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

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Must make all efforts to change 'culture of adjournments' in courts: President Murmu

New Delhi, September 1: President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said that efforts need to be made to change the "culture of adjournments" in courts to ensure swift justice.



court cases is a big challenge for "all of us". "All possible efforts need to be made to change the culture of adjournments in courts," she said.

CJI DY Chandrachud bats for national-level judicial recruitment

New Delhi, September 1: As 28 per cent of the total sanctioned strength of 25,511 posts of judges in district courts remained vacant, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Sunday favoured a national-level recruitment process for streamlining the selection of judicial officers for all states and union territories.

Court and high courts are selected through the Collegium system created by the Supreme Court in 1993 and the Government's role is limited to checking the antecedents of those recommended for appointment as judges.



The letter has since been converted into a PIL which has remained pending before the top court. In November 2023, President Droupadi Murmu had proposed a "merit based, competitive and transparent" All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) to select "brilliant youngsters and nurture and promote their talents from lower levels to higher levels".

INLD declares 7 candidates for Haryana Assembly polls

Chandigarh, September 1: The Indian National Lok Dal on Sunday announced seven candidates for the upcoming Assembly election in the state on October 5.



INLD has also fielded slain party state chief Nafe Singh Rathi's wife Sheela Rathi from Bahadurgarh constituency. Nafe Rathi was shot dead in February, when he was returning from Aasodha village after attending a function.

Himanta counters Tejashwi on 'Chinese version' barb

New Delhi, Sep 1: A shortlist of the biggest headlines, recommended stories, and a special collection of news items you should check out. Criticised by opposition parties over the Assam assembly's move to discontinue two-hour Friday namaz break for its Muslim members, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday remarked that 'comments from people' will not make his government stop its work.

KC Tyagi resigns as Janata Dal (United) spokesperson

New Delhi, September 1: Janata Dal (United) spokesperson KC Tyagi, whose stand on different issues often highlighted his party's differences with ally BJP, has resigned, the regional party said on Sunday.

Rallies, demonstrations over medic's rape-murder in Kolkata

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Kolkata, September 1: Film director Aparna Sen and numerous other prominent personalities from the Bengali film industry on Sunday joined thousands of people in a massive rally demanding justice for a trainee doctor who was raped-murdered at RG Kar hospital here last month.



The investigating agency. The initial attempt by the hospital administration to dismiss the death as a suicide and the arrest of only one person have compelled the people of this state to come out of their homes. We have all come together to demand justice.

Counting date changed for poll-bound J&K, Mehbooba Mufti

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Srinagar, Sep 1: The ECI postponed voting in Haryana to October 5 from October 1. As a result, the counting for both Haryana and J&K, will be on October 8, instead of October 4.



she charged, according to PTI. Mufti, who leads the PDP, was addressing reporters at the party headquarters in Srinagar. She was the last chief minister

of J&K before the BJP government at the Centre, led by prime minister Narendra Modi, withdrew the region's special status in August 2019. The same year, it was bifurcated and converted from a state to a Union territory, which meant that instead of an elected chief minister, it would be helmed by a Centre-appointed lieutenant governor.

PM's apology on collapse of Shivaji statue smacked of arrogance: Uddhav Thackeray

Naresh Malhotra

Mumbai, September 1: NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday led a march of Maha Vikas Aghadi from the iconic Hutatma Chowk to Gateway of India in south Mumbai to protest the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district. They slammed the Union and state governments for the collapse, with Thackeray calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's apology as one "smacking of arrogance", while Pawar said the episode was an example of corruption.

of India," he said at the well-attended protest march. Asserting that people of Maharashtra will never forgive the insult to the legendary warrior king, Thackeray cited the statue collapse, leakages in the Ram Temple and the new Parliament complex to mock Modi's "guarantees".

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said, much before the PM, the opposition had sought



forgiveness from the emperor for allowing such a "Shiv drohi" (those betraying the principles of Chhatrapati Shivaji) government to come to power. "We have taken a pledge to never let it happen again," he said, adding the PM's apology was with an eye on the upcoming state polls.

(hitting with slippers), Thackeray joined Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress leaders to hit a poster of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar with footwear. Kolhapur Congress MP Shahu Chhatrapati, a descendant of the emperor, said the latter's dignity must be maintained at all cost.

The Kandahar Hijack slammed online for 'changing' terrorists' identity

New Delhi, September 1: Amid demands by a section of social media users for boycott of the series 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack' for allegedly hiding the real identities of the terrorists involved in the 1999 incident, casting director Mukesh Chhabra on Sunday claimed the perpetrators used nicknames for each other and proper research was done for the show.

## News box

## Two die, four injured in Thoothukudi cracker unit blast

**THOOTHUKUDI:** Two persons were killed and four others were injured following an explosion at a firecracker storage unit at Kurippankulam village near Srivaikuntam on Saturday. The victims, Muthu Kannan (21) of Arasakulam and Vijay (25) of Nazareth, were charred to death, while four others, Selvam (21) of Puliankulam, Prasad (20) of Chembur, C Chendurkani (45) and S Muthumari (41) of Chinnamathikoodal, sustained severe burns. Sources said the accident occurred reportedly due to a short circuit. Fire and rescue personnel from Srivaikuntam were pressed in to douse the blaze. Villagers said they heard a deafening noise after the blast. However, as the godown is situated in a remote place, the fire did not spread to any residential areas. Firecrackers worth lakhs of rupees were stored at the godown, sources said. Selvam and Prasad were admitted to the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, while Chendurkani and Muthumari were admitted to the Sathankulam government hospital.

Tiruchendur RDO Guruchandran visited the spot and held an inquiry. Meanwhile, Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed his condolences and announced a compensation of ₹3 lakh each for the two deceased and ₹1 lakh for each of the injured.

## Raj Bhavan march to divert attention from scams: Karnataka LoP Ashoka

**BENGALURU:** Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka slammed the Congress for taking out the 'Raj Bhavan Chalo', terming it an attempt to divert attention from all the scams. The BJP leader told the media that when the case is in court, the Congress leaders are protesting to put pressure on Raj Bhavan. He said that the BJP has made it clear that it will not destabilise the government, and yet the Congress leaders are repeatedly talking about it. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lost the trust of 136 Congress MLAs and that is the reason he is also talking about attempts to destabilise his government," the BJP leader said.

Ashoka said the governor gave permission to prosecute the CM in the MUDA case after consulting legal experts and verifying the facts, but the Congress leaders are talking as if such permission has been given for the first time in the state. "Permission was given to prosecute BS Yediyurappa too. Who was in power at the Centre at that time? Had the Congress made Raj Bhavan their party office at that time," he questioned. Ashoka said "if they call Raj Bhavan the BJP office, they will term Vidhana Soudha as the Congress office".

## Vijayawada artistic skater sets her sights on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

**VIJAYAWADA:** At just 14, artistic skater P Chaitra Deepika has big dreams. After winning three medals in Solo Dance, Free Skating and Quartet formats at the 2nd India Skate Games 2024, held at Pollachi in Tamil Nadu, Chaitra has set her sights on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. Born to PR Satish and P Lalitha Devi in Visakhapatnam, Chaitra has been residing in Vijayawada since 2018. A Class IX student of N St Mathew's Public School, she is among top 10 in her class. While her father works as a superintendent at RGUKT - Nuzvid, her mother is a homemaker. Reflecting on her achievements, her mother said, "We are immensely proud of Chaitra's dedication and hard work. Her passion for skating drives her to excellence. We will continue to support her every step of the way." Chaitra's skating journey began when she was just five years old. She draws inspiration from Panchada Satyanarayana, popularly known as Satyam, a coach for Team India in artistic skating. Under his guidance, Chaitra honed her skills at the Shivaji Park Skating Rink in Visakhapatnam, gradually solidifying her position in the national circuit at the age of 11.

Since 2018, Chaitra has bagged 37 medals across various tournaments and championships in India and China. One of her most notable achievements was securing a gold medal in pair skating at the 19th Asian Roller Skating Championship held in Beijing, China in 2023. Reflecting her determination to continue representing India on the global stage, Chaitra said, "My aim is to bag a medal at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics." Former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu, current Governor of Andhra Pradesh Syed Abdul Nazeer and former Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan congratulated Chaitra for her recent success. t

## Conductor stabbed to death in moving bus at Kochi's Kalamassery

**KOCHI:** A conductor was stabbed to death inside a moving private bus at HMT Junction, Kalamassery, on Saturday. Aneesh Peter, 34, the conductor of the bus 'Hidayath Asthra', which operates on the Kalamassery Medical College-Kakkanad route, and a resident of Rajakumari, Idukki, succumbed to injuries later.

The masked assailant fled the scene immediately after the attack. However, the accused, Minoop Biju, a resident of Kalamassery, was later taken into custody in connection with the murder. According to police sources, personal vengeance may have been the motive behind the murder, and a case has been registered under charges of murder in accordance with the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"The murder occurred around 12.30pm when the bus reached Kalamassery Junction. The suspect, who had parked his scooter nearby, waited for the bus, entered it, and carried out the stabbing as planned," said a police officer from the Kalamassery police station. The suspect fled the scene immediately after committing the crime, and the victim died on the way to the hospital, the officer added. Responding to the incident, the Thrikkakara assistant commissioner Baby PV said, "We have some leads on the accused and are close to making an arrest after verifying certain details. Our preliminary investigation suggests that the incident was the result of a personal dispute



between the murderer, his live-in girlfriend, and the bus conductor." The police are reviewing all available evidence, including CCTV footage, he said. He noted that the witnesses and public could not intervene or apprehend the suspect from the spot because they were too shocked by the incident.

**It took me a few moments to grasp what had happened, says the**

**sole witness**

**KOCHI:** The bus 'Hidayath Asthra' was nearing the end of its shuttle service from Kakkannad to Kalamassery. When it approached its final stop at HMT Junction, a man rushed into the bus through the backdoor, shouting, "I will show you." In a matter of seconds, he stabbed the conductor with a knife which he had kept in his hand, and fled the scene, disappearing into the crowd — Ashkar, the sole eyewitness, recalled the harrowing moment he had to go through. Even as he recounted the incident to TNIE, his voice trembled because of the shock of what he had witnessed — a cold-blooded murder. "I was on my way from Kakkannad to Kalamassery.

The bus was nearly empty as it approached its final stop, with only a few women passengers and myself on board. As we neared HMT Junction, the women prepared to disembark, while the conductor stood near the front door, chatting with the driver. When the bus finally halted at the destination and the women exited, a man suddenly rushed into the bus through the backdoor with a knife in hand, shouting, 'I will show you.' The conductor barely had time to turn around before the first stab struck his neck. The assailant pulled the knife back and stabbed him again. On the third attempt, the conductor tried to defend himself, but the blade found his shoulder this time. The entire attack lasted barely 25 seconds," recalled Ashkar.

## 144 leptospirosis cases in eight months in Krishnagiri

**KRISHNAGIRI:** A total of 144 leptospirosis cases have been reported from Krishnagiri district in the last eight months, which is the highest in the past nine years. Sources from the health department told TNIE, "144 leptospirosis cases have been reported from Krishnagiri this year starting from January. However, last year only 32 cases were reported and in 2021, 33 cases were reported. Out of the 144 cases, Shoolagiri recorded 22 cases, Veppanahalli-19, Krishnagiri-19, Hosur City Municipal Corporation-15, and Bargur recorded 15 cases." When TNIE contacted Krishnagiri District Health Officer G Ramesh Kumar, he said, "Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease caused by a bacteria called Leptospira, which spreads through the urine of infected animals. A person can get infected through contaminated water or soil in which animal urine is mixed. The symptoms seen in an affected person are high fever, headache, abdominal pain,



vomiting, etc." He added, "This sickness is mostly spread to humans from cattle farms and through rodent urine. Hence, people should not walk barefoot during monsoon, drink boiled water, and chlorinate their water tanks and cattle farms. If people are infected with fever, more than five tests are conducted. If people fail to take treatment for leptospirosis, it can lead to jaundice and that could affect the kidney and liver." Shoolagiri Block Medical Officer N M Vennila said, "A few villages

from Shoolagiri block that reported leptospirosis are Kottayur, Shoolagiri, Kamandoddi, and others. Sometimes people can get infected when their broken skin comes in contact with contaminated water. Also, if people find blood in their urine, they should immediately visit health care centres. A drug called doxycycline is also given to the infected people." Shoolagiri Block Development Officer (scheme) K Murugan told TNIE that they were unaware of the infection. However, the health department has conducted a training programme for the panchayat secretaries about the usage of chlorination in water tanks and the prevention of infection. S Elangovan, regional joint director of the Animal Husbandry department said that they have not received any information about infected cattle. However, if they find any cattle with symptoms, samples will be sent to a laboratory to diagnose it.

## Odisha a better place to invest in defence sector: IPICOL Executive Director

**BHUBANESWAR:** Executive director of IPICOL Kalyan Mohanty said Odisha is a better place to invest in defence and aerospace manufacturing sector with its existing defence establishments of national importance. In a panel discussion on three-day 'Resurgent Odisha-2024', organised by Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL) here on Saturday, Mohanty said the Odisha government is laying emphasis on defence and aerospace as these are key areas for the state's industrial growth. "The state's aerospace and defence manufacturing policy is one of the best in the country. Among several measures, it proposes to subsidise up to 50 pc of



the cost of land, building, plant and machinery to the special purpose vehicle for setting up the aerospace and defence park," he said.

The experts emphasised the importance of start-ups in the sector, understanding the quality required by the Department of Defence. They underscored the need to

take budding entrepreneurs on industry tours. Founder of Corrosion Protection Pvt Ltd Gyan Ranjan Mohanty highlighted the opportunities and challenges faced by the state in producing defence equipment. In the discussion on logistics and transportation infrastructure, MD of Hunch Mobility (Aviation) Amit Dutta stressed the importance of constructing small helipads to provide relief and medical supplies to hard to reach areas. Group advisor of Adani Ports and SEZ Subrat Tripathy spoke about the rapid evolution of transportation systems due to technological advancements.

## Kerala: Tusker Murivalan battles for life after fight with Chakkakomban

**KOCHI:** Murivalan, one of the two tuskers that have been raiding the villages of Anayirangal and Chinnakanal in Idukki district, is struggling to survive after a fight with Chakkakomban, the dominant male elephant of the area. Murivalan, which was brutally gored by Chakkakomban, sustained around 15 injuries on its body, with one being deep. On Friday, the elephant collapsed in the 60 Acre Shola forest area, following which forest officials brought a doctor who administered antibiotics. Minister A K Saseendran said three veterinarians -- Dr Arun Zachariah, Dr Sibi and Dr Anuraj -- have been deputed to provide medical aid to the elephant. But forest officials said the chances of the



elephant surviving are grim as the wounds have developed infection, with pus oozing out of the wounds. "The two tuskers engaged in a fight near Singukandam area on July 21. It was a fierce battle that lasted for four days. There were wounds all over

the body of Murivalan and he was bleeding profusely. The elephant was very weak and he trudged his way through Montfort School to Gundumala and finally reached 60 Acre area, where he collapsed. The animal is very weak and may not survive," said Sabu a resident of Chinnakanal. "The tusk of Chakkakomban has pierced deep and one of the injuries is very big. A rapid response team has been monitoring the elephant for the past one week and we brought a doctor on Friday after the elephant collapsed. The left hind leg of the elephant has paralysed and we suspect nerve injury or fracture. The animal is unable to take food and we have been giving water and glucose. We have

started antibiotics, but the condition of the elephant is serious and it is not able to consume food," said Devikulam range officer PV Vegi.

**'Chakkakomban is young & stronger'**

Though many herds enter the human habitations of Anayirangal and Chinnakanal, Chakkakomban has been the dominating male elephant of the area since the translocation of Arikomban from the area around 16 months ago. "Both elephants are dangerous and have attacked local residents many times. But Chakkakomban is the dominant elephant of the area. Murivalan is around 50-years-old while Chakkakomban is young and stronger," said Sabu.

## Authorities need to pull up socks, keep people in focus Andhra Pradesh: Vizanagaram sisters excel in taekwondo, fencing

**Karnataka.** The horrific incident of a 76-year-old retired teacher on a morning walk being mauled to death by stray dogs has shaken our collective conscience. Just a thought

and expertise before the state embarks on ambitious projects like tunnel roads or the sky deck. Since January this year, over 16,800 dog bite cases have been reported in the state capital, which has a stray dog population of over 2.79 lakh. While the officials may claim that incidents of dog bites and the population of stray dogs have reduced over the years, the latest case only shows that the situation has only worsened with citizens having to worry about their safety even during morning walks. A senior official, who worked with the



civic agency for several decades, said he had never heard of any adult being mauled to death by stray dogs in the city. The civic authorities seem to have failed to keep the canine numbers under check with the effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. The ABC programme has to be a continuous process without a break.

**VIZIANAGARAM:** Siblings Mokara Sri Rupyia (18) and Mokara Renuka Srikarini (16) from Vizianagaram have emerged as national players in taekwondo and fencing, showcasing their passion for combat sports at a young age. Their achievements include numerous medals in State and national tournaments, with Sri Rupyia winning nine medals in fencing, including two silver, and Renuka securing 25 medals in taekwondo, including 21 gold. Daughters of the couple, Srinivasa Babu and Jhansi Laxmi, the duo have been training under coach

## THE SIKH TIMES

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**Legal Advisors:**  
Advocate Mohd. Sajid  
Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh  
Advocate Manish Sharma  
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

Intellectual Punjabi Chamber of Commerce Felicitated S.Tarvinder Singh Marwah

New Delhi: Heartiest Congratulations to S.Tarvinder Singh Marwah (Ex MLA) on Being Appointed as BJP Delhi State Prabhari (Sikh Cell). On His Appointment thanks to the State BJP Leadership for Choosing Experienced Community Leader for such Prestigious post. Special Graced by S. Kamaljeet Singh Chhatwal (Ex Manager, DSGMC), Pawandeep Singh



(London, UK) & Dr Mandep Singh Chhatwal (CEO, IPCC) & Others Greeted & Felicitate Mr Marwah.

Group C & D job results only after polls

Gurgaon. Candidates have already written their Group C and D exams conducted by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC), but they will have to wait till the Assembly poll results to know their outcome. HSSC chairperson Himmat Singh announced that the results could not be announced anytime soon because of the model code. HSSC chairman Himmat Singh said that exams for approximately 24,800 posts have been conducted. "The decision regarding the declaration of results rests with the Election Commission. Because of adherence to the code of conduct, the Election Commission has current-ly refrained from authorising the release of results," he said.

Singh added that the results of five groups will be declared only after the conclusion of the assembly elections. He also cautioned the students against relying on social media and urged them not to believe any false information regarding the exams. He further mentioned that the CET exam has not been conducted since 2022, and it is likely to take place between Oct and Dec this year. Earlier this week, youths took to the streets to protest against the freeze on govt recruitment. They staged demonstrations at various locations. The Election Commission had halted the recruitment process for 5,600 posts of constables in the Haryana Police and 76 posts of TGT and PTI following a complaint by Congress MP Jairam Ramesh. Subsequently, the protesters reached the MLA Hostel in Chandigarh and created a commotion outside the residence of Bhupendra Singh Hooda.

21-year-old held with opium worth Rs 55 lakh

Ghaziabad: A 21-year-old man was arrested from the service road near the railway station in the Muradnagar area on Friday for smuggling opium to Delhi-NCR, Haryana, and Punjab. Around 2.5 kg of opium, worth more than Rs 55 lakh, was recovered from Rahul Kumar Dangi, a resident of Jharkhand, who allegedly went from being a tractor driver to a drug smuggler in pursuit of financial relief, a police official said on Saturday. Rahul told the police that the promise of quick and substantial money through opium smuggling became an escape from poverty. "Rahul, a Class 12 pass-out, was working as a tractor driver in his village fields, earning Rs 300 a day. His family was struggling to make ends meet when his school friend Pritam, also from Jharkhand, lured him into the smuggling world with the promise of a better income. After joining the smuggling gang, he earned Rs 20,000 for every trip he made to another state to deliver opium," said Sachchidanand, additional deputy commissioner of police (Crime). Rahul also mentioned that after working for the gang for a while, he started smuggling opium from Jharkhand to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Delhi-NCR on his own for better profits. "Rahul said that the demand for opium has increased in the Delhi-NCR area, and he has been smuggling opium for a year. Depending on the amount of opium he needs to carry, he takes either a bus or a train, and each time he uses different routes to avoid getting caught."

Gzb to get 3rd centre to sterilise stray dogs

Ghaziabad. With increasing cases of stray dog bites, GMC has decided to come up with a third animal birth control centre (ABC) in Siddharth Vihar. Currently, the city has just one fully functional ABC in Nandgram and the second, which is in the works in the city zone, is expected to become operational by Feb.

Once the Siddharth Vihar centre is set up, the three ABCs combined will have the capacity to sterilise 150 dogs per day as opposed to the current 30 sterilisations being carried out daily. "The state govt has approved the setting up of an ABC in Vijay Nagar zone. A piece of land, of 300 sq m, has been identified for the purpose in Siddharth Vihar. The centre will come up at a cost of Rs 2.43 crore. Once operational, over 500 sterilisations can be carried out here in a day," said Anuj Singh,



veterinary officer, GMC. Given the increasing population of stray dogs, the council is planning to set up one ABC in each of its five zones.

As per a 2021 GMC survey, there are around 48,000 stray dogs in the city and of these, 33,000 have been sterilised. "We have managed to sterilise over 60% of the stray dogs in the city. Our aim is to push up this number as much as possible so that we can bring down dog bite cases in the city," Singh said.

An 84% surplus: This Aug is the wettest city has seen in 10 years

Gurgaon. This Aug was the wettest that the city has seen in over a decade, recording nearly 340mm of rain, a surplus of 84% more than normal for the month (185.1mm). It was in sharp contrast to recent years, when Aug usually fell short of normal levels of rainfall. In 2023, Gurgaon recorded a 62% deficit in rainfall, and in 2022, the shortfall was 65%. Since 2013, the city ended in surplus in Aug once before — in 2020, when the month received 292.3mm of rainfall, 51% higher than normal for that period. The lowest was recorded in 2014, when Gurgaon recorded just 11.8mm of rainfall, a deficit of 94%. The second lowest was in 2017 as Aug saw 33.4mm of rainfall, falling short by 82% of the normal. Meteorologists said on Saturday that excess rain this Aug was because of the monsoon system, which was active in the region this month. Most of July was dry till its last week. "This year's monsoon was influenced by the active Arabian Sea branch, leading to intensified activity around Rajasthan and adjoining areas of

Haryana, including Gurgaon, which experienced higher rainfall. Although the Bay of Bengal branch was also active, the weather system from the Arabian Sea dominated. In Gurgaon, there were a few intense rainfall spells, particularly in isolated pockets, which, though brief, were heavy," said Surender Paul, director of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Chandigarh. Paul said the monsoon trough was positioned closed to NCR, which also led to regular spells of rainfall. "Additionally, western disturbances in August enhanced rainfall activity. Circulation and depression areas formed during this period, along with convection over the Arabian Sea, intensifying cyclonic circulation. The convergence of systems from both the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal created a combination of factors that resulted in the region's abundant rainfall," the IMD official said. Across Haryana too, Gurgaon logged the third highest rainfall. At 386.8mm, Nuh recorded the highest with surplus rainfall at 108%, followed

by Chandigarh, which logged 351.6mm in Aug, 23% higher than its normal for the month. Gurgaon: This Aug was the wettest that the city has seen in over a decade, recording nearly 340mm of rain, a surplus of 84% more than normal for the month (185.1mm). It was in sharp contrast to recent years, when Aug usually fell short of normal levels of rainfall. In 2023, Gurgaon recorded a 62% deficit in rainfall, and in 2022, the shortfall was 65%. Since 2013, the city ended in surplus in Aug once before — in 2020, when the month received 292.3mm of rainfall, 51% higher than normal for that period. The lowest was recorded in 2014, when Gurgaon recorded just 11.8mm of rainfall, a deficit of 94%. The second lowest was in 2017 as Aug saw 33.4mm of rainfall, falling short by 82% of the normal. Meteorologists said on Saturday that excess rain this Aug was because of the monsoon system, which was active in the region this month. Most of July was dry till its last week. "This year's monsoon

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Man extorts money from Chinese loan app users, held

Gurgaon. A man was arrested in Sector 24 on Saturday for allegedly issuing threats and extorting money from people who had taken loans through a Chinese app. The accused — identified as Deepak Yadav from Rewari — got a list of names and numbers of targets who had taken loans from a person on Telegram, police said. He would then make the calls to extort the money. The accused would get a commission on the amount of money he managed to extort. During interrogation, police found that Yadav was working on behalf of cyber fraudsters operating from outside the country for the past three months. "Yadav had been receiving names and mobile numbers on Telegram of people who had taken loans through a Chinese app. He would then call these individuals, threaten them, and extort money. In return, he received a commission based on the amount

extorted. After receiving the money, he would block the victims' mobile numbers. The police team which arrested him recovered a mobile phone and a SIM card from his possession," said ACP (cybercrime) Priyanshu Diwan. Police zeroed in on Yadav while probing a case recently registered at Cyber (east) police station under section 318 (4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property) of the BNS. In 2021, several people committed suicide across the country following continuous bullying by recovery agents of similar Chinese loan apps. The apps collect personal data of users such as their names, address, mobile numbers, all phone contact details, as well as access their photos and videos through the phones on which they are downloaded. This data is then used to bully and threaten the victims into paying large amounts of money. The masterminds of these

apps are mostly based in China, who employ locals to threaten people to upload their personal or morphed photos and videos on social media and send them to relatives as well if they failed to make the payment. City police had busted a call centre in 2021 operating in Gurgaon which was extorting money from users of one such app. The app was providing small loans of Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 for a short term and deducted service charges as well as interest of Rs 600 to Rs 1,200. While applying for loans, the app users downloaded it from Google Play Store and provided details like email ID, name, address, and PAN and Aadhaar details. The accused, through the app, also collected personal data such as SMSes, location, data from phone storage, calendar, photos and videos. They used this data to put pressure on the borrowers if they delayed repaying loans.

Road to condo cratered for a decade, flat owners protest

Gurgaon. Flat owners from Unitech Residences in Sector 33 hit the streets on Saturday, seeking immediate repair of the approach road that has been lying in disrepair for around a decade now. Carrying banners that read "no road, no vote", "road or a leap, give us a proper road!" and "fill the potholes, our patience is over!", the residents criticised the authorities for their failure to address civic grievances. The road, constructed in 2014 by the developer, has deteriorated severely over the past few years, causing daily challenges for over 4,000 families. Autos and cabs often refuse service due to the dangerous conditions, and even emergency vehicles struggle to navigate the area. Shilpi Gupta, a homemaker, expressed her frustration, saying, "Every day is a struggle as cabs and autos refuse to come to our society. What worries me the most is the safety of my kids, as the school buses refuse to ply this road and drop kids on the main road. Even during rain, they come home soaked. We are completely frustrated with the apathy of both the govt and the developer." The residents said they have repeatedly raised the issue with the developer, district administration, MCG, and local representatives, but no action has been taken. Pankaj Agarwal, another resident, said, "We are done with false promises. If the authorities don't act now, we are ready to boycott the upcoming election. We are firm in our stand: no road, no vote." Vulnerable residents, including pregnant women and those with newborns, face significant hardships. Deepali Chawla, a new mother, shared, "After my C-section, I had to walk home because driving is too painful. Even now, reaching the hospital or going for just a walk is difficult."

Three held for stealing phones from warehouse



Noida: Three men were arrested on Saturday for stealing multiple mobile phones from a warehouse earlier this month. They engaged in a gunfight with the police, in which one of them was injured. About 35 mobile phones have been recovered from their possession. The suspects are Pushpendra (23), Golu Kumar (20), and Ravindra alias Kale (26) on Aug 25, Phase-3 police received a

complaint from Dinesh Sahu, a resident of Sector 69, that mobile phones of different brands were stolen from the warehouse of his company, MIS 3S Touch Service Solution. CCTV camera footage had captured the suspects' images. Officials registered a case under Section 305(A) (theft in a dwelling house, or means of transportation or

place of worship, etc) of BNS and began to investigate. On Saturday, officials were conducting checks in the Phase-3 area when Pushpendra and Golu arrived on a motorcycle without a number plate. When officials stopped them, they tried to flee and Pushpendra fired at the police. Police returned fire and Pushpendra was shot on his leg. They were nabbed, and their motorcycle, a pistol, and 35 mobile phones were seized. "During interrogation, they revealed that their friend Ravindra, an electrician, had recently worked at the warehouse and told them about the warehouse," said Hirdesh Katheriya, ADCP (central Noida). The other two then broke into the warehouse and stole the devices in the intervening night of Aug 23-24. In exchange for the information, they gave Ravindra five mobile phones. "Ravindra was later arrested from his house," said ADCP Katheriya. He added that Ravindra has a criminal history with more than 10 cases registered against him, while Golu has two cases. Pushpendra has a history of theft. Further investigation into the case is underway.

The Unitech management had assured residents earlier that the road would be reconstructed subject to approval from the Supreme Court. A tender has been allocated, but work has yet to begin. Vikram Bishnoi, president of the Residences Apartments Buyers Association, stated, "We are fed up with Unitech's slow response. They must address residents' issues on the ground, not just from the boardroom."

Another resident, Pragnya Arun, said her son recently underwent a surgery which made it very tough for him to walk. "But due to the terrible road conditions, the cab refused to come to our society, and he was forced to walk from the main road to our home. This situation has put my son's recovery at risk," she added. Ashok Yadav, CEO of Unitech Limited, acknowledged the delay, saying, "We have bifurcated the work related to Unitech projects into various lots and are finalising the fourth lot, which includes this road. Once approved by the Supreme Court, repairs will begin. We will carry out temporary repairs till then."

Table of legal notices and name changes. Includes sections for 'Name Change' and 'PUBLIC NOTICE' with various personal details and dates.

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PUBLIC NOTICE section regarding property matters and legal actions. Includes details about a plot of land and the names of involved parties and advocates.

## News box

## Unicef issues emergency tender to secure mpox vaccines for crisis-hit nations

**World.** The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has issued an emergency tender to secure mpox vaccines for crisis-hit countries in collaboration with the Gavi vaccine alliance, Africa CDC and the World Health Organisation, the organisations said in a joint statement on Saturday. Depending on the production capacity of manufacturers, agreements for up to 12 million doses through 2025 can be made, according to the statement. Under the tender, Unicef will set up conditional supply agreements with vaccine manufacturers, the statement said. This will enable Unicef to purchase and ship vaccines without delay, once financing, demand, readiness and regulatory requirements are confirmed.

The collaboration - which would also include working with the Vaccine Alliance and the Pan American Health Organisation as well as with Gavi, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and WHO - would facilitate donations of vaccines from existing stockpiles in high-income countries. The statement added that WHO is reviewing information submitted by manufacturers on August 23, and expects to complete a review for an emergency use listing by mid-September. The agency is reviewing applications for emergency licences for two vaccines made by Bavarian Nordic (BVA.CO) and Japan's KM Biologics.

Earlier in August, the WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo that spread to neighbouring countries. More than 18,000 suspected cases of mpox have been reported in Congo so far this year with 629 deaths, while over 150 cases have been confirmed in Burundi, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

## Heavy rain lashes Australia's Tasmania, over 30,000 left without electricity

**Sydney.** Tens of thousands of people in Australia's Tasmania state were without power on Sunday after a cold front brought damaging winds and heavy rains, sparking flood warnings. "Around 30,000 customers are without power across the state this morning," Tasnetworks, a state-owned power company, said on Facebook on Sunday morning.

The nation's weather forecaster said a cold front over Tasmania, an island state of around 570,000 people, was moving away "although bands of showers and thunderstorms continue to pose a risk of damaging wind gusts." "Yet another strong cold front will cross the state on Sunday night into early Monday morning, likely impacting the western and northern coasts," the forecaster said on its website. Emergency authorities issued warnings for flooding, which they said could leave Tasmanians isolated for several days. "There is potential for properties to be inundated, and roads may not be accessible," executive director of Tasmania State Emergency Service, Mick Lowe, said in a statement. Authorities had received 330 requests for assistance in the last 24 hours, according to the agency. Tasmania is a one-hour flight or 10-hour ferry crossing from the mainland city of Melbourne, 445 km (275 miles) away. About 40% of the island is wilderness or protected areas.

## Pakistan confirms 5th mpox case, another suspected in Karachi

The number of mpox cases in Pakistan has risen to five following confirmation of the virus in an air passenger at Peshawar, while a suspected case of the deadly virus was detected in Karachi, health officials said on Saturday. Dr Irshad Ali, Director, Public Health of the north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said medical personnel at the airport detected two travellers returning from Jeddah displaying symptoms of mpox on Thursday and only one of them was confirmed to have mpox.

The confirmed case involves a 51-year-old man from Orakzai, who is reported to be in stable condition and was transferred to Police and Services Hospital Peshawar for treatment. "We are closely monitoring the situation and have implemented all necessary measures to control the spread," Dr Irshad said. Meanwhile, a 32-year-old individual was admitted to the designated hospital in Karachi following symptoms consistent with monkeypox making it a suspected case.

The patient, who recently travelled from Jeddah to Karachi, is presenting with a maculopapular rash across his body. The Express Tribune newspaper said. "We are treating this case with the utmost seriousness and are prepared for all possible outcomes," said a spokesperson from the health department in Karachi. Officials said, no locally transmitted cases have been recorded thus far. Earlier even as confusion prevailed over the exact number of confirmed cases, on August 19 there was a mpox case reported from the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). It was a 47-year-old resident of PoK, who had recently returned from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. He was admitted to Islamabad's Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) with mpox symptoms.

Before that, Pakistan had reported three cases of mpox -- all from the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

# 'Political stunt': Kamala Harris jabs Trump over cemetery row, he firefights

**World** US Vice President Kamala Harris strongly condemned Republican presidential rival Donald Trump for his recent visit to Arlington National Cemetery, accusing him of disrespecting the "sacred ground" for political gain. The Democratic presidential nominee slammed Trump's actions in a post on social media platform X, stating that Arlington National Cemetery is a "solemn place where we come together to honour American heroes" and it is "not a place for politics." "The controversy arose after Trump visited the cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, commemorating three years since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. He was joined by Gold Star families whose family members died during the chaotic exit. Trump's campaign team filmed the event and used the footage in campaign videos, sparking criticism for violating federal law and Pentagon policies that prohibit political activities within the cemetery. Harris stated that the cemetery is a site for paying tribute to fallen service members, not a venue for political agendas.

She referenced reports indicating that Trump's campaign team instigated a confrontation with a cemetery employee and filmed Trump at the graves of veterans who served in Afghanistan, despite being cautioned about the site's regulations.

"Let me be clear: the former president disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris asserted. The Trump campaign has defended their actions, claiming they received permission from the Gold Star families to bring "campaign designated media" to the cemetery. However, Arlington National Cemetery officials have disputed this, stating that the cemetery staff member was "verbally assaulted and pushed aside" by two Trump campaign aides. Harris also pointed out Trump's history of conflicts with veterans, reiterating previous accusations that he referred to fallen service members as



"suckers" and "losers" and demeaned recipients of the Medal of Honor. "This is a man who is incapable of understanding anything beyond his own self-interest," she remarked. "I will always pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of all America's heroes... and I will never use their memory for political purposes."

TEAM TRUMP SAYS HE WAS INVITED Facing a storm of criticism, the Trump

campaign released videos from family members of the 13 soldiers who died during the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The family members disputed Harris's support for military families and asserted that they had invited Trump to the ceremony. Kamala, your statement is nothing more than a political spin to help you look better in your presidential campaign against Donald Trump," said one parent. "You have never walked a single day in our shoes. Our kids were murdered because of your administration." Other family members also defended Trump, denying any disruptive behaviour during the visit. "We welcomed President Donald J. Trump to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with our family and to visit the grave site," stated another family member. "Trump and his team were respectful; they listened to our stories and didn't talk much at all."

## Zelensky increases pressure on US to approve strikes on Russian airfields, bases

**Kyiv.** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky increased pressure on the United States to let Kyiv strike military targets deep inside Russian territory after his representatives met senior US officials in Washington on Saturday. Washington has provided Ukraine with more than \$50 billion worth of military aid since 2022, but has limited the use of its weapons to Ukrainian soil and defensive crossborder operations.

Zelensky said guided aerial bombs killed six people and injured 97 in Kharkiv on Friday, with more attacks on Saturday. These could be averted only "by striking Russian military airfields, their bases, and the logistics of Russian terror." In his nightly video address, he said, "We talk about this every day with our partners. We persuade. We present arguments." He said

that clearing the Ukrainian sky of Russian guided aerial bombs would be "a strong step to force Russia to seek an end to the war and a just peace." Appealing to the United States, Britain, France and Germany, he said, "We need the capabilities to truly and fully protect Ukraine and Ukrainians." "We need both the permissions for long-range capabilities and your long-range shells and missiles." Without providing specifics, he said his representatives had "provided all the necessary details" to Ukraine's partners. Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, in Washington with a delegation on Friday and Saturday to meet U.S. officials and experts, said in an interview broadcast by CNN that Kyiv was showing Russian airfields used to hit Ukrainian cities were within range of deep

strikes.

"We have explained what kind of capabilities we need to protect the citizens against the Russian terror that Russians are causing us, so I hope we were heard," Umerov said in the interview late on Friday. Zelensky is expected to deliver a similar plea in person next month, when he will present a plan for victory to President Joe Biden near the end of his time in the Oval Office, and attend United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York. Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, who headed Kyiv's delegation, said in a post on X that she had discussed the steps needed to restore Ukraine's energy system, including a "significant contribution" being made by an \$800 million energy sector financing package that was announced in June.

## Israeli forces find bodies in Gaza, suspected to be hostages: Report

**World** Israel's military discovered several bodies in Gaza during ongoing combat operations, and efforts are underway to extract and identify them. The bodies are believed to be those of kidnapped Israeli hostages, though this has not yet been officially confirmed. "At this stage, the forces are still operating in the area and carrying out a process to extract and identify the bodies, which will last several hours," the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement, according to the Times of Israel. The discovery comes days after the military rescued an Israeli hostage, 52-year-old Qaid Farhan Alkadi, from an underground tunnel in southern Gaza. US President Joe Biden confirmed that his staff has been in contact with Israeli officials and acknowledged the discovery of bodies in



Gaza. However, he noted that the exact number remains unclear, as the IDF continues identification efforts. "It's time this war ended," Biden said, and expressed cautious optimism about ongoing negotiations with Palestinian militant group Hamas for the release of hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza. "We think we can close the deal, they've all said they agree on the principles," he added. Soon after the IDF said it found a

number of bodies in Gaza that may be the remains of Israeli hostages, Hostage Forum, a prominent activist group, sent out a call to protest against the Benjamin Netanyahu government on Sunday. "Netanyahu abandoned the hostages. It is now a fact. Starting tomorrow, the country will tremble. We call on the public to prepare. The abandonment is over," the group said in a statement. Opposition leader Yair Lapid also piled on, accusing Netanyahu of focusing on insignificant issues as "our sons and daughters are being abandoned and dying in captivity." Meanwhile, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said 40,691 people have been killed and 94,060 injured in Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip since October 7.

## 3 killed as plane crashes into residential area in US, houses set ablaze

**The plane was split into multiple parts as it crashed into a row of houses in the residential area in the city of Fairview, which is home to about 10,000 people.**

**Portland.** Three people were dead after a small plane crashed into a row of townhouses Saturday morning in a neighbourhood east of Portland, setting the homes ablaze, authorities told KATU-TV. Officials earlier in the day had said the plane was carrying two people and that at least one resident had been unaccounted for. Photos and videos published by KGW-TV in Portland showed one of the townhomes



engulfed in flames while black smoke poured out of the adjoining houses. Gresham Fire Chief Scott Lewis said the fire had spread to at least four of the homes, displacing up to six families. He said two people were treated at the scene, but he didn't describe the type or severity of

injuries. The Federal Aviation Administration identified the aircraft as a twin-engine Cessna 421C, which it says went down around 10:30 a.m. near Troutdale Airport, about a 30-minute drive east of Portland. As the plane went down, it knocked over a pole and power lines,

causing a separate brush fire in a nearby field, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. The plane was split into multiple parts as it crashed in the residential area in the city of Fairview, which is home to about 10,000 people. Lewis said the first call about the fire came from staff at the Troutdale Airport's control tower, who saw a thick plume of smoke rising in the air. But Lewis said that initial reports indicated "there was no mayday, no call for emergency" from the aircraft itself before it crashed. The National Transportation Safety Board is leading the investigation into the crash. The agency has sent two investigators to the site of the crash who will document the wreckage, spokesperson Peter Knudson said. He did not release further details about the crash. The website for the Port of Portland, which oversees general aviation and marine operations in the Portland area, describes Troutdale Airport as a "flight training and recreational airport."

## Pope Francis to visit Jakarta mosque to push for interfaith harmony

**Jakarta.** When Pope Francis visits Indonesia next week, he will stop by a mosque in Jakarta that has an unusual feature - a tunnel connecting it to the city's Catholic cathedral, as part of a push for interfaith harmony on his 12-day Asia-Pacific tour. The 28.3-metre "Tunnel of Friendship", connecting the iconic Istiqlal mosque to the Our Lady of the Assumption cathedral, was built by the government in 2020 as a symbol of religious harmony, a theme the global head of the Catholic church has also emphasised on his travels during his 11-year reign. Pope Francis, 87, arrives on Tuesday in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, on the first leg of the longest trip of his papacy that will also take him to Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Singapore. The plans have drawn concerns over his increasing health problems. The pope is scheduled to participate in an interfaith meeting at the mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia, and to visit the tunnel, which features windows to let in light and inscribed

art on the walls but is not yet open to the public. "It's extraordinary that the Catholics' number one figure is coming," said Nasaruddin Umar, the grand imam of the Istiqlal, whose vast parking lot is often open to churchgoers during major events. "Whatever your religion is, let's respect our guest." Only about 3% of Indonesia's population of 280 million are Catholic, while nearly 90% are Muslim. The pope is scheduled to meet outgoing President Joko Widodo and hold a mass service at a Jakarta stadium, which is expected to be attended by more than 80,000 people, said Rev. Thomas Ulun Ismoyo, an Indonesian church official. The visit has excited Indonesian Catholics, who have not experienced a papal visit in more than three decades. "If I could meet him, I could only bow before him. I couldn't even bring myself to hold his hand," said Maria Regina Widayastuti Sasongko, a 77-year-old Catholic woman who sells items such as statues and t-shirts bearing the pope's

face. Indonesia has been visited by two popes before - the first, Pope Paul VI in a 1970 trip to Jakarta and in 1989, Pope John Paul II, who visited Jakarta and four other cities.

**SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP; CHEQUERED PAST**



Yaqut Cholil Qoumas, Indonesia's religious affairs minister, said the pope's visit was a symbol of friendship among people of all religions in Indonesia. "The pope's visit makes Indonesia the barometer of peace and

a pillar of tolerance," he told Reuters. Catholicism came to the country by way of Portuguese missionaries in its eastern area in the 16th century, but historians say it was banned during Dutch colonial rule for about two centuries in favour of Protestantism. The Vatican officially named a diplomatic representative in Indonesia in the 1940s. And in modern Indonesia, officially a secular state, minority religions can still face discrimination.

The US religious freedom watchdog has said, that "Indonesia's religious freedom conditions remained poor" in 2023, citing several regulations including ones that led to closures of places of worship, including churches. Andreas Harsono, the Indonesia researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the roots of religious intolerance, and church closures, were the laws that facilitate them. But for Sasongko, the Catholic woman selling papal merchandise, the arrival of the pope signifies hope for unity.

## News box

## Justice Hema committee report: More cases registered

KOCHI/KOZHNIKODE: Police on Saturday registered a case against director Sreekumar Menon for molesting a junior artist at a hotel in the city. The police will also register a case against actor Baburaj soon as the junior artist has named him in her complaint. The case was registered at Maradu police station under IPC Section 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman). After registering the FIR, the investigation was handed over to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the MeToo allegations. Earlier, the police team contacted the victim who sent her complaint via email on Friday. Later, police recorded the statement of the victim online. The victim, a resident of Kottayam, is currently out of station. Her detailed statement will be recorded later. In Kozhikode, Kasaba police registered a case under Section 377 of IPC against director B Ranjith based on a complaint filed by a Kozhikode resident on Friday. It was the second police case against director Ranjith after the release of the Hema Committee report.

Similarly, Nadakkavu police registered two cases under Section 354(a) of the IPC against actors Edavela Babu and Sudheesh on a complaint filed by a junior artist from Kozhikode. The complaints of two persons who gave a confidential statement before the SIT have now been proceeded by the police by adding serious offences.

## Ammonia gas leak victim to get Rs 25 lakh compensation, parents to get Rs 10K monthly pension

THOOTHUKUDI: After a man was killed in an alleged ammonia gas leak at a private plant, the victim's kin agreed to receive the body after a negotiation was held with the private plant's authorities. They agreed to pay a compensation of Rs 25 lakh, in addition to the insurance claim of Rs 10 lakh, Rs 2 lakh for funeral expenses and a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for the victim's parents. Sources said that A Hariharan (24), a contract employee was cleaning the ammonia unit when the alleged gas leak occurred, killing him on the spot. Four other workers were injured and hospitalised, sources said. Hariharan's relatives refused to receive the body, demanding compensation of Rs 1 crore. During the talks at the Thoothukudi south police station, at the behest of Revenue Divisional Officer Prabhu, representatives of the Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited agreed to provide a compensation of Rs 25 lakh, monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for his parents, insurance relief of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 2 lakh to meet the funeral expenses. CITU Labour Front leader K Ponraj, district secretary R Russel, Anna Labour Association's Tac Raja, former government pleader UV Sekar and others participated in the negotiation.

## 18-year-old student in Coimbatore completes typewriting exam with one hand

COIMBATORE: An 18-year-old college student in Coimbatore successfully completed the lower typewriting examination conducted by the Directorate of Technical Education on Saturday, despite having an inactive right hand. K Sanjay, a student pursuing the second year of B.Com with CA at a prominent private Arts and Science College in the city, tragically lost the mobility of his right hand below the elbow, due to a road accident in 2013. Sanjay who lives in Chandrapuram village near Annur told TNIE, "As per college directions, students must complete typewriting classes. I informed the college administration about



my right hand. While the faculty indicated that I could get an exemption from it, if needed, I decided to complete the course as it would advance my career." He added that he joined a private commercial college for typewriting at Karumathampatti. "After learning about my hand, the tutor A Susila started to provide training for two hours every evening with special attention while others usually practised for only an hour. Initially, I struggled as I had to rely on my left hand completely for typing, but with continuous practice for six months, I am able to do typewriting at ease with a single hand," he said. Sanjay added that he has performed well in the one-hour typewriting exam (lower) and hoped he would score above 80 in 100. Susila, the owner of Siva commercial college told TNIE that Sanjay had learnt typewriting with confidence during his time there and like other candidates, had completed the exam successfully in an hour using his left hand.

## Global-level Buddha Museum to come up at Nagarjunasagar soon

**The sources said that the government has decided to develop the Buddha statue in Hussainsagar as a tourism destination circle.**

HYDERABAD: As part of its plans to develop Buddhist tourist places in the state to world class standards, the Telangana government has decided to set up an International Buddha Museum at Buddhavanam in Nagarjunasagar. Highly-placed sources said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to prepare proposals in this regard. They said that the government also decided to develop the historical Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli, Nagarjunasagar Buddhist sites and the Buddha statue in the middle of Hussainsagar as a single tourism circuit. Meanwhile, the government has appointed retired IPS officer C Anjaneya Reddy as a mentor for the development of the Buddhavanam project, in an honorary capacity. Principal Secretary (Tourism) A Vani Prasad issued orders to this effect on August 19. These orders were made public on Saturday. Officials told TNIE: "The state government has recently sent a DPR to the Union government for the development of Buddhavanam under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. It proposed to set up a Buddhist digital museum and exhibition and digital archives at Buddhavanam with an estimate of Rs 25 crore. Along with these, an international Buddha Museum will also be incorporated

in this plan." To attract domestic and international tourists, Buddhavanam will be developed as a tourism and spiritual destination centre, the officials added. The government has also decided to resume boat trips for tourists visiting Nagarjunasagar. Affordable tourism



packages are designed for this. The sources said that the government has decided to develop the Buddha statue in Hussainsagar as a tourism destination circle. The chief minister has instructed the officials to design a circular skywalk

to Tank Bund, Telangana Amara Jyoti, Necklace Road and Sanjeevayya Park. He reportedly directed them to make this area a world-class tourism hub. International standard model designs should be made with experienced consultants and experts, the chief minister is believed to have said.

Meanwhile, sources said that the chief minister has directed officials of R&B department to prepare proposals for a four-lane road from Hyderabad to Nagarjunasagar. This is in line with the chief minister's plans to widen the roads around Golconda Fort by removing encroachments while ensuring that the residents and shopkeepers are not rendered homeless. Officials have been asked to take steps to rehabilitate the residents and shopkeepers elsewhere before taking up widening works.

**Officials told to prepare proposals**  
The government has decided to develop the historical Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli, Nagarjunasagar Buddhist sites and the Buddha statue in the middle of Hussainsagar as a single tourism circuit. Sources said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to prepare proposals in this regard.

## Covid panel submits interim report to Karnataka government

BENGALURU: The Justice John Michael D'Cunha commission, which is examining alleged irregularities of over Rs 7,000 crore in tackling Covid during the previous BJP government, submitted its interim report to the government here on Saturday. Justice D'Cunha presented the report Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, CM's legal adviser AS Ponnanna, political secretaries Govindraju and Nazeer Ahmed were present.

The commission sought an extension of its term for three months to submit the full report. But it is to be seen whether the government will constitute a cabinet subcommittee to look into the recommendations in the interim report or place it before the cabinet for further action. In the run-up to the Assembly elections in 2023, Congress had promised that if voted to power, it would conduct an inquiry into alleged scams in the procurement of medicines, medical equipment and supply of oxygen during Covid. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in its report in July-August, 2023, had stated that the previous BJP government had committed irregularities and mismanaged the Covid crisis, leading to loss of lives. Later, the Congress government constituted the inquiry commission headed by retired High Court Judge D'Cunha on August 25, 2023.

The inquiry got delayed by three to four months for various reasons, including noncooperation by officials in furnishing data. That had led to the commission seeking an extension from May to August.

## Keeping Telugu culture alive in South Africa

**Thirupathi's connection with the Telugu Association of South Africa was facilitated by Dr Sagarla Sattaiah, a fellow linguist from Nalgonda district.**

KARIMNAGAR: With people from the Telugu states making their mark in different parts of the globe, it is a concern for many parents from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, living in foreign countries, that their wards would lose their connection to their mother tongue and culture. At such a time, the Telugu Association of South Africa has chosen a book written by a Telugu Pandit from the Peddapalli district as part of the curriculum for Indian students. The Telugu Association of South Africa chose Telugu Badi Balavachakam, penned by Kukatla Thirupathi of Zilla Parishad High School

(ZPHS) Moolasala, for its simplicity in teaching Telugu. It has been in use for over a year. Thirupathi, an esteemed Telugu linguist and author, has penned nine books dedicated to the development of the Telugu language. His journey in writing began with Melu Kolupu in 2005 and has since expanded to include works on Telugu culture, agriculture and rural traditions.

Thirupathi's connection with the Telugu Association of South Africa was facilitated by Dr Sagarla Sattaiah, a fellow linguist from Nalgonda district. When the association invited applications online, Thirupathi's

Telugu Badi was selected, a moment he proudly describes as a significant achievement for Karimnagar. "In view of the gradual loss of importance of Telugu culture and language, I have taken it upon myself to promote the Telugu language, culture and traditions wherever Telugu people are living," Thirupathi tells TNIE. "My books cover Telugu grammar, idioms and other supportive ideas. Additionally, I am promoting Telugu through my YouTube channel, which Telugu speakers can find under the name 'Kukatla Thirupathi'," he adds. Thirupathi, who completed his MA in

Telugu from Kakatiya University and received training from the government teachers' training college in Warangal, attributes his deep affection for Telugu to his early education. Influenced by his teacher Dakshina Murthy and his experiences with Telugu grammar and drama, Thirupathi continues to perform in dramatic roles such as Sugriva Vijayam and Chitra Gupta. Advocating for the inclusion of Telugu in all stages of education and official documentation, Thirupathi urges the government to prioritise Telugu language education and implementation.

## Syro Malabar Church reconstitutes synodal panels

**Thiruvur Auxiliary Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil will be the chairman for the commission for clergy and Thalassery Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany will be the chairman of the commission for doctrine.**



Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil has been appointed synodal commission chairman of Mangalapuzha St Joseph's Pontifical Seminary. Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallaragatt and Idukki Bishop Mar John Nellikunnel will be members of the synodal commission.

Changanassery Archeparchy Bishop Mar Thomas Tharayil will serve as the synodal commission chairman of Vadavathur St Thomas Apostolic Seminary. Kothamangalam Bishop Mar George Madathikandathil and Kanjirappilly Bishop Mar Jose Pulickal will be members of the commission. Gorakhpur

Bishop Mar Mathew Nellikunnel has been appointed the synodal commission member of Satna St Ephrem's Theological College.

Kanjirappilly Bishop Mar Jose Pulickal will serve as chairman of the Commission for Catechesis while Ramanathapuram Bishop Mar Paul Alappatt and Shamshabad Bishop Mar Prince Antony Panengadan will be members. Thiruvur Auxiliary Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil will be the chairman for the commission for clergy and Thalassery Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany will be the chairman of the commission for doctrine.

## Irregularities in cooperative sugar units to be probed in Karnataka

BENGALURU: Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil on Saturday said he has given clear directions to officials to conduct detailed inquiries into any illegalities taking place in cooperative sugar factories in the state. Patil said he has already ordered one such investigation into irregularities at Nandi Sugar Factory in the district.

The investigation is on and based on the report, action will be taken soon, he added. On Ranna Cooperative Sugar Factory of Mudhol taluk in Bagalkot where severe financial irregularities have been reported, he said the government has decided to lease out the factory to a private agency.

"It is expected to help revive the factory and directly facilitate farmers in selling their sugarcane," he said. On Mysugar, the lone state-owned sugar factory in Mandya district, he said the government has cleared all hurdles in its functioning and the factory has resumed operation. "We hope it will make a profit this year," he added.

## Andhra Pradesh: Rains pound 'Blazewada'

VIJAYAWADA: Unprecedented rains, unseen in around 50 years, battered Vijayawada, Mangalagiri and Guntur since Friday night. A depression in the Bay of Bengal triggered the downpour in parts of the State. It is set to cross the coast near Kalingapatnam of Srikakulam district around Saturday midnight. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rains on Sunday as well. As many as nine people lost their lives and six others were injured in rain-related mishaps on Saturday. Six persons were killed in rockslides at Sunnapu Battilu in Vijayawada and at Gandalayapeta in Mangalagiri. Three people, including two children, died when the car they were travelling washed away in a stream in Peddakakani mandal of Guntur district. In another incident, the protocol office of Kanaka Durga temple atop Indrakeeladri was damaged in a rockslide. Fortunately, no one was hurt. However, the ghat road was closed as a precautionary measure.

In view of the downpour, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu



cancelled his visit to Kurnool. On learning about the casualties, he announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. During a meeting to review the situation in the State, he directed officials to immediately release Rs 3 crore to each district to take up relief measures. Meanwhile, torrential rains brought life to a standstill in erstwhile Krishna and Guntur districts. In Vijayawada, people were seen wading through knee-deep water at some places. National highways passing

through the city were completely under water, causing severe traffic jams at Benz Circle, Ramavarapadu, Kaza and Keeravaram Toll Plazas and Hanuman Junction. Trains under Vijayawada division were either cancelled or diverted. As a precautionary measure, schools were closed in Vijayawada and other parts of the State. An alert was sounded for the people living near the River Krishna as floodwater was discharged at a rate of 4.07 lakh cusecs. First warning was issued at Prakasam Barrage.

## Three dead including two kids after car washed away in lake at Andhra Pradesh's Guntur

GUNTUR: In a tragic incident, three people, including two children, died after the car in which they were travelling, was washed away in an overflowing lake in Peddakakani mandal of Guntur, on Saturday. According to sources, the deceased were identified as Nadumpalli Raghavendra (38), Pasupuleti Sourish (7), and Koduri Manvith (9), all from Uppalapadu village. Raghavendra was a teacher at a private school, while Sourish and Manvith were students of Class II and III respectively.

The district administration had announced school holidays due to heavy rains. Unaware of this, Raghavendra picked up the students in the village and went to the school in a car. They were returning home after learning about the holiday announcement. On their way back, the car was washed away in the overflowing lake near Uppalapadu and Gollamudipadu. Noticing the situation, the police immediately

launched a rescue operation. However, due to the heavy flow and continuous downpour, they were unable to rescue the trio. Later, the bodies were recovered and handed over to their respective families. The tragic incident brought a pall of



gloom on three families. Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar and local MLA Dhulipalla Narendra extended their condolences to the bereaved families and assured them of all necessary support.

## Trust deficit casts a shadow on Ladakh plan

THE August 26 tweet by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, announcing five new districts in Ladakh, had all the panache of grand declarations. It was a bolt from New Delhi's muddy-blue sky. A surprise — cryptic, populist and authoritative — it lacked other details despite the transformational potential of the proposed administrative exercise. The initial Ladakhi reaction was surprised curiosity, which grew to become suspicion and, within a couple of days, evolved to a mild protest in Sankoo, one of the areas directly impacted by the proposal. This latest development in Ladakh, therefore, needs to be discussed and understood in its historical and political context. First, the historical chronology.

Ladakh's population was barely 2 per cent of the erstwhile state of J&K. In its first phase after the Dogra divestiture began in 1954, citizens of what is now Leh district expressed their desire to secede from the then state of J&K, but without legal or institutional definition of what that meant. The genesis of this demand was the fear for the vulnerability of Ladakh's linguistic, cultural and religious identities. After the 1962 war, however, this intra-state dissent lay beneath the surface, although, on occasion, overtly expressed in the language of ethno-political polemics. This changed dramatically in 1989, as Ladakh's opposition to the increasingly demonised Kashmiri became shrill and confessional. In the district of Leh, there was even an anti-Ladakhi Muslim phase, bordering on Islamophobia, that lingered for some time. The 1979 division of Ladakh into two districts, Leh and Kargil, did not help in stemming this trend. These two watershed events served to intensify an older, more complex rivalry between Kargil and Leh, but this time with communal overtones. Leh and Kargil, predictably, drifted further apart economically, socially and politically.

The third phase of this drift between Leh and Kargil came with the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, which inducted a Hindu-majoritarian BJP government at the Centre. During the elections, the BJP promised Ladakh Union Territory (UT) status, a specific demand that was first cogently articulated in 2002 and pursued as a concrete agenda since. Thupstan Chhewang, one of Ladakh's seniormost activists and respected politicians, was elected on the BJP ticket as Ladakh's sole Member of Parliament. However, either because of a priori intent or later neglect, the BJP's promised UT status remained undelivered. Procrastination planted the seeds of pessimism. The latter part of this same phase saw Ladakh's assertively research the UT model and other governance structures in the eastern Himalaya and, with a growing perception that the BJP had let them down. This sentiment gathered steam in 2018 when Chhewang resigned as Ladakh's MP and from his primary membership in the BJP. Regardless, the BJP remained popular in Ladakh where it once again won the 2019 parliamentary seat. Moreover, in 2020, the party swept the Hill Development Council elections. Despite these victories, even in 2019, an empowered UT with meaningful governing powers remained undelivered, spawning murmurs and protests in Ladakh.

The Home Minister's recent virtual edict on X (formerly Twitter) and a bulked version of it with no real additional information from the PIB (Press Information Bureau) heralds the fourth phase in Ladakh's modern politics. This structure suggests seven districts for Ladakh, including the extant ones of Leh and Kargil. The proposed five new districts are Zangskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang. But initial inquiries suggest that the decision was made without consulting the leadership of Leh's Apex Body or Kargil's KDA (Kargil Democratic Alliance) bloc, even as both have been in prickly negotiations with New Delhi for over a year now. However, Ladakhis have learnt that ostensibly favourable announcements can be deceptive, as illustrated by the 2023-24 anti-BJP protests and that party's dramatic loss in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Indeed, there have already been pushbacks.

## The India-Pakistan wind's changing

THE GREAT GAME: Imagine the boost to his popularity if Prime Minister Modi goes to Islamabad

HAS the time come for Prime Minister Modi to drop his inhibitions and say, "Yes, I Will", to Pakistan?

For the uninitiated, much has happened in the last 48 hours. In Punjab, as the Aam Aadmi Party consolidates itself in the face of a shrinking Shiromani Akali Dal — whose MLAs, significantly, are not joining their former partners, the BJP — Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose family hails from Amritsar, has written to Modi, inviting him to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad in October. The Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that it has received such an invite, but not what it intends to do about it. It is also true that the Pakistani establishment may have put out this news in the hope that it builds some public pressure inside India — bleeding-heart liberals, who for their livelihood depend on reaching out and touching someone, as well as the candle-lighting brigade at Attari-Wagah can always be depended upon to push the envelope in favour of talks. Equally true is the boring predictability of the naysayers. Modi cannot, must not, should not go to Islamabad because Pakistan is the enemy and cannot be trusted. In case you belong to this ilk, then, you should quickly pack your bags and take the next bus to Gurdaspur, so that you have a chance to reaffirm your animosity.

Here, where the drones fall within spitting distance of the Zero Line, that is a few km inside of the India-Pakistan border, you know that the purest-grade white heroin load — in local parlance, chitta — that the hexacopters carry, has been packed and placed on the orders of the Pakistani establishment. There are many ways to carry out a 'proxy war', of course. Another way is to infiltrate trained terrorists into the Jammu region. Military analysts believe that the ambushes of Indian soldiers and paramilitary in recent months — as many as 18 soldiers have been killed so far this summer — is a well-considered strategy by the Pakistani state to shift the focus away from the Kashmir valley.

So, what should PM Modi do? Should he go to Pakistan or not?



Remember that 10 long years ago, Modi had invited Nawaz Sharif, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, to his swearing-in ceremony in Delhi and Sharif had turned up — against the advice of his own powerful military establishment. When Sharif returned home from Delhi, it was said that he and his job were in trouble, because he had chosen to shake the hand of the man who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat when the 2002 riots had taken place, in which more than a thousand Muslims had been killed. The way Sharif explained it — Modi was the PM of South Asia's most powerful country, Pakistan was India's neighbour and both had been through the rough-and-tumble of history — it was his duty to offer the hand of peace. The peace pipe didn't last long. On January 2, 2016, Pakistani terrorists attacked the Pathankot airstrike. Soon, Modi had announced that he was breaking off all conversation with Pakistan until cross-border terrorism came to an end. The deep freeze was turned on. But the truth is that eight years on, cross-border terrorism has not come to an end. The Jammu terror incidents from this summer indicate that someone continues to orchestrate the whole show from behind the scenes. "Uski tooti mere haath main hai" (I hold the lever in my hands) — that is how in the summer of 1999, at the height of the Kargil War, a senior Pakistan General described Pakistan's control of cross-border terrorism to then

army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf. The conversations were recorded by Indian intelligence, transcribed and shown to then Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz when he stopped over in Delhi en route to Beijing.

Aziz had been trying to defend the indefensible, that is, the Pakistani invasion at Kargil, when he was confronted with the tapes. He had nothing more to say after that.

Modi has been confronted with the same dilemma since 2016. He fully understands that the nature of the Pakistani state hasn't changed and what's more, is unlikely to change in the near future. If he had any doubts, the carefully instigated overthrow of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh next door — no doubt, she is fully responsible for allowing the situation to reach this crescendo — should give him a clearer picture of India's dangerous neighbourhood.

So, should he continue with upping the ante — 'surgical strikes' in 2016, followed by missile strikes in Balakote in 2019 — even though it's clear that Pakistan will find new ways to hurt India every day? Or should he take a leaf out of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's book and try to make peace with the nation that the latter went to war with?

It's clear that the wind is shifting in the India-Pakistan corner again. Modi remains a strong third-term Prime Minister, but he has had to go the extra mile to woo both Russia and the US over Ukraine. It's not clear whether the Big Powers want Modi to renew contact with Pakistan again, which is what explains the timing of the Islamabad invite. Even if the invite is for a pro-China organisation, which is what the SCO is, perhaps the Americans are testing the waters. They certainly don't want Pakistan to be fully drawn into China's sway.

And then there's Kashmir. More than one India-Pakistan-US Track Two conversation has come away with the revelation that Pakistan may be willing to tone down its very harsh criticism of the abrogation of Article 370 and return to a conversation if India conducts elections in Jammu & Kashmir. Guess what's happening there in September.

## Securing the healers

Address systemic issues in 'unsafe'

The Centre's directive to enhance security in hospitals is a critical response to a growing crisis — the safety of our healthcare workers. The brutal rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College has shocked the nation and underscored the urgent need for comprehensive security measures in medical institutions. This tragedy, among others, has led President Droupadi Murmu to express her deep anguish, calling for society to confront and address the root causes of violence against women. Hospitals, meant to be sanctuaries of healing, are increasingly becoming dangerous workplaces, particularly during the night shift when security is often insufficient. The Centre's recommendation for joint security audits, installation of CCTV cameras and extending the 112 helpline to healthcare workers is an essential step towards creating a safer work environment. Routine night patrols, control rooms on medical campuses and



strict access controls are also necessary to prevent such heinous acts. Systemic vulnerabilities that make hospitals unsafe must be addressed holistically. However, these

hospitals

measures must be more than reactive. Murmu's poignant call for 'honest, unbiased self-introspection' urges us to recognise the issues that allow such crimes to occur. Comprehensive training of security personnel, regular security drills, and strict visitor protocols are essential. Additionally, the mental wellbeing of healthcare workers, who often work under immense stress, must be prioritised.

The government's proactive approach in recommending security enhancement is commendable, but the real challenge lies in ensuring effective implementation at the state and institutional levels. As a society, we owe it to our healthcare workers to provide them with a secure environment where they can perform their duties without fear.

## Social media overuse taking its toll on consumers

Anonymity on social media encourages users to post inappropriate material and indulge in cybercrimes.

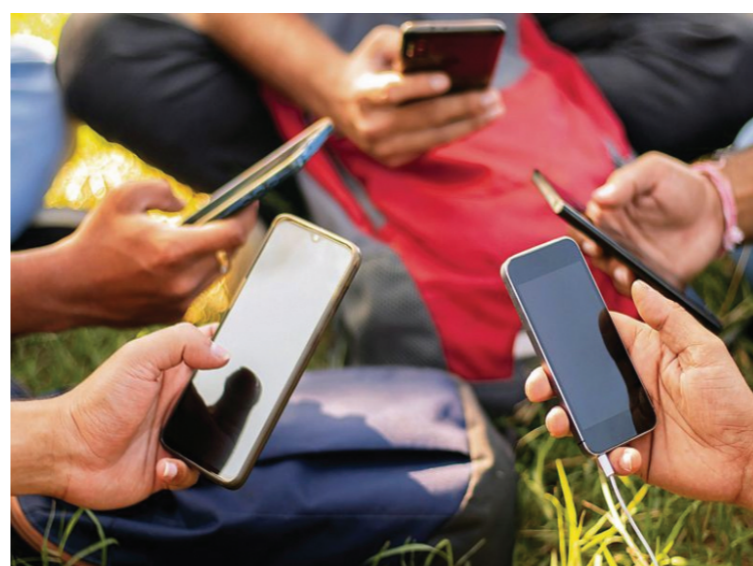
IT was shocking to learn during an orientation programme for new entrants at a law college in Punjab that students remain occupied on social media (SM) for an average of over seven hours a day, leaving them with little time for sports and other community engagements or personal activities. It is estimated that 65 per cent of the teenagers are hooked on social networking service (SNS) and 72 per cent of them have direct access to the Internet. The number of SM accounts and Internet users has crossed the 100 crore-mark in India. According to Pew Research Centre statistics, 77 per cent of employees admit to using social networking sites while at work. No one can deny that SM provides people who desire to expand their social networks, promote their businesses or overcome loneliness with an incredible platform. It fosters a feeling of belongingness among those who need company but cannot physically interact with their family members, friends and relatives. SNS also makes for a good pastime and a source of entertainment for all, especially senior citizens. However, overindulgence in SM has a harmful impact on the physical, mental and overall wellbeing of its users. According to a University of Buffalo study, excessive use of SNS by college students has detrimental effects on their physical health. They have higher levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), a sign of chronic inflammation connected to major diseases like diabetes, malignancies and cardiovascular problems. The new generation addicted to SM is at a high risk of suffering from the 'blue light effect', which is produced by the light emanating from electronic devices while in use. It adversely affects the production of the melatonin hormone, which controls the sleep-wake cycle or circadian rhythms, resulting in sleeplessness and a weak immunity.

A National Institutes of Health study (2018) at the New York-Presbyterian medical centre reported that children spending more than two hours a day on screen-time activities scored low on language and thinking tests. Some children exposed to the screen daily for more than seven hours experienced thinning of the brain's cortex, the area related to critical thinking and reasoning.

In 2015, psychologist Marion Underwood and sociologist Robert Faris analysed about 1.5 lakh social media posts from more than 200 students aged 13 years and found that they had created drastically different online personas for themselves. They felt the freedom to do or say whatever they wanted to without any inhibition or fear of consequences or repercussions. Media theorist Douglas Rushkoff calls this phenomenon 'digi-phrenia', which is "the experience of trying to exist in more than one incarnation of yourself at the same time." Studies have established that frequent stimulations received from SM sites shorten the attention span of the users, triggering far-reaching consequences. Such individuals may find it difficult to express themselves clearly, make mistakes as a result of a diminished attention to detail, and perform badly in a variety of settings, such as social situations, at their workplace and at educational institutions.

Comparison is ingrained in human nature. The fake videos, manipulated information, impractical solutions and mischievous prescriptions published on SM are so mesmerising that ill-informed and innocent users start comparing their 'real life' with others' 'real life', leading to self-doubt and making

them feel frustrated and depressed. It is sickening that the rat race to get maximum likes on digital platforms and the quest for creating the best videos and stories have made many gullible individuals share each and every moment of their private life and that of others, allowing an intrusion into their privacy. It is leading to different kinds of behavioural abrasions, relationship discord and social conflicts. Such people



do not understand that SM platforms are best meant for impacting people and not for impressing others. The bombardment of crypted and unverified information on social networking sites is cluttering the users' minds. It has snatched away from them the joy of being and living in the moment. Moreover, biased SM algorithms passively make the users

consume unsuitable content that might lead to moral desensitisation. An overindulgence in SM leads to psychological disorders; a new class of such victims has already emerged. They can be seen checking their cell phones involuntarily — 79 times a day, according to a study — compelled by the desire to seek screen stimulation. Excessive time spent on networking sites has the potential of dragging such individuals into solitude and loneliness. In the absence of regular face-to-face interactions, humans lose the ability to recognise and respond to facial cues, voice tone and inflection, body language and the warmth of emotions.

The ethical consequences of addiction to SM are far more serious and extend from cyberbullying to privacy violations. Notably, 30 per cent of students in middle and high school are either victims or culprits of cyberbullying; 18 per cent of them are girls. Unfortunately, 15 per cent of the victims of cyberbullying attempt suicide out of depression. Anonymity on SM often encourages users to post inappropriate material and indulge in cybercrimes. Although the Telecommunications Act, 2023, prescribes duties of the SM users and measures to protect consumers from unauthorised intrusion into their privacy and empowers enforcement agencies to intercept objectionable communication, it is not proving a deterrent in the absence of rules and a lack of awareness among the masses.

Humankind now stands at a critical juncture regarding social media overuse. It must introspect: "Are we using SM or has it started consuming us?" SM should be used with due responsibility.

# Khoya Paneer Roll

Khoya Paneer Roll is a quick North Indian recipe that can be served as a snack and also as a main course. On days you do not want to prepare an elaborate meal, this roll recipe can come to your rescue. It is loaded with veggies and hence is filling and scrumptious. This non messy easy-to-make roll is a perfect dish to pack and conveniently carry to work, road trips and picnics. You can tweak this easy roll recipe in your own way by adding ingredients as per your choice. This easy recipe makes a perfect Diwali snack. So don your chef's hat and prepare this dish and impress your loved ones with your culinary skills.

Recipe: Naresh Chinni, Executive chef at The Drunken Botanist, Gurugram.

### Ingredients of Khoya Paneer Roll

- 1 cup cashews
- 2 tablespoon ghee
- 1/4 cup yoghurt (curd)
- 5 green chilli
- 4 tablespoon coriander leaves
- 1/4 shredded ice berg lettuce
- 1 medium chopped onion
- 1 small chopped cucumber
- salt as required
- 500 gm paneer
- 1/2 cup grated khoya
- 1 tablespoon ginger
- 5 green cardamom
- 5 roomali rotis
- 1 medium chopped capsicum (green pepper)
- 1 medium chopped tomato
- 5 gm chaat masala

### How to make Khoya Paneer Roll

#### Step 1

To prepare this easy

snack recipe, start with grinding boiled cashews and keep them aside. Now, take a pan and put it over the medium flame. Heat it and add ghee, green chillies and green cardamom to it, let it pop.

#### Step 2

Now, add cashew nut paste, beaten curd and salt to it. Stir well and cook for at least 10 minutes. Then add, grated khoya, paneer cubes and chaat masala, stir again.

#### Step 3

Take a roomali roti and keep it flat. Stuff it with shredded ice berg lettuce, chopped onion, tomato, cucumber and capsicum along with the prepared mixture. Add some more chaat masala for taste. Garnish with mint leaves if you like and serve hot!



# Tomato Shorba

Tomato Shorba is a North Indian recipe that is a staple in almost every north Indian households. This vegetarian recipe would surely be a family favorite and would be prepared on a regular rotation in your house. The best part about this thick flavorful shorba is that it is quiet easy to prepare at home as it involves the use of all the fuss free ingredients like tomatoes, coconut milk, green chillies, coriander leaves, curry leaves which are easily available in one's kitchen. You can serve this mouth-watering shorba recipe on occasions like kitty parties, game nights, buffets, birthday parties with bread sticks and enjoy with your family and friends. Try making this sumptuous dish at home over the weekend and we are sure everyone in your house will lick their bowls clean. Happy hogging!

### Ingredients of Tomato Shorba

- 3 cup chopped tomato
- 1 teaspoon gram flour (besan)
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 2 green chilli
- 3 pinches salt
- 2 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon ghee
- 6 curry leaves
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 cup water

### How to make Tomato Shorba

#### Step 1

Start by finely chopping the tomatoes and then

place a saucepan over medium flame. Pour water in it along with the chopped tomatoes and allow it to boil for minimum 10 minutes. Then add these boiled tomatoes in a blender jar and blend on a high speed for a few seconds till you achieve a smooth puree. Keep it aside.

#### Step 2

Combine coconut milk and gram flour in a bowl and then keep it aside for a while. Place a deep bottomed saucepan over medium flame and pour ghee in it over medium flame. Once the ghee starts to melt and is hot enough add cumin seeds and allow them to crackle.

#### Step 3

When the seeds crackle add the curry leaves and sliced green chillies to the same pan. Saute well on a medium flame for a minute or two. After a minute add the tomato puree and coconut-gram flour mixture along with salt and sugar in the pan. Stir well and cook for 5-7 minutes over medium flame.

#### Step 4

Your tomato shorba is now ready. Transfer it to a separate soup bowl and garnish with chopped coriander leaves. Serve hot along with bread sticks and enjoy.



Kaju Katli (also known as Kaju Barfee or Cashew Burfi) is an easy as well as popular North Indian sweet, often made during Diwali and special festive occasions. This lip-smacking dessert recipe is loaded with the goodness of cashews and is truly delicious. This easy-to-make recipe is a perfect amalgamation of balanced sugar and creaminess of cashew nuts. Unlike other sweet recipes, this delicacy is very simple and easy. It is one of the most popular sweet delight, and making it at home is much better than buying from any sweet shop. Homemade Kaju Katli tastes much better, simply because you can control the quantity and quality of ingredients used to prepare this sweet delicacy. What makes it a delectable sweet recipe, is the use of sugar syrup blended with powdered cashew nuts. If you are someone who loves experimenting, you can add your own twist by adding ingredients as per your palate preference. However, the basic recipe will remain the same. It also makes for a nice festive treat and a perfect option to devour after an elaborate meal. If you have guests dropping by and you don't have much time to prepare something exotic and elaborate, then, treat your guests with this homemade Indian delicacy and we bet your guests will shower you with appreciation. If you are health conscious and want to prepare it in a healthy way, you can replace regular sugar with stevia or sugar free, this will give you the liberty to delve in the indulgent taste of this dish, without feeling guilty. So try this delicacy at home and impress your loved ones. What's more, if you are preparing for the festival season then we have curated some easy Diwali recipes like Besan ladoo, nariyal ke ladoo, balushahi, mysore pak, malpua, jalebi, basundi, rasgulla, shahi tukda

### Ingredients of Kaju Katli

- 2 cup powdered cashews
- 1/2 cup Water
- 2 teaspoon ghee
- 4 inches Silver vark



For The Main Dish  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoon milk  
How to make Kaju Katli  
**Step 1**  
Here's how you can prepare kaju katli at home, without putting in much efforts. To prepare this delicious dessert, grind the cashews to a smooth powder. Then prepare the cashew paste by adding little water, ensure that the paste is thick in consistency. Take a shallow pan and heat in on medium flame and add some water in it. Add sugar and stir continuously until it is fully

# Kaju Katli

dissolved. caramel

#### Step 2

Bring the syrup to a boil until it reaches to one string consistency. When the sugar syrup is ready, add the cashew powder and stir well. Stir this mixture for about 5-10 minutes or till it starts to thicken and remove it from the flame. If you want to add your own twist to this traditional recipe add a pinch of cardamom powder, this will give nice a flavoursome twist to this traditional dish.

#### Step 3

Then transfer this cashew paste to a large plate or bowl and allow it to cool slightly. When it has cooled enough, then knead the mixture well. Flatten the dough (you can use a rolling pin). Grease a plate with ghee and transfer this cashew dough on it.

#### Step 4

Using a rolling pin, gently roll until the dough has evenly spread out on the plate. Allow it to cool completely and cut the dough in small diamond shapes. Serve with savouries and delve into the indulgent flavours of this sweet dish.



# Moong Dal Shorba

Moong Dal ka Shorba is a tasty recipe, best for appetizers as well as main course. You can easily prepare this gluten-free nutritious soup for your loved ones during the winter season. The key ingredient to this hot-pipping homemade easy recipe is yellow split lentils. This thick and creamy lentil-based soup is rich in proteins and is very healthy. People with a weak stomach can have it comfortably as it is easy to digest and prepared with simple ingredients excluding spices. This soup is the best way to make your fussy eaters intake some really necessary nutrients. Tickle your taste buds by trying this refreshing digestible tasty soup following these really simple steps.

### Ingredients of Moong Dal Shorba

- 50 gm moong dal
- 1/4 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon butter
- salt as required
- 20 gm onion
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice

- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric water as required
- For Garnishing
- 1 teaspoon mint leaves
- 1 teaspoon coriander leaves

#### Step 1

Heat some butter in a pan over medium flame. When it melts, and add onions in it. Saute for 30 seconds & add chopped garlic, ginger, green chillies, turmeric powder, and salt. Add moong dal and give it a stir. Now add three cups of water and bring it to a boil.

#### Step 2

Simmer for fifteen minutes, till the dal becomes soft, keep removing scum from time to time. Blend the dal mixture and strain. Heat remaining butter in a pan, add cumin seeds to it.

#### Step 3

Add pureed dal, and bring it to a boil. Adjust seasoning and consistency by adding water if desired. Finish with lemon juice. Serve this delicious dish hot, garnish it with fresh mint & coriander leaves.



# JD(U) leader KC Tyagi quits as party spokesperson, cites personal reason

KC Tyagi resigned as the JD(U)'s national spokesperson citing 'personal reason', while sources suggest that it was due to the party's dissatisfaction with his recent statements.

► **Rajiv Ranjan Prasad to replace KC Tyagi as JD(U) spokesperson**  
 ► **Tyagi cites 'personal reason' in resignation letter, says party**  
 ► **Party sources suggest displeasure of party leadership over his statements**

**Patna.** Senior Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi resigned as the party's national spokesperson, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's party said on Sunday. Tyagi cited "personal reason" for his resignation in his

letter to the party leadership. However, sources suggested that the resignation was due to the leadership's displeasure with his recent statements on various issues. Rajiv Ranjan Prasad will be replacing Tyagi as the new national spokesperson of the party, the party announced. According to sources, Tyagi resigned because the party leadership felt that his statements, including the recent one on the Israel-Palestine issue and the lateral entry controversy, deviated from the party line. He had urged the Centre to stop arms supplies to Israel and had stated that India supports peace and a ceasefire in Gaza.

Party sources alleged that Tyagi made statements without consulting the leaders



and that there were talks of alleged differences within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) due to his remarks. Tyagi, the 73-year-old leader, has been with Nitish Kumar throughout his political journey and has been considered as a prominent face of the party. He was a Rajya Sabha MP from

Bihar from 2013 to 2016 and was a Lok Sabha member from 1989 to 1991 from the Hapur constituency. Tyagi was a signatory to a recent statement put out by present and former MPs, condemning Israel's actions, saying "India can not be complicit in this genocide".

The party sources talked to India Today also cited his comments on the Supreme Court's decision regarding SC/ST and on the issue of lateral entry jobs under UPSC, stating that these were made without prior discussion within the party. Commenting after the Supreme Court refused to stay the Patna High Court's order that set aside the state government's amendments to increase the quota, Tyagi said that the JD(U) is in favour of a caste-based census in the country, a key

demand put forth by the INDIA bloc parties. The JD(U) leader had also spoken against the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)'s decision to appoint "talented and motivated Indian nationals" to the posts of Joint Secretary, Director, and Deputy Secretary in 24 ministries of the Union government through lateral recruitment.

JD(U) sources also alleged that Tyagi frequently presented his personal views on these issues as if they were the views of the party. With two senior JD(U) leaders, including Union minister Lalan Singh and its parliamentary party leader Sanjay Jha, based in Delhi, there is a view in the party that the two leaders should be left to shape the ties with the BJP without frequent public interjections of Tyagi, news agency PTI reported.

## Girl, 13, pregnant after being raped by school peon in Uttar Pradesh

**New Delhi:** A 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a government school peon and his accomplice in Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, police said. The incident came to light five months later when the girl's parents discovered she was pregnant and filed a complaint on Saturday (August 31), news agency PTI reported. Police was quoted by PTI as saying that a few months ago, the girl had gone to the washroom at night, when the school people, Pankaj and another person from the village, Amit, caught her. They took her to an empty house where Amit raped her, while Pankaj kept a watch outside.

The girl was then threatened that she would be killed if she revealed the incident to anyone. However, on Saturday, her mother found that she was five-months pregnant, following which she revealed the incident. An FIR has been lodged on charges of rape and under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the accused. No arrests have been made in the case yet, an official was quoted as saying by PTI. Pankaj got a job as a peon in a council school as the dependent of a deceased, police said.

## Jet Fuel Price Cut 4.6%, Commercial Cooking Gas Up By 39 Per Cylinder

The price reduction will help ease the burden on airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost.

**New Delhi:** Jet fuel, or ATF, price was on Sunday reduced by 4.6 per cent while the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was hiked by 39 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by 4,495.5 per kilolitre, or 4.58 per cent, to 93,480.22 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The price reduction will help ease the burden on airlines for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost.

The reduction follows two rounds of monthly price increases. Jet fuel prices were on August 1 raised by 2 per cent or 1,827.34 per kl and by 1.2 per cent (Rs 1,179.37 per kl). These hikes followed a steep 6.5 per cent (Rs 6,673.87 per kl) reduction effected on June 1.

The ATF rate in Mumbai was reduced to 87,432.78 per kl on Sunday from 91,650.34 previously. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG by 39 to 1,691.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

This is the second straight monthly increase. Prices were hiked by 6.5 per cylinder on August 1. The two rounds of increase follow four monthly price reductions. In four price reductions, rates were cut by 148 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs 1,644 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, 1,802.50 in Kolkata and 1,855 in Chennai. Rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate. Prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates had been cut 2 per litre in mid-March. Petrol costs 94.72 a litre in Delhi while diesel is priced at 87.62. PTIANZ TRB TRB.

## Bihar man tries to attack Union Minister Giriraj Singh at event, gets beaten up

**New Delhi:** A man was arrested on Saturday after he tried to attack Union Minister Giriraj Singh at an event in Bihar's Begusarai, the BJP leader's Lok Sabha constituency. The accused had come to the minister's 'Janta Darbar' (public grievance redressal programme) with a petition and was beaten up by Singh's supporters following the incident. According to Singh, the man, identified as Saifi, had dressed as a cleric and asked him to look into his petition. He said the man raised slogans against him when he told him the programme was over. "The bearded person dressed like a maulvi (cleric) came to me with a petition and asked me to look into it. I told him that the 'Janta Darbar' was over and that he should have come on time. He then started shouting slogans against



me. At one point of time, it appeared that he would physically attack me," Singh said. He alleged that the accused was not talking to him properly. "He was overpowered by the people who had gathered there. He was handed over to the police later," the Union Minister said. Begusarai Superintendent of Police (SP) Maneesh said the accused attempted to break the security cordon and was said to be a ward

councillor. "One person has been arrested and he is in police custody. The Union Minister had a program in Ballia subdivision on Saturday afternoon, during which a person behaved indecently. The policemen present in the security cordon caught him and further action is underway," he told news agency ANI. "The person's name is Shahzad alias Saifi. He was caught behaving indecently and trying to break the security cordon. He is a resident of Ballia and is said to be a ward councillor," he said. Later, Singh tweeted that he would not be scared by such attacks. "Those who pamper these people on seeing their beard and cap must see how love jihad and communal tension is being created in the entire country as well as in Begusarai," he said.

## "I Only Hope...": Actor Jayasurya Breaks Silence On Sex Harassment Charges

**New Delhi:** Denying the sexual harassment allegations against him, actor Jayasurya today said that he would take legal action. The case is among the avalanche of sexual assault and rape allegations against some of Bollywood's biggest names, including veteran actor Siddique and filmmaker Ranjith Balakrishnan. Two actors have filed cases against Jayasurya, both of which the actor claimed are false. "I have decided to move forward with this legally. My legal team will be looking after the rest of the proceedings regarding this case. False allegations are easy to make for anyone who lacks a conscience. I only hope one realises that facing a false accusation of harassment is just as painful as the harassment itself,"



Jayasurya said in an Instagram post. "A lie always travels faster than the truth but I believe truth will prevail. All the legal proceedings to prove my innocence will continue. I have complete faith in our judicial system. Thank you to those who contributed to making this birthday the most painful one," he added. The MeToo storm in the Malayalam film industry started after the report by Justice Hema Committee, which details

allegations of sexual harassment by women in the industry, was made public. The 235-page report, published after redacting names of witnesses and the accused, notes that the Malayalam film industry is controlled by 10-15 male producers, directors, and actors. Actor Minu Muneer has accused Jayasurya and M Mukesh of sexual harassment during the shooting of a movie in 2013. Speaking to NDTV, the actor shared her harrowing ordeal. "I had a bitter experience while shooting for a film. I had gone to the toilet and when I came out, Jayasurya hugged me from behind and kissed me without my consent. I was shocked and I ran out," she said, adding that the actor offered her more work.

## 'Cow is Revered... Who Can Stop Them?': Haryana CM Saini's Take On Charkhi Dadri Lynching-Murder Incident

**Haryana CM Saini downplays the Charkhi Dadri lynching, calling it "unfortunate" but insists it's not mob lynching, sparking controversy with his remarks on cow reverence.**

**New Delhi:** Haryana police on Saturday arrested five members of a cow vigilante group and detained two boys in connection with the alleged lynching of a man from West Bengal.

The migrant worker was suspected of eating beef and was allegedly beaten to death in Charkhi Dadri district. The incident has sparked strong reactions from opponents of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the



state prepares for upcoming assembly elections in just over a month. Sabir Malik, a 26-year-old man from North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, was living in Hansawas village, Charkhi Dadri, with his wife and 2-year-old daughter while working as a ragpicker. On August 27, he was killed by a group of men who lured him under the pretense of giving him plastic waste. When

questioned about the incident, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini stated at a press conference, "It is not right to use terms like mob lynching. We have passed a strict law in the state assembly to protect cows, and there will be no compromise on that."

He asserted that the August 27 incident is "unfortunate" but urged people to refrain from calling it lynching. Saini further

## New Study Explains How Space Travel Can Affect Astronauts' Bodies

**New Delhi:** Space travel can cause shifts in the gut that might suppress the immune system of astronauts and affect their metabolism, according to a study. The findings help understand how space missions of long durations could affect health of astronauts, researchers said. Using genetic technologies, a team of researchers, led by those at Canada's McGill University, analysed changes in the guts, colons and livers of mice onboard the International Space Station or the ISS over a period of three months.

An international collaboration of NASA and other space agencies, the ISS is a spacecraft in the Earth's orbit. It is a unique science lab and serves as a "home where crews of astronauts" live, according to the NASA. The authors found significant shifts in gut bacteria that indicated changes in the mice's liver and intestinal genes, suggesting that spaceflight might suppress the



immune system and alter metabolism. "These interactions suggest disruption of the signals, metabolites, and immune factors exchanged across the gut-liver axis which are likely to drive glucose and lipid (fat) dysregulation," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal *npg Biofilms and Microbiomes*. Collectively, these multiomic findings suggest host-gut microbiome interactions during spaceflight are likely to underlie widespread changes to host physiology which could pose a risk to health," they wrote. The researchers said the study's results can help develop safeguards and ensure success of future space missions, from establishing a long-term presence on the Moon to sending humans to Mars. "Spaceflight extensively alters astronauts' bodies, yet we still don't fully understand why. By using advanced techniques to study both gut bacteria and genes at the same time, we're beginning to see patterns that could explain those changes and help us develop safeguards for future missions," lead author Emmanuel Gonzalez from the McGill University said.



# What top chefs have as Comfort food



We all have that one comfort food that we unfailingly turn to - be it at the end of a long, tiring day or the beginning of a bad break-up. Those with limited culinary skills may have to make their peace with instant noodles and chopped sausages, or a double cheddar pizza ordered as takeout, but what do chefs rustle up to combat a bad day? Here, three city chefs share their go-to, home-cooked comfort food, with basic ingredients.

**Kayzad Sadri**

Former executive chef, Intercontinental, Marine Drive "I was on a trip to Italy a few years ago and I had this dish at a small trattoria in the countryside of Tuscany and even thought it was a simple dish. I remember its flavour even today. I made it at home for the first time and it turned out well but I remember putting the prawns in the sauce instead of grilling them. But the next time, I grilled them instead of putting them in the sauce because that's how I like it best. The result was phenomenal. The first time I made it, I used regular pasta. Now I use whole wheat as it's a healthier alternative."

**Ingredients**

Whole wheat pasta (40 gms per person)

- medi um sized prawns (cleaned and peeled, 10 pieces)
  - tomato (400 gms, blanched, peeled and roughly ly chopped)
  - garlic (3 cloves)
  - onion (1 small, very finely chopped)
  - salt and pepper (to taste)
  - chilli flakes (to taste)
  - oregano (preferably fresh or dried, 2 to 3 sprigs)
  - basil (2 to 3 sprigs)
  - extra virgin olive oil (1+1+1 tsp)
- Method**
- Boil pasta in boiling salted water.
  - Take one teaspoon olive oil in a pan.
  - Add onion and garlic. Saute till soft

- Add chilli flakes and tomatoes.
- Season with salt and pepper and cook for 30 minutes till done.
- Marinate prawns with salt, pepper, chilli flakes and olive oil. Grill and cook in a pan for two minutes on each side. Do not over cook Toss the pasta in the sauce and cook for five minutes till well combined.
- Finish the pasta with basil and check seasoning.
- Top with the grilled prawns, chopped fresh herbs and grated parmesan cheese.
- Pour a little extra virgin olive oil on top

for better flavour.

**Chef Sahil Singh**

Pa Pa Ya "Rajma chawal is my comfort food and I can consume it to my heart's content any day. Coming from a Punjabi household, my mother would cook it for us and serve it with other accompaniments like mango pickle, poppadums and home-made fresh coriander and mint chutney. The best thing is to have it hot, straight from my mother's kitchen."

**Ingredients**

- Red rajma (300gms)
- ginger paste (40gms)
- garlic paste (40gms)
- onion paste (120gms)
- tomato paste (120gms)
- garam masala (20 gms)
- degi mirchi (20gms)
- red chilli powder (20gms)
- zeera powder (20gms)
- black cardamom (5gms)
- hing (2gms)
- tej patta (10gms)
- corinader seeds (15gms)
- water (500ml)

- chopped coriander (30gms)
  - green chillies for garnish (20gms)
  - salt to taste
  - basmati rice (300gms)
- Method**
- Soak rajma and rice overnight. Pour oil in a pressure cooker.
  - Add tej patta, black cardamom and hing. Saute. Add ginger garlic paste. Add the onion paste. Saute till golden brown.
  - Add the tomato paste. Cook. Add other ingredients. Saute.

- Add water. Cover the cooker. Wait till six whistles.

- Serve with steamed basmati rice. Garnish with chopped coriander and green chillies.

**Chef Dhvani Agrawal**  
Sr. Sous Chef, Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra "I have fond childhood memories of my mother's Sindhi Kadi Chawal. Since it takes time to make the dish, mom usually made this on Sundays, thus making it the Sunday special. It was something we would eagerly look forward to every week. All my friends would ask me to treat them to my mom's Sindhi Kadi Chawal as it was a hit amongst all. Till date, when I go home, she cooks it as she knows that it will make my day. When I am ill, it is my mom's version of chicken soup for the soul."

**Ingredients**

- Besan (4 t-spoon)
- tomatoes (pureed and strained, 8-10 nos)
- drumsticks (cut 3 inch long, 2 nos)
- yam (cubed, 250 gms)
- cluster beans (100 gms)
- potatoes (cubed), okra (slit and fried, 150 gms)
- curry leaves (23 strings)
- oil for roasting & frying
- salt to taste methi seeds (12 tspn)
- whole jeera (12 tspn)
- hing (a pinch)
- turmeric powder (1 tspn)
- fresh coriander leaves (chopped, to garnish), whole red chillies (dry, 2-3)
- kokum, 6 nos
- tamarind pulp (3 tblspn)

**Method**

- Heat oil in pan. Roast besan on low flame till light brown.
  - Add hing, dry red chillies, methi seeds, whole jeera Add tomato puree.
  - Add water and bring to boil. Add turmeric powder, salt and all vegetables except okra. Add kokum and curry leaves and boil Add tamarind pulp, fried okra after vegetables in the curry are cooked.
  - Garnish with chopped coriander
- For Tuk - Fry the cubes of potatoes in slow fire till half done Remove from oil, cool, flatten lightly and fry on high flame Sprinkle turmeric powder, red chilly powder, salt and amchoor.**

## Recipe: Bengali Fish Fingers



Apopular and easy to make Bengali style appetizer/snack. These fish fingers are well suited for any occasion, party or can also be served as an evening snack.

**Ingredients**

- White Fish Fillets - 300 gms, skinless, boneless
- Eggs - 2
- Fennel Seeds - 1 tsp
- Cumin Seeds - 1 tsp
- Mustard Seeds - 1 tsp
- Nigella Seeds - 1 tsp
- Fenugreek Seeds (Methi) - 1/2 tsp
- Maida - 1 1/2 tblsp
- Besan Flour - 1/2 tblsp
- Red Chilli Powder - 1 tsp
- Garlic - 3 cloves, crushed
- Ginger - 1 inch piece, grated
- Oil as required
- Breadcrumbs - 1 to 2 cups
- Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped
- Salt as per taste

**Method**

- Combine the cumin seeds, fennel

seeds, mustard seeds, nigella seeds and methi in a mixer jar.

- Grind them together and transfer to a bowl.
- Add the maida, besan, red chilli powder, garlic, coriander leaves, ginger and enough salt.
- Mix well.
- Beat the eggs in a bowl and add to the flour.

- Gently whisk until combined.

Chop the fish fillets into small bite-sized pieces or strips.

- Heat oil in a deep frying pan.
- Dip the fish fillets into the batter and remove.
- Allow any excess

to drip off and dredge it in the breadcrumbs, coating it fully Gently slide them into the hot oil and fry until cooked through or crisp and golden brown.

- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve with chutney or sauce of choice.

Chef Manu Chandra suggests 17 homegrown ingredients that can up the quotient of any plate

I think as one matures as a chef, intrinsically it becomes easier to look around oneself to be inspired and innovate rather than looking too far. Something similar has been happening with me despite my years working abroad and at some stellar restaurants at that. The depth and variety of what is available in our country is often overlooked by the restauranting ethos and instead most embrace hard-to-find western ingredients in the development of their menus and offerings.

While it would be unfair to say that some chefs haven't already attempted and been trying to champion Indian ingredients, I still feel that we have a very long way to go and being able to develop our brand of adopted cuisines (much like France, America, Australia have done).

Here's a list of 17 of perhaps hundreds of relatively unseen or underestimated ingredients, which I feel would add a lot of spunk to any menu, cuisine notwithstanding. Bon appetite.

**1. Bathua:** A seemingly wild growing green always found in certain parts of North India. Bathua is a fantastic replacement for spinach, which has always been associated with contamination. It's delicious, earthy and lends itself to many applications.

**2. Kachampoli:** Almost never heard of outside of Coorg, this is India's answer to Balsamic Vinegar even though it's neither sweet nor made with grapes. Watch it transform a non-vegetarian dish with it's deep dark colour and lip-smacking tang.

**3. Singhara:** This absolutely delicious water vegetable is barely seen on any menu. Peeled and sliced, it would make the most wonderful salad.

**4. Makhana:** Lotus seeds that have been dried are an incredible way to thicken sauces and gravies after frying and powdering. It's a great snack too, albeit a little heavy.

**5. Bhetki:** Despite the battle between the sea fish vs the fresh water fish lovers, the glorious Bhetki stands out as an outstanding fish. Its suppleness is a close second to the phenomenally expensive and imported varieties of bass. I would pass up a John Dory for a good Bhetki any day.

**6. Melon seeds:** So used are we to seeing pine nuts on menus, that we often forget how delicious roasted melon seeds can be. I've found them equally enticing on pastas, salads and even desserts. A must try.

**7. Bhut Jhalokia:** Also known as the Naga chili, I find myself reading more about this in foreign media than seeing it in our own

## 17 unexplored, exotic Indian Ingredients



res taurants. It's got a kick that will make most people chuck out the imported bottles of hot sauce.

**8. Gondhoraj lemon:** By far one of my favorite citrus flavours, the perfumey fragrance from this north-eastern lemon can convert the simplest dish into a stunner. Infuse it in a little vodka, or try a sorbet with it. A lemon tart with some zest and juice from the gondhoraj can give key lime pies a run for its money.

**9. Kalimpong Cheese:** Almost Gouda like, this cheese from Sikkim probably has a very small production, but can fool the finest of gourmets. Watch it transform the most humble bake or a simple chili cheese toast, if you can get your hands on it, that is.

**10. Rhododendron:** Literally the rose tree, these beautiful flowers from the hills of Nainital and around, make for the most amazing drinks and coolers. Instead of lapping up artificial green apple syrups in martinis, it would be fabulous to see bartenders adapt to this refreshingly different ingredient.

**11. Kashundhi:** Bengali cuisine would be unimaginable Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

**12. Gulkand:** A stalwart of the pan shop, gulkand in all its rosy and sweet avatar can be an amazing ingredient. It's mellow yet lucid on the palate. Try it with cheesecake or with nuts and honey on warm almond cookies.

Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

**12. Jaggery:** For a country that almost knew no refined sugar, the jump to white sugar and caramel-coloured refined sugar seem odd. Jaggery in its many forms still makes for an excellent sweetener for confections and puddings. Some practice will get you stunning results.

**13. Mustard and sesame oils:** So here we are, a nation with a rich enough history of our own oils with arguably as many health benefits as some other oils; yet we look at the olive for gourmet reasons. Not true. Both sesame and mustard oils have

amazing flavour characteristics and make some great dressings, sautes, marinades etc. Pick up a bottle of each for your kitchens today.

**14. Aam Ada:** This ginger root which has the most keen palates confused owing to its distinctively green mango flavour can be an amazing addition to soups, broths and relishes. It's again seen in very isolated cuisines, but I'm sure can gain a following as much as lemongrass if marketed well.

**15. Indian Vanilla Bean:** Many people will be unaware that some excellent Vanilla grows in the hills of Chikmagalur and Coorg and any place with coffee plantations. Substitute the sub par artificial essence with some caviar from a vanilla bean and watch a dessert move a step closer to Nirvana.

**16. Golden Apple:** As children one almost looked forward to apple season (yes, we ate seasonally as early as 20 years ago) for those incredibly juicy and sweet Golden Apples from Himachal. Today I'm hard pressed to find them. Instead I can easily settle for pretty, waxy and tasteless imported green and red apples. Eat an apple pie made from golden apples, and a whole generation may rethink the apple (edible) completely.

**17. Gulkand:** A stalwart of the pan shop, gulkand in all its rosy and sweet avatar can be an amazing ingredient. It's mellow yet lucid on the palate. Try it with cheesecake or with nuts and honey on warm almond cookies.

### Seven IPOs worth Rs 11,000 crore to flood Dalal Street next week

MUMBAI. Seven companies including Bajaj Housing Finance, debt arranging platform Northern Arc and jewellery player PN Gadgil Jewellers are hitting the primary capital markets next week, seeking to mop up close to Rs 11,000 crore. The other issuers tapping the market next week are Arkade Developers, Tolins Tyres, auto component player Kross and Gala Precision Engineering.

While the issue from Bajaj Housing Finance is the largest at Rs 7,000 crore, the Chennai-based debt arranger Northern Arc is raising Rs 1,500 crore, the Pune-headquartered almost 200-year-old PNG Jewellers is mopping up Rs 1,100 crore, Kross is looking at raising Rs 500 crore, the city-based Arkade Developers which is primarily into redevelopment in the megapolis is seeking to garner Rs 430 crore in a fully primary issue, the Kerala-based Tolins Tyres is eyeing Rs 230 crore, and the city-based Gala Precision Engineering is looking at garnering Rs 180 crore, according to their filings with the regulator Sebi.

The Rs 7,000-crore Bajaj Housing issue is the first IPO from the Pune-based group since May 2008 and consists of a fresh issue of Rs 4,000 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 3,000 crore by the selling shareholder Bajaj Finance. The Bajaj Group has filed the draft red herring prospectus with market regulator Sebi for a Rs 7,000-crore primary share sale from its housing finance arm Bajaj Housing Finance.

The Bajaj group, founded in 1926, has several publicly traded companies -- Bajaj Finserv (May 2008), which is the parent of the issuer and also the group's holding company of its financial services vertical; Bajaj Finance, another promoter of the firm hit the market in 1994; and flagship Bajaj Auto which went public much earlier and is the world's most profitable two-wheeler maker. According to the Sebi filing, only Bajaj Finance is participating in the offer for sale of up to Rs 3,000 crore though Bajaj Finserv is also a promoter.

The Chennai-based Northern Arc Capital, which is primarily into arranging debt for small businesses and micro lenders but also has a non-banking arm, is raising Rs 1,500 crore through the public issue in a mix of fresh issue and offer for sale by its external investors, the details of which are not known as of now. The 1,100 crore issue of Pune-headquartered jewelry retailer PNG Jewellers, which has 39 stores across Maharashtra and Goa, consists of fresh issue of Rs 850 crore and the Rs 250 crore of OFS by the family trust SVG Business Trust that fully owns

The director added that integrating Ayush principles with agriculture could lead to substantial income increases for farmers. "By adopting integrated farming practices, we can double farmers' incomes while promoting sustainable agricultural techniques," she noted. "This sector has the potential to serve as a backbone for the Indian economy." She further elaborated on the interconnectedness of the Ayush sector with agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and biomedical engineering. "As we strengthen our agricultural base, we also enhance opportunities in the pharmaceutical and health sectors," she explained. The director projected a significant rise in the export of Ayurvedic products, highlighting the increasing global demand for natural and holistic health solutions.

### Ayush presents significant soft power opportunity, says AIIA director Tanuja Nesari

NEW DELHI. The role of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) as a significant soft power of India presents vast opportunities for economic growth and international exports, said Tanuja Manoj Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). "Ayush is not just a sector; it embodies India's rich cultural heritage and serves as a unique selling proposition that cannot be replicated elsewhere," the director said in an interaction with The New Indian Express. "This is a soft power of India, akin to our art and culture, and it holds immense potential for boosting the economy," she added.

The government aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the health sector, with a target of developing 100 unicorns over the next three years. Nesari revealed that the initiative is centered around three key areas: Ayurvedic food products, biomedical engineering, and technology integration. "With rising health consciousness among consumers, there is a tremendous opportunity in the healthy food products market," She added.

NEW DELHI. The GDP growth slumped to a 15-month low with 6.8% real rate of growth in the first quarter of 2024-25. However, there are some reasons for hope and cheers. Private consumption growth during the quarter surged to a 2-year high of 7.4% as against 4% in the previous quarter and 5.5% in the year-ago period. Private final consumption expenditure accounted for 56.3% of GDP in the first quarter of FY25 as against 55.9% in the same quarter a year ago.

### India's Q1 GDP: Private consumption lifts mood

The strong growth in consumption in Q1 was seen despite an uneven monsoon and intense heat wave. As per experts, pick up in the rural demands as well as moderation in retail inflation might have worked in favour of private consumption during the period.

Rural demand pick-up was signalled by better sales numbers of two-wheelers, tractors and FMCG sales. Two-wheeler sales grew 12.6% in Q1. While the Q1 tractor sales were 12.44%, the sales in April surged by 33%. Recovery in rural India kept FMCG sales growth steady. As per Gaura Sen Gupta, economist, India First Bank, the (consumption) growth is likely led by rural demand with improvement in labour market conditions. "There has been a fall in demand for jobs under NREGA in Q4FY24 and Q1FY25. Rural demand indicators remain positive with momentum in two-wheeler sales (20.4%YoY in Q1) and improvement in tractor sales," says Gupta. She said consumption growth during Q1 indicates urban spends has held-up, against expectation of a moderation. High frequency indicators for urban demand like FMCG sales volume and passenger vehicle (PV) sales growth remained muted in Q1. PV sales grew at 2.53% in Q1.

# Lok Sabha polls, reduced spending: RBI Governor's reasons for Q1 GDP fall

**India's GDP growth slowed to 6.7% in April-June**  
**RBI had projected 7.1% growth for the quarter**  
**Agriculture sector grew minimally at around 2%**

The first advance estimation data released by the National Statistical Office showed the growth rate at 6.7 per cent," Das said. The components and main drivers responsible for the GDP growth like consumption, investment, manufacturing, services and construction have registered a growth of more than 7 per cent, he said.

Only two aspects have pulled the growth rate slightly down. Those are—government (both central and state) expenditure and agriculture, the RBI governor pointed out. He said the government expenditure was low during the first quarter perhaps due to elections (April to June) and operation of model code of conduct by the Election Commission. "We would expect the government expenditure to pick up in coming quarters and provide the required support to growth," Das said. Similarly, the agriculture sector has recorded a minimal growth rate of around 2 per cent in the April to June quarter. However, the

monsoon was very good and spread all over India except a few areas. So, everyone is optimistic and positive about the agriculture sector, he noted.



"Under these circumstances, we have reasonably confident expectations that the annual growth rate of 7.2 per cent projected by the RBI will be materialised in coming quarters," the governor asserted. Das said that GST, inflation targeting framework and Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) are the three

major reforms made during the past 10 years. Addressing a national conference of chartered accountants (CAs) here, he said, "The primary functioning of the RBI, as defined in its preamble, is to maintain price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. This was a major structural reform made by the government in 2016 by amending the RBI Act." With this amendment, the RBI is mandated by the law to maintain the price stability with keeping the inflation at 4 per cent, with a leeway of 2 percentage points on either side, he said.

When Covid hit, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 250 basis points. Similarly, after the Ukraine war started, due to various international factors and some domestic weather events, the inflation rose to 7.8 per cent. So, at that time, the central bank had quickly increased the interest rate, he pointed out. Stating that quality of audit in any organisation is very important, Das advised the CAs to do a true diagnosis of the health of a company like doctors.

New Delhi. The slowing of India's economic growth to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in the April-June quarter was due to "lower" government spending in the wake of the enforcement of the model code of conduct for the recent Lok Sabha polls, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said here on Saturday. The RBI had projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the April-June quarter of this fiscal. "The Reserve Bank projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the first quarter. However,

## FPIs Inflow in Equities Drops to Rs 7,320 Crore in August on Higher Valuations

NEW DELHI. Foreign investors have adopted a cautious stance and infused Rs 7,320 crore in the Indian equities in August owing to high valuation of stocks and the unwinding of the Yen carry trade after Bank of Japan raised interest rates. This investment was way lower than Rs 32,365 crore in July and Rs 26,565 crore in June, according to data with the depositories. While September is likely to see continued interest from FPIs, the flows would be shaped by a combination of domestic political stability, economic indicators, global interest rate movements, market valuations, sectoral preferences, and the attractiveness of the debt market, Vipul Bhowar, Director Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors, said. According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net investment of Rs 7,320 crore in Indian

equities in August. The fundamental reason for the poor FPI interest compared to the preceding two months is the high valuation in the Indian market. With Nifty trading at above 20 times estimated FY25 earnings, India is

than India, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. Additionally, the unwinding of the Yen carry trade on August 24 significantly impacted FPI behaviour, leading to substantial sell off in Indian equities, Bhowar said. This unwinding coincided with rising fears of a potential recession in the US and disappointing economic data, which further exacerbated the market's reaction, he added. Interestingly, FPIs have been selling in the secondary market, where valuations are perceived to be high, and redirecting their investments towards the primary market, which offers relatively lower valuations. Meanwhile, FPIs infused Rs 17,960 crore in the debt markets in August.

Experts believe that inclusion in global bond indices, attractive interest rates, stable economic growth, shift from equities, and favourable long-term outlook have been the key factors driving FPIs to invest in debt.



the most expensive market in the world now. FPIs have opportunities to invest in much cheaper markets and, therefore, their priority is markets other

## Mcap of 8 of Top-10 Most Valued Firms Surge Rs 1.53 Lakh Crore; Airtel, Infosys Biggest Gainers

NEW DELHI. The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,53,019.32 crore last week, with Bharti Airtel and IT majors Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with a record rally in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,279.56 points or 1.57 per cent.

Rallying for the ninth straight session on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. During the day, it jumped 502.42 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 82,637.03. The market valuation of Bharti Airtel soared Rs 47,194.86 crore to Rs 9,04,587.12 crore. Infosys added Rs 33,611.37 crore taking its valuation to Rs 8,06,880.50 crore. The valuation of Tata



Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped Rs 31,784.9 crore to Rs 16,46,899.17 crore and that of ICICI Bank surged Rs 18,734.3 crore to Rs 8,66,374.41 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries climbed Rs 13,396.42 crore to Rs 20,43,107.10 crore and that of HDFC Bank rallied Rs 5,600.24 crore to Rs 12,44,206.43 crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) went up by Rs 2,340.25 crore to Rs 6,73,390.88 crore and that of State Bank of India advanced Rs 356.98 crore to Rs 7,27,935.97 crore. However, the mcap of Hindustan Unilever slumped Rs 8,411.54 crore to Rs 6,52,739.95 crore and that of ITC declined by Rs 4,776.48 crore to Rs 6,27,587.76 crore. Reliance Industries continued to retain the title of the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

## Commercial LPG Cylinder Gets Costlier By Rs 39 in Delhi; Check Latest Prices In Delhi, Mumbai And Other Cities

**With this, the rate of a commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now stands at Rs 1,691.5, as compared with Rs 1,652.5 earlier.**

July, Rs 69.5 per cent decrease in June, and Rs 19 fall in May. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) adjust



cooking gas prices on the 1st of every month. While the specific reasons for the price hike have not been disclosed, factors such as international oil price

NEW DELHI. Commercial LPG, which is used in various establishments such as hotels and restaurants, has become costlier from Sunday, as oil marketing companies (OMCs) have hiked the price of a cylinder by Rs 39 from September 1 in Delhi. With this, the rate of a commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now stands at Rs 1,691.5, as compared with Rs 1,652.5 earlier. The price hike came after a series of rate reductions — Rs 30 cut in

fluctuations, changes in taxation policies, and supply-demand dynamics likely influence these adjustments. Revisions for both commercial and domestic LPG cylinders typically occur on the first day of each month. The government promotes using LPG cylinders for household cooking through various schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which provides subsidies to eligible families. In the previous revision on August 1, the price in Delhi was increased by Rs 6.50 to Rs 1,652.50 from Rs 1,646. In Kolkata, the price increased by Rs 8.50, bringing the cost to Rs 1,764.50. In Mumbai, the price was Rs 1,605, while in Chennai, it stood at Rs 1,817. Meanwhile, the price of jet fuel, or the aviation turbine fuel, has been reduced from Rs 97,975.72 Kl to Rs 93,480.22 Kl, with effect from September 1, 2024.

## 'Infant attrition' on rise, accounts for 10-15 per cent of annual labour movement: TeamLease Services

**The affected sectors, like IT and software, Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) and telecom, retail and manufacturing are witnessing this phenomenon.**



MUMBAI. Poor work-life balance, flexibility, and job dissatisfaction are leading to 4-5 per cent annual increase in 'infant attrition' -- employees quitting within six months of joining -- mainly in sectors like consumer durables, IT, and software, and BFSI, a senior executive of TeamLease Services said. Infant attrition refers to the phenomenon where employees leave an organisation within a short period after joining, typically within the first six months or during the probation period, some companies also consider three months as infant attrition. "Infant attrition in India, mainly seen in the 22-32 years age group, is growing annually at 4-5 per cent and is mostly driven by factors like poor work-

life balance and flexibility, which is particularly important to younger workers, job dissatisfaction, inadequate onboarding, insufficient compensation, making employees seek better opportunities," TeamLease Services Chief Strategy Officer Subburathinam P told PTIL. Lack of career development opportunities, culture of the organisation, work environment, managerial impact,

and changes happening in the family are also prompting new hires to leave in search of environments where they can grow and advance, he said. Infant attrition can also imply that there are more job opportunities, allowing people to switch, he said. "In India, the concept of infant attrition gained significant attention in the early 2000s, particularly within the IT sector. The rapid growth of the IT

industry led to high demand for skilled professionals, and companies faced challenges in retaining new hires," he added. He further explained that this phenomenon can have a significant financial impact on companies in the country and it is estimated that infant attrition accounts for about 10-15 per cent of annual labour movement. Which can lead to substantial costs, including recruitment, training, and lost productivity. The affected sectors, like IT and software, Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) and telecom, retail and manufacturing are witnessing this phenomenon, he added. Subburathinam further said, with 49 per cent consumer durables sector is witnessing the highest infant attrition, where new hires leave within the first six months. This trend is particularly pronounced in south India, where the infant attrition rate is as high as 51 per cent, he noted. When it comes to gender the overall male attrition stands at 84.5 per cent and women attrition at 15.5 per cent. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana are the states with the highest infant attrition rates, he added.

## NEWS BOX

## Serena Williams told she is cheering for me: Iga Swiatek 'star-struck' at US Open

New Delhi. World No. 1 Iga Swiatek met the 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams as she arrived at Flushing Meadows as a 'viewer' this time. The former tennis player appeared at the court after two years to her last appearance at the US Open 2022. Williams dominated the US Open throughout her career, having won 6 titles here. However, she bid an emotional adieu to the hard court after the Round 3 match against Australian Ajla Tomljanovic. She graced the hard court this time and wore her iconic short-pleated denim skirt and jacket look as she attended the matches. Williams was seen chatting with Swiatek at the player's gym ahead of her Round 3 match against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. Swiatek revealed that her chat with Williams inspired her as she won Round 3. The No. 1 seeded player was also elated after knowing that Williams was cheering for her to win the title. After saying



goodbye to tennis, Williams remained busy with her business enterprises and welcomed the birth of her second daughter last year. She watched World No. 1 Jannik Sinner pulling off a straight set win over Christopher O'Connell. She also caught some of American Tommy Paul's action over Gabriel Diallo. "More inspired me and it gave me, like, a positive kick, so it was nice. It was really nice to see her. She has a lot of positive energy. It's nice that she came on-site and she was chatting with the players, because for me, yeah, I still felt, even though we met before and for like a couple of years we have been on the same sides and on tour together, she's still like star-striking me," Swiatek said in the press conference. "It was nice that she approached me, because I wouldn't, for sure, find courage to do that (smiling) if it was the other way. But, yeah, she's really nice and really positive. I'm happy that she's following tennis, you know, and, like, my game, because she told me that she's cheering for me. It's always nice to hear that from somebody like Serena." The 2022 US Open champion Swiatek dominated in Round 3 with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Pavlyuchenkova. Swiatek will meet 16th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova of Russia in the Round of 16. Meanwhile, Williams' old friend Caroline Wozniacki, who was back on tour after a maternity break, joked that she was "pretty mad" that she didn't spot Williams in the stands at her match.

## US Open: Alex de Minaur thrashes Evans to set up Australian clash with Thompson

Alex de Minaur beat Dan Evans in the third round of the US Open men's singles on Sunday, September 1 at Louis Armstrong Stadium and secured his place in the quarter-finals of the event. The 25-year-old beat the British player rather comfortably by 6-3, 6 (4)-7, 6-0, 6-0. The Australian also became the first player from his nation to reach the fourth round of all Grand Slam tournaments in the same season since Lleyton Hewitt 20 years ago. De Minaur won the first set rather comfortably beating Evans by 6-3. However, the British player made a good comeback in the second set winning a tight tie-breaker by 7-6 (4). Just when Evans looked to claw his way back into the game, he suffered an injury and



ended up losing the remaining two sets in six straight games each. However, he was praised by De Minaur after the match for continuing to fight and not withdrawing from the match. "We should show a lot of respect for Dan. He's the ultimate competitor. He could have easily pulled out; the body obviously wasn't feeling well. But he stayed out and tried his best and I really appreciate it," said De Minaur in his on-court interview. The highest-ranked player from his country said that he's proud of his achievements this year and spoke about his struggles coming back from injury. "I'm super proud of what I've been able to achieve this year. It's been tough coming back from injury, but I'm so happy to be back here in New York playing these kind of matches. Let's keep it going," he added.

It's a pity I've got to play against Thompson: De Minaur

De Minaur will be up against his compatriot Jordan Thompson in the next game in the all-Australian clash. Speaking ahead of the match, he praised his fellow countrymen Thompson and Alexei Popyrin and mentioned how the latter beat Novak Djokovic. "It's so good for Australian tennis to show what we're capable of. Alexei putting on a show last night to beat Novak. Jordan playing some incredible tennis. It's a pity we've got to play each other.

## MS Dhoni opens up about 'elder brotherly' bond with Virat Kohli

**MS Dhoni opened up about his bond with Virat Kohli and hailed him as one of the best batters in world cricket.**

New Delhi. Former India captain MS Dhoni opened up about the bond he shared with Virat Kohli. The two stalwarts have been pillars of Indian cricket for more than a decade. While Dhoni acknowledged the age gap between them, he emphasised that they share a great bond as "colleagues" in the Indian team. Dhoni also praised Kohli as one of the best players in world cricket. Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020. Indian cricket fans have always admired the partnership between Dhoni and Kohli on the field and their camaraderie off it. Kohli took over the captaincy from Dhoni when he stepped down from leading India in late December 2014 in Tests and in late 2016 in the white-ball format. However,



the duo ensured a smooth transition, with Dhoni continuing to be part of India's white-ball setup when Kohli became the captain. Kohli never hesitated to seek Dhoni's opinion while making DRS calls, as Dhoni was rarely wrong with his

decisions from behind the stumps. "We have been playing together since 2008/09, and while there's an age gap, I wouldn't necessarily say I'm like an older brother or anything; we've just been colleagues who have played for India for a long time. He has been among the best in world cricket," Dhoni said at an event.

**The 'Mahirat' bond**

Whether it's their heart-warming moments on the field or the mutual respect they show off it, "Mahirat," as fans affectionately call them, has been loved by all. Since Dhoni's retirement, fans have eagerly awaited the IPL to see him and Kohli together again. Kohli has consistently shown respect towards Dhoni, even crediting him for giving him opportunities early in his career. In a previous interview, Kohli revealed that Dhoni was the only one who reached out to him after he stepped down as Test captain.

Despite Kohli being known for his flamboyant style and Dhoni for his calm and cool demeanor, the admiration between the two players is evident.

## Samit Dravid reacts to India Under 19 selection for Australia series

**Legendary India cricketer and former India head coach Rahul Dravid's son Samit reacted to his maiden call up to the Indian Under 19 team for the Australia series.**



Notably, Samit was picked for the upcoming multi-format series against Australia under 19 set to begin from September 21 in India.

The two teams will be facing off in three One Day games and two four-day matches in Puducherry and Chennai. Commenting on his selection, the 18-year-old said that he was elated to be a part of the team and thanked his fans for the wishes.

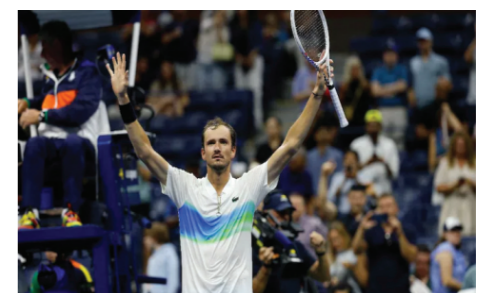
New Delhi. Legendary India cricketer and former India head coach Rahul Dravid's son Samit, gave his reaction on earning his maiden selection in the India Under 19 team.

"First of all, I am very happy to be selected and thank you for all your wishes. I think I am feeling great, I worked very hard for this moment," said Samit in a video shared by Star Sports Kannada on X. Samit is currently playing in the Maharaja T20 Trophy for Mysuru Warriors. However, the right-handed batsman hasn't had a memorable time in the league scoring just 82 runs from seven innings at an average of 11.71 and a strike rate of 113.88. His highest score of the tournament came against Gulbarga Mystics where he scored 33 (24) with the help of four fours and a six.

Samit's all-round show in Cooch Behar Trophy 2023-24 earlier, Samit was the fourth-highest run scorer for Karnataka in the Cooch Behar Trophy 2023-24 with 362 runs from ten at an average of 36.20 with three half-centuries to his name and a highest score of 98. The right-arm seamer also picked up 16 wickets from 15 innings at an average of 19.31.

## Joe Root opens up on approaching Sachin Tendulkar's all-time Test runs record

New Delhi. Fifth seed Daniil Medvedev cruised into the Round of 16 at the US Open 2024, denying young Italian Flavio Cobolli from pulling off the third major upset of the tournament. The US Open 2024 witnessed the shocking exits of defending champion and four-time US Open winner Novak Djokovic, along with 2022 US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz, both in Round 3. This leaves Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion, as the only former New York champion left in the men's draw. In the women's singles event, Beatriz Haddad Maia advanced to Round 4 after her straight-set win against Anna Kalinskaya, 6-3, 6-1. This victory followed a controversial video review that appeared to derail her Russian opponent.



Medvedev won 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 against Cobolli, marking his sixth consecutive US Open Round of 16 appearance, a streak he has maintained since 2019. Since 2020, no one has accumulated more hard court wins than Medvedev, who has also reached the Round of 16 in all Grand Slams this year. "I said it before the match that to me, upsets don't really matter. The conditions are a bit tricky," Medvedev said. "The favourites maybe have less margin against the other guys. I just have to be more cautious. If I play good tennis, I can win the whole thing. If I don't play good, I can lose against anyone. I just have to play my best and try to win." The 2021 champion and two-time finalist has now reached the second week at Flushing Meadows six straight years, and will next face Portugal's Nuno Borges.

**The controversial review call**

Beatriz Haddad Maia secured her Round of 16 spot after her third-round win at Louis Armstrong Stadium. Kalinskaya led 2-0 in the first set but was unsettled after a video review call. She claimed her Brazilian opponent won a point off a double bounce, but chair umpire Miriam Bley reviewed the play and ruled the shot valid.

## On This Day in 2015: Virat Kohli era kicks off with historic triumph in Sri Lanka

New Delhi. On this day in 2015, Virat Kohli's Test captaincy era began on a high note with a historic 2-1 series win against Sri Lanka. This was a significant milestone, marking India's first Test series victory on Sri Lankan soil in 22 years. When Kohli took over as Test captain, following the retirement of MS Dhoni from Test cricket in late 2014, expectations were high, but so were the challenges. Kohli, known for his intense passion for the game and aggressive style, was stepping into big shoes, and his first full series as captain would be a crucial test of his leadership. For Kohli, it was more than just winning a series, it was about setting the tone for the future, establishing a fearless and determined approach to the game that was reflected in his own personality. The win cemented Kohli's place as a leader who could inspire his team to achieve greatness. This series victory would go on to be remembered as the moment when Kohli's captaincy era truly began, marking the start of a new chapter in Indian cricket, defined by aggressive intent, resilience, and an unyielding will to win. It also set the tone for India's dominance in Test cricket under his captaincy.

**A loss in the opener Test match**

The series began in Galle, where India faced a surprising defeat despite being in a commanding position for most of the match. Chasing a modest target of 176, the



Indian batting line-up collapsed to 112 all out, giving Sri Lanka a 63-run victory. Kohli, who scored 103 runs in the first innings, was visibly disappointed, but his determination to turn things around was evident.

A legacy that inspired upcoming generation In the second Test at Colombo, India bounced back strongly. Kohli's belief in his young team paid off as they dominated the match

**Virat Kohli's Test captaincy era kicked started on a triumphant note with a 2-1 win over Sri Lanka. India won their first-ever Test series in the island nation in 22 years.**

from the onset. Centuries from Ajinkya Rahane and Murali Vijay, along with a five-wicket haul by Ravichandran Ashwin, helped India secure a massive 278-run victory, levelling the series at 1-1.

The third and final Test, also in Colombo, was the decider. Kohli led from the front, but it was Cheteshwar Pujara's gritty 145 that stood out. Pujara's marathon innings, supported by Ashwin's all-round performance, ensured India posted a challenging total. Ashwin, along with pacer Ishant Sharma, dismantled the Sri Lankan batting line-up, giving India a 117-run win and clinching the series.

## Joe Root is England's greatest: Alastair Cook praises after 34th Test hundred

**Alastair Cook praised Joe Root as a 'genius' and called him England's greatest after the 33-year-old surpassed his former England captain's tally of 33 to record the most number of Test centuries for England.**

Former England captain Alastair Cook praised Joe Root, calling him the nation's greatest after he scored his 34th Test century at Lord's Cricket Ground. Root surpassed Cook to record the most Test centuries for England. A twin hundred at the iconic Lord's venue took his Test aggregate to 12,377 runs. Root now needs just 96 more runs to overtake both Cook and Kumar Sangakkara. If he manages to do so in the 3rd Test at The Oval, he will

claim the 5th spot in the all-time top run-scorers in red-ball cricket. Cook, who was England's captain during Root's first 53 Tests, believes the 33-year-old is deserving of holding the record for the most Test hundreds for their country. "He is quite simply England's greatest, and it's absolutely right that he should have this record on his own," Cook told the BBC. "Take it in, Joe. We are watching a genius. I don't think there's a batsman that I can remember watching who gives off the same sense of inevitability about scoring runs as Joe Root does. I called it when he was on about six today, that he was going to get 100. I know he's in great form, but it's just a pleasure to watch a master, a craftsman at work."

**Root leads the way in Tests**

Cook also believes that Root will overtake him and Sangakkara in the next Test



match. "He's just got the final one to tick off next week," Cook said. "In this kind of form, there's no reason why he can't." Root now has 50 international centuries. Earlier on Day 1 of the 2nd Test match, Root equalled Cook's record with his 33rd Test hundred. However, it didn't take him long to break the record, as he scored 103 runs from 121 balls. This was also his seventh hundred at Lord's, as he swept away the record for most tons at the 'Home of Cricket.'

**Cook recalls Root's teen days**

Cook was in the opposition when a teenage Root made his List A debut as an 18-year-old in 2009, scoring 63 off 95 balls for Yorkshire against Essex. "He couldn't get the ball off the square," Cook recalled. "Everyone said, 'He's a good player,' but I didn't see that." Three years later, Cook was England's Test captain when Root made his international debut in the final match of the series against India, which England won 2-1. "I saw someone mentally ready to play Test cricket," Cook said. "The only question was how he would handle it when he walked out to bat for the first time." The game was in the balance, and he walked out to bat with his England cap on, looking 13, with a massive smile on his face. "I watched his first few balls and thought, 'This bloke is here to stay.' I honestly said, 'He's scoring 10,000 runs.'"

# Kavitha Gowda

Looks Pretty In Pink For Her Dreamy Maternity Photoshoot



Actors Kavitha Gowda and Chandan Kumar are looking forward to welcoming their first child in October 2024. Recently, the 32-year-old actress shared an Instagram reel of her pregnancy photoshoot, where she was seen dressed in an adorable pink maxi dress. Kavitha complemented her look with a hat and a pendant. She is sitting on a carpet with flowers and water bottles lying nearby. The lush green surroundings and the lakes nearby added further allure to the clip. Kavitha attached the track *Nenne Tanaka* from the film *Trivikrama* to the Instagram reel. Sanjith Hegde has sung this melodious track. Kavitha's fans showered compliments in the comment section and lauded the actress. One of the users asked about the shoot's location, to which Kavitha's husband replied, "Vanamma Lake." Others dropped heart emoticons in the comment section. In a similar photoshoot done some time back with Chandan, Kavitha looked gorgeous draped in a yellow suit. Kavitha Gowda complemented her dress with emerald jewellery and straight tresses. Chandan hugged and lovingly hugged her baby bump. Chandan had talked about Kavitha's pregnancy in an earlier interview. He replied, "We are all ecstatic to welcome a little one into our world which will further brighten our life. I am looking forward to enjoying every bit of parenthood which will be the new phase of our lives." He added that they don't have any particular gender in their minds and just want the baby to be healthy. Chandan called it their topmost priority. Kannada television couple Chandan and Kavitha tied the knot during the lockdown on May 14 in Karnataka, 2021. Their wedding took place in a traditional manner in the presence of close friends and family members. The couple, who first met each other eight years back on the sets of the TV show *Lakshmi Baramma*, got engaged in a private ceremony on April 1. In *Lakshmi Baramma*, Chandan played the male lead; while Kavitha essayed the titular role of Lakshmi.



When Samantha Ruth Prabhu Called Naga Chaitanya 'Husband Material': 'How Can It Be Anybody Else?'



Naga Chaitanya's ex-wife Samantha Ruth Prabhu, had once revealed he had seen her from "nothing". During a light-hearted 2019 chat on Lakshmi Manchu's *Feet Up With The Stars* (Telugu), Samantha had made many big revelations. During the interview, Samantha had kind words for then-husband Naga Chaitanya. Calling him 'husband material' she had said, "Chay has seen me from nothing. I remember I didn't have money to make a call to my mother from the US. I took his phone and made a call home. Chay has seen me from that to this, so how can it be anybody else, right?" In another interview, Samantha had said how Chaitanya handles success, failure and happiness. "He's not extreme. He is very sorted and level-headed." In another, she had said, "He has been the same person since the time I met him. He hasn't changed." Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya, who got married in 2017, announced their separation in October 2021. Despite their split, they both spoke highly of each other and said that they have a lot of mutual respect given their decade-long friendship. Post-separation, rumour mills were abuzz about Naga Chaitanya's new relationship with actress Sobhita Dhulipala. Although neither Chaitanya nor Sobhita publicly commented on their relationship status, their photos together fueled speculation. However, earlier this month, Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala officially announced their engagement. The moment, captured beautifully in a series of photos, was testament to the couple's happiness and love for each other.

'Welcome To The Movies': Varun Dhawan Shares Excitement For Niece Anjini Dhawan's Debut Binny and Family



Varun Dhawan is beaming with pride as his niece, Anjini Dhawan, is all set to make her Bollywood debut in the upcoming comedy-drama *Binny and Family*. He recently attended the trailer launch event at PVR Auditorium where his own first movie *Student of the Year* was introduced. Varun reflected on how Anjini has forged her way into the film industry and praised the new film as well as her performance. Post the launch, Varun shared several pictures with Anjini and welcomed her to the industry in his style.

Varun shared a series of happy snaps with Anjini where they could be seen dressed up for the trailer launch. Varun sported a white shirt and brown trousers, while Anjini wore a stunning pink dress. In one of the snaps from the event, Varun holds his niece's hand, showing his support. In the caption, he wrote, "Welcome to the movies." Moreover, at the trailer launch, Varun Dhawan addressed the obvious nepotism rumours. The *Student of the Year* star emphasized how her niece has landed the role by herself without any help from the family. He stated, "I came to know about the film through two friends, Shashank Khaitan and Varun Gupta. They had told me that it is a good film, and I was slightly offended because I wasn't asked if I could see the film! When I saw the film, I was moved. My father never launched me. We don't have that tradition, and he doesn't believe in it. So, we have no hand in what she has done, so it will be wrong for me to take any credit for her success. She has genuinely done this by herself." Further, the actor appealed to the audience to shower love on her as they did after his first film. The trailer for *Binny and Family* promises a wholesome family drama, packed with emotions, light-hearted humour, and generational conflicts. The coming-of-age drama also features another debutante Naman Tripathy along with Anjini Dhawan. The film, set to release on 20th September is directed by Ssanjay Tripathy and also stars veterans such as Pankaj Kapur, Rajesh Kumar, and Himani Shivpuri.

# Shruti Haasan

Joins Rajinikanth-Starrer *Coolie*. Check 1st Look Poster Here



Looks like the makers of Rajinikanth-starrer *Coolie* are leaving no stones unturned to increase the hype for their film. Recently, the film's director Lokesh Kanagaraj has been busy making back-to-back announcements about the film's star cast and this has led to fans going into a frenzy. Now, on Friday, Lokesh Kanagaraj shared an official character poster of Preethi. Can you guess who the actress is? Shruti Haasan is all set to join the stellar star cast of *Coolie*. Lokesh Kanagaraj shared a poster of the character Preethi, which will be portrayed by the actress. The poster featured her in a serious expression and a shovel in her hands. Shruti Haasan wore a simple suit and kept her hair half-tied with a middle parting and a bindi on her forehead. Lokesh Kanagaraj dropped the photo on the social media platform X and wrote, "Kicked to have Shruti Haasan joining the cast of *Coolie* as Preethi. Welcome on board."

Shruti Haasan was "stoked" to be joining the team as this is her first collaboration with the superstar of the industry. She commented, "Thank you, Lokesh! Super stoked to be a part of this." Fans too showered her with love and showed excitement regarding her joining the film. *Coolie* might be a big-budget film as many prominent faces will be seen. Apart from Rajinikanth and Shruti Haasan, the film will also star Nagarjuna, Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir and Mahendran among others. On the occasion of actor Nagarjuna's 69th birthday, the director dropped a poster of his character, Simon. The caption read, "Kicked to have King Nagarjuna Sir joining the cast of *Coolie* as Simon. Welcome on board and wishing you a very happy birthday Sir." There have been reports that Bollywood actor Aamir Khan may also be joining the film for a cameo role. There have been no official confirmations regarding the same. The release date of the film has been kept under wraps and the shooting began in July this year. There were speculations that *Coolie* would also be a part of Lokesh Cinematic Universe (LCU) like *Kaithi*, *Vikram* and *Leo*. Lokesh Kanagaraj revealed that it is a stand-alone film.

