



**3** DELHI MINISTERS ATISHI, BHARADWAJ ASSESS RELIEF MEASURES AS YAMUNA SWELLS



**11** FEW US ADULTS SUPPORT FULL ABORTION BANS, SAYS AP-NORC



**16** INDIAN SPINNER ASHWIN SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE RESTRICTS WI

VICTORY

## TMC SWEEPS WEST BENGAL PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

For the Left Front and Congress, results are not very encouraging

TDG NETWORK KOLKATA

**T**rinamool Congress Party (TMC) has swept the West Bengal Panchayat polls as it bagged 34,560-gram panchayat seats and was leading in 705 seats, according to the State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is appearing to be the distant second in the panchayat polls as it won 9,621 seats and is leading in 169 seats.

For the Left Front and Congress, the results are not very encouraging as the CPI (M) has won 2,908-gram panchayat seats and is leading in 86 seats, while Congress won 2,515 seats and is leading in 71.

The confidence-filled

TMC workers celebrated the grand victory of their party and even demanded the resignation of Governor CV Ananda Bose accusing him of acting as a BJP agent. "Now, after the verdict of the people, Governor Bose should resign and get out of Bengal. He has acted as an agent of the BJP, provoked opposition in unethical ways, and insulted Bengal. He has no right to continue as Governor," tweeted TMC leader Kunal Ghosh.

When it comes to 9,728 Panchayat samiti seats, the domination of TMC is evident as it won 6,228 Panchayat samiti seats while leading 218 seats. BJP has won 960 and is leading in 50 seats, while CPI (M) has won 171 seats and is leading in 13 others and Congress has



Voters during panchayat polls.

won 254 seats and is leading in 9 seats.

In elections for the 928 Zila Parishad seats, the TMC has won 592 seats and is leading in 188 others while the BJP won 18 and is leading in 9 seats. The CPI(M) has won 2 seats and is leading in 1 more seat, while Congress has won 6 and is leading in 7.

The spate of violence which engulfed the whole panchay-

at election process continued on counting day as three persons including two activists of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) were killed and several others injured in a clash outside the counting booth on Tuesday.

"According to our apprehension, violence, nexus between the ruling party, police, and the state election commission and unpre-

cedented violence has led to the death of more than 40 persons. After the counting, post-poll violence will be unleashed," State Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury while questioning the validity of elections.

"Murder of democracy in West Bengal under the TMC govt. Over 60 dead & 100s were injured in the local body elections. Strongly condemn. Strengthen popular resistance to save democracy in Bengal & in India," tweeted CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury.

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said he will lead a BJP delegation to all violence-hit areas of West Bengal. "We propose to visit all the affected areas, meet those who are tortured & victimized," he said.

ASPIRATIONAL CONFLICT

## Maha portfolios war rages

MANISH AWASTHI MUMBAI

The tussle over the distribution of portfolios in Maharashtra seems not to be ending as the newly inducted eight ministers and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar are aiming at key portfolios like finance, power, revenue

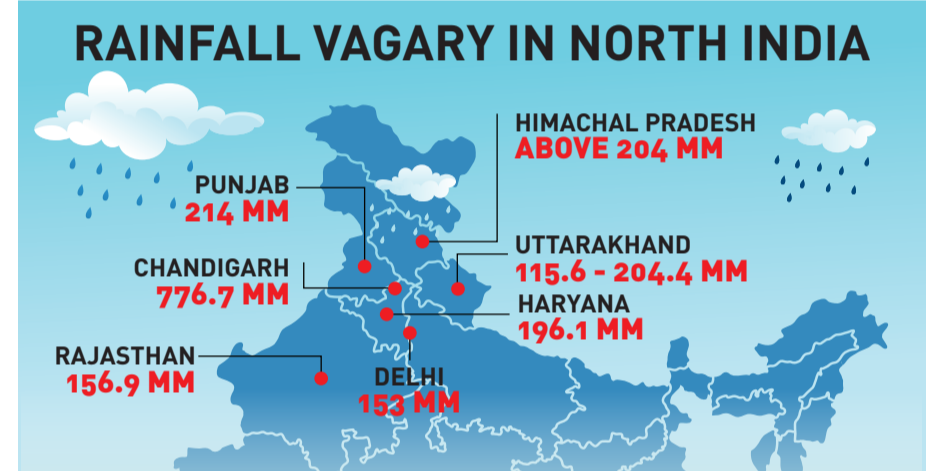
and to name a few. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis is holding finance and power. Ajit Pawar feels that as he has come with senior faces like Chagan Bhujbal, Hasan Mushreef, Dilip Valse Patil, he and his colleagues should be awarded suitably. On the other hand, Shinde

camp MLAs fear step motherly status in distribution of portfolios in next expansion which may take place within a week before Monsoon session of the Maharashtra Assembly. Shinde camp Shiv Sena MLAs have made their stand clear to CM Shinde that if they are not accom-

P5

MAYHEM

## CONTINUOUS RAINFALL WORSENS SITUATION IN UP, GOVT ON HIGH ALERT



CHANDRAMANI SHUKLA LUCKNOW

The above-average rainfall in Uttar Pradesh has raised water levels of several rivers

and have reached near the danger mark. Meanwhile, the weather department has also issued a warning of heavy rain in the coming days. According to the

meteorological department, the impact of the cyclonic pressure built over Rajasthan and Haryana is also being seen in the weather

P5

MODI SURNAME ROW

## NOT EASY FOR RAHUL GANDHI IN SC, PURNESH MODI FILES CAVEAT

ASHISH SINHA NEW DELHI

BJP MLA Purnesh Modi has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court requesting an opportunity to be heard if Rahul Gandhi files a plea challenging the high court order. The Gujarat High Court's single judge bench, on July 7, dismissed Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in the defamation case.

According to the Supreme Court sources, Purnesh Modi, through his lawyer P S Sudheer, has filed a caveat on the same day in the apex court. Gujarat High Court Justice Hemant Prachhak, while rejecting his petition, had remarked, "It is the need of the hour to have purity in politics now."

The court further emphasised that public representatives should have a "clear antecedent" and that a stay on conviction is not the norm but an exception granted only in rare cases. It found no reasonable grounds to stay Gandhi's conviction. A stay on Gandhi's conviction would have allowed him to be reinstated as a Lok

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TOP OF THE DAY

### TWO DRUG SMUGGLERS NABBED IN J-K

**SAMBA:** Two narcotics suppliers were arrested by Samba Police on Wednesday, an official statement said. Police said that heroin worth Rs 50,000 was also recovered from the two accused. In this regard, the official media handle of Samba police took to Twitter and said, "Samba Police today arrested two notorious narco-suppliers and recovered heroin worth Rs 50,000 approximately, opium straw weighing 1.450 Kg." Police also recovered Rs 12,460 in the form of cash from the two accused. Further investigation is underway.

### CBI FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST JOURNALIST

**NEW DELHI:** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navy Commander Ashish Pathak who were earlier arrested in an alleged case of espionage in May. The CBI had taken over the case earlier registered by the Delhi Police special cell. CBI's FIR was filed last December and Delhi Police registered the case in September 2022. The home ministry transferred the case looking into the "gravity and sensitivity" of the case. The FIR stated, "One journalist is involved in illegal collection of sensitive information including minute details of the DRDO projects.



Taking shelter

People sit in distress after floodwater entered their house due to incessant rains, in Jalandhar on Wednesday. ANI

GLOBAL APPLAUSE

## MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAILS PM MODI FOR PASSIONATE PERSPECTIVE

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

A day after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Muslim World League Secretary-General Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa on Wednesday hailed the PM's "passionate perspective" towards inclusive growth and said they agreed on the importance of working together to confront all aspects of extremism and hatred, regardless of their

source.

Al-Issa, who is on an India visit, met Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday and discussed various aspects of furthering interfaith harmony, peace and working towards human progress.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Al-Issa said he had an insightful discussion with the Indian PM on a variety of issues, including ways to further human-centric development and the importance of promoting un-

P5

ANOTHER STEP

## Twenty four parties to attend 2nd Opposition Unity meet in Bengaluru

TDG NETWORK BANGALURU

Top leaders of at least 24 political parties would attend the second Opposition unity meeting being called by Congress in Karnataka's Bengaluru on July 17-18.

As per sources, eight new parties have raised their support to the Opposition parties'

efforts to present a united front against BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "After last month's mega Opposition meet in Bihar's Patna, top leaders of as many as 24 political parties will be attending the second meeting which is going to take place in Karnataka's Bengaluru," sources said. "Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Ka-

zhagam (MDMK), Kongu Desa Makkal Katchi (KDMK), Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), All India Forward Bloc, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), Kerala Congress (Joseph), and Kerala Congress (Mani) are among the new political parties that will be joining the meeting," they said.

CEMENTING TIES

## PM Modi to visit UAE on return journey from France to strengthen relations

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Abu Dhabi on July 15 after concluding a two-day visit to Paris.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi will

hold talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and ruler of Abu Dhabi. "The India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been steadily strengthening and the prime

minister's visit will be an opportunity to identify ways to take this forward in various domains such as energy, education, healthcare, food security, fintech, defence and culture," it said. The prime minister is visiting France on July 13 and 14

at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. Modi will be the guest of honour at the Bastille Day parade on July 14 in Paris where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent

P5

ACTION

## 4 MORE RAILWAYS EMPLOYEES SUSPENDED IN BALASORE ACCIDENT FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY

TDG NETWORK BHUBANESWAR

The Railways authorities have suspended seven employees, including three arrested earlier by the CBI on charges of alleged negligence of duty that led to the triple train accident at Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha's

Balasore district on June 2. The accident claimed 293 lives and left more than 1,000 people injured. More than a month after the accident, 41 bodies are yet to be handed over to family members, as their DNA cross-matching reports are yet to be received. Besides the three persons

under CBI custody, the four others who faced action include the station master on duty on the day of the accident, the traffic inspector at Balasore, the signal technician, and the assistant divisional signal and telecom engineer, it was informed. Sources in South Eastern Railway (SER) said the sus-

pension order was issued on Friday. The four more staffers suspended were not named. "While three persons have already been arrested by CBI and subsequently suspended as per rule, the Railway administration has also suspended four other employees.

## UNIQUE CAMPAIGN

## BJP STRATEGIZES 'VIJAY SANKALP ABHIYAN' FOR UPCOMING MP POLLS

TDG NETWORK  
BHOPAL

In a key strategic move, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced the launch of 'Vijay Sankalp Abhiyan', a unique campaign targeting the upcoming Madhya Pradesh assembly elections. This announcement came following a crucial meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Bhopal on Tuesday.

Amit Shah's decision to launch the campaign in Madhya Pradesh emerged from an intensive review of the party's preparations for



the imminent polls, revealed Madhya Pradesh BJP president VD Sharma. The Home Minister's visit to Bhopal was specifically intended for the party meeting, where he

closely assessed the current political situation and the party's election strategies.

The meeting convened by Shah was marked by in-depth discussions around various facets of the political situation in Madhya Pradesh, with a focus on fine-tuning the party's electoral strategies. The objective was to evaluate and enhance the BJP's preparedness for the forthcoming elections.

Joining the Home Minister were Union ministers Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav, appointed BJP incharges for Madhya Pradesh, alongside their

cabinet colleagues Narendra Singh Tomar, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Prahlad Patel. Other noteworthy attendees included the BJP's national joint organisation general secretary Shivprakash and MP-Chhattisgarh incharge Ajay Jammwal.

A warm welcome awaited Shah upon his arrival at the airport by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state BJP president VD Sharma, Scindia, Tomar, Patel and the state cabinet ministers. Following the significant discussions, the Home Minister proceeded to leave for the airport from the party office.

## FRESH LINEUP

## Kharge to overhaul team, Priyanka Gandhi's role under review

AJIT MAINDOLA  
NEW DELHI

Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge is anticipated to establish a fresh lineup in the imminent future, with a potential shift in power dynamics within the party structure. Speculations suggest that the Udaipur declaration might not be fully executed, as evidenced by the formation of committees across various districts.

The forthcoming restructuring will ensure symbolic representation for women and the backward class, maintaining the party's traditional approach. Kharge is set to instate three national-level committees, with the Election Management Committee expected to become the most influential body. The head of this committee could potentially overshadow the role of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary, wielding significant authority over organisational matters and election-related decisions. Importantly, this committee will report directly to the party president.

In the midst of these poten-

tial changes, there have been murmurs about Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's hesitation to continue in her current position as general secretary. Furthermore, she reportedly wishes to step down from her Uttar Pradesh charge. Consequently, the leadership faces the complex task of accommodating Priyanka, with the roles of vice president or working president deemed suitable. Priyanka's possible appointments also include heading the Election Management Committee, given her active involvement in devising election strategies that have previously succeeded in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

Presently, Priyanka is concentrating her efforts on Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, which suggests the party's intentions to bolster her role. While former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will lead the fight against BJP at a national level, Priyanka is expected to fortify the party's presence at the state level. Kharge has held discussions regarding Priyanka's future role, with Madhya Pradesh being a potential responsi-

bility. Decisions regarding the post of general secretary in charge of the organisation are still pending, with KC Venugopal, a possible vice president alongside Priyanka, and a Hindi-speaking leader tipped for the general secretary position.

The sought-after roles of general secretary and Election Campaign Committee chief have caught the attention of Randeep Singh Surjewala, currently overseeing Karnataka. These positions are anticipated to hold substantial significance akin to the 35-member Congress Working Committee (CWC). The restructuring will also witness the inauguration of two new departments - the Public Insight Department and National Training Institute.

Finally, leaders from Rajasthan, Jitendra Singh Bhanwar and Sachin Pilot, are rumoured to take charge of Uttar Pradesh, while Harish Chaudhary and Raghu Sharma might be relieved of their current responsibilities. Kharge's vision for his new team is a balanced blend of youth and seasoned leaders.

## 'MAUN SATYAGRAH'

## Congress holds nationwide silent protests supporting Rahul Gandhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Nationwide silent protests were carried out by the Congress party on Wednesday in response to the Gujarat High Court's refusal to stay the conviction of former Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi. The events were orchestrated to showcase support for Gandhi and object to his defamation case conviction and subsequent parliamentary disqualification.

The "democracy disqualified" demonstrations, led by Kamal Nath, state unit chief, were conducted at the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters. The Committee stated that Gandhi exposed the anti-public policies of the BJP government, drawing attention to the relationship between PM Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani.

The protests spanned states, cities, and towns, with demonstrators gathering in Bhopal, Gujarat, Goa, Jammu, Kashmir, and Thiruvananthapuram. Former Union minister Arun Yadav and several Congress MLAs



Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath with party supporters stage a 'silent satyagrah' against the Gujarat High Court verdict in Bhopal on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

were among the senior party leaders who participated in the "maun satyagrah" protest. Congress officials stressed that the party and the general public stand with Gandhi in his "fight for truth and justice". They suggested the BJP government's actions against Gandhi have been due to fear of his vocal criticism and commitment to public issues.

In Goa, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar led the protest, expressing discontent over the alleged injustice done to Gandhi. Patkar criticised the BJP-led government at the Centre and the state administration in Goa for their

governance deficit. Elsewhere, in Jaipur, Congress leaders took to the stage with images of Gandhi displayed during their "silent satyagrah". Rajasthan's Congress leaders accused the Modi government of curtailing freedom of speech and perpetuating fear politics.

The Congress party, asserting their dedication to democracy and freedom of speech, claimed these silent protests were a peaceful and non-violent means to express their opposition to the political manoeuvres against Gandhi. Despite the recent setbacks, the party remains hopeful for a positive outcome in Gandhi's case from the Supreme Court.

## VIOLENT INCIDENTS

## KARNATAKA BJP DEMANDS CBI PROBE OVER RECENT CRIMES

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Local legislators of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) initiated a sit-in demonstration outside the Vidhana Soudha, the epicentre of the Karnataka legislative assembly, demanding a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the recent violent incidents, particularly the gruesome murder of a Jain monk.

The demonstration, spearheaded by former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, saw protesters decrying the Congress-led state government for the escalating law and order issues. They took their cause to Raj Bhavan, seeking the intervention of Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot to restore peace and maintain law and order across the state.

The BJP representatives claim that Kamkumar Nandi Maharaj, a Digambar Jain seer, was discovered in a defunct borewell in the Chikkodi taluk of the Belagavi district on July 8, dismembered and concealed in a plastic bag. They also brought attention to a second incident on July 9, involving the murder of a 32-year-old 'Yuva Brigade' member during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations near T Narasipura in Mysuru district.

The BJP asserts that these are not isolated incidents, alleging a series of targeted violent attacks against individuals affiliated with a certain political group, creating a climate of fear among citizens. These incidents include the murder of a police constable in the Kalaburagi district who tried to curb illegal sand mining operations.

The party also accused the Congress government of enabling anti-national sentiments, citing public proclamations of 'Pakistan Zindabad' in Belagavi and in Bhatkal, and provocative slogans against Hindus. They believe that the state government has utterly failed to ensure law and order.

## AMIT ETHNIC STRIFE

## MANIPUR POLICE ACT AGAINST RIOTERS MISUSING COMMANDO UNIFORM

TDG NETWORK  
IMPHAL

Amid growing tensions in the northeastern state of Manipur, local law enforcement has issued a clear directive against the misuse of police commando uniforms. The move comes in response to recent incidents of rioters donning the black uniform to spread distrust, according to authorities.

Instructions to prevent misuse of the black commando uniform, distinctive to the Manipur Police, have been disseminated across all police formations. The move is meant to amplify vigilance in response to videos circulating on social media, which show assailants in the uniform. These uniforms are believed to have been stolen amid unrest that has embroiled the state since May 3rd.

The region has seen violent conflicts between two ethnic groups, the Meitei and Kuki, which have already claimed over 150 lives.

To combat this, police have been instructed to inspect vehicles carrying security

personnel, particularly from the India Reserve Battalion and Manipur Police. This includes verifying identity cards, as police uniforms have also been abused to a lesser extent. Ending such misuse is essential to prevent perceived bias in law enforcement agencies, officials explain.

The ethnic clashes have left the 45,000-strong Manipur Police divided, with Meitei personnel retreating to the safety of Imphal valley and Kuki officers moving to the hills.

As the police assess the theft of weapons during the uprising, they are also intensifying efforts for their recovery. Two individuals have already been arrested for possession of stolen police arms bought from Imphal valley.

In the wake of these developments, newly appointed Director General of Police, Rajiv Singh, has identified nearly 1,200 personnel missing from duty. Singh has taken on the responsibility of identifying these individuals and ensuring their reintegration, with about 1,150 already

having reported back. As the situation intensifies, security forces are grappling with operations in 19 police stations recently denotified as 'disturbed areas' under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). Officers are seeking the presence of a magistrate during their duties as a safeguard against false accusations.

Amid these domestic issues, India has clarified to European parliamentarians planning to debate the situation in Manipur that the matter is strictly internal to India. This comes in response to a resolution motion on the Manipur situation tabled in the EU parliament.

The state of Manipur, plagued by violent clashes between the Kuki and Meitei communities for nearly two months, has had the Indian government facing accusations of inability to control the violence. New Delhi has reiterated that they are fully aware of the developments in the EU parliament and maintain their stance that the situation in Manipur remains a domestic issue.

## FINANCE SECTOR

## GST COUNCIL IMPOSES 28% TAX ON ONLINE GAMING

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The GST Council on Tuesday announced the decision to impose the highest tax rate of 28% on the total face value of online gaming, casinos, and horse racing bets. However, it also reduced the tax on food and beverages sold in multiplexes and adjusted the

classification of utility vehicles for taxation purposes.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified that the move to tax online gaming and casinos was not aimed at destroying the industry. Instead, the decision was grounded in a "moral question" that such activities shouldn't be taxed at the same rate as essential goods and services. The tax

will apply regardless of whether games require skill or are based on chance.

The Council also exempted GST on the import of Dinutuximab, a cancer drug, and on medications used to treat rare diseases and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP). Additionally, private satellite launch services were granted a GST exemption. Multiplex cinema halls, which previously charged

an 18% GST on food and beverages, will now only levy a 5% GST. This rate aligns with the levy in hotels and restaurants. The definition of utility vehicles has been adjusted, resulting in a 22% cess, in addition to the 28% GST rate, on utility vehicles with an engine capacity of 1,500 cc and above, length exceeding 4 metres, and unladen ground clearance of 170 mm.

## UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

## Union Minister advocates for UCC, claims no harm to Muslims, tribals

TDG NETWORK  
AHMEDABAD

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale asserted on Wednesday that the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would not infringe upon the rights of Muslims or tribal communities.

The Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, at a press conference, argued that Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, supported the UCC, viewing it as essential to promoting religious harmony.

In response to concerns raised by the opposition, Athawale denounced the

spread of misinformation regarding the ruling BJP and its plans for the Constitution. He emphasised that the UCC is not an instrument to undermine unity and harmony between Hindus and Muslims, but a tool to foster it.

Assuaging fears among the Muslim community, Athawale clarified that the UCC is not aimed against them and urged all political parties to lend their support. He dismissed the notion that all tribal communities are against the UCC and emphasised that the law does not discriminate against tribals, Dalits, Hindus, or Muslims.

The Law Commission opened the debate on this contentious issue last month,

inviting views and suggestions from religious organisations and the general public regarding the UCC.

Additionally, Athawale, who is also a Dalit leader from Maharashtra, refuted claims of Prime Minister Narendra Modi being "anti-Muslim" or "anti-Dalit".

During his visit to Ahmedabad, Athawale met with Gujarat government officials to discuss the implementation status of various initiatives aimed at upliftment of Dalits and other marginalised communities.

In the press conference, the minister projected confidence about the National Democratic Alliance's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha

elections, anticipating Modi's third consecutive term as Prime Minister.

Athawale critiqued Rahul Gandhi for politicising issues and downplayed the Opposition's efforts to unite, questioning their potential prime ministerial candidate.

Addressing the ongoing atrocities on Dalits in Gujarat, Athawale acknowledged their occurrence but pointed towards improvements over time. He highlighted the need for collective efforts to eradicate the caste system and applauded those from the general category castes who are aiding Dalits. He noted an increase in inter-caste marriages in Gujarat over the past two years.

## SPACE ECONOMY

## INDIA, UK FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND SPACE AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The United Kingdom and India are set to join forces in a new era of space and nuclear collaboration, announced George Freeman, UK Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation.

Starting with Leicester space park, the countries plan to unite their space clusters to cultivate their space economy and facilitate skill development for upcoming scientists. Freeman stated that the strategic partnership aims to blend the expertise of Indian and UK researchers and innovators in a thriving commercial

space economy.

The minister also disclosed that the countries are exploring the possibilities of leveraging Lower Earth Observation orbits and improving the regulation of satellite communications. Furthermore, both nations have shown an interest in nuclear energy, hoping to jointly work on nuclear fusion and fusion.

"We seek to grow not a vertically integrated, closed space economy, but an open commercial global one," said Freeman, who was in Mumbai last week for a meeting of G20 science ministers. The minister also met his Indian counterpart, Jitendra Singh,

during his visit.

Freeman emphasised the UK's commitment to investing in its space clusters distributed across the nation, remarking that the UK had passed the Space Act, becoming the first European nation to launch and set a regulatory framework for space.

In a promising move, the nations plan to expedite the development of these ideas so that Prime Ministers Rishi Sunak and Narendra Modi can announce a comprehensive package of initiatives later this year. Freeman also revealed ongoing discussions about joint initiatives in future telecoms,

satellite communications, artificial intelligence, and 5G, where both countries share strategic interests and potential for significant synergy.

Viewing India as a rising power in the global economy and an influencer in tech adoption and regulation, Freeman pointed out the importance of cooperative work on key technologies for global security.

Reflecting on India's rapidly growing innovation economy, the minister concluded, "With the scale of growth and digital technologies, UK and India are poised for a very, very exciting few years in the next decade."

TWEET OF THE DAY

BJP @BJP4India



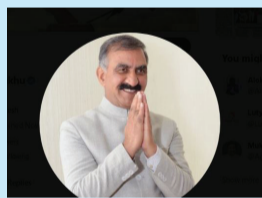
The Central Government is constantly striving to ensure high quality and affordable health care for the poor. 1.60 lakh health and wellness centers became functional in the country.

Congress @INCIndia



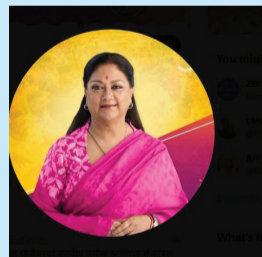
The Modi government is trying to destroy democracy in the country. Conspiracy to expel Rahul Gandhi from the House is the proof of this conspiracy of the government. Against this oppressive attitude of the government, the 'silent satyagraha' of Congress workers is going on in the presence of @INCMP state in-charge @inc\_jpagarwal and president @OfficeOfKNathji.

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu @SukhuSukhvinder



Conducted an aerial survey of Chandra Taal Lake in Lahaul. Over 250 tourists are stranded here, and road connectivity is severely impacted. The government attempted to airlift the tourists but was unable to do so due to bad weather. I hope the weather improves soon

Vasundhara Raje @VasundharaBJP



The murder of gangster Kuldeep Jaghina being taken into police custody in Bharatpur has added another chapter to the jungle raj of the Congress government. When you could not stop the incidents of firing and gang war in police stations in Rajasthan. In such a situation, taking the criminals in roadways bus and the information of the bus reaching Kuldeep's opponents... How is this possible without the connivance of the administration/government? This incident of Bharatpur is the worst example of bad law and order. From which it is clear that the government is bowing down before the mafias and notorious criminals in the state.

SEVERE SITUATION

# DELHI MINISTERS ATISHI, BHARADWAJ ASSESS RELIEF MEASURES AS YAMUNA SWELLS

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Two Delhi ministers, Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, took stock of relief measures as the Yamuna river swelled to 207.83 metres on Wednesday, breaching its all-time record of 207.49 metres set 45 years ago.

To assess the preparedness of relief and rescue operations, Revenue Minister Atishi visited the flood relief camps at Mayur Vihar and Millennium Depot and interacted with the affected people.

Saurabh Bharadwaj,



Two Delhi ministers, Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, assessed the relief measures as the Yamuna river swelled to 207.83 metres on Wednesday.

the Minister of Irrigation and Flood Control, took a motorboat tour of various parts of the Yamuna in the Civil Lines area of the city. He directed the officials

to maintain a constant vigil for any emergency situation.

Thousands of people have been shifted to safer areas as water gushed into their homes and markets near the river, causing them immense hardship.

Atishi said, "Floods are a natural calamity, but as a government, it is our responsibility to assist and provide necessary facilities to the affected people. In this regard, we have set up relief camps for people in the Khadar areas."

She said it has been ensured that these camps have proper accommo-

modation, food, water, and medical facilities for the residents.

Around 2,500 camps have been established in six districts of Delhi, she added. The Revenue minister also interacted with the flood-affected individuals.

Atishi told reporters that embankments along the Yamuna river in Delhi are being strengthened to prevent them from breaking. Speaking to reporters, Bharadwaj said he visited key locations in the Civil Lines area where barriers have been set up to prevent Yamuna water from inundating the roads.

RISK

# Kejriwal requests centre's intervention, as Yamuna breaks 45-year-old record

TIKAM SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

The Yamuna River flows above the danger mark as it breached the 45-year-old record. The water level of the Yamuna at the Old Iron Bridge was reported 207.55 metres at 1 pm, as it crossed the highest-ever flood level of 207.49 metres on Wednesday.

The water level was recorded 207.55 metres near the Old Iron Bridge in Delhi, and it is increasing continuously. Haryana released water into the river from the Hathnikund barrage. The Yamuna River breached the danger mark of 205.33 me-

tres on Monday evening, and it reached 207.55 (reported) on Wednesday.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level at the Old Railway Bridge crossed the 207-metre mark at 4 am and rose to 207.25 metres by 8 am on Wednesday. As per the CWC, the water of the Yamuna is likely to rise again between 10 pm to 12 am tonight.

Saurabh Bharadwaj, minister of the Delhi government, claimed that the authorities are working round the clock and constructing artificial barriers to prevent the breach of water from the Yamuna.

He added that many pumps have been installed to control the flow of water, the evacuation process is almost complete, and people have been shifted to safe tents.

PWD Minister Atishi Singh said that the Delhi government is fully prepared to tackle any situation. We are regularly conducting evacuations near the Yamuna River. Several embankments have been installed to prevent the breach of water. We are monitoring the situation continuously.

In the meantime, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has urged the Centre to intervene and ensure that levels in the

Yamuna don't rise further. He also wrote a letter to the Union Home Minister on the recent flood situation. The Central Water Commission has predicted that the level of the Yamuna may rise up to 207.72 metres tonight. There have been no rains in Delhi for the last 2 days, however, levels of the Yamuna are rising due to abnormally high volumes of water being released by Haryana at Hathnikund barrage.

On the other hand, people from low-lying areas in the city are battling for their survival. People are claiming that the government fails to deliver on its promises.

We talked to Sandeep, a resident of Yamuna Bazaar. He told us that we have to go through the same situation every year.

No government has done anything to resolve the problems of low-lying areas.

Mansi, another resident, said that our family has been living here for many years. We have seen many governments, but none of them have worked for the people of flood-prone areas. Every year, water reaches our houses and affects our lives. Despite all this, the government only makes fake promises just to win the election.

GRUESOME

# Body chopped into pieces found at Yamuna Khadar near Geeta Colony

RAHUL GAHLAWAT  
NEW DELHI

A body chopped into five pieces inside polythene bags was discovered at Yamuna Khadar near the Geeta Colony flyover in North Delhi on Wednesday morning.

The Police said their control room received a call regarding the body parts at around 9:15 a.m. After the team reached the spot, the first bag was found, and while searching, the other polythene bag was

also discovered. Paramaditya, Joint CP, Central Range, said, Two black polythene bags were discovered, one containing the head, and the second bag has other body parts. The body is decomposed, and based on long hair, we can primarily say it is female; however, the conformity of gender can only be determined by forensic experts. We have sent the body for a post-mortem and forensic investigation. The identification of a body can only be done by forensic

experts. DCP North Sagar Singh Kalsi told the media that crime and forensic teams have reached the spot. We are also conducting searches with drones in the area. A case under 302 has been registered, and we are working to collect more evidence. Prime facie, the deceased appears to be between 35 and 40 years of age, and Investigators suspect that the person was murdered somewhere else and then the body parts were dumped here.

DIFFICULT MOVE

# GSTN UNDER PMLA IS TAX TERRORISM: ABISHEK M SINGHVI

BADAR BASHIR  
NEW DELHI

"Bringing GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network) under the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is a way by the Modi Government to practice, promote, and propagate tax terrorism," said Dr. Abhishek Singhvi, National Spokesperson AICC, in his press conference on Wednesday. Singhvi called it a highly problematic move for several reasons. He pointed out, "Trade has already fallen to a historic low. This move puts honest and innocent businessmen at the mercy of an organization that has built a reputation for itself as a willing and pliant apparatus of the ruling regime. The inclusion could result in small businesses being investigated by the country's financial crime agency for GST violations, breaking the bone of the economy. The inclusion will allow information-sharing of all GST taxpayers with the Enforcement Directorate." "The triplet tactic of constraint, compulsion, and coercion by the BJP through the new law shall wreak havoc on the business

community in India. This is another tactic by the BJP to intimidate, incarcerate, and imprison opposition leaders just ahead of the General elections."

The move to include GSTN under the money laundering law comes amid rising cases of GST fraud and fake registrations. Experts said that under the money laundering provisions, tax authorities will get more power to trace the original beneficiary in case of fraud. The notification by the Finance Ministry has amended an earlier 2006 notification that will facilitate sharing of information between the GSTN, Enforcement Directorate, and other investigative agencies.

In November last year, the government added 15 agencies to this list, including the Competition Commission of India, the National Investigation Agency, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, the State Police, the Director General of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of External Affairs, the National Intelligence Grid, and the Central Vigilance Commission, among others, for the sharing of information between these agencies and the Enforcement Directorate.

# MCD to close several schools tomorrow

New Delhi: Delhi has been passing through a severe situation due to rain. Owing to the flood-like situation in Delhi, MCD's Education

Department has decided to close 10 schools in low-lying areas of the Civil Lines Zone, six schools in Shahadra South Zone, and one

school in Shahadra North Zone for tomorrow, i.e., July 13, 2023. Online classes will be held for students at those schools.

CROSS DANGER MARK

# Kejriwal writes to Amit Shah on rising Yamuna water levels

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI



Kejriwal (left) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to the Home Minister regarding the water level of the Yamuna on Wednesday.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the rising water level in the Yamuna river. He urged the Centre to step in and prevent further rises in the Yamuna's water levels. The level of the Yamuna in Delhi reached 207.55 metres today at 1 pm. It is above the 205.33-meter danger zone.

As per the Central Water Commission's prediction, the water level of the Yamuna tonight is likely to touch 207.72 meters, which is a great concern.

Prior to this, the Yamuna's highest point, 207.49 metres, had been attained in 1978. Delhi experienced a flood at that time, which made the situation quite dire. In Delhi, it hasn't rained for the past three days. Kejriwal urged the Home Minister to limit the speed of the release of water from the Hathnikund barrage to a limited speed so that the level of the Yamuna in Delhi does not rise further. "Delhi is the capital of the country. In a few weeks, the G20 summit will be held here. The news of the flood in the country's capital will not send a good message to the world. We all have to save the people of Delhi from this situation," he wrote.

YAMUNA RISES TO 207.81

# CM URGES RESIDENTS OF LOW-LYING AREAS TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

As the Yamuna River flows above the danger mark, the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, requested the residents of low-lying areas to vacate immediately.

Since Yamuna broke the 40-year-old record and flowed above the danger mark.

It recorded the highest level ever at 207.81 metres on Wednesday. After seeing the worst scenario on Wednesday evening, CM Arvind Kejriwal urged the people who reside in the low-lying area to leave the place as soon as possible with the needed essentials.

During the press conference, he said we have made adequate arrangements for everything, including food and toilets at camps. Kejriwal also urged people not to click selfies or take videos of the flooded Yamuna, as it could be dangerous. He further said, I have met all the District magistrates and instructed them to take over schools and convert them to

relief camps for the utilisation of toilets and other facilities.

Earlier in the day, he wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the recent flood situation. He urged the Centre to intervene and ensure that levels in the Yamuna don't rise further. The level of the Yamuna in Delhi reached 207.55 metres today at 1 p.m.

Levels of the Yamuna are continuously rising due to high volumes of water being released by Haryana from the Hathnikund barrage. Before this, the maximum level of the Yamuna had been reached in 1978, which was 207.49 metres. At that time, there was a flood in Delhi, and the situation became very serious. Currently, the level of the Yamuna crosses 207.81 metres, which is above the danger mark. However, he said Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat has informed him that it is not possible to limit the flow of the river as there is no reservoir at Hathnikund Barrage.

WATERLOGGING

# DTC HQ flooded; staff wade through knee-deep water

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The headquarters of the Delhi Transport Corporation here has been flooded as its employees waded their way through the waterlogged entrance to get into the office on Wednesday.

Videos from the headquarters located at Indra-prastha showed people folding their pants and holding shoes in their hands to enter the DTC headquarters.

"Earlier, this situation would arise only when

it rained for many days together. But this time, knee-deep water has entered the headquarters. Adding to our woes, it also contains sewage water," an employee of the DTC said.

According to officials, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) headquarters building has been in need of repair for a long time. Constructed in 1958, the redevelopment project of the headquarters and the bus depot has been a long standing proposal that has not achieved fruition till now, they said.

DELHI RIOTS

# HC GRANTS BAIL TO EX-AAP COUNCILLOR TAHIR HUSSAIN IN 5 CASES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Tahir Hussain, an accused in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots. The former AAP councillor Hussain has been granted bail in five cases but will remain in jail as the Delhi Police have also registered a UAPA case against him.

A single-judge bench comprising Justice Anish Dayal of the Delhi High Court pronounced the bail order for Hussain, who has been booked under the charges of rioting, mischief by fire, and criminal conspiracy, among others. The bail has been granted subject to certain conditions, the High Court said. Hussain will remain in custody since there are other cases registered against him, including the Delhi Police's

"larger conspiracy" case, wherein he has been booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

In October 2022, a Delhi court framed charges against the former AAP councillor, his brother Shah Alam, and four other men in one of the Northeast Delhi riots cases, while stating that the mob had a "clear-cut objective in mind, to kill and harm Hindus." In February, senior advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for Hussain, argued before the court that his client had not been named in the initial witness statements, even though his name features in the subsequent witness statements. He argued that all the co-accused in these cases have been granted bail. "Tahir Hussain the only one left," Khurshid had said.

HOLIDAY

# PRESIDENT APPOINTS JUSTICES UJJAL BHUYAN, SV BHATTI AS JUDGES OF SC

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The President of India on Wednesday appointed Justice Ujjwal Bhuiyan and SV Bhatti as judges of the Supreme Court. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in his tweet said that "in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the Hon'ble President, after consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint the following two Chief Jus-

tices of the High Courts as Judges of the Supreme Court of India".

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended their elevation last week. Justice Ujjwal Bhuiyan is currently the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, and Justice Bhatti is the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. With their appointments, the Supreme Court will have a strength of 32 out of the sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

## TOP OF THE DAY

## 'TRICITY WILL NOT FACE WATER SUPPLY ISSUES'

CHANDIGARH : Punjab Water Resources Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer on Wednesday visited Kajauli Water Works and reviewed the work of water supply to the Tricity. The minister was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Rupnagar Preeti Yadav, SSP Vivek Sheel Soni and officials of Water Resources and Water Supply Departments. Meet Hayer while directing the speeding up of the repair work of the damaged pipelines, said that water supply to Mohali, Chandigarh and Chandimandir is a top priority. He said that the safety of water pipes should be ensured in case of any untoward situation with the possibility of more rain in the coming days. He said that on the instructions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the relief work is continuing on a war footing and as a precaution advance arrangements are also being made.

## AGTF ARRESTS KEY BISHNOI AIDE

CHANDIGARH : Punjab's anti-gangster task force has arrested a key associate of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang with a pistol and some live cartridges on him, said an officer on July 11. "In a major breakthrough, AGTF-Punjab has arrested Randhir Singh @ Commando @ Fauji, a key associate of Lawrence Bishnoi Gang," Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said in a tweet on Wednesday. The accused has a criminal history with a number of cases registered against him in Punjab and Haryana, he said.

## FOUR MISSING AFTER CAR FALLS INTO RIVER

RAMPUR : Four members of a family went missing after their vehicle plunged into the Sutlej river on the Shimla-Kinnaur road, officials said on Wednesday. The missing persons were identified as Rajiv (33), his mother Sundla Devi (55), cousin brother Maher Singh (37) and his wife Sheetla (29), all residents of village Lahdu in Nankheri tehsil of Shimla. Rajiv along with his cousin brother and his wife was taking his mother to Kharneri Hospital in Rampur when the accident took place on Tuesday night, police said.

## 'NETWORK CONNECTIVITY RESTORED IN MANALI'

SHIMLA : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday said that network connectivity has been restored in Manali. After BSNL Mobile, Landline and FTTH services were restored in Manali on Wednesday CM Sukhu said that efforts are underway to restore the network in Kasol. In this regard, CM Sukhu said, "Network connectivity has been restored in Manali. Efforts are underway to restore the network in Kasol, with successful progress made today up to Jari, which is located three kilometres from Kasol.

## ALLIANCE PLAN

## AHEAD OF LS POLLS, BJP REACHES OUT TO FORMER ALLIANCE PARTNERS

ARVIND CHATURVEDI  
NEW DELHI

According to sources, a major meeting of the NDA is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 18 July, at Hotel Ashoka in Delhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has invited several former allies who distanced themselves from the party to attend the meeting. In the coming months, five states will go to polls for the Legislative Assembly elections while the Lok Sabha elections are scheduled for next year.

The BJP will want to replicate its previous performance in the upcoming elections and has therefore reached out in order to reunite with its former allies. The party gained a spectacular victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, winning 26 seats in Gujarat, all



OP Rajbhar with BJP leader Brajesh Pathak

10 seats in Haryana, all four seats in Himachal Pradesh, all seven seats in Delhi, 24 of 25 seats in Rajasthan—one seat was won by a BJP ally. In Tripura, the BJP won two seats as well as five seats in Uttarakhand and both seats in Arunachal Pradesh. The party also emerged victorious in Bihar, winning 17 out of 40 seats, and 9 of 11 seats in Chhattisgarh, winning 9 out of 11 seats. In Jammu and Kashmir, BJP won three

considering the upcoming elections, the has begun a dialogue with parties that were allied with it in different states. The results of these discussions will be made clear soon.

The national president of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) from Uttar Pradesh, Om Prakash Rajbhar, met with BJP's Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Tuesday. Sources say Rajbhar is one of the many leaders invited to the 18 July meeting. BJP leaders are reportedly in talks with Jayant Chaudhary as well. Due to the growing distance with Akhilesh Yadav, Chaudhary seems to have limited options in UP, so there is a possibility of him joining with the BJP.

In Punjab, the party is in talks with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Previ-

ously, the BJP and the Akali Dal were alliance partners. The party is also looking to join hands with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh. A recent meeting between TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has further strengthened this possibility. This was their first meeting after 2018. In Bihar, BJP might look to join hands with Chirag Paswan to secure his Lok Janshakti Party's 6 percent votes. Discussions have also taken place with Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha in Bihar. It seems that if the BJP succeeds in forming alliances in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, it will be successful in creating history with a clean sweep in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

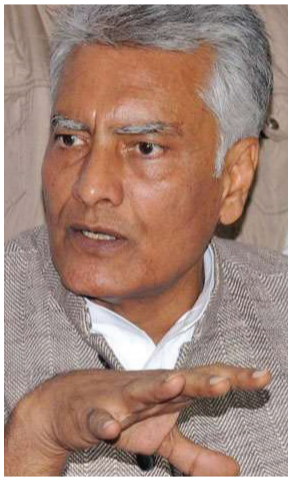
## CALL OUT

## Worsening situation in Punjab due to state government's callousness: Sunil Jakhar

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Expressing concern over extreme hardships being faced by people across the state of Punjab due to widespread flood-like situations, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Punjab state President Sunil Jakhar on Wednesday targeted the state government led by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for its lack of planning and preparation, despite the clear warnings given by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) before the monsoon season arrived.

"Lackadaisical and irresponsible attitude of the state government has visibly worsened the flood situation in most parts and the people of Punjab are being made to face hardships for no fault of theirs," Jakhar said. The BJP state president also asked the



BJP Punjab state President Sunil Jakhar

AAP state government to "immediately release" compensation to the tune of Rs 20,000 per acre to farmers for crop damages that they sustained. "The government should not wait for Girdawari and provide immediate interim assistance to all those affected," Jakhar charged.

In a statement issued in Chandigarh, Sunil Jakhar said that there were several alerts issued by the Met Department but state administration slept over it and as a result, there has been avoidable loss of life and property. "The Chief Minister did not have time to hold a single meeting to review the preparations for flood control and the Chief Secretary only sprung into action only after Punjab was in the grip of deep waters," Jakhar added. "The Chief Minister has a responsibility and duty towards three crore Punjabis, but it is regretful that he seems to have forgotten them after taking their votes to come into power.

That CM chose to campaign in Panchkula instead of taking stock of the affected people's needs in Mohali and Dera Bassi shows where his priorities lie," Jakhar rued.

## AID

## AFTER INCESSANT RAINS, RELIEF MEASURES ON WAR FOOTING IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Relief measures were being carried out on a war footing in Punjab and Haryana as several parts of both states remained flooded following incessant rains over the past three days. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar visited Ambala, the worst-hit district in Haryana, on Wednesday to take stock of the situation, officials said. In Punjab, nearly 10,000 people have been evacuated in Patiala, Rupnagar, Moga, Ludhiana, Mohali, SBS Nagar and Fatehgarh Sahib districts so far.

The weather remained clear in most places on Wednesday, the second consecutive day in the region following three days of non-stop, heavy rainfall. According to government data, the death toll from rain-related incidents in the two states is at 15, seven of

which occurred in Haryana. The heavy rainfall has left behind a trail of destruction with property damages amounting to crores and flooding farmlands.

Relief measures are on a war footing in the affected areas of the two states, officials said. Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala also visited the Ambala district to take stock of the situation on Wednesday. Driving a tractor, he met those affected by the floods—the people apprised him of the huge losses to property and crops caused by the floods. Chautala assured them of all possible help. He also held a meeting with the officials concerned and gave them appropriate directions to tide over the situation.

Congress leader and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda also visited certain areas in the state on Wednesday.

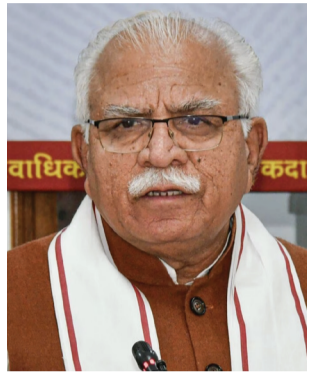
## ASSISTANCE

## Flash flood: Haryana announces Rs 4 lakh compensation for bereaved families

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the families who suffered losses in the flash flood that occurred due to heavy rains across the state. CM Khattar on Wednesday conducted an aerial survey of about four to five districts to take stock of the areas affected by heavy rains in the state. He then held a meeting with the officers of the district administration in Ambala and reviewed the relief and rescue operations in the district. During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officers of the district administration to first ensure timely drainage of water from waterlogged areas and make arrangements for food and other things for the people living in such areas.

"If the administration needs more pumps to drain the water, they should immediately make arrangements at their level or inform the headquarters," the CM directed. He further ordered proper drainage of water from residential areas and fields should be ensured, so farmers do not face any kind of problem. Chief Minister Khattar said that directions have been given to all the Deputy Commissioners to assess the financial loss in their respective districts. The poor families whose houses have been damaged will be immediately repaired by the government.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal

## TAKING STOCK

## PUNJAB WATER RESOURCES MINISTER VISITS ROPAR RIVERS ORDERS PROMPT EXECUTION OF RELIEF WORKS

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Water Resources Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer on Wednesday visited the Siswan and Budhki rivers in Punjab's Rupnagar district to take stock of the damage and evaluate the situation on the ground. Meet Hayer said that such conditions in the state has arisen "after many years" due to heavy rains that have lashed several parts of the country, including the hill states and Punjab.

The Minister said that many areas of Punjab had to bear the brunt of water-logging and even flood-like situations as rivers in the state overflowed following heavy rainfall. Meet Hayer said that the department has made all the necessary preparations to tackle the

issue. "The situation is fully under control and people need not panic. The flood-affected people in Rupnagar district have been lodged in relief camps, where their food and accommodation have been fully arranged," he said, adding that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had already released Rs 33.50 crore from the state's Disaster Relief Fund and approved the release of another Rs 71 crore.

Meet Hayer said, "During this time of crisis, the district, civil, and police administrations are promptly visiting the ground and taking stock of the situation at the grassroots regularly." He also appealed to the people to contact the Deputy Commissioner's office in their respective districts so that they can be evacuated in case of an emergency.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## SITUATION IMPROVED, EVACUATION PROCESS UNDERWAY: HIMACHAL PWD MINISTER

TDG NETWORK  
MANDI

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Wednesday said that the situation in the state has improved significantly and the government is working round-the-clock to evacuate the stranded people from flood-hit areas. "The situation has improved significantly. The government is working round the clock to evacuate thousands of stranded people from flood-affected areas. We are using disaster relief funds to

compensate the victims and begin restoration work as soon as possible. The situation will quickly return to normal," Minister Vikramaditya Singh said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that around 50 percent of stranded tourists have been evacuated from the flood-hit regions and added that the government's top priority was to safely evacuate those visiting the state. "Our priority is to safely evacuate tourists and then focus on the restoration of electricity, power and water supply.

## HEALTH CONCERNS

## Following heavy rain, Haryana may witness spike in vector-borne diseases

RAVINDER MALIK  
CHANDIGARH

Heavy to extremely heavy rain in most districts of Haryana has disrupted the lives of residents, triggering flood-like situations in the state and causing large-scale water logging. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), there is a possibility of rain in the upcoming days as well which is most likely to give rise to several other problems—there are worries that the water logging situation may lead to vector and water-borne diseases, adding to the woes of the state's Health Department.

A mosquito problem has also arisen

due to stagnant water in many places, leading to worries that the state might face the danger of mosquito-borne dengue and malaria. So far the number of reported dengue cases is less than last year. The Health Department has issued orders to ensure necessary steps and arrangements in this regard, but the situation is being treated with seriousness. The Additional Director General of Health Services has issued an advisory regarding ensuring the availability of essential medicines, consumables, and logistics items due to the current weather. The advisory states "Keeping in view the current situation, it is important to initiate requisite mitigation measures. So,

residents are directed to ensure the availability of essential medicines, consumables (as per Essential Drug List) such as Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), IV fluids & Syringes, Zinc Tablet, Chlorine Tablets, Antibiotics, Antidiarrheal Medications, Analgesics, Anti-Rabies Vaccine, Anti-Snake Venom, Anti-Fungal etc. in our health facilities."

Further, the advisory states that the immediate delivery of available stock of essential medicines and consumables from warehouses be ensured. Apart from the aforesaid, necessary logistics/items should also be available and all the lifesaving and life-support equipment should be fully func-

tional. All Civil Surgeons have been ordered to comply with the orders. According to Rakesh Saini, Deputy Director, Health Department, the list of water-borne diseases includes diarrhoea, black jaundice and malaria—these diseases may witness a surge in the upcoming days. Further, he said that people should be made aware of the use of drinking boiled water. Notably, so far this year, as many as 72 cases of dengue have been reported in Haryana. Jind has the maximum number of cases with as many as 37 cases. In such a situation, a spurt in fresh cases of snake bites has also come to the fore in different districts of the state.

## BRAVE RESCUE

## KHAMANO SDM JUMPS INTO FLOOD WATERS TO SAVE YOUTH IN PUNJAB

TARUNI GANDHI  
CHANDIGARH

Government officials in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib town were stunned when they saw the Sub-Divisional Magistrate suddenly dive into the deep water of a flash flood to save a man trapped by waters that were at least 15 feet deep. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sanjeev Kumar jumped into the water

to save a man on Monday in Fatehgarh Sahib while heavy rains lashed the state.

"The area near the Bibanagar gurdwara was flooded with water and the water level was increasing. An NDRF team had yet to reach the spot but the boy had got stuck in one corner in neck-deep water and he was panicking. So I decided to jump into the water rather

than keep waiting for the NDRF team. He was stuck near a pole. I swam around 400 metres and took him out," Kumar said. "I am the SDM for Khamano but on Monday I was in Fatehgarh Sahib as I had been called by the deputy commissioner to discuss the grim situation in the town and the villages around it. I have worked at Fatehgarh Sahib in the past,"

he added.

Deputy Commissioner Parneet Shergill said that she and the SDM were discussing about the flood-relief work when a few people came seeking help for two men stuck in floodwater. They were in their mid-20s. "Sanjeev went to see the situation and he jumped inside to save them. When they started walking, the boys couldn't

realise that the water would rise to their necks. Sanjeev saved one and the other one managed to come out after gaining some confidence," she said. The SDM said that he returned to work immediately after rescuing the man. On Wednesday morning, Shergill posted a video of the rescue operation on social media and praised the SDM's efforts and bravery.



A swollen river Beas in Himachal's Mandi earlier this week.

TACKLING CRISIS

# Centre directs Nafed, NCCF to procure tomato from AP, Karnataka

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday directed cooperatives Nafed and NCCF to procure tomatoes from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra for distribution in major consumption centres, where retail prices have recorded maximum increase in the last one month.

The stocks of tomato will be distributed through retail outlets at discounted prices to the consumers in Delhi-NCR region from July 14, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

Retail prices of tomatoes have soared up to Rs 200



per kg in several parts of the country due to supply disruption caused by heavy rains in the country.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers

Federation (NCCF) will undertake the procurement of tomatoes.

According to the Ministry, the targeted centres for release of tomatoes have been identified on the basis of absolute increase in retail prices

over the past one month in centres where prevailing prices are above the all-India average.

Key consumption centres in states having higher concentration of the identified centres will be further selected for the intervention, it said.

The ministry mentioned that the periods during July-August and October-November are generally the lean production months for tomatoes.

"July coinciding with the monsoon season, adds to challenges related to distribution and increased transit losses adding to price rise," it said.

DELAY

# SC ADJOURNS HEARING ON UMAR KHALID'S BAIL PLEA IN UAPA CASE

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that the bail plea of Umar Khalid challenging Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) will be heard on August 24. Earlier, the Delhi Police had registered an offence under UAPA against Umar Khalid. Delhi High Court had dismissed his bail plea on October 18, 2022.

Today, the Counsel for Delhi Police sought some more time to file counter-affidavit. The SC Bench, comprising Justices A S Bopanna and M M Sundresh, was hearing the case said, "It should have been ready today".

When the Delhi Police asked for time to file their reply, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Khalid, questioned, "The man has been in jail for over two years now, what reply is needed in a bail case now?" Advocate Rajat Nair, ap-

pearing for the Delhi Police, requested the bench that, "Charge sheets compile thousands of pages, please grant us some reasonable time to file a reply." Bench posted the matter for hearing on July 24.

On May 18, the apex court had sought response of the Delhi Police on Khalid's plea. In his appeal, Khalid has challenged the Delhi High Court order refusing him bail in the case.

The High Court had also the actions of the accused prima facie qualified as "terrorist act" under the anti-terror law UAPA.

Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and several others have been booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

ANOTHER FEAT

# ISRO GEARS UP FOR THIRD LUNAR MISSION

TDG NETWORK  
SRIHARIKOTA

Four years after it broke many hearts, ISRO's Chandrayaan is all set to soar towards the moon in its third expedition on Friday in an attempt to put the country in an elite club of nations that accomplished lunar missions with a soft landing.

'Fat boy' LVM3-M4 rocket will carry Chandrayaan-3 as part of the country's ambitious moon mission as the Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up for the hugely anticipated launch from this spaceport on July 14. The soft landing on moon's surface is planned for late August.

Chandrayaan-2 failed to achieve the desired soft landing on the moon surface in 2019, leaving the ISRO team dejected. Images of an emotional then ISRO chief K Sivan being consoled by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi who was here to achieve the rare feat, remains vivid in the memory of many.

Scientists at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, after investing many hours of hardwork, now aim at mastering the technology of soft-landing on the surface of the moon. A success would make India only the fourth country to achieve the feat after the United States, China and the former Soviet Union.

Chandrayaan-3, is the third lunar exploration mission ready for take-off in the fourth operational mission (M4) of LVM3 launcher. ISRO is crossing new frontiers by demonstrating soft-landing on the lunar surface by its lunar module and demonstrating roving on the lunar terrain, the space agency said.

The mission is expected to be supportive to future inter-planetary missions.

MAYHEM

# CONTINUOUS RAINFALL WORSENS SITUATION IN UP, GOVT ON HIGH ALERT

CONTINUED FROM P1 of Uttar Pradesh. Heavy rain alert has been issued in many places in the state on 13 July. There is also a possibility of thunderstorms in addition to rainfall.

## POSSIBILITY OF POWER OUTAGES IN THESE DISTRICTS

The meteorological department has expressed the possibility of heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms in Lucknow, Barabanki, Sitapur, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Ayodhya, Amethi, Rae Bareilly, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Siddharth Nagar, Basti, Ambedkar Nagar, Prayagraj, Jaunpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Gazipur, Ballia, Mau, Deoria, and Kushinagar.

## EXPECTED HEAVY RAINFALL IN THESE DISTRICTS

Meanwhile, the meteorological department has indicated the possibility of heavy rain in Saharanpur, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Baghpat, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Mathura, Hathras, Kas-

ganj, Agra, Etah, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etawah, Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Auraiya, Hapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, and Unnao.

## ALERT FOR FLOODS

In view of the warning from the meteorological department, the administration in the respective districts has also become vigilant. In flood-prone areas with sensitive embankments, 24-hour monitoring is being carried out. As per the report of the Central Water Commission, due to the rising water levels of rivers, alerts have been issued for Badaun, Shamli, Barabanki, Hapur, Kushinagar, Moradabad, Bahraich, Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, and Bahraich.

## CHIEF MINISTER'S DIRECT OBSERVATION OF THE SITUATION

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, after reviewing the situation of flood conditions in the state in view of heavy rainfall, has directed the officials to remain in alert mode for relief and rescue operations. The Chief Minister said that after heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, there is a pos-

sibility of the water level of various rivers in the state rising in the coming days, so all departments involved in rescue work will remain on high alert.

## CM TAKES NOTE OF THE DEATH OF 85 SHEEP

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken note of the death of 85 sheep belonging to three farmers due to lightning strikes in Chandauli. Along with the directive to provide financial assistance of four thousand rupees per sheep, the Chief Minister has also instructed the district administration to provide immediate assistance to the affected people in every possible way.

## RISING WATER LEVELS OF YAMUNA

In Aligarh, the water level of the Yamuna River has reached the danger mark. News of water entering about half a dozen villages in Aligarh has been received. As a result, the crops and vegetables of farmers have been destroyed. Along with this, rural areas are also facing several other problems.

Water reaching homes due to the Hindan River The situation in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh

is also being observed critically due to flooding. The water of the Hindan River has reached people's homes. As a result, people have been forced to evacuate. In addition, the collapse of a house has resulted in the death of a woman.

## CONDITION OF AFFECTED DISTRICTS AFTER WATER RELEASE

Looking at the situation of the districts affected by the release of approximately 1.90 lakh cusecs of water from Hathini Kund Barrage in Uttar Pradesh, the condition of Shamli, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, and Etawah can be seen. Some villages in Shamli and Aligarh are facing a situation of flooding, but there is no impact on the population. However, crops have been damaged. Meanwhile, there is no flood situation in Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, and Etawah. In addition, Saharanpur district has been affected by floods from the beginning, and about 2,000 people are staying in flood relief camps. The situation in Bijnor and Muradabad districts is normal regarding the red alert for rainfall.

DISASTER

# Rain continues in Uttarakhand, nine killed

TDG NETWORK  
DEHRADUN

Rain continued at several places in Uttarakhand on Wednesday even as nine pilgrims were killed and 13 others injured in landslides and due to boulders falling from mountains in the past 24 hours.

Incessant rain nearly crippled the state infrastructure with several routes, including national highways, were closed due to frequent landslides, affecting the 'Char Dham yatra' currently underway.

The Met Department has forecast heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday and

asked the state administration to take adequate precautions.

Ganga, Yamuna and all other rivers are in spate due to incessant rains, and bridges have also been washed away in some places.

A bridge on the Joshimath-Malari road connecting Niti Valley has washed away due

to floods in the Jummagad rainy river, cutting off communication with about a dozen villages.

At least three houses were washed away due to rise in the water level of Kali river in Ranthi village of Dharchula area in Pithoragarh district. However, none of the houses had people living in it.

CHANGE OF GUARD

# BAIJ NEW CONGRESS STATE PRESIDENT IN CHHATTISGARH

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Major changes have been made in the Congress before the assembly elections as Lok Sabha MP Deepak Bajj has been given the command of the state president. Till now, Congress MLA Mohan Markam was holding the responsibility on this post. There was talk of removing Mohan Markam for a long time.

Now the Congress national leadership has handed over the command of the state to Bastar's tribal leader Deepak Bajj. Deepak is the Lok Sabha MP from Bastar seat.

According to a release issued by the party's organisation general secretary KC Venugopal, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Bajj as the new president of the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee.

Assembly elections are proposed in Chhattisgarh in November-December this year. At present there is a Congress government in the state.

This is the second major appointment of the Congress before the assembly elections. Earlier, the Congress had made TS Singh Deo, a senior leader of the party and a minister in the Chhattisgarh government, the deputy CM of the state.

CURBING EXPORT

# RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON IMPORT OF CERTAIN GOLD JEWELLERY, ARTICLES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday imposed import restrictions on certain gold jewellery and articles, a move which would help cut the import of non-essential items.

Now an importer would need a permission of licence from the government for importing these gold products.

However, the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said that the restrictions will not be there for imports under the India-UAE free trade agreement. In a notification, the DGFT said that the import policy of these products "has been amended from free to restricted with immediate effect".

Imports of pearls, precious and semi-precious stones dipped by 25.36 per cent to about USD 4 billion during April-May this fiscal. Gold imports too contracted by about 40 per cent to USD 4.7 billion in the same period.

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Overall merchandise imports during April-May this fiscal declined 10.24 per cent to USD 107 billion. The merchandise trade deficit for April-May 2023 stood at USD 37.26 billion against USD 40.48 billion during April-May 2022.

ASPIRATIONAL CONFLICT

# MAHA PORTFOLIOS WAR RAGES

CONTINUED FROM P1 modated with respect in next expansion, which is to happen before 17 July, then they will be forced to take the final call.

Shiv Sena MLA Shinde camp feels that it has been more than a year and they are still at bay in getting berth in the state Cabinet.

In order to resolve this stalemate, Eknath Shinde on Tuesday evening held a meeting at his official residence Varsha which was attended by Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Dy CM Ajit Pawar and disgruntled MLAs of Shinde Camp.

With uncertainty looming large, Ud-dhav Camp claims that many MLAs of

Shinde camp are in constant touch with them.

Maharashtra Rajbhavan Durbar hall awaits another expansion soon to calm down heated politics in the government. Sensing rising controversy, the BJP has asked Ajit Pawar to come to Delhi to sort of the portfolio issue. Sources say Ajit Pawar reached Delhi late night.

MODI SURNAME ROW

# Not easy for Rahul Gandhi in SC, Purnesh Modi files caveat

CONTINUED FROM P1

Sabha MP. In response, the Congress announced that it will approach the Supreme Court against the verdict.

Purnesh Modi, a former minister in the Gujarat government, had filed a criminal defamation case in 2019 against Rahul Gandhi for his remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" made during an

election rally in Kolar, Karnataka, on April 13, 2019.

On March 23 this year, a metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat convicted Rahul Gandhi under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for criminal defamation and sentenced him to two years in jail.

Following the verdict, Gandhi, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Way-

anad in Kerala in 2019, was disqualified as a Member of Parliament under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

Gandhi subsequently challenged the order in a sessions court in Surat and requested a stay on the conviction. However, on April 20, the sessions court declined to grant a stay, leading him to approach the high court.

GLOBAL APPLAUSE

# MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAILS PM MODI

CONTINUED FROM P1

derstanding and harmony among the followers of faith and culture.

"I appreciate His Excellency's passionate perspective towards inclusive growth," the Muslim World League Secretary-General said.

There was also agreement on the importance of working together on confronting all aspects of extremism and hatred, regardless of their source and reason, as peace and prosperity in our diverse

world can only be achieved with aware and comprehensive citizenship, he said.

"Also, I elaborated upon the details of this important meeting in my lecture at the India Islamic Cultural Centre, which was delivered after the meeting with His Excellency the PM; it was attended by senior scholars, both Muslim and non-Muslim, along with thinkers and politicians-coming from different states of India-who valued and appreciated the

lecture," Al-Issa said.

Earlier, in a tweet, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had said, "PM @narendramodi met H.E. Sheikh @MhmdAlissa, Secretary General of Muslim World League @MWLOrg and Chairman of the Organisation of Muslim Scholars. They had insightful discussions on various aspects of furthering inter-faith harmony, peace and working towards human progress." The Muslim World League

(MWL) is an international NGO headquartered in Mecca, with members from all Islamic countries and sects.

It aims to present Islam and its tolerant principles, provide humanitarian aid, extend bridges of dialogue and cooperation with all, engage in positive openness to all cultures and civilisations, follow the path of centrism and moderation, and ward off movements calling for extremism, violence and exclusion.

TOP OF THE DAY

RSS LEADER SHOT DEAD IN DHANBAD

DHANBAD: A Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader was shot dead by unidentified criminals in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said on Wednesday. Shankar Prasad (55), the sampark pramukh of RSS Dhanbad, was shot dead on Tuesday night at his native village in Duma under the East Tundi police station area, some 180km from the capital Ranchi, police said. His bullet-ridden body was recovered on Wednesday morning, around 500 metres away from his house near Duma graveyard, said the officer in charge of East Tundi police station, Krishna Kumar.

BALAJI'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED

CHENNAI: A city court on Wednesday extended the remand of arrested Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji to judicial custody till July 26. Principal Sessions Judge Ali extended the remand of Balaji on an application filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), following an interim order passed by Justice C V Karthikeyan of the Madras High Court permitting the Principal Sessions Judge to proceed further during the pendency of the hearing on the habeas corpus petition filed by the minister's wife. Balaji was arrested on June 14 by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a cash-for-jobs scam.

POLICE SEIZE COUNTRY-MADE GUNS

THANE: Police on the trail of a criminal in Maharashtra were shocked when they found him possessing a country-made 'machine gun' along with other firearms, a senior Thane Police officer said on Wednesday. Crime branch officials also seized 20 country-made steel pistols, two magazines, and 280 live cartridges from the accused, identified as Surjit Singh alias Maza Avsingh (27), after intercepting him in Palsner town of Dhule district. Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Shivraj Patil told reporters that a case was registered against Singh under the Arms Act at Wagle Estate police station in Thane in 2022.

3 ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING BAJRANG DAL MEMBER

BAHRAICH: Three people, including a pastor, have been arrested for allegedly attacking a local Bajrang Dal office bearer who claimed he was running a campaign against religious conversion. Dipanshu Srivastava, alias Deepak, had registered an FIR at Nanpara police station on Tuesday night, alleging that when he was returning from village Kakri to Banjaria at about 10.30 p.m., pastor Anil and others attacked him with sticks and rods. Additional Superintendent of Police Pavitra Mohan Tripathi said. On his complaint, the ASP said an FIR has been registered against Anil, Ram Narain, Rohit Maurya, and one more person under the relevant sections of the IPC.

MP REPORT CARD

ASSESSING DIYA KUMARI'S PERFORMANCE AS RAJSAMAND'S MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

TDG NETWORK JAIPUR

Diya Kumari, born January 30, 1971, is a member of the Indian Parliament from the Rajsamand parliamentary seat and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Kumari is the granddaughter of Man Singh II, the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jaipur during the British Raj in India.

Kumari joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on September 10, 2013 before a crowd of two lakh people in the presence of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Rajnath Singh, and Vasundhara Raje at a rally in Jaipur. She contested the 2013 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly election as a BJP candidate from Sawai Madhopur and became an MLA. In 2019, she was elected as a Member of Parliament to the Lok Sabha from Rajsamand.



MP REPORT CARD

HISTORY OF BUXAR SEAT		
2009 Gopal Singh Shekhawat (INC)	2014 Hariom Singh Rathore (BJP)	2019 Diya Kumari (BJP)

ASSEMBLY SEATS (06):	
Beawar	Jaitaran
Merta	Bhim
Degana	Kumbhalgarh
Rajsamand	Nathdwara

CASTE-WISE DEMOGRAPHICS	
Rawat	16%
Rajput	15%
Jat	11%
SC-ST	17%
Mahajan	7%
Muslim	6%
Others	28%



ISSUES

- Drinking water
- Employment
- Electricity
- Regional imbalance
- Traffic
- Education
- Health

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- Marwar broad gauge line
- Gas pipeline
- Beawar Highway
- JK overbridge
- Lal Bagh underpass
- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Cleanliness mission

REPORT CARD OF MP (GROUND)

- Do you reside in Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore's constituency?  
A- Yes - 60%  
B- No - 30%  
C- Not sure - 10%
- Are you satisfied with the work of your Member of Parliament?  
A- Yes - 70%  
B- No - 20%  
C- Not sure - 10%
- Will you vote based on the party or ideology?  
A- Yes - 75%  
B- No - 20%  
C- Not sure - 5%
- Will you vote based on the candidate's name?  
A- Yes - 77%  
B- No - 15%  
C- Not sure - 8%
- Will the Modi factor influence the 2024 general elections?  
A- Yes - 65%  
B- No - 20%  
C- Not sure - 15%
- Will you vote for the current MP in the 2024 elections?  
A- Yes - 75%  
B- No - 10%  
C- Not sure - 15%

MP REPORT CARD (PARLIAMENT) - DIYA

- Attendance in Parliament: 88%
- Questions in the House: 80%
- Utilization of MP Fund: 100%
- Special Contributions: 85%
- Rating: 8.8/10

POLITICAL JIBES

CONGRESS, BJP SPAR OVER ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY CM CHOUHAN

TDG NETWORK BHOPAL

The Congress on Wednesday called Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan an 'Automatic Ghoshna Machine' after the state government said in the Assembly that he made 2,715 announcements in his current stint. The Congress' jibe triggered an exchange with the ruling BJP.

Congress had given the call for 'Garibi Hatao' (eliminate poverty) five decades ago, but on the contrary, it increased under their rule. The government shared the figures related to announcements on a question by Ramchandra Dangi, the Congress MLA from Biaora in Rajgarh district.

"In the written reply to a question in the state assembly on Tuesday, the state government informed that the chief minister made 2,715 announcements after taking charge in March 2020. He makes announcements but hardly fulfils them," Ramchandra Dangi stated. Citing the data given in the state assembly, the Congress MLA said that the CM made almost three announcements in a day from March 2020 until now.

The state Congress took to Twitter on Wednesday morning to label Chouhan as the Madhya Pradesh Ki Ghoshna Machine' (an-

nouncement machine of Madhya Pradesh). Responding to the Congress' remake, state BJP Secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said data shows that all these announcements are recorded and being followed.

"The chief minister made all his announcements at the administrative process of the state government. The announcements are taken on record.

On some occasions, implementation takes time

DOUBLE MURDER

MD AND CEO OF FIRM KILLED BY EX-EMPLOYEE AND TWO ASSOCIATES

TDG NETWORK BENGALURU

Three men, including the main accused, were arrested on Wednesday, a day after the gruesome double murder of two senior executives of a private firm here, police said. Amruthahalli police arrested three people involved in the murder of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Managing Director (MD) of internet broadband service provider Aeronics Media Pvt. Ltd. at Pampa Extension near Amruthahalli, a residential area here, on Tuesday evening.

The three men have been identified as the main accused, Shabarish alias Felix (27), along with Vinay Reddy (23) and Santosh alias Santhu (26). The accused had barged into the Aeronics office and hacked to death company CEO Vinu Kumar

(40) and MD Phanindra Subramanya (36).

Armed with daggers, they stormed into the office and attacked Subramanya in the presence of employees. As Kumar rushed to his rescue, he too was assaulted with the sharp weapons, according to police. After they fled the spot, the employees rushed the injured to the hospital, where the victims succumbed to their injuries.

The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained, but police suspect that business rivalry was the reason for the brutal crime. Felix was a former employee of the firm who had started his own venture after resigning recently. Felix had quit to form his own company, which is said to be a rival business. The police said more details would follow after a thorough investigation.

IN KERALA

Six PFI cadres convicted in hand chopping case of college professor

TDG NETWORK KOCHI

A special NIA court in Kerala on Wednesday convicted six persons, who are allegedly members of the now-banned radical Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), in the sensational handchopping case of a college professor in Kerala in 2010.

Special NIA court judge Anil K. Bhaskar found three of them -- Sajil, Nasar, and Najeeb -- guilty of offences under the stringent Un-

lawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as well as attempted murder, conspiracy, and various other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Explosive Substances Act in the second phase of the trial in the case.

In the first phase of the trial in the case, 10 persons were convicted for offences under the UAPA as well as the Explosive Substances Act and the IPC, and three others were found guilty of harbouring the offenders. In the latest order, the court

noted that second accused Sajil took part in the attack, while third accused Nasar, who was the main conspirator in the case, and fifth accused Najeeb had planned the "terrorist act" but did not take part in it.

Three others -- Noushad, P. P. Moideen Kunhu, and Ayoob -- were found guilty by the court of the offences of intentionally not giving information about a crime and harbouring offenders under the IPC. The remaining five accused—Azeez Odakali, Shefeeq, Muhammed Rafi, Subair, and Mansoor—were acquitted by the special court. The punishments to be given to those convicted will be pronounced by the court on Thursday.

PRIME SUSPECT

ACCUSED IN BJP LEADER MURDER CASE GUNNED DOWN

MANU SHARMA BHARATPUR

The primary suspect in the slaying of well-known BJP leader Kirpal Singh Jaghina, Kuldeep Jaghina, was shot dead by criminals on Wednesday afternoon at around 12.30 p.m. while being transported to court by a public bus. It has been discovered that the deceased was struck by 20 to 25 bullets.

Red chilli powder was initially thrown in the eyes by the miscreants, after which they started shooting.

The culprit was being transported by police on a roadway bus from Jaipur to Bharatpur Court.

When the bus exited the Amoli toll booth on the Agra-Bikaner National Highway, the miscreants committed the act. Passengers have also suffered injuries as a result of this.

Seven defendants in the Kirpal Singh Jaghina murder case were scheduled to appear in court in Bharatpur on Wednesday.

The miscreants, riding a bike and a Scorpio, started firing after throwing chillies when the bus driver had halted the vehicle at the toll plaza. Kuldeep Jaghina, reportedly, was declared dead on spot after he succumbed to death from bullet wounds.

POLITICAL DISCORD

BRS protests against Congress over free power remarks for farmers

TDG NETWORK HYDERABAD

Ruling BRS MLC K Kavitha and other party leaders in Telangana held protests on Wednesday against state Congress president A Revanth Reddy's alleged comments that three hours of free power supply is enough for farmers and that 24x7 free power is not required. Reddy, who is currently on a visit to the United States, denied making any such remarks. Kavitha and other party leaders and activ-



ists held a protest at Vidut Soudha here, the headquarters of power utilities, against the Congress.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavitha said Telangana is

the first state to provide investment support to farmers, which has been appreciated by several economists. Telangana is the only state in the country to supply free

and unconditional power to farmers, she said. Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's release of a "farmers' declaration" in Telangana, she alleged that "Congress exposed its real self" by saying that only three hours of free power are enough for farmers.

"I am questioning Rahul Gandhi ji today. Is it really enough? Is that Congress' policy? Do you want to cancel 24 hours of free power to farmers and give only three hours of power?"

'METHOD IN MADNESS'

# Maharashtra politics: Making sense of the 'new normal'

The Maharashtra election results in the last 25 years show that Maharashtra politics has been like a cracked mirror, as there is space for every party or faction of a party.

OPINION

T.S. RAMAKRISHNAN



With 48 seats in its kitty in the Lok Sabha, Maharashtra is a critical state for any party to come to power at the Centre. With recent splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP, the future of Maharashtra politics can be gauged from the politics that has been prevalent since 1999. Despite the "first-past-the-post" system of electing representatives for our legislatures, since 1999, the state has been "Mirror cracked," with Congress, BJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena functioning simultaneously and gaining sizable vote shares and seats in almost every election, irrespective of who formed the government in the state. This has been possible because each party has its own minimum vote base

in specific regions, thereby converting vote share into seats. This is the precise reason why no single-party rule has been possible in Maharashtra for the last three decades. This is also the reason why, despite riding on his massive victory in the 2014 national elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not bring the BJP to power in Maharashtra with a simple majority in the 2014 October Assembly elections, when all four major parties contested independently. Although the BJP and Shiv Sena managed to form a post-poll alliance to rule the state with 185 seats and a 47% vote share between 2014 and 2019, the Congress and NCP were not far behind, as they also secured 42 and 41 seats with vote shares of 17.95% and 17.24%, respectively. With Shiv Sena's decision to part ways with the BJP in 2019, despite them being natural allies, a "new normal" has come into existence. Any post-poll alliance with two or three parties may form the government, with the caveat that Congress and the BJP cannot



File photo of Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais with state Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and newly sworn-in Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, at Raj Bhavan, in Mumbai, on 2 July 2023. ANI

be part of the same alliance. Once the "new normal" has been set in motion, it is a free for all political parties and political leaders. However, there is a method to the madness in the «free for all» approach. The first aspect of the "method in madness" is that the dynastic parties cannot avoid breakaway factions emanating from themselves at some point in time. It is true for every state and every party, not just Maharashtra. When the family members cannot share the power in the party in a mutually agreeable manner or cadres outside the family cannot get with the dynastic leaders, a breakaway is inevitable. The dynastic parties are not bound by any

ideological thread that could bind them together when there are clashes of interests between leaders. In a dynastic leadership pattern, there is no hope for chieftains of a political party to wait for a change in leadership, as the leadership is predetermined by the family succession plan, and the better way is to break away from the parent party and take it forward. Although the Shiv Sena and NCP were founded and nurtured by individuals, when the time comes to pass on the baton to the subsequent generations in the family, it is inevitable to avoid breakaways. Bal Thackeray preferred his son Uddav, although his nephew, Raj Thackeray, who has been as fiery as Babasaheb

Thackeray since his Shiv Sena days, had to leave the Shiv Sena to form his outfit, NMS. When Uddav promoted his son as the heir of the party, Shinde and other prominent leaders revolted. In the case of the NCP, when Sharad Pawar decided to choose his successor, he preferred his daughter over his nephew Ajit Pawar, and all those who had been disgruntled decided to join Ajit Pawar in a silent coup. It was déjà vu as Ajit Pawar joined the BJP government for a few hours in 2019. Unlike 2019, it is irreversible now, as most of the legislatures have sided with Ajit Pawar. The second aspect of the method in madness that is specific to Maharashtra is that no one party enjoys

the absolute support of the state electorate, which could result in one party winning a majority of the seats over other parties and thereby making other parties irrelevant for the next five years. Even the chieftains of the parties will sustain their support irrespective of the party leadership's support base, and when a chieftain shifts his loyalty from one party to the other, he takes his loyal electorate with him. There is no state-wide chemistry that works in favour of one state leader. Unlike the split in the Shiv Sena, the split in NCP appears to be lock, stock, and barrel, leaving only the aged Sharad Pawar and his daughter.

The Maharashtra election results in the last 25 years show that Maharashtra politics has been like a cracked mirror, as there is space for every party or faction of a party. With six political parties now in the state—two Shiv Senas and two NCPs—apart from smaller outfits like Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi of Prakash Ambedkar, MNS, and AIMIM with a committed minimum vote share among the electorate, Maharashtra election politics has now become a «severely cracked mirror». With the results of the 2024 general elections, some clarity on which parties survive and which wither away may emerge. *Thiruvannanthapuram S. Ramakrishnan is a public policy analyst.*

PERSPECTIVE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## INDIA SHOULD BE WARY AS CHINA ACCELERATES BRI PROJECTS IN NEPAL

A week after India refused to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in New Delhi, Beijing has accelerated efforts to complete the pending projects in Nepal, previously announced by the Chinese government in 2019 and 2020 under the controversial BRI. China and Nepal have reached an agreement to accelerate the completion of the projects under BRI to boost infrastructure in the landlocked Himalayan nation. The agreement was reached during a recent meeting between the vice chairman of Nepal's National Planning Commission (NPC), Dr Min Bahadur Shrestha, and Chong Liang, the vice chairman of the Chinese government's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which oversees the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The development assumes significance as it has come just a week after India refused to sign on the paragraph supporting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the New Delhi declaration issued at the end of the SCO summit. The BRI is China's President Xi Jinping's pet project, through which Beijing gains access to resource-rich and strategically significant terrain in various regions. China's ulterior motive is also to expand its influence in the neighbourhood of India in a bid to gain strategic advances and upper-hand in the region. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a so-called project under BRI which Beijing is using for strategic purposes. There is no denying that small, poor and weak countries like Pakistan and Nepal are succumbing to the BRI temptation. So, India needs to be extremely cautious against the latest development about Nepal and China reaching an agreement to complete the pending projects under BRI. What is also notable is that China is seeking to accelerate its BRI projects across the globe in an attempt to send out a message that Xi Jinping's dream project is acceptable in various countries. Beijing has chosen Kathmandu to resume its BRI projects from. Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" is expected to visit China in September. What India needs to keep an eye on is how Xi Jinping in talks with Dahal plans about going ahead with the BRI projects. According to reports, during the recent meeting between the Nepalese and Chinese officials, both parties discussed the progress in implementing various programmes and projects announced by the Chinese government and stressed the need for expeditious completion of preparatory work on both sides to accelerate major connectivity projects in line with the previously agreed-upon commitments. It is the connectivity projects on which China is focused more. Diplomatic and security establishments in India must take note of which connectivity projects China and Nepal are going to focus on. It goes without saying that China is keen to give fillip to the connectivity projects that have to do with the Nepalese regions close to India. With this in view, New Delhi must be doubly cautious about China's future course of action in terms of the pending BRI projects in Nepal. Needless to say, India and Nepal have deep ties which were strengthened all the more during the visit of the Nepalese prime minister to New Delhi last month. India and Nepal bilateral relations gained new heights during Prachanda's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Nepalese leader assured India of not allowing his country's territory to be used for any anti-India activities. But despite all assurances, India needs to follow China-Nepal meetings closely so as to prepare its strategy accordingly. Undeniably, China has been actively investing in Nepal in many infrastructure projects to boost closer cooperation between the two neighbours. India needs to more aggressively carry out its campaign against the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is the flagship project of the BRI. India has strongly protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). India has always opposed the BRI, as it says the CPEC violates India's territorial integrity and sovereignty. After the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had categorically pointed out that connectivity is good for progress, but it cannot violate territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. He was asked to comment on China's assertion that CPEC is a project for connectivity for the progress and development in the region. India must continue to voice its concerns at all the international forums even as China plans to extend its controversial CPEC project to regional countries, including Afghanistan.

**India needs to more aggressively carry out its campaign against the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is the flagship project of the BRI. India has strongly protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).**

T. BRAJESH

NEED FOR CONSENSUS

# Uniform Civil Code would significantly deepen, consolidate Indian nationhood

A Uniform Civil Code can help overcome some of the biggest issues in the future, and also contribute to less vote-bank politics.



AISHWARYA SINGH

In India, the concept of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been debated for many years, and various political and social reform groups have long called for it. The UCC is not legally enforceable, but is seen as a guiding principle for the government to follow because it is contained as a Directive Principle in the Indian Constitution. The UCC is a contentious topic in India, as supporters claim it would advance equality and secularism, while opponents claim it would impede people's freedom of religion and cultural practices. The controversy surrounding the UCC in India generally emphasizes the intricate and delicate link between law, religion, and culture in the nation, which should be

examined from a distance and should be addressed in a phased and holistic manner. The state "shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India," according to Article 44 of Part IV of the Constitution. The authors of the Constitution intended the UCC to be a consistent body of laws that would replace the unique personal laws of each faith with regard to issues like marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance, even if there isn't yet a draught or model document for it. The Directive Principles of State Policy are set forth in Part IV of the Constitution, and even while they cannot be enforced or litigated in a court of law, they are essential to the nation's government. In the Constituent Assembly, there was intense discussion regarding whether or not the UCC clause should be made a fundamental right or a directive principle. By a vote of 5:4, the subcommittee on fundamental rights led by "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" decided that obtaining a UCC did

not fall under the purview of fundamental rights. Members of the Assembly expressed radically different opinions towards the UCC. Additionally, others believed that India was too varied a nation for the UCC. Certain civic laws in all cultures, according to Bengali member Naziruddin Ahmad, are "inseparably connected with religious beliefs and practices." He believed that the UCC would conflict with Article 19 of the drafted Constitution, which today stands as Article 25 and provides the right to freedom of religion, subject to public order, morals, and health. He asserted that while he was not opposed to the idea of a uniform civil code, the moment had not yet come and that the process needed to be gradual and with the permission of the groups that would be affected. The Law Commission of India was asked by the Narendra Modi government in 2016 to figure out how to create a code in the face of "thousands of personal laws" in the nation. The Law Commission of India also offered its opinion on the UCC. The Law

Commission presented a 185-page consultation paper on family law reform in 2018. According to the publication, "uniformity" is not always necessary for a nation to be united, and secularism cannot be in conflict with the pluralism that exists in the nation. According to the Commission, "secularism" only had meaning if it allowed for the expression of any kind of diversity. There have been efforts towards UCC in India like the following: Special Marriage Act of 1954: This law made it legal for any citizen, regardless of faith, to get married in a civil ceremony, allowing Indians to wed outside of traditional religious ceremonies. Shah Bano Case 1985: Shah Bano's request for maintenance was denied in this case. According to Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which applies to all citizens, the Supreme Court found in her favour on the order for maintenance of spouses, children, and parents. The long-delayed Uniform Civil Code should ultimately be adopted, according to the

Supreme Court's further recommendation. In the Sarla Mudgal rulings from 1995 and the Paulo Coutinho v. Maria Luiza Valentina Pereira case (2019), the Supreme Court likewise urged the government to apply the UCC. The UCC Bill must be passed immediately since it will have a number of positive effects that will help overcome some of the biggest issues in the future, and also contribute to less vote-bank politics. Personal laws are a loophole; more rights for women; it would foster true secularism; all Indians should be treated equally; personal laws are a sign of a modern, progressive nation. The suggestions below require immediate consideration in order to advance the spirit of uniformity of laws and achieve the goals outlined in Article 44 of the Constitution: to appreciate the spirit of such a code, individuals must have a progressive and open-minded view. The Uniform Civil Code should act in the best interests of religion. A programme of awareness and sensitization must be started for this education. Given the

sensitive nature of the issue, it is always preferable if the initiatives originate from the relevant religious organisations. Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Parsi codified personal laws are uniquely mixed in India. There is no universal family law that applies to all Indians and is accepted by all the religious communities that coexist in India. The majority of them, however, agree that UCC is unquestionably desirable and would significantly deepen and consolidate Indian nationhood. Different people have different ideas on when and how it should be implemented. Political and intellectual leaders ought to work to forge a consensus rather than utilizing it as an emotional issue to advance their own political interests. The issue is simply how to treat every human being with respect, not whether minorities should be protected or even how to maintain national unity with dignity, something which personal laws have so far failed to do. *Aishwarya Singh is an Assistant Professor in Vidyasthali Law College, Jaipur.*

IN COURT

# DELHI HIGH COURT SENTENCED BUSINESS TYCOON'S SON TO 3 MONTHS PRISON FOR FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE TO EX-PARTNER'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case KD v. VS observed and has sentenced the son of business Tycoon's to three months in prison for failing to pay maintenance to a woman, who in the case alleged that he performed a sham marriage ceremony with her, which being despite of the judicial order while recording his undertaking to pay the same.

The Division bench comprising of Justice Suresh Kumar and Justice Neena Bansal Krishna in the case observed and has imposed the fine for an amount of 2000 on the man and directed the SHO of Tilak Marg Police Station for issuing warrants of arrest against him.

The bench in the case observed and has stated in its order to Look Out Circular which is being issued against the man after it has been submitted by his counsel that he was not in India and will not be able

to appear before the court.

The court in order dated 06.06.2023 stated while observing the submissions made by the counsel appearing for the respondent that it being evident that he is not willing to purge the contempt by complying with the orders or to address on the sentence. The said court in the case sentence him for Simple Imprisonment of three months wherein imposing the fine for an amount of Rs. 2,000/-. Therefore, the court also directed the SHO, Tilak Marg for issuing the warrants of arrest against the respondent and shall also get the Look Out circular issued against the respondent.

In the present case, the plea is moved by woman wherein it is alleged that the contempt of court by the man for failing to comply with an order passed by a coordinate bench on June 01, 2023.

The court in the case observed and has also recorded that the undertaking of him shall continue



to pay the maintenance amount as he has been doing in the past, which being on or before the 7th day of each English calendar month.

Further, the woman alleged before the court that the man is habitual in his

disrespect and disdain for the law and has deliberately violated various judicial orders, which includes those passed with his consent, undertakings, and the assurance.

However, the court observed that the parties are

involved in multiple proceedings, which includes visitation rights of their four-year-old minor child and a criminal case filed by the woman alleging that he has raped her on the false pretext of marrying her.

The Trial Court in the case directed the Delhi Police for registering an FIR against the man after a case was filed by the woman. Thus, the High Court stayed the order of the High Court after the man challenged the same.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on July 19, 2023.

The counsel, Advocate Shivani Luthra Lohiya and Advocate Asmita Narula appeared for the woman.

IN COURT

## Meghalaya High Court: Halted Tree Felling Until Issues With Shillong-Dawki Road Project Ironed Out

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Meghalaya High Court in the case Kaustav Paul vs State of Meghalaya & ors observed and has passed the order wherein prohibiting the felling of trees on Package 1 of the Shillong-Dawki Road project till the said issues with the implementation of it are being ironed out.

The bench comprising of Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice W Diengdoh in the case observed and has ordered that the felling of trees for the purpose of package, this court should not be car-

ried out till such time that the work under package, this court is awarded to a contractor and the contractor is able to take up the construction unimpeded.

In the present case, the PIL was moved wherein concerning over the felling of trees in Shillong as part of the initial package of the Japanese-funded road construction endeavour. Therefore, the status report has been filed by Public Works (R and B) Department in the matter wherein it revealed that the work for this package had not yet commenced since the Indian Institute of Geomagne-



atism, IIG is unwilling to relinquish any land for the project

, apart from the other issues. The court observed that as

per the National Highways and Infrastructure Develop-

ment Corporation Limited, NHIDCL wherein it altered the road's alignment at this stage to avoid encroaching on the IIG's observatory would be impractical. The said conflict has reached the deadlock.

The bench while considering the facts and circumstances of the case remarked while ordering interim stay on tree felling that even if the contractor were to be appointed, till the IIG relents, the work under package I cannot be undertaken seriously.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on 31.07.2023.

IN COURT

## Delhi High Court: Bail Granted To Tahir Hussain In Five Cases Which Relates To North-Delhi Riots

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Tahir Hussain v. State and other connected matters observed and has granted bail to the former Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain in five different cases which are being registered against him in connection with the 2020 North-East Delhi riots.

The court stated that Hussain will still remain in judicial custody in other FIRs registered against him, which includes the UAPA case wherein it alleged the larger conspiracy to commit the riots.

The bench of Justice Anish Dayal in the case observed and has allowed the bail plea moved by Hussain in the year 2020 and 2021.

In the present case, the total of 11 FIRs were being registered against Tahir Hussain in connection with the 2020 riots, which includes UAPA



case accusing him and others of being behind the larger conspiracy for committing the riots.

The court in the case observed that the ECIR was also being registered by the Enforcement Directorate against Tahir Hussain and the charges are framed against him in the money laundering case by the trial court in November last year.

Therefore, the High Court and the Supreme Court dismissed the Tahir Hussain's challenge to the order fram-

ing charges.

Further, the Hussain moved the trial court wherein he seek regular bail in the UAPA case.

The counsels, Senior Advocate Salman Khurshid, along with Advocates Rizwan, Sachi Chopra, Aadil Singh Bopara, Shama Usmani, Aman Khullak, Mariya Mansuri, Anshu Kapoor and Nistha Sinha appeared for Tahir Hussain.

The counsels, ASG SV Raju and SPP Madhukar Pandey represented the Delhi Police

IN COURT

## HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT ASKED STATE BOARD; WHY ACTION NOT TAKEN AGAINST THOSE VIOLATING THE BIODIVERSITY ACT

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Himachal Pradesh High Court in the case observed and has questioned the State Biodiversity Board with regards to the failure to act against those violating the express provisions of the Biodiversity Act 2002.

The bench comprising of Chief Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice Ajay Mohan Goel in the case observed and has summoned the Member Secretary of the Board in order to explain as to why the action as stated under Section 55 (2) of the Act has not been initiated against errant entities.

The court observed that it has been stated that as per section 7 reading with Section 24(2) of the Act restrains any citizen or entity from obtaining any biological resource for commercial utilisation without giving prior intimation to the State Bio-



diversity Board. Therefore, the Board may then if deems fit, prohibit or it may restrict any such activity if it being of opinion that such activity is detrimental or contrary to the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or equitable sharing of the benefits.

In the present case, the plea is by the NGO- People for Responsible Governance of the

2019 development wherein it is alleged that State Biodiversity Board has failed to implement the Act effectively, which resulted in the loss of biological resources and the associated benefits.

The bench in the case observed and has directed that he being the Member Secretary in the case shall explain as to what action is being initiated against these enti-

ties also for not complying with the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and also the Benefits Sharing Regulation, 2014 which is being framed on November 21, 2023 and for not sharing the financial benefits in spite of the accessing biological resources from the sources within the State of Himachal Pradesh.

IN BRIEF

### BJP MLA FILED CAVEAT IN SUPREME COURT; RAHUL GANDHI DEFAMATION CASE VERDICT

BJP MLA, Purnesh Modi and the complainant in the case of defamation against the Rahul Gandhi has submitted a caveat in the Supreme Court wherein requesting for the chance to present the case of him if the Congress leader challenges the recent verdict of the Gujarat High Court that denied the stay on his conviction in the case of 2019.

### NCLT DISMISSED PLEA SEEKING INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST RELIGARE ENTERPRISES

The National Company Law Tribunal, NCLT in the case observed and has dismissed the plea for initiating the Insolvency proceedings initiated against the Religare Enterprises Ltd wherein the court observed that it being the financial service provider and the same does not come under the ambit of the Insolvency And Bankruptcy Code, IBC. The principal bench headed by NCLT President Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Atul Chaturvedi held that the plea moved by Ligare Aviation Ltd against Religare Enterprises was not maintainable and the same does not fall under the definition of the Corporate Debtor which means that the corporate person who owes the debt to any person.

### PARLIAMENTARY PANEL TO HEAR RBI; CYBER CRIMES

The Parliamentary Committee examined the issue of cyber security and the rising incidents of cyber crimes has summoned the officials of the Reserve Bank of India, RBI and the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry later this month seeks for their views. Therefore, the panel has already quizzed the representatives of several tech majors on the issue.

### SEBI SLAPPED OVER RS 25 CRORE ON 2 ENTITIES IN GDR MANIPULATION CASE

The Capital Markets regulator SEBI imposed the penalty of totaling Rs 25.2 Crore on two individuals in the cost related to the manipulation of global depository receipt, GDR for issuance of Hiran Orgochem Ltd. Thus, the regulator levied the fine for an amount of Rs 25 Crores on Arun Panchariya and Rs 20 Lakh on Mukesh Chauradiya. It has been directed by them to pay an amount within the period of 45 days as per the SEBI order.





REGULATIONS

# Technological Intervention in Advocate-Client relationship: Infringement of Right to Privacy or a tool of Amelioration

OPINION

GARGI PANT & AARJU



**ABSTRACT**  
Every sector of society has experienced technological advancement and intervention. As a result, technology has also infiltrated the legal sector and endeavoured to assist in various legal processes. But due to the evolving nature of the cyber world, while using these technologies there is always a concern regarding the infringement of the right to privacy as the data of a person can be misused. To investigate the same, the article shall focus on the technological intervention and different software available specifically for the advocate-client relationship and whether it violates the right to privacy. The software/applications discussed in the article are; the Tele-Law scheme, NALSA mobile application,

E-courts, and various legal-tech startups. The key reason for considering the aforementioned projects is that they all are developed by the Indian government, which will make the software welfare-oriented rather than profit-oriented while strengthening the advocate-client relationship. **KEYWORDS- E-court,** National Legal Services Authority Act 1987, Privacy, Technology, Tele-Law scheme. **INTRODUCTION**  
Recently, the world has seen an exponential rise in the development of technology. Consequently, it has led to technological intervention in almost every sector of society. Technology is commonly defined as "the application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life...". Conflict resolution

is one of the aims of human life and the legal sector is the dedicated sector for conflict resolution. To make the legal sector more proficient, the legal sector has welcomed technological intervention. As a result, there has been a recent introduction of the E-filing of court cases, E-courts, online land registration, digitalization of court records, etc. The legal sector includes various functionaries and the foremost among them being, the judges, advocates, and clients. The article shall focus specifically on the intervention of technology in the advocate-client relationship as their relationship presents the link between legal professionals and non-legal citizens. As technology is still a dynamic field there are a lot of issues regarding the information being hacked and the right to privacy being infringed. Similarly, there have been certain concerns regarding the right to privacy being infringed as technology in the advocate-client relationship requires access to the data of the client. The Indian Constitution guarantees right to privacy under article 21. The article shall discuss the various technologies set in place for making the advocate-client relationship and whether they infringe on the right to privacy or not. **TELE-LAW SCHEME**  
The Tele Law scheme is launched by the Department of Justice along with the NALSA and CSC e-Governance Service India Limited to provide legal assistance for the citizens of

India. The Tele-Law scheme introduces a platform for interaction through technology for assisting citizens with legal advice using the video-conferencing platform. The scheme works with the help of an app through which the client can fill up their personal information as well as the case details. After this, the client becomes eligible to book a slot for an appointment with any of the lawyers of his choice. This makes the lawyer-finding process for a citizen who might not be aware of the intricacies of the law, easier and less arduous. A clear intervention of technology in the traditional advocate-client relationship is observed. Earlier on, the advocate-client relationship was only possible in the physical world, which made the legal process strenuous and time-consuming. Technological intervention has now made the legal process easier. **NALSA MOBILE APPLICATION**  
Another mobile application that assists the advocate-client relationship is the NALSA app. The National Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 was established to provide free legal services to the weaker and marginalized sections of society. Initially, the application for availing of the free legal services had to be presented and submitted to the Legal Services authorities' office at the district, state, and national levels physically. But recently, the NALSA mobile application has been introduced where the details regarding the case

can be submitted online along with the necessary information. It also includes personal details including employment details, and annual income, current address. The mobile app makes it easier to fill out the legal aid forms so that an advocate can be assigned to the case. This portrays that the use of technology has strengthened the advocate-client relationship by providing them with a platform that is easier to access. **E-COURTS PROJECT**  
The "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary - 2005" submitted by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India served as the foundation for the e-Courts project, which had the goal of transforming the Indian Judiciary by enabling Courts with ICT. Various initiatives were taken under the project such as Open-Source Software, National Judicial Data Grid Database, access to Case Status Information, and a Judgment search portal. One of the primary causes of judicial delay is the time it takes to issue summonses. As a result, SMS is also being used on mobile devices to send summonses. The National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) system has been introduced to facilitate summons and process serving through technology. Generally, a variety of methods for giving the litigant immediate access to information are being used. Also, there are options for video conferenc-

ing between courts and both prisoners and jails. The fundamental benefit of e-court initiatives is that all information is readily available at one location, and that there is continued transparency between the advocate and client, thus solidifying their fiduciary relationship. **LEGAL- TECH STARTUPS**  
In the near future, a significant transformation would be made as to how clients are served and handled. Lawyers would approach their customers with innovative suggestions as well as more sincere and affordable legal remedies. Many Indian legal tech startups, including SpotDraft, CaseMine, NearLaw, Pensieve, Practice League, etc., are developing Natural Language Processing [NLP] based applications and launching next-generation legal research platforms that enable law firms to conduct more thorough legal research that is also less time-consuming. Law firms would implement a Performance-Based Pricing Strategy [PBPS] to innovate their pricing strategies and better serve their clients. This pricing structure would be very client-friendly because clients would only be required to make payments after achieving their goals. It would also improve the rapport between clients and law firms on a professional level. **IMPACT OF LEGAL SOFTWARE ON THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY**  
All the above-discussed technological projects strengthen the advocate-client

relationship by providing an easier mode of communication which is necessary to deal with the case. **Legal Software does not infringe on the right to privacy**  
As the software is not mandatory in nature, it does not violate the right to privacy. The software gives the client a choice to avail of its services. It is presumed that the client wanted to share that information. The right to privacy is declared as a fundamental right under Article 21 given in the case of K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) and Anr. (Aadhar) v. Union of India. Another aspect of privacy, in this case, is the nature of the information that is asked of the client. All of the software only ask for public/identification information and documents e.g. caste and caste certificate to check the valid eligibility of the clients for certain services. Section 74 of the Indian Evidence Act provides for a public document to be a record that is being kept by the government. It means that any issued document such as a caste certificate shall be considered a public document. The right to privacy, in this case, is not violated as identification information is being asked. **Legal software may infringe on the right to privacy**  
But there is always a concern about data theft and hacking when discussing the involvement of technology. The technology utilizes the data of an individual to give out the expected results. This data is inserted into the cyber world and once in the

cyber world, data cannot be erased permanently. Due to the dynamic and ever-changing nature of the cyber world, the data is prone to hacking and being stolen. This gives rise to the issue of the right to privacy being infringed. The data that is provided in the software is with the consent of the client but when that data gets stolen or hacked it results in the infringement of the right to privacy. **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**  
The advocate-client relationship is a critical component of the legal profession, and it plays a significant role in ensuring that clients receive quality legal representation. In the present era, technology has revolutionized the way in which advocates and clients interact and communicate with each other. It has improved clerical staff productivity and the effectiveness of law offices. With the emergence of legal tech, there is greater transparency between law firms and their clients. Technology innovation may greatly support the values that the ethical guidelines want to uphold, not jeopardize the legal profession. However, such advancements can only be made if technical innovation is skillfully applied, with an understanding of the fundamental principles of the right to privacy, and if the right to privacy principles that govern practice is interpreted and adjusted to demonstrate the enormous potential of these innovations.

IN COURT

## Supreme Court: Permission Not Needed For High Courts To Transfer Presiding Officers Of Special MP or MLA Courts

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India And Anr observed and has clarified that the permission of it is not required for the High Courts to transfer Presiding officers of Special Courts dealing with cases pertaining to MPs or MLAs. The bench comprising of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice PS Narasimha, and Justice Manoj Misra was hearing the present plea wherein the said bench ensure that the administrative work of the High Courts does not suffer. In the present case, the Supreme Court directed in August 2021 that the Presiding officers of the Special Courts involving prosecution of MPs or MLAs, shall not be transferred except with permission from the Apex Court. However, several High Courts filed interlocutory applications seeking permission to transfer judicial officers due to administrative exigencies or on other grounds, in response to which it has been directed by the Supreme Court in the month of October 2022 that the same would



not be necessary for the High Courts to seek prior permission of the Apex Court for transferring of judicial officers in cases where the transfers were being made in the normal course which is consequent upon the end of their tenure in a particular posting. Adding to it, it has been stated that if a transfer is caused for any other reason, the prior permission of the Supreme Court would be necessary in the matter.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria, the amicus curiae in the matter, informed the Supreme Court that there were many requests for the transfer of judicial officers occasioned by the condition of prior permission of the Apex Court before transferring. The court in the case observed and has stated that the permission of the Supreme Court shall not be required for transfer of Presiding officers of Spe-

cial Courts dealing with cases which pertains to MPs or MLAs by the High Court which being subject to due observance of the following conditions: (i) The High Court concerned may transfer the Presiding officers of Special Courts i.e., the MPs or MLAs obtaining the approval of the Chief Justice of the High Court on the administrative side. (ii) The Chief Justice while granting the

permission shall ensure that some of the other judicial officer is posted in the vacancy which would be caused by the transfer so that the Special Court in charge of cases of MPs or MLAs is not being kept open. (iii) The transfer made shall be permitted which being subject to the condition that there is no case pending for final judgment after the conclusion of the arguments in the trial.

IN COURT

## SUPREME COURT TO EXAMINE WHETHER HARD COPY IS MANDATORY; CAN DOCUMENTS RELIED ON BY PROSECUTION BE SUPPLIED TO ACCUSED IN DIGITAL FORMAT?

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Central Bureau of Investigation, Bhopal vs Abhishek Sachan @ Abhishek Singh observed and will examine as to whether the supplying of hard copies of the documents relied on by the Prosecution, being mandatory, or can it be supplied in the digital format? In the present case, the special leave plea was moved by the Central Bureau of Investigation against the judgement of Madhya Pradesh High Court wherein the court observed and has upheld the direction which are issued by the Special Judge wherein it

ordered for supply of hard copies of the concerned documents to the accused. The Central Bureau of Investigation also relied upon Section 4 of the Indian Technology Act, 2000 and also Section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, wherein it is contended that supplying of documents in the digital format is permissible as stated under the Indian Laws. The court also placed Reliance on the decision in the case P. Gopalkrishnan alias Dileep vs. State of Kerala and Another. It has also been stated that as per section 4 of the Act that where the said law provides that information or any other matter shall be in writing or in the type-

written or in the printed form, then, notwithstanding anything which is contained in such law that such requirement shall be deemed to have been satisfied if such information or the matter is- (a) rendered or is being made available in an electronic form; and (b) the accessible so as to be usable for the subsequent reference. The court in the case observed and has also dealt with section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with the supply to the accused of copy of police report and other documents. Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration after four weeks.





SOLIDARITY AT NATO



Participants attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Council with Partner Nations at a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

TDG EXPLAINER

Turkey's support for Sweden's NATO entry is linked to goals on security and EU membership

Turkiye made a surprise pledge to drop its resistance to Sweden joining NATO, paving the way for the Nordic country to become a member of the Western military alliance.

NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg heralded the agreement Monday after talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

Stoltenberg said Turkiye had agreed to support Sweden's NATO bid -- by putting the issue to a vote in Parliament -- in return for deeper cooperation with Sweden on security issues and a pledge from Sweden to revive Turkiye's quest for EU membership. The agreement also says Sweden and Turkiye will step up trade and investment with each other.

Here are key factors that Turkiye is considering as it allows Sweden's entry into NATO.

ELIMINATING SECURITY THREATS

Erdogan's opposition to Swedish membership in NATO had focused heavily on his belief that the Nordic country has been too lenient toward Turkish and Kurdish diasporas that Turkiye views as security threats -- militant Kurdish groups and others connected to a 2016 coup

attempt against Erdogan.

An agreement signed between Turkiye, Sweden and Finland last year set out to tackle some of these concerns, and Sweden recently tightened its anti-terrorism laws, making support for an extremist organization punishable by up to eight years' imprisonment.

FIGHTER JETS DEAL WITH US

Turkiye has asked the U.S. for approval to buy 40 new F-16s, as well as kits to upgrade its existing fleet. The request was backed by the White House but ran into opposition in Congress. Within hours of Erdogan apparently dropping his veto on Sweden, President Joe Biden signaled that the U.S. intended to proceed with the F-16 sale in consultation with Congress.

EU MEMBERSHIP

Early on Monday, Erdogan made a surprise warning that he would block Sweden's attempt to become a NATO ally unless European members of the military organization "pave the way" for Turkiye to join the world's biggest trading bloc. It was the first time that Erdogan had linked the two countries' aspirations in this way.

-JAISAL

ABORTION-BAN

Few US adults support full abortion bans, says AP-NORC

TDG NETWORK WASHINGTON

The majority of US adults, including those living in states with harsh limits on abortion, want it to be legal at least through the initial stages of pregnancy, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds.

The poll was conducted in late June, one year after the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, undoing a nationwide right to abortion that had been in place for nearly 50 years.

While the laws have changed over the past year, the poll found that opinions on abortion remain much as they were a year ago:



complex, with most people believing abortion should be allowed in some circumstances and not in others.

Overall, about two-thirds of Americans say abortion should generally be legal,

but only about a quarter say it should always be legal and only about 1 in 10 say it should always be illegal.

By 24 weeks of pregnancy, most Americans think their state should generally not allow abortions.

The poll finds that 1 in 10 Americans say they know someone who has either been unable to get an abortion or who has had to travel to get one in the last year, since the

Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade -- and that this is especially common among young people, people of colour and those living in states where abortion is banned at all stages of pregnancy.

Nearly half the states now allow abortion until between 20 and 27 weeks, but bar it later than that in most cases. Before the fall of Roe, almost every state fell in that range. Now, abortion is banned -- with varying exceptions -- at all stages of pregnancy in 14 states, including much of the South.

The poll found that 73 per cent of all US adults, including 58 per cent of those in states with the deepest bans, believe abortion should be allowed at six weeks of pregnancy.

NATO- NEW MEMBER

SWEDEN JOINS NATO, TO IMPACT ALLIANCE AND UKRAINE WAR

TDG NETWORK LONDON

In a surprise move, Turkey has ended its veto on Sweden joining Nato, thereby removing all the barriers to its membership of the military alliance.

Hungary quickly followed suit and, as a result of the two countries' support, a consensus was able to be reached at the 2023 Nato summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreeing to support Sweden's bid to join will be touted as one of the key achievements of the summit.

Sweden submitted its formal application for membership in May 2022 alongside Finland, which was admitted into the alliance in April 2023.

Sweden, though not a formal member, has had a very close relationship with Nato for almost 30 years, since joining the alliance's Partnership for Peace programme in 1994. It has contributed to Nato missions. And as a member of the European Union and contributor to the bloc's common security and defence policy, it has also worked closely with the vast majority of European Nato allies.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with the Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson

Finland and Sweden's accession is of significant operational importance to how Nato defends allied territory against Russian aggression. Integrating these two nations on its north flank (the Atlantic and European Arctic) will help to solidify plans for defending its Ukraine-adjacent centre (from the Baltic Sea to the Alps). This will ensure that Russia has to contend with powerful and interoperable military forces across its entire western border.

Why Turkey lifted its veto For a few years now, Turkey's relationship with Nato has been nuanced and strained. Turkey's objections to Sweden's accession were ostensibly connected to its concerns over Sweden's

policy towards the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. Turkey has accused Sweden of hosting Kurdish militants. Nato has acknowledged this as a legitimate security concern and Sweden has made concessions as part of its journey towards Nato.

THE 'NORDIC ROUND'

Sweden's accession means all Nordic nations are now part of Nato. As well as being significant in operational and military terms, this enlargement has major political, strategic and defence planning implications. Although Finland and Sweden have been "virtual allies" for years, their formal accession means some changes in practice.

KENYA-UGANDA

Iran's president makes a rare visit to Africa to advance economic diplomacy

TDG NETWORK NAIROBI

Iran's president has begun a rare visit to Africa as the country, which is under heavy US economic sanctions, seeks to deepen partnerships around the world.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Kenya on Wednesday is the first to the African continent by an Iranian leader in more than a decade. He is also expected to visit Uganda and Zimbabwe and meet with the presidents of all three countries.

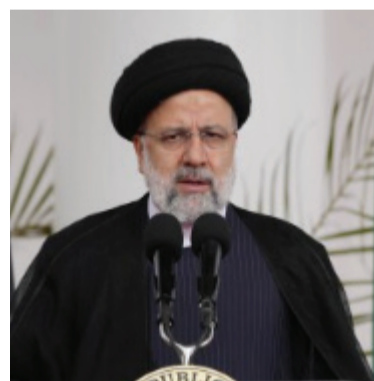
Raisi's visit is meant to "promote economic diplomacy, strengthen political relations with friendly and

aligned countries, and diversify the export destinations," Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement upon his arrival.

Last month, Iran's leader made his first visit to Latin America, stopping in Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to re-establish diplomatic ties in a major diplomatic breakthrough.

Iran is in a growing standoff with Western nations over its nuclear programme, which has made major advances in the five years since then-US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from an international agreement that restricted



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi addressing a conference in Nairobi, Kenya

it. Trump also restored sanctions on Iran that have contributed to a

severe economic crisis.

The US last month accused Iran of providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant as Moscow seeks weaponry for its ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Iran has said it provided drones to Russia before the start of the war but not since.

Kenya is East Africa's economic hub and an ally of the US, with President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, visiting the country early this year.

Under new President William Ruto, Kenya is struggling with debt and rising cost of living, with more protests expected on Wednesday in the capital, Nairobi, and elsewhere.

CYBER CRIME

China hackers breach email accounts of Western European government

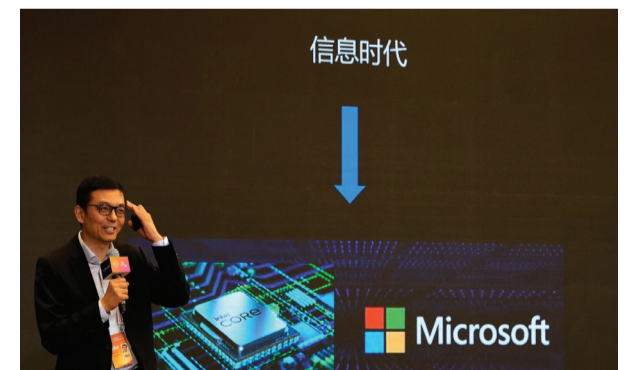
TDG NETWORK HONG KONG

A China-based hacking group has breached email accounts linked to government agencies in Western Europe, according to Microsoft Corp.

In a blog post published Tuesday, Microsoft said the group, which it identified as Storm-0558, commits acts such as espionage and data theft.

The group gained access to email accounts affecting about 25 organisations including government agencies and to accounts of individuals linked to these organisations, and had gone undetected for about a month until customers complained to Microsoft about abnormal mail activity.

The hackers carried out the breach by forging authentication tokens -- a piece of information used to verify the identity of a user -- required to access the email accounts. Microsoft has since



dealt with the attack and informed affected customers. Microsoft said it is working with the Department of Homeland Security and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, among others, to guard against such attacks.

It also said it would continue to monitor Storm-0558's activities. This attack is the latest security breach discovered to have been carried out by China-based hackers.

Last month, Google-owned cybersecurity firm Mandiant said suspected state-backed Chinese hackers broke into the networks

of hundreds of public and private sector organisations globally by using a security hole in a popular email security tool.

Earlier this year, Microsoft said state-backed Chinese hackers have been targeting US critical infrastructure and could be laying the technical groundwork for the potential disruption of critical communications between the US and Asia during future crises.

China says the US also engages in cyberespionage against it, hacking into computers of its universities and companies.

MISSILE-ATTACK

N KOREA LAUNCHES BALLISTIC MISSILE TOWARDS SEA AFTER THREATENING US OVER ALLEGED SPY FLIGHTS

TDG NETWORK SEOUL

North Korea launched a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters on Wednesday, its neighbours said, two days after the North threatened "shocking" consequences to protest what it perceived a provocative U.S. reconnaissance activity near its territory.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff says the launch was made on Wednesday morning but gave no further



details such as how far the weapon flew. Japan's Defense Ministry

said it also detected a possible ballistic missile launch by North Korea.

The launch, the North's first weapons firing in about a month, came after North Korea earlier this week released a series of statements accusing the United States of flying a military plane close to North Korea to spy on the North.

The United States and South Korea dismissed the North's accusations and urged it to refrain from any acts or rhetoric that raises animosities.

In a statement on Monday night, Kim Yo Jong, the

# Take 5



## 5 TERRIBLE HUMAN EXPERIMENTS

All of us have always been afraid of evil and depravity, especially if it is an evil experiment performed by humans involving other humans. Horrific medical experiments in movies and television shows are common, and hard to avoid. A good portion of these are fictional and fabricated, but several are based on real experiments and torture carried out in the past.

**1 KAMERA**  
Prisoners were the victims in this deadly experiment. The intention was to produce a tasteless and odorless poison that couldn't be detected post mortem. Prisoners were unwillingly brought to the secret laboratory of the Soviet Union known as Kamera, or "the cell". These prisoners were given ricin and mustard gas containing substances, digitoxin, curare, and cyanide with meals and beverages as a medication.

**2 TUSKEGEE SYPHILIS STUDY**  
This horrific medical experiment was conducted in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1932. At the time treatment for syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease that causes pain, insanity, suffering and ultimately death, was toxic and futile. Mercury was used as a treatment but mercury itself is a toxic compound that causes kidney failure, tooth loss, mouth ulcers, and death. A team of government funded doctors decided not to treat the disease to see if no treatment was better.

**3 THE MONSTER STUDY**  
A stuttering experiment carried on 22 orphan children in 1939 in Iowa later became infamous worldwide as the Monster Study. The horrific experiment was performed by his graduate student Mary Tudor. All the 22 orphans were split into two groups. One group was given positive therapy for their fluent speech other was given negative therapy and were criticized for their imperfection in speech. This result of this cruel and horrific experiment was the negative group suffering from negative physiological effects, and some of them suffering from speech problems for the rest of their lives.

**4 POISON LABORATORY OF THE SOVIETS**  
The Poison laboratory of the Soviet secret services, was a covert poison research and development facility of the Soviet secret police agencies. The Soviets tested a number of deadly poisons on prisoners from the Gulag ("enemies of the people"), including mustard gas, ricin, digitoxin and many others. The goal of the experiments was to find a tasteless, odorless chemical that could not be detected post mortem.

**5 PROJECT 4.1**  
This was designation of a cruel and horrific medical study performed on the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands. These natives were exposed to nuclear radiation fallout from The Castle Bravo nuclear test at Bikini atoll. This nuclear test had an unexpectedly large yield. Instead of warning the residents of the radiation, the US government decided to stay quiet and to observe the effects of radiation for research purposes.

— Bharti Naidu

## PICTURE PERFECT

Devotees take a selfie at Baba Baidyanath Dham during their pilgrimage on the month of "Shravan", in Deoghar on Wednesday.

ANI



## GALA OPENING

# Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey, Christopher Nolan attend 'Oppenheimer' premiere

ANI  
PARIS

Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr, Emily Blunt, and Christopher Nolan, on Tuesday, attended the grand premiere of their film 'Oppenheimer' at the Cinema Le Grand Rex in Paris.

According to Variety, a US-based media outlet, as the three-hour historical epic was about to begin, Nolan warned the audience that "it's an intense experience, it's a serious subject, but it's something we pulled our hearts into." The movie delves into the creation of the atomic bomb during World War II. Downey Jr., who arrived on the red carpet looking as sleek and fashionable as Tony Stark, said "Oppenheimer" stands out from his past films.

"I've done a lot of movies where it kind of becomes about aliens and bad



guys and action and flying around. But this is a blockbuster about our history as human beings. And it's just amazing how he pulled it off," said Downey Jr. who owes his huge popularity in France to his turn in 'Iron Man' and 'The Avengers'.

He said "Oppenheimer" is a "blockbuster movie that is about something so intimate

and so important," as per Variety. Murphy, who plays J. Robert Oppenheimer, an American theoretical physicist, kept a low profile on the red carpet.

Blunt, who looked beautiful in a silk gown, said it was an "extraordinary set, fully immersive, which is what Chris adores to do, so you feel kidnapped by the experience as an actor," reported Variety.

The biopic, set during World War II, follows Oppenheimer, known as the "Father of the Atomic Bomb," during a period in history when he understood that testing the atomic bomb would ignite the atmosphere and destroy the world, yet he pushed the button anyway.

## NOSTALGIC

# 1970S FILMS 'BAWARCHI', 'MILI', 'KOSHISH' REMAKE ANNOUNCED

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Official remakes of classic Indian films 'Bawarchi', 'Mili', and 'Koshish' were announced on Wednesday. Anushree Mehta and Abir Sengupta of Jaadugar Films and Sameer RaSippy of SRS Productions will jointly produce the official Hindi of three evergreen classics.

Loved by millions, all three films are considered masterworks of Indian cinema. 'Koshish', a heartfelt, moving story; was directed by Gulzar, 'Bawarchi' and 'Mili' are timeless favorites directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee.

The filmmakers' unique visions, down-to-earth characters and wholesome storytelling left an incred-



ible mark on generations of audiences. Legendary actors like Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Sanjeev Kumar and others gave their career-best performances in these films. Anushree Mehta and Abir

Sengupta of Jaadugar Films jointly said, "We are absolutely thrilled to be setting upon this magical journey of making three of our all-time favourite movies in a new form and mould. It is a huge responsibility as

Koshish, Bawarchi and Mili are celebrated in India and across the globe which have been made by the legendary Gulzar Saab and Hrishi da that have set the standards of filmmaking for generations to come.

## NEW TRACK

# 'WHAT JHUMKA' SONG FROM RRPCK IS OUT

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Makers of the upcoming romantic comedy film 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' on Wednesday unveiled the second track of the film 'What Jhumka'.

Taking to Instagram, director Karan Johar shared the song.

Sung by Arijit Singh and Jonita Gandhi the song is penned by Amitabh Bhat-tacharya and features Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt. The song also had few lines from the iconic track 'Jhoomka Gira Re Bareilly Ke Bazaar Mein'.

Soon after the makers unveiled the track, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. "And we finally have a New song for



wedding sangeet," fan commented. Another fan wrote, "its fantastic the dance the costumes the expression everything is perfect." Helmed by Karan Johar, the film stars Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi in the lead roles and is all set to hit the theatres on July 28.

Recently the makers unveiled the first song 'Tum Kya Mile' and the official trailer of the film which received massive responses from the audience.

The trailer took us into the lives of Rocky Randhawa and Rani Chatterjee, whose lifestyles are diametrically opposed. While Rocky is a Punjabi lad from a wealthy Punjabi family, Rani comes from a Bengali household where knowledge and intelligence are valued above all else. And they fall in love but soon the couple realizes that their families don't like each other. Then Rocky and Rani decide to 'Switch' and live with each other families to impress them. 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' promises to be a wholesome, big-screen entertainer,

## BRAIN PICKING



"There are no regrets in life. Just lessons."

— JENNIFER ANISTON,

American actress



## NEGOTIATION

# HOLLYWOOD ACTORS AGREE TO MEDIATION, BUT STRIKE MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE

TDG NETWORK  
LOS ANGELES

Unionised Hollywood actors on the verge of a strike have agreed to allow a last-minute intervention from federal mediators but say they doubt a deal will be reached by a negotiation deadline late Wednesday. "We are committed to the negotiating process and will explore and exhaust every possible opportunity to make a deal, however we are not confident that the employers have any intention of bargaining toward an agreement," the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Radio and Television Artists (SAG-AFTRA) said in a statement Tuesday night. The actors could join the already striking Writers Guild of America

(WGA) and grind the already slowed production process to a halt if no agreement is reached with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP).

The sides agreed to an extension before the original contract expiration date on June 30, resetting it to Wednesday at 11:59 pm. growing pessimism surrounding the talks seemed to turn to open hostility when SAG-AFTRA released a statement Tuesday night. It came in response to a report in Variety that a group of Hollywood CEOs had been the force behind the request for mediation, which the union said was leaked before its negotiators were informed of the request.

# QUIZOHOLIC



1. From which language is the word 'Desastre' origin?

- Greek ■ English
- Spanish ■ French

2. Which one of these is a man - made disaster?

- Draught ■ Industrial accidents
- Flood ■ Volcanic eruptions

3. In which year floods came in Kerala from given below in block?

- August 2018 ■ August 2019
- July 2007 ■ November 2020

4. Which from the following are drought prone Zines in India?

- Andhra Pradesh ■ Maharashtra
- Kerala ■ Karnataka

5. Flood in Kerala was how much percent rainfall more than usual rainfalls in the state?

- 75% ■ 25% ■ 90% ■ 59%

Answer: (1) French (2) Industrial accidents (3) August 2018 (4) Kerala (5) 75%

## PERSONAL CHITCHAT

# HEMA MALINI OPENS UP ABOUT LIVING SEPARATELY FROM DHARMENDRA

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Hema Malini, in a recent interview with Lehren TV, addressed her living arrangement away from her husband, Dharmendra, and expressed that she does not feel saddened by it. During the conversation, she was referred to as a "symbol of feminism" for choosing to live in her own house after marriage.



Of course, he (Dharmendra) is there, always. Naturally, he has to be.

He was the one concerned about getting the children married early. I assured him it would happen. When the time is right, the right person will come along. With the blessings of God and our guru ma, everything fell into place."

In response, Hema Malini remarked, "Symbol of feminism? Nobody aspires to be in such a situation; it happens naturally. You have to accept it. No one willingly desires to live this way. Every woman desires to have a husband and children, a normal family. But somehow, things deviated from the conventional path." In addition, Hema Malini emphasized that Dharmendra has always been present in her life. She stated, "I am not feeling bad or sulking or sad about it. I am content with myself. I have raised my two children very well.

Dharmendra married Hema Malini, a popular film star at the time, in 1980. The couple has two daughters together, Esha and Ahana. Prior to his marriage to Hema Malini, Dharmendra tied the knot with Prakash Kaur in 1954 at the age of 19. They have four children together: Sunny, Bobby, Vijeeta, and Ajeeta.

An old man lived alone in Minnesota. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, who would have helped him, was in prison and he couldn't afford an attorney to get him out. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his situation: Dear Son, I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year.

I hate to miss doing the garden because your mother always loved planting on time. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me, if you weren't in prison.

Love, Dad. Shortly, the old man received this telegram: 'For Heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up the garden!! That's where I buried the GUNS!! At 4 a.m. the next morning, a dozen FBI agents and local police officers showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any guns. Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what had happened and asked him what to do next. His son's reply was: 'Go ahead and plant your potatoes, Dad. It's the best I could do for you, from here.'

— By Bhavani Sundaram

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

"It is the end result that counts" ALEXEY BRODOVITCH

## HOW THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM SECTOR IS DRIVING EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

ANIRBAN CHOWDHURY

India, with its rich diversity in geography, cultures, and heritage, presents an exciting opportunity for travellers worldwide, especially after the pandemic-travellers are now looking for thematic tourism, and India offers plenty of options. This convergence of ideologies has positioned our country as a highly appealing tourist destination, breathing new life into the Indian tourism industry.

Beyond the numbers and statistics highlighting the industry's growth, it is crucial to recognize the evolving landscape of employment opportunities within the sector. Each innovation in the tourism and travel industry opens new profiles and creates a ripple effect in ancillary industries such as aviation, hospitality, transportation, and more. The future of India's travel and tourism industry is marked by rapid expansion and sustained growth, as evidenced by WTTC (World Travel & Tourism Council) studies projecting the creation of 46 million jobs by 2025.

### THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY:

According to a research survey conducted by WTTC, the contribution of the Travel & Tourism industry to the Indian economy is poised to surpass pre-pandemic levels, with projected year-on-year growth of 20.7%. In 2019, India ranked 10th among 185 countries regarding the sector's total contribution to GDP. Before the pandemic, the travel and tourism industry accounted for 6.8% of India's total economy, amounting to INR 13,68,100 crore (US \$194.30 billion). The industry's direct contribution to GDP is expected to grow by 7.1% per annum until 2028.

The tourism industry also positively impacts employment generation, increasing foreign exchange earnings, promoting domestic industries, expanding international cooperation and cultural exchange, and, most importantly, improving people's livelihoods in tourist hotspots.



### SKILLS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

The tourism industry in India offers a range of exciting career prospects and ample training opportunities. Institutions across the country provide specialized courses such as Bachelor (BBA) or Master (MBA) in Hospitality Management, Master of Tourism Administration (MTA), MBA in Travel & Tourism, MA/MSc Hospitality Management with Specialization in Travel, Leisure & Tourism, and PG Diploma in Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Management. These programs equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the dynamic world of travel and tourism.

At the same time, thanks to the National Education Policy (NEP), there is a renewed focus on vocational skills that train candidates with market-ready skills. Other government policies and programs have helped the travel and tourism industry as well as allied sectors across the country to provide industrial training, internships, apprenticeships and full-time employment to youth not only from tourist hotspots but also opening up employment opportunities for youth from remote parts of India.

While larger and more global brands are important vehicles for employment, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) represent the bulk

share of the industry and its workers and are also the key drivers of employment.

The high churn in the industry (both domestic and international) represents a challenge but also an opportunity to tap into innovative skilling and hiring practices.

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND INITIATIVES:

The Indian government recognizes the immense potential of the tourism industry and has implemented various policies and initiatives to support its growth. Infrastructure development plans, investment incentives, and entrepreneurship and innovation programs are being introduced to enhance the sector's capabilities. The government has also introduced supportive policies (e.g. NEP, NATS) for inclusive growth. The government's active involvement ensures that the tourism industry continues to generate employment opportunities and drive economic growth.

India's tourism industry has the potential to outpace the country's overall economic growth in the coming decade, creating around 24 lakh jobs annually and would be a great career choice for the country's youth.

*The author is a General Manager-HR, Deloitte.*

## 10 bedroom revamp ideas to be in the trends

NIRAJ JOHRI

Your bedroom serves as both a haven for rest and a canvas for creative expression. It's a place where your actual self may emerge, reflecting your routine, preferences, and habits. You can make your bedroom more reflective of your individual style by updating it with things that truly resonate with your unique style. Let's take a deep dive into the 10 artistic and trendy ideas to transform your bedroom into a shelter of inspiration.

### 1. PERSONALIZE THE ROOM WITH MEMORIES:

Infuse your bedroom with cherished memories by displaying them in designer photo frames. Online platforms offer a vast array of options to suit your style, from classic to contemporary. Let your walls tell the story of your life, adding warmth and personal touch to the room.

### 2. UPDATE YOUR BEDSIDE STAND WITH ECCENTRIC BOOKENDS

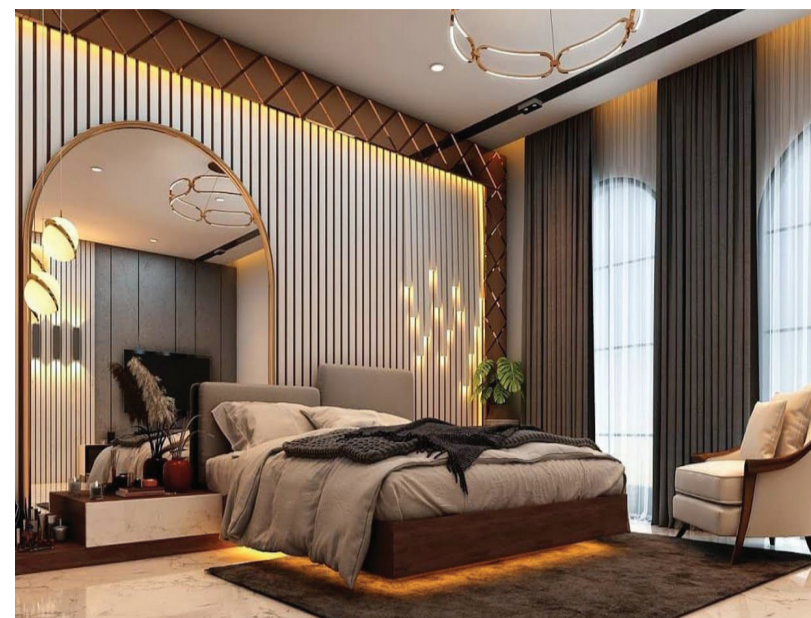
For book lovers, why not turn your bedside table into a mini library? Arrange your favorite reads with stylish bookends, transforming them into a decorative focal point. This not only showcases your literary tastes but also keeps the space nice and organized.

### 3. ADD SOME FOLIAGE

Bring nature indoors and enhance the ambiance of your bedroom with vibrant greenery. Use colorful planters and elegant plant stands to create an eye-catching display. Not only do plants purify the air, but they also infuse your space with a calming and rejuvenating energy.

### 4. MAKE A FUN STATEMENT WITH QUIRKY WALL PANELS

Step away from conventional wall decor and embrace the trend of quirky wall panels. These modern pieces add texture, depth, and visual interest to your bedroom. Choose from an array of popular scripted options to create an eclectic focal point that sparks joy and ignites conversation.



### 5. EMBRACE THE REVIVAL OF OPULENT INTERIORS WITH SILVER SCULPTURES

Revive the allure of opulence in your bedroom by incorporating silver sculptures in the room. These intricate pieces add an air of elegance and luxury, reflecting light and casting captivating shadows. Select sculptures that resonate with your taste and create a visual masterpiece within your space.

### 6. KEEP EVERYTHING ORGANIZED WITH FUNCTIONAL FURNITURE

Use trolleys and wall shelves to maximize the storage and decorating space in your bedroom. Optimize storage space and keep your belongings organized in a visually appealing manner. Choose designs that blend seamlessly with your bedroom decor, ensuring both functionality and aesthetics.

### 7. CREATE A SMALL READING NOOK FOR THE PINTEREST AESTHETIC

Transform a cozy corner of your bedroom into a charming reading nook. Use plush cushions, a cozy throw, and a well-curated bookshelf to create a Pinterest-worthy spot. This inviting space will beckon you to escape into the pages of your favorite literature and indulge in moments of relaxation.

### 8. USE CANDLE STANDS TO CREATE A MOODY ATMOSPHERE

Set a romantic ambiance in your bedroom by incorporating elegant scents and candle stands. The soft glow of candlelight creates a soothing and intimate atmosphere, perfect for unwinding after a long day. Choose designs that complement your bedroom décor, adding a touch of enchantment to your space.

### 9. UPDATE THE HARDWARE

Add an artistic touch to your bedroom by updating the hardware. Opt for animal-inspired wall hooks and colorful doorknobs. These budget-friendly small details can make a big impact, infusing your space with character and charm.

### 10. EXPERIMENT WITH SHAPES

Revamp the shape of your bedroom by incorporating furniture and art with interesting patterns and designs. Chevron, herringbone, and Marquetry patterns add visual intrigue and lend a contemporary edge to your space. Let your imagination run wild and experiment with shapes that resonate with your style.

*The author is a Founder & CEO at Casa Decor*

## 3 KEYS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND TIME MANAGEMENT

GOVIND

Have you ever wondered why successful people are consistently joyful, energised, and more productive? They perform any task faster and more accurately than most of the other common people, who never leave their comfort zone and are therefore unable to accomplish their career objectives and life goals.

Do you also experience the same struggle in completing the task on the given timeline and getting where you're going in spite of your planning and efforts?

'Common People' and 'Really Successful People' differ in their approach. The real successful people are not always available for everyone. They simply say 'NO' for unimportant tasks. They value their time and spend it wisely on productive jobs.

For instance, if someone assigns you a task that he could easily complete himself, you should clearly and calmly say no, showing your more important engagement.

**The most powerful key to becoming super productive is the 20/20/20 rule**

In addition to being physically healthy, having a happy outlook is essential. Getting a head start on the day gives you more time. Your mind and brain feel calm and refreshed after beginning the day with exercise and meditation. Use the 20/20/20 method, which advocates spending 20 minutes moving, 20 minutes reflecting, and 20 minutes improving yourself, to make the most of your first hour of the day. One thing that all of the world's great and successful people have in common is their intense passion for reading and learning new things.

**Creating a to-do list significantly in-**



### increases productivity

You must be focused if you want to succeed in life and make a difference. You can finish all the tasks if you schedule your entire day in advance.

Make a to-do list every morning or night with a pen and paper. When you plan your whole day in advance, know at what time you have to do what, and write a list on paper in a form, you can complete all the tasks in a productive way.

In this list, you can put the most important or difficult tasks of your day in such slots when you feel yourself agile or when your efficiency is highest. And you can put easy or interesting tasks in the slot where efficiency is lowest. In such a situation, you will be able to do more work with less effort. This method will double your productivity.

### Keep two mobile phone numbers

Keep two phone numbers, if you want to be really productive: one that everyone knows and another that only a selected group of individuals, such as your life partner, children, boss, and best friend, know.

On this number, do not enable mobile data or the internet. You can greatly reduce the biggest disruption of the Digital Era using this straightforward

method, which can also help you be more productive.

It is difficult to control the mind, but it can be played with to some extent. As soon as your mind tries to keep you towards something else, you immediately speak to yourself, This is the most important thing for me at this time, and I will get up after completing it. If you can do this, you can become super productive.

It is very natural that today you are very excited about increasing your productivity, but it is possible that in a few days you may go back to the old pattern and start doing everything as before. Don't worry; most people do that, but most people don't try to improve again, you just have to keep trying. Only then will you be able to come out of the crowd of crores of unproductive people and join thousands of super productive people.

In your attempt to be productive, keep trying despite repeated failures. Keep adopting new ways to improve yourself, only then will your today be better than your yesterday, and you will be able to achieve your goals.

*The author is an Inspirational Speaker & Entrepreneur.*

## Anyone can build green: Why expensive green buildings are things of the past

DIKSHU C. KUKREJA

Every corner of the world is presently witnessing unprecedented changes in climatic conditions. We hear of increasingly record-breaking disasters as a result of soaring temperatures, melting glaciers, spontaneous forest fires and the like. Today, the developed world, which has contributed significantly to the climate crisis with hubristic development plans, faces the ramifications of climate change alongside the developing nations. The answer lies in not only arresting the irresponsible practices of development immediately but also adopting environmentally conscious systems worldwide.

Making a building greener, regardless of its scale, involves degrees to achieving high-performance ratings. The standards to measure the building performance, namely silver, gold or platinum, are ratings conferred by global or national green building rating systems like the United States' LEED (Leadership in Energy or Environmental Design) and the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council). India's home-grown GRIHA (Green Rating Integrated Habitat Assessment) awards points on a 100-point system according to the holistic environmental performance of buildings over their entire life cycle.

Throughout the last century, constructing buildings with green technologies has been more expensive than regular methods and materials of construction, which were less environment-friendly but cheaper. The good news is that if we were to map the cost of construction using green technologies over time, the graph would be tilted downward. If we look at India particularly, there has been an incredible change in the building and construction industry even in the last decade, with the cost associated with



green technology and green materials coming remarkably down.

Until ten years ago, if one were to construct green buildings inclusive of the latest technologies, the respective costs for silver, gold, or platinum-rated buildings were 25%, 40% and 75% higher than conventional buildings. Today, the same calculations for a similarly-sized building would be only about 5-8% for a silver rating, 10-15% for a gold rating, and 15-22% for a platinum-rated building. A variety of reasons may justify this landslide change. The foremost reason is that as the concerned technologies increased with more research and development, the choices available in the market also increased, making them more accessible to smaller stakeholders with lesser reach. More importantly, the producers of these goods and technologies have set up bases in India, drastically reducing costs and increasing availability. Initiatives such as 'Make in India' have helped push the envelope in this regard. Technology like wind and hydro energy, low-energy fixtures, smart automation systems, energy-ef-

ficient fenestrations that help with insulation, and high-performance COP chillers has become locally available to us. Today, we also have the option to choose from alternatives of these technologies to best suit our requirements, whether that is cost-effectiveness or a certain brand of product.

Apart from building technologies, several passive methodologies can be adopted in a building at both the design and construction stages to make it more energy-efficient. These measures, such as optimising the orientation of the building to maximise daylight but reduce heat gain, incorporating courtyards and manipulating the apertures to facilitate natural ventilation, are simple, cost-effective ways towards a more sustainable built environment.

We must collectively take accountability for our actions and make responsible choices, especially in an age where building healthier environments is more affordable than ever before.

*The author is Managing Principal, CP Kukreja Architects.*

# HYUNDAI EXTER LAUNCHED IN INDIA, TO TAKE ON TATA PUNCH

SHAMS RAZA NAQVI

Korean carmaker Hyundai has launched its smallest and most affordable SUV yet in the Indian market. The Exter comes with an adventurous design and gets many features not seen before in the segment. It is the eighth SUV from Hyundai in India and is based on its hatchback, the Grand i10 Nios. One of its big highlights is that it has become most affordable car in India which comes with 6 airbags as standard.

## DESIGN

The SUV gets signature-H LED DRLs along with Projector headlamps. You have the same H pattern on the tail lamps as well. The SUV has front & rear skid plates along with 15-inch diamond cut alloy wheels on the top trim. To add to the sporty quotient the SUV comes with roof rails, a rear spoiler and a shark fin antenna. The car is available in 6 Monotone and 3 Dual tone colour options including 2 new colours – Ranger Khaki and Cosmic Blue. Both are also available with Dual tone colour options.

## INTERIOR

The new Hyundai Exter



offers a sporty Leatherette upholstery along with a coloured gradation pattern on the seats. You also get segment first features like footwell lighting and metal pedals along with voice enabled electric sunroof and a dashcam with dual camera.

The wheelbase is best in segment and Hyundai is promising easy ingress & egress along with good interior space. Some other features include a wireless charger, type C USB fast charger, rear AC vents, push button start, cooled glove

box and driver seat height adjustment.

The SUV gets a digital cluster with 4.2-inch colour TFT multi-information display along with 8-inch HD infotainment system with Bluetooth and smartphone connectivity through Android Auto & Apple Car Play. The system comes with on-board navigation and multi-language UI support which includes 10 regional and 2 global languages. The ambient sounds of nature seen on more premium cars from



the brand finds a place here too. The second row gets 3-point seatbelts for all 3 passengers while the boot Space stands at 391 litres.



## ENGINE

Hyundai Exter runs on a familiar 1.2 litre Kappa petrol, 4-cylinder engine that makes 82 bhp and 113 Nm.

The manual transmission comes with a claimed fuel efficiency of 19.4 kmpl while the AMT promises 19.2 kmpl.

The Exter is also the first car in the country that offers paddle shifts along with AMT. The SUV is being offered with a CNG option as well where the power and torque drop to 68 bhp and 95 Nm. Here you get an ef-

iciency of 27.1 km/kg.

## SAFETY

The SUV sets get more than 40 safety features of which are 26 standard. These include a tyre pressure monitoring system, ISOFIX mounts, front, side & curtain airbags, electronic stability control, hill assist control, rear parking camera and an engine immobilizer.

## PRICES

The Exter begins at Rs. 5.99 lakh and goes up to Rs. 9.32

lakh, ex-showroom for the manual trims. The AMT is priced between Rs. 7.96 and Rs. 9.99 lakh while the two CNG variants are priced at Rs. 8.23 and Rs. 8.96 lakh, ex-showroom. Hyundai is offering a 3-year unlimited kilometres warranty along with an option of 7 years extended warranty option on the car and is also promising the lowest cost of maintenance in the segment.

The author is a Senior Editor at carandbike.com.

## Blockchain-Based Governance Enables AI Transparency and Accountability



THE NEXT  
ABHISHEKANAND

In the digital age, two technologies have emerged as game-changers in interacting with data and systems: Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Though different, these technologies can potentially revolutionize various sectors when used together.

### UNDERSTANDING BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain is a decentralized and distributed digital ledger technology that records transactions across multiple computers. It ensures that the recorded transactions cannot be altered retroactively, providing security and transparency.

### UNDERSTANDING AI

Conversely, AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. These processes include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and language understanding.

### THE INTERSECTION OF BLOCKCHAIN AND AI

Blockchain in AI Governance  
Blockchain technology can play a significant role in AI governance. It can provide a transparent and immutable record of all decisions an AI system makes, including the data used to make those decisions.

AI Transparency and Accountability  
Transparency and account-

ability are crucial in AI systems. Transparency refers to the ability to understand how an AI system makes decisions, while accountability refers to the ability to hold the system accountable for its decisions.

### BENEFITS OF BLOCKCHAIN-BASED GOVERNANCE IN AI

Enhanced Transparency  
Blockchain can enhance transparency in AI systems by providing a tamper-proof record of all data and deci-



sions. This allows users to trace the decision-making process of the AI system.

Improved Accountability  
Blockchain can improve accountability in AI systems by providing a clear record of all actions taken by the system. This allows users to hold the system accountable for its decisions.

Increased Security  
Blockchain can increase the

security of AI systems by preventing unauthorized access and manipulation of data. This ensures that the AI system operates as intended.

### REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS OF BLOCKCHAIN IN AI GOVERNANCE

#### Healthcare

In healthcare, blockchain can securely store and share patient data, while AI can analyze this data to provide personalized care.

#### Finance

In finance, blockchain can provide a transparent and secure record of all transac-

tions, while AI can use this data to detect fraudulent activities.

#### Supply Chain Management

In supply chain management, blockchain can provide a transparent record of all goods and transactions, while AI can use this data to optimize the supply chain process.

### FUTURE OF BLOCKCHAIN IN AI GOVERNANCE

The future of blockchain in AI governance looks promising. As more industries recognize the benefits of combining these two technologies, we expect to see more innovative applications that enhance AI systems' transparency, accountability, and security.

### CONCLUSION

Blockchain-based governance can significantly enhance AI transparency and accountability. By providing a secure and transparent record of all data and decisions, blockchain can help

ensure that AI systems operate in an understandable and accountable manner. As we move forward, the integration of blockchain and AI will continue to revolutionize various sectors, creating a more transparent and accountable digital world.

Abhishek Anand is the founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd. He is also an author, speaker and mentor.

## India needs technological acceleration in education, both non-profit and government



AKSHAY V

Education holds a pivotal role in a nation's development within the ever-evolving global landscape. In India, with its diverse population and large youth demographic, there is a deep recognition of the urgent need to accelerate technological advancements in the field of education, including the not-for-profit segments. India's future generations to flourish in an increasingly dynamic and interconnected world.

With over 50% of the population under the age of 25, India boasts one of the largest youth populations worldwide. This demographic dividend presents a unique opportunity to harness the potential of technology and revolutionize the education landscape. Even in not-for-profit and government organisations, this transformation plays a crucial role in the journey as technology stands as a powerful ally in amplifying their impact across levels.

By leveraging technology in education, India can lay a robust foundation for its socio-economic progress, nurturing a generation of educated and empowered individuals who will contribute significantly to the nation's growth and prosperity, regardless of their economic background or access to resources.

### THE NEED OF ADOPTING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

Data management: Effective data management is vital for educational initia-

tives, starting from tracking student enrollment, attendance, or program management. Technology solutions streamline data collection, analysis, and storage, en-



abling informed decision-making and collaboration among stakeholders. This enhances student performance and improves the efficiency of educational institutions.

Program Management: Educational programs typically involve diverse stakeholders, complex resource management, and multifaceted objectives. By harnessing technology, nonprofits and government bodies can streamline program management, effectively track progress, monitor resource allocation, and ultimately enhance the quality of education delivered.

Enhancing Training and Capacity Building: Technology plays a crucial role in optimising training and capacity-building efforts for

educational initiatives. By leveraging technology, organisations can create customised training modules, track participant progress, and assess the impact of training on knowledge and skill development. Additionally, technological solutions enable the measurement of cascade loss, helping identify gaps and refine training

indicators, and assess the impact of their programs on the ground. By leveraging technology, organisations can enhance their capacity for accurate and data-driven monitoring and evaluation, leading to informed decision-making and continuous improvement in educational outcomes.



approaches for greater efficiency in government and nonprofit programs.

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots: The incorporation of AI and chatbots into educational programs hold tremendous potential for enriching personalised learning experiences, delivering timely feedback to students, and enabling educators to effectively monitor student progress. These innovative tools are particularly advantageous in addressing the unique and diverse needs of students throughout India.

Improving Monitoring and Evaluation: Technology plays a pivotal role in facilitating organisations to establish comprehensive monitoring frameworks, track key performance in-

### WAY FORWARD; LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR BETTER IMPACT AND OUTCOME

Today, India is moving fast in leveraging the technological boom at all sectors and levels. The importance of integrating this advancement in India's education and not-for-profit space cannot be overstated. By harnessing the power of technology in these areas, India has a unique opportunity to transform its education landscape and nurture a generation of educated, skilled, and empowered individuals. With proper infrastructure and required support, a thriving transformation at par with the global digital landscape can be built in the country.

The author is a Founder & CEO of EdZola Technologies.

TOP OF THE DAY

PARUPALLI KASHYAP BOWS OUT OF US OPEN 2023 BADMINTON

WASHINGTON: Indian shuttler Parupalli Kashyap's US Open 2023 badminton campaign ended on Tuesday when he failed to qualify for the main draw after suffering an injury in the qualifiers at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Earlier, the former world No. 6 had defeated world No. 159 Rohan Midha of Canada 21-19, 21-17 in his first match of the qualifiers but he pulled out from the match against world No. 85 Koo Takahashi of Japan in the middle due to his injury. Kashyap had lost the first set against Midha 21-23 and was trailing 7-11 at the time of his withdrawal. Meanwhile, 2022 World Junior Badminton Championships silver medalist Sankar Muthusamy has advanced into the men's singles main draw after winning two qualifying rounds. Muthusamy will face world No. 32 Nhat Nguyen of Ireland in the main draw of the BWF Super 300 event on Wednesday.

BARCELONA SIGN 18-YEAR-OLD VICTOR ROQUE

SPAIN: FC Barcelona and Club Atletico Paranaense have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Victor Hugo Roque Ferreira, better known as Victor Roque. At just 18 years of age, Vitor Roque has made more than 50 league appearances. The Brazilian made his debut in Serie with Cruzeiro at the age of 16 and after six appearances he made the leap to Serie A with Atletico Paranaense who were also competing in the Copa Libertadores. In short, Roque has ample domestic and international experience despite still being a teenager. At the start of this year, Vitor Roque led the attack for Brazil in the South American U20 tournament. The striker ended the tournament as top scorer with six goals and soon, in an FC Barcelona shirt, the Brazilian will have the choice to translate his experience in his home continent into goals in European football.

VINESH PHOGAT TO MAKE COMPETITIVE WRESTLING RETURN

BUDAPEST: The reigning Asian Games champion Vinesh Phogat will be making her return to competitive wrestling at the Budapest Ranking Series 2023 starting from Thursday. The event in Hungary will conclude in four days on July 16. This meet, also known as Polyak Imre & Varga Janos Memorial wrestling tournament, is the fourth and final ranking series of the year. Vinesh was among the wrestlers who were part of protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Singh against whom allegations have been by women wrestlers of sexual harassment. Through such series, wrestlers earn crucial points that help determine their seedings at big events like world championships.

ATHLETICS

LORD HANUMAN IS OFFICIAL MASCOT OF ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

TDG NETWORK BANGKOK

Asia's biggest track and field meet starts from Wednesday and will continue to the Sunday 16 July in Bangkok, Thailand. 'Lord Hanuman', one of the most revered Gods in India, will be the official mascot during this edition of the Asian Athletics Championships. The event is being held on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the continental governing body. "As Hanuman exhibits extraordinary abilities in (Lord) Rama's service, including speed, strength, courage, and wisdom ... Hanuman's greatest ability is, in fact, his incredibly staunch loyalty and devotion," the Asian Athletics Association said in its website. "The 25th Asian Athletics Champion-



Asian Athletics Championships mascot: Lord Hanuman

ships 2023 logo indicates the athletes participating in the games, skills, teamwork of Athletes showcase of athleticism, dedication, and sportsmanship." India, led by shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, would look for an impactful show in the Championships. The Indian team left for the five-day Asian Athletics Championships on Saturday night from Delhi and Bengaluru. Toor broke the Championships and Asian Games mark at the Federation Cup in Ranchi in May, before bettering his own Asian and national records with a throw of 21.77m at the Nationals. Yarraji, the national record holder clocked 12.89s at the Federation Cup 2023 to qualify for the tournament. Murali sreeshankar who registered a personal

best jump of 8.41m leap at the Nationals last week, and national record holder Jeswin Aldrin will represent India in the men's long jump event. Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Adille Sumariwalla said the two are recovering from injuries. "They are preparing for the World Championships," said Sumariwalla. Tejaswin Shankar will compete in the decathlon event, while Shankar won the men's high jump bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham but has shifted his focus to decathlon recently. Triple jumper Praveen Chithravel and javelin thrower Rohit Yadav, have also pulled out of the upcoming Asian athletics championships due to different reasons. The absence of Chithravel, who achieved three 17m-plus

jumps this year, and Rohit, who breached 81m thrice this season and got his best two throws (83.40m in the Federation Cup in Ranchi in May and 83.28m in the Interstate meet in Bhubaneswar in June) recently, is a big setback for the country. INDIAN SQUAD: Men: Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Ajmal. Amoj Jacob, Nihal Joel William, Mijo Chacko Kurian, Krishan Kumar and Mohammed Afsal, Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson, Gulveer Singh, Abhishek Pal, Mohammed Nurhasan and Bal Kishan, Yashas Palaksha and Santhosh Kumar, Tejaswin Shankar, Sarvesh Anil Kushare, Jeswin Aldrin and Murali Sreeshankar, Abdul Aboobacker, Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Karanveer Singh, DP Manu, Akshdeep Singh and Vikash Singh.

TENNIS

Djokovic dominates advances to semi-finals, sets epic clash with Sinner

TDG NETWORK LONDON

Serbian tennis great Novak Djokovic denied Andrey Rublev his first-ever Grand Slam semifinal spot with a win over the Russian in the quarterfinal of the ongoing Wimbledon championships in London. Djokovic made it to his 46th major semifinal, equalling Roger Federer's men's singles record, with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 win. His aspirations for a fifth successive crown in London and record-tying eighth title overall in London are still alive. He is also the number one in ATP Live Rankings. He must have a better Wimbledon 2023 result than Carlos Alcaraz,



Novak Djokovic celebrates win

who will play Holger Rune in the final eight stages on Wednesday, to reclaim his top spot in ATP Rankings. "I love it," said Djokovic. "I think any tennis player wants to be in a position where everyone wants to win against you. I think it is a privilege, as Billie Jean [King] said. Pressure is part of what we do, it is part of our sport. It is never going to go away." "I know that they want to get a scalp, they want to win.

But it is not happening, still," he added. Djokovic was unsettled by the power of Rublev early on, with the seventh seed firing on his forehand throughout the opening set and converting on his first break point of the match at 4-4. That was enough to win the opening set, but Djokovic quickly settled in to dominate the second, handcuffing his opponent to take away his weapons and building a 5-0 lead to stamp his authority on the quarterfinal. Rublev was playing his eighth grand slam QF but is still left in search of his first-ever SF. Nobody has played as many quarterfinal matches without

reaching the semis in the Open era. Earlier, Rublev was also beaten by Djokovic in QFs of the Australian Open. Djokovic now has a 4-1 win-loss record against Rublev. World number eight Jannik Sinner has become the youngest man to reach Wimbledon semi-finals in 16 years. The 21-year-old defeated Russia's Roman Safiullin 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the quarter-finals to reach semi-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time. Sinner won the match in two hours and 14 minutes. The world number eight, who is currently 37-10 in win-loss records this season will take on Djokovic in the semis.

BOXING

Haryana Boxers shine on day 2

TDG NETWORK ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Sikander and Yogesh Dhanda started their national championships with win.

Junior Boys' National Boxing Championship, 2023 started at the Don Bosco College ground here on Sunday. Haryana's young pugilists Sikander and Yogesh Dhanda started their junior boys' national championships campaign with identical 5-0 victories as Vansh also moved to the next round after a hard fought 3-2 win on day two in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. As per a press release, Sikander started the day in the 48kg category against Harshit Gahlot of Delhi and looked in control from the first round itself. Harshit had no answers for Sikander's powerful punches as he secured an easy unanimous win. Yogesh (57kg) showed a simi-

lar display of power and precision against Akash V of Karnataka to cruise into the next round with a 5-0 win. Contrary to the first two results, Vansh (50kg) had to push really hard to get the win over Manish Gurjar of Rajasthan. Both the boxers started the match with an aggressive intent and traded a lot of blows but as the match progressed, Vansh got hold of the match and came out victorious with a scoreline of 3-2. In the 48kg category, Divash Katara of SSCB was on top of his game against Anjin Anu Thomas of Kerala as he dominated his bout from the beginning, which led the referee to stop the contest (RSC) in the first round.

HOCKEY

INDIAN CAPTAIN ANNOUNCES GERMANY AND SPAIN TOUR IS CRUCIAL FOR ASIAN GAMES

TDG NETWORK BENGALURU

India captain Savita on Wednesday said the women's hockey team is looking at the tour of Germany and Spain as an opportunity to prepare for this year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. The Indian team departed for Europe tour on Wednesday. The side will be first flying to Germany for the three-match series, where it will play the hosts in two games, besides taking on China in the other match. The series will start with the match against China in Limburg on July 16, followed by games against Germany (July 18,

19) in Wiesbaden and Rüsselsheim respectively. The Savita-led side will then fly to Terrassa, Spain on July 20 for the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament. There the Indians will open their campaign against hosts Spain on July 25, followed by games against South Africa (July 27) and England (July 28). "We are really looking forward to this tour. Playing against quality sides in the lead up to the Asian Games will give us a good learning experience," Savita said before departing for Germany. "These matches will be really important for us as we prepare for the upcoming Asian

Games. Having worked on our strengths and weaknesses in the last few months, we will aim to give our best in Germany and Spain." The Asian Games will be held from September 23 to October 8. Indian squad: Goalkeepers: Savita (C), Bichu Devi Khariabam, Defenders: Deep Grace Ekka (VC), Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Udit, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Midfielders: Nisha, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kalur, Sonika, Baljeet Kaur, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Jyoti Chhattri, Forwards: Lalremisiami, Vandana Katariya, Sangita Kumari, Deepika.



Indian women Hockey team

TABLE TENNIS

Ultimate Table Tennis returns after four years

TDG NETWORK MAHARASHTRA



Manika Batra

The Ultimate Table Tennis is India's top table tennis league, in this season UTT featuring some of the biggest names in the sport internationally, is starting in Pune's Balewadi Sports Complex on Thursday. It makes a return after four years. The league has given rise to quite a few talents over the last three seasons. The previous edition of the tournament was played in 2019, following which it was cancelled numerous times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition was founded in 2017, as per statement. The tournament will feature four six teams, Bengaluru Smashers, Chennai Lions, Dabang Delhi TTC, Goa Challengers, Puneri Paltan and U Mumba TT competing for the trophy. There are 36 players in total. Each team will have six players, four Indian and two foreign players. Each team will play five matches. The matches played by each team are: Men's Singles, Women's

Singles, Mixed Doubles, Men's Singles and Women's Singles - in this given order. The team can choose to play an Indian player or an International player for all fixtures except for the Mixed Doubles which is compulsorily one Indian player and one International player. Chennai Lions are headed by Commonwealth Games champion Sharath Kamal and are defending champions. Puneri Paltans have world number 22 Omar Assar of Egypt. Bengaluru Smashers feature the number one women's singles player from India, Manika Batra. U Mumba is spearheaded by Aruna Quadri of Nigeria, who is world number 18. Dabang Delhi are the 2018 Champions having top-ranked players like Sathiyann Gnanasekaran and national champion Sreeja Akula in their side. Asian Games and CWG medalist Anthony Amalraj, is also there in the team.

E-SPORTS

CS: GO TEAM AIMS FOR GLORY IN ASIAN QUALIFIERS FOR WORLD E-SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI



Counter strike: Game logo

Aiming to secure their berth at the 15th World E-sports Championships, India's male CS: GO outfit is gearing up to lock horns with prominent teams from Asia in the LAN qualifiers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from July 13-17. The top ten CS: GO teams from the continent will be split into two groups and compete against each other for a share of the 12,500 USD prize pool from July 13-17, as per a press release from the Esports Federation of India. Being placed in Group A, Team India comprising skipper Harsh Ranjeet Jain, Mohammed Sadab Khan, Nikhil Hiranam Kathe, Jaspreet Singh, Piyush Dharampal Kalwania and substitute Omkar Thube will kick off their campaign against Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Saudi Arabia on the opening day before taking on Iran on the second day. While the group stage matches will be played in the best-of-one format, the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and grand finals will all be played in the best-of-three format. Only six of the ten teams will qualify for the 15th WEC with the champions being rewarded with 7000 USD in prize money. The second and third-placed teams will each be awarded with 3,500 USD and 2,000 USD respectively. The talented team had prevailed in the National E-sports Championships 2023, conducted by the E-sports Federation of India earlier this year by topping the two-time NESC champions Team Wicked Gaming in the finals. Following that, the team advanced to the South Asian qualifiers where they outclassed Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and arch-rivals Pakistan to progress to the Asian Qualifiers. The Indian DOTA 2 team has already commenced with their LAN qualifiers and the country's female CS: GO team will begin with their Asian qualifiers on July 15. The country's well-renowned Tekken 7 professional Abhinav Tejan and e-Football athlete Ibrahim Gulrez have already secured their qualification at the 15th WEC that has a whopping prize pool of 500,000 USD (INR 4.12 crore) and are set to be the largest edition of the tournament to date with at least 130 countries participating in e-Football, DOTA 2, Tekken7, Mobile Legends, PUBG: Mobile and CS: GO.

IND V/S WI

# INDIAN SPINNER ASHWIN SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE RESTRICTS WI

TDG NETWORK  
DOMINICA

West Indies have won the toss and elected to bat first against Team India. Rohit Sharma's side will begin a new cycle of the World Test Championships (WTC) with a two-match Test series against the West Indies at Windsor Park in Roseau. Kraigg Brathwaite-led West Indies will look to bounce back from the disappointment of failure to qualify for the ODI World Cup 2023 which will take place later this year. India dominated the first session of Day 1. Rohit Sharma would be delighted with his team's bowling performance in the first session, pressure on the hosts. Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin dominated the first session of Day one by taking two wickets in the opening test match against West Indies in Dominica. Spin wizard Ashwin got the



Indian players celebrate after taking 4 wickets in first session

better of opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul to become the first Indian bowler to dismiss both father and son in Test cricket. After lunch, West Indies were able to score 68/4. Alick Athanaze will continue his batting at 13<sup>th</sup>. West Indies did not get

the ideal start as they lost an early wicket. R Ashwin made full use of the dry wicket, dismissing Tagenarine Chanderpaul 12 (44). Ashwin did not take the time to get his second wicket. He dismissed WI captain Kraigg Brathwaite 20 (46) in 16.3

overs. West Indies reached to 50-run mark in 21 overs. Shardul Thakur also joined the party with Ashwin as he took the wicket of Raymon Reifer at 2. West Indies batter had no reply to India's experienced bowling lineup. India ended the first session

with a wicket of Jermaine Blackwood at 14 (34) when Siraj took a brilliant catch on Ravindra Jadeja's bowling.

Brief score: West Indies 68/4 (Kraigg Brathwaite 20, Jermaine Blackwood 14, Ravichandran Ashwin 2-25) vs India.

DULEEP TROPHY

# The final hurdle is here and the last two standing

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

BENGALURU  
TDG NETWORK  
West Zone took the honours on a rain-affected opening day of the Duleep Trophy final in Bengaluru. After electing to bowl, a disciplined bowling performance had South Zone in trouble at 182 for 7 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. When bad light ended play after much of the final session was lost to the weather. Put in to bat, the hosts lost R Samarath early, edging to the 'keeper. With the ball moving around a fair bit for the pacers, the batters were consistently beaten on the outside edge. Mayank Agrawal, Hanuma Vihari and Tilak Varma did try to steady the innings, but West Zone kept chipping in with regular strikes in the post Lunch session. Barring Hanuma Vihari, who made 63 off 130, a



The Duleep Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket competition played in India.

knock of aggression and defiance in equal measure, none of the other batters looked convincing. Even though the pitch wasn't a green top, the overcast conditions made sure the ball had ample opportunity to nip around.

The Gujarat duo of Chintan Gaja and Arzan Nagwaswalla wheeled away with immaculate discipline to account for the first three wickets. Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, the second-

highest wicket-taker of the previous Ranji season, then profited from the pacers' discipline as the batters, looking for a slight release in the afternoon session, switched off and paid the price. Sachin Baby was done in by flight as he chipped a catch to Suryakumar Yadav at short midwicket. Shortly afterwards, with the tea interval looming, Vihari chopped on attempting a cut to an arm-ball that skid back in to crash into the stumps.

ASHES

# Hilarious verbal sparring between uk and australia pms add spice to ashes clash

TDG NETWORK  
LITHUANIA

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese engaged in some fun cricket banter on the side lines of a NATO summit in Lithuanian capital city Vilnius with each leader taking hilarious jibes at the rival country's cricketing team. "I am sorry, I did not bring my sandpaper with me," Sunak told Albanese on the side lines of an event sending people in the room into peals of laughter. The ribbing between Sunak and Albanese had begun during the second Test of the Ashes series that was held at Lord's in London following the controversial run out of England batter Jonny Bairstow by Alex Carey. As the two leaders met in Vilnius, Albanese produced a picture of Bairstow's controversial run-out to poke fun at the England team. The Australian PM also showed



PM of Australia: Anthony Albanese &amp; PM of United Kingdom: Rishi Sunak

a piece of paper with the current score 2-1 to indicate Australia's current lead in the Ashes. To this Sunak showed a picture of England players Chris Woakes and Mark Wood hugging after the match-winning shot at

Headingley during the third test. He also made a reference to the 2018 Ball-Tampering Scandal, also known as the 'Sandpaper Gate', in which then-Australia captain Steve Smith, Vice captain David Warner and batter Cameron

Bancroft received heavy sanctions from Cricket Australia for their involvement in ball tampering. "I am sorry, I did not bring my sandpaper with me," said Sunak.

After England's loss at Lord's, Ben Stokes, the

English skipper said that though Bairstow was run out, he would not like to win the game in the manner the Aussies had done. "I am not disputing the fact it is out because it is out. If the shoe was on the other foot I would have put more pressure on the umpires and asked whether they had called over and had a deep think about the whole spirit of the game and would I want to do something like that. For Australia, it was the match-winning moment. Would I want to win a game in that manner? The answer for me is no," Stokes had said after the game. After the game, Sunak in a statement said, "The prime minister agrees with Ben Stokes. He said he simply would not want to win a game in the manner Australia did."

Australia is currently leading the series 2-1 and the fourth Test will be played at Manchester from July 19 onwards.

ASIA CUP

# INDIA TO SKIP PAKISTAN DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as Rohit Sharma led team won't travel to Pakistan, IPL chairman Arun Dhimal confirmed on Wednesday. Dhimal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives Meet (CEC) confirmed that BCCI secretary Jay Shah and PCB representative head Zaka Ashraf met ahead of ICC Board meeting scheduled on Thursday to finalise the schedule. "Our secretary met PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier. There will be four games of league stage in Pakistan, followed by 9 games in Sri Lanka including both India versus Pakistan game and in case a third game if both teams play final," Dhimal told. He rubbished reports emerging from Pakistan media that India will travel



BCCI secretary confirms Asia Cup 2023 schedule

to neighbouring country as their sports minister Ehsan Mazari had been claiming in some quarters. "There was no such discussion held. Neither India is travelling to Pakistan and nor our secretary will be travelling contrary to reports that have surfaced. Only the schedule was finalised,"

Dhimal added. India in all likelihood will play Pakistan in Sri Lanka's Dambulla just like 2010 edition. Pakistan's only home match in their country will be against minnows Nepal. The other three games are Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan.

T20I

# SRI LANKA 10 WICKETS VICTORY TO AVOID WHITEWASH

TDG NETWORK  
SRI LANKA

With Chamari Athapaththu's unbeaten 80, Sri Lanka registered a dominating win by 10 wickets victory in the last T20I match of the three-match series against New Zealand to avoid clean sweep in Colombo on Wednesday. The series was already lost for Sri Lanka heading in the final game but the hosts had pride to play for as they set to avoid a whitewash against New Zealand in the T20I series. The Lankans thus produced a spirited performance, first with the ball to restrict New Zealand to 140 and then chasing it down without losing a wicket with more than five overs to spare. It looked at one point that New Zealand would put on a formidable total but Sri Lanka pulled it back by scalping five wickets in the last three overs. Chasing 141 to win, Chamari Athapaththu came out all guns blazing. Inside



Sri Lanka claims victory in the final t20 of 3 match series

the Power play, Sri Lanka managed to score 64 without losing a wicket, of which the skipper scored 45. She notched up her fifty in just 25 balls, the fastest by a Sri Lankan women's player in T20Is. The damage did not stop after Athapaththu got to her milestone as she fin-

ished with an unbeaten 80 off just 42 balls, laced with 13 fours and two sixes.

Harshitha Madavi (49\* off 40) was a silent second fiddle for the most part before she smashed three fours in the 14th over to finish off the chase with 33 balls to spare. Finishing the

match off with a four, Sri Lanka finished with 143/0 and topped the record for the highest 10-wicket run-chase in Women's T20I history. They beat the record by just one run, edging past New Zealand's 142/0 against Ireland in 2018. The pair of Athapaththu and Madavi

added an unbeaten 143 runs for the first wicket, which is now the highest partnership for any wicket by the Sri Lankan women's team. This was only the third 100+ run partnership by the Sri Lankan team in Women's T20Is and Madavi has been involved in each one of them.

T10

# Zimbabwe set to unleash excited t10 cricket league

TDG NETWORK  
ZIMBABWE

The excitement is building up at a rapid pace as the highly anticipated Zim Afro T10 is set to commence in less than two weeks, with the opening match of the tournament scheduled for July 20. A total of five squads will compete for the ultimate glory in the inaugural edition of the competition, which marks franchise cricket's first foray into Zimbabwe. Star all-rounder Sikandar Raza, who will turn out for the Bulawayo Braves in the tournament, said that "The Zim Afro T10 will help the players in Zimbabwe." Raza explained that franchise cricket has helped him raise his overall standards, which has been reflected in his performances for the Zimbabwean team. "Zim Afro T10 would always be closer to my heart because



Zimbabwe Launches New T10 Tournament

this is the first time any franchise tournament is coming to Zimbabwe. What I'm really excited about is that this tournament will help my fellow countrymen to improve their skill sets which will ultimately benefit our national team", Raza said. The T10 is the fastest format in the game, and the Zim Afro T10, which has some of the most impactful players in the mix, promises some high-octane action during the Zimbabwean winter.

The squad of Durban Qalandars: Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir, George Linde, Hazratullah Zazai, Tim Seifert, Sisanda Magala, Hilton

Cartwright, Mirza Tahir Baig, Tayyab Abbas, Craig Ervine, Tendai Chatara, Brad Evans, Clive Madande, Nick Welch, and Andre Fletcher.

The squad of Cape Town Samp Army: Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Shaun Williams, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Maheesh Theekshana, Sheldon Cottrell, Karim Janat, Chamika Karunaratne, Peter Hazlogou, Matthew Breetzke, Richard Ngarava, Cephas Zhuwao, Hamilton Masakadza, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Tinashe Kamunhukamwe, Parthiv Patel, Mohammad Irfan, and Stuart Binny.