-athlete, medal-winner or not, is fascinating and inspirational, worthy of a book.

Let’s talk about, say, Sumit Antil, just one among the para-heroes. Javelin in his right hand, a spring in his steps, Antil jogs rather than sprints to the white line. With a mighty heave, he sends the spear flying. There’s a hush. There’s a roar. Antil looks at the giant screen flashing the distance the spear has travelled — it’s over 70 metres. It’s a personal best. It’s good for gold. Antil turns around and slaps his right thigh — he’s very unlikely to ever slap his left thigh because it’s a prosthetic limb. It’s due to this artificial left limb that he jogs rather than sprints; it’s this artificial left limb that presents him the greatest difficulty in his dream of hitting the 80-metre mark. My left leg, which is my blocking leg, is an artificial limb. It’s difficult to balance on it. There are just two nails at the base of the prosthetic that get a grip on the ground. Balancing your entire body on just two nails is very difficult,” said Antil a day after winning gold at the Paris Paralympics. “After your hip has done its role while throwing, the blocking leg has to move into action. I was losing my balance a couple of times, which is why I couldn’t throw even better.”

“When I will be at my peak, just once in life, I want to touch the 80m mark. I want to know how it feels when the javelin crosses that distance,” said Antil, 26. Antil, two Paralympics gold medals to his credit, wants to expand his horizons. Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage. The courage of the para-athlete reshapes perceptions, breaks down physical and emotional barriers, and redraws the limits of possibilities. Antil has had to be very courageous — there was no other option after a motorcycle accident led to the amputation of his left leg when he was just 17. Sheetal Devi, born without arms, had to be very courageous. The archer, who hits bull’s-eye using her feet, won a Paralympics medal last week. “Before, I used to live in a small village. And then I started para archery. I saw that people with disabilities could also achieve something,” Sheetal, 17, wrote on social media. “There was a time when I felt incomplete and sought external validation. It took time to embrace my true self, but the moment I did, magic unfolded.” Sport does create magic. But, as Anais Nin wrote, life indeed does shrink or expand in proportion to courage — and it’s not just about bravery, it’s more about stepping out of our comfort zone and confronting and defeating fears.

## Steppe eagles, the vanishing voyagers from Central Asia

The morning mist was rising slowly as we stepped into the ochre-coloured grasslands of Tal Chappar in Rajasthan, known as a haven for birds of prey. Staring across the open expanse, a large silhouette caught the eye. On training the...

The morning mist was rising slowly as we stepped into the ochre-coloured grasslands of Tal Chappar in Rajasthan, known as a haven for birds of prey. Staring across the open expanse, a large silhouette caught the eye. On training the binoculars, it turned out to be a Steppe eagle, the ubiquitous post-monsoon visitor across many parts of India, undertaking long and arduous migrations each year to spend the winter in the temperate climates of the Indian subcontinent, as well as Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa. A large raptor with a wingspan of over 2 metres, the Steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) is a member of the ‘booted eagle’ family, meaning it has feathered legs. As the name suggests, grasslands or ‘steppes’ constitute the bird’s natural habitat. While it mainly breeds and resides in Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Russia and Mongolia, as temperatures drop in these regions, it undertakes an annual migration southward. Like many migratory species, it has remarkable navigational skills, using the same route year after year, guided by an array of cues like the Earth’s magnetic field, position of the stars and wind patterns to traverse thousands of kilometres. There are a few unique characteristics that set the Steppe eagle apart from other eagles. It prefers to nest on the ground as opposed to the canopy, a factor of its natural habitat, and prefers to walk or ‘strut’ a lot, spending far lesser time soaring in the air like other birds of prey. A specialised predator of squirrels, it also hunts other small mammals like hare and reptiles, and when fresh prey is scarce, also consumes dead animals, or ‘carriion’.

In terms of appearance, it can often be confused with the tawny eagle or the spotted eagle, and an easy way to distinguish it in the field is its elongated ‘gape’ or the end of the beak, and oval-shaped nostrils. Despite its fierce expression, it is quite approachable and relatively tame, and can adjust to a moderate level of human presence.

The Steppe eagle is not just a casual visitor. It provides important ecosystem services. As an apex predator and scavenger, it controls the rodent population and consumes carrion, preventing the spread of diseases and maintaining the health of their habitat. This natural ‘clean-up’ service reduces the reliance on chemical pest-control methods and promotes a healthy ecosystem. Their presence signifies a well-balanced environment with adequate prey availability and minimal human disturbances.

However, the species faces a multitude of threats today. Rapid urbanisation, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure development are encroaching upon open grasslands and wetlands, leading to habitat loss and diminishing prey availability. Increasing use of pesticides in agricultural fields is resulting in secondary



poisoning, as they consume prey exposed to harmful chemicals. Collision with overhead powerlines and wind turbines is also emerging as a key threat. These factors have led to a rapid decline in their population. In Kazakhstan, a major breeding ground, the population has halved in just 15-20 years, while surveys in India have revealed a long-term decline of nearly 31 per cent. As the threats to these avians persist, the species has been classified as ‘endangered’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Concerted efforts are needed to protect this keystone species that plays a crucial role in maintaining ecosystems across continents. Awareness campaigns highlighting the ecological importance of these raptors can encourage local communities and civil society to participate in conservation efforts. Better enforcement of regulations on pesticide use, and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices can help reduce

instances of indirect poisoning. Driving around a bend in the meandering mountain roads of Uttarakhand, the sight of branches of a pine tree struggling to bear the weight of their occupants made us bring the car to a quick halt.

About a dozen Steppe eagles crowded the canopy surrounding a carcass dumping site, far out from their usual habitats or rolling grasslands. Trying to get a clear sighting, one couldn’t help but marvel at their amazing adaptability, travelling mind-boggling distances so nonchalantly, and keeping a diverse range of ecosystems healthy. Yet, it also felt as if they were clinging to the dwindling branches of survival. Their flight, a testament to the freedom of the skies, now carries the weight of a world struggling to remember that without its wild guardians, it loses more than just eagles. It is up to us to ensure that these majestic creatures continue to grace our skies for generations to come.

## Punjab bites the bullet

Unpopular’ moves will test AAP govt’s resolve

ACUTE fiscal stress has compelled the ruling AAP to bite the bullet in Punjab. It has withdrawn the previous Congress government’s decision to provide power subsidy of Rs 3 per unit to domestic consumers having a connected load of up to 7 kW (kilowatt). The value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel has been increased, making both dearer in a state where fuel prices are already on the higher side. The cash-strapped government is expecting that the twin moves will lead to savings/earnings in the range of Rs 2,000-2,500 crore per year; however, it will have to be prepared for a backlash from lakhs of affected people.

This is a desperate attempt by the government, which is nearing the half-way mark of its tenure, to give fiscal prudence a chance. Subsidies have been bleeding the state exchequer dry for more than two decades. Successive governments have banked on them to woo farmers and other categories of



consumers. According to the State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India,

tabled in the Assembly earlier this week, power subsidy constituted the lion’s share (68-99 per cent) of the total subsidies in the state between 2018 and 2023. Over the years, several experts, including former deputy chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, have recommended rationalisation of power subsidy to improve Punjab’s fiscal health. However, the political leadership has been reluctant to take the plunge due to electoral considerations. It is hoped that AAP will stay the course, which is a tough one but a must to help the state make an economic turnaround. Constantly living beyond one’s means is a recipe for disaster, with the CAG red-flagging a ‘continuous mismatch’ between receipts and expenditure. Commendably, the Congress government in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh has shown the way by insisting on financial discipline. The sustainability of scaling down or withdrawing populist measures will be put to the test in both states.

## Amid bravehearts, in the hero’s honour

The young Captain of Rashtriya Rifles got a patrol ready in five minutes. He must have wondered at the improbable demand of the visiting middle-aged Colonel to scale the nearest hill. The soldiers spread out and started climbing up the...

**The young Captain of Rashtriya Rifles got a patrol ready in five minutes. He must have wondered at the improbable demand of the visiting middle-aged Colonel to scale the nearest hill. The soldiers spread out and started climbing up the...**



The young Captain of Rashtriya Rifles got a patrol ready in five minutes. He must have wondered at the improbable demand of the visiting middle-aged Colonel to scale the nearest hill. The soldiers spread out and started climbing up the hill terraces in which maize was sprouting. The over-eager visitor’s knees started creaking. He asked a soldier for a light machine gun. It felt heavy and he climbed for a few hundred yards up the farm terraces. He returned the weapon and wished he had a sturdy walking stick. He felt all his machismo melting away. The soldiers kept moving up. They were super fit. You know it when you climb with them. Your brain and college certificate don’t tell you that. Your legs and lungs give you that education when you move up a mountain with them.

Cries of ‘Jai Hind’ rang out from the old men living in the mud houses. They offered water. It was scarce in the mountains and they had to buy it in tankers. They pulled out plastic chairs and offered hospitality, as they started talking about their Army stints. ‘I served

in so and so battalion of JAK LI (Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry).’ Then came the long list of stations they had served in. The Armymen had been climbing for two hours. When they descended from the hilltop, the Colonel stopped at a shop on the road bend. The owner let out a sonorous ‘Jai Hind’. From almost every mud-roofed hut that he passed, he could hear ‘Jai Hind’. Old men, their faces washed with deep lines, proclaimed having served in JAK LI. Buffaloes

stood tethered in solid mud and the timber huts were built on hewed slopes. A listless Bihari mason stood and stared as the patrol passed. When asked what he was doing so far away from home, he said he earned ~600 a day as most young men of the village worked in foreign countries.

The shop was well stocked with provisions. A beaming, handsome, 6 foot tall young boy came and stood there. In this part of India, people are generally good

looking. The mountains and woods all around are a wanderer’s delight.

The lad insisted that the Armymen come to his house. Another good-looking young man came out. He had long, curly brown hair. A tall man who looked in his sixties stood outside the simple house in a salwar kameez. He welcomed the officers and took them to a drawing room with plastic chairs and a centre table. A matronly woman came and sat next to the man. Another young man fetched tea, almonds, pistachios and biscuits. The tea was thick-sweet buffalo milk with just a whiff of tea leaves. In rural communities, such tea is an honour. Not much different from the customary offerings in the Colonel’s native Haryana.

The young men were shy and there was a tall young girl, their sister, who went away briskly. The boys had come home from their regiments on leave. It was Eid and homecoming season. The father was strong, dignified and had little to say. Clouds of sadness remained settled on the mother’s face. The father of the boys got up and went into another room, returning with a framed medal. It had a green ribbon and a bronze circular disc with the Ashokan wheel. On the mother’s face, the lines of sadness and memory became deeper. The boy to whom the medal belonged had left the world.

The brave woman had five sons. She had permitted all of them to wear the olive green. One of them had given up his life in the service of the nation.

Darkness set in on the mountain slope. It was time to leave. The Captain sat quietly. The Colonel got up, saluted the parents and the patrol started walking back. Rifleman Aurangzeb was conferred the Shaurya Chakra, the third highest gallantry award, posthumously in 2018. Jai Hind!

# Rejuvenating cosmetic Therapies

Whether it's getting rid of wrinkles, dark circles or simply to get silky-smooth skin, we suggest some popular cosmetic procedures that you can opt for.



**Phototherapy:** Phototherapy or light therapy is a form of treatment for skin conditions using artificial light. Phototherapy is an excellent way to improve your look by softening wrinkles, pigment stains and other signs of ageing.

**Mesotherapy:** Mesotherapy is the painless injection of vitamins, minerals, medications, and amino acids placed in the dermis (just below the surface of the skin) unlike other medical treatments. Mesotherapy has a variety of applications including cellulite reduction, face and body contouring, hair re-growth, face and neck rejuvenation and face lift.

**Botox:** Botox is a natural, purified protein that relaxes wrinkle-causing

muscles creating a rejuvenated appearance.

**Laser skin rejuvenation:** Lasers are now available that can quickly remove the outer layer of the skin. The laser causes tightening of the skin, which leads to smoothening and clearing of brown spots and large pores. Lasers also can improve wrinkles, fine lines, forehead creasing and crow's feet.

**Dermal fillers:** Dermal fillers are materials that are frequently used to correct scarring, wrinkles, and other depressions in the skin. The new generation injectables include Restylane, Perlane, Juvederm ultra, Juvederm ultra plus and Juvederm XC. These fillers can be injected into lines

and wrinkles, as well as depressions for acne scars. They are useful to enhance the contour and size of the lips. They are well tolerated and the results are immediate.

**Chemical peel:** A chemical peel is a treatment in which an organic/fruit acid solution is used to remove the damaged outer layers of the skin. Typically administered as a facial peel, a chemical peel enhances and smoothes the texture of the skin. It is an effective treatment for facial blemishes, wrinkles and uneven skin pigmentation.

**Body contouring:** The procedure dramatically reduce cellulite and fat from individual parts of the body an actual 'spot fat reduction'.

**Stretch marks:** Radiofrequency therapy for stretch marks is a non-invasive, safe, and less expensive option to improve skin's appearance. RF treatments induce collagen production to eliminate wrinkles and stretch marks.

**Lip rejuvenation (Volume and Hydration):** Lip enhancement basically consists of injections. Using small needle, the lip is filled with a soft spongy substance that lends a plumper and fuller look.

**Under eye dark circles:** If your dark circles are due hyper pigmentation on a superficial level in the top most layers of the skin, then a mild chemical peel or creams that contain lightening agents can help.

**Eye lash growth:** If you are interested in getting longer, fuller, thicker and simply beautiful eyelashes opt for Latisse. The first only FDA approved prescription treatment for inadequate or not enough lashes, growing them longer, fuller, thicker and simply beautiful eyelashes.

**Radiant oxy glow:** Oxygen therapy replenishes lost oxygen and the active ingredients in the serum restructure the skin, visibly plumping out the lines and wrinkles. It is also an excellent choice for acne conditions due to the anti-bacterial effect of the serum used.



## Find out your makeup's expiry date

This habit of storing cosmetics causes allergies, skin infections and unnecessary breakouts. Makeup expert Kamini Kishore says, "Usually, cosmetic companies do not have expiry dates on beauty products but there are certain brands that mention



information like manufacturing and best before. It is important to pay heed to that information." **EYELINER, MASCARA AND KAJAL:**

Makeup products like eyeliner, mascara, kajal, etc have the shortest shelf life and expire within six months. Kamini advices

Old, expired makeup products become the breeding ground for bacteria and toxins that not only spoil your makeup but skin too.

to avoid pumping the mascara and eyeliner wand to make them last longer. "Pumping makes the air enter the container which dries up the product." **BLUSH AND EYE SHADOW:** According to Kamini, "Eye shadow and blush are powder-based cosmetics that have good shelf life. They stay good for more than a year. You can use them without any doubt until they smell foul." However, it is important to go for a good brand as you apply them directly onto your skin. **LIP GLOSS AND LIPSTICK:** You don't need to hurry up to finish these two makeup products. Any lipstick and lip gloss lasts at least one and a half years. "You just need to store them at cool and dry place as heat allows bacteria to infest." **FOUNDATION AND CONCEALER:**

These basic makeup products have an expiry date mentioned in the pack. Since they are usually cream-based, you can easily use them for minimum 12 to 18 months. **EXPERT'S TIP:** Kamini Kishore recommends that you update your cosmetic kit often. "Go through your makeup kit twice a year and replace the products that have expired. This also helps you to maintain a trendy makeup kit which is in vogue."

## Beauty benefits of green tea

Green tea can be regarded as a storehouse of benefits for the skin. It contains a great deal of antioxidants which are effective against free radicals. These free radicals, which are formed when the skin is exposed to the UV rays of the sun, are accountable for premature aging. Green tea has also been found extremely effective in safeguarding the skin against sunburn and tanning when applied locally.



by inflammation. In cases of acne and pimples, green tea comes in great aid as the antibacterial content in it, known as catechins, reduces over stimulation of the skin hormones. Further, the overall appearance of the skin is also improved along with complexion

The antioxidants found in green tea are also responsible in combating skin cancer by blocking the cancer causing harmful enzyme, junk.

This wondrous natural component is also responsible for the cell renewal process. The aged keratinocytes cells are biologically energized by the polyphenol

compounds in green tea, which in turn, synthesize the DNA and prevent premature aging of the cells.

On occasions of skin inflammation, green tea acts as a great soother. It has also been found out that green tea shows notable improvements among cases of psoriasis and rosacea, accompanied

when green tea is used as a drink or as a mask.

Experts suggest that applying green tea mask directly on the face is the most effective sun guard. Acne and pimples subside considerably with green tea treatment when a mask of the same is applied on to the face.

## Skincare tips for winter



**Moisturise more often:** Oil reduction mission during winters would not prove to be beneficial as it will eventually dry up your skin to a larger extent; the reason being during winter's skin tends to lose 25 percent of its ability to retain moisture. As weather conditions change, so, too, should your skin care routine. Hence, switch to a moisturiser that's oil-based, rather than water-based, as the oil will create a protective layer on the skin

that retains more moisture than a cream or lotion. Look out for 'no clogging' oils, like avocado oil, mineral oil, primrose oil, or almond oil as they would not clog up the pores and will let your skin breathe.

**Avoid petroleum for lips:** Don't neglect your lips, which have a tendency to dry out in the winter. Keep a lip balm with you and apply often, as the temperature drops. Avoid products that contain petroleum as it can clog the pores in your lips, making it

With winter approaching, here's how to start a winter-specific beauty regime to have gorgeous skin

hard for the moisture to get where it needs to be. You can't properly moisturise skin that is congested.

**Don't put away the sunscreen:** Sunscreen is not just for summers. Winter sun can also damage your skin. Try applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen to your face and your hands about 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply frequently if you stay outside a long time. **Drink plenty of water:** To stay hydrated in winters should always be a top priority. We all get more dehydrated in the winter, so it's important to drink more water.

## Tricks to apply makeup quickly



Hard pressed for time before you head out for a party, meeting or date? Here are makeup essentials to get a quick glow on your face.

- Use some amount of pressed powder to set in your foundation.
- Apply blush on your cheeks and blend it well.- Line your upper lash line with eyeliner pencil and sweep one stroke of mascara.- Apply lipstick to add colour to your lips.

Charoo Chawla Anand, director, Bllis by Ravissant Salon and Spa, shares ways to apply makeup quickly:- Apply foundation evenly on your face and neck. Blend it well. Do it in upward and outward motion.- If you have any skin imperfections, apply concealer on blemishes and spots.

# We Need Clarifications On "Unnatural Death": Supreme Court On Kolkata Horror

► **A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra will oversee the proceedings.**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court today began hearing the case related to the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra will oversee the proceedings.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, submitted a status report filed by the state health department before the bench. "A status report has been filed. The state health department has filed a report. Twenty-three people have died as doctors are on strike," Mr Sibal told the CJ Chandrachud-led bench. We want to know the time at which the unnatural death case was registered," CJ Chandrachud said.

The top court is currently perusing the status report filed by the state and the CBI. "The CBI should submit a new status report by next Tuesday. Let's see what happens between now and then. We are not asking which method of investigation they should adopt," the Chief Justice added. On Sunday night, thousands gathered in Kolkata and across the globe, demanding justice for the victim. These demonstrations were part of a larger wave of protests, organised under the banner of "Reclaim the Night," a movement calling for safety and justice for women in public spaces.

**Supreme Court's Earlier Hearing** The Supreme Court on August 20



termed the incident "horrific" and took additional measures to address safety concerns within the healthcare sector. The court issued several directives, including the formation of a 10-member National Task Force to develop protocols for ensuring the safety of doctors and healthcare workers across the country. The court called upon

protesting doctors who had been striking in solidarity with the victim to return to work, stating that "justice and medicine cannot be stopped." The case initially faced delays, with the Supreme Court, during its hearing on August 22, criticising the Kolkata Police for their sluggish handling of the investigation. It was not until August 13 that the Calcutta High Court intervened, transferring the investigation from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI began its probe the following day, August 14. The victim's body was discovered in a seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College on August 9, bearing severe injuries. A civic volunteer was arrested the next day

in connection with the crime, but the investigation has since widened, resulting in the arrest of the college's former principal as well. Protests Worldwide From the streets of Kolkata to the cities of Europe, Asia, and the United States, the global Indian community rallied for justice Sunday night. Over 130 protests took place in 25 countries, including major cities like Stockholm, Sydney, and New York. Protesters - many clad in black - held vigils, sang in Bengali, and chanted slogans in solidarity with the victim. The streets of Kolkata were transformed into protest sites as men and women, young and old, took to the streets to demand justice. From forming human chains to holding burning torches, protesters expressed their anger and sorrow for the victim, who they symbolically.

**Posters Banning Entry Of 'Non-Hindus' Surface In Uttarakhand's Rudrapryag In Uttarakhand's Rudrapryag, signboards prohibiting the entry of outsiders have been put up by villagers in several areas of the district.**

**New Delhi:** Signboards prohibiting the entry of outsiders have been put up by villagers in several areas of Uttarakhand's Rudrapryag district at the entrances of their villages. Earlier, the signboards banned the entry of "non-Hindus" but have been now put up to prohibit outsiders from entering the villages. The boards were put up mainly by local pro-Hindu outfits such as Bhairav Sena, according to an Indian Express report. "Warning: Non-Hindus/ Rohingya Muslims and hawkers are prohibited from roaming in the village and doing business. If caught anywhere in the village, punitive and legal action will be taken," the board read, as per the report.

According to locals, boards have been put up to prevent unknown individuals and unfamiliar vendors from entering, following incidents of theft in the villages. A resident of Fata village said locals installed these signboards around 20-25 days ago after reports of outsiders being involved in thefts at temples and homes. Such signboards have been put up in villages such as Sirsi, Rampur-Nyalsu, and others. The signboards initially called for a ban on "non-Hindus," but the phrasing was later changed to "ban on outsiders" after intervention by police, according to villagers. Speaking to news agency PTI, Rudrapryag Deputy Superintendent of Police Prabodh Ghildiyal said that no one would be allowed to disrupt social harmony.

**"No Adverse Action If...": Chief Justice Asks Protesting Doctors To Return To Work**

**The deadline came this afternoon during the Supreme Court hearing into the rape and murder case of a postgraduate medical student that has shaken the country.**

**New Delhi:** Doctors protesting over the Kolkata rape and murder case must return to work by 5 pm tomorrow. Else, they might face adverse action, the Supreme Court said today. The deadline came this afternoon during the hearing into the rape and murder case of a postgraduate medical student that has shaken the country. A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud noted West Bengal government, in its affidavit, has indicated that funds have been sanctioned for carrying out safety measures of doctors, which shall be monitored by the District Collectors. "In order to create sense of confidence we state that in the event that doctors come to work by 5 PM tomorrow, no adverse actions shall be taken. If there is continuous abstention from work despite the facilities given, there will be likelihood of action in future," said the CJ. "We want to ensure that doctors resume work. They are in a system to render service. We will provide facilities but they have to reciprocate. If doctors do not resume work, then we cannot stop the government from taking disciplinary action," he added.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for West Bengal, ensured that doctors who resume duty will not face action. The Chief Justice noted Bengal government's submission that mass abstention of resident doctors at medical colleges in the state for 28 days had severely disrupted healthcare services. In its affidavit, the state health department said 23 people died due to doctors' strike.

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra submitted that senior doctors were on duty while the junior doctors were not and they were facing threats and bullying. The CJ said he's aware of the ground situation, but the doctors must now resume work. Junior doctors cannot say seniors are working, so they won't, he added.

## Centre Cautions Airlines Over Ticket Price Hike During Festive Season

**Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said that the Centre is also monitoring SpiceJet Airlines which is currently facing a host of issues including financial challenges and legal battles.**

**New Delhi:** As airline ticket prices often see a surge in price hikes during the festive season, the Centre has stepped in saying it is "keeping an eye" on the situation. Addressing the situation, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu stated, "We are keeping an eye on the ticket prices of all airlines. All airlines have been told earlier that passengers should not face any inconvenience. Everyone wants to go home during the festive season, so the ticket prices should not be increased too much." The holiday season often sees a surge in demand, pushing ticket prices up significantly.

Mr Naidu addressed this challenge, adding, "The ministry is already keeping an eye on the ticket rates being charged by airlines on all routes of the country where more people travel during the festive season. We will not

force any airline company to keep the same ticket price."

The rise in fares comes at a time when the aviation sector is already facing turbulence, with the crisis at SpiceJet



Airlines being a notable example. The budget carrier -- which is grappling with multiple woes, including financial challenges, legal battles and grounding of aircraft -- is looking to raise money that will help it meet various

obligations. Mr Naidu confirmed that the government is monitoring the situation closely. "The ministry is keeping an eye on SpiceJet Airlines," he said. Mr Naidu's comments were made during the India Regional Air Mobility Conference, where he outlined the government's plans for the future of Indian aviation.

With over 1,200 new aircraft already ordered by domestic carriers, the goal is to transform India into a global aviation hub. "By 2035, India will be the largest aviation market in the world. We plan to build 350-400 new airports in the next 10-20 years to support this growth," Mr Naidu said. We are investing heavily in infrastructure. The foundation is being laid today for the aviation market of tomorrow," he added.

## J&K Polls 2024: Er Rashid's Party A 'Proxy' To BJP, Alleges PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti

**New Delhi:** Jammu and Kashmir Vidhan Sabha Chunav: PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti has accused Engineer Rashid's party, the Awami Itihad Party (AIP), of being a new proxy for the central government. Mufti questioned how, despite being in jail, Rashid's party is able to contest elections across multiple areas and where their funding is coming from. Addressing the media in Anantnag, Mufti claimed, "Yesterday, our candidate was attacked with sticks by AIP workers at Balpora, Shopian. He is now fighting for his life in SMHS Hospital in Srinagar with fractured ribs." Mufti further added, "It took Mufti sahib 50

years to build this party, and we still don't have the resources to contest from everywhere. Yet, a person who is in jail contests parliamentary elections.

It's good for democracy, but who is behind his party? Who helps them secure support everywhere, and where do their funds come from? How do they have the audacity to carry out such attacks? Mufti questioned the central government's involvement, stating, "If the government wants to make Er Rashid's party a proxy after the failure of previous parties, and if they are fully supporting him with money and other resources, then they

should tell other parties not to contest the elections. What kind of hooliganism is this?" She also expressed outrage that, despite the attack on her candidate, no action has been taken so far.

"A murderous attack was carried out, and yet, there has been no response," she remarked. Mehbooba Mufti warned the people of Kashmir to avoid falling into the trap of proxy parties. "There are powerful forces behind them trying to divide the vote of Kashmir, with the PDP as their main target. The PDP is the only party that stands for the Kashmiri people and fights for the injustices of 2019.

## "Lower Your Pitch": Chief Justice Rebukes Lawyer, He Apologises

**Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said he had videos and photographs to show that the lawyer was throwing stones at a protest**

**New Delhi:** Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud today asked a lawyer to lower his voice and asked if he was addressing the judges or the gallery outside the court. The three-judge bench, also comprising Justice Manoj Misra and Justice JB Pardiwala, was hearing the Kolkata doctor's rape and murder case that has shaken the nation. During the arguments, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said he had videos and photographs to

show that the lawyer was throwing stones at a protest over the August 9 incident at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The lawyer is Advocate Kaustav Bagchi, also a BJP leader. He switched from the Congress to the BJP earlier this year.

Responding to Mr Sibal's throwing stones charge, the lawyer asked how a senior counsel can make such statements in court. The Chief Justice then said, "Are you trying to address the gallery outside the court? I have been noticing your demeanour for the last two hours." "Can you first lower your pitch? Listen to the Chief Justice, lower your pitch. You are addressing three judges in front of you, not the large audience who is watching these proceedings on the video

conferencing platform," the Chief Justice added. The lawyer then apologised to the



bench. Later, as more lawyers started mentioning a variety of issues, the Chief Justice remarked, "I am not used to this kind of advocacy where 7-8 people are arguing at the same time." The Supreme Court has asked the CBI to file

a fresh report in the case next Tuesday. The central agency today flagged the forensic report in the case and said "who collected the samples" has emerged as a relevant question. Solicitor General Mehta said the central agency had decided to send samples to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. We have forensic examination report and one thing is admitted that when the girl was found at 9:30 am, her jeans and undergarments were removed and lying nearby... semi-nude and injury marks also on body... they have taken samples. They have sent to CFSL in West Bengal. CBI has taken a decision to send the sample to AIIMS," he said.

Without explicitly mentioning the findings, the Solicitor General said, "Person enters, girl is nude and this is the result of FSL. Who took the sample is relevant."

## Screen suspects, trace contacts: Health ministry's mpox advisory to states

**New Delhi:** The Union government on Monday issued a fresh advisory to states and UTs on the issue of tracking and monitoring cases of mpox, which has been declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organisation (WHO). In its advisory, the Union Health Ministry noted that India has not seen any cases of mpox in the current outbreak. However, state governments have been advised to stay on alert and follow the ministry's various guidelines on surveillance strategies and setting up of isolation facilities to track and deal with suspect and confirmed cases of the disease.

The ministry noted that the national Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is actively monitoring to identify any mpox clusters in the country. Points of entry such as airports have intensified health screening of incoming travellers and the laboratory network under the Indian



Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been strengthened to test samples from suspect cases, the ministry said.

States should pay special attention to healthcare workers, especially those in skin and STD (sexually transmitted diseases) clinics, to know about common signs and symptoms of mpox and actions that need to be taken after diagnosis, the advisory stated. Screening and testing to be done of all the suspect cases in the community, from hospital-based surveillance to intervention sites identified by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). "While all states are requested to undertake appropriate activities to make communities aware about the disease, its mode of spread, need for timely reporting and preventive measures, it is crucial that any undue panic amongst the masses is prevented," the advisory read. In August, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced mpox (previously known as monkeypox) as a public health emergency of international concern. The decision was made because of the rising spread of mpox to several countries and the emergence of a new strain called clade 1b.



# Adult acne: Causes and Treatments



For most of us, acne woes begin during our teenage years and usually subside when we approach adulthood. During our teens, we experience a lot of hormonal changes and sometimes, these changes can cause acne.

**H**owever, many people suffer from acne even as adults and the reasons for this outbreak may not be the same as teenage acne. As an adult, dealing with acne can be very stressful, so understanding its causes and treating it appropriately, is important in order to get a clear complexion.

**Causes of Adult Acne:**

**Sebum:** Sebum is one of the main causes of adult acne. It is an oily substance that is produced by the sebaceous glands in the skin. This sebum clogs up pores and becomes inflamed as it attracts bacteria.

**Hormones:** Hormonal changes affect the sebum level which causes acne. That's the reason why women face breakouts during their menstruation cycle and menopause.

**Cosmetics:** Cosmetics can also cause adult acne. If you are already prone to acne, it is best to avoid cosmetics, which further aggravate it.

**Stress:** Studies suggests that the stress hormone affects the sebum production in the skin, which causes adult acne.

**Hereditary:** If you notice that there are several members of your family who suffer from adult acne, there a good chance that the problem is hereditary.

**Adopt a skincare routine:** Since the major cause of acne is the sebum production in the skin, one should take skincare very seriously. Wash your face with a face wash, specially created for oily skin. Also, try and splash your face with water, several times a day.

**Oil-free cosmetics:** If you have acne, you must invest in cosmetics that are non-acnegenic (won't cause acne) and non-comedogenic (won't clog pores). Since oil is the main reason for breakouts, always buy oil-free products.

**Anti-acne creams:** Anti acne creams can be used for immediate results as they get rid of the acne causing bacteria.

**Home remedies:** There are a number of home remedies, which treat acne and these involves herbal ingredients like turmeric, neem leaves, milk et al. For more on acne home remedies, read - Skin Care: Home Remedies for Acne

**High-tech treatments:** Many dermatologists offer various high-tech treatments, such as laser treatments, which promise to treat acne as well as acne marks. These treatments are usually effective but they are can burn a hole in your pocket.



## Quick tips to prep up for the evening



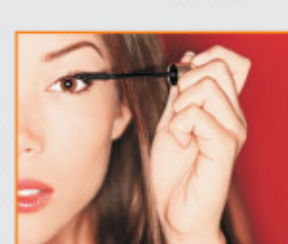
To make sure that your skin compliments the outfit you will wear today, here's an easy skin care routine.

**Head in for a cleanup**  
A face cleanup will de-clog your pores. Light products can work wonders for your skin. Opt for a light massage to only rejuvenate your skin.

**Choose light makeup**  
The trick to look your best on this day is to ensure that you apply less makeup. Opt for a natural look to sport—a nude lip gloss and eye shadow.

**Yoghurt to your rescue**

Mix some curd with lemon and apply it to your face. Keep it for 20 minutes and wash it off with cold water. Yoghurt will remove the tan and lemon will lighten your skin. Further the cold water will aid in tightening your pores.



**Get ample rest**

Though we would suggest you to start dressing up a bit early to avoid last minute confusion, make sure that you get ample rest before you begin with the celebrations. This will ensure that you do not feel lethargic but look your best.

## Tips to beautify nails

Keep your nails healthy by focussing on cleanliness. Try olive oil, milk cream and acetone-free nail polish removers for clean and healthy nails.

excess oil with cotton wool.  
- After washing hands, apply a hand cream to prevent them from drying up. Dry nails have more chances of breaking.  
- To further avoid dryness, use nail polish removers that are acetone-free.  
- Gently massage your nails after applying milk cream.  
- Use the finishing side of a nail buffer to help in blood circulation in the nail bed



*Skincare generally involves making an effort to get one's skin to look healthy and beautiful and then trying to maintain that healthy skin.*

Even though we try hard to achieve soft and smooth skin we neglect several factors in our daily lives that end up damaging our skin. Here are a few things that we need to avoid if we want beautiful skin.

**Sleeping with make up on**  
This is not a myth, sleeping without washing off your make up will damage your skin. Make up clogs pores and prevents the sebum glands from breathing. This causes pimples and acne. Sleeping with make up also leaves smudges on your pillow that will lead to accumulation of bacteria on it. When you sleep on that pillow again, it will lead to bacterial infection on your skin.

**Excess coffee intake**  
Coffee can give you an energy boost, but it can cause your skin to age faster and wrinkle. Having two cups of

## 6 things that damage your

# Skin



coffee in a day is fine but when you increase your intake, you accelerate the ageing process.

**Chlorine**

Swimming may be an ideal fitness exercise but it is not good for your skin. Chlorine is a cleaning ingredient and can dry your skin by robbing it of its moisture. Chlorine tends to stay on your skin even after a shower. So remember to use a good body wash and loofah to scrub the chlorine away.

**Too much Spa time**

Frequent spa treatments can make the skin sag as its elasticity and collagen is weakened. If you love a good sauna every other day, you should reconsider your choices.

**Popping pimples**

You may be tempted to break a pimple and get rid of it but this will only damage your skin. When you break a pimple it pushes the bacteria and dirt deep into the pores of your skin which could leave a mark. What's worse is that, this could also cause an outbreak of pimples. So remember not to pick on your pimples and use home remedies instead.

**Mobile phones**

We all spend long hours on our mobile phones without knowing that this could be a cause for acne. If you notice that you have more breakouts on that side of your face, it is probably due to excessive use of your mobile phone. This happens because bacteria builds up on the mobile screen and causes pimples when we place the mobile across our face. To avoid this, make sure you clean your mobile phone often or use a hands free device.

## Markets decline in early trade on weak global peers, foreign fund outflows

**NEW DELHI.** Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Monday in tandem with a weak trend in global markets and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 281.74 points to 80,902.19. The NSE Nifty declined 81.45 points to 24,770.70. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, NTPC, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors were the biggest laggards.

Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower. The US markets ended significantly lower on Friday. "The stock markets have taken a sharp bearish turn, with sentiment shifting from optimism about cooling US inflation to concerns over a potential US economic slowdown. Friday's weaker-than-expected jobs data has reignited fears of a recession, further compounded by soft manufacturing updates," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 620.95 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. "Two factors are likely to weigh on markets: one, the outcome of the US presidential elections and two, the Fed decision on rate cut," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.24 per cent to USD 71.94 a barrel. The BSE benchmark had tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 81,183.93 on Friday. The NSE Nifty dropped 292.95 points or 1.17 per cent to 24,852.15.

## Gala Precision Engineering makes solid market debut. Hold or sell

**New Delhi** Gala Precision Engineering Limited (GPEL) made a remarkable debut on the stock exchanges today.

The share price opened at Rs 721.10 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), marking a 36.31% rise from the issue price of Rs 529. On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the shares opened at Rs 750, reflecting a 41.78% gain.

Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, commented on the debut, saying, "Gala Precision Engineering Limited (GPEL) made a strong debut on the stock market, listing at Rs 750 per share, a significant 41% premium over its issue price of Rs 529." "This positive performance reflects the company's robust fundamentals and the strong investor interest evident in the IPO's oversubscription of 201.41 times," she added.

She added that investors who participated in the IPO "are likely sitting on a healthy profit, but it's important to maintain a cautious approach and continue monitoring the company's performance and market conditions." "Despite the promising listing, factors such as industry trends, competition, and global economic conditions may still influence the long-term trajectory. For those considering holding it, you may keep a stoploss at Rs 675," she advised.

The IPO subscription period, which ran from September 2 to September 4, saw robust participation, with the retail portion subscribed 91.95 times and overall demand significantly exceeding supply.

The funds raised will be used for expanding production facilities, purchasing new equipment, and repaying debt.

## New AMCs see big potential in Indian market, set ambitious targets

**NEW DELHI.** Buoyed by ever-increasing participation from retail investors, new asset management companies (AMCs) have set ambitious targets for themselves.

They believe that as India's economy and corporate earnings grow, more and more people will start investing in mutual funds.

"India's population is 140 crore and of that 130 crore has an Aadhaar card and 75 crore has a PAN (permanent account number) card. At present, there must be around 60 crore people whose PAN is linked to Aadhaar - people who are eligible for the KYC (know your customer) process to open their account in the MF industry.

At present, however, the MF industry has only 4.80 crore PAN. We are not even 10% of what we can be," said Mayukh Dutta, Chief Business Officer at ITI Mutual Fund. Dutta highlighted the country's strong fundamentals and the immense potential for growth in the domestic equity markets. ITI Mutual Fund, which started in 2019, has set an ambitious target to reach R1 lakh crore AUM in the next five years. The company's asset under management (AUM) increased nearly 2.4 times to R8,791 crore in July 2024 from R3,698 crore in March 2023. Some of its funds such as ITI ELSS Tax Saver Fund, ITI Multi Cap Fund and ITI Small Cap Fund have given a return of 51-64% in the past one year.

"India's economic growth trajectory offers a unique opportunity for mutual funds. With the country's anticipated growth rate surpassing many global economies, ITI AMC is poised to experience significant expansion. We aim to capitalise on this favourable environment. We are aiming to reach an AUM of R1 lakh crore within the next five years," said Dutta. In the last 10 years, the Indian mutual fund industry's net AUM has grown by more than 6 times to about R65 lakh crore. In May 2014, the industry's AUM stood at R10 lakh crore. The industry is hopeful that it will hit the R100 lakh crore mark in less than 2 years.

This phenomenal growth has been amply supported by retail investors who have been pouring money via systematic investment plans (SIP). The monthly SIP contributions reached an all-time high, crossing the R23,000 crore mark in July 2024. The number of SIP accounts in the industry stood at 9.34 crore. Expecting India's growth story to continue, a good number of legacy names as well as new-age companies have joined the bandwagon. New names such as Zerodha, Helios, White Oak and Bajaj Finserv AMC are becoming quite popular among investors. Bajaj Finserv Asset Management, a 100% subsidiary of NBFC major Bajaj Finserv, said that in the long run, they want to be among the top 10 AMCs in India.

# The meeting also approved a revenue budget of Rs 589.53 crore and a capital budget of Rs 70.18 crore.

**The meeting also approved a revenue budget of Rs 589.53 crore and a capital budget of Rs 70.18 crore.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), known by the brand Milma, has posted a turnover of Rs 4,346.67 crore during the financial year 2023-24, marking an increase of 5.52% compared to last year. In 2022-23, the turnover of Milma was Rs 4,119.25 crore. The figures were presented at its 51st annual General Body meeting held at the Milma Dairy at Kalpetta, Wayanad, on Saturday.

The meeting also approved a revenue



budget of Rs 589.53 crore and a capital budget of Rs 70.18 crore. Besides, as Onam gift to farmers, Milma announced a cattle feed subsidy of Rs 100 per bag for 50 days. Milma chairman K S Mani, who

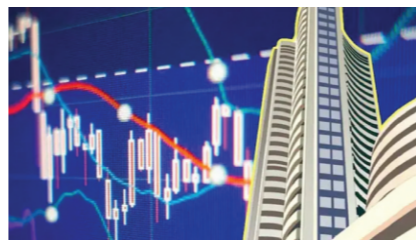
presided over the meeting, said Milma has been implementing a slew of projects focussing on increasing milk production and ensuring the well-being of dairy farmers. "Milma and its regional unions

have adopted various measures to keep cattle feed costs at affordable levels for farmers. Apart from giving additional price for milk, steps have been taken to offer attractive incentives to farmers to help them," he said. The meeting, which passed 10 resolutions, called for a round-the-year cattle feed subsidy for farmers. The other resolutions passed by the meeting included providing cost-effective medical aid, insurance cover for dairy farmers and cattle, interest-free loans for buying cattle, conducting a comprehensive survey of cattle and milk production figures of the state, fair value for the land of dairy cooperative societies and creating a certain percentage of fund for dairy farmers from the revenue of private players, who make profit in the state after obtaining milk from other states at a lower price. Expressing solidarity with the people devastated by the recent landslide in Wayanad, the attendees of the annual meeting decided to contribute their sitting fee to the Dairy Cooperative Society of Chooralmala.

## Sensex, Nifty open lower as weak US jobs data reignites recession fears

**New Delhi** Benchmark stock market indices opened Monday's session on a weak footing, weighed down by concerns over a potential recession in the US following weaker-than-expected jobs data.

At 9:19 am, the S&P BSE Sensex had dropped 181.90 points to 81,002, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped by 49.55 points to 24,802.60. Most broader market indices also began the day in the red, with a slight uptick in volatility, reflecting the cautious sentiment among Dalal Street investors. Among the top gainers were life insurance stocks like HDFC Life and SBI Life, alongside FMCG giants HUL and Britannia. On the downside, major laggards included ONGC, Hindalco,



Tata Steel, Adani Ports, and Coal India.

"The market is likely to experience increased volatility in the coming days, as the CBOE VIX has surged by 12% to 23.50," noted Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

"Two key factors are influencing this: the outcome of the US presidential

elections and the Fed's decision on a rate cut. A Trump victory could heighten fears of trade wars, while uncertainty looms over whether the Fed will opt for a 25bp or 50bp rate cut in September," he added.

"A 25bp cut might fall short in addressing the economic slowdown, while a 50bp cut could further stoke recession concerns. Investors should monitor these developments, but current market weakness could provide an opportunity to accumulate high-quality large-cap stocks, particularly in defensive sectors like pharmaceuticals," Vijayakumar noted. Another significant event that could steer market sentiment is the outcome of the 54th GST Council meeting, set to take place today.

## London's pod taxis make their way into Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex

**Fare rates for the pod taxi service were determined through surveys of auto and bus users in the area**

**Mumbai** Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) is set to introduce London-style pod taxis, offering a futuristic solution to the city's traffic congestion. Sai Green Mobility, in partnership with Ultra PRT the developers behind the pod taxi system at Heathrow Airport in London will roll out a network of compact, driverless taxis. The project will feature 21 automated vehicles operating along a 3.9-kilometre route, connecting the Bandra and Kurla railway stations to BKC's car parks.

Sanctioned in March, the project follows a comprehensive techno-economic feasibility study conducted by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to assess the area's topography and the potential impact of the system on reducing traffic in BKC.

Fare rates for the pod taxi service were determined through surveys of auto and bus users in the area. Currently, commuters pay an average of ₹15.33 per kilometre for metered auto rides, while shared auto fares range from ₹30 to ₹40 per passenger for trips between



BKC and the Bandra or Kurla stations. Taxi fares are about ₹18.67 per kilometre, but app-based services like Ola and Uber often charge between ₹80 to ₹100 for short trips of 2-3 kilometres due to dynamic pricing. The pod taxis are expected to offer a competitive and efficient alternative.

Maharashtra Chief Minister and MMRDA Chairman Eknath Shinde has

expressed confidence in the project, stating that the pod taxi system will serve as a model for future urban transport initiatives across India, promoting sustainable and efficient mobility solutions. Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner, highlighted the project's significance: "The Pod Taxi project in BKC marks a significant step towards enhancing urban mobility in one of Mumbai's busiest business districts. This system will not only improve last-mile connectivity but also reduce congestion, providing a modern, efficient mode of transportation for daily commuters."

While BKC is traditionally known as a corporate hub, it has increasingly become a hotspot for leisure and entertainment, thanks to attractions like the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) and Jio World Drive. The introduction of pod taxis could further elevate the visitor experience by offering a unique and convenient way to navigate the area.

## 'Unsustainable': Adani Group warns Bangladesh over \$500 million in unpaid power dues

**Despite recent growth, Bangladesh continues to face chronic energy shortages, worsened by dwindling domestic gas reserves.**

**New Delhi** The Adani Group, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, has issued a serious warning to Bangladesh's interim government about a significant backlog of unpaid dues related to a major power project. The Financial Times reports that Bangladesh currently owes \$500 million to Adani, a situation the company deems "unsustainable." The situation presents itself as a big challenge for Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus's new administration, which took power last month after the removal of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. It may be noted that Yunus's government has been vocal about the costly infrastructure



agreements made under Hasina's leadership, particularly the deal with Adani for coal power from the 1,600-megawatt Godda plant in India. In a statement to the Financial Times, Adani Power reaffirmed its commitment to supplying reliable power to Bangladesh despite the financial strain.

"We are in constant dialogue with the Bangladesh government and have apprised them of this unsustainable situation where we are meeting not just our supply commitment but also commitments to our lenders and suppliers in spite of rising receivables," the company said.

Energy crisis in Bangladesh

The \$500 million debt forms part of a broader \$3.7 billion energy crisis in Bangladesh. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, Yunus's chief energy adviser, revealed that Bangladesh is overdue on

\$492 million of its \$800 million debt to Adani. In response, the interim government is pursuing financial aid from international institutions like the World Bank to stabilize its economy.

Despite recent growth, Bangladesh continues to face chronic energy shortages, worsened by dwindling domestic gas reserves. Critics have blamed the previous administration for corruption and inefficiency due to practices such as bypassing open tendering processes.

Adani Group, known for its diverse investments—including a recently announced \$10 billion semiconductor plant—remains committed to its energy deal with Bangladesh. Adani Power said its Godda plant is not yet connected to the Indian grid, thus ruling out any plans to seek alternative markets for its power.

The Yunus administration is contemplating a re-evaluation of previous energy deals, aiming to introduce competitive bidding and improve regulatory oversight.

Despite the financial difficulties, the interim government has expressed a desire to maintain good relations with both India and China, ensuring that future infrastructure agreements are both cost-effective and transparent.

NEWS BOX

**Babar Azam greeted with loud cheers from fans before Champions Cup in Pakistan**

New Delhi. Babar Azam was greeted with loud cheers from fans as the Pakistan limited-overs captain gets set to take part in the upcoming Champions Cup to be held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad. A video went viral where fans erupted in joy after getting a glimpse of Babar, who would play for the Stallions. Once Babar waved at them, fans started chanting 'Babar Babar', showing their admiration for the right-handed batter. Babar is a part of the team, which will be captained by Mohammad Haris, who is also the captain of the Pakistan Shaheens. Babar and the Stallions are set to begin their campaign on Friday, September 13 against the Lions, who have Shaheen Shah Afridi as their skipper. Given the cheers for Babar, fans in Pakistan are eagerly waiting for him to take the field in the Champions Cup.

**Babar Azam going through a rough patch**  
Babar Azam has had his troubles over the



last one and half years. He was heavily criticised after Pakistan failed to make their way through to the second round of the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States.

His batting, especially in the powerplay, also came under scrutiny. Babar did not have a great time in the Test series against Pakistan. In two matches, he scored only 64 runs at an average of 16 and a strike-rate of 43.53 with a top score of 31 to show for his efforts. In fact, Babar has not scored a single half-century in Test cricket since January 2023. Babar stepped down as Pakistan's skipper after the ODI World Cup 2023 where the Men in Green failed to advance to the series. He was re-appointed as the captain for the T20 World Cup after Shaheen Shah Afridi faltered on the tour of New Zealand. But the move to bring Babar back hasn't worked out in Pakistan's favour.

**Bangladesh aim to use confidence of Pakistan win in India Tests: Shoriful Islam**

New Delhi. Fast bowler Shoriful Islam said that Bangladesh will try and build on the confidence of their famous series win against Pakistan in the upcoming two-match Test series against India. Earlier, the Tigers beat Shan Masood's Pakistan 2-0 and became the second team to cleansweep Pakistan in a Test series in the latter's backyard. Shoriful also said that success against India would help Bangladesh gain more popularity in the world. The speedster, however, admitted that the series is going to be challenging as Indian cricketers have more experience compared to Pakistan's cricketers in the red-ball format. "Compared to Pakistan, India are more experienced in Test cricket. India are a big team and I feel that if we do well against them, we will be followed worldwide and everyone will look at us. If we can do well in



India, it will make us happy. We are working hard, and we hope for the results to go our way," Shoriful told Bangladesh Cricket.

Shoriful also said that the Tigers will try and carry on from where they left off in Rawalpindi where they won by six wickets to claim the series. "We try and start with a win because we had a decent series against Pakistan. Everyone is confident, and we will try our best and make use of the confidence," Shoriful added. Shoriful played the opening Test and picked up three wickets, one of which was of Babar Azam. However, he ended up missing the second Test due to a groin injury. Along with Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful will be a part of the Tigers' pace attack on Indian soil.

Bangladesh's tour of India starts on Thursday, September 19 with the opening Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Green Park in Kanpur will host the second Test followed by the three T20Is on October 6, 9 and 12.

**ENG vs SL: Josh Hull's 'slingy' action reminds Stuart Broad of Mitchell Johnson**

**Former England fast bowler Stuart Broad has said that Josh Hull's action reminds him of Mitchell Johnson. Hull made his debut in the ongoing third Test against Sri Lanka at the Oval.**

New Delhi. Former England fast bowler Stuart Broad has said that Josh Hull's action reminds him of former Australia speedster Mitchell Johnson. Notably, Hull made his debut in the ongoing third Test against Sri Lanka being played at the Kennington Oval in London replacing Matthew Potts. Standing at 6ft 7 inches, Hull is the tallest England fast bowler ever. He registered impressive figures of 3/53 in his maiden outing in England jersey helping his team bundle out Sri Lanka for 263. Commenting on the pacer's first impression at the international level, Broad said that his slingy action reminds him of Mitchell Johnson and mentioned how a change in bowling action could help him extract more bounce. "He reminds me slightly of Mitchell Johnson with that slingy action so he could get that



bowling arm closer to the ear and deliver from higher. But you have to be able to do that and not lose the swing as that is a great threat of his. The slingy action might not be a negative. It might not allow you to get the bounce you would like but you can get the ball to skid on," the 38-year-old said, as per quoted by Sky Sports. Further speaking,

Broad praised the young seamer's technique and said that he will improve on his speed as well with time. "I have been really impressed. He has been picked on attributes. His height, his bounce, getting the ball to swing back into the right-handed batter. An average of 83mph is fine in Test match cricket but he will get quicker the older he

gets. I think his run-up will evolve over time. I don't think it will stay as long as it is at the moment. The big thing for me is that his feet and hips are facing the target - he is aligned really nicely to make the batters play," Broad added.

**Josh Hull's career so far**

He played a crucial role in Leicestershire's triumph in the 2023 One-Day Cup picking 17 wickets from nine matches at an average of 24.23. Earlier this month, he also made an impressive debut for the England Lions against the touring Sri Lankans, picking five wickets for 74 runs in a seven-wicket victory. In his brief first-class career, Hull has featured in 10 matches, taking 16 wickets with best figures of 5/74.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan bowlers brought the third Test match alive on Day 3 with their phenomenal performance by bowling out England for 156. Lahiru Kumara starred with the ball, registering figures of 4/21 in seven overs. Chasing a target of 219 in the fourth innings, Sri Lanka are comfortably placed at 94/1 in 15 overs with Pathum Nissanka (53\* off 44) and Kusal Mendis (30\* off 25) at the crease. The visitors will be eyeing their first win in Sri Lanka since 2014 on Day 4.

**'Khaa Maa Kasam': Rishabh Pant's hilarious banter with Kuldeep in Duleep Trophy**

**India wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant was involved in a hilarious banter with Kuldeep Yadav on Day 4 of the Duleep Trophy clash between India A and India B.**

New Delhi. India wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant was seen being involved in a hilarious banter with Kuldeep Yadav during the Duleep Trophy match between India B and India A at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. On Day 4 of the Match, India A were chasing a target of 375 runs but were left reeling at 99/6 when Kuldeep Yadav joined a well-set KL Rahul at the crease.

With his team in desperate need of runs, the southpaw played some shots to get closer to the target. However, Kuldeep had his India



teammate Rishabh Pant behind the stumps, who tried his best to make life difficult for him at the crease by getting him involved in hilarious banter. On the last of the 41st over of India A's innings bowled by Sai Kishore, Pant asked the fielders to come up and stop Kuldeep from running a single on the last ball to farm the strike. However, the tailender instantly denied that he won't take a single. Unsure of Kuldeep's integrity, Pant hilariously asked him to swear it on his mother's name saying, 'Khaa Maa Kasam!'. The comment even drew a smile from

Kuldeep as he took his guard to face the next ball.

**India B won by 76 runs**

Kuldeep was eventually dismissed for 14 by Washington Sundar as India A were eventually bundled out for 198. KL Rahul was the top scorer for his team with his knock of 57 (121) but it didn't prove to be enough to take his team over the line. Apart from him, Akash Deep also played a valiant knock down the order scoring 43 (42) before he was unfortunately run out by Musheer Khan. Yash Dayal was the pick of the bowlers for India B with figures of 3/50 in 12 overs. Apart from his batting heroics, Akash Deep was phenomenal with the ball as well scalping nine wickets across two innings. Meanwhile, Musheer Khan was adjudged Player of the Match for his scintillating innings of 181 in the first innings as he helped rescue India B from 94/7 to propel their score to 321.

**Inspired by Sheetal Devi, 13-year-old fan begins training in her village**

**A viral video shows a 13-year-old girl from Sheetal Devi's village training in archery under the same coach, despite having no legs and arms. Her determination reflects the inspiring journey of India's Paralympic bronze medalist.**

New Delhi. A heartwarming video has gone viral on social media, capturing the inspiring journey of a 13-year-old girl from Loidhar village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar region. The young girl, who hails from the same village as India's Paralympics 2024 star archer Sheetal Devi, is seen training in archery under the guidance of coach Kuldeep Vedwan. What



makes this story remarkable is that, like Sheetal, the girl has no legs and arms. The video showcases coach Vedwan helping the determined teenager put on a specially designed prosthetic bow, specifically crafted for para-archery. This unique bow is similar to the one Sheetal Devi has used in her competitive games, most recently at the Paris Paralympics. The girl's dedication and determination to pursue archery, despite her

physical challenges, has touched the hearts of many, drawing comparisons to her idol, Sheetal Devi.

**Watch the video here:**

Sheetal's Paralympics campaign began on a high note with a strong performance in the women's compound event, where she finished second in the qualification round with a score of 703, breaking the world record. Although she narrowly missed out on gold, losing by just one point to Chile's Mariana Zuniga, she demonstrated incredible resilience.

Sheetal then went on to win a bronze medal in the mixed team compound event alongside her partner, Rakesh Kumar. The duo triumphed over Italy's Matteo Bonacina and Eleonora, securing a 156-155 victory at the historic Invalides venue, further solidifying Sheetal's legacy in para-archery.

realize off court there is a life.. I would like to dedicate this title to my aunt. She is really not feeling well health wise. I don't know how much longer I'll have her in my life. It's so nice that I can share positive moments with her still. She is a very important person for my life. If that would be my one biggest wish, I wish the best health for everyone. Unfortunately it's not possible." During the post-match ceremony, Sinner, visibly emotional, opened up about his aunt's health struggles. He shared how much this victory meant to him personally, as he plans to bring joy to his aunt in what may be her final moments. Sinner's heartfelt dedication touched many, adding a poignant layer to his historic win. Sinner's journey to the title was marked by resilience and determination, qualities that have defined his rise in the tennis world. By winning the US Open, Sinner not only cemented his place among the sport's elite but also brought a personal and emotional victory home to his family in Italy.



**US Open 2024: American dream crashes after Taylor Fritz, Jessica Pegula lose**

**US Open 2024: Taylor Fritz and Jessica Pegula could not survive the heat in the final after losing to Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.**

New Delhi. Back in 2002, New York had loads to cheer for. They had a double delight confirmed even before the finals began at Flushing Meadows. Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Serena Williams and Venus Williams made it through to the top four at the US Open back then. Sampras won the title after taking down Agassi, while Serena won the battle of the Williams' sisters. Serena went on to claim the singles title six times in her illustrious career. In fact, it was at the US Open in



2022 where she made her last appearance in a major. In 2003, Andy Roddick triumphed over Juan Carlos Ferrero in a one-sided final. But since then, barring Serena, none of the Americans could show

enough consistency in Grand Slams, although many promised.

Back in 2017, Sloane Stephens won the women's singles crown, but went down the pecking order from there on. Coco Gauff

bagged the title last year as a teenager after taking down Aryna Sabalenka, who had taken the No.1 crown from Iga Swiatek. This time around, she could not progress beyond the pre-quarters after losing to Emma Navarro. 2024, however, brought back memories of 2002. Four of the eight semi-finalists were Americans. Expectations were high from Frances Tiafoe, who had beaten Rafael Nadal here in 2022. Jessica Pegula had stunned World No.1 Swiatek and scripted a come-from-behind win over Karolina Muchova in the semis.

Taylor Fritz was brimming with confidence after beating Casper Ruud and Alexander Zverev. So did Navarro, who had stunned Gauff. After 2002, the US Open witnessed the first instance when an American man and woman played in the final. In the finals, the onus was on Pegula and Fritz to replicate the scenes from 2002 when Sampras and Serena won.

# Tamannaah Bhatia

## Reveals Key Lessons From Her Two Major Heartbreaks: 'The Second Person Wasn't...'

Tamannaah Bhatia is not just an accomplished actor, but also someone who isn't afraid to wear her heart on her sleeve. Known for her candor and clarity about her personal experiences and relationships, she recently opened up on Raj Shamani's 'Finding Out' podcast, shedding light on everything from her career highs to her views on love, relationships, and personal growth. In the conversation, Tamannaah dove deep into some of the biggest red flags she has encountered in relationships. "One shouldn't try so hard to change your partner and turn them into what you think is their perfect version, which is actually what you want them to be. It's a form of control," she explained. "It's a red flag. Similarly, lying is a big red flag. I can't be with people who lie, especially the ones who lie for even the smallest of things. They are pathological liars, and it makes you always wonder if what they say is ever the truth."

Tamannaah's perspective on relationships extends beyond just spotting red flags, though. When asked about what men could do to foster a healthy relationship, her response was simple yet profound: "Listen. Just listen to your woman. Most of the time, they aren't talking to you in anticipation of a solution. In fact, it isn't even important to solve the problem. Just be there, and give empathy. Make sure she realises that you hear her issues, her aspirations, and she matters to you." The conversation took a deeper turn when she touched on personal evolution and how it impacts relationships. "A person can only understand as much as they've evolved. So, there is no point raising an issue or arguing it out," she said, highlighting the futility of certain arguments. Her insight into the importance of emotional maturity was as striking as her honesty. Tamannaah also reflected on the concept of love languages, revealing that for her, words of affirmation and spending quality time with a partner are key. Interestingly, she shared that in the past, she found excessive gift-giving uncomfortable. "Yes, all five are needed in some form or the other. Just that, some need one form more than the other. In fact, earlier, I used to get offended when gifted excessively, because it felt like they were trying to show that they can do something. It's like they were putting a price tag on the relationship," she admitted. Speaking candidly about her past heartbreaks, Tamannaah described how these experiences helped her grow. "Earlier, I was just a very giving partner without even considering if they were in a position to receive it. It was definitely toxic positivity. It is the give-and-take exchange that makes a relationship." Despite these experiences, she emphasized that she remains a giving partner, but now with a deeper understanding of balance. "I am honest and true in a relationship. I am very expressive and caring. I am very instinctive about my partner, and I am good at understanding what is not being said."



### Bobby Deol Gets Emotional About Wife Tania, Calls Her His 'Backbone'; Says He's The 'Youngest' She Cares For



Bobby Deol, known for his rugged on-screen persona, recently shared a glimpse of a much softer side during an intimate interview with 'Humans of Bombay'. While fans are used to seeing him portray strong, unshakeable characters, it turns out that in real life, Bobby has a deep vulnerability when it comes to matters of the heart. His recent revelations about his wife, Tania Ahuja, and their journey together have shown that even a tough guy can be completely and utterly in love. "She's the best thing that happened to me," Bobby revealed, clearly emotional, while reflecting on his relationship with Tania. He shared how challenging the journey through fame can be, admitting that, in his shoes, many might not have stood by him like she did. "I honestly feel what I have been through in my journey, if it'd be someone else they would have left me by now," he confessed, showing just how much he cherishes the bond they've built over the years.

But beyond the struggles of fame, Bobby painted a picture of an incredibly supportive and balanced relationship. "She always believed in me. She is just amazing. She takes care of (all three). I always tell her you have three boys and I behave like the youngest," he said, humorously referring to his two sons, Aryaman and Dharam, and cheekily adding himself to the list as "the youngest." His playful remark speaks volumes about the camaraderie and affection that fills their household. Married in 1996, Bobby and Tania have kept their family life fairly private, choosing to live away from the limelight despite Bobby's public persona. Yet, behind closed doors, their relationship continues to flourish. From the moment Bobby first spotted Tania at a café, he knew she was the one, and as he shared, "Things could have gone wrong and no relationship is perfect. Every relationship believes in love and trust." Their bond is built on friendship and companionship, something that Bobby believes is at the core of any lasting relationship.

### When Rajesh Khanna Asked Moushumi Chatterjee If She's Pregnant With Vinod Mehra's Child | What She Replied



Veteran actress Moushumi Chatterjee, known for her roles in Roti Kapda Aur Makaan and Anuraag, once spoke about a jaw-dropping comment from the late Rajesh Khanna. According to her, Rajesh Khanna once brazenly asked her if the father of her child was her husband Jayanta Mukherjee or the dashing Vinod Mehra. Moushumi revealed that she didn't let this slide and hit back with a remark that left Rajesh Khanna utterly stunned. In a candid interview with Lehren Retro, Moushumi recalled how Rajesh had audaciously asked her whether she was expecting Vinod Mehra's baby. It was when she was pregnant while shooting with Rajesh Khanna for a film. To this Moushumi said, "Yes, it was Rajesh Khanna. He played dirty many times. Today, he is no more. I had even gone to see him during his last stages and he was praising me. He told my daughter, 'Ma must be mad but we were all scared of her. She doesn't believe in any nonsense.'"

She went on to add how Vinod Mehra was actually the best man at her wedding with Jayant Mukherjee (Babu). "Babu ke saath woh padhte the St Xavier's mein. We lived in the same building. I was involved with everyone. I never lacked anything in my married life that I'd look out for something."

Talking about Rajesh Khanna's comment on her pregnancy, Moushumi said, "Yes, I gave him back. I asked him, 'Is it Rishi Kapoor's child or yours?'" Moushumi was referring to Rajesh and Dimple's children and mentioned that her comment left him utterly speechless. Rajesh Khanna was married to Dimple Kapadia, and they had two daughters, Twinkle and Rinke Khanna. Moushumi married Jayanta Mukherjee when she was 15, and they had two daughters, Megha and Payal. Sadly, Payal was diagnosed with diabetes at a young age and passed away in 2019 at 45.

# Deepika Padukone

## And Ranveer Singh Announce Arrival Of Their First Child: 'Welcome Baby Girl'



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have joyfully welcomed their first child, a baby girl. The thrilled couple took to social media to announce the happy news, sharing their immense gratitude and excitement for this new chapter in their lives. Deepika and Ranveer, who have openly expressed their eagerness for parenthood, are overjoyed with the arrival of their daughter.

Deepika Padukone's baby girl was born on Sunday morning. The proud parents took to social media with a heartwarming post that simply read, "Welcome baby girl." Below the message were the names of Deepika and Ranveer, signaling the arrival of their little bundle of joy. Celebs took to the comments section of the heartwarming post to send across their good wishes to the parents. Arjun Kapoor wrote, "Laxmi aayi hai!!!! The queen is here!!!!" Alia Bhatt dropped a bunch of teary eyed and red heart emojis. Shraddha Kapoor, Parineeti Chopra, Kriti Sanon and others, too, wished the new parents. Before the big moment, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh were seen arriving at a Mumbai hospital in their luxury car, with paparazzi quickly on their trail. Fans had been eagerly anticipating the announcement of their baby's arrival.

The couple has yet to choose a name for their baby girl. Last week, they also visited Shri Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai to seek blessings before the birth, preparing for this major life change. As news of their baby spreads, friends, family, and fans have been sending their heartfelt congratulations. The Bollywood power couple's excitement is evident, and their fans are thrilled for them as they embark on this new journey as parents. New mother Deepika Padukone will be taking a maternity break and will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's next, Singham Again.

