



3
ARVINDER SINGH LOVELY
FORMALLY TAKES CHARGE
AS CONGRESS' DELHI CHIEF



10
PUTIN ACCEPTS INVITE
FROM KIM JONG UN TO
VISIT N.KOREA



16
INDIA'S DOMINANCE
MEETS BANGLADESH'S
HOPES FOR REDEMPTION

FRESH ATTACK

I.N.D.I.A BLOC WANTS TO ABOLISH 'SANTANA DHARMA': PM MODI

BINA
BINA

In his first open remarks on the raging row over Santana Dharma, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the Opposition I.N.D.I.A grouping of trying to "destroy" the ancient faith and push the country into "a thousand years of slavery".

In a speech after inaugurating Rs 50,700 crore industrial projects in Bina city of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Modi said: "Today, these people have started speaking openly. Tomorrow, these people are planning and will continue to plan attacks on us across the country. Every follower of Sanatan, everyone who loves this country, loves the soil of this country... everyone needs to be vigilant. They want to crush Santana and push this country back



PM Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome from Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in Bina on Thursday.

into 1,000 years of slavery. But together, we must stop such forces. With the power of our organisation and a united front, we must thwart their plans. We must render their intentions futile with a united effort."

Later, at a speech in Raigadh, Chhattisgarh, the PM made the same allegations against I.N.D.I.A, saying: "They are conspiring against our country. Those

kept out of the Centre for nine years and losing elections repeatedly have united to make INDIA. People must be cautious of them. They have decided to end Bharat and Sanatan Sanskriti. They want to break it just for the sake of coming to power." The PM's comments came in the wake of Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's controversial statement comparing Sanatan

Dharma with diseases like malaria and dengue, and calling for its "eradication". Stalin's party DMK is a key constituent of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A), a grouping of more than two dozen anti-BJP outfits.

He also spoke about the successful conclusion of the G20 summit in New Delhi and maintained world leaders who participated in the two-day mega gathering were left impressed with India's focus on development and welfare of the poor. The credit for success of the G20 summit under India's presidency goes to the people of the country, Modi said, adding it has boosted the self-confidence of even children in villages. "The 'ghamandia' alliance met in Mumbai recently. They have neither any policies, nor issues, nor a leader. They have a hidden

agenda of attacking Sanatan Dharma which they want to destroy," Modi said.

The PM was speaking after laying the foundation stone of a Rs 49,000-crore petrochemicals complex at Bina Refinery in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh along with 10 other industrial projects in the BJP-ruled state where, along with the Congress-governed Chhattisgarh, assembly polls are due by the year-end. He said great personalities of the country were inspired from Sanatan Dharma.

Mahatma Gandhi drew inspiration from Sanatan Dharma and his struggle for freedom was centred around the ancient faith, the prime minister further said. The Father of the Nation followed tenets of Sanatan Dharma all his life and his last words were "Hey Ram", Modi noted.

Police vehicle in US kills Indian student, Jaahnavi Kandula

TDG NETWORK
SEATTLE

India has demanded a probe into the death of an Indian student, Jaahnavi Kandula, who was hit and killed by a police car as she was crossing a street in Seattle, United States. This comes amid massive outrage over a purported bodycam video in which a police officer is heard joking and laughing about Kandula's death.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco on Wednesday termed the



incident and the now viral video of the cop's reaction as "deeply troubling".

"We have taken up the matter strongly with local authorities in Seattle & Washington State as well as

senior officials in Washington DC for a thorough investigation and action against those involved in this tragic case," the mission said in a post on platform X (formerly Twitter). **P5**

UNEXPECTED

BOAT CAPSIZES IN BIHAR, 16 CHILDREN MISSING

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Sixteen children have been reported missing after a boat carrying 33 children capsized in Bagmati river in Muzaffarpur, Bihar on Thursday. The accident occurred near Madhupur Patti ghat along the Bagmati river when the students were

commuting to school. 17 of them have been rescued so far. The 17 students were rescued by local divers of the village.

Although the SDRF and NDRF have reached the spot, the operation has not started yet because of unavailability of equipment. "Rescue operation is un-

derway... I have asked the district magistrate concerned to look into the matter with urgency. The state government will provide all assistance to the affected families," said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who is in Muzaffarpur to review the progress of ongoing projects in the district.

TOP OF THE DAY

DK SHIVAKUMAR MEETS CM GEHLOT

JAIPUR : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday met Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Jaipur and lauded the work done by his government in Rajasthan. DK Shivakumar met CM Gehlot at the Chief Minister's residence in Jaipur. Govind Datasara and several other ministers were also present in the meeting. Shivakumar took to X and lauded CM Gehlot for the work his government has been doing in Rajasthan.

ASSAM: 15 FAKE 'KAZIS' ARRESTED FOR CONDUCTING CHILD MARRIAGES

GUWAHATI : Continuing its efforts to eradicate child marriages in Assam, police has arrested 15 "fake Kazis" from Hailakandi district for allegedly conducting child marriages by preparing fake documents, a senior official said on Thursday. According to the police, an operation was launched led by the Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime), following which 15 fake Kazis were arrested from various parts of the district on Wednesday. A senior police official said, six persons have been arrested under Lala police station, two each from Hailakandi, Ramnathpur, Algapur police station areas, and one each from Kattlichera, Panchgram and Bilaipur police station areas. Samir Baruah, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) of Hailakandi district said that police have seized several marriage registers from the accused.

TOUGH PROPOSAL

CONVICTED LAWMAKERS SHOULD FACE LIFETIME BAN FROM CONTESTING POLLS, SC TOLD

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, in his 19th report as amicus curiae to the Supreme Court regarding criminal cases against lawmakers, has urged the Court to amend the current provision. Currently, elected representatives convicted of offences involving moral turpitude face disqualification from contesting elections for only six years. Hansaria proposes that such individuals should face a lifetime ban from contesting elections. **P5**

BATTLE

TWO SOLDIERS INJURED AS ENCOUNTER CONTINUES WITH TERRORISTS IN J-K

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

In the ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces in the Kokernag jungles of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, two more soldiers have been injured. Tuesday night, the army and the police launched a coordinated search operation to find the terrorists.

The violent altercation had started in the wee hours of Wednesday. The General Officer-Commanding (GOC) of the Chinar Corps, Lt General Rajiv Ghai and the GOC of the Victor Force, Maj General Balbir Singh are closely monitoring the operations and said the terrorists will not be spared.

The anti-terror operation has been intensified by the army and the Jammu and Kashmir police, and new-generation weapons

The Supreme Court has been examining a petition challenging Section 8 of The Representation of the People Act 1951, which pertains to the disqualification of convicted MPs and MLAs for a period of six years.

Hansaria stressed that parliamentarians and legislators represent the sovereign will of the people. Therefore, once they are found guilty of offences involving moral turpitude, they should be permanently disqualified from holding such offices. This recommendation will **P5**

POLITICAL ANGLE

Minister Gopal Rai moves HC over Centre's denial of permission for NY event

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday approached the Delhi High Court seeking quashing order of the Central government denying him political clearance to travel to New York to attend Columbia India Energy Dialogue.

Justice Subramonium Prasad listed the plea for hearing on Friday. The Ministry of External Affairs has stated in its September 12 letter that it has examined the proposal and declined po-

litical clearance as the "visit from Government of NCT of Delhi that would not be appropriate as India is being represented at the Columbia-India Energy Dialogue by Shri Suman Kumar Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog (Ministerial-rank)".

Rai sought permission to travel to the US city from September 15 - 21 to attend the programme being held on September 18.

Rai, in his petition filed through Delhi government standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi **P5**

LUCKY ESCAPE

Chartered flight crashes on runway at Mumbai airport

VRUSHALI KADAM-PARAB
NEW DELHI

A chartered flight crashed on the runway during landing at the Mumbai airport on Thursday. Due to rain, the plane had slipped on the runway.

After this, a part of the plane broke into two pieces and caught fire. On getting information about the matter, the fire brigade team



rushed to the spot and started extinguishing the

fire. The plane was carrying 6 passengers and 2 crew

members. 3 of them are injured.

Spokesperson of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport said that VSR Ventures Learjet 45 aircraft VT-DBL operating a flight from Visakhapatnam to Mumbai with 6 passengers and 2 crew members on board, veered off the runway at Mumbai International Airport. 3 persons were injured but no casualties were re- **P5**

MARATHA QUOTA STIR

Jarange ends 17-day hunger strike

MANISH AVASTHI
MUMBAI

The stalemate that continued for 17 days over Maratha reservation came to an end on Thursday morning as Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil called off his indefinite hunger strike after chief minister Eknath Shinde, along with other senior state cabinet members,

met him at Antarwali-Saathi village in Jalna district.

After a back-and-forth about whether the chief minister should visit Jarange-Patil as he deferred the visit on Wednesday evening, Shinde decided to visit him on Thursday morning. He along with other senior ministers, including Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Girish Mahajan, Uday

Samant, Union minister of state for railways Raosaheb Danve reached Antarwali Sarathi in Jalna and convinced Jarange-Patil to call off the hunger strike.

Jarange-Patil sipped orange juice at the hands of the chief minister to end the hunger strike that has been going on since August 29 for the reservation. Jarange-

Patil, a farmer, has been on an indefinite hunger strike at Antarwali-Sarathi village in Jalna since August 29, demanding that Marathas from Marathwada region be extended reservation under the Other Backward Classes category by declaring them as Kunbis — a sub-caste recognised as OBC.

CM Shinde said that he was

committed to the reservation to the Maratha community and visited Jarange-Patil as the latter's intention was honest and sincere.

"I do not want to name them, but many told me that I should not visit the Jarange Patil as it is against the protocol. Despite this, I decided to come as Jarange-Patil is fighting for his **P5**

COLLABORATION

INDIA-US STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN MORE DYNAMIC: BLINKEN

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

The strategic relationship between India and the US has never been so dynamic as they team up on everything from advanced semiconductors to defence cooperation, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said.

Speaking days after India successfully hosted the G-20 Summit and President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks in New Delhi, Blinken said that both India and the US will benefit from several collaborations they have entered into.

"The US-India strategic partnership has never been more dynamic, as we team

up on everything from advanced semiconductors to defence cooperation," Blinken said on Wednesday in his remarks on "Power and Purpose of American Diplomacy in a New Era" at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) here.

Blinken said the Biden administration has elevated the Quad partnership with India, Japan, and Australia to deliver for the countries and the world on everything from manufacturing vaccines to strengthening maritime security to addressing climate challenges.

In November 2017, the four nations gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" to develop a new strategy to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Vice President Kamala Harris (File Photo)

keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

"And just this past week at the G20, President Biden and Indian Prime Minister Modi announced another ambitious transportation, energy, and technology corridor that will connect the ports of Asia, the Middle

East, and Europe. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy, and the EU will team up with the US and India to turbocharge clean energy production, and digital connectivity, and strengthen critical supply chains across the region," Blinken said. The new economic cor-

ridor, which many see as an alternative to China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was jointly announced last week by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi.

BRI, an ambitious project launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping, has also drawn criticism about its debt sustainability, especially from smaller countries.

Xi unveiled the BRI in 2013 with an aim to link China, the global manufacturing giant, with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Opposition coalition boycotts 14 top TV anchors

RAJAT RAJESH TANDON
NEW DELHI

In a bid to counter what they believe to be communal debates fostering societal hatred, an alliance of 26 Indian opposition parties has resolved to boycott shows and debates hosted by 14 television anchors across nine news channels.

The decision, announced following a meeting at Pawar's residence in New Delhi on September 13, accuses the blacklisted anchors of bias and spreading communal discord through their platforms. Consequently, the coalition has pledged not to send any spokespersons for debates hosted by these anchors, a list that includes well-known personalities

such as Arnab Goswami of Republic Bharat, Aman Chopra of News18, and Sudhir Chaudhary of Aaj Tak, among others.

Pawan Khera of the Congress communications department circulated the full roster of sidelined anchors on social media post a virtual meeting on September 14. This move intends to pressure the implicated anchors into exhibiting a change in their "mindset and content".

Despite the boycott, the alliance remains open to revoking the ban contingent upon a noticeable change in the conduct of the named anchors. Teams will monitor the anchors to discern any shift in their approach that warrants lifting the boycott.

While the alliance stands

firm on its decision, concerns have arisen regarding the potential missed opportunities for political discourse and expression on platforms with considerable outreach.

This development highlights the influential role that news channels and TV debates play in shaping perceptions and narratives in contemporary politics. Some argue that by sidelining themselves from these platforms, opposition parties might lose a vital space to articulate their positions to a broad audience. As such, the parties in the alliance face a pivotal choice between standing against perceived media bias and maintaining a presence in the popular media landscape.

STRATEGY

CONGRESS PINS UP REVIVAL HOPES ON DALIT VOTER BASE

MARTAND SINGH
LUCKNOW

In a bid to forge a powerful alliance ahead of the pivotal 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress party is honing its strategy to capture the substantial Dalit vote bank in Uttar Pradesh (UP), a state commanding the highest number of Lok Sabha seats in the country. Spearheading this mission is none other than the national president of the Congress, Mallikarjun Kharge, a distinguished Dalit leader reportedly being prepped to contest from a strategically chosen seat in UP.

The revitalised strategy

follows a reshuffle in the UP Congress' leadership, illuminating the party's renewed emphasis on gaining ground in a state viewed as a linchpin in securing a formidable presence at the centre. Congress insiders share that Kharge's candidature is anticipated not only to uplift the Congress but also to buttress the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidates courtesy of their alliance under the India Alliance umbrella.

Congress strategists are vigilantly assessing the potential seats favourable for Kharge, with deliberations steering towards Etawah, traditionally an SP bastion. This tactical move is aimed

to consolidate the alliance's standing in adjoining constituencies, thereby forging a stronger front.

Kharge's potential nomination comes amidst conjectures of BSP leader Mayawati's diminishing hold over the Jatav community, a significant faction within the Dalit demographic. With the political landscape witnessing this shift, the Congress envisages stepping in as the natural successor to this waning legacy.

While these strategized moves are in embryonic stages, and Kharge might also contest from his traditional Karnataka seat, the undercurrents are suggestive of a

calculated approach to woo the Dalit electorate by fielding prominent leaders, thereby aiming to recapture its erstwhile Dalit vote bank.

Furthermore, in the evolving electoral dynamics, stalwarts like Rahul Gandhi are poised to retain their traditional constituencies, with new entrants like Priyanka Gandhi potentially stepping in to contest from Prayagraj, pending Sonia Gandhi's decision on Rae Bareilly amidst health concerns.

Despite the formidable challenge of lacking a mass leader in UP to spearhead its electoral campaign, the Congress remains optimistic. The party is banking on this

strategic shift to rekindle its rapport with the Dalit community, a crucial vote base that has historically oscillated between various political factions.

While the road ahead is rife with challenges, the strategic moves echoing in the Congress corridors reflect a determined bid to recalibrate its UP strategy, targeting a political resurgence by winning the confidence of the crucial Dalit electorate. This critical voter base stands as a potential game-changer, promising a seismic shift in UP's political dynamics, as the Congress and SP eye a robust coalition to steer their fortunes in the upcoming elections.

IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Janasena and TDP unite to challenge YSRCP rule

TDG NETWORK
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

In a significant political development in Andhra Pradesh, Janasena Party and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) have resolved to forge an alliance for the forthcoming elections to oppose the ruling YSRCP. The announcement came straight from Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan during a press meet held outside the Rajamahendravaram central prison, following his visit to the detained TDP chief, N Chandrababu Naidu. The latter is currently embroiled in allegations concerning a substantial Skill Development Corporation scam.

Kalyan articulated the urgent need for this alliance, emphasising that "Andhra Pradesh can't afford YSRCP." Accompanying him were notable TDP personalities including Naidu's son Nara Lokesh and brother-in-law Nandamuri Balakrishna.

The Janasena chief disclosed his anticipations of the BJP extending its support to this emerging alliance, expressing full confidence in their participation. Kalyan said, "I hope and believe in this and this will only happen. BJP's complete support will be there for this." He further outlined the initial steps for the coalition, mentioning the formation of a joint action committee amongst other vital measures to unify their strategies.

Commenting on Naidu's arrest, Kalyan conveyed his deep anguish, expressing firm condemnation not merely through words but through the dedication to work in unison with the TDP in the upcoming polls. Kalyan acknowledged that despite past policy disagreements with Naidu, his personal respect for the TDP chief remained unscathed.

The announcement has come after a period of speculation and hesitation, marking



Janasena Party party chief Pawan Kalyan

a turning point in the party's strategy which witnessed a lone victory in the 2019 elections, further marred by the desertion of its sole winner, Rapaka Varaprasada. However, Kalyan's move hints at a revitalised strategy banking on a consolidation of opposition forces, leveraging their over 6% vote share from the last assembly polls.

The ruling YSRCP voiced scepticism over the announcement, with senior leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy accusing Kalyan of acting on Naidu's behest and suspecting a calculated move to bring BJP into their fold. Reddy remarked that Kalyan has finally "taken off his mask" revealing a long-suspected allegiance to Naidu.

Responding to Kalyan's overtures to the BJP, the party's Andhra Pradesh unit maintained a neutral stance, clarifying that decisions on alliances would be undertaken at their central headquarters in Delhi.

As the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh experiences this new shift, the primary focus is now on the strategies the newly forged alliance will adopt to counter the ruling party and whether BJP will decide to join hands with the Janasena-TDP alliance, adding a new dimension to the political equations in the state.

APPEAL

FAROOQ ABDULLAH URGES INDIA, PAKISTAN TO FORGE DIALOGUE, END VIOLENCE

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

In the wake of escalating violence in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah voiced a staunch appeal for peaceful dialogue between India and Pakistan. He underscored that a negotiated settlement remains the sole avenue towards achieving lasting peace and averting further loss of life.

The former chief minister of

Jammu and Kashmir articulated this imperative viewpoint during a press interaction on Thursday, following his visit to the bereaved family of deputy superintendent Humayun Bhat, who recently fell victim to a terrorist confrontation in Anantnag.

Drawing from the historical inefficacy of wars, Abdullah argued that resorting to armed conflict has not yielded resolutions in the past and harboured scepticism about its potential to foster peace in



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) president Farooq Abdullah

the future. "Both countries should give up their stubbornness and hold talks," insisted Abdullah, dismissing the argument that violence can somehow terminate the ongoing hostilities.

Abdullah also criticised the BJP-led central government's narrative that terrorism has been eradicated in the region, a claim contradicted by the recent deaths of security officers, including Bhat, in encounters with terrorists. While articulating the gravity of the loss for the families and the country, he pointed out the prevailing crisis marked by the frequent loss of lives of young officers.

In the broader canvas of global conflicts, he refer-

enced the Ukraine conflict to emphasise the urgency of dialogue. "For establishing peace, Russia and Ukraine will have to hold talks," noted Abdullah, urging the pivotal role of negotiation in conflict resolution.

He further expressed concern over the suspected involvement of highly trained foreign terrorists in the recent violent occurrences in the region, emphasising a necessity for vigilance against "an imminent danger."

EVOLVING SITUATION

Kerala Nipah virus outbreak: Government urges caution, not panic

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid the evolving Nipah virus situation in Kerala's Kozhikode district, the state government is encouraging citizens to remain cautious while assuring them that there is no need for panic. The response strategy revolves around containment, early detection, and leveraging existing healthcare protocols, refined since the virus's first appearance in 2018. Here is a detailed update on the government's actions and the current situation.

State Health Minister Veena George reported the various proactive steps undertaken since the detection of the first suspected cases on the night of September 11. This includes the prompt procurement of the yet clinically unproven monoclonal antibodies, the only available treatment option for

EVOLVING SITUATION

Fifth Nipah Case Confirmed

A 24-year-old health worker has emerged as the fifth confirmed case in the ongoing Nipah virus outbreak in Kozhikode, escalating concerns and spurring further preventive measures.

TREATMENT AND MEDICAL RESPONSE

Monoclonal Antibodies Arrive in Kerala

The treatment for those infected, monoclonal antibodies, has reached Kerala, and its application is overseen by a central expert committee. The minister assures that further actions will be guided by expert advice as the state races to contain the virus.

the Nipah virus. These developments were revealed in a recent assembly, where the minister emphasised collective efforts to address this health concern, assuring, "We can all together deal with the issue with caution."

The virus, characterised by its detrimental effects on the brain, has regrettably resulted in two fatalities while infecting three others in the Kozhikode district. Among the infected, a nine-year-old

boy is in a critical condition, nurturing concerns and focusing treatment efforts.

Adding to the arsenal against the virus, the region now hosts South Asia's first mobile BSL-3 lab, brought in by ICMR's National Institute of Virology to facilitate quicker local testing, negating the earlier practice of sending samples to Pune.

The district administration is not leaving anything to chance, with the Kozhikode



A special ward has been set up at a government hospital

District Collector A Geetha announcing a temporary halt to physical classes in educational institutions, steering them towards online mediums for the upcoming two days. This preventive closure, however, exempts university exams from any rescheduling.

As neighbouring Wayanad fortifies its preventive measures through the inception of a 24-hour control room and forming 15 core committees focused on prevention and surveillance, insights reveal that the current



Hospital staff remove waste out of isolation ward

strain of the virus, known as the Bangladesh variant, possesses a higher mortality rate, albeit with a lower

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mobile BSL-3 Lab Now in Kozhikode

ICMR's National Institute of Virology deploys South Asia's first mobile biosafety level-3 laboratory in Kozhikode, aiming to accelerate the virus testing process and eliminate the need to send samples to Pune, enhancing the state's response time in managing the outbreak.

EDUCATION AND LOCAL RESPONSE

Educational Institutions to Stay Closed

In light of the outbreak, a brief closure of educational institutions has been announced in the district, urging them to shift to online classes for Thursday and Friday, while university exam schedules remain unchanged.

EXPERT INSIGHTS

K K Shailaja Confident in Kerala's Preparedness

Former Health Minister K K Shailaja iterates that Kerala is well-prepared to handle the Nipah outbreak, leveraging experiences and protocols established during the 2018 outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic.

transmission rate compared to other strains.

In alignment with WHO and ICMR studies highlighting the state's vulnerability to such infections, particularly for residents

in proximity to forest areas, the government urges heightened vigilance. This precautionary advice stems from the revelation that the recent Nipah cases traced back to origins within five

kilometres of a jungle area.

The state, guided by experienced leaders like K K Shailaja, relies on established protocols and SOPs to contain the outbreak effectively, instilling confidence through a demonstrable preparedness refined since the 2018 outbreak.

A meticulous response plan is unfolding with containment zones being designated across various wards in Kozhikode district and the assembly of a central team comprising experts from national health institutions to assist in managing the situation.

As Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan chairs a high-level meeting to review and strategize the containment plans, Kerala stands united, urging its citizens to remain cautious yet optimistic, as it navigates through another health challenge, fortified by experience and collaborative spirit.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



We have tried with all sincerity to change the fate of Madhya Pradesh. I am confident that in the next few years this state is going to write a new story of industrial development.

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



I wish everyone good wishes on the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas'. 'Hindi' is the name for unifying the diversity of languages of India, the world's largest democracy. From the independence movement till today, Hindi has played an important role in uniting the country. On the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas', let us take a pledge to strengthen all Indian languages including the official language Hindi.

NEW APPOINT

ARVINDER SINGH LOVELY FORMALLY TAKES CHARGE AS CONGRESS' DELHI CHIEF

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Newly-appointed Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Arvinder Singh Lovely formally took charge on Thursday. He said reviving the party in the national capital and fixing its organisational structure are among his first priorities.

Deepak Babaria, the Congress' Delhi in-charge, and Ajay Maken, Subhash Chopra, Jai Prakash Agarwal and Anil Chaudhary -- former chiefs of the party's state unit -- were present at the programme.

Congress Working Committee members Manish Chatrath and Devender Yadav, former MPs Krishna Tirath, Sandeep Dikshit and Rajya Sabha ex-member Parvez Hashmi were also present.

After taking charge, Lovely



Newly appointed Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) President Arvinder Singh Lovely during a ceremony to take charge of the office, in New Delhi

asserted that the party will fight against the "corruption" of the ruling parties and raise issues that affect the common people.

"I will do my best to live up to the expectations of the high command. I assure everyone that we will work shoulder-to-shoulder with every worker to consolidate the party," Lovely said.

Lovely was first elected as an MLA in 1998 from Gandhi Nagar. He worked closely with former chief minister, the late Shiela Dikshit.

He served as transport, education, urban development and revenue minister in the Congress dispensation in Delhi. He has also previously served as the party's Delhi unit chief.

Lovely was fielded against the BJP's Gautam Gambhir and the AAP's Atishi from the East Delhi constituency in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

INVESTIGATION

ED summons K Kavitha in excise policy scam probe

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In an ongoing probe surrounding the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, to its Delhi office this Friday. This development follows a series of interrogations at the ED headquarters where Kavitha had previously handed over her mobile phones to the agency in March.

The focus of the investigation is the controversial 2021-22 Delhi excise policy which allegedly fostered cartelisation and favoured certain liquor traders who purportedly secured licences through bribery. Despite the ruling Aam Aadmi Party's refutations, the policy was rescinded. Consequently, a probe spearheaded by the CBI was recommended by the Delhi lieutenant governor.

Kavitha denies any wrongdoing, linking the BJP-led Centre's probe to political



BRS MLC K Kavitha

manoeuvres. Her statement contests the allegations leveraged against her, which are partly based on an accountant linked to her, Butchibabu, who purported that there was a "political understanding" between her and Delhi's chief and deputy chief ministers. Further, Hyderabad businessman Arun Ramchandra Pillai, identified as a close associate of Kavitha and accused in the case, rejected claims of being an approver in the probe, terming them "false" and "completely unfounded." Pillai is prepped to

initiate legal actions against media houses for disseminating what he terms as "fake news" to influence the case.

The investigation, now also scrutinised under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), hints at potential irregularities in the modification of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, which allegedly extended undue benefits to licence holders. Initiated in November 2021, the policy was discontinued in September 2022 amid growing corruption allegations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Draft master plan 2041 of Yamuna Expressway Authority approved

TDG NETWORK
NOIDA

The Yamuna Expressway and Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has approved its draft master plan 2041.

The plan was approved at the 78th board meeting of the YEIDA on Wednesday, officials said.

The draft is essentially for connecting the notified area up to the Chola railway station (in Bulandshahr district of Uttar

Pradesh) with the Jewar airport by road and rail, the YEIDA said. The draft also includes development of logistics and industrial activities, it said in a statement. The YEIDA, which functions under the Uttar Pradesh government, manages land development along the 165-km-long Yamuna Expressway. At the meeting, a proposal regarding the establishment of a Heritage City within the YEIDA limits was placed before the board. "In

this, it was decided to increase the pre-planned area from 760 acres to 1,500 acres in the notified area up to Yamuna river in Mathura in which river fountain etc. are proposed along the Yamuna river," it said.

The YEIDA also announced introducing a one-time-settlement policy (OTS) for defaulters in various land allotment schemes like industrial, housing and mixed use. "It has been decided to launch OTS scheme. The said scheme will

be launched for one month from October 1 this year in which allottees will have to apply online. For this, go to the allottee authority's website www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com and apply," the YEIDA said. If the amount payable is up to Rs 50 lakh, then the entire sum will have to be deposited in four months (one-third of the amount within a month and the remaining amount within another three months), it added.

PROBE INITIATED

JNU STUDENT ALLEGES RAPE UNDER FALSE MARRIAGE PROMISE: POLICE


TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A student of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was allegedly raped by a man following a false assurance of marriage in north Delhi's Wazirabad area, police said on Thursday.

According to police, the

complainant, a resident of the JNU campus in south Delhi, said she met the accused through an organisation around four years ago. "They became friends. On April 3, she was at the flat of the accused in Wazirabad. Suddenly he came near her assuring her that he will marry her and made physical


relations. Now the accused is refusing to marry the complainant," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said. "A case under section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at the Wazirabad police station and further probe initiated," the officer added.



15TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 4.30 PM


THE 4TH RAM JETHMALANI MEMORIAL LECTURE

ON HIS BIRTH CENTENARY YEAR
1923 - 2023




JUSTICE DY CHANDRACHUD
HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

CHIEF GUEST



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL
HON'BLE UNION LAW MINISTER

GUEST OF HONOUR




R. VENKATRAMANI
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA


GUEST OF HONOUR

TOPIC


HAS THE BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE SERVED THE NATION WELL?




FALI S. NARIMAN
SENIOR ADVOCATE



JUSTICE DIPAK MISHRA
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



S. GURUMURTHY
EDITOR, TUGHLAK



SHYAM DIVAN
SENIOR ADVOCATE

WATCH LIVE TELECAST ON: **newsX**

ENTRY BY INVITATION ONLY. NDMC CONVENTION CENTRE SANSAD MARG, NEW DELHI.



PRESENTS



THE JETHMALANI PRIZE IN JOURNALISM INAUGURAL EDITION

TO MARK THE 100TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF RAM JETHMALANI

JURY



JUSTICE SHARAD A. BOBDE
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA
JURY CHAIR



DR. HARIVANSH NARAYAN SINGH
DY. CHAIRPERSON RAJYA SABHA



DR. SASMIT PATRA
RAJYA SABHA MP



KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON & FOUNDER, BIOCON



PROF. MADHAV NALAPAT
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR,
THE SUNDAY GUARDIAN



RAGHU RAI
PHOTOGRAPHER



SHEKHAR MEHTA
FORMER PRESIDENT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



KALYANI SHANKAR
SENIOR JOURNALIST



ATUL KASBEKAR
PHOTOGRAPHER



TOP OF THE DAY

'NEED TO BOOST
ECONOMY IN
BORDER REGIONS'

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday announced initiatives to give impetus to industrialisation in the border districts of the state. Interacting with the industrialists during the maiden Sarkar Sannatkar Milni, the Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to ensuring the holistic development of the industry in the border regions. He said that the process of border identification will be streamlined soon in the state by incorporating the necessary changes. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that this will help give a major boost to the industry in the state, especially in the border region.

UP CM WITNESSES
MOCK DRILL
CONDUCTED BY
POLICE, NSG

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday witnessed the mock drill conducted by the state police and the National Security Guard (NSG) at Vidhan Sabha and Lok Bhavan to enhance preparedness in tackling terror attacks effectively. CM Yogi also interacted with an NSG personnel, who was seen briefing the former on the preparedness to combat terror attacks. The mock drill began on Wednesday. According to an official statement, in order to counter terror attacks, the UP Police and the NSG are conducting an exercise, 'Gandiva-V' on September 13 and 14.

MET PREDICTS
WET SPELL IN HP

SHIMLA: Even though the monsoon remained subdued in the past few days in Himachal Pradesh, the local Met office on Thursday predicted a wet spell of light to moderate rain in the state between 15 and 20 this month. A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from the evening of 15 September, the Met office said and predicted light to moderate rains in low and mid hills, and light to moderate rain as well as snow in high hills till 20 September.

RS 500 CR PLAN
FOR HARYANA'S
ATAL BHUJAL
YOJANA

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana State Inter-Departmental Steering Committee (SISC) for the Atal Bhujal Yojana met today under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal. During the meeting, the committee approved the Incentive Utilization Plan for the financial year 2023-24, amounting to Rs 526.29 crore. This plan represents a significant step towards addressing critical groundwater concerns and promoting sustainable water management in the state. Kaushal stated that the government is committed to judiciously managing water resources through this initiative to ensure a sustainable and secure water future for the state.

INVESTIGATION

NUH VIOLENCE: CONGRESS MLA MAMAN KHAN
APPEARS BEFORE PUNJAB-HARYANA HIGH COURTVIPIN PARMAR
CHANDIGARH

A hearing was held on Thursday in the Punjab-Haryana High Court regarding the arrest of Congress MLA from Ferozpur Jhirka, Maman Khan after his name cropped up in the investigation into the Nuh riots. During the hearing, the High Court issued a notice to the Haryana Government regarding the demand of SIT by higher officials for investigation.

The next hearing in the case will be held on 19 October. On protection from arrest, the High Court has issued an order to Khan to appear in front of the lower court to explore legal options and get bail. Despite being issued a notice twice by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Haryana Police, the Congress MLA has not ap-

peared for questioning. Now that he fears arrest, he has now reached the High Court. MLA Khan has completely rejected all the allegations against him in court and has also asked for extra security.

There has also been a demand to constitute a high-level Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the cases registered after the incidents of violence that took place on 31 July in Nuh district. Maman Khan has alleged in the High Court that it is "common knowledge" that a blame game began after the "unfortunate incident" of violence in Nuh. State ministers, including Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and State Home Minister Anil Vij, he claimed have begun blaming the Opposition to "divert people's attention" from the government's failure to stop the incident. Khan went on to say



MLA Maman Khan's name has cropped up in an investigation into the Nuh riots.

that their statements blaming Congress MLAs for this incident had also appeared in the media.

Elaborating on the reasons behind framing Khan in the High Court, his lawyers Arshdeep Singh Cheema and Ishan Khetrapal argued that his recent public statements leave no doubt that the investigation is being hijacked.

The investigation is being directed in a "pre-planned direction with a purpose" they said. "The State Government is now attempting to put the blame on political opponents by falsely implicating the petitioner in this case as it failed to control the outbreak of violence and is blamed by all parties for mishandling the situation."

Cheema then mentioned that Khan was nowhere close to the locations where the violence broke out. "The petitioner was not present in the violence-affected areas. He was at his Gurugram residence. The petitioner also provided evidence of its activities including CCTV footage and bills to support its claims," Khan's counsel said. Cheema also sought instructions to form a high-level SIT comprising senior officers to investigate violence-related cases. So far, Nuh Police has arrested 316 people for inciting Nuh violence. Police have registered 60 FIRs in this case. In this, 49 cases have been registered for inciting violence and 11 for spreading rumours on social media. Currently, 314 people have been arrested for violence and two have been arrested for spreading misinformation over social media.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

HARYANA MINISTER MOVES COURT
FOR ANTICIPATORY BAILVIPIN PARMAR
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Minister Sandeep Singh appeared in front of a Chandigarh Court on Thursday regarding his plea for anticipatory bail. Singh's counsel filed for anticipatory bail in a sexual harassment case on 4 September. Lawyers for both sides—Singh and the complainant—were present in court on Thursday to present their respective arguments. At the same time, the minister's lawyers also made a case for Singh to receive anticipatory bail in the case. Notably, Singh is a former captain of the national hockey team. Last December, the complainant—a junior women's coach—accused Singh of harassing her. The Minister had given up his portfolio a day after he was booked by Chandigarh police.

During the arguments, lawyers for the junior women's coach, Sameer Sethi and Dipanshu Bansal, responded to the bail plea and opposed it on merits. Advocate Dipanshu Bansal later said that the court had reserved its decision on the bail application filed by the accused. The complainant's side also filed an application seeking a copy of the plea in order to oppose it. The women's coach alleged that the Min-



Haryana Minister Sandeep Singh.

ister had been "threatening and influencing" her during the investigation.

Further, Chandigarh Police's SIT has filed a reply in the court on the anticipatory bail plea. The Special Investigation Team has said that there is "no basis" for granting bail to Sandeep Singh, hence the bail petition should be rejected. Regarding this, the lawyers of the coach side also protested in the court regarding the bail of Sandeep Singh. During the hearing, the lawyer of the female coach said that the copy of the anticipatory bail petition filed by the accused was not made available to the complainant, regarding which an application was filed before the court on his behalf. In reply to this, the court has ordered Singh's counsel to give a copy of the bail petition to the complainant.

After the charge sheet filed by the police in the case, the court ordered the accused Sandeep Singh to be present during the hearing in the case on 16 September, Saturday. The SIT of Chandigarh Police has presented the challan in the CJM court. Chandigarh Police has made Sandeep Singh an accused in the case under sections 342, 354, 354A, 354B, 506 and 509 of the IPC. The police had filed the charge sheet in the case registered on August 25 after eight months. In this matter, a notice was also sent by the court to Minister Sandeep Singh. Earlier, on 26 December 2022, the coach had filed a complaint against Sandeep Singh with the Chandigarh Police on charges including sexual harassment. On 31 December, local police registered a case against Sandeep Singh at the Sector 26 police station.

EDUCATION

HIMACHAL CABINET REPLACES
DISBANDED HPSSC WITH RAJYA
CHAYAN AAYOGTDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

According to an official statement, the Himachal Pradesh state cabinet on Thursday decided to establish the Rajya Chayan Aayog to conduct examinations for the recruitment of subordinate staff for the state government, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), boards, corporations and local bodies. The cabinet held a meeting here under Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's chairmanship and decided to replace the disbanded Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission (HPSSC) at Hamirpur with the Himachal Pradesh Rajya Chayan Aayog.

The HPSSC was dissolved this February, two months after a paper leak was unearthed on 23 December, when the vigilance bureau arrested Uma Azad, a senior assistant of the commission, with solved question papers and Rs 2.5 lakh in cash. Earlier this month, Sukhu announced the Rajya Chayan Aayog in place of the HPSSC to ensure fairness in the selection criteria. The Chief Minister had maintained that a transparent and merit-based selection process would be in place. He said 6,000 teachers would be recruited through the new commission and the state government would conduct the examinations for recruitment of more than 10,000 people this year. Senior Congress leader and Sujanpur MLA Rajinder Rana had earlier expressed serious concern over the delay in recruitment for government jobs. Through a letter, which was also posted on Facebook, he drew CM Sukhu's attention to brewing discontent among unemployed youth.

The cabinet also approved the "Mukhyamantri Laghu Dukkandar Kalyan Yojna- 2023" and decided to allocate Rs 40 crore under the scheme to provide better opportunities for availing loans to small entrepreneurs and skill-based workers including cobblers, tailors, barbers, mobile repair vendors, vegetable and fruit vendors and others for their business, the statement added. It also decided to introduce the Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the state Assembly to address the issue of delayed decisions of Revenue Court cases and to streamline various revenue operations like partitions, corrections, mutations, appeals and demarcations to facilitate the public. The cabinet also gave its nod to amend the Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy, 2021, in order to manage the shortfall of energy during the lean period due to climatic, topographic and other reasons.

CARDINAL BREAKTHROUGH

Key ISIS operative
Arafath Ali arrested
at Delhi AirportTDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested a pivotal ISIS terror conspirator, Arafath Ali, on Thursday upon his arrival at New Delhi Airport from Nairobi, Kenya. This marked a major stride in the NIA's pursuit to dismantle foreign-based ISIS modules intending to orchestrate acts of terror on Indian soil.

Ali had been evading capture since 2020, amidst allegations of spearheading ISIS propaganda and plotting terrorist activities from abroad to foster the IS's anti-India agenda. The suspect, a resident of Karnataka's Shivamogga district, has been implicated in the identification, radicalization, and recruitment of susceptible Muslim youth into the ISIS network. The detainment is closely linked to the ongoing investigation of the Shivamogga terror conspiracy case. Ali reportedly maintained active communication with the accused individuals involved in the plot, facilitating both the planning and implementation phases of the terror blueprint.

A crucial incident tied to this case occurred when one of the accused, Mohamed Shariq, was transporting a

pressure cooker IED to plant at the Kadri Manjunatha Temple in Mangaluru. The IED prematurely detonated in the auto rickshaw, drawing attention to the larger conspiracy at play.

NIA authorities have also attributed the 2020 Mangaluru graffiti cases to Ali, where incendiary messages invoking Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Taliban were scribed on walls, seemingly to incite violence and create a communal rift. The graffiti read: "DON'T FORCE US TO INVITE LASHKAR-E-TAIBA AND TALIBAN TO DEAL WITH SANGHIS AND MANVEDIS #LASHKAR ZINDABAD". The operation was reportedly orchestrated with the involvement of two other individuals, Mohamed Shariq and Maaz Muneer Ahmed.

As the investigations forge ahead, the apprehension of Arafath Ali is perceived as a cardinal breakthrough in unveiling the expanse of the ISIS network and its operations in India, shedding light on the intricacies of their subversive strategies targeted against the nation. The ongoing probe continues to unravel the depths of this conspiracy as authorities work meticulously to ensure the safety and security of the nation against such terrorist threats.

GROSS MISCONDUCT

ORPHANAGE HEAD
SUSPENDED FOLLOWING
DISTURBING VIDEONIKITA SAREEN
LUCKNOW

The superintendent of a state-run childcare institution in Agra has been suspended following a video that went viral on social media, which showed her physically assaulting a minor girl. The incident purportedly took place on 4 September, where the superintendent, identified as Poonam Pal, was seen beating a girl lying on a bed.

The circulation of the video prompted immediate action from the district magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami, who tasked District Probation Officer (DPO) Ajay Pal Singh with leading an investigation into the matter. Following the investigation, which corroborated the abuse through CCTV footage and witness statements from other children and staff present at the time, the superintendent was suspended. Stringent disciplinary action has been ordered, including the registration of an FIR against Pal on the directives of Women and Child Development Minister Beni Rani Maurya. A case has since been registered.

The distressing video clip distinctly shows Pal entering a room abruptly and hitting the child lying on a bed with a slipper repeatedly. DPO Singh, who inspected

the government child home alongside a city magistrate, confirmed that the superintendent was responsible for the violent act, acknowledging it as a clear breach of rules as well as "gross misconduct".

During the investigation, it was revealed that the child would often playfully lock herself inside a box built into the bed. Despite having been warned several times by the superintendent, the child continued to engage in this act. On the day of the incident, the child not only locked herself in but also had another child lock it from the outside to prevent others from finding her, which enraged Pal.

Following Pal's suspension, clerk Shiv Kumar Sharma has been assigned as the acting superintendent of the state-run child home. Meanwhile, questions are also being raised about the Child Protection Committee, which was supposed to oversee the well-being of the children and the conduct of the employees at the orphanage. The failure of the committee to be aware of and prevent such incidents, despite being stationed at the facility, has put them under scrutiny, raising substantial questions about their efficacy and the larger system's ability to safeguard the children in its care.

BRAVE SACRIFICE

Families mourn officers martyred in
Anantnag encounterVIPIN PARMAR
CHANDIGARH

Both the states of Haryana and Punjab have been mourning Colonel Manpreet Singh of New Chandigarh and Major Ashish Dhonchak of Panipat since Wednesday. Both Singh and Dhaunchal were martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir on 13 September.

The two martyred officers are survived by their respective spouses and children. Colonel Singh, originally a resident of Punjab's Mohali district, had recently shifted to New Chandigarh. Singh has two children, aged seven and two-and-a-half. As

of Thursday, his 68-year-old mother, Manjeet Kaur, was unaware that he had lost his life in the line of duty. The Colonel was a second-generation army man; his father, Lakhbir Singh, was also in the armed forces. Colonel Manpreet's wife Jagmeet Grewal is a teacher in a government school located in Panchkula, Haryana. Colonel Singh was to come home next month on leave on his daughter's birthday. He returned to duty after spending leave on 5 January.

Meanwhile, martyred Major Dhonchak of Panipat was to return to his newly built home in TDI City on his 36th birthday on 23 October. Now his mortal remains will be



Major Ashish Dhonchak (left) and Colonel Manpreet Singh.

brought to the same house. The Major is survived by his wife Jyoti and a two-year-old daughter. His family currently lives in a rented house in Sector 7, Panipat. Family members say Major's dream was to live in his own house and construction has been ongoing in TDI City. His maternal uncle Mahavir, told reporters that he had spoken to Dhonchak over the phone

Four months ago, in May, he had returned home on leave to attend a family wedding. He stayed here for 10 days and after that, he returned to duty.

His family earlier lived in his native village Binjhau. However, he shifted to the city two years ago. Major Dhonchak was one of four siblings and leaves behind three sisters. His three sisters Anju, Suman and Mamta are married. His mother Kamala Grihani and father Lalchand have retired from NFL. His uncle's son Vikas was also recruited as a lieutenant in the Indian Army. Who has now become a major. His posting is in Jhansi but nowadays he is on training in Pune.

PROWESS

IAF to hold Air show in Jammu to celebrate 76th anniversary of J-K's accession

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

On the occasion of the 76th year of Jammu and Kashmir's accession into the Indian Union and the Diamond Jubilee of Air Force Station Jammu, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Government of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir is all set to organise a grand and spectacular Air Show.

According to an official statement from PRO (Defence), the Air Show will feature renowned IAF units, including the world-famous IAF Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT), the Aakashganga Daredevil Skydiving team, the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Mi-17 helicopters and the IAF band. Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft is also expected to showcase low-level aerobatics and manoeuvring. Taking place

on September 21 and 22, 2023, from 09:30 to 11:00, the event will showcase the scintillating and speculator display of precision flying and performance by nine aircraft team, flying Hawk Mk-132, Mi-17 medium-lift helicopters showcasing the slithering and Small Team Insertion and Extraction techniques, free fall para jumpers and precision drill movements by AWDT.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

HINDI AS THE RASHTRA BHASHA – THE DEBATE SINCE 1947

CLAIMING CITIZENSHIP AND NATION
PUBLISHED BY ROUTLEDGE
CHAPMAN & HALL IN 2022

In 1947, following the declaration of Hindi as the official language of India, a fervent debate sparked over its predominance and the place of Urdu in the educational curriculum, with prominent leader Pant emphasising education in Hindi. Despite Urdu and Hindi being largely the same language but with different scripts, Pant insisted on Hindi's prominence citing a broader Persian influence in Urdu. This sparked discontent among Muslim members of the Vidhan Sabha, who perceived the focus on Hindi as a neglect of Urdu, warning it could further segregate the Muslim community.

In response to demands to acknowledge Urdu as a regional language, Pant argued that Urdu was essentially enveloped within Hindi and promoting Urdu could potentially hinder participation in national affairs. Pant and Tandon pursued a quick transition to Hindi in Uttar Pradesh to set a precedent for other regions, dismissing concerns of Urdu's diminishing presence in primary education as a manifestation of lingering separatist ideas from the past.

However, with Pant becoming the Home Minister in Delhi in 1955, his stance on the issue evolved, driven largely by national issues that emerged during his tenure, including linguistic protests and violent movements in the south against a perceived Hindi-Sanskrit imperialism. A pivotal moment came in 1952 when Potti

Sriramulu's fast unto death spurred a mass movement, pushing Nehru to accede to the demands for linguistic statehood. Realising the deep resentment in the southern regions towards Hindi, Pant moderated his stance as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Language. In 1958, the committee noted that while Hindi's introduction as the official language should not be hurried, efforts must be made for a natural transition from English to Hindi and other national languages. This decision was seen as a betrayal by Hindi enthusiasts who desired a defined timeline for the transition, a desire Pant sidestepped to avoid alienating the southern population.

From 1965, the anti-Hindi faction grew significantly, fearing that the political dominance of Hindi-speaking regions would consolidate power centrally, and marginalise non-Hindi speakers. They worried that all-India services would become monopolised by Hindi-speaking areas, a concern that emerged a decade earlier but found a more vocal expression now.

The resistance to the rapid imposition of Hindi was grounded in concerns that it could lead to the country's fragmentation, particularly alienating the south from the north. Noteworthy leaders, including Nehru and Pant, understood the gravity of these apprehensions and were reluctant to take a proactive approach in establishing Hindi as the national language. Despite substantial backing from various quarters, Hindi failed to establish itself sufficiently to be seen as a viable national unifying solution, with only Uttar Pradesh truly adopting Hindi in line with Pant's initial vision.

TRAGEDY

POLICE VEHICLE IN US KILLS INDIAN STUDENT, JAAHNAVI KANDULA

CONTINUED FROM P1

On the other hand, the US has assured of a fair probe into this incident. The video shows officer Daniel Auderer laughing about the deadly crash and saying there was no need for a criminal investigation against his colleague Kevin Dave, who was driving the car. The 23-year-old was from Andhra Pradesh and pursuing a master's de-

gree from the Northeastern University campus in South Lake Union. She went to the US from Bengaluru on a student exchange programme in 2021 and was due to graduate this December.

Kandula's family is deeply distressed by the revelations. Her grandfather said that the family had not recovered from loss and the policeman's behaviour makes it worse. "How can anyone

speak like that after a tragic accident?" he asked.

Kandula was hit and killed by a police car while crossing the street. According to The Seattle Times, Kevin Dave, the police officer driving the car was going 119 kmph and the graduate student's body was thrown more than 100 feet. Later, she was taken to Harbourview Medical Centre, but died due to her injuries.

WAIT FOR NEXT ORDER

SC reserves verdict on plea seeking ban on fire crackers in Delhi

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a plea seeking a ban on firecrackers to reduce pollution levels, particularly in the Delhi-NCR region. The court has directed the Delhi Police not to issue temporary licences for the sale of firecrackers in the national capital.

A bench comprising Justice AS Bopanna and Justice MM Sundresh stated, "We have to see what level of work has been done over the years and whether any additional directions are required to be issued. We see that most of the aspects have been taken care of by various orders passed by this court from time to

time." "When there is a ban imposed by the government, it means a complete ban. Just ensure that no temporary licences are given by the Delhi police. Giving licences of any kind will be in violation of our orders," it added. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, was told by the bench. Bhati explained that since the apex court's 2018 order, which banned conventional firecrackers in the Delhi-NCR region, significant progress has been made, and only green firecrackers are permitted. She clarified that no permanent licences for the sale of firecrackers have been issued since 2016, and the temporary licences that

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Patna sees alarming dengue cases, separate wards for patients set up

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Amid dengue outbreak in Bihar's capital Patna, the health department has set up separate wards for the patients in hospitals. The cases of viral fever along with dengue are increasing day by day in the city.

District Programme Manager of the district health committee, Dr Vivek Singh said,

"In monsoon season dengue cases usually increase. A special ward has been set up in all medical universities and local hospitals for dengue patients in Patna. There is no need to panic. Usually, patients recover in 2-3 days after beginning

the treatment." "A total of 366 people are suffering from dengue in Patna, 70 new cases of dengue have come yesterday. Cases of dengue usually occur in September, October and November. Complete preparations have been made by the department in view of the surge in dengue cases. 10 beds have been kept for the patients infected with dengue in Sadar Hospital", he added. According to Dr Sanjay Kumar, Nodal Officer of Dengue Ward in Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH), 20 beds have been made available in the hospital for patients infected by dengue.

TOUGH PROPOSAL

Convicted lawmakers should face lifetime ban from contesting polls, SC told

CONTINUED FROM P1

be presented before a bench presided over by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud. Hansaria drew attention to existing rules governing civil servants, which call for the dismissal of employees convicted of offences involving moral turpitude. Similarly, laws pertaining to statutory bodies like the Central Vigilance Commission and human rights commissions explicitly disqualify individuals convicted of such offences from holding top positions.

Hansaria's report argued, "If statutory authorities cannot include convicted individuals, it is manifestly arbitrary to allow such convicted individuals to occupy supreme legislative bodies

after a certain period of conviction. Lawmakers should be held to a higher standard and be inviolable, compared to individuals holding office under such laws." The report, submitted through advocate Sneha Kalita, highlighted the lack of a coherent connection between a person's ability to make laws disqualifying others from holding statutory office and that same person incurring disqualification only for a limited period. Vijay Hansaria was appointed as amicus curiae in response to a petition filed by Ashwini Upadhyay, a leader of the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party, challenging the constitutional validity of Section 8 of The Representation of People Act, 1951. This section currently disqualifies convicted legislators

from contesting elections for a six-year period following their release. Hansaria's report echoed the petitioner's argument that allowing convicted lawmakers to contest elections after just six years was "manifestly arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution." Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. The report also emphasised the urgent need for the speedy resolution of trials pending against MLAs and MPs. It revealed that there were 5,175 such cases pending in various trial courts across the country, with 2,116 of them lingering for more than five years. Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of such cases (1,377), followed by Bihar (546) and Maharashtra (482).

The recommendations pertain to seven additional judges from the Allahabad High Court and eleven from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The following judges from the Allahabad High Court have been recommended for appointment: Justice Umesh Chandra Sharma, Justice Renu Agarwal, Justice Ram Manohar Narayan, Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, Justice Shiv Shanker Prasad, Justice Gajendra Kumar, and Justice Nalin Kumar Srivastava. The unanimous recommenda-

RAISING STRENGTH

ALLAHABAD, PUNJAB-HARYANA HCS TO GET PERMANENT JUDGES

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, on Thursday issued recommendations for the appointment of permanent judges. In a meeting comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna, the collegium has made these recommendations, which have been subsequently posted on the apex court's website.



The recommendations pertain to seven additional judges from the Allahabad High Court and eleven from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The following judges from the Allahabad High Court have been recommended for appointment: Justice Umesh Chandra Sharma, Justice Renu Agarwal, Justice Ram Manohar Narayan, Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, Justice Shiv Shanker Prasad, Justice Gajendra Kumar, and Justice Nalin Kumar Srivastava. The unanimous recommenda-

tions of the Allahabad High Court collegium on May 1, 2023, have received the concurrence of the Chief Minister and Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Procedure, consultations were made with judges of the Supreme Court who are familiar with the operations of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad to assess the suitability of the Additional Judges for permanent appointment. Additionally, a committee of two judges of the Supreme Court, as constituted by the Chief Justice of India pursuant to the Resolution dated October 26, 2017, has evaluated the judgments rendered by the Additional Judges. The resolution further states that, for the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the additional judges for permanent appointment, a thorough ex-

amination was conducted, including the consideration of the consultee judges' opinions and the report from the Judgment Evaluation Committee. After a comprehensive evaluation, the collegium has determined that the seven Additional Judges are indeed fit and suitable for permanent appointment.

In a separate decision, the Supreme Court collegium has also recommended the appointment of eleven additional judges from the High Court of Punjab and Haryana as permanent judges. The judges recommended for permanent appointment are Justice Nidhi Gupta, Justice Sanjay Vashisth, Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya, Justice Namit Kumar, Justice Harkesh Manuja, Justice Aman Chaudhary, Justice Naresh Singh, Justice Harsh Bunger, Justice Jagmohan Bansal, Justice Deepak Manchanda, and Justice Alok Jain.

The recommendations from the Punjab and Haryana High Court collegium, which were made unanimously on May 20, 2023, have been duly endorsed by the Chief Ministers and Governors of the States of Punjab and Haryana. In accordance with the Memorandum of Procedure, consultations were held with judges of the Supreme Court familiar with the operations of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana to assess the suitability of these judges for permanent appointment.

POLITICAL ANGLE

MINISTER GOPAL RAI MOVES HC OVER CENTRE'S DENIAL OF PERMISSION FOR NY EVENT

CONTINUED FROM P1

and advocate Arun Panwar, stated his official request to attend the event has been rejected assigning "arbitrary and mala fide" reasons. The petition stated, "The invitation is specific for different persons representing different stakeholders and does not intend to confine delegates at national level only for the formal representation of the country, therefore the reason cited herein above is nothing but a colourable exercise of power and accordingly bad in law." Rai said that he received the invitation on August 13 for attending and speaking at the event. He said it is clear from the invitation that it is a dialogue by all the stakeholders, along

with "Indian Think Tanks" for addressing the essential issues of energy consumption expected to grow about 1.5 times in the coming decades.

Therefore, citing the reason that India is represented by ministerial bureaucrat level is neither intended nor desired by the Global Energy Policy, the organisation holding the dialogue.

The plea said the Centre has permitted other officers from different states to attend the event, and the reasons given in the order denying permission to Rai are completely contradicted by these actions. The petition stated, "It is also not out of place to mention that Arvind Kumar, Special Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Telan-

gana Government is also a part of the programme and has been selected as a speaker to speak on the issue of balancing energy, security and energy transition priorities in India." "This is demonstrated by the fact that the impugned order cites reasons that are contradicted by other actions taken by the respondents. This clearly demonstrates that the impugned order is a colourable exercise of power."

It said that Delhi, as a major urban city, plays a key role in transition to clean energy and how national policies impact everyday activities of the public. The petition stated the denial letter which has been issued in haste, without any application of mind, and in sheer violation of the principles of natural justice.

been fulfilled. The remaining ones will take some time as they need to be legally full proof," Shinde said.

LUCKY ESCAPE

Chartered flight crashes on runway at Mumbai airport

CONTINUED FROM P1

ported. The aircraft was owned by an infrastructure company. It was carrying the passengers from Vishakhapatnam to Mumbai. The incident took

place at around 5:02 pm on Thursday.

The aircraft was carrying eight people including six passengers, one from Denmark, and two crew members. Among the passengers Dhruv Kotak, Lars

Sorensen, KK Krishnadas, Aakarsh Sethi, Arul Sali and Kamakshi were on-board the aircraft, which was being operated by pilots Sunil and Neil.

A total of five passengers, both pilots and one crew member have sustained superficial injuries and are being treated at Criticare Asia Hospital in Andheri East. Medical officials said the flyers are in a state of shock. The Mumbai airport was shut for operations to

carry out inspection. It was later reopened after clearance from DGCA at 06:47 pm after all safety check were conducted. The debris near the runway has been cleared for smooth operations.

MARATHA QUOTA STIR

JARANGE ENDS 17-DAY HUNGER STRIKE

CONTINUED FROM P1

community and not for himself. I have assured him that

everything will be done as per the promise and the state government is committed to it. Most of his demands have

been fulfilled. The remaining ones will take some time as they need to be legally full proof," Shinde said.

TOP OF THE DAY

2 LABOURERS
KILLED IN STONE
QUARRY ACCIDENT
IN ODISHA

BERHAMPUR: At least two labourers died and two others were critically injured after a boulder fell on them at a stone quarry in Mahughara Hill area near here, police said on Thursday. The incident took place when the labourers were resting after work, and the boulder came crashing down owing to heavy rain, they said. The deceased have been identified as Krushna Behera (32) and Sudarshan Badarait (35). The injured persons have been admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital and their condition is stated to be serious, a police officer said. A detailed inquiry has been initiated, he added.

MORE THAN 900
GOVT SCHOOLS IN
GUJARAT HAVE 1
TEACHER

GANDHINAGAR: As many as 926 government primary schools in Gujarat are functioning with just one teacher, the state Assembly was informed on Thursday. The government assured the House that vacant posts in state-run primary schools will be filled at the earliest. As per the data shared in the House by the state government, 106 schools in Mahisagar district have just one teacher each, while the figure is 105 schools in Kutch, 84 in Tapi, 46 in Devbhumi Dwarka, 45 in Narmada and 41 in Kheda district. Districts where the situation is better include Botad, where only two schools are functioning with one teacher each, followed by Morbi (three schools), Bhavnagar and Gir Somnath (five schools each), Gandhinagar (six) and Jamnagar (eight).

15 PEOPLE HELD
FOR CONDUCTING
CHILD MARRIAGES
IN ASSAM

HAILAKANDI: Fifteen people were arrested in Assam's Hailakandi district for allegedly conducting child marriages by preparing fake documents, police said on Thursday. Acting on a complaint filed by a registered qazi that 16 people were involved in conducting child marriages by posing as qazis, an operation was launched in different parts of the district on Wednesday, they said. Initially, 16 persons were taken into custody but one was let off due to lack of evidence, Additional SP Shamir Daptari Baruah said.

FEMALE
CONSTABLE
FOUND DEAD IN
OFFICE IN BIHAR

BIHAR: A 30-year-old constable was found dead in her office in Bihar's Samastipur district, police said on Thursday. Archana Kumari was posted at the district police headquarters. Her husband Suman Kumar, also a police constable, was placed under suspension for alleged dereliction of duty, they said. A suicide note was found in which Kumari alleged that she and her husband were being harassed by their seniors, police said.

BORDER-SECURITY

INDIAN TROOPS DEFENDING EVERY INCH
OF BORDER WITH CHINA: LADAKH LGTDG NETWORK
JAMMU

Indian troops are defending every inch of the border with China and not even a single inch of land has been taken over by the neighbouring country in recent years, Ladakh Lt Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra said on Thursday.

He said infrastructure development is taking place at a rapid pace across Ladakh with roads, helipads, airfields, tunnels and bridges being built, and India will catch up with China in that regard within next four-five years.

Brig Mishra (Retd) was in Jammu in connection with a three-day north-tech symposium which concluded at IIT Jammu on Wednesday.

The event provided a platform for engagement be-



Ladakh Lt Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra

tween academia and industry to devise unique solutions to meet the army's operational requirements in northern command, while promoting self-reliance in defence production and technology proliferation.

"If there is any match to them (China) in Asia, it is India. China is a nefarious country. So right from the very beginning, they have been having this policy to

contain, to threaten and to coerce India. So they have been doing it for last two, three decades," the LG told PTI-Video in an exclusive interview here.

Mishra said India started infrastructure development in the region about six to seven years back.

"But the way we are developing our infrastructure like roads, helipads, airfields, tunnels and bridges, during

next four or five years we will catch up with China and we will be as good, if not better, on infrastructure on our borders as China," the Lt Governor said.

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks last month that every individual in Ladakh knows that China has "taken away our land", he said the fact on the ground is that the neighbouring country has not occupied even one square inch of Indian land in recent years.

"I would not comment on what a particular person has said or what a particular person is saying. I would give you an answer based on my own tour, observation and seeing the facts on the ground. The fact is they (Chinese) are not in occupation of even one square inch of land of India," the Lt Governor said.

ED-SUMMON

"Why is he afraid": Dharmendra Pradhan
on probe against Abhishek BanerjeeTDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

A day after TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee questioned the credibility of central agencies over his interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged the TMC leader not to assume the role of a judge and instead allow central agencies to carry out their duties. He also claimed that those involved in corruption are currently managing Bengal's affairs.

The Union minister's remark drew a riposte from the ruling TMC, which likened the BJP to a "washing machine" that transforms corrupt individuals into virtuous figures upon joining their party.



Dharmendra Pradhan

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who was on Wednesday quizzed by the ED for nine hours over the alleged school jobs scam in West Bengal, asserted that the interrogation was an attempt to stop him from attending the coordination committee meeting of the INDIA bloc in Delhi.

He had dared the ED to arrest him and challenged the "central agency to submit his

statement before the court." "Abhishek Banerjee is not a judge; let the law take its own course. He is neither in charge of any forensic lab nor a judge. Why is Banerjee so afraid if he has committed no wrong? In Bengal, it's not just the Narada and Saradha scam; there have been several other corruption cases, such as coal to cattle smuggling. If there is any corruption, central agencies

will investigate. The corrupt are running the state government," Pradhan said on the sidelines of a party programme.

His comments drew sharp reactions from the TMC, which said the summons by the central agencies was politically motivated to harass the opposition parties.

"The BJP should not be talking about corruption as their leader Suwendu Adhikari, who has been named in CBI's FIR in the Narada scam, is still roaming free. He should not be talking against Banerjee as he co-operated with the central agencies. We all know he was summoned yesterday to stop him from attending the INDIA opposition meet," senior TMC minister Shashi Panja said.

RAGGING-COLLEGE

CASE FILED AFTER SENIORS THREATEN JUNIOR
STUDENTS AT GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGE IN KOLKATATDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Some senior students along with a few former students of the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, allegedly barged into a hostel of their juniors with wooden clubs and hacksaws at late night and threatened them for attending a function, police said on Thursday.

Around 9-10 pm, senior and former students broke into the boys' hostel in Maniktala around 3 am on Wednesday, demanding explanations from the juniors on why they attended the felicitation of the new principal on Tuesday.

The group left the hostel before dawn, a junior student said. A complaint was filed at the Amherst Street police station by the hostel boarders, a police officer said. Investigators visited the hostel, he said, adding that no arrests have been made yet.

Hostel superintendent Swapan Mondal said, "I have been told that some people came to the hostel and

shouted at the junior students. I will take steps as none can enter the hostel after 11 pm." A demonstration was held at the hospital after former principal doctor Sandip Ghosh was transferred. He was replaced by doctor Manas Bandyopadhyay, whose felicitation programme was held on Tuesday.

The incident came over a month after the death of an undergraduate student allegedly due to ragging at the Jadavpur University. Thirteen persons were arrested in connection with the incident that happened on August 9.

STUDENT-RALLY

Nursing students in MP protest
against pending examsTDG NETWORK
JABALPUR

Under the leadership of the MP Student Union, over 100,000 nursing students in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur are holding a massive rally against the declaration of the session 2023-24 as a "zero year". They are demanding the organization of nursing exams and the provision of scholarships. Further, they have vowed not to vote for BJP in the elections if demands are not met. The nursing students haven't had their examinations for the past three years, and now they are raising their voices against this. This uproar among students can in turn dent the BJP's prospects in upcoming assembly elections. The failure to conduct exams for



a long time has created a crisis for the students and they fear that they will lose one year due to the declaration of "zero year" for this session. Thus, the students are collectively registering a strong opposition by encircling the collectorate office in Jabalpur in the form of a rally. However, the students were stopped by the police at the Clock Tower square. The nursing students say that when they started their nursing studies

they had dreamt of a better future but now when the exams are not being conducted, not only their time is being wasted but also their lakhs of rupees. In this situation, they neither can quit their nursing studies nor can they seek a new future. The future of lakhs of students in the state is at stake, but the government is ignorant of this. In December last year also there was a protest by students who first kept their protest peaceful, but when the authorities of the university paid no heed to their demands, the students barged into the university and created a lot of ruckus. They demanded the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor by protesting fiercely on the university premises and resorted to heavy sloganeering.

TELANGANA-POLITICS

Kishan Reddy ends
24-hr fast in support of
unemployed youthTDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Union Minister and BJP Telangana unit president G Kishan Reddy on Thursday concluded his 24-hour fast against the BRS government's alleged negligence towards unemployed youth.

Former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, who is BJP's election in-charge for Telangana, offered lime juice to Kishan Reddy marking the conclusion of the fast.

Reddy began his fast on Wednesday at the Dharna Chowk here.

However, he was "forcibly" shifted by police from the Dharna Chowk Wednesday evening for "continuing" the protest beyond the permitted time.

Mild tension prevailed at the Dharna Chowk on Wednesday evening as BJP activists raised slogans and opposed the police action even as Reddy was shifted to the state BJP headquarters.



Union Minister G Kishan Reddy

Reddy, however, continued his fast at the party office.

BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh, in-charge of party affairs in Telangana, on Wednesday night condemned the police action and claimed that Reddy fell unconscious at the protest site.

"Permission for the protest was issued from 10 am to 6 pm but they did not follow the timings and did not vacate from the protest site," a senior police official said on Wednesday night.

Asked about Reddy falling

unconscious, police said it could be due to dehydration.

Kishan Reddy, on his request, was subsequently shifted to the Telangana BJP office, the official had said.

Condemning the police action, Telangana BJP General Secretary G Premender Reddy called for protests on Thursday.

In a release on Wednesday night, Premender Reddy also said the matter was taken to the notice of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda.

Shah had spoken to Kishan Reddy over phone and told him to continue the struggle against the BRS government on people's issues, the release said.

Kishan Reddy said the BJP will not let up its struggle in support of the unemployed and those cheated by the government which supervised botched recruitment exams - as many as 17 of them with question papers leaked in all of them.

FRAUD-INVESTIGATION

CBI PROBES LED DISPLAY SCAM
AGAINST IITM OFFICIALS, SCIENTISTRAHUL CHHABRA
NEW DELHI

A scientist and officials of the prestigious Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, have invited CBI probe in an alleged case of corruption with the investigation agency claiming that they along with a supplier of digital display boards caused a "huge wrongful loss" of over Rs 1 crore to the Institute and the Government.

An initial CBI probe has shown that scientist Dr Gufran Beig and other IITM officers diluted the terms and conditions of the tender in conspiracy with Anil Girkar, director of Video Wall India company of Mumbai, resulting in the loss to the institute.

The CBI said in the FIR that Girkar dishonestly imported sub-standard items from China for the 12 outdoor digital display systems

(DDS) for a total amount of Rs 54 lakh - at the rate of Rs 4.5 lakh per piece - and supplied them to IITM on exorbitant rates with total cost of Rs 1.76 crore - at the rate of Rs 14.70 lakh per piece.

The tender in 2015-16 was awarded to Girkar by the institute for DDS meant for System for Air Quality and Weather Forecasting & Research for Ahmedabad (SAFAR-Ahmedabad) including supply, fixing and installation of 12 outdoor true colour LED display boards, 4 indoor LED display and operation and maintenance contract for 5 years to Video Wall India.

The CBI said in its FIR, "The suspect officials of the IITM, knowing well that the items supplied and installed by the company were not meeting the specifications as per the tender, dishonestly and fraudulently released

payments to them, without carrying out inspections of the items through technical experts."

The probe agency also said that the company made a misrepresentation that it was an original equipment manufacturer of digital display boards.

In reality, Girkar's company imported the LED panels and other electronic parts from China and assembled the same for supply to IITM, which were not as per the specifications given in the supply order.

The probe agency's charges against Girkar are also likely to get more severe as an initial investigation has revealed that in his bid to avoid payments of applicable customs duty while importing Chinese LED panels, he fraudulently mis-declared the LED panels and other electronic parts.

FLOODS-DAMAGE

HOUSES DAMAGED, BRIDGES SUBMERGED
AS HEAVY RAIN HITS ODISHATDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

At least 40 houses were damaged in Koraput and 60 'kutcha' houses destroyed in Kandhamal, while bridges were submerged cutting off road links from Malkhangiri to Motu, and schools were shut in Bolangir district as heavy rain lashed Odisha on Thursday.

The IMD forecasts more showers for Friday. The Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office said reports of 40 houses damaged in Koraput and 63 'kutcha' houses destroyed in Kandhamal district have been received.

The Bolangir district administration announced the closure of all schools and Anganwadi centres in the district. Bolangir block received the highest rainfall of 215 mm in the state.

The rainfall caused havoc in the districts of Malkangiri, Kandhamal and Bolangir. In Malkangiri district the MV-96 bridge along National

Highway No 326 at Kalimela has been submerged. Flood water is reportedly flowing above the bridge and many others, official sources said, adding that communication from Malkangiri to Motu has been snapped.

The rainfall also affected normal life in Kandhamal district.

The low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal has intensified and become well-marked and expected to move across Odisha and Chhattisgarh during the next two days, the IMD said, adding that the southwest monsoon has also been vigorous over the state, leading to very heavy shower in Bolangir and Rayagada district in the past 24 hours.

"With intense spells of rain continuing during the next 24 hours, flash floods may occur in interior pockets with the likely increase in the water level of rivers in the state," weather scientist Umashankar Das of Regional Meteorology Centre, Bhubaneswar, told reporters, adding that

the intensity of rainfall will gradually decline from September 15.

The Met office said that Odisha recorded 49.3 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours till 8.30 am and an average of 189.9 mm from September 1 to 14 against the month's average of 231.9 mm.

Meanwhile, the IMD issued a Red warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in six districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Sonepur, Bargarh, Nuapada and Sambalpur and Orange warning of heavy rainfall at a few places in nine districts of Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Angul, and Dhenkanal on Thursday. The IMD also issued a yellow warning in Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts on Friday.

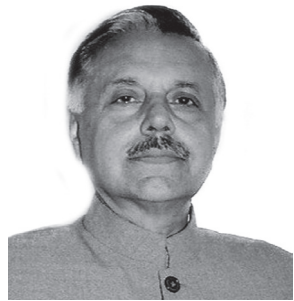
Engineer-in-Chief of the Water Resources department, Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty said that the state government is ready for any situation.

POLITICAL STORM

There is no Bharat vs India

OPINION

LT GEN KAMAL DAVAR



President of Bharat" Droupadi Murmu's dinner invitation to the heads of state and other delegates attending the G-20 Summit in New Delhi created a storm in political circles for reasons difficult to fathom. Having worn my nation's sacred olive green uniform for 41 years and participated in many operations across the length and breadth of this great country, the uncalled for pitting of Bharat and India pained me to no end as it would have millions of our countrymen both at home and abroad. That we Indians many times exhibit a propensity of creating unnecessary or irrelevant problems out of nowhere is an old habit. On most occasions, a majority of these controversial actions are the handiwork of politicians.

names --- India, Bharat and even Hindustan--- carry the same sanctity, appeal, fervour, romance and invoke a feeling to work for and, even if required, willingly die for one's country. For all Indians, these hallowed names bring to memory ancient and historical linkages. Each has its indelible history which has evolved and is widely respected down the ages. It is prudent to recall some salient aspects regarding their background for us to realize their significance to the evolution of Bharat that is India.

The term 'Bharat' finds reverberation in the ancient epic Mahabharata, Upanishads and the Rig Veda as one of the principal kingdoms of Aryavarta which was inhabited by the Vedic tribe of Bharatas. It is named after Bharat, the son of King Dushayanta, while some believe that it is named after King Dashartha's son Bharat as mentioned in Ram Charit Manas.

The word 'India' derives its name from the Greeks as 'Indica' when Greek emperor Darius conquered Sindh in 516 BCE and refers to the land East of the Sindhu (Indus River). The Greeks



and Iranians called it 'Hindos' or 'Indos'. The word 'Hindustan' is of much later origin meaning the land of the Hindus and it came up during the Mughal rule and became rather popular in usage in the last four centuries or so. The name India, of course, finds great resonance all over the world and represents unequivocally the name and idea of this nation which is now at the cusp of becoming a global power. In English and other foreign languages, our nation is called as India across the world and in Hindi and other Indian regional languages it is referred to as

Bharat. Some Arab nations also call us as citizens of Al Hind. Why should now the nomenclature of our land be part of any disagreement is unfathomable. An institution can have many names, all sacred. In the Hindu pantheon, don't we have our gods with more than one name?

The melodious flute playing Gopala whose birth we observed as 'Krishna Janmashtami', is respectfully and joyously called by countless names. So why the efforts to find fault with any name associated with our beloved nation?

It is equally important to

note that immediately after India's independence on 15 Aug 1947, when the drafting of the Indian Constitution was on in full swing, the eminent and wise members of the drafting committee did consider many names for the young nation. According to some media reports, many members were keen on the nomenclature of 'Bharat' as the name. However, when it was debated in the Constituent Assembly, the latter, in its infinite wisdom adopted for the country a dual bilingual identity. Thus Article 1 of the Constitution enshrines the golden inspiring words "India, that

is Bharat". I do not think it anyways diminishes the sanctity of the term Bharat which is ingrained in all of us who inhabit this vast sub-continent since times immemorial. To put the record straight, many states of South India prefer the name India far more and it will be politically prudent to respect their views too.

Coming back to the hallowed profession I have served---- at each Sainik Sammelan or any formal function, all Army units after raising their unit slogan end the event with a full throated 'BHARAT MATA KI JAI.' In India our diversity propels us to take all sections of our society with each other. That is the strength and beauty of this ancient land. For all of us, in uniform and out of it, Mother India and Bharat Mata are the same noble creation.

If some feel rather strongly about the so-called colonial heritage existing let the use of the name Bharat be gradually increased but without touching or tampering with the existing nomenclature. For me, India is my religion, my reason-to-be and as the strains of the national anthem 'Bharat bhagya vidhata' bring a lump in my throat, the vigour of 'Chak De India' rejuvenates me in my old age. Our belief remains indelibly enshrined that 'Sare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara' is an eternal truism.

Lt Gen Kamal Davar is a former Army officer

PERSPECTIVE
RISE IN STATURE

INDIA CONSIDERING PROPOSAL TO HOST QUAD SUMMIT IS A WELCOME MOVE

In what is a welcome move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have started serious consultations with his top advisors and diplomatic officials on the proposal of holding the Quad Summit in New Delhi early 2024. Some officials, who are learnt to be privy to inside discussions, in the diplomatic establishments here are confident that India will definitely host the next Quad summit in 2024. The date is yet to be finalized.

PM Modi is reported to have asked the officials concerned to start initial preparation for the event in anticipation. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is likely to hold talks with his counterparts of the other Quad member countries -USA, Japan and Australia - on the margins of UNGA high-level meeting to be held on 26 September in New York, is expected to finalise the date and venue for the next Quad summit. New Delhi as the next venue for the group's leaders' summit is likely to be finalized during the Quad foreign ministers' meeting in New York. If New Delhi is finalized as the next venue for the Quad summit, it will be another important event in India after the recently-held G-20 Summit. Another summit of the powerful world leaders of a significant bloc in New Delhi will further bolster and boost India's image as an important and

indispensable partner in the Indo-Pacific and other key regions of the world. It will further strengthen India's image as a responsible and powerful country when it comes to addressing the humanitarian and other territorial challenges. Needless to say, the Quad, a coalition forged by India, Japan, Australia and the United States to counter China's hegemonic aspirations in the Indo-Pacific region, relies heavily on the guidance and advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Though China has called the grouping a divisive and exclusivist bloc "being used by Washington against Beijing", PM Modi has been able to establish Quad's image as a group for global good. Modi always made it a point to extend help to the countries in trouble to address the humanitarian crisis there. He also involved the Quad members in such missions. Modi has already said on many occasions that the group is an important platform for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quad's mission is also to advance a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific region.

There is no denying, if the Quad summit happens in New Delhi, it will be a meaningful message for Beijing as well. The Quad summit in India will be a much-needed opportunity for New Delhi, Washington, Canberra and Tokyo to serve the hardest possible message to Beijing on the issue of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the other countries in the backdrop of PLA's aggression along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in various sectors including eastern Ladakh. Once India is given the responsibility of hosting the Quad summit early next year, the Indian side will, definitely, be ready with the right message for the Chinese government from the soil of New Delhi. With all this in view, the Modi government is expected to make every possible effort to ensure that the summit of this powerful bloc is held in New Delhi in 2024.

What is being seen as another good move by the Modi government is that it is considering inviting leaders of the Quad grouping for the Republic Day celebrations next year. Such a get-together of leaders of the powerful countries and major players in the Indo-Pacific would definitely pose a significant picture having a strategic message for China and other countries which defy international laws and customs on regional peace, respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of other nations..

T. BRAJESH

VASUDHAIV KUDAMBAKAM

At G-20 India positions itself as global thought leader



ATIR KHAN
It may take some time for India to become a world leader but at the G-20 Summit Bharat has already proved that it has truly become a global thought leader.

In a world where there is a struggle for and use of power among nations Prime Minister Modi has reminded the world about the ancient Indian philosophy of 'One Earth, One Family & One Future' (Vasudhaiv Kudambakam). The concept India has always promoted.

This is an idea holds the wisdom of ancient Indian civilization, making India a more convincing nation to lead the idea. It charts the future path for nations in the ever-changing and dynamic nature of the world.

Thirty-eight years ago, pop music King Michael Jackson and noted singer Lionel Richie along with Quincy Jones had produced a song called - 'We are the World,' it was a best-selling charity song of all times... following were the lyrics...

There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must come

together as one
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all
The song was produced for the charity of devastating famine in Ethiopia, an east African country. And had attracted the attention to the plight of African countries.

It was perhaps for the first time that a collective consciousness of world's leading artists moved and they thought of doing some public good for a famine, which happened in an alien country. But the world failed to take the cue. During Covid 19 pandemic we have seen that the existing world bodies were ineffective in bringing the world together for the common good.

Going back to the song sadly, the idea - 'We are the world' of the 1985 song album of American pop artists was held in abeyance. Though it was propagated by world's most popular singers of that time, it was not given the due attention.

Thirty-eight years later at the G-20 Summit, Bharat has etched its name in the history for inclusivity. It has not just lobbied but also made it possible for African Union to become a member of G-20.

With the entry of African Union G-20 has now become G-21 and conscious of the concerns of more than 1.4 billion people with an economy of more than \$3 trillion. It is



a significant milestone in history where Bharat has been the leader.

Under the vision of Mahatma Gandhi India as a country has stood up against apartheid in the Africa even before it got its independence. The country has again risen to the occasion and the gavel of India's G-20 Presidency has brought in African Union into the fold.

Until this happened G-20 was largely dominated by countries, which colonized the world, now it has representation from those countries which were colonized as well. If we look back into the history of the post-modern world of materialism, the Western countries were busy with their own vested interests. They did not pay much attention to the wisdom of noble ideas such as Vasudhaiv Kudambakam. But today the world has re-

alized that if the prevailing trust deficit in the world has to be removed, then this idea is the key.

At the Summit Prime Minister Modi reminded the world that the trust deficit which crept in the world during Covid-19 pandemic and exacerbated with the Russia-Ukraine war. This feeling of doubt can only go away only when the world adopts collective values of peace and empathy.

In the backdrop of 'Vasudhaiv Kudambakam, American philosopher Ken Wilber's Integral Theory also becomes relevant. Ken is inspired by the Indian values and the ideas of the East.

He states there is a need to create a synthesis of the wisdoms and insights already available to humanity in a coherent way that can provide a practical map for navigating our future.

His works include synthesis of both Eastern and Western world, from science and religion, and from the perspectives of pre-modern, modern and post-modern world.

Ken believes that nothing is hundred per cent right or wrong, they merely vary in their degree of incompleteness and dysfunction. No one or nothing is 100 per cent good or evil, they vary in their degree of ignorance and disconnection. All knowledge is work in progress.

Leaps in evolution usually occur in a manner of 'transcending and including,' not by wiping out what came before. He asserts that the rational thought did not eliminate emotion but included it into a greater developmental level of consciousness.

Industrial societies did not wipe out agriculture but

transcended agriculture into greater levels of efficiency and prosperity. If we are going to truly evolve, we do so by including and integrating what came before into something greater, not wiping it out.

The first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru understood that after the Independence, the country needed a balanced approach for development and not the one which priorities materialism, a system which has led to spiritual bankruptcy and has become a cause of all environmental and manmade disasters. That is why Prime Minister Modi reminded the world about what the priorities should be. That the GDP cannot be the true indicator of happiness, the need of the hour is a human-centric approach, for which India has always stood for.

Objectively seeing national interest and security are the goal that each country strives to achieve by the use of national power over other countries. Every country looks to safeguard its own interests.

The G-20 is primarily an economic summit, but in such a submit when India highlights the concept of Vasudhaiv Kudambakam, it shows its commitment towards peace and prosperity of the entire world.

Atir Khan is a Delhi-based senior journalist

IN COURT

DELHI HC AGREES TO HEAR PLEA SEEKING UPSC PRELIMS ANSWER KEY PUBLICATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a petition filed by 17 unsuccessful UPSC aspirants who are seeking the publication of the answer key for the preliminary civil services examination conducted earlier this year.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh rejected UPSC's argument that the petition should not be entertained by the high court, stating that the matter involves the adjudication of legal and fundamental rights of the candidates, including issues related to fair play, legitimate expectation, and the right to know.

The petitioners, who did not secure qualifying marks in the preliminary examination, challenged a June press note issued by the UPSC, which stated that the answer key would only be released after the declaration of the final result.

The court said in its order,



"The claims of the petitioners prima facie pertain to the concerns surrounding the facets of fair play and the right to know as well as the fundamental rights of the candidates and as such would require this Court to test the same by delving into the domain of administrative law and constitutional provisions."

"Where the enforcement and protection of fundamental rights or any rights of a person is sought, this court cannot look the other way... Accordingly, the petition stands admitted. List for

arguments on merits on 26th September 2023," it added.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had argued that only the Central Administrative Tribunal had the authority to deal with recruitment-related issues by the UPSC. However, the court concluded that directing the UPSC to release the answer key did not fall under the scope of "recruitment" and therefore did not require the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal.

The court noted that asking for the answer key, which

could be used to assess candidates' performance, did not constitute interference in the recruitment process. The court emphasized that the preliminary examination was a qualifying exam and that the petitioners were only requesting the disclosure of the answer key before the entire process was completed.

The petitioners had initially sought the quashing of the Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2023 but later decided to focus on their demand for the publication of the answer key.

They argued that timely publication of the answer key was in the public interest and would help candidates assess their performance and reduce the burden on the system. They also criticized the vague nature of some of the exam questions, which they said relied heavily on guesswork.

The UPSC countered that the integrity of the examination process had to

be protected and that the examinations had to be conducted in a time-bound manner.

The court had previously refused to stay the UPSC's decision to invite applications for the Civil Services (Main) Examination 2023 while dismissing an application by the petitioners.

The petitioners pointed out that other competitive exam authorities release provisional answer keys shortly after the exams, inviting objections from candidates. They then release final answer keys based on the modifications made in response to objections.

The UPSC, in contrast, had stated that the answer keys for the Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2023 would only be released after the entire examination process was completed, including the declaration of the final result. The case will be further considered by the court in the coming weeks.

IN COURT

Rajasthan Court Sentences Two to 20 Years for Abduction and Rape of Minor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bundi district court in Rajasthan has sentenced a man and a woman to 20 years of imprisonment each for the abduction and rape of a minor that occurred more than three years ago. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court found Manoj Kumar Mali (27), a resi-

dent of the Talera police station area in Bundi, and Devki Mali (28) of Terath village in the same district guilty of abducting and raping a minor girl from the Lakheri police station area in January 2020, according to public prosecutor Rakesh Thakur.

The court also imposed fines of Rs 50,000 on Manoj Kumar and Rs 65,000 on Devki Mali.

The survivor's father had filed a report on January 24, 2020, against Devki, alleging that she had abducted his minor daughter as she was last seen with her, he said. After being rescued later in the same month, the minor alleged that Devki took her to Sathel village, where she was forcibly married off for money to Bheru Mali, who repeatedly raped her.

IN COURT

K'taka HC Recommends Timings Adjustment to Alleviate Bengaluru Traffic Woes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

During the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) addressing the worsening traffic situation in Bengaluru city, the High Court of Karnataka has recommended that the State Government explore the option of adjusting the timings of educational institutions and various industries and corporate businesses.

A bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit suggested that the Secretary of Industries and Labour organize a meeting with representatives of industries, factories, the Chamber of Commerce, and other stakeholders to gather their input on revising timings in factories, commercial enterprises, and workplaces.

"The State Government, through the Secretary of



School Education and Higher Education, may convene a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the possibility of adjusting school timings. This could help alleviate traffic issues while also considering the safety and security of children," the bench stated.

The PIL filed by Samarpana Trust in 2020, sought the implementation of a 2014 Supreme Court directive to address traffic congestion in cities. It specifically focused on the need for sci-

entific traffic management between Mekhri Circle and the BDA head office.

Additionally, the bench directed the authorities to provide a project report on the expansion of the Namma Metro lines in the 2023-24 period. The state government was also directed to submit a status report outlining the actions taken to address the traffic situation. The hearing of the matter was adjourned for six weeks.

IN COURT

Elahi Arrest Case: LHC Issues Bailable Warrant against IG Islamabad

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

The Lahore High Court has recently issued a bailable arrest warrant against Islamabad Inspector General of Police Dr. Akbar Nisar Khan for not appearing before the court in a contempt case related to the arrest of PTI Chairman Pervez Elahi.

Previously, on September 1, the Islamabad police re-arrested Elahi near his residence soon after the Lahore High Court (LHC) set him free and issued a restraining order against his possible arrest by any agency or preventive detention. After the re-arrest, the PTI president's wife, Qaisara Elahi, filed 2 pleas in the LHC, seeking directions for the relevant authorities for presenting him in court and contempt proceedings against Punjab police officials on the grounds of "wilful disobedience". On Sept 4, the LHC issued a show-cause notice for contempt of court to IGP Khan while hearing the plea for the production of Parvez in court. Prior to a day before, the LHC directed him to appear before the court in a personal capacity on Sept 6 along with Elahi. But during the Sept 6 hearing, the Islamabad advocate general informed the court that the Islamabad IG could not comply with its directive as he had to appear before the Supreme Court.

Subsequently, LHC Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf resumed hearing of the contempt plea today. Therefore, the court ruled that a bailable warrant was to be issued for his arrest "in the sum of Rs50,000 executable through the superintendent of police concerned returnable to the learned sessions judge, Islamabad".

The order stated respondents that had filed their replies in the case while the Punjab police chief had also submitted his report as per the Lahore High Court's Sept 4 order. The order added, the petitioner's counsel wanted to go through the report and permission for that had been granted.

The hearing was adjourned till Sept 18.

IN COURT

UNAUTHORIZED MOSQUES: DELHI HC ASKS RAILWAY TO PROVIDE LAND RECORDS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the railways to provide records related to removal notices affixed to two mosques at Tilak Marg and Babar Road, citing them as "unauthorized" structures on railway land.

Justice Prateek Jalan granted the administration additional time to respond to the petition filed by the Delhi Waqf Board, asserting that these notices were "generic." The board contends that the Masjid Takia Babbar Shah near the Railway Bridge at Tilak Marg and Masjid Bachchu Shah, also known as Bengali Market Mosque, are not unauthorized, and the land does not belong to the railways.

The single bench expressed surprise at the lack of specific details on the notices and directed the relevant records to be presented to the court,



stating, "I want to see how the railway administration is issuing notices without mentioning property, date."

The central government counsel stated that the notices were issued by railway authorities and were done so with the full knowledge of the concerned parties. He requested the opportunity to file an affidavit and assured that the notices were posted

with full knowledge.

The court granted four weeks for the filing of a counter affidavit at the request of the respondent's counsel and ordered the production of the relevant records.

Earlier, on July 26, the court issued an interim order instructing the railways not to take any action based on the notices affixed to the two mosques. The court had

noted that the notices lacked signatures, did not specify the issuing authority, and could have been attached to any structure.

The petition, which aims to quash the notices attached to the mosques, argues that both the Bengali Market Mosque (approximately 250 years old) and the Tilak Marg Mosque (400 years old) have been in existence for centuries and have duly registered agreements from 1945 transferring their management to the Sunni Majlis Auqaf. The petition asserts that the mosques are not unauthorized and that the notices threaten their existence.

The petition also highlights previous instances of waqf properties being demolished and expresses concerns about the intent to demolish the mosques or waqf properties in this case.

The matter is scheduled to be heard next on January 30, 2023.

IN COURT

MOSER BAER CASE: BHATNAGAR MOVES DELHI COURT FOR BAIL PLEA, HEARING TOMORROW

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday listed a bail plea moved by Nitin Bhatnagar for Thursday, a Maltese citizen arrested in connection with his alleged involvement in the offence of Money Laundering in a case of M/s Moser Baer India Ltd. and others.

Bhatnagar was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 on August 22, 2023.

Special Judge Raghubir Singh sought response from the ED and listed the matter for Thursday, September 14 for arguments.

Furthermore, the court also extended the judicial custody of Bhatnagar till September 26.

Bhatnagar was produced



before the court after the end of his judicial remand period. Senior Advocate Pramod Kumar Dubey appeared for Nitin Bhatnagar. According

to ED, the investigation was initiated against M/s Moser Baer India Ltd. and others under th Displaying 3.-IN-DIA-AEROFLEX.jpg.

IN COURT

LMV License holder can Operate Transport Vehicle? SC Asks Center

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Central Government if a change in the law is needed regarding whether an individual holding a driving license for a light motor vehicle can legally operate a transport vehicle of a specific weight.

A constitution bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, along with Justices Hrishikesh Roy, P S Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra emphasized that these are policy matters affecting the livelihoods of many people and urged the government to reevaluate the issue at the policy level.

The court further asked the Union government to complete this review within two months and inform the court of its decision. It



stressed that any interpretation of the law must consider concerns related to road safety and the safety of other public transport users.

The Apex Court had previously sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani to address the legal question of whether a person with a driving license for a light motor vehicle can legally operate a

transport vehicle of a specific weight. The constitution bench mentioned the importance of understanding the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' position, particularly after it was argued that the apex court's 2017 judgment in the case of Mukund Dewangan Vs Oriental Insurance Company Limited was accepted by the Centre, and rules

were amended to align with the judgment.

In the Mukund Dewangan case, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court had determined that transport vehicles with a gross weight not exceeding 7,500 kg were not excluded from the definition of LMV (light motor vehicle). The constitution bench is addressing the question: "Whether a person holding a driving licence in respect of 'light motor vehicle' could on the strength of that licence, be entitled to drive a 'transport vehicle of light motor vehicle class' having unladen weight not exceeding 7,500 kg." The matter was referred to the larger bench on March 8, 2022, and has raised various disputes related to insurance claims in accidents involving transport vehicles driven by individuals with LMV licenses.

IN COURT

SC AGREES TO HEAR PLEA CHALLENGING ALLEGED FAKE ENCOUNTERS IN GUJARAT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said that the two separate petitions seeking investigation into the alleged fake encounters in Gujarat from 2002 to 2006 will come up for hearing after next week.

These petitions were originally filed in 2007, one by senior journalist BG Verghese and the other by noted lyricist Javed Akhtar and Shabnam Hashmi. It's worth noting that BG Verghese passed away in 2014.

The matter was brought before a bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that a letter requesting an adjournment of the hearing had been circulated by one of the parties. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who is representing certain



private respondents in the case, was unavailable due to health reasons.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing one of the petitioners, pointed out that this matter had been pending for an extended period. He also mentioned that the report from the Justice HS Bedi committee, which had investigated multiple cases of alleged fake encounters in Gujarat from 2002 to 2006, had been submitted quite some

time ago.

"The pleas will maintain their position on the board as one of the concerned parties is unwell," remarked the bench.

Justice Bedi, a former apex court judge, had been appointed as the chairman of the monitoring committee responsible for investigating 17 alleged fake encounter cases in Gujarat from 2002 to 2006. In 2019, he submitted a report to the Supreme Court in a sealed

cover. The committee recommended the prosecution of police officials in three out of the 17 cases it examined.

The bench acknowledged a request that the petitions be scheduled for a hearing after the next week.

Back on April 10, the Gujarat government had expressed reservations about the Supreme Court sharing available material with the petitioners, raising "serious doubts" about their locus standi (the right to bring an action in court) and motives.

The state's solicitor general, representing Gujarat, had informed the top court that the petitioners were solely concerned with encounters that occurred in Gujarat, neglecting those in other states, including their own. Prashant Bhushan referred to a previous judgment of the apex court and emphasized that it had established detailed guide-

lines for handling cases of fake encounters.

In its order dated April 10, the bench noted, "Counsel for the state submits that the material encounter-wise has been segregated and the paper books prepared but reservation has been expressed on sharing the same with the petitioners. This reservation is joined in by Mukul Rohatgi appearing for the three officers. Thus, we have to address this issue." On January 18, when dealing with these petitions, the Supreme Court observed that, after hearing the advocates for the parties, it became clear that the issue now primarily revolved around three encounters.

In its final report submitted to the apex court, the Justice Bedi committee stated that three individuals—Sameer Khan, Kasam Jafar, and Haji Ismail—were prima facie killed in fake encounters involving Gujarat

Police officials. The committee indicted a total of nine police officials, including three inspector rank officers, but did not recommend the prosecution of any IPS officer.

On January 9, 2019, a bench led by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi rejected the Gujarat government's request to keep the final report of the committee confidential and ordered that it be provided to the petitioners.

The committee also addressed 14 other cases involving alleged fake encounter killings of individuals with names including Mithu Umar Dafer, Anil Bipin Misra, Mahesh, Rajeshwar, Kashyap Harpalsingh Dhaka, Salim Gagji Miyana, Jala Popat Devipujak, Rafiksha, Bheema Maanda Mer, Jogindrasinh Khatansing, Ganesh Khunte, Mahendra Jadav, Subhash Bhaskar Nayyar, and Sanjay.

IN COURT

Supreme Court Data Will Now Be Available On National Judicial Data Grid: CJJ

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday announced that the Supreme Court will soon be linked to the National Judicial Data Grid, a repository of data relating to pendency of cases and disposal rate of courts right from the taluka level to the national level.

Currently, the portal shows data only up to the high court level.

As the CJJ started the day's proceedings in the apex court, he stated that data of the top court will be uploaded on the NJDG on real time basis.

The CJJ stated, "A small announcement. It is a historic day. It is a unique and informative platform which is developed by the NIC and in house team of Supreme Court. Now at the click of a button you can see real time information

on pendency and disposal of cases, year-wise, total pendency of registered and unregistered cases, number of cases decided quorum-wise."

Furthermore, the CJJ stated that uploading of data on the NJDG will ensure transparency and accountability in the judicial domain.

The NJDG is a database of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 district and subordinate courts and high courts created an online platform under the eCourts Project. Data is updated on a near real-time basis by the connected district and taluka courts.

It provides the data relating to the judicial proceedings and decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. All high courts have also joined the NJDG through web services, providing easy access facility to the litigant public.

IN COURT

Inferior Quality Coal: Madras HC Sets Aside Lower Court Order Granting Bail To Accused

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court has recently set aside a trial court order in the city, granting bail to Ahmed Buhari, arrested by the ED in connection with a money laundering case linked to the import of inferior quality coal and its supply to the public sector undertaking in India as a superior quality by inflating its price.

Allowing a petition filed by the ED, Justice G Jayachandran set aside an order of the XIII CBI Court (Special Court for PMLA cases), dated August 16, 2023, while granting bail to the accused.

The grant of bail in haste without making the detailed order throws suspicion over the conduct of the trial court.

However, the judge stated that this Court was not dwelling upon that aspect since this matter was for the High Court administra-



tive side to take note and proceed. The allegation was that Buhari generated over Rs 564 crore through the overvaluation of coal and diverted more than Rs 557 crore through his companies. The judge added that the materials placed indicate that the accused can't be presumed to be not guilty at this juncture.

The judge stated the delay

in completing the investigation by the CBI that can't be a ground to presume that the accused was not guilty of a money laundering offense. Closure of investigation in a similar case also can't be a reason to presume that the present case will also end in a closure report. Ifs and buts can't be an adequate reason to hold this petitioner not prima facie guilty of the al-

leged offense.

The judge added, "no doubt personal liberty was a fundamental right of a person, yet, subject to reasonable restriction. Prolonged trial or incarceration pending trial was the antithesis of fundamental right. However, the reasonable restriction and the interest of the nation can't be ignored while taking note of the fundamental right of an individual."

Furthermore, in this case, records reveal that about 169 consignments with inflated prices being encashed fraudulently by the petitioner through his company and the money has gone out of the country. The provisional attachment of the property by efflux of time lost its enforceability and therefore if the petitioner was enlarged on bail, apart from repeating similar crime by floating new company, the danger of him fleeing from the hands of justice also can't be ruled out.

IN COURT

RAJASTHAN HC ASKS RAMDEV TO APPEAR BEFORE IO AFTER FIR REGISTERED

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan High Court has recently directed Yoga Guru Ramdev to appear on October 5 at Barmer's Chohtan police station for questioning in connection with an FIR launched against him for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, while extending the stay on his arrest.

The court directed Ramdev to appear before the Investigating Officer (IO) as and when called by him and also directed the counsel of government to produce the case diary in the court on October 16.

It extended the stay on Ramdev's arrest till then.

Justice Kuldeep Mathur gave these directions on Monday while hearing a criminal miscellaneous petition by Ramdev praying for the quashing of the FIR.

The order stated, "The petitioner is directed to appear before the Investigating Officer for interrogation on 05.10.2023 at 11.30 am. The petitioner is further directed



to appear before the Investigating Officer as and when called by him for interrogation."

However, the court stayed the arrest of Ramdev during the previous hearing and directed him to appear before the investigating officer for interrogation on or before May 20. But he didn't ap-

pear before the investigating officer.

The complaint was filed against the yoga guru at Barmer's Chohtan police station on February 5 by Pathai Khan for allegedly making remarks against Muslims at a religious event in Barmer on February 2. Chohtan police then

booked him under the charges of inciting hatred and upsetting religious sentiments.

In his complaint, Khan alleged that Ramdev made his remarks "deliberately... so that a spirit of animosity and hatred is formed against Islam" and that they "hurt the feelings of crores of Muslims".

IN COURT

HAPUR INCIDENT: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE CONVENES MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16 TO ADDRESS LAWYERS GRIEVANCES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The judicial committee constituted by the Allahabad High Court to investigate the clash that broke out between the advocates and police in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district on August 29, will meet on September 16.

According to the statement, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee been formed to look into the grievances raised at the Bar in respect of the incident that occurred in Hapur.

The tension escalated between the police and

lawyers as Hapur Bar Association's officials and members earlier on August 29 staged a protest over an alleged 'fabricated' case filed against a woman lawyer and her father and the police resorted to lathi-charge against the lawyers.

The official statement stated, "A Committee with its Chairman as Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta has been constituted to look into the grievances raised at the Bar in respect of the incident that occurred in District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. The Chairperson of the Committee has been pleased to direct that the committee shall hold its meeting in the Committee Room, of the Al-



lahabad High Court at 11.00 A.M. on 16.09.2023."

Furthermore, the statement stated that people

can also participate in the proceedings virtually, for

which the VC link will be uploaded shortly.

It stated, "By this notice, the persons aggrieved in the incident/members of the Public concerned are hereby informed that they may place their grievance/relevant material in the matter, before the Committee for its consideration. Those interested in participating in the proceedings in the virtual mode may do so, for which the VC link for joining the Committee proceedings virtually shall be uploaded shortly."

Earlier, an official statement stated, a 3-member inquiry committee was constituted by the UP Chief minister Yogi Adityanath to investigate the incident of alleged Police violence

on lawyers at Hapur.

A statement from CMO, UP stated, "In connection with the Hapur incident, a three-member inquiry committee was constituted by CM Yogi Adityanath under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Meerut."

According to the statement, apart from Inspector General Meerut and Deputy Inspector General of Police Moradabad, Harinath Pandey, Retd Principal Judge, Family Court, Lucknow has also been included in this committee.

It added, "Further, a four-member inquiry committee has been asked to investigate all aspects of the incident and submit a report."

TOP OF THE DAY

LOUISIANA SCHOOL SHOOTING: 1 DEAD, 2 INJURED, CLASSES CANCELED

GREENSBURG: Classes are cancelled at a Louisiana high school where a student was shot to death and two others were injured, authorities said. The names and ages of the victims of the shooting at St. Helena College & Career Academy in Greensburg have not been released. Law enforcement officials said they arrested the suspected shooter, a 14-year-old student Tuesday after the shooting. "This is such a senseless tragedy and my prayers go out to the families of all involved and to the St. Helena community that were affected by this tragedy," Sheriff Nat Williams said in a post on Facebook. His office hadn't released the charges the suspect faces, or information about the events that led up to the shooting.

ARGENTINA SHUTS DOWN NAZI-PRISING BOOK PUBLISHER, 1 ARREST

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Federal Police shut down a publisher that sold books that praised Nazi ideology, seized hundreds of texts and arrested one person as part of what authorities characterised as a "historic seizure" of Nazi propaganda, officials said. Law enforcement officers seized around 230 books during Tuesday's raids in the town of San Isidro, north of Buenos Aires, in which officials said they seized the largest number of texts praising Nazi ideology in recent years. "We're still astonished by the amount of material from what is truly a printing press for the dissemination and sale of Nazi symbolism, books and indoctrination," Police Commissioner General said.

PRO-BOLSONARO RIOTERS ON TRIAL FOR STORMING

SAO PAULO: Brazil's Supreme Court justices on Wednesday began deciding whether to convict defendants accused of storming top government offices on January 8 in an alleged bid to forcefully restore former President Jair Bolsonaro to office. Bolsonaro supporter Aécio Lucio Costa Pereira, 51, was first in line. In January, cameras at the Senate filmed him wearing a shirt calling for a military coup and recording a video of himself praising others who had also broken into the building. Almost 1,500 people were detained on the day of the riots, though most have been released.

FORMER NYC BUILDINGS COMMISSIONER SURRENDERS IN BRIBERY CASE

NEW YORK: New York City's onetime top building-safety official took cash, New York Mets tickets, a discount on a luxury apartment and other bribes from a real estate developer, a restaurateur and others and repaid them with favours, prosecutors said Wednesday. Former Buildings Commissioner Eric Ulrich was awaiting arraignment on bribery, conspiracy and other charges; six co-defendants were charged with bribery.

STRENGTHEN TIES

PUTIN ACCEPTS INVITE FROM KIM JONG UN TO VISIT N.KOREA

TDG NETWORK MOSCOW

Following their first face-to-face summit in four years, Russian President Vladimir Putin has accepted an invitation from Kim Jong Un to visit North Korea, Al Jazeera reported.

North Korea's Kim is in Russia's Far East as Putin seeks to strengthen ties in the midst of Russia's protracted conflict in Ukraine, in addition to advancing his nation's military modernisation. After more than four hours of discussions and a visit to the Vostochny Cosmodrome space centre, he extended the offer to Putin at "a convenient time" at a reception to mark the end of the day.

"Putin accepted the invitation with pleasure and reaffirmed his will to in-



Russian President Vladimir Putin & North Korea leader Kim Jong Un

variably carry forward the history and tradition of the Russia-DPRK friendship," Al Jazeera reported North Korean state news agency KCNA as saying on Thursday. As a result of the talks in Russia, there is worry not only in the US but also internationally that Kim may be prepared to supply Moscow with weapons for its conflict in Ukraine in exchange for technology that would help him advance his military objectives. In addition, the North Korean leader is anticipated to go to Vladivostok to see Russia's Pacific fleet and stop by an aviation factory. The director of the nation's weapons department, the defence minister, and the top military commander are all members of Kim's entourage. The two leaders also agreed to further strengthen strategic and tactical cooperation amid "military

threats, provocations and tyranny of imperialists," Al Jazeera reported citing KCNA. While speaking to reporters, Putin lauded the "strengthening of cooperation and friendship between our countries" and informed them that he saw "possibilities" for military co-operation with North Korea. Involved in the negotiations was Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who in July attended celebrations in Pyongyang honouring the armistice that put a stop to hostilities in the 1950-1953 Korean War on its 70th anniversary.

North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles just before Putin and Kim's meeting, the most recent in a series of tests that violated UN sanctions that forbid such actions. According to US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller, it is "troubling" that Russia is considering working with North Korea on projects that may go against UN Security Council resolutions. Yoko Kamikawa, Japan's newly appointed foreign minister, issued a similar caution against "violations" of UN resolutions. The resolutions, which were supported by Russia, prohibit the development of technologies that might be applied to North Korea's ballistic missile programmes.

DEVASTATING FLOODS

6000+ FATALITIES, 30,000 DISPLACED IN LIBYA'S FLOOD HAVOC

TDG NETWORK TRIPOLI

More than 6000 people have lost their lives due to heavy flooding that caused massive devastation across Libya, reported CNN on Wednesday. The death toll was revised on Wednesday morning local time, according to health ministry undersecretary of the Unity Government in Tripoli, Saadeddin Abdul Wakil.

According to workers, mortuaries are overflowing in hospitals that are still closed despite the pressing need to treat disaster survivors. As per Egypt's emigration ministry, the government buried 87 Egyptian victims who died in Libya. Authorities fear 10,000 more people remain missing, maybe swept out to sea or buried beneath rubble strewn over the metropolis that formerly housed over

FLOODS IN LIBYA AND INDIA'S HIMACHAL PRADESH

They are both tragic natural disasters, but they have some key differences:

- 1. Location and Scale**
Libya: The flooding in Libya affected a specific region, particularly Derna, and was caused by heavy flooding. It led to the loss of more than 6,000 lives and displaced over 30,000 people. It caused massive devastation in the affected areas.
Himachal Pradesh: The floods in Himachal Pradesh affected multiple districts, including Mandi, Shimla, Solan, and Kullu. The death toll reached 242, and around 400 roads were blocked. It was a significant disaster but on a smaller geographical scale compared to the Libya flooding.
- 2. Causes**
Libya: The flooding in Libya was primarily due to heavy rainfall, which overwhelmed the region's infrastructure and led to the flooding.
Himachal Pradesh: The floods in Himachal Pradesh were also caused by heavy rainfall, with Bilaspur receiving 180mm of rain. The hilly terrain of the region made it sus-

- 3. Response and Access to Affected Areas**
Libya: The flooding in Libya has made it difficult for humanitarian organizations to access some of the affected areas due to extensive damage to the region's infrastructure. Mortuaries are overflowing in hospitals, and there is a pressing need to treat disaster survivors.
Himachal Pradesh: While the flooding in Himachal Pradesh also caused significant damage and blocked roads, India has a relatively more extensive infrastructure and disaster response system. It's likely that access to affected areas and relief efforts were relatively smoother.
- 4. Death Toll and Missing Persons**
Libya: The reported death toll in Libya was over 6,000, and authorities feared that around 10,000 more people might be missing, possibly swept out to sea or buried beneath rubble.
Himachal Pradesh: The death toll in Himachal Pradesh reached 242, and there is no mention of a significant number of missing persons in the provided information.

100,000 people. The flooding in Derna has displaced over 30,000 people, according to the International Organisation for Migration

(IOM) in Libya. The extensive damage to the region's infrastructure has rendered some affected areas inaccessible to humanitarian organisations, CNN reported. Only two of the seven entry points to Derna are presently open. Officials are digging amid mountains of wreckage

EXTRATERRESTIAL PRESENCE

NASA TO RELEASE REPORT ON WHAT IT NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND UFO

TDG NETWORK CAPE CANAVERAL

After a yearlong study into UFOs, NASA is releasing a report Thursday on what it needs to better identify unidentified flying objects from a scientific point of view. Don't get your hopes up. At the one and only public meeting earlier this year, the independent team selected by the space agency insisted there is no conclusive evidence of extraterrestrial life associated with UFOs.

No top-secret files were accessed by the scientists, aviation and artificial intelligence experts, and retired NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, the first American to spend nearly a



year in space. Instead, the 16-member group relied on unclassified data in an attempt to better understand unexplained sightings in the sky. NASA said there are so few high-quality observations that no scientific conclusions can be drawn. The government refers to unexplained sightings as UAPs, or unidentified aerial phenomena. NASA defines them as observations in the sky that cannot be readily identified or scientifically explained.

THREAT ADVANCES

Residents on 'High Alert' as Hurricane Lee's heavy surf hits Bermuda

TDG NETWORK SAN JUAN

The outer bands of Hurricane Lee began to lash Bermuda late on Thursday as big surf pounded the island, with the Category 2 storm expected to make landfall on the coast of New England or Atlantic Canada over the weekend. The storm was located about 370 miles (595 kilometers) south-southwest of Bermuda. It had winds of up to 105 miles per hour (165 kilometers per hour) and was moving north-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph).

Lee was expected to pass just west of Bermuda, prompting forecasters to issue a tropical storm warning for the island.

"I cannot stress enough that we must all take this storm seriously," David Burch, acting national security minister, said in a press conference.

Bermuda's government announced it would shutter its airport at midday on Thursday and reopen it Friday. Banks, city parks and ferry service also were scheduled to shut down Thursday. Public schools would shutter Thursday and Friday.

"We don't want 4,000 little people wandering around the country in tropical storm winds," Burch

said. Lee is expected to grow in size and keep travelling north as it slowly loses strength in cooler waters. It is forecast to approach the coast of New England and Atlantic Canada on Friday and Saturday and remain a "large and dangerous hurricane", according to the National Hurricane Centre. A hurricane watch was issued from Stonington, Maine to the US-Canadian border. A tropical storm watch was issued for a large swath of coastal New England from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Stonington, Maine, including Block Island, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. A storm surge watch was issued for Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket.

"Due to Lee's large size, hazards will extend well away from the center, and there will be little to no significance on exactly where the center reaches the coast," the centre said. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 115 miles (185 kilometers) from Lee's center, and tropical-storm-force winds extended up to 240 miles (390 kilometers), the centre reported. It warned of wind, rain and coastal flooding for parts of New England and Atlantic Canada. The storm is ap-

proaching as New England struggled on Wednesday with flooding from unusually heavy rainfall unrelated to the hurricane that prompted the governor of Massachusetts to declare a state of emergency. Forecasters warned of dangerous surf and rip currents in Lesser Antilles, the British and US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the US East Coast. The conditions were starting to reach Atlantic Canada.

"I understand our community has been through a lot with back-to-back storms," Burch said, referring to Idalia, which spun past the island on Saturday as a post-tropical cyclone and has since dissipated. "I want to acknowledge the fatigue and concern many of you may be feeling right now." Meanwhile, Hurricane Margot was spinning through open Atlantic waters on Wednesday. It was located about 790 miles (1,270 kilometers) west-southwest of the Azores and had maximum sustained winds of 90 miles (150 kilometers). It was moving north at 7 mph (11 kph) and is expected to remain over open waters.

CRITICISING REMARK

TAIWAN FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES MUSK'S "INTEGRAL PART OF CHINA" COMMENT



Russian President Vladimir Putin & North Korea leader Kim Jong Un

TDG NETWORK TAIPEI

Slamming Elon Musk for calling Taiwan an "integral part of China," the Taiwan foreign minister has asserted that Taiwan is "not for sale". Musk, the owner of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), as well as the Tesla (TSLA.O) electric car company and Starlink satellite network has stated that Taiwan is an integral part of China. His remarks at the All-In Summit in Los Angeles were recorded and posted to YouTube this week.

"Their (Beijing's) policy has been to reunite Taiwan with China. From their standpoint, maybe it is analogous to Hawaii or something like that, like an integral part of China that is arbitrarily not part of China mostly because ... the US Pacific Fleet has stopped any sort of reunification effort by force," Musk said.

Responding to this, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, posted on X on Wednesday night, "Hope @elonmusk can also ask the #CCP to open @X to its people. Perhaps he thinks

banning it is a good policy, like turning off @Starlink to thwart #Ukraine's counter-strike against #Russia. Listen up. #Taiwan is not part of the #PRC & certainly not for sale! JW"

Taiwan has been claimed by the People's Republic of China as its territory. However, Taiwan's government claims that because the People's Republic of China has never ruled the island, it has no authority to claim sovereignty over it, speak for it, or represent it on the global stage, and that only the people of Taiwan can decide their future.

Taiwan was formally recognised by just 13 countries: Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, Eswatini, and the Vatican City. However, after Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan's president in 2016, nine countries shifted allegiances to China, and Beijing has amplified its diplomatic efforts to isolate Taiwan. Taiwan's government claims that it is a sovereign country with the right to state-to-state ties.

CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED

SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE: TRUMP'S LEGAL TEAM TO ACCESS CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS SAFELY



Former President Donald Trump

TDG NETWORK WASHINGTON

A federal judge in the case charging Donald Trump with illegally hoarding top secret documents at his Florida estate directed the former president on Wednesday to use a secure facility to review classified evidence and sharply restricted his ability to discuss that information with others.

US District Judge Aileen Cannon issued a protective order saying that Trump and his legal team cannot disclose classified information in the case to anyone other than the court, "government personnel who hold appropriate security clearances and have been determined to have a need-to-know" and others "specifically authorized to access that information".

The order from Cannon followed a sealed hearing this week between lawyers for Trump and two other defendants in the case and prosecutors on special counsel Jack Smith's team. It concerned a generally perfunctory, but in this case contested, issue of how the parties should be directed to handle the classified evidence at the centre of the indictment.

Lawyers for Trump had sought the right for him to "re-establish" the same se-

curity facility he was previously permitted as president to use to review classified information. Prosecutors strongly objected to the idea of setting up such a facility at Mar-a-Lago, where hundreds of documents marked classified were taken after Trump left office. They said he was seeking special treatment that no other defendant would get.

"In essence, he is asking to be the only defendant ever in a case involving classified information (at least to the Government's knowledge) who would be able to discuss classified information in a private residence," prosecutors wrote. "And of course, The Mar-a-Lago Club is even less suited than most residences to host a secure location, because it is a social club." Cannon's 16-page order on Wednesday did not reference Mar-a-Lago, suggesting she did not support the Trump request. Instead, she directed Trump and his legal team to use an accredited secure compartmented information facility, or SCIF, to review classified evidence. Cannon also said she's been advised that Trump's lawyers have at least interim security clearances, allowing them to have access to classified information.

MOSAIC OF CRACKS



A volunteer helps salvage furniture from homes which were damaged by the earthquake, in the town of Imi N'tala, outside Marrakech, Morocco on Wednesday. AP/PTI

HIGH-STAKES DIPLOMACY

SERBIA AND KOSOVO LEADERS CONVENE IN BRUSSELS FOR CHALLENGING TALKS

TDG NETWORK
BRUSSELS

The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo are holding a fresh round of meetings on Thursday aimed at improving their strained relations as calls mount for a change in the Western diplomatic approach toward them amid concern that their tensions could spiral out of control.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti are in Brussels for talks under the so-called Belgrade-Pristina dialogue process, supervised by European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. The last round of the dialogue in June ended without producing any obvious results. Vucic and Kurti

THE KOSOVA & SERBIA DISPUTE

The Serbia-Kosovo dispute revolves around Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008, leading to conflicting international recognitions. Despite ongoing EU-mediated talks, tensions persist, especially in Serb-majority areas. The situation remains complex, with no comprehensive resolution reached as of September 2021, underscoring the ongoing challenges in the region.

refused to meet face-to-face, and Borrell, who held talks separately with both men, conceded that they have "different interpretations of the causes and also the facts, consequences and solutions."

Serbia and its former province of Kosovo have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-99 war left more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians. Kosovo unilaterally

declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refused to recognise the move.

In May, in a dispute over the validity of local elections in the Serbian part of northern Kosovo, Serbs clashed with security forces, including NATO-led KFOR peacekeepers working there, injuring 93 troops. Last week, KFOR commander Maj. Gen. Angelo Michele Ristuccia warned that his forces "are living a

time frame of constant crisis management." He said that tensions between Belgrade and Pristina are so high that even "the most insignificant event can create a situation."

In August, senior lawmakers from the United States — the other diplomatic power in the process — warned that negotiators are not putting enough pressure on Vucic. They said that the West's current approach shows a "lack of evenhandedness."

Vucic, a former ultranationalist who now claims to want to take Serbia into the EU, has maintained close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin and has refused to impose sanctions on Russia over its war on Ukraine.

ANTI-EXTREMISM

US Military resumes Niger Base Counterterrorism operations

TDG NETWORK
NATIONAL HARBOUR

The US military has resumed counterterrorism missions in Niger, flying drones and other aircraft out of air bases in the country more than a month after a coup temporarily halted all those activities there, the head of US Air Forces for Europe and Africa said on Wednesday.

Since the July coup, the 1,100 US forces deployed in the country have been confined inside their military bases. Last week the Pentagon said some military personnel and assets had been moved from the air base near Niamey, which is the capital of Niger, to another in Agadez. Niamey is about 920 kilometers away from Agadez.



In recent weeks some of those intelligence and surveillance missions have been able to resume due to US negotiations with the junta, said Gen. James Hecker, the top Air Force commander for Europe and Africa.

"For a while we weren't doing any missions on the bases, they pretty much closed down the airfields," Hecker said. "Through the diplo-

matic process, we are now doing, I wouldn't say 100 per cent of the missions that we were doing before, but we're doing a large amount of missions that we're doing before." Hecker, who spoke to reporters at the annual Air and Space Forces Association convention at National Harbour, Maryland, said the US is flying both manned and unmanned

missions and that those flights resumed "within the last couple of weeks".

The significant distance between the two bases also means that the while flights are going out, some missions are "not getting as much data, because you're not overhead for as long" because of the amount of fuel it takes to get out and back, he said. The US has made Niger its main regional outpost for wide-ranging patrols by armed drones and other counterterror operations against Islamic extremist movements that over the years have seized territory, massacred civilians and battled foreign armies. The bases are a critical part of America's overall counterterrorism efforts in West Africa. The US has also in-

vested years and hundreds of millions of dollars in training Nigerian forces.

In 2018, fighters loyal to the Islamic State group ambushed and killed four American service members, four Nigeriens and an interpreter. West Africa recorded over 1,800 extremist attacks in the first six months of this year, which killed nearly 4,600 people, according to ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States. The Islamic extremist group Boko Haram operates in neighbouring Nigeria and Chad. Along Niger's borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara and al-Qaida affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin pose greater threats.

VIOLENT ATTACK

PAKISTANI PUNJAB CM ANNOUNCES RESTORING 9 OF 22 BURNT CHURCHES POST MOB VIOLENCE

TDG NETWORK
LAHORE

Pakistani authorities have so far been able to restore nine churches out of 22 burnt down by a violent mob over blasphemy allegations last month in the country's Punjab province, the state's caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Wednesday.

Over 6,000 people burned down 22 churches and 86 homes of Christians in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad on August 16 on desecration of Quran allegations. The mob was led by a radical Islamist party -- Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). Following the incident, police arrested around 200 people for attacking the churches and Christian houses.

"The renovation of nine churches has been completed in Jaranwala while the remaining 13 will be done



in next two weeks," Punjab caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi said while presiding over a meeting in Lahore. Naqvi had promised to restore the churches within a week following the incident but failed to do so. The CM on Wednesday also formed a team comprising three provincial ministers and senior officers to visit Jaranwala meet the Christian leaders and submit its report at the earliest. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) fact-finding mission's report, at least 24

churches and several dozen smaller chapels as well as scores of houses were torched and looted in a series of brutal mob-led attacks against the local Christian community on August 16 on allegations of blasphemy against a Christian man. It says the mob attack on Christian worship places, their residences, and the cemetery was part of a "larger hate campaign against local Christians" and questioned the open involvement of radical Islamists and the complicity of police in the incident.

SMOKE HAZE

Sydney blanketed by smoke for a 4th day due to hazard reduction burning

TDG NETWORK
SYDNEY

Sydney was blanketed under thick wood smoke for a fourth consecutive day on Thursday due to hazard reduction burns in preparation for the wildfire season. Australia's most populous city after Melbourne has recorded some of the world's worst air quality readings since the controlled burning of fuel loads in the surrounding landscapes began on Sunday.

Fire authorities have only carried out 14% of planned hazard reduction burns across New South Wales state as of this week and are attempting to catch up before what is forecast to be a hot and dry Southern Hemisphere summer. New South Wales Rural Fire Service Inspector Ben Shepherd said the burns were suspended on Thursday and Friday because of excessive pollution levels and that Sydney's air was expected to clear soon.

- **Extreme Fire Danger Looms** : Rising temperatures and windy conditions are expected to hinder hazard reduction efforts, increasing the risk of destructive wildfires in southeast Australia.
- **Comparisons to Black Summer** : The upcoming wildfire season is anticipated to be the most destructive since the catastrophic Black Summer wildfires of 2019-20, which resulted in significant loss of life and property.
- **Impact of Previous Wildfires** : The Black Summer fires killed at least 33 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and displaced residents. Smoke from these fires was responsible for an estimated 400 deaths.

"It's mostly due to the

smoke," Shepherd said of the postponements.

"For the next 48 hours, we'll give this smoke a chance to clear without fire agencies adding additional smoke to it," Shepherd added. Rain had prevented burning last week and an increased fire danger due to rising temperatures

and windy conditions was expected to prevent burning late next week. The coming wildfire season across southeast Australia is expected to be the most destructive since the catastrophic Black Summer wildfires of 2019-20. The fires killed at least 33 people including 10 fire-

fighters, destroyed more than 3,000 homes, razed 19 million hectares (47 million acres) and displaced thousands of residents.

Medical authorities estimated more than 400 people were killed by the smoke, which enveloped major cities. Since then, three successive La Lina weather events have brought unusually wet and mild summers. The rain has also created larger fuel loads and frustrated authorities' hazard reduction plans. Only a quarter of the hazard reduction target was achieved through controlled burning across New South Wales last fiscal year.

FATAL EXPLOSION

Gaza blast kills 5 Palestinians; Israel blames mishandled bomb

TDG NETWORK
GAZA CITY

At least five Palestinians were killed and over 20 others were wounded on Wednesday in an explosion next to the separation fence along the Israeli frontier with Gaza, Palestinian health officials said. The cause of the blast was not immediately known. The explosion took place during a demonstration along the border marking the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005. The event on Gaza's eastern border was organized by Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has governed the coastal territory since 2007.

The Israeli army, which

has fought four wars with Hamas, denied involvement. It said demonstrators were trying to throw a bomb over the fence when the device detonated prematurely. It released aerial footage showing a blast along the fence. Debris flew into the air, and several people could be seen running away.

Protesters brandishing flags had been burning fires along the separation fence to celebrate the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal. Suhail al-Hindi, a Hamas leader, praised the end of what he described as the "cruel Israeli occupation".

The demonstration turned violent before the deadly blast. The army said

demonstrators threw grenades and other explosives across the border, while soldiers responded with tear gas. Several of the 25 people wounded remain in serious condition.

Hamas seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007, a year after winning parliamentary elections. Israel and Egypt have maintained a crippling blockade on the territory since the Hamas takeover, in a measure that Israel says is needed to keep Hamas from arming. The blockade, which restricts movement of goods and people in and out of Gaza, has ravaged the local economy.

THE ANALYSIS

WHY BANGLADESH'S DEMOCRACY IS ON LIFE SUPPORT?

TDG NETWORK
OSLO

A potentially long political crisis is looming over Bangladesh before a date is even set for next year's elections.

Since its birth as an independent country in 1971, Bangladesh has had a troubled relationship with democracy and the rule of law, undergoing the assassination of its founding president and a series of coups and countercoups in its first decades. The political landscape has been characterised by an

array of governance systems, shifting between one-party rule, military control, electoral democracy and an autocracy under a civilian government. The country's political system now closely resembles Russia, with a group of oligarchs enjoying immense financial benefits and heavily invested in keeping the current regime in power. With an election coming in January 2024, the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has been raising the pressure, taking to

the streets in a series of massive rallies to demand the election be held under a neutral caretaker government. However, the governing Bangladesh Awami League, is adamant it will go ahead with the election under current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The last election took place in 2008 and catapulted Hasina to power the following year. Elections in 2014 and 2018 were marked by controversies. The 2014 election faced opposition boycotts.

Major liberal democracies including the US and Australia called for a new vote but India, Russia and China expressed no problem with the result. While the US voices concerns about democratic backsliding in Bangladesh, China and Russia continue to lend support to the current regime.

In an apparent rebuke to US pressure on Hasina, China's Ambassador to Bangladesh, a recently said his country would not meddle in Bangladesh's internal affairs, and

Russia denounced what it called interference by the US envoy in Bangladesh. A free and fair election would likely stop Bangladesh's authoritarian slide and pave the way for greater accountability.

The economy is struggling and unemployment is rising. For a country full of young people, with a larger Muslim population than Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran combined, a functioning democracy might offer the only chance to return a sense of optimism.

Take 5



5 SAFE SPOTS TO WITNESS LAVA FLOW

Ascending an active volcano demands a resilient spirit. The challenging landscape, extreme temperature fluctuations, hours of strenuous exertion, and the ever-present potential for a volcanic eruption, with lava cascading down the very slopes you're ascending, can be daunting. Fortunately, the latter scenario typically poses a minimal threat, and the gratification of witnessing lava pour into the ocean or erupt into the heavens justifies the arduous journey.

1 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, HAWAII

Two of Hawaii's six active volcanoes are contained within Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island. Kilauea, the star of the park, is one of the most active in the world, with nearly continuous eruption since 1983. In May 2021, the U.S. Geological Survey reported a cease in eruptions, although future ones are likely. When Kilauea's lava flows, eruptions are typically calm, and anyone can watch the bright orange molten rock flowing into the Pacific Ocean from a coastal lava viewing area about 900 feet from the flow itself.

2 ERTA ALE, ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's most active volcano is often described as "hell on Earth," and not just because of the rare lava lake in its crater. The journey to Erta Ale begins with a five-hour drive through the desert, which can wind up lasting a full day in harsh wind and sand conditions. The last part of the drive goes right through a bumpy field of hardened lava. From the base of Erta Ale, it's a three-hour hike in the dark.

3 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mount Nyiragongo has the world's largest lava lake in its crater. This stratovolcano is known for its fluid lava that flows almost like water. One of the most recent eruptions occurred in 2002, sending lava flowing into the city of Goma and killing around 170 people. The volcano also erupted in May of 2021, taking dozens of lives and homes in Goma.

4 MOUNT ETNA, ITALY

Mount Etna is actually comprised of several stratovolcanoes that have four distinct summit craters. It has a longer written history of eruptions than any other volcano, dating back to 425 B.C.E. Etna's history can be seen in the centuries-old solidified lava flows that reach nearby towns and villages. It may encounter slow-moving lava flowing from the numerous fissures and vents located at low altitude.

5 PACAYA, GUATEMALA

Guatemala's Pacaya is an active complex volcano that first erupted about 23,000 years ago and has been erupting near continuously since 1965. That it's close to Antigua and less than 20 miles from Guatemala City makes it an especially popular people attraction. Pacaya is part of the Central American Volcanic Arc, a chain of volcanoes stretching along the Pacific Coast of Central America.

-Bharti Naidu

TEASER

RANDEEP HOODA AND PRIYANKA CHOUDHARY SERVE UP EMOTION IN 'ZOHRAJABEEN'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The new release of the teaser for a song called «Zohrajabeen» composed by B. Praak. The song features actors Randeep Hooda and Priyanka Chahar Choudhary. It is described as a sad romantic track. Actor Randeep Hooda unveiled the teaser for his upcoming sad romantic track, 'Zohrajabeen'. Talking to Instagram, Randeep shared the teaser, which he captioned, «Pyaar poora ho ya adhura... Pyaar to pyaar hota hai #zohrajabeenteaseroutnow #Zohrajabeen15September ko aa raha hai! Stay tuned! The song will also cast Bigg Boss 16 fame Priyanka Chahar Choudhary. Song Sung by B Praak and Jaani has penned the lyrics of 'Zohrajabeen», while Arvind Khaira has directed the video. The full song will be out on



September 15. In the coming months, Randeep will be seen headlining 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar'. The film is a biopic of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar. Directed and co-written by Randeep Hooda with Utkarsh Naithani, Swatantra Veer Savarkar is produced by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures and Randeep Hooda Films with Legend Studios and Avak Films. Randeep made his debut with «Monsoon Wedding» and gained a lot of popularity with films such as «Once Upon a Time in Mumbai», «Saheb, Biwi Aur Gangster», «Rang Rasiya», «Jism 2», and many more.

PICTURE PERFECT

Artists wearing traditional attires perform during a dance drama 'Murlidhara Gopala' organised in collaboration with Nrityanjali Foundation and Culture department, at the International Buddhist Research Centre, Gomti Nagar, in Lucknow on Wednesday. (ANI).



NEW SEASON

'Takeshi's Castle' Gets a New Voice with Bhuvan Bam's Commentary

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

It's exciting to hear that «Takeshi's Castle» is making a comeback, and Bhuvan Bam has been roped in for commentary. Bhuvan Bam is a popular Indian YouTuber and content creator known for his humor and wit. Bhuvan Bam will be providing a uniquely Indian perspective and adding elements of fun and laughter as one of his most-loved characters, «Titu Mama» from BB Ki Vines. Popular gaming show «Takeshi's Castle» is returning with a brand-new season streaming giant Prime Video announced the Indian reboot of the popular 80s Japanese game show. The new season will retain the eccentricities that people saw in the original version swashbuckling adventures, fun set-ups, challenging games, and hilarious commentary. Commenting on the involvement in the iconic



show, Bhuvan Bam said, «Since the original version of Takeshi's Castle was on television, I have been an ardent fan of the concept, execution, and hilarity of the game show. It's highly nostalgic for me to have grown up seeing the show, and now voicing it is genuinely a full-circle moment. I don't think there is anyone in my generation who hasn't loved and enjoyed this mad-cap comedy. Being a part of this incredible game show is a privilege and an honor. As an entertainer, my viewers have always appreciated the unique yet relatable characters that I've portrayed, and I'm happy to bring a bit of my creative self to 'Titu Mama'. I am hopeful that the younger generation will love this show as much as we did.» Manish Menghani, direc-

tor, content licensing, Prime Video, India, expressed his views on rebooting the iconic show. «Takeshi's Castle is certainly one of the most iconic shows in India's television history. Not just in India, but across the globe, Takeshi's Castle has a huge fan following. As a global streaming service, our mission is to curate diverse content from all corners of the globe while preserving its relevance and resonance with our local audiences. We are thrilled to announce Bhuvan Bam as the voice of the brand-new season of Takeshi's Castle. We are sure that his uproarious and off-beat commentary on this iconic Japanese game show will have the viewers in splits. This show promises to rekindle nostalgia and offer an entirely fresh and exhilarating experience to younger audiences.» Manish said. Further details regarding the new season are awaited.

FILM FESTIVAL

BHUMI PEDNEKAR AND SHEHNAAZ GILL RAISE THE BAR FOR INDIAN CINEMA AT TIFF

TDG NETWORK
TORONTO

Actress Bhumi Pednekar and reality TV star Shehnaaz Gill have headed to Canada for the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The festival, known for showcasing a wide range of films from around the world, will be a platform for both actresses to promote their respective movies and engage in various events and activities. Bhumi Pednekar, known for her impactful performances in films like «Dum Laga Ke Haisha» and «Toilet: Ek Prem Katha», will be representing her upcoming film at the festival. The movie, which is yet to be announced, is expected to create a buzz among international audiences. On the other hand, Shehnaaz Gill, who

rose to fame with her appearance in the reality show «Bigg Boss», will also be attending TIFF to promote her debut film. The Punjabi actress has gained a massive fan following for her charismatic personality and is eagerly awaited by her fans to see her on the big screen. They believe that TIFF will provide them with a great platform to showcase their talent and make a mark in the international film industry. Bhumi Pednekar and Shehnaaz Gill's presence at TIFF will not only promote their individual films but also contribute to the growing recognition of Indian cinema on an international level.

The two, along with co-stars Kusha Kapila, Shibani Bedi, and Dolly Singh, left for Canada. They all shared snaps and videos from the flight. In one of the clips, Shehnaaz

is seen interacting with Bhumi. Sharing the same clip on her Instagram Story, Bhumi wrote, «You are our heart ki heroine, @shehnaazgill.» Bhumi and Shehnaaz could be seen twinning in pink sweatshirts. «Thank You for Coming» is directed by producer Rhea Kapoor's husband, Karan Boolani. The film also stars Anil Kapoor and Karan Kundrra. Anil Kapoor will also attend the special screening of the film at TIFF. Expressing excitement about the same, Anil Kapoor earlier said, «You know, I've been wanting to attend TIFF ever since Slumdog Millionaire! That year, I traveled to pretty much all the celebrated festivals for Slumdog, from BFI in London to Cannes and everything in between. «The only festival I couldn't attend then was TIFF.

BTS

SHAH RUKH KHAN'S CONTROVERSIAL LINE IN JAWAN WASN'T IN THE SCRIPT

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

It's interesting to know that the famous dialogue «Bete ko hath lagane se pehle, baap se baat kar» in Shah Rukh Khan's film «Jawan» was not originally part of the script but was added later. Sometimes, such spontaneous additions can enhance a scene and make it more impactful. In this case, it seems to have caught the attention of fans and added to the anticipation surrounding the film. It allows writers and directors to refine and improve the dialogue delivery while maintaining the core message and emotion of the scene. Detailing how the dialogue became a part of the movie, Arora said it was



joined in the film on the day of the shoot. «It's a story that will make you believe in the magic of moviemaking. That line was never there in our draft originally. The moment where SRK sir's character says the line was always there, and we all knew that it was a powerful moment even without a dialogue. But while shooting, it was felt that there should be a line, that this guy should say something,» the writer said in a statement. I was there on the set, so I was called in, and the first words

that came out of my mouth given the situation were: «bete ko hath lagane se pehle, baap se baat kar». It just fits in. Director Atlee and SRK sir both felt it's correct, and the shot was taken,» he added.

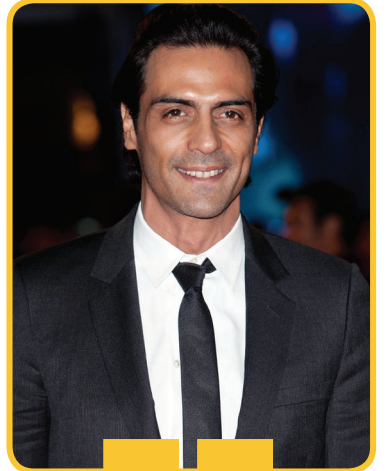
Directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee, the movie features Shah Rukh in the role of Vikram Rathore and his son Azad. The movie highlights various social and political issues through the story.

Arora said the team didn't expect that the dialogue would resonate with people in such a way. The way SRK sir delivered it gave us goosebumps. But we never thought that that line would become such a huge hit and would resonate with people in this way. As a writer, you can only write a line, but its destiny goes on to write itself,» he said.

BRAIN PICKING



Everybody can be desirable if they take care of themselves.



- ARJUN RAMPAL
(Bollywood Actor)

DEMISE

'CHAK DE! INDIA' AND 'DIL CHAHTA HAI' ACTOR RIO KAPADIA DIES

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Rio Kapadia, known for his roles in popular Bollywood films like «Chak De! India» and «Dil Chahta Hai», has passed away at the age of 66. His death is a loss to the film industry, as he was known for his versatile acting skills and memorable performances. A friend of the late actor issued an official statement: Dear friends, with great regret, I wish to inform you guys that our dear friend Rio Kapadia passed away at

12:30 pm.» Kapadia's last rites will take place in Mumbai on September 15, he said. Kapadia's last appearance was in «Made in Heaven 2,» where he portrayed the role of Mrunal Thakur's father. His film appearances also include «Mardaani» and «Happy New Year.» With a career spanning nearly three decades, Kapadia was also a model and acted in several hit TV shows such as «Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi,» «Sapne Suhane Ladakpan Ke,» «Kutumb,» and «Judwa Raja,» among others.

? QUIZOHOLIC

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

1. In which year was the International Day of Democracy first observed?
 - 2000
 - 2012
 - 2007
 - 1991
2. Which organization co-sponsors the International Day of Democracy along with the United Nations?
 - Amnesty International
 - International Monetary Fund
 - International IDEA
 - World Health Organization
3. In which year did the United Nations General Assembly designate September 15th as the International Day of Democracy?
 - 1999
 - 2015
 - 2004
 - 2010
4. What is the official slogan for the International Day of Democracy?
 - Democracy in Action
 - People Power, Global Prosperity
 - Your Voice, Your Vote
 - Freedom for All
5. Which country served as the host for the first International Day of Democracy in 2008?
 - United States
 - South Africa
 - Switzerland
 - Sweden

1. 2007 2. International IDEA, 3. 2004 4. Democracy in Action, 5. United States

Sometimes it's better to move on, than to hold on to a person who doesn't understand who you truly are. Unfortunately there will be times where your absence will teach you what your presence cannot. You need to stop breaking your own heart in trying to make a relationship work that clearly isn't meant to work to begin with. You can't force someone to genuinely care about you. You can't force someone to be faithful to you. You can't force someone to be the person you need them to be. The truth is, sometimes the person you want the most is the same person you would be best without. You have got to understand some things are meant to come into your life, just not meant to stay. Everything that you do to show love, you have to be careful, not to lose yourself by trying to fix what should never have been there in the first place. You can't get the relationship you need from someone who's not ready to reciprocate the love you give to them. I know it's hard when you meet someone and your heart feels, that's the person you could spend an eternity with, and you start to accept that they are not that person you thought they needed to be. And no matter how many times you cry yourself to sleep at night, you will eventually heal from your previous relationship and find the one you have always longed for. Your future will now bring an understanding of why things didn't work out in your previous relationships. One thing I have learned throughout the years, is «It is better to be single than to be in a relationship settling for less.» If they see you as an option, then they don't deserve to be a priority in your life. Take my advice and never chase someone who's not chasing you.

- By Bhavani Sundaram

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

STOP CHASING LOVE. LET LOVE FIND YOU
LAURA CLEGG

FASHION

TRENDY AIRPORT ATTIRE FOR A STYLISH JOURNEY

Looking for stylish and comfortable airport outfits for your upcoming trip? Check out our trendy suggestions to make sure you look good and feel cozy from the moment you leave home to when you arrive at your destination.



JUMPSUIT

A comfortable jumpsuit makes for a stylish and straightforward summer airport outfit. The versatility of this one-piece garment allows for various styling options, including pairing it with a denim jacket, coat, or sweater. It eliminates the hassle of coordinating separate tops and bottoms.

SWEATSUIT

Sweatsuits are both exceptionally comfortable and currently on-trend, making them a stylish choice for cute airport outfits.

DENIM

Denim is favored at airports due to its blend of comfort and style, making it a popular choice.

TROUSERS

Opting for stretchy trousers at the airport combines style and comfort, ensuring you look polished even when heading straight to a meeting after your flight.

JOGGERS

Joggers offer style and versatility in casual travel attire. With a high-waist and fitted ankles, they provide both fashion and comfort for flights.

ACHIEVING THE PERFECT DEWY MAKEUP LOOK: STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL



ANCHAL MALHOTRA CHADHA

The dewy makeup look is all about having fresh, glowing skin that looks natural and radiant. Achieving this look might seem challenging, but with the right techniques and products, it's entirely possible. Here are some simple steps and amazing tricks shared by Anchal Malhotra Chadha, Beauty Expert and Director of Milap Cosmetics, to help you achieve that perfect dewy makeup look.

Step 1: Start with Clean and Moisturized Skin

The secret to a dewy look is well-hydrated skin, so begin with clean skin. Ensure your face is free from dirt or pollutants by using a gentle cleanser. Follow this by applying a moisturizing lotion to keep your skin nourished. Well-hydrated skin is the key to achieving a dewy look.

Step 2: Apply a Radiant Primer

To enhance the glow of your skin, use a radiant or illuminating primer. The tiny particles in this primer provide your skin with a healthy glow. Apply it to your face,

with a focus on areas like the cheekbones and nose.

Step 3: Opt for a Lightweight Foundation

Choose a foundation that isn't too heavy. Opt for something lightweight like a tinted moisturizer. This will provide some coverage while allowing your natural skin tone to shine through. Apply a small amount to your face and blend it outward from the center.

Step 4: Conceal Thoughtfully

If you need to conceal blemishes, dark circles, or spots, use a creamy concealer. Be cautious not to apply too much; a little goes a long way. Blend it thoroughly to achieve a natural look.

Step 5: Embrace Highlighter

The key to the dewy look is highlighter. Select a cream or liquid highlighter that matches your skin tone. Apply it to your brow bone, cheekbones, Nose Bridge, and Cupid's bow (the dip above your upper lip). Gently tap and blend it with your fingers for a flawless finish.

Step 6: Set Lightly with Powder

Focus on your T-zone (forehead, nose, and chin), but avoid using too much powder as it can diminish the dewy effect. Opt for a very fine, translucent powder to prevent your skin from appearing overly shiny.

Step 7: Add a Touch of



Blush

A hint of blush can bring life to your dewy complexion, so add some color to your cheeks with blush. Cream or liquid blush works best for achieving a natural flush. Apply a small amount to the apples of your cheeks and blend it towards your temples.

Step 8: Keep Your Eyes Simple and Let Them Speak

Keep your eye makeup simple and subtle; avoid going too heavy. Define your eyebrows with a pencil or powder and apply a few coats of mascara to your lashes. Stick with neutral eyeshadow shades to highlight your radiant skin.

Step 9: Seal the Look with Setting Spray

Complete your dewy look with a moisturizing setting

spray. This will help your makeup stay in place and further hydrate your skin, giving it a fresh and dewy appearance.

Last but not least here are some of the Amazing Tricks for the Dewy Look that will literally save your day.

1. Less is more: Remember, the dewy look is all about looking fresh and natural. Don't put too much makeup on your skin - it's about enhancing your natural beauty.

2. Mix Highlighter with Your Foundation: In a hurry, mix a little liquid highlighter with your foundation before applying it. This trick will give your skin a radiant boost from within.

3. Stay Hydrated: Dewy skin starts from within. Drink plenty of water to keep your skin hydrated from the

inside out.

4. Choose Dewy Products: Look for makeup products that are specifically designed to give a dewy finish. These products often have keywords like "dewy," "luminous," or "radiant" on the packaging.

CONCLUSION

The ideal dewy makeup look is simpler to achieve than you would imagine. You can achieve that youthful, radiant, and natural glow by following these easy steps and incredible tips. Remember to embrace your skin's natural beauty and let it shine through. Happy dewy makeup adventures!

Anchal Malhotra Chadha, Beauty Expert and Director of Milap Cosmetics.



HEMANG JAIN

Our selections of bath and skincare items go beyond outward looks with the goal of beautiful skin. The alkaline or acidic pH levels of these goods have a significant and frequently underappreciated impact on how healthy our skin will be. The basis for this debate is the pH scale, which ranges from 0 to 14 and measures a substance's acidity or alkalinity. A pH of 7 is neutral, with values below 7 indicating acidity and over 7 indicating alkalinity. The natural pH of the skin, which ranges from 4.5 to 5.5 and is slightly acidic, is essential for maintaining the skin's barrier function and protecting against dangerous germs.

ALKALINE BATH PRODUCTS: UNBALANCING THE SKIN

Regular bar soaps and certain bath salts are examples of alkaline bath products, which have a pH of 7 or above. By dissolving oils and debris, these solutions effectively wash; nevertheless, they also disturb the skin's normal pH balance.

Impact of pH Levels in Bath and Skincare Products on Skin Health

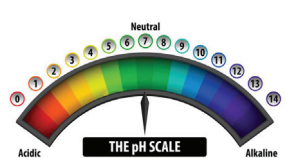
If this disturbance persists, it may have negative consequences, including dryness, irritability, and a weakened skin barrier. Additionally, these alkaline treatments may disrupt the microbiome of the skin, which may result in problems like acne and outbreaks.

ACIDIC BATH PRODUCTS: EXFOLIATION AND SENSITIVITY

Conversely, acidic bath products with a pH below 7, including chemical exfoliates and some fruit-infused treatments, also influence skin health. These products excel at exfoliating the outer skin layer, unveiling a more radiant complexion. Nonetheless, excessive use or high concentrations of acidic products can cause redness, burning sensations, and heightened sensitivity, particularly for individuals with delicate skin.

FINDING THE BALANCE: TAILORED SKINCARE

Achieving the right balance is pivotal for successful skincare. It's essential to comprehend your skin's unique requirements. For individuals with dry or sensitive skin, choosing slightly acidic products is advisable to avoid disturbing the skin's natural equilibrium. Before integrating a new product into your routine, performing a patch test is a prudent step to prevent unfavorable



reactions. Opting for pH-balanced products that uphold the skin's specific needs is recommended. If uncertainty persists, seeking guidance from a skincare expert can provide tailored advice.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PH BALANCE

The pH of the bath products you choose wields a substantial influence on your skin's overall well-being. While both alkaline and acidic products offer benefits, cautious consideration is necessary, accounting for your skin's specific needs. The journey towards achieving beautiful, healthy skin hinges on striking the delicate equilibrium between thorough cleansing and preserving the skin's inherent defenses.

In the intricate realm of skincare, pH levels are influential factors often overlooked. The dichotomy between alkaline and acidic bath products underscores the importance of understanding pH's role in skin health. Through informed choices and a personalized approach, you can navigate the pH balance to nurture your skin effectively, resulting in a radiant and resilient complexion. Hemang Jain is a Director and Founder of The Love Co.

TRENDING THIS WEEK

AUDIENCES SPOOKED AS 'THE NUN II' SOARS

"The Nun II," the sequel to the 2018 blockbuster, has taken the top spot at the North American box office during its opening weekend, collecting an estimated \$32.6 million from 3,728 theaters. This remarkable performance managed to surpass Sony's "The Equalizer 3," according to industry reports.

"Nun 2," also known as "The Nun II," is the ninth installment in Warner Bros.' ongoing "Conjuring" film series, directed by Michael Graves and featuring talents like Taissa Farmiga and Storm Reid.



Both "The Nun" movies are significant parts of the larger 'Conjuring' cinematic universe, which has collectively grossed an impressive \$2.1 billion at the box office.

In its second weekend, "The Nun II" pushed Denzel Washington's "Equalizer 3" to second place, adding \$12.1 million to its domestic gross, totaling \$61.9 million, and worldwide earnings reaching \$107.7 million.

The third spot was claimed by another new release: the third installment of Nia Vardalos's "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," arriving 21 years after the original film became a surprise hit, earning around \$369 million with a mere \$5 million production budget.

Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore, commented on the potential of a horror universe, saying, "To have a horror universe is really powerful in terms of revenue generation. It's a wise bet that Warner Bros. has made on the enduring appeal of horror movies."

Looking ahead, there's a lineup of more chilling movies set to be released through the fall, including "A Death in Venice" opening next week, "Saw X" on Sept. 29, and "The Exorcist: Believer" on Oct. 6.

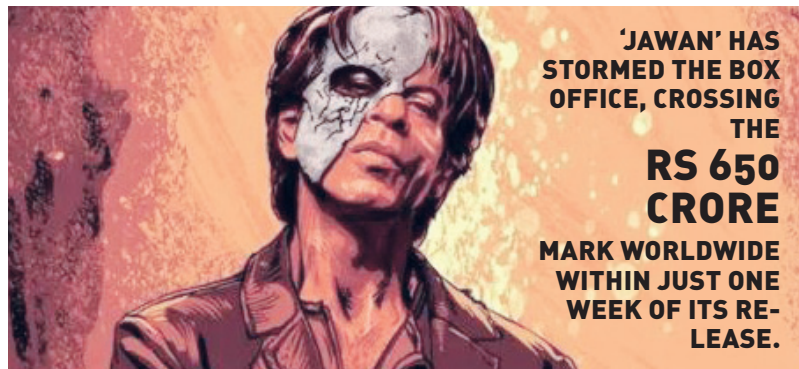
"Barbie," which becomes available on VOD on Tuesday, slipped to the fifth position after a successful 8-week run, accumulating \$5.9 million from 3,281 locations. The Warner Bros. film has now reached a domestic total of \$620.5 million.

JAWAN'S VIGILANTE CHRONICLES: A BOLLYWOOD FANTASY

BALAJI VITTAL

Over the electronic screen, Azaad addresses his audience directly, exclaiming, "Tum Azaad ho, tum Azaad ho," while pointing his index finger at various members. I'm referring to the climax of "Main Azaad Hoon" (1989). Since the 1940s, when historical themes made way for social issues in Hindi cinema, numerous movies have depicted the plight of the common man. Whether it's the farmer cheated into a debt trap by the zamindar in "Do Bigha Zamin" (1952) or the young Arjun (1985) being used as a pawn by corrupt politicians, these films delve into the challenges faced by ordinary people. Parallel cinema, committed to realism, explores these problems deeply, acknowledging that there are no easy solutions. In contrast, commercial cinema, with its penchant for make-believe, often offers quick fixes in the form of vigilantes who dispense justice with superhero-like might.

The backstory of Azad (Shah Rukh Khan) in "Jawan" bears resemblance to characters like Vijay Verma in "Deewar" (1975). He grows up to become a policeman but, much like in "Shahenshah" (1988), assumes an alternate identity to combat criminals in ways his uniform wouldn't allow. If you've seen David in "Aakhree Rasta" (1986) seeking personal revenge, or the nameless vigilantes in "A Wednesday" (2007) and "Main Azaad Hoon" (1989) who hold a city hostage to cleanse it of corruption, then you'll recognize the storyline of "Jawan."



'JAWAN' HAS STORMED THE BOX OFFICE, CROSSING THE RS 650 CRORE MARK WORLDWIDE WITHIN JUST ONE WEEK OF ITS RELEASE.

Naturally, a vigilante needs to possess a certain superhero-like quality to tackle a broken system, so a reasonable suspension of disbelief in commercial mainstream cinema is acceptable. However, "Jawan" loses itself in a virtual world of implausible scenarios. Its logic goes haywire, akin to someone who has just consumed a kilogram of raw chilies. Vikram Rathore, struck by five point-blank bullets (yes, five), plummets from an estimated 7,000 feet off an airplane, lands in a body of water, and collides with a rock—only to return as a seemingly invincible figure, resembling "The Phantom" (although Lee Falk's name isn't even mentioned in the credits). Then, there are the 6,000 women prison inmates, clad in spotless white jerseys, trousers, and light green jackets, appearing more like advocates for eco-friendly energy sources. Their flawless faces, expertly threaded eyebrows, and precise eyeliner make jail look surprisingly enticing. How did nine lakh Electronic Voting Machines end up in that prison? Furthermore, Deepika's character remained unaware

of her pregnancy until a prison doctor confirmed it through a pulse check—yes, just by feeling her pulse. And whose child was she carrying, considering her husband Rathore had gone missing, and murder trials typically take at least a year to conclude? These logical inconsistencies would even have made Manmohan Desai blush.

Cinematic absurdities are not uncommon in the world of film. Examples such as "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" (1983), "Kaminey" (2009), "Delhi Belly" (2011), "Is Raat ki Subah Nahin" (1996), and "Urf Professor" (unreleased) come to mind. These were crime flicks as well, structured like slapstick chase comedies with a cartoony pastiche feel, elevated by quirky action, characterization, dialogues, and situations. The comedy in these films extended beyond just quirky actions and dialogue; it was woven into the very fabric of the films through lighting, camera angles, editing, and cutting.

However, "Jawan" attempts to pass off its nonsensical narrative as absolute truth merely because the Bollywood su-

perstar was delivering it. This is where the film comes across as insincere. It underestimates the sensibilities of the educated and discerning audience. The much-praised 'voice-against-a-rotten-system' climactic monologue by Khan felt like someone suddenly remembering, at the tail end of a booze-filled corporate party, that they had forgotten to address the meeting's most crucial agenda item.

Indeed, "Jawan" serves as a fascinating case study in marketing. First, the "north-south-ki-mit-gayi-dekho doori-hi-saari" strategy, featuring Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara, and Priyamani, allowed SRK/Atlee to cast a wide net. Even though Vijay and Priyamani were somewhat underutilized, their names in the credits appeared to be the key factor. Secondly, substandard music was cleverly packaged into visually stunning videos, attracting a considerable number of eyeballs. Third, "Jawan" shines with technical brilliance. In fact, the gadgetry in SRK's superbike could have inspired Q in James Bond films to come up with new ideas. The technical superiority of "Jawan" was a given, as vintage wine is best served in new designer bottles.

Don't worry Red Chilies, the sheer size of the market and your marketing muscle will make your INR1000 crores for you because the shallower aspects of Jawan cater to the targeted 'niche' 90%. You have done it! Who cares for the 'mass' 10%?

Balaji Vittal is a National Award and MAMI Award-winning author of Bollywood books, columnist, commentator, and public speaker.



UPCOMING RELEASES

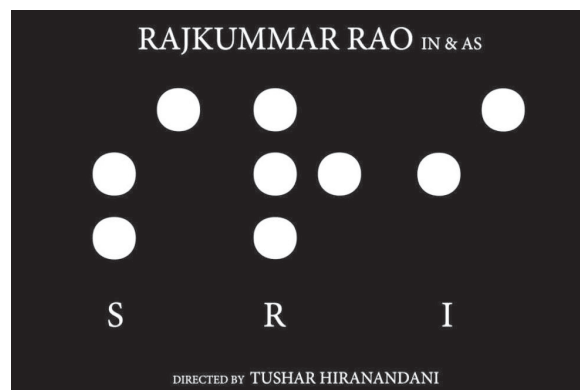
EXPEND4BLES

"Expend4bles," also known as "The Expendables 4," is an upcoming American action film directed by Scott Waugh. The screenplay is written by Kurt Wimmer, Tad Daggerhart, and Max Adams, based on a story by Spenser Cohen, Kurt Wimmer, and Tad Daggerhart. This movie serves as a sequel to "The Expendables 3" (2014) and is the fourth installment in The Expendables film series. The ensemble cast includes Jason Statham, Sylvester Stallone, Dolph Lundgren, and Randy Couture reprising their roles from previous films. They are joined by Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Megan Fox, Tony Jaa, Iko Uwais, Jacob Scipio, Levy Tran, and Andy Garcia.

"Expend4bles" is set to hit theaters in the United States on September 22, 2023, distributed by Lionsgate. In contrast to the third film's PG-13 rating, this installment retains an R rating, a decision made in response to poor fan reception of the third film's rating.



SRI



"Sri" is an upcoming Hindi biographical drama directed by Tushar Hiranandani, featuring a stellar cast including Rajkumar Rao, Alaya F, Jyothika, and Sharad Kelkar, among others. Produced by Bhushan Kumar and Nidhi Parmar, the film chronicles the incredible life of Srikanth Bolla, an entrepreneur who, despite being visually impaired, founded Bollant Industries. Slated for release on September 15, 2023, this inspiring biopic illuminates his extraordinary journey, highlighting his unwavering determination and remarkable success in establishing a thriving business empire, making it a tale of resilience, courage, and achievement against all odds.

LUV YOU SHANKAR

"Luv You Shankar" is an upcoming animated film directed by Rajiv S. Ruia and produced by Sunita Desai, Tejas Desai, and Rohandeep Singh. The movie stars Shreyas Talpade, Abhimanyu Singh, and Sanjay Mishra in lead roles. It depicts the unique bond between an eight-year-old boy and Lord Shiva. The film is set to be released on September 22, 2023.

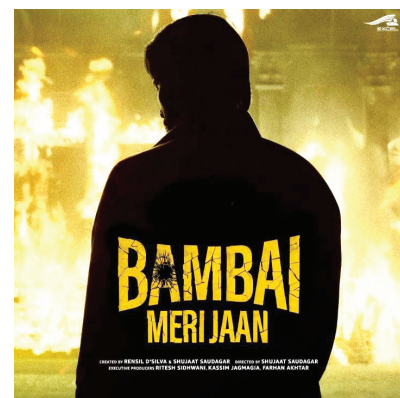


OTT TRENDS

FRESH OTT RELEASES TO RELISH THIS COMING WEEK

BAMBAI MERI JAAN

"Bambai Meri Jaan" is an action crime web series directed and written by Shujaat Saudagar, produced by Farhan Akhtar, Kassim Jaggama, Ritesh Sidhwani, and Rensil D'Silva. The series features Kay Kay Menon, Avinash Tiwary, Amyra Dastur, Kritika Kamra, and Nivedita Bhattacharya. Set in post-independence Bombay, it follows the story of an honest police officer working to combat the city's rampant crime. The series was released on September 14, 2023, on Amazon Prime Video, and is produced by Excel Entertainment.



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

"Love at First Sight" is an upcoming American romantic comedy film directed by Vanessa Caswill and adapted by Katie Lovejoy from Jennifer E. Smith's 2011 novel, "The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight." The movie stars Haley Lu Richardson, Ben Hardy, Dexter Fletcher, Rob Delaney, Sally Phillips, and Jameela Jamil. In April 2022, Netflix acquired global rights to the film, which is set to premiere on September 15, 2023. On September 13, 2023, Netflix released a preview featuring the first four minutes of the movie.

AAKHRI SACH

"Aakhri Sach" (translated as "Final Truth") is an Indian Hindi-language crime investigative thriller television series available on Disney+ Hotstar. It is directed by Robbie Grewal and produced by Nirvikar Films. The series features Tamannaah Bhatia in the lead role, supported by Abhishek Banerjee, Shivin Narsing, Danish Iqbal, Nishu Dikshit, Kriti Vij, and Sanjeev Chopra. The storyline is a work of fiction inspired by the Burari deaths. Tamannaah Bhatia portrays the lead investigative officer, Anya. The show premiered on August 25, 2023, and has garnered a positive response from the audience, with Bhatia's exceptional performance being a standout.



LOVE IS BLIND SEASON 5

"Love is Blind" is a popular TV show in which individuals form emotional connections without ever seeing each other. The fourth season concluded a few months ago, and a new season is set to premiere on Netflix on September 22, 2023. Additionally, there will be a special episode titled "Love is Blind: After the Altar" on September 1, 2023, which catches up with the couples from the fourth season. This reality TV show revolves around people who build connections without the visual element. They communicate in isolated pods, solely relying on their voices. If a deep connection forms, they have the option to get engaged before finally meeting face-to-face for the first time.

TOP OF THE DAY

YOSHIMI AMONG FIRST FEMALE MATCH OFFICIALS AT ASIAN CUP

KUALA LUMPUR: Referee Yoshimi Yamashita will return to Qatar to make more soccer history at the men's Asian Cup in January after she worked in the country last year at the men's World Cup. Yamashita is among five female match officials, including two referees, picked Thursday by the Asian Football Confederation to work in Qatar. The tournament runs from Jan. 12 to Feb. 10. It is the first time the AFC has appointed female match officials for its marquee men's event. Katherine Jacewicz of Australia was also picked among the referees. The assistants selected are Makoto Bozono and Naomi Teshirogi of Japan, and Kim Kyoung Min of South Korea.

ARSENAL MANAGER WENGER CONFIRMS VISIT TO INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former Arsenal head coach and one of the most successful managers in the history of Premier League Arsene Wenger on Thursday confirmed his visit to India in the month of October. All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran's meeting with legendary coach and FIFA Chief of Global Football Development, Arsene Wenger, in Australia last month to finalise the setting-up of a central academy in India was the beginning of what is set to be a significant association between FIFA and the AIFF.

INDIA CAPTAIN RAJPAL REVEALS 5-MEMBER PLAYING TEAM

LUCKNOW: India captain Rohit Rajpal, on Thursday, announced the India squad that will take on Morocco in the Davis Cup World Group II tie scheduled to be held at the Vijayant Khand Mini Stadium in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on Saturday and Sunday. Revealing the Indian squad, Rajpal declared Rohan Bopanna, Sumit Nagal, Yuki Bhambri, Sasikumar Mukund and Digvijay Pratap Singh as the five-member side that will take part in the tie.

SPAIN'S SOCCER LEAGUE PLAYERS CALL OFF STRIKE

MADRID: The players in Spain's women's soccer league have called off a strike after reaching a deal to increase minimum wage, the league and unions. The first set of games was not played last weekend because of the strike, but the second block of matches will now go ahead as scheduled. The minimum salary for the women's league until now was 16,000 euros (\$17,100), compared to 182,000 euros (\$195,000) for the men's league.

HOCKEY

PATHAK SEEKS SREEJESH'S GUIDANCE WHENEVER IN DOUBT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Picking the brains of veteran PR Sreejesh has played a key role in polishing his goalkeeping skills, says Indian men's hockey team custodian Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who never hesitates to approach his senior colleague for guidance when "in doubt". Pathak and Sreejesh share a great camaraderie on the turf as the duo has been manning the goalpost of the Indian team for quite some time now, including the last Asian Games in Jakarta and the Tokyo Olympics where they won a historic bronze. "We (me and Sreejesh) have an excellent bonding between us. He is one of the senior players in the team and whenever I am in doubt, I just go up to him and seek his advice on the matter," said Pathak, who has 103 international caps



Krishan Bahadur Pathak and PR Sreejesh.

under his belt. "His experience of playing over the last two decades surely helped me a lot."

The upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games will be Pathak's second appearance in the continental showpiece and his target is simple -- win the gold and qualify for next year's Paris Olympics. "It is definitely a proud moment for me and my family. If I look back on my journey, I never imag-

ined that I would get the opportunity to earn more than 100 international caps for India and play my second Asian Games.

India will open their Asian Games campaign against Uzbekistan on September 24. Talking about the Indian team's preparation, Pathak said they are now focussing on the basics and working on mistakes which they committed in

the last tournament. Both Sreejesh and Pathak also had special goalkeeping sessions with Dutch expert Dennis van de Pol ahead of the Games. "The training has been going well. All the players are working hard to prepare for the big tournament. We've had 4-5 goalkeeping sessions with Dennis, and there will be a few more in the coming days. "We've gone over the basics again, focusing on

the mistakes we made in previous tournaments and how to improve quick decision making, among other things. Before coming to the camp, Dennis asked us what problems we were having and how we could work together to solve them," Pathak said.

Pathak, who made his senior team debut in 2018, was also a member of the Indian team that recently won the seventh edition of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.

"We have a good run of games in the lead up to the Asian Games. We played against some top sides, so that will definitely help us in identifying what are our strong and weak points," he said. "The players will also get confidence from a good outing that they have had in the Asian Champions Trophy. We don't want to repeat the mistakes going forward.

ASIAN GAMES

Sunil Chhetri the sole star in India's 17-member Asian games football squad

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Sunil Chhetri is the only big name in the 18-member Indian squad for the Hangzhou Asian Games, as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has finally managed to cobble together a second-string team. There is still uncertainty over whether head coach Igor Stimac will accompany the team. Most Indian Super League (ISL) clubs have refused to release the 22 players named in the Indian squad for the Hangzhou Asian Games, as the football competition schedule of the games clashes with the start of the ISL on



Sunil Chhetri: Indian footballer

September 21. AIFF president and BJP leader Kalyan Chaubey's efforts to send the Indian football team to the Hangzhou Asian Games de-

spite not meeting the government criteria could be seen as a massive loss of face. After prolonged negotiations, the AIFF was able to announce

an under-strength team made up of nine players from the original 22, including Sunil Chhetri, while the remaining players were inexperienced players from the clubs. There are doubts whether head coach Igor Stimac will travel to Hangzhou to lead the under-strength Indian football team at the Asian Games. Stimac had earlier said that the Asian Games was a priority for him, but it is unclear whether he will be willing to take charge of a team that is missing many of its top players. The AIFF initially announced a 17-member squad for the Asian Games, but later added Mohun Bagan defender Deepak Tangri to the

squad. This could be a rare instance of India sending an under-strength football team to a major competition. The only saving grace is the inclusion of Sunil Chhetri, who is the current Indian football poster boy. The two other senior footballers, defender Sandesh Jhingan and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, were not released by their clubs. This is a major blow to the Indian team, as both Jhingan and Sandhu are experienced players who would have been key to the team's chances of success. The Indian football team will begin their campaign at the Hangzhou Asian Games with a match against China on September 19.

DAVIS CUP

Canada begins Davis Cup title defense with victory over Italy

TDG NETWORK
BOLOGNA



Canada's Alexis Galarneau and Vasek Pospisil in action against Italy

Canada started the defence of its Davis Cup title by beating Italy 3-0 in the group stage of the finals, with the United States, Britain and the Czech Republic also winning. Alexis Galarneau beat Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (8), 6-4 before Gabriel Diallo also won in straight sets -- 7-5, 6-4 -- against Lorenzo Musetti to assure victory for the Canadians in the Unipol Arena in Bologna. Galarneau then teamed up with Vasek Pospisil to win the doubles match, too. Canada beat Australia in last year's final to win the biggest men's team event in tennis for the first time. Both countries qualified directly to the group stage of the finals, which consists of four

groups of four teams -- with the top two in each advancing to the Final 8 taking place in Malaga, Spain, in November. Australia opened with a 2-1 loss to Britain in their group in Manchester, England. The Australians lost both singles matches in three sets, with Thanasi Kokkinakis beaten by Jack Draper and Alex de Minaur defeated by Dan Evans, before a consolation victory in the doubles for Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell. The Americans opened their match in Split against host nation Croatia with a 6-4, 6-2 win for Mackenzie McDonald over Dino Prizmic only for 11th-ranked Frances Tiafoe to lose surprisingly to No.

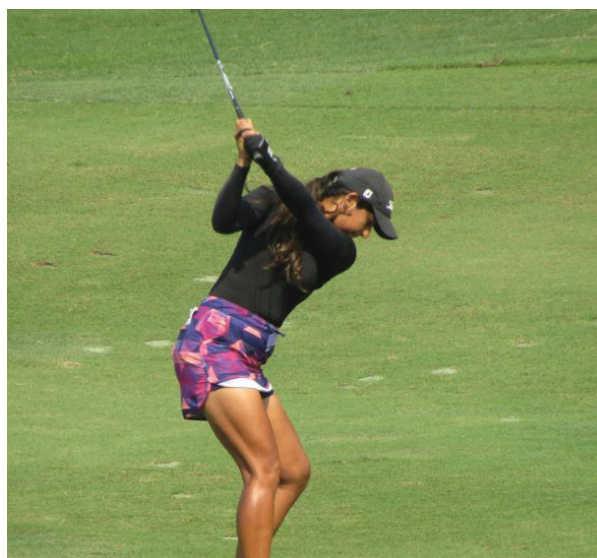
GOLF

NEHA PULLS AHEAD BY TWO STROKES IN 12TH LEG OF WPGT

TDG NETWORK
GURGAON

Neha Tripathi played superbly on the back nine for a 4-under 32 as she carded 5-under 67 and extended her one-shot overnight lead to two in the 12th Leg of Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Golden Greens Golf & Resorts Ltd. As Neha moved to nine-under 135 with rounds of 68 and 67, she was being chased by Riya Yadav, who after a good first round added an even better 5-under 67 for a total of 7-under 137. Asmitha Sathish (71-70) and Gaurika Bishnoi (69-72) were tied third at 3-under 141, while Riddhima Dilawari had a late double bogey in her 70 and was sole fifth at 2-under 142. Neha, whose off-season work paid off in the earlier part of the year, has been working hard again during the recent break and her game showed a lot of sharpness with all-around improvement.

Riya had two birdies and a bogey on the front nine and four birdies and no bogeys on the return journey. Riya, who had a hole-in-one on the eighth hole in her first round, had her solitary bo-



Neha Tripathi dropped a late bogey on the 17th hole but managed to take a one-shot lead

goy of the day on the same hole in the second round. Asmitha had three birdies and a bogey in her second round, while Gaurika had three birdies against three bogeys and a double in her first 15 holes. She was 2-over for the day but then found birdies on the 16th and the 18th to salvage a par round.

Agrima Manral (74-69) made a five-shot improvement from her first round and moved to tied sixth alongside Jasmine Shekar (72-71) at 1-under 143. Tvesa Malik had a better day with seven birdies but

also gave away five bogeys in her round of 70 after a first round 75, as she was Tied-eighth with Khushi Khanijau (74-71) and Durga Nittur (74-71). Seher Atwal, who shot 79 on the first day had a massive eight shot improvement with a 71 and she was T-18 at 6-over 150. The Hero Order of Merit leader, Sneha Singh (78-75) was T-22. Neha, who won the 10th leg before the break in the Tour schedule, birdied the second and fifth holes for a tidy start before suffering her lone bogey on the Par-3 eighth.

BADMINTON

Indian hopes dashed as Hong Kong Open journey ends

TDG NETWORK
KOWLOON



Treesa and Gayatri lost in the pre-quarterfinals

India's challenge at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 tournament ended after two women's doubles pairs lost in the pre-quarterfinals on Thursday. The first Indian combination to take the court was Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who were no match for seventh seeds Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Radhanthi of Indonesia, losing 8-21 14-21 in just 36 minutes. Thereafter, all hopes were on Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa to come up with a spirited performance against top seeds Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara of Japan and keep the country's flag flying but the task was too tall. The unseeded Indian pair lost 18-21 7-21 in just 38 minutes against Matsumoto and Nagahara to draw curtains on the country's campaign. Earlier, Lakshya Sen withdrew from the Hong Kong Open 2023 badminton tournament before his match on Wednesday, handing his opponent, Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang, a walk-

over. Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya, seeded eighth in men's singles, was India's biggest bet at the Hong Kong Open 2023, which is being held at Hong Kong Coliseum in Kowloon. Other top Indian badminton players like PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth skipped the Hong Kong meet. After world No. 13 Lakshya Sen's withdrawal from the Hong Kong Open, Priyanshu Rajawat, India's last remaining men's singles player in the competition, also bowed out in the first round, losing 13-21, 14-21 against Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan. Meanwhile, Indian duo Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the women's doubles with a 21-19, 21-19 victory over the higher-ranked Chinese Taipei pair of Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun. Ponnappa-Crasto's victory, however, was the only high point in what was otherwise a disappointing day for Indian shuttlers in Hong Kong.

TENNIS

TOUGH CONDITIONS FORCE MATCH TIMING CHANGES FOR INDIAN DAVIS CUP TEAM

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW



Rohan Bopanna with Indian Davis Cup team captain Rohit Rajpal.

Rohan Bopanna, who is part of the Indian Davis Cup team, sweated profusely during a training session on Thursday. He said, "If I am sweating and changing my T-shirt during a training session, something is seriously wrong." This could be a major challenge for the Indian players, who will need to be very fit to compete in such conditions. The severe humidity has turned the Mini Stadium into a 'mini cauldron'. Bopanna's teammates know that he does not sweat much, even in hot and humid conditions. In fact, he once played five sets against Brazil in a singles match for four hours in one shirt. However, during a training session in Lucknow, he sweated so much that he had to change his shirt after just half an hour. This is a rare occurrence for Bopanna, and it is a sign that the conditions in Lucknow will be very hot and humid. The air temperature is 33 degrees Celsius, but the humidity makes it feel like 43 degrees Celsius. This is due to the fact that it rained a few days ago, which has increased the moisture in the air. The sun is not harsh, but the humidity is making it extremely difficult for the players. The heat coming off the court is also making the conditions worse. In such tough weather conditions, a player can lose about 2-3 liters of water per hour, along with essential electrolytes like sodium, chloride, potassium, and magnesium. This can lead to dehydration, which can impair performance and increase the risk of heat-related illness. Debeshish Das, the other physio attached to the team, said: "Doing ice bath, set at around 10-12 degrees is required for recovery along with pool recovery work." Considering the weather, the captains agreed to reschedule the match-timings, delaying it by two hours. On Saturday, the matches will begin at 2 pm instead of 12 noon and on Sunday the matches will begin at 1 pm instead of 11 am. While a two-hour delay is not expected to make much difference, India coach Zeeshan Ali says the decision still makes sense.

ASIA CUP CLASH

INDIA'S DOMINANCE MEETS BANGLADESH'S HOPES FOR REDEMPTION

SUNIL YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

In the ongoing Asia Cup 2023, cricket enthusiasts are in for an exciting showdown as India and Bangladesh lock horns in the 12th match of the tournament at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The clash, though dubbed as a mere formality, promises to deliver intriguing moments as India has already secured a spot in the 2023 Asia Cup Final.

With two commanding victories in their Super 4 clashes, India finds itself in prime form. They thumped arch-rivals Pakistan with a staggering 228-run win and overcame Sri Lanka by 41 runs. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has been eliminated from contention after losses to Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the Super Four stage, with their sole victory coming against Afghanistan. India has been a dominant force in the tournament, barring a minor hiccup in their first match against Pakistan when their top-order batting faltered. Since then, they have displayed their prowess, with both the batting and bowling departments firing on all cylinders. India's top-order has



India vs. Bangladesh Super Four match.

been consistently racking up runs, and their bowlers have been in splendid form.

Heading into the clash against Bangladesh, India is the clear favorite. However, with the final already in the bag, fans can anticipate some changes to the playing XI as the team management aims to provide valuable game time to other players. Moreover, with Mushfiqur unavailable for Bangladesh, the challenge becomes even more daunting for the Tigers. In stark contrast to India, Bangladesh has had a dismal campaign. Apart from a win against Afghanistan in the group stage, they have failed to meet expecta-

tions. Their most recent defeat to Sri Lanka by 21 runs further dashed their hopes of progressing in the tournament. Bangladesh will look to Mohammad Naim and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who have been consistent with the bat, to deliver at the top. Meanwhile, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam will aim to challenge India's formidable top order with the ball.

Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz will be crucial in controlling India's scoring rate. Despite being out of contention for the summit clash, Bangladesh still carries the ambition to finish the tournament on a

high note. A victory against India would provide a significant morale boost ahead of future challenges, including the World Cup.

For India, this match presents an opportunity to rotate the squad and keep the players fresh for the final on Sunday. Mohammad Shami is expected to return to the playing XI, with Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel vying for a spot depending on the pitch conditions. There's also the possibility of resting Jasprit Bumrah. With Shreyas Iyer still unfit, Suryakumar Yadav may seize a rare opportunity in the line-up.

In ODI encounters, India

has been overwhelmingly dominant against Bangladesh, winning 31 out of 40 matches. Bangladesh managed just seven victories, with two games ending without a result. In Asia Cup matches, India has a staggering 13 wins out of 14 games against Bangladesh, underlining their historical supremacy.

The R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium has provided a favorable pitch for batsmen throughout the tournament. However, patience remains key on such surfaces, as batsmen must settle in before launching their attacks. Thus, opting to bat first could be a wise decision, with the prospect of setting a formidable total firmly on the table. As cricket fans eagerly await this high-stakes encounter, all eyes will be on how the two teams perform in their final showdown of the Asia Cup 2023. With India already securing a place in the final, Bangladesh will aim to restore some pride with a spirited performance. Cricket aficionados can expect a thrilling contest at the R Premadasa Stadium.

Sunil Yash Kalra is a Women's Cricket Historian and founder of Indian Sports Fans.

RECOVERY

Shreyas Iyer rejoins Team India in practice ahead of Bangladesh clash

TDG NETWORK
COLOMBO

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer rejoined the team India during an optional practice session ahead of its Asia Cup Super-Four clash against Bangladesh, after missing out on previous Super Four stage clashes due to a back spasm. Iyer featured in India's Group Stage games against arch-rivals Pakistan and Nepal in the Asia Cup, scoring 14 runs against Pakistan. However, a back spasm ruled him out of Super Four clashes against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, both won by India, which took them to the final. KL Rahul replaced Iyer in these two matches and made a statement with a century against Pakistan and a useful 39 against Sri Lanka. Now in the optional practice session, Iyer did some light batting practice, which was an en-



Shreyas Iyer did some light batting practice before India vs. Bangladesh clash.

couraging development. Iyer's consistency, ability to tackle spin bowling and solid strike rotation have made him a staple in India's middle-order and no doubt his services will be useful during the Asia Cup and the ICC Cricket World Cup at home from October

5 onwards. India is at the top of the table with two wins and four points. On the other hand, Bangladesh is at the bottom, having lost both matches and will be playing for pride. India will take on Bangladesh in their Super Four clash on Friday.

MANDATORY

CRICKET AUSTRALIA'S NECK GUARD RULE PRESSURES SMITH AND WARNER TO COMPLY

TDG NETWORK
MELBOURNE

Veteran batters Steven Smith and David Warner, who have previously refused to wear neck guards, could be forced to do so under Cricket Australia's new mandatory rule from October 1, 2023, all Australian cricketers, both international and domestic, will be required to wear neck protectors when facing fast or medium pace bowling in any CA-sanctioned competition. The regulation update came a week after Cameron Green was struck on the neck guard by a Kagiso Rabada bouncer and substituted out of the first ODI against South Africa with concussion. The move will impact several Australian players, including David Warner, Steve Smith, and Usman Khawaja, who have resisted using neck guards since their introduction in 2015.

CA will make wearing



He was not wearing a neck guard when struck by a Jofra Archer delivery at Lord's.

neck protection at international training and matches mandatory via a change to its clothing and equipment regulations, the report said. One of the numerous changes made to CA's playing rules in advance of the 2023-24 season is the requirement for neck guards. Another change is the elimination of the automatic six rule in Big

Bash Leagues (BBL) when a ball hits the roof at Marvel Stadium; instead, umpires will use their discretion to determine whether the ball crossed the boundary. Time limits on injury stoppages and streamlining stumping reviews were a few other changes introduced in the Big Bash Leagues to speed up the play.

CAPTAIN COOL

Flashback to 2007: MS Dhoni begins his quest as India's trophy collector

SUNIL YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

On September 14, 2007, Mahendra Singh Dhoni made his captaincy debut for Team India in the ICC T20 World Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan. India tied the match despite posting 141/9 in 20 overs, but won the match in a bowl-out. Dhoni's first outing as captain was a success, as the young Men in Blue went on to win the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup, defeating Pakistan in the final by five runs. Dhoni's cool composure, trust in his young team, and his unconventional decisions, such as giving Joginder Sharma the final over of the match despite his recent struggles, set the tone for his successful captaincy



Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

career. Under his captaincy, India won the ICC Cricket World Cup after 28 years in 2011, the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013, and the Asia Cup in 15 years, back in 2010. Dhoni was the star of the 2011 World Cup final, scoring 91* and hitting the winning six. He is widely regarded as In-

dia's most successful captain, and his calm demeanour and ability to make tough decisions under pressure were key to his success. From working as a ticket collector at a railway station, MS was India's 'Trophy Collector', winning trophies with ease and confidence never seen

before in an Indian captain. Dhoni's calmness, unconditional trust in youngsters, positivity, and willingness to take risks were some of the hallmarks of his successful captaincy. He played a key role in shaping the careers of many young players, including Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Ravindra Jadeja. Dhoni is the only captain to have won all major ICC trophies, and he also led India to the top of the Test rankings in 2009. Dhoni led India in 60 Tests as captain, winning 27, losing 18, and drawing 15. His win percentage of 45.00% was the highest for an Indian captain at that time. He scored 3,454 runs as captain in 60 matches at an average of 40.63, with

five centuries and 24 fifties in 96 innings. His best score as captain was 224. He also led India in 200 ODI matches. Out of these, he won 110, lost 74, tied five and 11 ended in no-result. His win percentage of 55.00 per cent makes him one of the best ODI captains ever. Dhoni led India in 72 T20Is, winning 41 of them, losing 28, tying one and two ended in a no-result. He has a win percentage of 56.94.

Overall, Dhoni led India in 332 matches, the most by a captain in international cricket. Out of these, he won 178, lost 120, tied six and 15 ended in a no-result. His win percentage as a captain is 53.61. This combined with the trophies he has won, makes him India's most successful captain ever.

ODI

STOKES SMASHES ENGLAND ODI RECORD, GUIDES THEM TO VICTORY OVER NZ

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

Ben Stokes delivered a record-breaking performance, complemented by strong displays from England's bowlers, as they secured a comprehensive 181-run victory over New Zealand in the third ODI of the four-match series at The Oval. This win puts England ahead in the series at 2-1, with a single game remaining. Put to bat first by Kiwis, England was once again rocked by quick power-play wickets by Trent Boult, who dismissed Jonny Bairstow for a golden duck and Joe Root for just four, continuing the batter's woeful run in ODIs. England was reduced to 13/2 and Stokes came to rebuild the innings at such a crucial point. He found a batting partner in an ever-consistent Dawid



Ben Stokes scored record-breaking 182 off 124 balls against NZ.

Malan, who guided the team through the remainder of the power-play, with 55/2 at the end of 10 overs. England reached the 100-

run mark in 16.2 overs. Malan reached his fifth ODI fifty in 52 balls, with eight fours while Stokes reached his fifty in 44 balls. The duo

reached their century stand in just 91 balls. Stokes after a point started dealing in sixes and duo reached 150-run partnership in just 119 balls, showcasing remarkable acceleration. 200 runs were up for England in 27 overs. Stokes reached his fourth ODI century in just 76 balls. However, Malan missed out on his fifth ODI ton, dismissed by Boult for 96 in 95 balls after being caught by wicketkeeper Tom Latham. England was 212/3 in 30.1 overs. Skipper Jos Buttler joined Stokes and the duo continued with their carnage. Stokes reached his 150 in just 105 balls. Glenn Phillips ended the partnership worth 78 runs between the duo, dismissing Buttler for 38 off 24 balls, with six fours and a six. England was 290/4 in 37.5 overs. England reached

the 300-run mark in 39.4 overs.

Ben Stokes's incredible innings came to an end when he was dismissed by Ben Lister after scoring a record-breaking 182 runs off 124 balls, which included 15 fours and nine sixes. With this astonishing feat, he surpassed Jason Roy's previous record of 180 to claim the highest individual ODI score by an England player. England's total took a hit when Will Young took a catch at square leg, reducing them to 348/6 in 44.3 overs. Liam Livingstone, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Sam Curran etc were dismissed quickly, bundling out England for 368 in 48.1 overs. Boult (5/51) was the pick of the bowlers for NZ. Lister (3/69) also bowled well. Lockie Ferguson, Phillips got one wicket each.

MILESTONE

Trent Boult and Glenn Phillips rewrite NZ cricket history

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

New Zealand speedster Trent Boult surpassed legendary Kiwis all-rounder Richard Hadlee to register the most five-wicket hauls for his country in ODIs. Now, Boult has a total of six five-wicket hauls for Kiwis in ODIs. He has surpassed Hadlee, who had five five-wicket hauls in his ODI career. Boult accomplished this record during NZ's third ODI against England at The Oval. In the match, Boult was at his vintage best. He gave England two quick power-play jolts and then did some damage in middle-order/lower-order as well. He ended with figures of 5/51 in 9.1 overs, getting scalps of Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Dawid Malan, Sam Curran and Gus Atkinson. Boult has been on fire since his return to international cricket, after giving up his



Trent Boult: New Zealand cricketer

central contract in favour of franchise T20 leagues last year. With eight wickets in two matches of the series, he is the leading wicket-taker. New Zealand batter Glenn Phillips reached the milestone of completing two thousand runs in international cricket in the third ODI match against New Zealand.

Phillips played a brilliant knock of 72 off 76 balls in the match at the Oval, however NZ failed to win and lost by 181 runs. The Kiwi player has featured in 83 games so far and has 2,036 runs at an average of 32.31 and a strike rate of 122.87. He has two tons and 12 half-centuries in his career so far.