

DMK UPS DEMAND



NC CHIEF DEUBA ASKS NEPAL PM PRACHANDA TO QUIT FOR **NEW GOVT FORMATION**



16 HARDIK PANDYA **ON TOP**

PM mounts fresh attack on Cong over Emergency

Speaking in Rajya Sabha, **Modi counters** saviour of Constitution narrative of Opposition

TDG NETWORK

rime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday took the Congress to the cleaners over making the 2024 general elections about the protection of the

voted on the plank only once when they threw out the Indira Gandhi government in 1977 after the Emergency.

Speaking in Rajya Sabha, he gave an account of the situation in strife-torn Manipur, promised action in the NEET paper leak case, and listed out achievements of his past two terms and priorities for the third.

A day after his spirited response to the debate in Lok Sabha on a motion to thank President Droupadi Murmu for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, Modi launched an all-out attack on the Congress, saying it speaks with a forked tongue, opposing celebration of the Constitution Day while do-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

ing the "drama" of protect- bloc parties, who shouted ing the Constitution during

This infuriated I.N.D.I.A

Mallikarjun Kharge wanted slogans and calling Modi to intervene but was not ala "liar". Leader of the Oplowed, leading to the Oppoout Modi's speech by raising slogans. Later they staged a walkout.

Undeterred, Modi continued his speech and said the Congress was running away as it does not have the courage to hear the truth. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar also condemned the walkout, calling it an insult to the Constitution.

In his nearly two-hour speech, Modi listed out his previous government's achievements: from raising MSP for crops to giving the poor access to the banking system and loans, and fuelling India's rise to become the fifth largest economy.

With development and self-reliance as pivot, Modi said, India will "definitely" become the third largest economy in the world in his the House. third term.

The Prime Minister, who started his first term in May 2014, said people have given mandate to the BJP-led NDA to make India a developed nation. He said the Opposition is "unable to digest" the mandate given by 140 crore people to the NDA. "I under-

stand your pain," he said. "Their efforts failed yesterday. Today they did not have courage to fight that and therefore they left the field. I am bound by my duty. I am not here to score in a debate. I am servant of the country. I am here to give a detailed

account of our work and it

Opposition walked out of Modi also took a jibe at the

opposition for terming the

current NDA dispensation "one-third government", asking "what could be a greater truth than this?"

"It has been 10 years (of the BJP-led NDA government) and there are 20 more (years) to go. One-third in done, two-third is left," he said.

Referring to the Congress party's repeated claim during elections that BJP would change the Constitution, Modi said, "I want to remind them. Will you continue this fake narrative?

Constitution, saying Indians **YOGI SMELLS A CONSPIRACY BEHIND HATHRAS TRAGEDY**

Judicial probe ordered to get to the bottom of the stampede

While people were dying, satsang volunteers fled the scene, CM said

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HATHRAS (UTTAR PRADESH)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced a judicial probe into the Hathras stampede as he met those injured in the incident at the venue of the religious congregation

Adityanath did not rule out the possibility of a conspiracy in the stampede. He also said the "sevadars" (volunteers working for the 'satsang' organisers) should have taken the victims to the hospital.

People were dying and the "sevadars" fled, he claimed.

Asserting the government will ensure that such incidents do not recur, the chief minister said a standard operating procedure might be put in place for religious congregations.

"A judicial probe by a retired high court judge will be conducted into the incident. A notification about this will be issued today, he said.

"If this is not an accident, then whose conspiracy is this? All of these will be probed. Retired officials of the police and civic administration will be part of the judicial inquiry and action will be taken against those found responsible."

Adityanath said the gov-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit at the site of the Hathras stampede.

ernment had formed a Special Investigation Team led by the additional director general (ADG) of police, Agra, which has given its preliminary report.

"She (ADG, Agra, Anupam Kulshreshtha) has been asked to get to the bottom of this incident, he said.

The chief minister said among the 121 killed in the stampede on Tuesday, six were from other states -- four from Haryana and one each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Asked why religious preacher Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba has not been named in the FIR as an accused, Adityanath said, "Prima facie, the case has

Three-member judicial commission formed

astav.

TDG NETWORK

On the direction of Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, the state government formed a threemember Judicial Inquiry Commission on Wednesday to probe the Hathras stampede incident.

The Commission, formed

been filed against those who had applied for permission for the event. Whoever is responsible for this will come under its purview." The Uttar Pradesh Police

a day after the incident, will be headed by retired judge of Allahabad High Court, Justice Brijesh Kumar Sriv-

Retired IAS officers Hemant Rao and Bhavesh Kumar have been made the two members of the Commission, according to the information provided by the state government.

on Wednesday registered an FIR against the organisers of the congregation, accusing them of flouting conditions with 2.5 lakh people gathering for the event in which

only 80,000 were permit-

It also alleged the organisers did not cooperate in traffic management and hid evidence after the stampede that occurred as people gathered there stopped to collect soil from where the religious preacher's vehicle passed.

The chief minister met the injured at the district hospital and enquired about the condition. At the police lines, he met the eyewitnesses of the stampede and gathered information about the sequence of the incident.

BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhary, Uttar Pradesh ministers Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary, Asim Arun and Sandeep Singh as well as the local MLA, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Sanjay Prasad, the principal secretary to the chief minister, were also present.

After meeting the injured, Adityanath reached the stampede spot in Sikandrarau where the divisional commissioner of Aligarh briefed him about the accident.

At a press conference, the chief minister said "When the gentleman's (Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba) preaching was over, he came down from the stage and his

Hemant Soren set to return as CM, Champai resigns

TDG NETWORK

Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren resigned on Wednesday and Hemant Soren, who is out on bail in a money-laundering case, staked claim to form the government, hours after leaders of the JMM-led alliance in the state unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader.

Champai Soren, who had taken oath as the 12th chief minister of Jharkhand on February 2 after Hemant Soren's arrest, met Governor CP Radhakrishnan at

may take oath as MP on July 5

TARUNI GANDHI

Faridkot MP Sarbjeet Singh Khalsa has announced that Amritpal Singh, detained under the National Security Act, will take his oath on July 5. Khalsa revealed that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has confirmed this information to him.

Amritpal, the leader of Waris Punjab De, is expected to be transported directly to Parliament from Assam's Dibrugarh iail via helicopter, according to sources within the Punjab police.



CM Champai Soren met Governor CP Radhakrishnan and

decided in favour of Hemant soon. If sworn in, Hemant Soren will be the 13th chief Soren Ji," he said. minister of Jharkhand,

which was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000. "I have resigned as per the

Hemant Soren told the media all formalities to form the government are complete.

Amritpal Singh Govt constitutes fresh Cabinet committees

TDG NETWORK

The Modi government on Wednesday constituted various cabinet committees, including the country's highest decision making bodies on security, economic and political affairs.

The members of the cabinet committees included Union ministers from the BJP and its NDA partners like Janata Dal (U), Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (S), Shiv Sena and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

According to an official notification, the Cabinet Committee on Security compris-

es Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Apart from PM Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has Rainath Singh, Shah, Sitharaman, Jaishankar, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Heavy Industries and Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy as its mem-

INSIDE

FAMOUS SPEECHES OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Apart from being a celebrated poet, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was well known for his rhetoric and oratory skills and this craft of his was well reflected in his speeches which acted as milestones in history of Indian politics.

DETAILS P9

Diverted plane to fly cricket team out of Barbados? Report sought from Air India

TDG NETWORK **NEW DELHI**

Aviation regulator DGCA has sought a report from Air India on reports that an aircraft that was to operate a scheduled flight has been deployed for flying out the Indian cricket team from Barbados, according to officials.

There have been reports that Air India deployed the aircraft to Barbados that was



originally scheduled to operate a scheduled flight from Newark to Delhi, causing difficulties for passengers.

Against this backdrop, a senior official on Wednesday said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has called for a report from Air

The T20 World Cup-win-

ning Indian cricket team is expected to arrive in the national capital on Thursday morning. They are coming from Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport in a chartered flight which has a special call sign - AIC24WC - Air India Champions 24 World Cup.

An Air India official said passengers were not inconvenienced by the deployment of the Boeing 777 aircraft to Barbados.

Most of the passengers who had booked tickets for the Newark to Delhi flight on July 2 were informed in advance. However, some passengers who could not be informed about the flight cancellation turned up at the airport and they were taken by road to New York. Those passengers were accommodated in the flight from New York to Delhi, the official added.



actively involved in extensive flood relief operations in the villages of Sivaguri (Dhemaji District, Assam) and Village Mer (East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh) in the Pasighat Region, which have been severely affected by incessant rains since June 29

A stampede

at a religious

congregation in

Hathras resulted in

over 100 fatalities on

Tuesday, with many

devotees suffocating

and bodies piling up

religious gathering, causing

widespread panic and

numerous casualties. The

exact cause of the stampede

On Wednesday Chief

Minister Yogi Aditvanath

also visited Hathras and

met those injured and the

families of the deceased from

violence and hatred and do

not understand the basic

In a post on X, Rahul

Gandhi said, "The cowardly

and violent attack on the

Gujarat Congress office

further strengthens my

point about the BJP and the

Slamming the BJP, he

said, "The people of BJP

who spread violence and

hatred do not understand

the basic principles of

Hinduism. The people

Sangh Parivar."

principles of Hinduism.

the stampede incident.

is still being investigated.

in a chaotic scene.

NATION

BIG SATSANGS MUST FOLLOW STRICT LAWS, SAYS KHARGE

ongress president and Leader of Opposition 'in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday demanded that a law should be brought for big religious events to stop the Hathras stampede kind of incidents.

Speaking in the Upper House, Kharge said: "I want to suggest that the kind of unfortunate incidents are taking place due to blind faith and people gathered there. And there is no law to deal with it. Like for holding big satsang programme, what is access, how many people will be there, which is the nearby hospital. So a law should be made as over 135 people have lost their lives.

I request you to have a law



on it, and many fake babas are in jail, he pointed out.

To this Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said that he has taken note of his request.

Dhankhar also said that he will not allow any members objecting to request of Kharge as he mentioned a very important issue.

"It is necessary that laws be made against 'blind faith' like in Karnataka and Maharashtra, so that fake people who rob people for money can be banned,' Kharge added.

A stampede at a religious congregation in Hathras resulted in over 100 fatalities on Tuesday, with many devotees suffocating and bodies piling up in a chaotic

This marks one of the deadliest such incidents in recent years. The stampede occurred during a packed

Jairam Ramesh slams govt over delay in CUET results

ANAND SINGH NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday hit out at the government over the delay in the results of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) saying the NTA, which is under the Ministry of Education, has no professional expertise of its own and depends entirely on private vendors--some with dubious credentials--for the ACTUAL testing.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Ramesh, who is Congress General Secretary and communication incharge said, "The totally discredited National Testing Agency (NTA) had earlier announced that the results for the Common University **Entrance Test (CUET)** would be declared on June 30th. Now it appears that they might

The Congress leader also said that "it is also worth recalling that the NTA, which is under the Ministry of Education, has no professional expertise of its own and depends entirely on private vendors--some with dubious credentials--for the ACTUAL testing".

be declared on July 10th." "It is worth recalling

has not been shifted out as part of the clean-up that NTA's chairman following the NEET and NET fiascos," he said.

The Congress leader also said that "it is also worth recalling that the NTA, which is under the Ministry of Education, has no professional expertise of its own and depends entirely on private vendors--some with dubious credentials--for the ACTUAL testing".

"CUET is one reason why more and more youngsters are looking to go abroad for undergraduate education," he added.

The NTA has come down under severe attack of the opposotion over the alleged rigging and paper leaks in the NEET exams. Even the exams of NEET UG were cancelled.

The Congress-led opposotion has been demanding for a Supreme Cpurt monitored probe over the NEET exam results issue.

SC asks U'khand judge to ascertain if woman wants to go back to spouse

TDG NETWORK

More than six years after allowing a woman to live with her parents instead of her husband who belongs to another religious faith, the Supreme Court on Wednesday took note of a fresh plea by the man that his wife be freed from their custody and asked a sessions judge to ascertain whether she now wanted to live with him. The row over the inter-faith marriage had reached the apex court in 2018 when petitioner Mohammad Danish approached it for a direction to free his wife, then 20, from the custody of her parents.

A bench headed by the then Chief Justice, Dipak Misra, had on May 17, 2018 allowed the woman to go back to her parents, who claimed the 'nikahnama' furnished by Danish was fake and that he had abducted their daughter.

The judges, after interacting with the woman, had allowed her to live with her parents, saying being an adult she was "free" to lead her life as per her wish.

The woman had then expressed her desire to go with her parents in Haldwani district of Uttarakhand. The top court had disposed of the habeas corpus petition filed by Danish to produce his wife without touching upon the aspect of their marriage and nkahnama>.

«After we made some queries, we found that she has a clear mind and intends to stay with her parents. In view of the aforesaid, the habeas corpus petition filed by the petitioner shall stand disposed of,» the bench had

On Wednesday, a vacation bench of justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah took note of the fresh plea filed by Danish claiming his wife now wanted to come back to him.

"Considering this, we direct the First Additional Sessions Judge, Haldwani to visit the place and record her statement," the bench said and directed the state administration to render assistance to the judicial officer in compliance of its orders.

The bench asked the judicial officer to record the statement within two weeks and file a report. The matter will be taken up one week thereafter.

The parents of the woman, who accompanied her to the courtroom back in May 2018, had alleged her so-called husband had kidnapped her and executed a "fake" nikahnama (marriage

Rahul flays 'cowardly attack' on Congress office in Gujarat ANAND SINGH A day after stones were pelted at the office of Congress in Gujarat, Grand old party leader and newly appointed Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi condemned the attack saying that it further strengthens his point about the BJP and the sangh parivar and people of saffron party spread

of Gujarat can clearly see through their lies and will teach the BJP government a decisive lesson.'

"I am saying it again -INDIA is going to win in Guiarat," he added.

Rahul Gandhi's remarks came a day after the Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Ahmedabad was reportedly vandalised by Bajrang Dal

on Monday night to protest his recent comments about Hindus in Parliament.

Members of the BJP and the Congress Party clashed outside the Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday afternoon. The BJP and its affiliated bodies were protesting against the alleged "anti-Hindu" remarks made by Rahul of Lord Shiva, Jesus Christ, Sikhism, Buddhism, Fainism and others to underline the importance of fearlessness preached by all religions.

Rahul Gandhi

showed the pictures

Gandhi.

In his over one and half hour speech, which faced several disruptions Rahul Gandhi on Monday began his speech in the Lok Sabha by invoking 'Jai Sanvidhan (Hail Constitution) amidst BJP chants of 'Jai Sri Ram'.

He asserted that Hinduism is not about spreading fear, hatred,

HC order limiting period of bail

to two months 'incorrect': SC

and falsehoods, Gandhi criticized the BJP for their interpretation of Hindu values.

Rahul Gandhi showed the pictures of Lord Shiva, Jesus Christ, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism and others to underline the importance of fearlessness preached by all religions.

Facing opposotion from the treasury-bench members over his remarks, Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP, saying, "Aap Hindu ho hi nahi (You are not Hindus). It is clearly written in Hinduism that one should stand with the truth and not back down from the truth or be scared of it.

When the Prime Minister intervened that "it is a very serious matter of concern". Rahul Gandhi hit back saying that Modiji, BJP, RSS are not the custodians of Hinduism.

Rampant corruption in Himachal: LoP Jai Ram Thakur

Alleging "rampant corruption" in the Himachal Pradesh government, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur claimed on Wednesday that the Congress dispensation will set a record for scams. In a press conference in Dehra, Thakur alleged that reports have appeared in a section of the press that all rules have been ignored in the Rs 7 crore tender of the Marketing Board, despite the concerned officers recommending calling of tenders again. "The tender was awarded in the absence of key officers and the Managing Director", he alleged. "Corruption is rampant in the state government



led by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, and it appears that the government, which has not done any developmental work, is going to set a record of scams", he said. Thakur alleged that another scam of the sale of land worth Rs2lakh to Himachal Roads **Transport Corporation** (HRTC) for Rs 2 crore has also surfaced and alleged that the chief minister was victimising the BJP leaders and their relatives. Thakur, who was campaigning for Hoshiyar Singh, a BIP candidate from the Dehra assembly seat, while addressing a series of meetings, said that during the BJP rule, developmental works worth Rs 600 crore were done in the

Dehra assembly segment.

'Family of Agniveer Ajay has already been paid Rs 98.39 lakh in Parliament about the TDG NETWORK

The Indian Army on Wednesday rejected claims in social media posts that compensation hasn't been paid to the next of kin of Agniveer Ajay Kumar who lost his life in the line of duty, and said the family has already been paid Rs 98.39 lakh out of the amount due.The total amount will be Rs 1.65 crore approximately, it said in the "clarification" that came after Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi shared on X a video purportedly of Kumar's father, who stated he had not received any money. Gandhi cited Kumar's case to allege in his post that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has "lied"

issue of compensation to families of martyred Agniveers and demanded an apology for it. Singh, while intervening when Gandhi was speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in Lok Sabha, had said on Monday that an Agniveer who lays down his life in the line of duty gets a compensation of Rs1 crore. In a post on 'X', the additional directorate general of public information of the Army said that the Indian Army "salutes the supreme sacrifice made by Agniveer Ajay Kumar" and emphasised that the emoluments due to a fallen hero are paid expeditiously to the next of kin of departed soldiers,

The Supreme Court has termed as "incorrect" an order of the Orissa High Court which limited the period of bail granted to an accused in a case lodged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to two months. The bench, while referring to a verdict passed earlier by the top court, said it is now well settled that

the right to speedy trial is

recognised as a fundamental

right guaranteed by the

Constitution and is closely

tied to the right to life and

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

personal liberty. A vacation bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan noted that the petitioner had filed a bail application in the high court

Cong, I.N.D.I.A. bloc spreading lies on NEET issue: Pradhan

has been demanding a dis-

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the petitioner challenging the May 6 order of the high court.

which had taken notice of the fact that the petitioner was in custody since May 11, 2022 and only one witness was examined so far.

"In such circumstances, the high court thought it fit to order release of the petitioner on bail but only for a period of two months," it noted.

"In our opinion, it is an incorrect order. If the high court was of the view that the right of the petitioner to have a speedy trial could be said to have been infringed, then the high court should have ordered release of the petitioner on bail pending final disposal of the trial itself," the apex court said in its July 1 order.

It said there was no good reason for the high court to "limit the period of bail".

While issuing notice on the plea filed by the petitioner, the bench directed that he shall continue to remain on bail pending further orders by the apex court.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the petitioner challenging the May 6 order of the high court.

The high court had disposed of his bail application after directing the trial court to release the petitioner on interim bail for a period of two months from the date of his actual release.

Aimless opposition disrespecting constitutional values, says BJP

TDG NETWORK

The BIP on Wednesday flayed the opposition members for staging a walkout during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in the Rajya Sabha and said their intention was to only create ruckus in the House as they did not have the 'strength' to hear the truth. The opposition parties' INDIA bloc, led by the Congress, staged a walkout of the Rajya

Sabha after the Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not allowed to intervene during Prime Minister Modi's reply on the motion thanking President Droupadi Murmu for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

'The opposition is demoralized, aimless and anarchic due to its defeat (in the Lok Sabha polls) for the third time in a row. It is disrespecting our constitutional values ??and is busy in conspiracy to hide

its defeat,' BJP chief and Leader of the Rajya Sabha JP Nadda charged in a post on X.

'These negative efforts by them cannot hinder the NDA government's journey towards achieving its goal of building a 'developed India',' he added.

Nadda said that Prime Minister Modi paved the way for building a 'developed India' in the Rajya Sabha in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday attacked the opposition alleging it is misleading students by spreading lies on the NEET issue and should stop its "cheat policy". Pradhan's comments came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Rajya Sabha that the government will not spare those playing with the future of students.

Amid a raging row over alleged irregularities, including



aminations such as the NEET and the NET, the opposition

cussion on the issue in Parliament. "Congress has a history of cheating the country on past and present issues. This intention of theirs has come out in the open in the NEET case as well. The intention of the INDI alliance to create instability by deviating from the issues with the help of lies and rumours is anti-national and anti-student," Pradhan wrote on X in Hindi. "During his speech in Rajya Sabha today, Prime Minister has again told the youth of the country that youth power and their bright future is the first priority of the government and this government is with every young student of the country. No injustice will be allowed to happen to anyone. "The government is taking strict steps by bringing a law for this. The country is confident that no one guilty of irregularities in the examination will be spared. Now Congress party and Indi Alliance should stop their misleading cheat policy on NEET issue," he added. In the line of fire over the alleged irregularities in the NEET and the PhD entrance NET, the Centre removed National Testing Agency (NTA) director general Subodh Singh last week and notified a high-level panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief R Radhakrishnan to ensure a transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the NTA. While the NEET is under the

scanner over several irregularities, including alleged paper leaks, the UGC-NET was cancelled as the education ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam was compromised.

TDG NETWORK

dead.

The Tamil Nadu government

on Wednesday informed

the Madras High Court that

none of the well-settled cir-

cumstances, under which

transfer of investigation to

CBI was ordered, apply to

the Kallakurichi hooch trag-

edy case that has left over 60

Chief Secretary Shiv Das

Meena stated this in his

status report filed before a

division bench comprising

Acting Chief Justice R Ma-

hadevan and Justice Mo-

hamed Shafiq, in response

to the petition filed by AIAD-

MK legal wing secretary I S Inbadurai and K Balu, presi-

dent of Advocates Forum for

Social Justice. They sought a

CBI probe into the crime/of-

fence, sale of illicit arrack by

accused person in Kallaku-

richi district on June 19, in

None of circumstances for CBI

probe apply to Kallakurichi incident: TN govt tells HC

DMK UPS DEMAND FOR NEET ABOLITION

TNBJPchief Annamalaislams 'drama', actor Vijay backs Assembly resolution

heruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday said the opposition to NEET is an "all-India issue" now and sounded confident of seeing a "good result," visa-vis its possible abolition, on a day when top Tamil actor Vijay backed an Assembly resolution against the central qualifying test piloted by the government recently.

The DMK's students' wing held a protest demanding the abolition of NEET, even as Opposition AIADMK and BJP hit out at the ruling party for "misleading people" and enacting a "drama" over the issue. NEET has been a sensitive issue in Tamil Nadu as scores of medical aspirants have died allegedly by suicide over the past few years, either over failing the exam or fears of unable to crack it. All major political parties, including the



DMK and the AIADMK have been opposed to NEET.

DMK has been opposing NEET for long, claiming it was against social justice and state's rights. It wants marks secured in the class 12 exams to be the criteria for medical admissions.

The DMK protest, titled "No More NEET" was led by the party's Students Wing Secretary and Kancheepuram MLA, CVMP Ezhilarasan. The protesters were clad in

DMK Organistion Secretary RS Bharathi addressed the protesters. The agitation comes days after the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed yet another resolution, seeking NEET exemption to the state.

In his address at the protest venue, Bharathi said the DMK has been opposing NEET ever since it was introduced and that it could not "enter into Tamil Nadu" during the days of late party president and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. So was the case when late AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa ruled the state.

Later, speaking to report-

a good one." "Earlier, DMK alone was talking about NEET, today all the parties are talking. (Ac-

ers, he said all the people have

started realising that DMK's

decision to oppose NEET "is

tor) Vijay has also voluntarily extended support to our resolution." "This is an all-India issue. There will be a good result. Last time it was different, this time the Parliament is different, there will be changes," he said in an apparent reference to a stronger opposition in the Lok Sabha that could press for NEET abolition.

Actor Vijay, who heads the political party Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) that would contest the 2026 Assembly polls in the state, also opposed NEET and wanted Education to be brought to the States' List as a permanent solution to such issues.

Addressing students at an event organised by him to honour rank holders of classes 10 and 12 exams, the actorpolitician claimed students in Tamil Nadu, especially the poor, those from backward and very backward classes in the rural areas have been "badly affected," following the introduction of the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility

Test. NEET was also against states' rights as it was moved to the concurrent list after 1975. "Curriculum should be state-specific. It should give importance to different perspectives. Diversity is a strength, not a weakness. After studying in the state language and syllabus and exam based on NCERT, how is it fair (for an aspirant to appear in the central test)...think about the rural students, how difficult it is for them."

"We have seen some reports of irregularities in NEET. After this, the credibility about NEET has gone. We have understood NEET is no more

Odisha to plant mangroves in coastal village to mitigate cyclone impacts, arrest soil erosion

TDG NETWORK

Odisha Forest department will plant mangroves in a coastal village in Ganjam district to mitigate cyclone impacts and curb soil erosion, officials said on Wednesday.

The plantation drive will be taken up at Purunabandh, a village located near the mouth of river Rushikulya under Khallikote range of Berhampur forest division.

Approximately 15,000 mangrove saplings will be planted across a six-hectare area near the village under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)funded Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project, Sunny Khokkar, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)

TDG NETWORK



of Berhampur and the proj-

timated Rs 33 crore, aims to enhance climate resilience across 33 panchayats in four coastal blocks - Chikiti, Rangeilunda, Khallikote, and Ganjam, primarily benefiting the fishing community.

emphasised.

TDG NETWORK

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and Bharatiya Nagarik

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice R Mahadevan and Justice Mohamed Shafiq posted to July 23, further hearing of the Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate B advocate general 7 Ravindran, seeking time. circumstances under which which 65 persons died. The bench posted to July 11, such transfer of investigation

The bench posted to Fuly 11, further hearing

of the case at the request of Additional

further hearing of the case at the request of Additional advocate general J Ravindran, seeking time.

In his report, Meena said transfer of cases from the state investigation to the CBI, acting under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was not to be resorted to routinely but only to be used in rare cases where investigation was found by the constitutional courts to have failed. In the instant case, the unfortunate incident was less than two weeks old and sufficient progress has been shown. "None of the well-settled

Plea in HC against titles to three new

is ordered apply to the current case", he added. He said on the very same

day, the state government extended a comprehensive all inclusive support system to affected families, including financial assistance, medical care and ongoing socio-economic support through various government schemes.

On June 19 itself, the case was transferred to CB-CID and it was re-registered in Villupuram. A one man commission headed by Justice B Gokuldas, a retired judge of the Madras HC, has been constituted, he added.

Day after stampede, large number of cops deployed outside religious preacher's ashram

TDG NETWORK

A large number of police personnel has been deployed outside the ashram of a religious preacher a day a stampede at his 'Satsang' in Hathras district killed 121 people and injured 31, officials said Wednesday. However, the officials remained tight-lipped when asked if Baba Narayan Hari, also known as Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba, was inside the ashram. But, some police sources said he indeed was inside.

Police personnel pooled from many police stations have been deployed outside the ashram at Bicchwan here and no one, including the media, is allowed in.

According to the latest list released by the Relief Com-



know, 121 persons have died and 31 are injured in the incident in Hathras.

Circle Officer Sunil Kumar Singh said security has been tightened after the stampede

When asked if Baba is inside, he did not give a reply. The stampede took place

on Tuesday as the 'satsang' ended. Some accounts said people slipped in the slush as they ran after the preacher's car, triggering the stampede.

Tens of thousands of devotees had gathered in the Hathras district's Phulrai village for the satsang>, conducted by Baba.



ect's nodal officer, said.

The project, costing an es-

Collaboration among various departments including agriculture, horticulture. fisheries, animal resources development, and watershed management is pivotal for its implementation, Khokkar

criminal laws in Hindi and Sanskrit

The three acts are-- Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha.

The Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to file its response to a petition, which sought to declare as ultra vires to the provisions of the Constitution, the Centre giving nomenclature in Hindi and Sanskrit languages for the three new criminal Acts that have come into effect from July 1.

The three acts are--Suraksha

Ramkumar Adityan, which

MP budget focuses on infra, women and tribal welfare; no new tax

population of India, whereas also sought a direction to the Union government to take appropriate steps to provide nomenclature in English for

the new three criminal laws. In his PIL, Adityan submitted that the Union government has given titles in Hindi and Sanskrit languages to the three legislations.

There were 28 states and 8 Union Territories in the country. Only 9 states and 2 Union Territories' official language was Hindi, he added.

He said Hindi was the mother tongue for about 43.63 percent of the total it was not the case with the remaining. However, the Union gov-

ernment has given names in Hindi and Sanskrit languages to these important legislations. According to data from the 2011 census, only 3.93 lakh people speak Hindi in Tamil Nadu, he

He said the PIL was filed in the interest of public particularly advocates, law officers and Judicial Officers, who were not familiar with the Hindi and Sanskrit lan-

Cal HC allows Suvendu Adhikari to hold dharna outside Raj Bhavan on July 14

TDG NETWORK

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday allowed Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari and others to hold a peaceful dharna outside the Raj Bhavan here on July 14 for four hours.

BJP's Nandigram MLA Adhikari had prayed for permission to hold the dharna protesting alleged post-poll violence upon opposition party workers at the same site outside Raj Bhavan where the TMC had held a demonstration in October, 2023.

Justice Amrita Sinha permitted the sit-in demonstration with a maximum of 300 people on July 14 for four hours there with the condition that it should be absolutely peaceful and that no participant in the dharna will carry any firearm.

She also directed that no inflammatory speech will be made from the demonstra-



She also directed that no inflammatory speech will be made from the demonstration that may incite people.

tion that may incite people. Appearing for the West Bengal government, Advocate General Kishore Dutta submitted before the court that Adhikari and others will be permitted to hold the demonstration on July 14 for four hours from 10 am outside the Raj Bhavan.

Seeking to hold the demonstration outside the Raj Bhavan, which the state had earlier said comes under prohibitory orders on gatherings under Section 144 of CrPC, Adhikari's counsel stated that the ruling party held a dharna there for five days in October, 2023.

Adhikari's counsel Billwadal Bhattacharya had stated during the previous hearing that his prayer to the Kolkata Police authorities seeking permission to hold the dharna protesting alleged post-poll violence upon opposition party workers at the same site of Raj Bhavan had been turned down citing administrative

Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday presented the state budget for 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore, marking major allocations for the infrastructure development and welfare of women and tribals

No new taxes were announced in the budget, which state Finance Minister Jagdish Devda termed as "sarvsparshi" (all-inclu-

Devda presented the budget in the state legislative assembly amid ruckus created by the opposition Congress over the issue of an alleged nursing college

The CBI is probing the alleged scam pertaining to gross irregularities in the functioning of several nursing colleges that lacked infrastructure while some existed only on paper.

Talking to reporters af-

ter presenting the budget, Devda said the behaviour of the opposition members in the House was highly condemnable.

"The budget for the year 2024-25 has been made keeping in view the doubling of the budget size in next five years, increasing capital investment, expansion of roads, irrigation and electricity facilities, quality health facilities, attracting investment for employment generation and good governance," Devda said in his speech.

Amid continuous sloganeering by the opposition, the government presented an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore for the financial year 2024-25, which is 16 per cent more than that of the previous year.

The budget for the women and child development department has been substantially raised to Rs 26,560 crore from 14,686 crore in the last fiscal.

Devda said there will be

Wednesday presented the state budget for 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore, marking major allocations for the infrastructure development and welfare of women and tribals.

Madhya Pradesh government on

an estimated increase in capital expenditure by 15 per cent in 2024-25, compared to the budget estimate for 2023-24.

The capital outlay for 2024-25 is estimated at 4.25 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product.

The minister said the fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is estimated to be 4.11 per cent of the GSDP.

The allocation for infrastructure sector has been increased to Rs 53,460 crore from Rs 49,009 crore in the previous fiscal, while the allocation for the urban and rural development sectors has been increased to Rs 44,588 crore from Rs 39,326 crore in the last FY.

The government has allocated Rs 40,804 crore for the Scheduled Tribe sub-plan while the allocation for the Scheduled Caste sub-plan stands at Rs 27,900 crore.

A budget allocation of Rs 18,984 crore has been made for 'Ladli Behna Yojana', the BJP government's flagship scheme under which eligible women are provided Rs 1,250 per month. The budget also has a provision of Rs 15,509 crore for the establishment of government primary schools

and Rs 9,258 crore for mid-

dle schools.

For the agriculture sector, the budget has been increased to Rs 26,126 crore from Rs 22,732 crore in the previous FY.

Devda said the budget size will be doubled in the next five years.

As the House assembled for the budget presentation, Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar and other Congress members demanded the resignation of minister Vishvas Sarang, who had previously held charge of the medical education department, over the nursing college 'scam".

The opposition members remained stationed in the well of the House, demanding resignation of Sarang, who is currently the sports and youth affairs minister.

Assam floods: 11 wild animals drown in Kaziranga National Park

TDG NETWORK

Eleven animals, mostly hog deer, have drowned while 65 other animals have been rescued from floodwaters in Kaziranga National Park in Assam, an official said on Wednesday

Forty-two hog deer, two otters and sambars each and a Scops owl have been rescued, the official of the national park said.

Of the 233 forest department camps in the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, 173 have been inundated by gushing floodwaters, up from 167 on Tuesday, he said.

In the Agoratoli range of the national park, 24 of the 34 camps have been inundated, while 51 of 58 camps in the central range, 37 of 39 in Bagori, 13 of 25 in Burapahar and seven of nine in Bokakhat range are under floodwaters.



Forty-two hog deer, two otters and sambars each and a Scops owl have been rescued, the official of the national park said.

Altogether nine camps have been vacated by forest personnel so far, including two in Agoratoli, three in Bokakhat, two in the central range and one each in Biswanath and Nagaon wildlife di-

visions.

Forest department employees, including security personnel, stay in the camps inside the national park to conduct patrolling for the protection of flora and fauna.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reviewed the situation in the national park on Tuesday and directed the authorities to take adequate precautions, including regulation of vehicular traffic on NH 715, to ensure that wildlife is not harmed.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) have been imposed to restrict the movement of vehicular traffic on NH 715 passing through the national park. Experts pointed out that

floods are essential for the preservation and rejuvenation of the ecosystem of the Kaziranga National Park as Brahmaputra's overflow and increase in the level of water not only revitalises the grasslands but the excess water flow also flushes out the aquatic weeds and unwanted plants.

PUSHING BY SECURITY LED TO STAMPEDE: REPORT

AGENCIES LUCKNOW

haos caused after Naravan Sakaar Hari's followers were pushed by the godman's security and a "slippery slope" resulted in the stampede that killed 121 people in Hathras on Tuesday, a preliminary report by the SDM said.

The preliminary report on the stampede was submitted by Sikandra Rau sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) to the district magistrate (DM).

The SDM, who gave permission for the 'satsang' (religious congregation), was also present at the venue when the incident occurred, according to the re-

"A crowd of more than 2 lakh people was present in the satsang pandal. Shri Narayan Sakar Hari



Bags and other belongings lying at the scene a day after a massive stampede that took place during a Satsang in Hathras At least 116 people were killed and scores injured in the stampede.

(Bhole Baba) reached the satsang pandal at about 12.30 pm and the program went on for 1 hour.

"After this, at about 1.40 pm, Shri Narayan Sakaar Hari (Bhole

Baba) came out of the pandal to go towards Etah on National Highway-91," the preliminary report said, adding that when the godman was leaving the ven-

ue, his followers started running towards him for a 'darshan' and collect soil from around his feet. "Satsangi women/men/chil-

dren etc. started applying the

dust of Baba's feet on their foreheads (while trying) to get his darshan, touch his feet and take his blessings," reads the report dated July 2. The situation worsened when more people waiting on the divider of the road ahead began running towards his vehicle, it said.

"A large number of people were already standing on the dividers in the middle and on the sides of GT road, who started jumping from the dividers and started running towards Baba's vehicle to get his darshan.

"Then Baba's personal security personnel (Black Commandos) and sevadars started pushing and shoving the crowd themselves to stop the crowd, due to which some people fell down," the report states, adding this led to a panic and the crowd went out of control.

'Anti-social elements behind stampede'

A lawyer representing Bhole Baba claimed Wednesday that "anti-social elements" were behind the stampede at the preacher's 'satsang' here in which 121 people died a

day back. According to reports, the stampede occurred when a his followers rushed towards Bhole Baba to get a closer glimpse of the preacher and collect his "charan raj". "Some anti-social elements hatched a conspiracy. When Narayan Saakar Hari left the venue, his vehicles left, our volunteers and followers failed to understand what was happening due to the conspiracy. This was done **RS TO DELIBERATE ON MECHANISM TO** PREVENT STAMPEDE

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha in the next session will deliberate on a mechanism to prevent Hathras-like incidents, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Wednesday. The House paid homage to the devotees who were killed in the stampede at a religious congregation in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras on Tuesday. It stood in silence for a brief while as mark of respect for the departed souls.

as per a plan and should be investigated," lawyer A P Singh said.

No lesson learnt from past tragedies

India has unfortunately witnessed numerous crowdrelated disasters in recent

1. Mata Vaishnav Devi Shrine Stampede (Jan 1,

Mata Vaishnav Devi Shrine, Indian-controlled Kashmir

The cause of the surge remains under investigation, but overcrowding during New Year's Day celebrations is suspected.

At least 12 pilgrims died and 15 were injured in the crush.

2. Mumbai Pedestrian **Bridge Stampede (Sept** 29, 2017):

Crowded footbridge connecting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Churchgate railway stations, Mumbai

The stampede reportedly began during morning rush hour when some commuters stumbled or panicked, leading to a domino effect.

Mata Vaishnav Devi Shrine stampede File photo

The incident resulted in 22 deaths and 32 injuries.

pede (Oct 15, 2016):

Bridge near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

The stampede occurred as devotees crossed the bridge to reach a Hindu religious ceremony. Overcrowding and limited capacity on the bridge are believed to be contributing factors.

At least 24 people were killed and 20 injured in the

4. Godavari River Stampede (July 14, 2015):

Godavari Riverbank, Andhra Pradesh

The stampede erupted during a Hindu religious

bathing festival. Some pilgrims attempting to retrieve 3. Varanasi Bridge Stamfootwear lost in the river may have triggered panic

and a rush.

At least 27 devotees died and dozens were injured. 5. Ratangarh Temple

Stampede (Oct 13, 2013): Ratangarh Temple, Madhya Pradesh

A bridge collapse during the Navaratri festival caused a stampede as pilgrims panicked and attempted to flee.

This tragedy resulted in the deaths of 115 people, mostly women and children.

6. Allahabad Train Station Stampede (Feb 10,

2013): Allahabad Railway Station, Uttar Pradesh (during Kumbh Mela)

Last-minute platform changes by railway officials triggered chaos and a stampede among the massive crowd gathered for Kumbh

At least 36 people lost their lives in the ensuing rush. 7. Jodhpur Temple Stam-

pede (Sept 30, 2008):

Temple in Jodhpur, Rajasthan (during Navratra) Severe overcrowding is suspected to have caused the stampede as thousands of pilgrims gathered for the Navratri festival.

The incident resulted in nearly 200 deaths and 100 injuries.

8. Naina Devi Temple **Stampede (Aug 3, 2008):** Naina Devi Temple, Himachal Pradesh

Rumors of a landslide sparked panic and a stampede during a nine-day religious festival at the temple. This tragedy claimed the

lives of 145 pilgrims, including many women and chil-

TDG NETWORK

Stampedes at large gatherings in India often result from a combination of factors related to crowd management, infrastructure. and administrative oversight. Here's a brief overview of common reasons and administrative failures that contribute to such incidents:

REASONS FOR STAMPEDE

Overcrowding: Exceeding the capacity of the venue is a primary cause. When more people are allowed into an area than it can safely hold, the risk of a stampede increases significantly.

Poor Crowd Control: Lack of proper crowd control measures, such as barricades, designated entry and exit points, and crowd flow management, can lead to chaos and panic.

Inadequate Planning: Insufficient planning for large gatherings, including

lack of emergency protocols, insufficient security personnel, and failure to anticipate crowd behavior, can result

Why stampedes recur frequently

in dangerous situations. Lack of Infrastructure: Poor infrastructure, such as narrow pathways, insufficient signage, and inadequate lighting, can exacerbate the situation during a large gathering.

Panic and Rumors: Sudden panic triggered by rumors or false alarms can cause a rush of people trying to flee the area, leading to a stampede.

ADMINISTRATIVE FAILURES

Lack of Coordination: Poor coordination between different administrative agencies (police, local government, event organizers) can lead to lapses in planning and execution of safety measures

Insufficient Risk Assessment: Failing to conduct a thorough risk assessment before the event, including understanding the potenprecautions, contributes to inadequate preparation. **Inadequate Emergency**

Services: Lack of adequate medical facilities, ambulances, and emergency response teams on standby can worsen the outcomes of a stampede.

Permitting Issues: Granting permissions for events without ensuring that all safety protocols and arrangements are in place shows negligence on the part of the authorities.

Training and Awareness: Inadequate training for police and event staff on crowd management techniques and emergency response can lead to ineffective handling of large gatherings.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DM AND SP

Pre-Event Assessment: The District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the event site, considering factors like crowd capacity,

Hemant Soren set to return as CM

risks.

Safety Measures: Ensuring the implementation of all necessary safety measures, including proper crowd control mechanisms, emergency exits, and availability of medical aid.

Coordination with Organizers: Close coordination with event organizers to ensure they are aware of and comply with safety protocols.

Deployment of Personnel: Deploying sufficient police and emergency personnel trained in crowd management and emergen-

cv response. Public Awareness: Running awareness campaigns to educate the public on safety protocols, emergency exits, and proper behavior during large gatherings.

Monitoring and Supervision: Continuous monitoring of the event by authorities to promptly address any emerging issues and supervise the overall safety of the

PM mounts fresh attack on Congress over Emergency

CONTINUED FROM P1

Have you forgotten the 1977 elections when newspapers and radio were shut. There was no freedom of speech. People then voted on one issue -- re-establishing the Constitution and protection of Constitution.'

There has not been more painful election than the one held in 1977 in the world, he said.

"The 1977 polls clearly shows how (the urge of) saving the Constitution was alive in the hearts of people. Are you misleading the people (now)? At that time, people threw (Indira Gandhi) out of power," he said.

He said that for his party, the Constitution is not just a compilation of articles but its spirit and words are very important too. The Constitution is like a lighthouse which shows his government direction, Modi said. He also attacked Congress'

allies, saying they too were the victims of the excesses committed during the Emergency, but have now joined hands for political opportunism. On the Manipur situation, Modi said violence in the state is continuously declining and educational institutions have reopened and businesses are operational in most parts of the

"The government is making continuous efforts to bring normalcy in Manipur," he said, and informed over 11.000 FIRs have been filed in connection with violence in the state and more than 500 people have been arrested. He stressed the Centre and state were talking to everyone there for opening

the door to peace.

Modi also spoke on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of competitive exams, and asserted tough action will be taken against those involved in paper

"We wanted there should be no politics on a sensitive issue like paper leak, but

the opposition is used to it. I assure the vouth of India that action is being taken to ensure that those who play with the future of youths are handed down strict punishment," he said. The prime minister vowed

> further crackdown on corruption and blackmoney, saying the government has given "full freedom" to probe agencies for taking strongest action against the corrupt.

He also took potshot at the Congress party for levelling serious allegations with evidence against the AAP and then forming an alliance with it to fight the Lok Sabha polls. "I want to state

New Cabinet committees constituted

without hesitation and also tell the people op the country that I have given full freedom to agencies to take the strongest action against the corrupt and corruption. The government will not interfere anywhere," the prime minister said.

"Yes they (probe agencies) should work honestly. No person embroiled in corruption will be able to escape the law. This is Modi's guarantee". Rejecting the charge of is misuse of probe agencies, Modi cited statements of Opposition leaders, like the late Mulayam Singh Yadav who had accused the UPA government of using ED and CBI against them.

CONTINUED FROM P1 "Everything will be dis-

closed soon," the JMM executive president said when asked about the swearing-in. Earlier, leaders and MLAs of the alliance during a meeting at Champai Soren's residence here unanimously decided to elect Hemant Soren as the JMM legislature party leader, party sources said.

A decision was taken in the meeting to make Hemant Soren as the Chief Minister of the state again," a party source said.

Congress's Jharkhand in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir and its state president Rajesh Thakur also attended the meeting, besides Hemant Soren's brother Basant and wife Kalpana.

Hemant Soren, son of JMM supremo Shibu Soren was released from jail on June 28 after nearly five months, after the high court granted him bail in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. He had resigned as the CM shortly before his arrest on January 31 by the

Meanwhile, official sources in New Delhi said the Enforcement Directorate is soon expected to approach the Supreme Court with an SLP against the Jharkhand High Court order that granted bail to Hemant Soren in a money laundering case.

The ED is likely to challenge the June 28 order passed by the single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhvay stating that the court's belief that the petitioner (Soren) is "not guilty" was erroneous and the accused does not satisfy the twin conditions as required under section 45 of the PMLA. sources said.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, BJP MP Nishkant Dubey said, "The Champai Soren era is over in Jharkhand. In the family-oriented party, people outside the family have no political future. I wish the chief minister drew inspiration from Bhagwan

Birsa Munda and stood up against the corrupt Hemant Soren ji.

Jharkhand BJP president Babulal Marandi asserted that the tribals outside Shibu Soren's family are only temporary faces in JMM. He also alleged that the family believes in using people as per their needs and require-

Marandi alleged that the real face of JMM, which had talked about rising above nepotism and electing a new chief minister five months ago, has once again been ex-

He claimed that the "tiger of Kolhan", as Champai Soren is known in political circles, has been turned into a mouse today. While Jharkhand can have 12 ministers, the state Cabinet at present has a strength of 10.

After the Lok Sabha elections, the strength of the JMM-led alliance in the state was reduced to 45 MLAs JMM-27, Congress-17 and

Amritpal may take oath on July 5

CONTINUED FROM P1

Ghansham Thori, the deputy commissioner of Amritsar, has confirmed that Singh has been granted parole. The parole, effective from July 5, will last for up to four days under certain conditions communicated to the Dibrugarh Jail Superintendent. The Amritsar Police will accompany



home in Amritsar. Recently, the Punjab Government submitted an application to Speaker Om Birla requesthis oath as the Khadoor Sahib MP. Supporters of the pro-Khalistan leader believe

ing parole for Singh to take

that this opportunity will allow Singh to fulfil his duties and challenge his image as an anarchist. However, they are hesitant to address the contradiction in Singh's stance, as he had previously claimed a lack of faith in the **Indian Constitution before** contesting the Lok Sabha elections.

Yogi smells a conspiracy

CONTINUED FROM P1

convoy moved forward, a group of women moved towards him to touch him. A crowd followed them and started climbing on top of each other.

Adityanath said, "The 'sevadars' kept pushing people leading to the accident. It is sad that the 'sevadars', who do not allow the administration to enter such events, tried to hush up the matter. But when the administration started taking the injured to hospital, most of the 'sevadars' fled.

Action is being taken to fix

accountability, he said, add-

ing some special teams have

been formed and after initial investigation, "we will take further action.' Asked about Opposition

parties trying to corner the

government over the stampede, the chief minister said, "Some people have a tendency to dig up politics in such tragic incidents."

Apparently referring to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, he said, "Everyone knows with whom that gentleman has a photo and who are his political connections... I think it is necessary to get to the bottom of it."

"Those who play with the lives of innocent people will also be held accountable," the chief minister said. A photo of Vishwa Hari

Bhole Baba with Akhilesh

Yadav has gone viral on so-

cial media Asked why the "sevadars' do not allow the administration to enter the venue, Adityanath said,

CONTINUED FROM P1

Others in the committee are: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of Panchayati Raj and Fisheries Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs comprises Modi, Rajnath Singh, Shah, Gadkari, Sitharaman, Goval, Health Minister I P Nadda, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi, Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Environment Minister Bhupender Yaday, Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Coal Minister G Kishan Reddv.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs comprises Rajnath Singh, Shah, Nadda, Sitharaman, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Naidu, Rijiju, Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Minister of Jal Shakti CR Patil. The special invitees in the committee are

Union Minister of State for Law (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal and Minister of State for Law L Murugan. Like previous years, the Appointments

Committee of the Cabinet comprises only two members -- Modi and Shah.

Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth comprises PM Modi, Rajnath Singh, Shah, Gadkari, Sitharaman, Goyal, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Communications Minister Ivotiraditya Scindia, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Minister of Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan.

Special invitees in the committee are Minister of State for Statistics Rao Inderjit Singh and Minister of Aayush Prataprao Jadhav. The Cabinet Committee on Accommoda-

tion has Shah, Gadkari, Sitharaman, Goyal and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal as its members. Union Minister of State for Personnel and

PMO Jitendra Singh is a special invitee in the

Singh to Delhi. On Monday morning, several rebel leaders vis-

Excise 'scam': HC agrees to hear

Kejriwal's bail plea on Friday

TDG NETWORK

The Delhi High Court on

CONG LEADER'S BROTHER SHOT DEAD IN FARIDABAD; 5 ARRESTED

The incident occurred on Sunday night when Kunal Bhadana (32), and brother of Cong leader Ivotender Bhadana, was shot dead over a rivalry,

The police have arrested five people in connection with the murder case of a local Congress leader's brother, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on Sunday night when Kunal Bhadana (32), a resident of Nawada Koh village and brother of local Congress leader Jyotender Bhadana, was shot dead over a rivalry, ACP crime Aman Yadav

The police identified the accused as Vijay Singh (48), Virender alias Billu (40), residents of village Kot, Ramesh (42), Pradeep alias Kalu (34) and Sandeep alias Sandy, residents of SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Yadav said.

According to police, on June 29, an argument broke out between Pradeep and Bhadana's friend Rohit over the phone. They both hurled



abuses at each other.

Following this, the next day, Pradeep got Vijay and Rohit got Kunal on a conference call and hurled abuses at each other, police said.

"Vijay Singh with his brother Virendra and other associates Sandeep, Pradeep and Ramesh went to Masjid Chowk in his car where Kunal and others were standing," ACP Yadav said.

"An altercation broke out between the two parties at Masjid Chowk, and Vijay Singh shot Kunal Bhadana. He died in hospital", the ACP

Based on Jyotender Bhadana's complaint, an FIR was lodged at the Dabua police station, and the accused were arrested. "After getting

Based on Jyotender Bhadana's complaint, an FIR was lodged at the Dabua police station, and the accused

information from my brother's friend, I rushed to the spot. I saw Billu holding my brother's hand while Vijay shot him in the chest. They then fled in their Swift car.

were arrested.

With the help of others, I took Kunal to Asian Hospital in Sector 21-A for treatment, where doctors declared him dead upon arrival," the Congress leader said in his complaint earlier.

Court extends judicial custody of Sisodia, K Kavitha



TDG NETWORK

A court on Wednesday extended till July 25 the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge Kaveri

Baweja extended their custody after they were produced before the court through video conference on the expiry of their judicial custody granted ear-

The High Court noted that the BRS leader was prima facie involved in the payment of kickbacks in various processes and activities relating to proceeds of crime and in the commission of the offence of mon-

ey laundering.

Wednesday said it would hear on July 5 Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea seeking bail in the corruption case registered by the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam.The counsel for Kejriwal mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a

Friday. Advocate Rajat Bhardwaj, appearing for Kejriwal, asserted that the applicant was taken into illegal custody without following the due procedure of law and he has filed a bail plea.

bench of Acting Chief Jus-

tice Manmohan and Justice

Tushar Rao Gedela which

said it would be heard on

As the counsel insisted on fixing the plea for hearing on Thursday, Justice Manmohan said, Let the learned judge go through the papers. We will have it day after.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was arrested by the CBI

on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he is still lodged in ju-

dicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Meanwhile, sources said Kejriwal has also challenged a trial court's July 1 order rejecting his application for directions to the prison authorities for allowing two additional meetings every week with his lawyers through video conference. He is currently allowed two meetings with his lawyers in a week.

He has already challenged his arrest in the CBI case and the plea is pending before the high court. The court had issued notice and asked the CBI to file its reply while listing it for arguments on July 17.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money laundering case on June 20. However, the trial court's order was stayed by the high court.

The excise policy was scrapped in 2022 after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formulation and execution.

According to the CBI and ED, irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy and undue favours extended to the licence

BJP stages protest outside Congress headquarters

TIKAM SHARMA

The Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a protest near the Congress headquarters against Rahul Gandhi's anti-Hindu remarks and demanded 'Apologises' from the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. "The BJP's struggle will continue until Rahul Gandhi apologises," said BJP Delhi Chief Virendra Sachdeva.

Under the leadership of Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, the Delhi BJP staged a massive protest near the Congress headquarters against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement calling Hindus a violent community and demanding an apology from Rahul Gandhi.

During the protest, the demonstrators broke through police barricades



wards the Congress head-

However, they were stopped at the second bar-

Subsequently, the police detained BJP State President Virendra Sachdeva, MP Tejasvi Surya, State Yuva Morcha President Sagar Tyagi, and others, taking them to the Tilak Marg police station. They were released after receiving a warning.

While addressing party

workers during the protest, Delhi BJP Chief Virendra Sachdeva accused Rahul Gandhi of insulting Hindu culture and labelling Hindus as terrorists, suggesting it was part of an electoral strategy. He asserted that millions of Hindus across the country would respond to this provocation. Sachdeva noted the contradiction in claiming that terrorism has no religion while simultaneously accusing Hindus of being violent

in Parliament.

TDG NETWORK

DCW members accuse Maliwal

Two members of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Wednesday dismissed as "malicious" its former chief Swati Maliwal's allegations against the AAP government and urged her not to seek political gains out of the struggle of over 700 women employed by the panel who have not got their salaries.Panel members Firdos Khan and Kiran Negi, who wrote to Maliwal, also accused Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena

Their letters came a day after Maliwal wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing his government of "systematically dismantling" the commission after she resigned as its chairperson in January. She resigned following her nomination to the Rajya Sabha by the Aam

Two people, including a

NEET aspirant, were ar-

rested for allegedly duping

a man of Rs 5.46 lakh on the

pretext of high profits in the

trading market, police here

said on Wednesday. The

accused were identified as

Aman Bhawsar and Sand-

"On March 28, complain-

ant Raj Kumar Prasad

told the police that he was

contacted by fraudsters

through social media plat-

forms on the pretext of

investing money in trad-

ing and for earning high

to four convicts in Soumya murder case

eep Sahu (26), they said.

of withholding the commis-

sion's funds.



Aadmi Party (AAP).

There was no immediate reaction from either Maliwal or the office of the LG on Khan and Negi's letters, the subject lines of which read: "Request to stop using struggle of 700+ women for personal political gains". The content of the two letters was the same. "Over 700 women who

have been employed in the commission and various grant programmes across the city have been left without any salary since November 2023 but you have made the struggle of these women only about yourself and have made statements that the attack on DCW started after your resignation," the letters read.

NEET-UG row: **India Youth** Front to protest at Jantar Mantar

TDG NETWORK

India Youth Front, an umbrella group representing INDIA bloc parties' youth wings, on Wednesday said they will hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on July 8 against the reported incidents of paper leak in the NEET exam. While addressing a press conference here, Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas BV said that the India Youth Front will hold a protest against the paper leaks in the medical entrance exam.

The further strategy will be decided on July 8, he said. The national presidents of

several youth parties of India Alliance were present on this occasion. During this, everyone strongly condemned the policies of the govt regarding the rigging and paper leak a statement by the IYC said.

Ex-Assam Cong leader Borthakur joins AAP

TDG NETWORK

leader Romen Chandra Borthakur joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) here on Wednesday.Senior AAP leader and Delhi cabinet minister Atishi and the party's northeast in-charge Rajesh Sharma welcomed Borthakur and presented him with a party cap and sash.

Former Assam Congress

At a press conference, Atishi said, "He (Borthakur) has been the general secretary of Assam PCC, senior spokesperson and in-charge of Assam Congress. He contested the 2021 election from the Jalukbari assembly seat against the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma."

"Romen Chandra Borthakur has been continuously raising his voice against the corruption and 'bulldozer politics' of Himanta Biswa Sarma. He has decided to join



in Assam," she added. Borthakur said AAP has

contributed a lot to the development of Assam. "I have always opposed the

corruption of the Congress and BJP. In 2021, I contested against BIP CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. I have decided to join AAP and work under the leadership of CM Arvind Kejriwal. I want to work for the development of Assam.

"At present, Assam is facing the disaster of floods. Therefore, I urge AAP to help the people of Assam through crowdfunding. I will serve the people of Assam throughout my life by staying in AAP," he

Three men arrested for multiple robberies in Delhi, Haryana

TDG NETWORK

The police have arrested three men for their alleged involvement in multiple robberies in Burari and Swaroop Nagar in north Delhi, officials said on Wednesday. The accused were identified as Ravinder (37), Mandeep Maan (30) and Arjun (36), residents of Haryana, they said. "A PCR call regarding robbery at gunpoint was received in Burari police station on June 30. Complainant Arjun, a property dealer by profession, told



police that at about 2.50 pm two men came on a motorcycle inside their office, brandished a pistol and robbed Rs 50,000, one chain, one gold ring and a silver kada. Both were wearing helmets and covered their faces with cloths," Deputy

Monday, the DCP said.

Commissioner of Police (north) M K Meena said. Following this, an FIR was registered at the Burari police station, and three teams were formed to arrest the accused, Meena said. The trio was arrested on aspirant, held for duping returns," Deputy Commis-TDG NETWORK sioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

Two people, including NEET

Following this, he invested Rs 5.96 lakh and was able to withdraw only Rs

50,000, Singh said. Based on Prasad's complaint, an FIR was registered. Both Aman and Sandeep were arrested on Tuesday, Singh added.

During interrogation, Aman told the police that he was preparing for NEET and to mint money, he started trading in the share market. He further asked his friend Sandeep to open a bank account, the DCP said.



Dark cloud enveloped Delhi as parts of the city received rain, bringing respite from the intense humidity. Photo: Agencies

attempted murder case

TDG NETWORK

A city court here sentenced a man to four years of imprisonment in 2021 attempt to murder case, police said on Wednesday.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Tarun Singal on Wednesday also imposed a fine of Rs 12,000 on the convict. In case of non-payment of fine, the convict will have to face additional punishment, they said. According to the police, the victim Ranjit, who was a fruit stall vendor in

the Shanti Nagar area, was attacked by Siyasharan Das, who worked as a cobbler in a deadly attack with a leather scraper tool on June 7, 2021.

Ranjeet remained under treatment in the hospital for several days and after being discharged, he filed a complaint on June 15, 2021, they said In his complaint, Ranjit said that Siyasharan Das would often hurl abuses at the passersby. When he objected, Das threatened to kill him and attacked him intending to murder him with a leather scraper, he said.

TDG NETWORK

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 8 the pleas filed by the Delhi Police challenging the high court's order granting bail to four convicts who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the murder case of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan. As per the cause list of July 8 uploaded on the apex court's website, these pleas would come up for hearing before a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma

The high court had on Febru-

ary 12 suspended the sentence of Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Singh Malik and Ajay Kumar till the pendency of their appeals challenging their conviction and sentence and enlarged them on bail.

The high court had noted that the convicts have been in custody for over 14 years. On Apri 22, the apex court had agreed to examine the plea filed by Vishwanathan's mother against the bail granted to the four convicts. It had issued notices to the Delhi police and the four convicts on Madhavi Vishwanathan's petition. Vish-

wanathan, who worked with a leading English news channel, was shot dead in the early hours of September 30, 2008 on Nelson Mandela Marg in south Delhi while she was returning home from work in her car. A special court had on November 25 last year awarded two life terms to Kapoor, Shukla, Malik and Kumar under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 3(1)(i) (committing organised crime resulting in the death of any person) of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Man gets 4 years for 2021 SC to hear pleas on July 8 against bail granted Atishi issues notice over DoE defying teacher transfer directive TDG NETWORK tional Capital Territory (NCT)

NEW DELH

Delhi Education Minister Atishi has issued a show-cause notice to the secretary of the education department and the Directorate of Education (DoE) for allegedly defying her directive to halt the transfer of 5,000 teachers.The minister had ordered on July 1 that no teacher should be transferred solely because he has spent more than 10 years in a particular school.

In its notice, citing Article 239AA of the Constitution, Atishi has emphasised that the elected government of the Naof Delhi holds executive powers over matters listed in the State List and the Concurrent List.

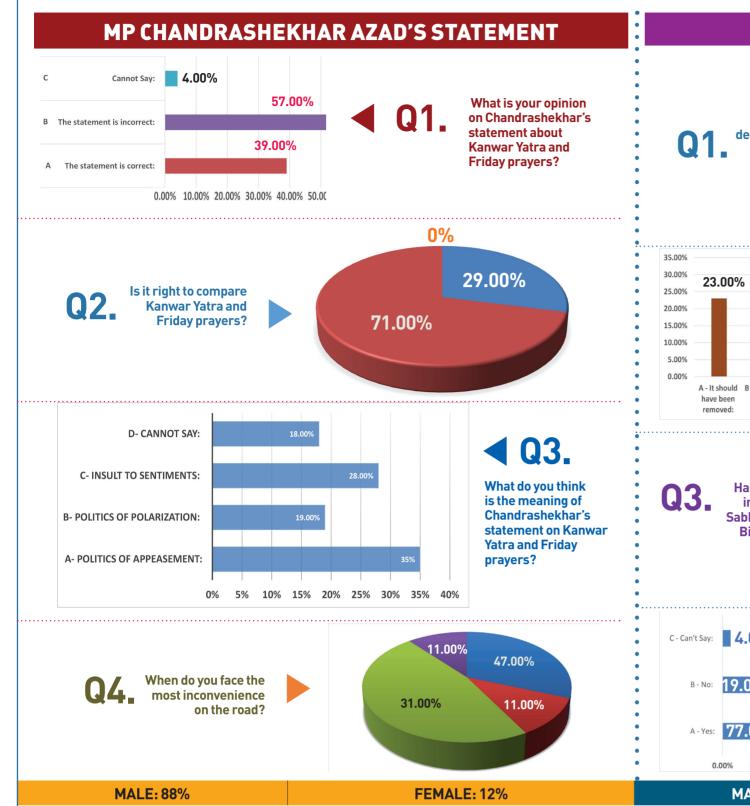
The minister has asked the secretary of the education department and the DoE why they should not face action for violating Article 239AA by disobeying her orders.

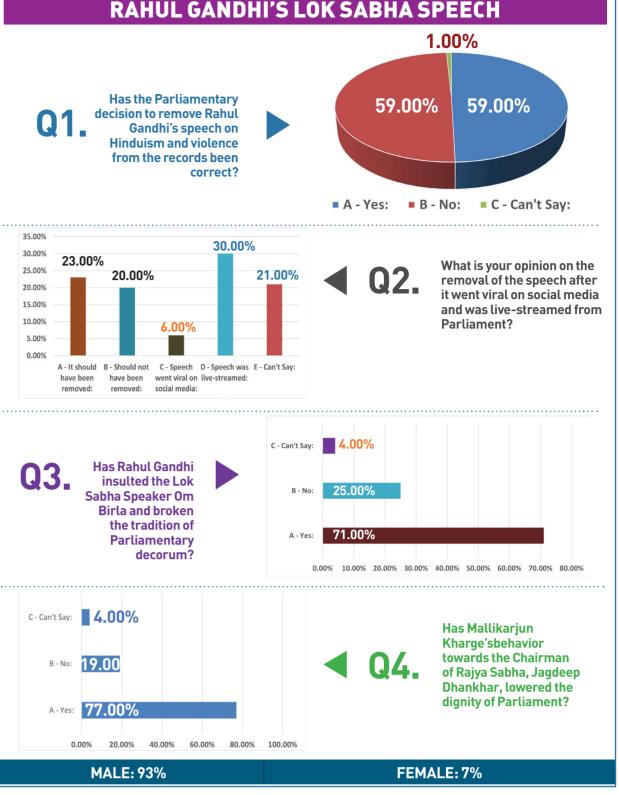
A circular was issued by the DoE on June 11, titled "Online requests for transfer of teaching staff of the Directorate of Education", wherein, vide Clause 16, it was directed that all teachers who have served for more than 10 years in the same school shall compulsorily apply for transfer, failing which they will be transferred to any school by the DoE.

ATISHI OPPOSED THE **ORDER ON JUNE 28.**

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi held a press conference at the party office here on Wednesday and vehemently criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its alleged attempts to dismantle Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's acclaimed education model in the capital.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY — 3RD JULY 2024





CITY

NEET-UG row: Youth Cong workers shave their heads; NTA working on CUET-UG results, police books protestors under new criminal laws

TDG NETWORK

aising slogans against the BJP-led Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA), the student outfits of some IN-DIA bloc parties staged a protest at the Jantar Mantar here on Wednesday against alleged irregularities in several competitive exams.

In a separate protest, the Congress' youth wing, Indian Youth Congress(IYC), staged a demonstration against the irregularities near the protest site.

Several Youth Congress workers shaved their heads as a sign of protest while raising "anti-Modi" slogans. The members of the Leftbacked All India Students

Association (AISA), Student

Federation of India (SFI),

All India Students' Federation (AISF), along with the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha and the Congress'students wing NSUI gathered at the Jantar Mantar to take out a

The student groups aimed to march to the Parliament to press for their demands of scrapping the National Testing Agency, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and decentralisation of entrance

However, the students were not able to hold the march due to heavy police deployment and barricading at the site.

They also demanded reexamination of the medical entrance test NEET-UG for all candidates, who had appeared in the May 5 exam.

Meanwhile, the police has parties.

new criminal laws against

some students, who have

been staging an indefinite

sit-in at the Jantar Mantar

against alleged rigging in

the NTA held examinations.

Over a dozen of these stu-

dents belonging to differ-

ent outfits, including Left

backed AISA and Delhi

University's KYS under the

"India against NTA", were

detained on Tuesday while

attempting to march to the

Parliament to press their de-

mands. The police has now

registered a case against

the students under the new

Their protest entered its

eighth day on Wednesday

as they joined the "Sansad

Gherao" call by the student

outfits of the INDIA bloc

criminal laws, they said.

banner

registered an FIR under the An FIR was also registered against NSUI national president Varun Choudhary and some others for barging into the NTA office and putting an iron lock and chain at its entrance gate last week.

> On July 1, three new criminal laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into effect.

The NTA on Monday released the results of the retest held for 1,565 candidates, who were given the opportunity to compensate for the loss of time due to late staring of the exam at six centres.

Various student outfits have been demanding re-examination of the NEET UG for all 24 lakh candidates, who had appeared in it.

date to be announced soon TDG NETWORK

sion (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar on Wednesday said the date for declaration of results for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG will be announced soon.The results for the crucial test, which is a gateway for admission to undergraduate courses, were scheduled to be announced by June 30. However, there has been no update yet from the National Testing Agency

University Grants Commis-

The delay in announcement of CUET results is also likely to impact the academic calendar in the universities.

"NTA is working on CUET results and will announce a date soon," the UGC chairman amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in the competitive exams, including NEET and NET. The exam conducted in a hy-

brid mode for the first time was cancelled across Delhi, a night before the exam citing logistical reasons. The exam was conducted later in the national capital. The NTA had earlier an-

nounced that the third edition of the CUET-UG will be completed in seven days and there will be no normalisation of scores as all exams will be conducted in a single shift.

For 15 subjects, the tests were in pen-paper mode and for the other 48 subjects, the exam was held in computer-based mode. Over 13.4 lakh candidates had this year registered for

The delay in results come admission to undergraduate courses in 261 central, state, deemed and private universi-

the common entrance test for

In the first edition of the exam in 2022, the test was plagued by technical glitches. Also, as a result of tests for a subject being conducted over multiple shifts, the scores had to be normalised during the announcement of results.

In the line of fire over alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET and the PhD entrance NET, the Centre removed NTA Director General Subodh Singh last week and notified a high-level panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief R. Radhakrishnan to ensure a transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the NTA.

Ossification test determines sexual assault victim's age: HC

TDG NETWORK

When the age of a victim of sexual assault has to be determined on the basis of bone age ossification, the upper age given in the reference range in the report should be considered and the margin of error of two years is required to be applied in POCSO Act cases, the Delhi High Court has held.

In a judgement uploaded on Wednesday, a bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain observed that presumption of innocence is an indispensable philosophy in the country's adversarial system of law, and if there is an element of

doubt, such benefit has to go to the accused.

The decision of the bench came on reference received from a trial court here dealing with a POCSO case in which the age of the victim was determined between 16 and 18 years in a bone age ossification test.

The test is widely used to determine the approximate age of a person on the basis of ossification or hardening of bones as part of the aging

An argument was made before the trial court that the age of the victim should be construed as 20 years after considering the 'upper age' in the range and further giving a margin of error of two



Answering the trial court's

reference, the bench took into account certain decisions by the Supreme Court and the high court to note that the age established by a test might not be precise and, therefore, sufficient margin of error must be allowed.

It added that in the absence of a school certificate or birth certificate, when a court orders an ossification test, such test gives an estimation but it "does not provide us with precise and definite

"We cannot be oblivious of the fact that we are following adversarial system of law where the presumption of innocence is indispensable philosophy.. Since the adversarial system in India is based on the 'innocence of the accused', the burden of proof, generally, falls on prosecution," the court said. It said India's criminal justice system prescribes that a case against any accused has to be proved beyond doubt.

"Meaning thereby, if there is an element of doubt, such benefit has to go to the accused," the court said in its judgement dated July 2.

"In such cases of sexual assault (under POCSO Act), wherever, the court is called upon to determine the age of victim based on 'bone age ossification report', the upper age given in 'reference range' be considered as age of the victim.. The margin of error of two years is further required to be applied," it

Tl closure after canopy collapse; reopening will take time

TDG NETWORK

Delhi airport's Terminal 1 that witnessed a canopy collapse last Friday will take some time to reopen and the operations of this terminal will be at T2 and T3. It is learnt that the reopening of T1 may take more than a month as the entire canopy of the area will be rebuilt.

Shifting of operations from T1 to T2 and T3 have led to crowded scenes at departures.

"Dial's cross-functional teams are actively evaluating the situation and engaging with various stakeholders to ensure passenger safety and convenience. As the evaluation



process is still ongoing, it is too early to provide specific inputs to the queries. We remain committed to maintaining flight operations at T3 and T2, while operations at T1 are temporarily suspended. We appreciate the understanding and support of all stakeholders," Dial spokes-

person said. The canopy at Terminal 1 had partially collapsed around 5 am

on Friday morning. DIAL said while the cause for the collapse of the canopy is being assessed, the primary cause seems to be the heavy rainfall. As per the Indian Metreological Department on Friday, Delhi Safdarjung had recorded massive 228.1mm of rains in 24 hours, mainly in the early morning hours of Friday. This is the highest 24 hours rain in Delhi in June in 85 years.

ASSAM FLOOD SITUATION WORSENS; 8 MORE DEAD, OVER 16 LAKH HIT

TDG NETWORK

The flood situation in Assam continued to deteriorate with eight more people losing their lives and more than 16.25 lakh people reeling under the deluge across 27 districts on Wednesday, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), two persons died at Tezpur revenue circle of Sonitpur district, while one each drowned at Mayong of Morigaon, Naharkatia of Dibrugarh, Pub Mangaladi of Darrang, Dergaon of Golaghat, Halem of Biswanath and Margherita of Tinsukia.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in

CISF constable Kulwinder

Kaur, who allegedly slapped

actor and BJP MP Kangana

Ranaut at the Chandigarh

airport last month, has been

transferred to a unit in Ben-

galuru pending a disciplin-

ary inquiry, official sources

said on Wednesday.Kaur

was suspended by the cen-

tral armed police force on

June 6 soon after the alleged

incident took place when the

newly elected MP was trav-

elling to Delhi. A police FIR

was also lodged against the

constable on a complaint by

the Central Industrial Secu-

The sources said Kaur is

under suspension and has

been posted to the 10th re-

serve battalion based in the

Karnataka capital pending a

She was shifted to the unit

soon after the incident in the

tion that is underway, they

said. A senior commandant-

rank officer is conducting

the inquiry, and statements

disciplinary inquiry.

rity Force (CISF).

this year's flood, landslide and storm has increased to 56. Besides, three more persons feared to be washed away by flood waters in Sonitpur, Sivasagar and Go-

The report said more than 16,25,000 people are hit due to the floods in Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, Charaideo, Chirang, Darrang,

'slapped' Kangana shifted to

of the constable, her col-

leagues present at the airport

that day, the shift in-charge

and some airline officials are

being recorded, the sources

said. They said the inquiry

would take some time, fol-

lowing which an appropri-

ate decision would be taken.

Kapurthala district, joined

the CISF in 2009 and has

been with its aviation secu-

Kaur, who is from Punjab's

laghat districts.

CISF constable who

K'taka unit; inquiry on

Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, East Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur and Tin-

Meanwhile, yesterday severe flood crisis affected

sukia districts.

11.50 lakh people across 23 districts, as the water level of major rivers, including the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, flowing above the danger mark, an official report said. The death toll in this year's floods, landslides and storms has increased to

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Golaghat district following breach of embankments, inspected flood-hit areas, interacted with the suffering population and held meetings with officials to provide relief and rehabilitation to people reeling under the deluge.

Sarma is scheduled to hold a cabinet meeting on Wednesday to review the flood situation prevailing in the various districts.

TDG NETWORK

Gangster Abu Salem has

moved the Bombay High

Court challenging a spe-

cial court's order that last

month rejected his appli-

cation against the planned

transfer from Taloja pris-

on in Navi Mumbai to the

Nashik Central Prison,

claiming a threat to his life.

Salem claimed the decision to shift him out of the Taloja

facility, where he is serving life imprisonment in the 1993

Mumbai serial blasts case, was a "conspiracy" to kill him as

Notably, when Salem's petition came up for hearing on

Wednesday before a division bench of Justices A S Gadkari

and Neela Gokhale, the bench recused from hearing it with-

out assigning any reason. The petition will now be placed be-

fore another division bench. Stating that the Taloja facility has

been very safe for him, Salem expressed apprehension that he

may be attacked by members of rival gangs in other prisons.

challenging a special court's order that last month rejected his application against the planned transfer from Taloja prison in

Navi Mumbai to the Nashik Central Prison, claiming a threat

to his life. Salem claimed the decision to shift him out of the

Taloja facility, where he is serving life imprisonment in the

1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was a "conspiracy" to kill him

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Notably, when Salem's petition came up for hearing

as he is likely to be released in a few months.

Gangster Abu Salem has moved the Bombay High Court

he is likely to be released in a few months.

Army chief reviews security situation along LoC in J&K

TDG NETWORK

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, exhorting the troops to remain steadfast to meet all security challenges, officials said. This was his first visit to the Jammu region after taking charge as the 30th chief of the Indian Army on June 30, and it assumes significance in view of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and massive anti-terror operations underway, especially in hilly districts.

The Army chief reached Jammu in the morning and flew to the border district of Poonch to review the security situation and operational preparedness along the LoC,



Earlier, the officials said, the Army chief chaired a meeting of field commanders on reaching Poonch before leaving for the forward areas.

the officials said.

In a post on 'X', the additional directorate general of public information of the Army said Chief of Army Staff Dwivedi, along with Northern Army Com-

mander Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar and General Officer Commanding of Jammubased White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, visited forward locations of the 'XVI corps', as known as the White Knight Corps, to review the security situation along the LoC.

"He was briefed on the operational preparedness by the commanders on the ground. The COAS lauded all ranks for maintaining high standards of professionalism and exhorted them to remain steadfast to meet all current and emerging security challenges," the additional directorate general of public information said. In photos shared by the

seen interacting with troops. Earlier, the officials said, the Army chief chaired a meeting of field commanders on reaching Poonch before leaving for the forward areas. He also interacted with some ex-servicemen at

the 93 Infantry Brigade, they

Army, Gen Dwivedi can be

Over 5,700 pilgrims leave for Gangster Abu Salem challenges prison transfer in Bombay HC, Amarnath shrine claims threat to life

TDG NETWORK

A fresh batch of more than 5,700 pilgrims left for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas from here on Wednesday, officials said. More than 74,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre high cave shrine till Tuesday evening and over 2,500 on-the-spot registrations of devotees were done on Tuesday, they

The sixth batch of 5,725 pilgrims left in 256 vehicles for the twin basecamps of Baltal and Pahalgam at 3.05 am and were escorted by security vehicles, they said.

While 3,211 pilgrims took the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route for their yatra, 2,514 pilgrims chose the shorter but steep 14-km Baltal route, they said.

With this, a total of 31,826 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 28 when Lt Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

The 52-day yatra formally began on June 29 and will conclude on August 19. More than 4.5 lakh pil-



The sixth batch of 5,725 pilgrims left in 256 vehicles for the twin basecamps of Baltal and Pahalgam at 3.05 am and were escorted by security vehicles, they said.

grims paid obeisance at the cave shrine last year.

To monitor all the logistics, weather conditions, and activities, a surveillance system has been set up at Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), where more than 50 officials from various departments have been

TMC writes to Dhankhar, seeks

expunction of Modi's remarks on

deputed to provide real-time assistance to the pilgrims,

Besides, a helpline --01942740003 -- has been set up for any exigencies In addition, two more landlines -- 01942496240 and 01942496247 -- are also functional, they said.

rity group at the Chandigarh Election Commission serves notice to MP Rashid over poll expenditure discrepancy

TDG NETWORK

A notice has been issued to newly elected MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid who is in iail in a terror funding case, over a significant disparity in his election expenditure report for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir.

The election authority has asked for a response within two days.

The notice was served by the deputy district election officer in Baramulla Tuesday, highlighting the expenditure register submitted by Rashid showed Rs 2.10 lakh, while the actual amount recorded in the shadow register maintained by observers amounted to Rs 13.78 lakh.

Rashid, incarcerated in Delhi's Tihar Jail following his arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 on terror funding charges, has been granted a two-hour custody parole to take oath as a Lok Sabha member on July 5. He had sought interim bail or custody parole to fulfil his par liamentary duties.

The notice requested Rashid or a representative of his to appear before the district expenditure monitoring committee within two



The sources said Kaur is under suspension

and has been posted to the 10th reserve

battalion based in the Karnataka capital

pending a disciplinary inquiry.

airport since 2021.

She has had no vigilance

inquiry or punishment

awarded against her in the

force till now. Her husband

too was posted at the Chan-

digarh airport. Kaur was ap-

parently upset with Ranaut

over her stance on the farm-

ers' protests that took place

in the country. Ranaut, 38,

was elected to the Lok Sabha

from the Mandi seat of Him-

achal Pradesh.

Questions were raised during the Lok Sabha elections as to how Rashid's liabilities reduced significantly and assets increased over the past five years despite him being in jail.

days to address the discrepancy and ensure timely submission of the expenditure report to the Election Commission of India

A failure to comply with election expense reporting requirements could lead to disqualification by the Election Commission under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for a period of three years, the notice said.

Elected as an independent candidate, Rashid won the Baramulla seat by defeating National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in the recent

Lok Sabha elections.

Questions were raised during the Lok Sabha elections as to how Rashid's liabilities reduced significantly and assets increased over the past five years despite him being in jail.

According to the 2024 poll affidavit, the former MLA's assets were valued at Rs 1.55 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Langate and a house in Srinagar worth Rs 90 lakh.

A science graduate with a

diploma in civil engineering, Rashid has declared Rs 11.31 lakh home loan and Rs 3.11 lakh Kisan Credit Card loan as liabilities.

before another division bench.

Five years earlier, he had declared a residential house in the posh Jawahar Nagar locality of Srinagar, purchased in 2017, as his only asset and also stated that he had a liability of Rs 60 lakh towards a home loan from a

Rashid won the Langate assembly segment in 2008 and 2014. He unsuccessfully contested the 2019 parliamentary elections.

On October 7, 2017, he sparked a major controversy by hosting a beef party on the lawns of the MLA hostel in Srinagar and said, "No court or legislature can prevent the people from eating what they want." He was assaulted by BJP MLAs inside the assembly the next day.

According to the FIR by the NIA, the case against Rashid was registered for raising, receiving and collecting funds through illegal means to fund separatist and militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir and for causing disruption in the Valley by way of pelting stones on the security forces, burning schools, damaging public property and waging war against India.

RTI appeals pendency coming down every year: **Jitendra Singh**

TDG NETWORK

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said the pendency of Right to Information (RTI) appeals is coming down every year.

The assertion came while chairing a meeting with Chief **Information Commissioner** Heeralal Samariya, who gave an update on the working and progress of the Central Information Commission.

"The pendency of RTI appeals is substantially reducing from 35,718 appeals in 2019-20 to 29,213 appeals in 2021-22, further reducing to 23,087 appeals in 2023-24 and 22,666 appeals in 2024-25 which is remarkable," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

There has been almost 100 per cent disposal of appeals, with pendency coming down every year, he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The minister appreciated the progress made in reducing pendency and increasing the ease of providing information to citizens by the proactive role played by the Commission. Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is to usher transparency, accountability and good governance into the working of govt.



man Jagdeep Dhankhar urging him to expunge Prime remarks made in the House on the Chopra and Sandeshkhali incidents of West Bengal.

In a letter to Dhankhar, Ghose quoted excerpts from the prime minister's reply to the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's address where he mentioned the incident of Chopra and also made a reference to Sandeshkhali.

"I would like to point out that as far as the Chopra incident is concerned, the perpetrators have been promptly arrested and are behind bars," Ghose said, adding that the West Bengal Police is "determinedly pursuing the investigation" and "all the guilty will be brought to justice".

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP said as far as the West Bengal government is concerned there is zero tolerance for crimes against women and the law is taking its course without fear



Prime Minister Modi, during his reply in the Rajya Sabha, accused the opposition of having a selective stand towards incidents of violence against women.

or favour.

On Sandeshkhali, she said, "The entire incident was nothing but a disgraceful conspiracy by the BJP to defame the people of Bengal. Blatant lies were told and fake rape complaints were organised by payments to helpless women."

"The people of Sandeshkhali and Bengal gave a befitting reply and the BJP lost the elections," she said.

"I would request you to kindly note that when the Honourable Prime Minister is speaking on the floor of the House he must give the complete and not a selective picture of the incidents. The Prime Minister should not misuse his constitutional position by misleading the public. I therefore request you to kindly expunge the remarks," Ghose said.

Prime Minister Modi, during his reply in the Rajya Sabha, accused the opposition of having a selective stand towards incidents of violence against women.

Referring to the Chopra incident of West Bengal, Modi said, "A woman was being flogged in public.

LANDSCAPE OF SECTION 377 OF IPC POST BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

OPINION

VABHINAV DEEP DORA & DR. ALISHA VERMA



gearing for the July

1st, 2024 implemen-

tation of the new criminal

laws, which replaces the

Indian Penal Code (IPC)

1860 with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Indian

Evidence Act 1872 with

Bharatiya Shakshaya Ad-

hiniyam (BSA), and the

Criminal Procedure Code

(CrPC) 1973 with Bharatiya

Nagariik Suraksha Sanhita

(BNSS). However, there is a

large hue and cry by many

sections of the society over

its implementation. Apart

from the teething troubles,

there are still some grave ex-

clusions of a few important

sections of IPC which raises

many questions on the effi-

cacy and impact on the soci-

ety. Seemingly progressive,

the BNS completely omits

the controversial Section

377 of the IPC, which makes

"carnal intercourse against

the order of nature" illegal.

Section 377 of the IPC

criminalised the non-con-

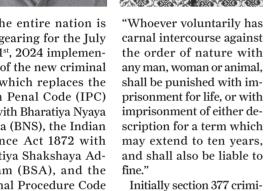
sensual carnal intercourse

against the order of nature

between two adults, and

bestiality (sexual inter-

course with animal). Sec-

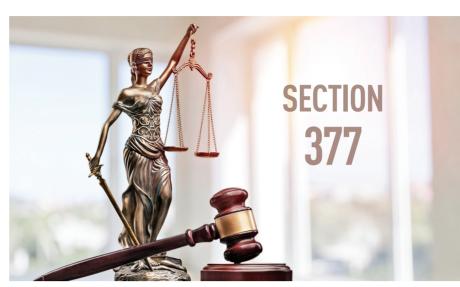


nalised the unnatural sex between same genders or between man-woman and sex with animals. However, in Naz Foundation case and Navtej Johar vs Union of India constitutionality of section 377 was contested. It was claimed that Section 377 violates the fundamental rights protected in Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 of the Constitution since it conceals consensual sexual activity between two adults in private. Additionally, they contended that since "sexual orientation" is included in the definition of "sex" as it appears in Article 15, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited. They essentially asked the court to declare section 377 of the IPC to be

tion since it forbids adults from engaging in consenting sexual conduct. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that "punishing a person for his or her sexuality and sexual choices is violative of Article 14,15 & 21 of the Indian Constitution." Thus, the court partially struck down the section 377 of the IPC which penalised the consensual sexual intercourse between the persons of any gender. However, the non-consensual sexual intercourse against the order of nature and sexual intercourse with the animals are stilled punishable under this section. Currently in the BNS

there is only a provision of punishment for the offence of Rape (by Man against women) and no provision exists to penalise the sexual offences against the man, LGBT+ community and animals. Despite the parliamentary committee's recommendation to include the provisions pf section 377 of the IPC in BNS, the non-inclusion created the vacuum in the legislation, makes the said community more vulnerable towards sexual offences and strikes the very basic fundamental right to live with dignity. The framers must have either retained the provisions under the section 377 of IPC or could have added a new section making unnatural non-consensual sex as an offence against the Man, and LGBTQ+ community.

As the offense of rape is gender-specific and such an offense against a man is not punishable, the only relatable provision is that an offense of rape against a man by another man without his consent is punishable under Section 377 of the IPC, but the omission of this provision from the BNS will leave no scope for the man and



It is vital that the Indian government maintains its criminalization of bestiality under Section 377 and to impose a maximum 10-year prison sentence as a means of deterring animal sexual assault.

have a legal recourse. Even though the government assured the further amendments in the BNS and urged the states to amend as per their geo-social conditions, still the central government missed a chance to make the sexual offenses gender neutral. The directions of the Union government officials to the police department to initiate the allied charges like wrongful restraint, hurt etc for the sexual offences against a man and a transgender is an eve wash measure and shows the laxity of the government towards the sexual minority victims.

Another significant exclusion from the BNS is the offence of Bestiality under the same section 377 of the IPC, which may make animals more susceptible to mistreatment and exploitation. This might result in more instances of animal abuse and suffering, making it challenging to convict those tion 377 of the IPC says ultra vires to the constitu- sexual minority victims to who commit such crimes.

For this reason, PETA India has asked the Union Ministries of Law & Justice and Home Affairs to keep Section 377's criminalization of bestiality in place while changing its current wording to decriminalise sexual acts between consenting adults and same-sex part-

The Hon'ble Supreme court in Animal welfare Board vs A Nagaraju & others held that "Every species has a right to life and security, subject to the law of the land, which includes depriving its life, out of human necessity, so far as animals are concerned, in our view, 'life' means something more than mere survival or existence or instrumental value for human beings, but to lead a life with some intrinsic worth, honour and dignity."

It is vital that the Indian government maintains its criminalization of bestiality under Section 377 and to Pune, Maharashtra.

imposea maximum 10-year prison sentence as a means of deterring animal sexual assault. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the main piece of legislation protecting animals in our country, has to be changed to make bestiality a crime that is punishable by law and to toughen the penalties for animal cruelty. This will protect not only the sacred wildlife of India, but also our dear citizens.

In order to protect animals and sexual minorities from abuse and to uphold their right to a dignified life, the government must now reconsider the exclusion of the offense of unnatural sex from the BNS and should criminalize either by amending the current provision or adding a new section in the BNS. As per legal requirements, in the event of a legal wrong, a remedy must exist. In addition to being unlawful, failing to offer redress for offenses covered by Section 377 is unconstitutional.

V. Abhinav Deep Dora is an Assistant Professor of Law at Vignan Institute of Law, Vignan University, Andhra Pradesh and Dr. Alisha Verma is an Assistant Professor of Law at Symbiosis Law School,

PERSPECTIVE LABOUR RISES

UK ELECTION: KEIR STARMER INCOMING

WWW.THEDAILYGUARDIAN.COM

The United Kingdom is headed for its general election on Thursday. By Friday morning India time, the world will get a clear idea on which way Britain has voted, Conservative or Labour. The answer is most likely Labour, with all opinion polls showing Leader of the Opposition, Keir Starmer's party taking a huge lead of about 20 percentage points over the ruling Conservatives. This is an election that is unlikely to throw up any surprises and hence it's more or less certain that Friday will see the end of the tenure of Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, who became PM in October 2022 and called for a snap general election a little over a month ago, in May 2024. The election was originally scheduled for around October-November, so Sunak's decision to bring it forward surprised many, including his party colleagues. It seems that Sunak thought that he could use the latest good news coming on the economic front to get another term. In fact, Sunak's performance as Prime Minister has been commendable, especially because of the way he pulled Britain out of the woods after the disastrous performances by his predecessors Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. First Covid and then the Russia-Ukraine war had an adverse economic fallout, with cost of living becoming high, and many people not able to afford three square meals a day, even as Britain sunk into a recession. Under Sunak, Britain has come out of recession, registering a 0.6% growth in the last quarter, the highest among the G-7 economies. Inflation is also under control and is going down. Ironically, his stellar performance will not help Sunak win the election, with analysts saying that the British have had enough of the economic and political turmoil under the Conservatives—three Prime Ministers in less than five years—and are in a mood to punish them, irrespective of who the PM is. The election will also test Sunak's pull as a mass leader, for he was made Prime Minister by his party and not by the voters—a fact that the British media has not made the public forget even once in the time he has been PM.

With the Labour returning to power, the question uppermost on the minds of Indian origin Hindus in Britain is what Keir Starmer as Prime Minister will mean for them and for India. Lest we forget, Jeremy Corbyn, who led the Labour party from 2015 to 2020, was not seen as pro Hindu. He encouraged Labour's Pakistani and Bangladeshi vote banks, both of which are essentially anti India and anti Hindu. Corbyn was also openly hostile to Narendra Modi. Under him Labour had taken a stand against India's revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir and called for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, angering Indian origin voters. There was concern in New Delhi in 2019 how India-UK relations would fare if he became Prime Minister. But then he lost and Boris Johnson came to power. From a time earlier than 2019, it had become apparent that among the South Asians, a large chunk of the more affluent Indians were voting Conservative, while the Bangladeshis and Pakistanis were voting Labour, a party that identified itself with the working classes. Now that Rishi Sunak is on the ballot, it is expected that the Indian origin people would vote Conservative in a big way, but that's unlikely to make much of a difference in the Conservative tally. However, Starmer too has been courting the Hindus, who expect him to clamp down on the hate campaign unleashed against them by a particular demography. Britain has been witnessing an exponential rise in Hinduphobia. Let's not forget the case of Leicester, where Hindus were the victims of the radicalised population, but were branded as extremists and aggressors by the British media. Add to this the Khalistani problem, and Starmer has his work cut out to ensure that the Hindu hate nurtured by these extremists is not mainstreamed. Starmer has promised that he will not tolerate Hinduphobia. During campaigning he has also told the Hindu community, "If we're elected next week we will strive to govern in the spirit of seva to serve you and a world in need... Strengthened by Hindu values, you're not only contributing massively to our economy, you're bringing innovation and expertise that keeps us competitive on the global market."

When seen in the context of the elections taking place in the EU, the election in Britain is different because the outcome is expected to be tilted towards the left, while the EU is witnessing a rise of the right. At the heart of the EU elections is the problem of illegal immigration. In the UK, the Conservatives are accusing the Labour of planning to give asylum to illegal immigrants, which the Labour denies. This is a hot button topic and if Starmer tries to take the route of the American "progressives" and allows illegal immigration unchecked, then there will be political repercussions that will not be good for the Labour.

As for India-UK relations, Starmer has cast aside Jeremy Corbyn's anti-India hostility and has promised better relations with New Delhi. His party claims that it has cleansed itself of anti-India elements. Recently, one of the Labour shadow ministers, Anneliese Dodds said, "Going beyond warm words, we want to build that practical, strong relationship (with India). Labour has talked a lot about a strategic partnership with India that covers trade but we want to see cooperation in other areas as well such as new technologies, environment, security." These are encouraging words. It is with this in mind that India will watch the UK election results on Friday.

JOYEETA BASU

Preserving the shield: Tackling threat of antimicrobial resistance in India

OPINION

DR. DEEVANSHU **SHRIVASTAVA**

In the intricate tapestry of global health challenges, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) emerges as a silent vet formidable threat, casting a shadow over the efficacy of our most potent medical tools. India, with its vast population and complex healthcare landscape, stands at the frontline of this battle. Addressing the menace of AMR requires a comprehensive, collaborative effort that encompasses healthcare, agriculture, and public awareness.

Antibiotics, once hailed as miracle drugs, are now at risk of losing their effectiveness due to the widespread misuse and overuse of these medications. The consequences of a post-antibiotic era are dire, with routine medical procedures becoming life-threatening and the burden of infectious diseases escalating exponentially.

One of the primary drivers of AMR in India is the inappropriate use of antibiotics, both in the healthcare system and the agriculture sector. In the medical realm, over-the-counter availability and self-medication practices contribute to the misuse of antibiotics. Physicians, too, sometimes prescribe antibiotics without proper diagnostic confirmation or patient education. On the agricultural front, the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock and poultry adds another layer to the problem.

To tackle AMR effectively, India needs a multi-pronged strategy. First and foremost, there must be stringent regulations and enforcement to curb the indiscriminate use



and veterinary medicine. Strict guidelines for premeasures to regulate their use in animal husbandry, are crucial steps.

Education plays a pivotal role in combating AMR. Healthcare professionals, from doctors to pharmacists, must receive comprehensive training on the judicious use of antibiotics. Public awareness campaigns should emphasize the importance of completing prescribed antibiotic courses, the dangers of self-medication, and the need for responsible antibiotic use. Moreover, there is a press-

ing need for surveillance and data collection to monitor antibiotic use and resistance patterns. A robust national database can guide policymakers in formulating evidence-based strategies to combat AMR effectively. Collaboration between the health and agriculture sectors, as well as international cooperation, is crucial to address the interconnectedness of AMR.

Incentivizing research and development of new antibiotics is another crucial aspect of the fight against AMR. The pharmaceutical industry needs encouragement to invest in novel antibiotics, considering the high development costs and the challenges associated with bringing new antimicrobial agents to market.

this battle should not be underestimated. Digital solutions can facilitate surveillance, provide real-time data on antibiotic usage, and enhance communication between healthcare professionals and patients. Telemedicine platforms can play a vital role in disseminating information and ensuring responsible prescription practices.

The role of technology in

In conclusion, tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance in India requires a collective and concerted effort. It demands a re-evaluation of our healthcare and agricultural practices, a commitment to education and awareness, and a forwardlooking approach to research and development. As we stand at the crossroads of a potential public health crisis, the time to act is now. Only through collaborative, evidence-based strategies can we hope to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics and safeguard the health of generations to come.

Dr. Deevanshu Shrivastava, Associate Dean, School of Law, G D Goenka University, Gurugram, Haryana

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FAMOUS SPEECHES OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Apart from being a celebrated poet, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was well known for his rhetoric and oratory skills and this craft of his was well reflected in his speeches which acted as milestones in history of Indian politics.

KAUSHAL VERMA

ormer Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is widely regarded as one of India's most significant Prime Ministers and political leaders. His tenure and leadership were marked by several notable aspects. Vajpayee was known for his ability to build consensus among diverse political groups. Leading a coalition government, he successfully managed to bring together various parties with different ideologies and create a stable administration.

His government implemented key economic reforms that laid the foundation for India's rapid economic growth. Initiatives like the Golden Quadrilateral highway project, telecom reforms, and fiscal consolidation were significant achievements of his tenure. In 1998, under his leadership, India conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, making India a declared nuclear weapons state. This move was met with international sanctions but showcased India's strategic autonomy and defense ca-

In every significant occasions he had delivered remarkable speeches. He was renowned for his eloquent speeches. Here are some of his most famous ones:

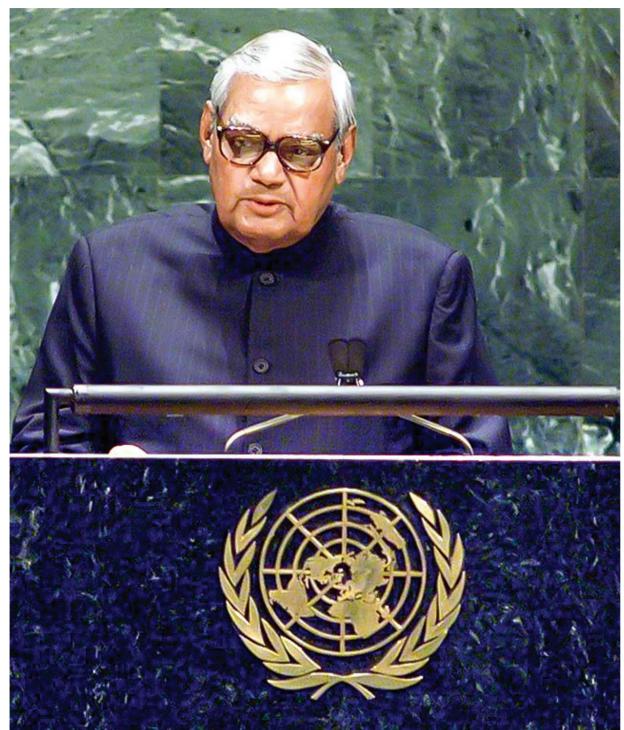
1996: TRUST VOTE SPEECH

Vajpayee in Lok Sabha when his government faced a trust vote in May 1996 delivered this historical speech.

Whenever, it was needed we helped then governments as opposition. Then Prime Minister Narsimha Rao sent me Geneva as Leader of Opposition to represent the country and Pakistani leaders were shocked. They were asking how is that possible as in their country, the leaders in the opposition always try to bring down the government. This is their nature but not our tradition.

I want such type of tradition to continue in our country as the game of power will go on). Governments will come and go. Parties will be made and unmade. This country should survive, its democracy should survive till eternity.

survive till eternity.
This discussion will end



Vajpayee during his speech at United Nations

today but the era will start tomorrow it needs some attention as I believe the bitterness between the government and the opposition should not increase.

1998: NUCLEAR TESTS

Nobody had anticipated what the prime minister had in his mind. But what he announced left everybody sitting there flabbergasted. India had gone nuclear. In the deserts of Rajasthan, India had detonated two nuclear devices and a thermo-nuclear device. The world was shocked and the country was jubilant. Seldom Indians all across the globe had felt so proud

of being an Indian.
Following the successful
nuclear tests at Pokhran,
Vajpayee addressed the nation, emphasizing India's
right to self-defense and its

commitment to peace.

Addressing the parliament, Vajpayee said that it is surprised to see that nuclear test was also criticised by the Opposition and we were asked which danger was dangling on the nation so that the tests were done. The nuclear test was a preemptive measure for any danger on the country. The same was also attempted during Indira Gandhi's government earlier.

The nuclear tests were done for self defence.

"We have been the victims of three attacks. This fate should not repeat. We are not getting ready to attack anyone. We don't have that intention. I was asked about the connection between Pokhran-2 and the Lahore bus service. They are two sides of the same coin - the strength of our defence and the hand of friendship

-- the hand of friendship through honesty." - Mr Vajpayee speaks in Lok Sabha after the nuclear tests in Pokhran.

"The Pokhran-2 nuclear tests were conducted neither for self-glorification, nor for any display of machismo. But this has been our policy, and I think it is also the policy of the nation, that there should be minimum deterrence, which should also be credible. This is why we took the decision to conduct tests," he said.

1999: KARGIL WAR

During the Kargil conflict in 1999, Vajpayee's speech to the nation was one of resilience and determination, assuring the citizens of India's capability to defend its

According to https://ar-chivepmo.nic.in, Vajpayee

said "it is a situation that has arisen from one simple fact the decision of Pakistan to cross the Line of Control, to send its men and materials to occupy and territory. No government can tolerate such an incursion - our Government certainly will not. Countries the world over have recognized that we have the full right to evict these intruders from our soil. But for me and for my Government this is not just a matter of our having a tight. It is our duty to rid our sacred Motherland of every single intruder. For this reason, as you have seen, our armed forces have launched a major operation to drive them back."

He said that no one should entertain the slightest doubt: they shall not stop till they have completely attained their objective. No one shall stop them till they have done so. You know well that our relations with Pakistan, as with all our neighbours, were improving rapidly: The Prime Ministers and other ministers of the two countries were in regular

contact.

In the midst of all this, regulars of Pakistan Army and infiltrators have been sent across. Fomenting insurgency here was heinous enough. But this time Army regulars have been sent. They have been sent to occupy our territory.

And, having occupied it, he said.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Pokhran with team of scientists

An orator par excellence, Vajpayee

used witty remarks with aplomb

for political satire on his opponents

that often won him accolades and

hearts of many. He often trumped

the questioner that helped tide over

tough questions posed to him and

defuse the situation. We are taking

you a trip down those powerful

speeches that you must be missing.

to choke off our links with

other parts of our country

- in particular with Siachen

and Ladakh. This step has

been taken after a great deal

of preparation. It was a pre-

planned operation. It is a

repudiation of the letter and

spirit of the Lahore Declara-

tion. It is a violation not just

of one article of the Shimla

Agreement, but an eight-

fold violation of that solemn

the people of Pakistan too

yearn for peace and harmo-

ny. They know the possible

costs of hostilities -- of how

these will push economic

gains even further beyond

the horizon. They know

that in today's world who-

soever launches aggression

of any kind will get isolated

in the international commu-

Moreover both India and

Pakistan are nuclear pow-

ers. So India's responsibili-

ties in this regard are all the

our last thought must be for

our jawans, for our airmen

and our officers who are

fighting back the intruders.

I want each one of them to

know: the entire country

stands with you, every In-

dian is grateful to you. The

whole operation has been

thrust upon us. To ensure

victory, you would not be

wanting in your require-

ments. Have confidence

in the ability of our armed

forces. The armed forces

shall accomplish this task

and ensure that no one

dares to indulge in this kind

of misadventure in future,"

"Our first thought, and

nity," Vajpayee said.

"I remain confident that

2003: SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Vajpayee's address at the UN General Assembly focused on global peace, terrorism, and the importance of international cooperation.

One issue on which the UN showed remarkable unanimity after 9/11 was global terrorism. Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1456 were unequivocal in condemning all forms of terrorism and in calling for united action against support, shelter, sponsorship, arming, training and financing for terrorism or terrorists.

Yesterday, the President of Pakistan chose this august assembly to make a public admission for the first time that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. After claiming that there is an indigenous struggle in Kashmir, he has offered to encourage a general cessation of violence within Kashmir, in return for ~reciprocal obligations

and restraints, he said.
India totally refuse to let terrorism become a tool of blackmail. Just as the world did not negotiate with Al-Qaida or the Taliban, we shall not negotiate with terrorism.

"If we do so, we would be betraying the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who defied a most ferocious campaign of violence and intimidation sponsored from across our borders, and participated in an election, which has been universally hailed as free and fair. This was an unequivocal expression of both determination and self-determination," he said

When the cross-border terrorism stops or when we eradicate it we can have a dialogue with Pakistan on the other issues between India and Pakistan, he said adding that "While on this subject, I would also like to point out to the President of

Pakistan that he should not confuse the legitimate aspiration for equality of nations with outmoded concepts of military parity."

2003: INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

On this auspicious day which was also the last Indpendence Day speech of Vajpayee, he delivered a heartfelt speech to the nation. Below are few excerpts:

My greetings to all the jawans of the three Armed Forces and to the security personnel. We gratefully remember those brave soldiers who laid down their lives while guarding our frontiers or in the battle against terrorism.

This year the festival of freedom has arrived bringing the message of good rains in most parts of the country. We hope that the areas, which have not yet received adequate rainfall, would do so.

The last year went by in grappling with the crisis of drought. We assisted all the drought-hit areas to the fullest extent, sent adequate foodgrains there, and ensured that there was no hunger anywhere. We also took care of the mute cattle.

The world is changing. New challenges are emerging before us. We have to make India stronger both economically and socially. In the past five years, India's prestige in the world has gone up, thanks to our proactive foreign policy. The international community's way of looking at us has undergone a big change. The world is now recognizing India:

In recent months, there has been some progress in normalizing relations with Pakistan. Nevertheless, terrorist activities are still continuing. The test of our neighbour's sincerity lies in whether he is prepared to stop cross-border terrorism totally.

We hope that Pakistan abjures its anti-India outlook. The people of both countries wish to live in peace.

I have been telling our Pakistani friends that we have spent fifty years fighting. How much more blood is yet to be spilt? The two of us need to fight against poverty, against unemployment, and against backwardness.

An India that was perennially troubled by a paucity of foreign exchange, has today accumulated nearly US \$ 100 billion of foreign exchange reserves. The prices of essential commodities are under control. There is no shortage of anything in the market. Poverty is declining. It is our resolve to eradicate it faster.

REASON FOR CHARISMATIC SPEECHES

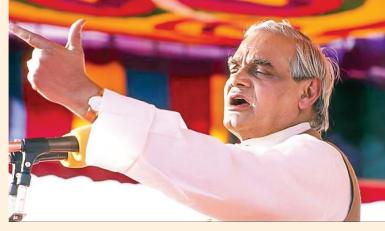
Atal Bihari Vajpayee's charisma stemmed from several key aspects of his personality and leadership style:

Oratory Skills: Vajpayee was a master orator. His speeches were a blend of wit, wisdom, and poetry, often delivered with impeccable timing and emotion. His ability to connect with his audience was unmatched.

Poetic Flair: He was also a poet, and this artistic side added a unique charm to his persona. His poetic expressions often found their way into his speeches, making them more engaging and memorable.

Political Acumen: Vajpayee was known for his deep understanding of Indian politics and his ability to navigate complex political landscapes. He was seen as a unifying figure who could bring together diverse groups and opinions.

Statesmanship: His tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant achievements, including economic reforms, nuclear tests, and efforts to improve relations with neighboring countries. He was seen



as a visionary leader who placed the nation's interests above all else.

Humanity and Humility: Despite his high political stature, Vajpayee remained humble and approachable. His empathy and ability to connect with people from all walks of life endeared him to many.

Integrity and Honesty: Vajpayee was known for his integrity and honesty in politics, which earned him respect across the political spectrum.

He maintained a reputation for being principled and incorruptible.

Inclusivity: He was known for his inclusive approach, respecting diverse opinions and fostering a sense of unity. His efforts to build consensus on important issues made him a respected leader both within his party and beyond. These qualities combined to create a charismatic leader who left a lasting impact on Indian politics and society.

'Sarkar ayegi jayegi magar yeh desh rehna chahiye

DELHI HIGH COURT ISSUES NOTICE TO CBI ON CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S PLEA CHALLENGING HIS ARREST IN LIQUOR POLICY CASE

he Delhi High Court in the case ArvindKejriwalv.CBI observed and has issued notice on the petition filed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest as well as Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI remand of three days in the corruption case which relates to the alleged liquor policy scam.

The bench headed by Justice Neena Bansal Krishna in the case observed and has sought response of the probe

Arvind Kejriwal has also sought his immediate release in the corruption case.

It being the case of Kejriwal that despite the offence being punishable of 7 years, the requirement of Section 41A and Section 60A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC notice was not adhered to by the Investigating officer and thus, the arrest of



Kejriwal is without the compliance of the requirement as mandated under law.

The counsel, Senior Ad-

vocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi submitted before the court that there cannot be any urgency or necessity of arrest in the case as Kejriwal was arrested in an FIR registered by CBI in August 2022, where he was called for questioning only once in April last year to which he

Further, the counsel also took the court through the arrest memo prepared by

CBI and said that it did not satisfy the conditions as mentioned in law.

The court listed the matter for further consideration on July 17, 2024

The counsel, Senior Advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and N Hariharan, along with Advocate Vivek Jain appeared for Arvind Kejriwal. The Special counsel DP

Singh appeared for CBI. In the present case, Arvind Kejriwal is in judicial custody in the corruption and money laundering cases related to the alleged scam.

on June 29. Last week, the probe

further remand at this stage

agency examined the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar jail where he is lodged in judicial custody in relation to the money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate, ED.

The Arvind Kejriwal statement was recorded. This was hours after the Delhi High Court in the case stayed the bail granted to the Chief Minister in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA Case.

The CBI after the permission of the court examined Kejriwal in court on June 26 and then formally arrested him in the matter.

Arvind Keiriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, ED on March 21.

In May, Arvind Kejriwal was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till June O1 in view of general elections. Kejriwal surrendered on June 02, 2024.

Central government notifies appointment of Justice BR Sarangi as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, with less than a month to retire

TDG NETWORK

The Central government has notified the appointment of Justice BR Sarangi as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.

The Centre notification comes almost 6 months after the Supreme Court Collegium proposed the elevation of Justice Sarangi's

Justice Sarangi's is now set to retire in less than a month on July 20.

Justice Sarangi's is currently the senior most Judge of the Orissa High Court and will fill the post of Chief Justice which was lying vacant since December 28, 2023, which being subsequent to the retirement of former Chief Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra. Since then, Justice Shree Chandrashekhar had been serving as the Acting Chief Justice.

Justice BR Sarangi began his legal career in December 1985, he was practicing in

take oath as MP

the Orissa High Court and the Supreme Court of India.

Justice BR Sarangi handled cases across various branches of law which includes civil, criminal, constitutional, revenue, tax, labour, service, mining, education, electricity, insurance, banking, telephone, elections etc.

The then Chief Justice of Orissa High Court conferred the Haricharan Mukherjee Memorial Award with a Gold Medal on Justice Sarangi for 'outstanding performance and high standard

Delhi court grants custody

parole to Engineer Rashid to

of professional ethics as a lawyer' in the year 2002.

Justice Sarangi over his 27-year practice, appeared before numerous judicial bodies and he was appointed as Arbitrator, Advocate Commission, and Amicus Curiae in many cases.

Justice Sarangi was elevated to the bench as a Permanent Judge of the Orissa High Court on June 20, 2013. **Justice Sarangi has dis**posed of over 1,52,000 cases and delivered nearly 1,500 reportedjudgments.

Supreme Court bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud to hear NEET-UG petitions on July 8

TDG NETWORK

The Supreme Court in the case Vanshika Yadav vs. Union Of India and connected Matters will hear the petitions filed challenging the alleged malpractices and irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024 Examination conducted by the National Testing Agency, NTA on July 08,

The Supreme Court bench of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra was hearing the present matter.

The cause list is published on the Supreme Court's website for July 08, 2024, which shows that that the matters are listed before the bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud.

The bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud on May 17 issued notice on a petition alleging a paper leak of the NEET-UG exam and posted the matter on July O8, 2024, the day of re-opening after the summer vacations.



Therefore, the bench also turned down a prayer to stay the declaration of the results. However, Multiple petition

were filed after the declaration of the NEET-UG results wherein the concerns are raised over the fairness of the procedure adopted by the National Testing Agency, NTA, the issue of grant of grace marks to 1563 candidates and the need for the CBI probe into the conduct of examination along with the prayer to hold the NEET-UG afresh.

What Is The NEET-UG Matter About?

Several petitions have been filed before the Supreme Court wherein it is alleged that the nationwide

examination held on May 5 by the National Testing Agency, NTA was riddled with malpractices as various instances of paper leaks

came to light. Subsequently to the declaration of the NEET-UG Results, additional petitions were also raised against the 'arbitrary' grant of grace marks to 1536 candidates which being on the grounds of 'loss of time' purportedly to give 'back-door entry' to certain individuals

One of the petitions filed also seeks to recall the NEET-UG 2024 results and also for the conduct of a fresh examination.

Additional petitions were also filed which sought CBI investigation into the alleged malpractices in the conduct of the examination.

The Vacation bench judge

Amitabh Rawat in the case

remanded Chief Minister,

Arvind Kejriwal to CBI cus-

tody for three days on June

26, thus, the bench observed

that the arrest, at this stage,

The bench stated that

while the arrest is not ille-

gal, CBI should not be over

The Vacation bench

headed by judge Sunena S

Sharma remanded the Del-

hi Chief Minister, Arvind

Keiriwal to judicial custody

as CBI did not ask for his

zealous.

cannot be said to be illegal.

The court in the case issued notice in the said matters and tagged together for a combined hearing on July

Key Developments During Hearing By The Vacation

When the petition came up for hearing before the Vacation Bench, the Court on multiple occasions verbally stressed the need for National Testing Agency, NTA to accept accountability if there have been any mistakes on its part.

The court observed that it was imperative for National Testing Agency, NTA to efficiently answer the Court while considering as to how the 'sanctity' of the NEET-UG Examinations has been affected.

The Vacation Bench comprising of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was also informed by the Union that a decision has been taken to cancel the

grace marks of 1563 candi-

The bench comprising of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice SVN Bhatti in the case observed and has refused to stay the counselling or seat allotment process for NEET-UG which is scheduled to commence on July 6.

The bench orally observed that any medical admissions will be subject to the final outcome of the pending petitions on June 21, 2024.

On June 2024, the Ministry of Education constituted a high-level committee of experts to make recommendations on 'Reform in the mechanism of the examination process, improvement in Data Security protocols and structure and functioning of National Testing Agency, NTA'.

be chaired by Former ISRO Chairman Dr K Radhakrish-

Accordingly, the court listed the petitions for further consideration on July

TDG NETWORK

The Delhi Court in the case observed and has granted custody parole to Engineer Rashid, who defeated former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, in order to permit Omar Abdullah to take oath as a member of Parliament.

The Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh of

Patiala House Courts passed the order after the National Investigation Agency, NIA gave consent to allow Rashid to take the oath on July O5,

However, the National Investigation Agency, NIA did not oppose the interim bail petition of Rashid.

It has also been stated that some restrictions needs to be imposed on him like not speaking or interacting with the media.

The court while granting him custody parole clarified Rashid shall not have access to any phone and he will not interact with anyone except

The court stated that Rashid will not speak to me-

Adding to it, the court stated that while the presence of his family members is allowed but Rashid is not permitted to click photographs of the ceremony or post it on social media in any form.

The court in its order stated that Rashid will also not have access to internet.

Rashid has won by a margin of over two lakh votes from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency.

Rashid has been in jail since 2019 after he was charged by National Investigation Agency, NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in alleged terror funding case.

Rashid is presently lodgedin Tihariail.

Supreme Court on High Court's condition that accused will get bail only if victim stands as surety: 'Absurd, impossible'

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Sharwan Kumar Yaday @Sharwan Yaday v. State of Bihar observed and has expressed disappointment over an 'absurd condition for bail imposed by the Patna High Court, wherein the bail was granted to the accused on the condition that the victim of the offence should stand as the surety of him.

The court in the case ex-

press sorrow that how such a condition led to the petitioner suffering in jail for a year despite being ordered for release.

The Vacation bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing the present matter wherein the Patna High Court granted bail to the petitioner on the unusual condition that the victim of the offence shall stand as the petitioner's surety.

The court in the case observed that because of such

an 'absurd' condition the Petitioner who was originally granted bail in July 2023, thus, he has been in jail ever since.

The court while issuing notice observed that it is very unfortunate to note that because of such absurd conditions which is being imposed by the High Court, the petitioner although ordered to be released on bail way back in July 2023, yet is still languishing in jail.

In the present case, the First Information Report,

FIR dated January 26, 2023, registered against the petitioner for the offence of procuration of a minor girl done with common intention as stated under section 366A read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code,

The High Court imposed the said condition of bail in its order dated July 25, 2023. while, seeing the impossibility of the fulfilment of such an 'unusual' condition by the victim itself, the Petitioner in the plea had

sought a modification of the bail order.

The High Court rejected the modification application through the impugned order dated January 12,

The Supreme Court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has stayed the operation of the bail conditions of the High Court in its Order dated July 25, 2023. Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further

consideration after 4 weeks.

Central government appoints Justice A Muhamed Mustaque as Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court

TDG NETWORK

The Central Government has notified for the appointment of Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque as the Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.

This follows upcoming superannuation of Chief Justice AJ Desai dated July 04,2024

Justice Mustaque got enrolled as a lawyer in the year



Justice Mustaque practised seven years before various

courts and the statutory authorities in Kannur.

Justice Mustaque was sworn in as an Additional Judge of the Kerala High Court dated January 23.

Justice Mustaque was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the High Court with effect from March 10, 2016. Justice Mustaque will take charge as the Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court with effect from July O5, 2024.

Bombay High Court judge Justice Neela Gokhale recuses from hearing Mumbai bomb blast convict Abu Salem's petition against prison transfer

TDG NETWORK

The Bombay High Court judge Justice Neela Gokhale in the case recused from hearing the petition filed by 1993 Mumbai Bomb blast convict Abu Salem, who sought to assault the decision of the jail authorities to shift him to some other

prison from the Taloja Central Prison.

It has been decided by the prison authorities to shift Salem, who has spent over 15 years in the Taloja Jail, to some other prison in order to facilitate the reconstruction of the

high security 'Anda Cell.' The Division bench comprising of Justice Ajay Gadkari and Justice



Neela Gokhal was hearing the present matter.

The bench headed by Justice Gokhale stated that, 'not before me' and ordered the matter to be placed before an appropriate court.

The plea states that Salem is proposed to be shifted to some other jail in Maharashtra.

However, he had chal-

lenged this decision of the prison authorities before the sessions court, which rejected the plea of him. He had then petitioned the High Court through his advocate Taraq Sayy-

It has been contended by Salem before the court that shifting him to some other jail might be risky for his life as he has al-

in the Taloja Jail. The life term convict, in the alternative, sought to be shifted to some other barrack within the Taloja Jail itself.

ready been attacked twice

Further, the plea contended that shifting him to some other jail would create hurdle in his regular travel to Delhi, where he has some cases pend-

NC CHIEF DEUBA ASKS NEPAL PM PRACHANDA TO QUIT FOR NEW GOVT FORMATION

TDG NETWORK

epali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba Wednesday asked Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to resign and pave the way for the formation of a new government, as the ruling coalition partner CPN-UML withdrew support after a power-sharing deal with the largest party to oust the former guerrilla leader.

"The Prime Minister should resign after the largest parties NC and UML said that they would form a new government together," Deuba told reporters after a crucial meeting of the party at his residence at Budhanilkantha on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

Deuba, 78, and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K P Sharma Oli, 72, - both former

Sri Lanka's efforts to divest

shares in the loss-making

SriLankan Airlines have not

been successful, Minister of

Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva said on Wednesday and

clarified that the national

flag carrier will undergo re-

The government in March

had extended the deadline

for the Expression of Inter-

est (EoI) on the divestiture

from possible bidders from

early March to April 22 of

this year. The time to make

final bids shall remain open

trade union claims, the air-

line cannot be sold outright.

The divestiture would be

subject to the government re-

taining its 51 per cent share,

de Silva said, adding. The

interest has been minimal,

only six bidders came for-

ward and we were unable

to find a suitable partner. It

can be granted to a Sri Lank-

an investor but they have to

Despite opposition and

till the end of August.

structuring, not sale.

AGENCIES



premiers - inked a powersharing deal Monday night to form a new government. They agreed to share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of the Parliament. Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the lower house. Prachanda's party has 32 seats.

The Nepali Congress Central Work Performance Com-

SriLankan Airlines restructuring, not sale: Aviation Minister

SriLankan Airlines was

one of the four key state-

owned enterprises the In-

ternational Monetary Fund

(IMF) had prescribed for

restructuring in the USD 2.9

billion bailout programme.

Furthermore, the IMF is

actively involved in the re-

structuring process based

strictly on legal frameworks,

regulations, and objective

mittee (CWC) met at Deuba's residence at Budhanilkantha to discuss the current political situation and the party's future strategy.

"The meeting reviewed the latest political situation in the country and discussed the future course of action," said former foreign minister Narayan Prakash Saud. The meeting also endorsed the agreement reached between Deuba and Oli to form a new coalition and share the post of Prime Minister on a rotation basis.

The meeting mainly discussed the agenda and mo-

personal considerations,

Countering opposition

leader Sajith Premadasa's

argument where he gave ex-

amples such as Argentina,

Ecuador, and Ghana, which

have successfully negoti-

ated a 25 per cent reduction

in commercial loans, the

minister said, the commer-

cial loans are distinct from

dality of formation of the new coalition government, said Saud, who is also a Nepali Congress central committee member.

TDG NETWORK

motivated".

UN Secretary-General An-

tonio Guterres wants to see

Imran Khan's current situa-

tion "evolve in a much more

positive way", his spokes-

person said, days after a UN

panel termed cases against Pakistan's jailed former

prime minister as "politically

Khan, 71, has been behind

bars since August last year

after he was sentenced in the

Toshakhana corruption case

and subsequently sentenced

in other cases ahead of the

February 8 elections. The

Toshakhana case sentence

was suspended in April

while Khan was acquitted in

the cipher case last month.

The only case in which he is

convicted is about the viola-

tion of the Iddat period while marrying his current wife

UN Secretary-General

Guterres wants to see

Khan's current situation

"evolve in a much more

Leaders from China, Russia

and countries in the global

south are gathering in Ka-

zakhstan for the annual

meeting of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation

(SCO), a group that has

been described as the "anti-

The summit is part of

China's efforts to establish

what it calls a "multilater-

al" world order that is not

dominated by the US. But

it is also a forum in which

China and Russia's "stra-

tegic partnership" will be

tested by their competing

desires to wield influence

in central Asia.

Bushra Bibi.

AGENCIES

Nato".

The seven-point deal finalised between Deuba and Oli on Monday night includes the sharing of the remaining three-year term of Parliament between the two parties, the ministerial division, provincial leadership roles and a rotation for the prime ministerial position. Oli will assume the post of Prime Minister in the first phase and after one-and-ahalfyear, the Nepali Congress will get the leadership of the government.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, party spokesperson Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat said, "The prime minister should pave the way after the largest parties - Nepali Congress and UML - said they would form a new government to-

senator, three a blast

A former Senator and three others were assassinated in a car bomb blast triggered through a remote-control device in restive northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, police said.

Pakistani Senator Hidayat Ullah and three others were assassinated in a car bomb blast in the restive northwest region of the country. The explosion, triggered remotely, took place in the Mamond Bajaur tribal district, underscoring ongoing security challenges.

Ullah, who was in the area campaigning for his nephew Najeeb Ullah Khan for an upcoming by-election, became the target of this act of terror. The election for the PK 22 Provincial Assembly Constituency is scheduled for

Pak: Former others killed in

AGENCIES

In a tragic attack, former

Xi Jinping, China's president, arrived in Astana on Tuesday for a five-day trip that will include state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. More than a decade ago, Xi used an official visit to Kazakhstan to launch the belt and road initiative, China's sprawling development

AGENCIES



project that has seen \$9.55bn (£8bn) invested in Kazakhstan alone since 2013, according to the China Global Investment Tracker.

That investment is part of China's pitch to central Asia that it can help countries to develop outside Russia's shadow. "The war in Ukraine has proven to the central Asian countries that the diversification of their ties with the world is key to their successful existence in the region," said Temur Umarov, a fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center. Although the former Soviet republics have been trying to de-Russify their countries since the fall of the Soviet Union, the war in Ukraine "has made the process of replacing Russia [with China] happen more quickly," he said.

Xi and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, preach the importance of establishing a multipolar world order to countries in the global south that have felt let down by US-dominated geopolitics. Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at Renmin University in Beijing, was quoted in a Chinese state media report published on Sunday as saying the SCO

ported the group's recommendation to immediately release the PTI founder, his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said: "It's a recommendation from an independent panel. "We want to see the cur-

rent political situation, the current situation of Mr Khan, evolve in a much more positive way."

In a statement on Tuesday, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar had rebuffed the working group's recommendations — which are legally non-binding — and said the former premier's detention was an "internal matter".

He added that courts took legal action against the PTI founder in light of the Constitution and prevailing laws. "The PTI founder is entitled to all rights under the Constitution and laws. as well as international principles," Tarar had said, adding that the ex-premier was currently in jail as a convicted prisoner.

Imran Khan, 71, has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana corruption case and subsequently sentenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections.

positive way", his spokes-

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NEW DELHI

situation improve: Spokesperson

UN wants to see Imran Khan's current

person said.

The government and its allies on Tuesday rejected the recommendations of the UN working group regarding Imran's detention and termed it a conspiracy against the institutions.

Questioned in a press conference a day ago on whether the UN chief sup-

SCO summit brings together leaders of global south but also likely to test Beijing and Moscow's 'strategic partnership' "sends a message to the western world that there are

> need to be heard and represented." Still, relations between Xi and Putin - which the two pledged to deepen as recently as May - may be

> many different voices from

the emerging economies that

strained this week by the shadow of Putin's recent visit to North Korea. Putin signed a mutual security pact with Kim Jong-un, an agreement which China fears could create the perception of a cold war-style bloc and damage Beijing's influence in east Asia. In recent months, there has been some scrutiny of the

role that central Asia plays in facilitating the flow of goods from China to Russia to support Moscow's war machine. Chinese exports to Kyrgyzstan increased from \$7.5bn in 2021 to nearly \$20bn in 2023, with much of those goods bound for Russia, according to the China-Russia Report newsletter.

prove their credentials. criteria, without regard to bilateral debts. Israel strikes counter Hamas efforts to re-establish itself in Shejaya

The government in March had extended

the deadline for the Expression of Interest

(EoI) on the divestiture from possible

bidders from early March to April 22 of

this year. The time to make final bids shall

remain open till the end of August.

AGENCIES

Israel pressed its offensive against Hamas efforts to reestablish itself in the northern Gaza town of Shejaya the Israel Defense Forces said on Wednesday morning.

Over the past day, the Israel i Air Force destroyed 50 Hamas infrastructure sites. Meanwhile, ground forces located operational tunnel shafts and seized weapons, including AK-47 rifles, grenades, magazines, and other military equipment.

In the southern Gaza area of Rafah, airstrikes destroyed Hamas infrastructure and eliminated terrorists. In central Gaza,



airstrikes eliminated terrorists who posed a threat to ground forces.

Meanwhile, Israel began boosting the amount of electricity supplied to Gaza to operate its water desalination and sewage systems on Tuesday.

Increasing the electric-

ity was necessary to make drinking water available for the "basic humanitar-

the move. To prevent Hamas from stealing electricity, the power

ian needs" of Palestinians

sheltering in humanitarian

zones, said Defense Minister

Yoav Gallant, who approved

is transferred directly to the desalination plant located in Khan Yunis. Once fully connected, the plant is expected to provide 20,000 cubic meters of water daily. The plant, till now powered by generators and solar power, only produces 1,500 cubic meters of water daily.

Israel disconnected Gaza from its electricity grid in October.

At least 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israel is and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas attacks on Israel communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Of the 116 remaining hostages, more than 30 are believed

Japan's supreme court has ordered the government to pay damages to dozens of people who were forcibly sterilised under a now-defunct eugenics law, saying the practice had violated their constitutional rights.

Wednesday's ruling by the country's highest court marks a major victory for the 39 plaintiffs, and thousands of other people with illnesses and genetic and mental disorders who had undergone procedures without their consent, mostly between the 1950s and 1970s.

The compensation claim rested on whether the court would accept the government's argument that the



plaintiffs could no longer seek redress as a 20-year statute of limitations applying to the cases had expired.

The 1948 eugenic protection law, which was not abolished until 1996, allowed doctors to carry out forced sterilisations to "prevent the

generation of poor quality descendants".

Japan's government has acknowledged that 16,500 people - some as young as nine - were forcibly sterilised under the law. A further 8,500 who gave their consent were likely to have come under intense pressure

All 15 supreme court judges found the eugenics law to be unconstitutional, the Kvodo news agency reported. They said the legislation violated article 13 of the constitution, which protects people against undergoing physically invasive procedures against their will, and article 14, which stipulates the right to equality.

One of the victims, Saburo Kita, was persuaded to undergo a vasectomy when he was 14 and living in a facility for children with behavioural problems. "I have had an agonising 66 years because of government surgery," Kita, who uses a pseudonym, said before the ruling.

Taiwan demands China returns fishing boat seized by coast guard

AGENCIES

Taiwan has demanded that Beijing releases a Taiwanese fishing boat that was boarded by the Chinese coast guard and steered to a port in mainland China.

The Dajinman 88 was intercepted by two Chinese vessels late on Tuesday near the Kinmen archipelago, which lies a short distance off China's coast but is controlled by Taiwan, the Taiwanese coast guard said.



It said Taiwan dispatched two patrol vessels to rescue the Dajinman 88 but they were "blocked" by Chinese boats and told not to inter-

fere. The pursuit was called off to avoid escalating the conflict, it added.

"The coast guard calls on the mainland to refrain

distance off China's coast but is controlled by Taiwan, the Taiwanese coast guard said. from engaging in political manipulation and harming cross-strait relations, and to

release the Dajinman ship and crew as soon as possible," it said in a statement. Taiwan coast guard offi-

The Dajinman 88 was intercepted by two

Chinese vessels late on Tuesday near the

Kinmen archipelago, which lies a short

cials told a news conference on Wednesday that there were two Taiwanese and three Indonesians onboard the boat, which was taken to the port of Weitou in China. Deputy coast guard chief Hsieh Ching-chin said the boat was seized off the coast of Jinjiang city in China, in an area where Beijing has declared a "fishing moratorium" between 1 May to 15 August. "We hope that the Chinese side will tell us as soon as possible for the reason of the inspection," he said. "We will actively request the Chinese side to release the boat and its crew as soon as possible

through various channels". Another official said there were about 50-60 fishing boats in the area and the

Dajinman could have been "randomly picked".

On Wednesday, the Chinese coast guard said the Taiwanese boat was suspected of "illegal fishing". The Chinese authorities accused the fishing boat of using nets that damaged the marine environment.

China claims self-governing Taiwan as its territory and says the island must come under its control. It regularly sends warplanes and ships toward Taiwan and in May staged a large exercise with dozens of aircraft and vessels. Fishers from Taiwan and China often sail in the stretch of water near the Kinmen archipelago, where tensions have risen as the number of Chinese vessels, including sand dredgers and fishing boats, have increased.

In February, the deadly capsizing of a Chinese fishing boat while being pursued by Taiwan's coast guard further strained cross-strait relations, after a survivor reportedly said the boat was rammed.



The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, stands next to the parliamentary candidate for Carmarthenshire, Martha O'Neil, and the first minister of Wales, Vaughan Gething, as he speaks to supporters on the final day of general election campaigning at West Regwm farm in Whitland, UK. Source: Getty Images

RISHI SUNAK FEARFUL OF LOSING HIS SEAT, SOURCES SAY

Rishi Sunak has confided to members of his inner circle that he is fearful of losing his Yorkshire constituency at the general election, the Guardian has been told.

The prime minister, who would be the first sitting leader of the country to lose his seat, told confidants before a Conservative rally on Tuesday that he thought the vote in Richmond and Northallerton was too close to call.

In 2019, he won the seat with a majority of more than 27,000 and 63% of the vote. One source said: "He is genuinely fearful of a defeat in Richmond: the risk that it could be tight has hit him hard. He's rattled - he can't

quite believe it's coming so close." Another source added: "He's taken so much friendly fire from his own side I'm amazed he's had the

A Conservative source flatly denied Sunak feared losing in his constituency, saying: "The PM is confident he will hold his seat."

strength to keep going.'

Mel Stride, a close ally of the prime minister, said on Wednesday that Labour was likely to win "the largest majority any party has ever achieved".

Sunak is weighing a return to the financial services industry, whether or not he stays on as an MP, the Guardian understands. A former colleague has offered him office space in Mayfair in London - a hotspot for hedge funds. He has also discussed spending a greater share of his time in Califor-

nia, where he has a home, although he had no immediate plans to relocate there full time, sources said.

A Conservative source said Sunak had "no interest" in going back into financial services and planned to stay in Yorkshire "come what may".

No incumbent prime minister has ever lost their seat, and only 12 serving cabinet ministers have lost their seats since 1974, according to the Institute for Government.

Polls have varied, with most suggesting Sunak should retain his seat even amid a landslide victory for Labour across the country. Savanta and Electoral Calculus analysis for the Telegraph suggested he could lose it, however.

French PM says efforts to prevent far-right majority can succeed

AGENCIES

France's prime minister has said nationwide efforts to prevent Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) winning an outright majority in parliament could succeed, after more than 200 candidates pulled out of Sunday's legislative election runoff to avoid splitting the anti-far-

"We can avoid an absolute majority for the far right," Gabriel Attal said on Wednesday, adding that 90% of candidates from President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp had quit three-way races if they were in third with an RN candidate ahead of them.

RN and its potential future prime minister, 28-year-old Jordan Bardella, finished a comfortable first in last Sunday's firstround election with 33% of the vote, followed by the New Popular Front (NFP) alliance on 28% and the rival from the radical-left president's Together alliance on 20%.

A historically high turnout dramatically boosted the number of second-round contests featuring three candidates to more than 300, increasing the anti-immigrant



party's chances of securing the 289 seats it would need for an absolute majority.

Although accurate seat projections are difficult before the shape of each constituency contest is known, pollsters' initial estimates suggested RN could return as many as 300 deputies. The high number of runoff withdrawals makes that less

Attal said centrist candidates were right to stand down even in favour of a France Unbowed (LFI), part of the NFP leftwing alliance. "Neither LFI or NFP can win an absolute majority," he said. "RN can."

He added: "What's at stake is to do everything so that the extreme right does

not have an absolute majority. It is not nice for some French to have to block ... by voting in a way they did not want to. I say it's our re-

> sponsibility to do this." According to Le Monde, 221 candidates, including 132 from NFP and 83 from Macron's camp and its allies, had withdrawn from potential three-way runoffs by the Tuesday evening deadline, leaving 94 so-called "triangular" contests.

The "republican front". aimed at shutting the far right out of power, has long been a feature of French politics but had shown signs of fraying in recent elections as voters tired of having to vote against candidates they disliked rather than for those they backed.

Argentina's president buttheads with South American leftist leaders

On the campaign trail, Argentina's showman president, Javier Milei, brandished a chainsaw to highlight plans for ferocious spending cuts. In office, the rightwinger has apparently decided to take the power tool to foreign relations as

In recent days, Milei has busied himself losing friends and alienating people with a series of verbal attacks on the leftwing leaders of Argentina's two biggest neighbours, Bolivia and Brazil.

First came Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whom Argentina's far-right libertarian leader had called a corrupt communist during last year's election. Last week, when Lula suggested Milei should apologize for talking "loads of nonsense", the Argentinian quickly scotched the idea.

"Since when do to say sorry for telling the truth?" the television celebrity turned politician said of his attack on the president of Argentina's top trade partner. "Have we become so sick with political correctness that you can't say



anything about the left even when it's true?'

Over the weekend, Milei aimed his artillery at Bolivia's president, Luis Arce, whom he accused - without evidence - of staging a "fake and fraudulent" coup attempt last Wednesday in order to boost his popularity. On Monday, Bolivia announced it was recalling its ambassador to Argentina because of Milei's "unfriendly and reckless" remarks.

Ties between Buenos Aires and Brasília look likely to deteriorate further in the coming days amid reports that Milei, a mercurial Donald Trump-admiring populist known as El Loco (The Madman), will make his first trip to Brazil as president this weekend.

Cracks showing in Democratic support as Biden nearly falls asleep on stage

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON DC

Cracks in support among Democratic leaders for Joe Biden's campaign continued to widen on Wednesday ahead of his evening meeting with Democratic governors, as Barack Obama reportedly expressed concerns about Biden's path to re-election and Biden himself said he knew the next few days were critical to persuading the public he is up for the job.

Biden will be talking with state governors and Capitol Hill leaders all week, officials indicated on Tuesday, in attempts to reassure them of his competence after last week's calamitous debate performance against Donald Trump. The White House said Biden will also sit for an interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos on Friday, to be aired over the weekend.

The New York Times also quoted a key Biden ally that he remained fully committed to re-election but that he knew his upcoming appearances would have to successful. "He knows if he has two more events like that, we're in a different place," the source told the Times.

The White House imme-

more than seven minutes to comment we would have told them so." All but one elected national Democratic figure has continued to back Biden in public since the debate but, behind the scenes, senior figures are reportedly

scrambling to plot a way

forward for the troubled

campaign.

diately pushed back, with

senior deputy press secre-

tary and deputy assistant to

the president Andrew Bates

saying: "That claim is abso-

lutely false. If the New York

Times had provided us with

At a Virginia campaign event on Tuesday evening, the US president blamed his weak debate on his international trips leading up to the event, saving: "I wasn't verv smart. I decided to travel around the world a couple times, going through around 100 time zones ... before ... the debate. Didn't listen to my staff and came back and nearly fell asleep on stage. That's no excuse but it is an explanation."

Obama, who was president on a ticket with Biden as vice-president, has shared in private with Democratic allies who sought his counsel that Biden was already on a tough road to re-election and that road was now more rocky after the debate, the Washington Post reported late on Tuesday, citing unnamed sources familiar with the former president's

Obama talked with Biden by phone after the debate and the the president's reelection campaign spoke of Obama's "unwavering support", while the former president's team declined to

Greek MP expelled from party after fight at airport

Greece's governing centerright party has removed a lawmaker and former minister who allegedly manhandled an airport worker who wouldn't let him board a domestic flight he'd turned up late for.

Lefteris Avgenakis, who has held the sports and agriculture portfolios, apologised over the incident earlier this month at Athens International Airport.

He denied using physical violence against the employee, saying there had been only "verbal tension."

Footage on social media from an overhead video purportedly showed Avgenakis, a lawmaker with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' New



Democracy party, trying to snatch the employee's phone during the altercation.

He said he did that because he wanted to speak to the worker's supervisors "in a last effort" to get on the flight, which he missed.

Parliament Speaker Constantinos Tassoulas imposed a two-week ban on Avgenakis attending legislative sessions, calling his behavior at he airport "unacceptable."

"I'm aware that (Avgenakis) has apologized publicly, but I cannot accept the apology," Tassoulas said. Avgenakis represents a constituency on the southern island of Crete. He indicated Wednesday that he would stay on as an indeLefteris Avgenakis, who has held the sports and agriculture portfolios, apologised over the incident earlier this month at Athens International Airport.

pendent lawmaker and would not resign his seat. Following his eviction. New Democracy will have 157 lawmakers in the 300-seat house. Last month Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis tweaked his Cabinet with a focus on cost-of-living and labor policies after his center-right party's victory in Europe's parliamentary elections. Despite a recent dip in inflation, polls consistently show most Greeks' top concern is cost of living since the pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine con-

tributed to rising prices in the southern European country. Mitsotakis' New Democracy party easily came first in the June 9 European parliamentary elections, gaining 28.3% of the vote — nearly twice the left-wing main opposition Syriza party's 14.9%. Mitsotakis swept to power in 2019, following more than four years of government by Syriza during the country's financial crisis, and was reelected in a landslide victory in summer

Russian missiles strike Ukraine's Dnipro in daylight attack

AGENCIES

A video posted on social media by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy showed a missile with a fiery trail streaking over buildings in Ukraine's fourth-largest city, and debris flying into the air from its impact.

The war, now in its third year since Russia invaded its neighbor, has killed more than 10,000 civilians and wounded around 20,000 others, the United Nations says. In the Kharkiv region in the northeast, Russian shelling struck a village council building, killing one person and injuring two others, regional head Oleh Suniehubov



said. Elsewhere in the region, a Russian glide bomb struck a residential building in the village of Ruska Lozova, injuring at least two people. Others could be trapped under rubble, Syniehubov said.

Also Wednesday, Ukraine received \$2.2 billion from the International Monetary

Fund under an ongoing credit facility, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced. The credit program foresees the disbursement of \$16 billion, but Ukraine must pass IMF reviews of its progress on key economic and scal benchmarks before each part is released.

Health alert issued in parts of Australia on highly infectious measles

AGENCIES CANBERRA

Authorities issued an urgent health alert on Wednesday after a new case of measles was reported in the Austra-

lian state of Victoria. The Victorian Department of Health confirmed that the case was identified in a



The Victorian Department of Health confirmed that the case was identified in a returned overseas traveller who appeared at multiple public sites in the state while infectious.

returned overseas traveller who appeared at multiple public sites in the state while

infectious.

The infected patient arrived at Melbourne Inter-

national Airport on June 25 from Singapore before visiting Colac, Warrnambool, and Port Campbell. The locations listed in the statement included a fast-food restaurant, a hotel, and several shops.

"There have now been 11 cases of measles reported in Victoria since January 1, 2024," said the health department. Local communities were warned of the potential exposure to measles due to any overseas travel.

The authority noted that measles outbreaks have been recently reported in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

pecially high level of suspicion if they have travelled overseas or visited any of the sites listed above and are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated for measles," the department added, urging anyone who presents with measles-related symptoms to get tested.

"There should be an es-

BRAIN PICKING

If I want to kiss,

I shall kiss. If

I am told that a lovemaking

to the script, I will consider it.

(Indian actress)

TDG NETWORK

DC movie Superman.

Christopher Reeve was

the first Hollywood actor to

scene is integral

- KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

CHRISTOPHER REEVE'S SON WILL REEVE TO MAKE A CAMEO IN JAMES GUNN'S 'SUPERMAN'

'RIP', STARRING MATT DAMON AND BEN ÁFFLECK, HEADING TO NETFLIX



highly anticipated project. Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are set to star in a new Netflix movie titled RIP. The film has come up after a long search that began while Ben Affleck was about to complete The Accountant.

The latest project heading towards Netflix happens to be one of the highly anticipated films called RIP. While the streamer had acquired its rights to the stated movie, the genre of this film is said to be a crime thriller.

The plot details are still kept under wraps, but a report by Deadline suggests that the movie is being produced by both the Good Will Hunting stars, Damon and Affleck.

With their production company, Artists Equity being behind the project, the two actors will also co-star

in this upcoming movie. It was reported by The Hollywood Reporter that

the film's package was being

The Netflix movie RIP will

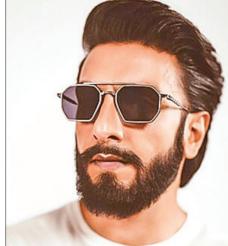
be directed by Joe Carnahan

Besides starring in Good Will Hunting, which also earned them the Academy Award, for their work on the screenplay, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck were recently seen in an Air Jordanfocused film, Air by Amazon

This was the movie directed by the Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice actor. Moreover, Affleck and Matt Damon have also appeared together in movies such as The Last Duel, and Dogma while also being starred in this year's Super Bowl commercial for Dunkin' Donuts.

Then the production com-

After watching the film,



Haasan and the film's lead, **Prabhas**

Taking to Instagram Stoin technical execution. The ema.'

Talking about Nag Ashwin's filmmaking, Ranveer wrote, "Congrats to Nagi Sir & team! @nag_ashwin." He then praised Prabhas as well as Kamal Haasan, adding, "Rebel Star rocks! @actorprabhas Ulaganayagan is haasan.'

portray the superhero, also known as Clark Kent, on the Showering praises on big screen. Gunn's Superman will be fronted by David Corenswet, with Rachel Brosnahan and Nicholas Hoult as Daily Planet star reporter

Will Reeve, who is a journalist and an ABC News correspondent, will play a TV reporter in the film, reported entertainment news outlet Variety.

Lois Lane and Lex Luthor,

Superman's arch nemesis,

respectively.

Christopher Reeve starred in and as 1978's Superman, which marked the beginning followed by Superman II (1980), Superman III (1983), and Superman IV: The Quest his horse riding accident

for Peace (1987).

Gunn is directing Superman's latest revival from his Will Reeve, son of the late own script. He also serves as Superman star Christopher the co-head of Warner Bros-Reeve, is set to have a cameo owned DC Studios along in James Gunn's upcoming with Peter Safran.

Superman, currently under production in Cleveland, Ohio, also features Anthony Carrigan, Isabela Merced and Nathan Fillion. The film is slated to release in July

Before Gunn's reboot of the popular character, Super/Man, a documentary on Christopher Reeve, will hit the big screen in select theatres on September 21 followed by an encore presentation on his birthday. September 25. DC Studios is collaborating with Fathom Events on the theatrical re-

Will Reeve and his older siblings Matthew and Alexandra appear in the documentary. Directed by Ian of the film franchise. It was Bonhote and Peter Ettedgui, Super/Man follows Christopher Reeve's life following

RANVEER SINGH REVIEWS DEEPIKA PADUKONE-STARRER 'KALKI 2898 AD'

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

PICTURE PERFECT

MP Kangana Ranaut meets with Mantri

Pankaj Chaudhary

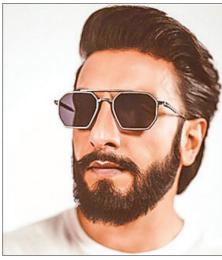
advance work for her

ji to discuss and

constituency. (X)

eepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, and his family stepped out to watch Kalki 2898 AD on Tuesday evening. Ranveer was holding Deepika's hand as he escorted her inside the theatre. Deepika, on the other hand, was all smiles as she spotted the paparazzi clicking their pictures. Deepika plays a supporting role in the blockbuster film, which has made more than Rs 600 crore worldwide so far.

Ranveer was blown away by his wife's performance. He took to social media to share his review, and to congratulate director Nag Ashwin and his crew. Ranveer also praised the performances of Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal



ries, Ranveer wrote, "Kalki 2898 @kalki2898ad - a grand cinematic spectacle! That's what big screen cinema is all about! An unprecedented level of finesse

very best in Indian cin-

forever supreme! @ikamal-

Amitabh Bachchan, who plays Ashwatthama in the film. Ranveer said, "And if you are a die-hard Amitabh Bachchan fan like me..you just can't miss this! @am-

Anant, Radhika's wedding menu to serve from Varanasi's Kashi Chaat Bhandaar

TDG NETWORK **NEW DELHI**

The much-awaited wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant is set to take place on July 12 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai. This grand celebration promises to be a spectacular event, with a blend of traditional customs and exquisite delights.

One of the highlights of the wedding plans is a chaat stall from the famous Kashi Chaat Bhandaar in Varanasi. The stall will feature a variety of delicious chaats, including tikki, tomato chaat, palak chaat, chana kachori, and kulfi.

As part of the pre-wedding festivities, Reliance Foundation founder and chairman Nita Ambani visited Varanasi last month to seek blessings at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. During her



visit, she invited the shop owner, Rakesh Keshari, after sampling various chaats at his establishment.

"Nita Ambani came to our chaat bhandaar on June 24,

where she tasted tikki chaat, tomato chaat, palak chaat, and kulfi falooda. She was very happy and said that the chaat of Banaras is very famous. It was a pleasure to serve her," Keshari told ANI. Since Nita Ambani's visit, Kashi Chaat Bhandaar has seen a significant increase in customers, both local and international.

TDG NETWORK

TABU, AJAY DEVGN-STARRER 'AURON MEIN KAHAN DUM THA' POSTPONED

TDG NETWORK

Ajay Devgn and Tabu's film Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha will now not be released on July 5. On Tuesday, the makers of the film shared that they have decided to postpone Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha "on the request of the exhibitors and the distribution fraternity."

"Dear Friends, on request of the exhibitors and the distribution fraternity, we have collectively decided to shift the release date of our film, Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha. New Release date to be announced soon (sic)," a post shared by the production company on its



official Instagram account read.

The makers recently unveiled the trailer, which started with a voiceover by Ajay Devgn, who is convinced that no one can separate him from the love of his

life (Tabu). However, destiny had different plans. The video then showed visuals of Ajay sitting in a prison.

Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons has boarded the cast of the fourth season of the acclaimed drama series The Morning Show, alongside Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon.

Irons will portray the Aniston's Alex Bradley

The Morning Show has had three successful seasons after its first season premiered in 2019. Season three finale ended with Witherspoon's character Bradley Jackson being taken into FBI custody, and

Irons will portray the role of Martin Levy, father of Aniston's character Alex Levy in the Apple TV+ show, according to AceShowbiz.

JEREMY IRONS JOINS 'THE

MORNING SHOW' SEASON 4

role of Martin Levy, father of Aniston's character Alex Levy in the Apple TV+ show, according to Ace-Showbiz.

The 75-year-old actor has been a part of projects such as Lolita, The Mission, and Eragon, to name a few. His appearance in the upcoming chapter of The Morning Show will also mark his first series since Netflix's The Pentaverate in

outsmarting her love interest Paul (Hamm) when she realises that he was trying to take over the network by illegal means.

The show examines the characters and culture behind a network broadcast morning news program. It also stars Billy Crudup, Mark Duplass, Nestor Carbonell, Karen Pittman, Greta Lee, Jon Hamm, and Nicole Beharie.



About the other projects of Artists Equity, it is coming up with the most anticipated movie, which happens to be a sequel to the 2016 film The Accountant.

pany has also come up with Unstoppable, which stars the Anaconda actress and singer Jennifer Lopez. Both of the aforementioned films landed at Amazon MGM Studios.

PRATIK GANDHI BACK AS A HOST FOR SEASON 3 OF 'CRIMES AAJ KAL'



TDG NETWORK

Amazon miniTV, Amazon's free video streaming service, returns with the much-awaited third season of its widely acclaimed crime anthology series, Crimes AajKal. On the day of its premiere, the streaming service today unveiled a riveting promo for the new season, sharing a sneak peek into ghastly crimes inspired by true events depicted in each episode. Directed by Subbu Iyer and produced by Optimystix Entertainment, Crimes Aaj Kal Season 3 marks the return of the versatile actor Pratik Gandhi as the host.

This season will delveinto twisted criminal cases, weaving precise sequences of events together to shed light on societal misdeeds. Exploring a variety of suspense-inducing themes, Pratik Gandhi will seek to create awareness among viewers about the crimes taking place around them, shedding light on ways to protect oneself. Crimes AajKal S3will feature different stand-alone stories, exposing the underbelly of the crime

world and uncovering the

truth of each case.

Sharing his thoughts on the new season, AmoghDusad, Head of Content at Amazon miniTV, remarked, "Crimes AajKal S3 will dive deeper into real-life incidents, presenting enthralling and gripping investigations that unravel the complexities of each case.

With Pratik Gandhi as

the narrator, his style of narration will add to the engagement level and grip audiences. With an emphasis on youngsters and their difficulties, Crimes AajKal S3 will allow viewers to explore each case from various perspectives, all while remaining truthful to the facts." Also Read - Neru, Antony, Kaathal: The Core and more: Latest Malayalam films to watch on OTT Pratik Gandhi echoed the sentiment and expressed his excitement about returning as the host, sharing, "The phenomenal success of the previous seasons has been highly motivating

This anthology's premise is both engaging and informative, prompting one to pause and reflect.

JEEP COMPASS MODEL-S 4X2 AT REVIEW

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

fortnight ago, the Meridian Overland 4x4 went back to Jeep India and they sent this-the Compass Model-S 4x2 AT to me for a review. Read on to find out if it impressed me as much or whether I'd still take the Meridian.

DESIGN

I had said this back in 2017, and I'll say it again todaythe Compass looks and feels like it has been carved out from a single block of adamantium. The sheer sense of solidity it exudes is simply unmatched by anything and



everything under 50 lakh rupees.

In fact, while most other unibody SUVs in this price range appear to have been designed by Charlie's Angels, with a few inputs from Preity Zinta, the Compass has always felt like it was conceptualized by Iron Man, carved out by Wolver



ine, sculpted by Thor and Captain

America, and strengthtested by the Hulk. It's a no-



brainer, then, that it indeed carries a "five-star" rating... In other words, while most other SUVs have puffed cheeks, double chin, belly fat, and cellulite, the Compass is an absolutely chiselled specimen. In a herd of cows and bulls, it's a Thorough-

bred...

CABIN

The interior is also a class

act. It feels premium, but not flashy, and the overall design is easy on the eye. In fact, thanks to the neat and uncluttered layout, this is one of those cabins where you won't be confused about the essential controls, buttons, and switches, except for the dedicated audio-controls (volume and track) placed at the back of the steering

However, I must add here that though hidden from your direct line of sight, they are not cumbersome to use as the placement (at 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock) is ergonomic, making your fingers fall naturally on them. Alternatively, you may use the left-most dial on the center console to adjust the volume, and the touchscreen to change the track. The touchscreen itself is quite responsive and intuitive to use.

Also, everything is well put together and there were no rattles or squeaks whatsoever in the entirety of this test. And that's saying something because media units see a lot of abuse in the hands of auto journalists, youtubers, and freeloaders masquerading as lifestyle influencers.

Talking about the actual lifestyle of its intended customers, who expect a comfortable cabin, I am happy to report that all seats are supremely comfortable. The front seats are of course fantastic, and even the rear seats have great cushioning. Not just that, there's good underthigh support as well, and the kneeroom won't leave you wanting either. The headroom would also suffice if you aren't over six feet tall. If you're taller, get the variant without the panoramic sunroof. The AC would then be even more effective. It's not bad right now by any stretch of imagination. In fact, as

compared to the Me-

didn't require the AC to run at full blast in the recent horrid summers in Delhi.

PERFORMANCE, RIDE QUALITY, HANDLING, **AND NVH**

Now we come to the section where the Jeep Compass has always been second to none in the segment. The 2.0 L diesel remains as flawless as ever, and, though it's the sixspeed manual that extracts this motor's power exactly how you'd want it, the ninespeed torque converter isn't half bad either. I managed the customary 0-100

Jeep Compass at high speeds. You might have read about it a fortnight ago in my Jeep Meridian's review, but there's no harm

In addition to the excel-

lent NVH levels, and the

aforementioned seats,

what further

keeps the oc-

cupants

comfort-

able is the

astound-

ing ride

and body

quality

composure of the

km/h (speedo, not GPS) run in 11.6 seconds, which is quick enough to help you get away from most forms of traffic at the lights.

Overtaking ability of the Compass is good too as the downshifts are reasonably quick, and you'll never have a heart-in-mouth situation in the trickiest of overtaking maneuvers. What adds to your confidence is the exceptional handling and chassis behaviour of the



you to precisely dart in and out of gaps that you wouldn't dare to attempt in most of its competition. The braking is mindboggling as well. So, yes, it's a great city vehicle. But what about the highways, you ask? Well, it's sublime there too—it wafts at 100 km/h at just a shade

> over 1,500 rpm in top gear, and at 120 km/h, the crank is spinning at 1,800 rpm. That's beautifully relaxed! And you would be relaxed too because the insulation is top

notch, and whatever little wind and tyre noise you hear won't be tiring even on thousand-mile

in reiterating it, so here it is again—there is absolutely nothing under 50-lakh rupees, which, at high speeds rides AND handles better than the Jeep Compass (the Meridian is as good) and it's primarily due to the simple, yet highly effective frequency selective dampers (FSDs) by Koni, which I became a fan of ever since I tested the first Compass back in 2017.

What do they do? Well, contrary to what any manufacturer, including Koni, claims, at low frequencies, the FSDs work like normal dampers. However, at high frequencies, the FSD valve opens up for, in layman terms, more flow of oil, thereby keeping things more compliant and "even" on the highways. Please note that unlike some reOvertaking ability of the Compass is good too as the downshifts are reasonably quick, and you'll never have a heart-inmouth situation in the trickiest of overtaking maneuvers.

viewers' understanding, the "high" in highways and the "high" in higher frequencies have no correlation whatsoever. The FSD valve would open even at low speeds if the "frequency of suspension movement" is high. For example, the Jeep Compass will have excellent ride quality on a continuous bad patch, even at low speeds, but, on

> an absolutely smooth road 1 o wspeeds, if you encounsudden sharp bump,

you will feel it more than, say, you would feel in the C5 that

has what Citroen refers to as progressive hydraulic cushions. I must also mention here that the Meridian has FSDs with hydraulic rebound stoppers, which the Compass doesn't get, and as such the Meridian's body composure at low speeds is even better than the Compass's. In a nutshell, the Jeep Meridian and Compass are equally great, and better than the C5, in high frequency situations, whereas it's the Citroen that takes the first position in low frequency situations, with the Merid-



ian coming a close second.

FUEL EFFICIENCY

The Jeep Compass 4x2 will give you around 8-10 km/l in the city, and 14-16 km/l on the highways, if you aren't too enthusiastic with the right pedal.

MISCELLANEOUS

The headlights on this top variant are brilliant, and so is the music system.

VERDICT

Before I give you the verdict, I will tell you that I am

a bit disappointed that Jeep India doesn't sell the Compass 4x4 with a manual transmission anymore (as if discontinuing the fabulous TrailHawk wasn't enough for them!). Yes, all Compass manual variants are 4x2. You can get





a Compass 4x4 only as an automatic, and that too in this top-end Model-S trim. Let me break it down further for you for easier understanding. The base Compass Sport is available only as a 4x2 manual, whereas all other variants (Longitude, Limited, Black Shark, and Model-S) give you the option to choose between the 6-speed manual and 9-speed AT, but it's only the Model-S that gives you the option to get a 4x4 and that too only with the 9-speed automatic. And, of course, there are no petrols, but you know that

Now, my pick would have been the erstwhile Limited 4x4 manual, but since it's not available, I would go for the base variant (Sport) which is incredible value at an ex-showroom price of just Rs 18.99 lakh, and zoom past all Hyundai and KIA showrooms in a 170 PS, brilliant handling, 5-star, front-wheel-spinning frenzy. Or, if I had the money, I would go for the Meridian 4x4.

But, if you can't spend that much, or, you can, but you don't want anything bigger than a Compass, then, just like the Meridian, even this, the Model-S 4x2 AT (at around 30 lakh rupees, ex-showroom) does the most crucial things better than everything else in this segment. Still, get the 4x4, please!







AUGMENTED REALITY: TRANSFORMING INDUSTRIES WITH IMMERSIVE INNOVATION



ugmented Reality (AR) is a transformative technology that overlays digital information onto the real world. enhancing the user's perception and interaction with their environment. This innovative technology is increasingly being adopted across various industries due to its ability to provide immersive experiences, improve efficiency, and offer new ways of engagement.

In today's article, let's explore how AR is making a significant impact across different sectors.

1. RETAIL

AR is revolutionizing the retail industry by enhancing the shopping experience both online and in physical stores.

• Virtual Try-Ons: Customers can use AR to try on clothes, accessories, and makeup virtually. Apps like Sephora's Virtual Artist allow users to see how different makeup products look on their faces without physically applying them.

• Interactive Store Displays: Retailers like IKEA use AR to help customers visualize how furniture and decoritems will look in

• Product Information: AR-enabled apps can provide detailed information about products by simply scanning them, enhancing the in-store experience.

their homes before making

2. HEALTHCARE

a purchase.

In healthcare, AR is improving patient outcomes, training, and operational efficiency.

Surgical Assistance: Surgeons use AR to overlay critical information, such as patient vitals and 3D images of organs, directly onto their field of view during procedures. This helps in making precise incisions and avoiding critical areas.

Medical Training: AR provides medical students and professionals with realistic simulations of surgical procedures and anatomy. Tools like Microsoft's HoloLens are used to teach anatomy and complex sur-

• Patient Care: AR can assist in explaining complex medical conditions and procedures to patients. improving their understanding and compliance with treatment plans.

3. MANUFACTURING

AR is enhancing the manufacturing industry by streamlining processes and improving safety and efficiency.

 Maintenance and Repair: AR can guide workers through maintenance and repair procedures with step-by-step instructions overlaid on the equipment, reducing errors and downtime.

• Quality Control: Inspectors can use AR to identify defects and inconsistencies in products by comparing real-time images with digital models.

• Training: AR provides hands-on training for workers by simulating complex machinery operations and safety protocols, making training more effective and engaging.

4. EDUCATION

AR is transforming education by making learning more interactive and im-



• Interactive Learning: AR can bring textbooks to life by adding 3D models, videos, and interactive content, making learning more engaging for students.

• Virtual Field Trips: Students can take virtual field trips to historical sites, museums, and even outer space, providing experiences that would be impossible in a traditional classroom.

• Skill Development: AR-based training modules help students and professionals develop practical skills in areas like engineering, medicine, and art by providing realistic simulations.

5. REAL ESTATE

The real estate industry is leveraging AR to provide better experiences for buyers and tenants.

• Virtual Property Tours: Potential buyers and tenants can take virtual tours of properties, exploring every detail without having to be physically present. This is particularly useful for international buyers.

• Interior Design: AR apps allow users to visualize different design options, furniture placements, and color schemes within a property, helping them make more informed

decisions.

6. TOURISM AND **HOSPITALITY**

AR is enhancing the tourism and hospitality industry by providing more immersive and informative experiences.

• Tour Guides: AR apps can serve as virtual tour guides, providing historical facts, stories, and directions as tourists explore cities, museums, and land-

• Hotel Experience: Hotels use AR to offer interactive room features, such as virtual concierge services, local attractions information, and room control

7. ENTERTAINMENT AND GAMING

The entertainment and gaming industry has been a pioneer in adopting AR to create engaging and immersive experiences.

Games: AR games like Pokémon GO and Harry Potter: Wizards Unite blend the real world with digital characters and environments, creating a unique gaming experience.

• Live Events: Concerts, sports events, and theater performances use AR to enhance the experience with interactive elements, such as real-time stats, 3D effects, and additional con-

8. AUTOMOTIVE

AR is driving innovation in the automotive industry by enhancing safety, design, and user experience.

• Heads-Up Displays: Modern vehicles are equipped with AR headsup displays that project important information, such as speed, navigation, and hazard alerts, onto the windshield.

• Design and Prototyping: AR helps designers and engineers visualize and modify vehicle designs in real-time, speeding up the prototyping process.

Repair & Maintenance: AR applications guide technicians through complex repair procedures, improving accuracy and reducing time spent on maintenance.

Augmented Reality is proving to be a versatile and valuable technology across various industries. Its ability to merge digital content with the real world is not only enhancing user experiences but also improving operational efficiency, safety, and learning.

As AR technology continues to evolve, its applications are likely to expand further, bringing even more innovative solutions to different sectors. Jump into the world of AR today and watch your business transform! Reach Skill Bud to explore more & stand out in your competitive landscape!

The author is the founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a tech company that specializes in Website Development, Augmented Reality, Web 3.0, Metaverse and Digital Marketing. He is also an Author, Speaker, Mentor and helps startups & businesses grow with technology.

Connecting generations: How fam-tech bridges the gap between young & old

MR. VIKRAM LAD

In today's rapidly advancing digital vista, technology has become an integral part of our daily lives. It makes a difference in how we connect, communicate, and interact. As technology grows, we see a new digital shift that frequently divides generations. We see that it is easier for the younger generations to keep up with the technological pace and embrace social media and technological sites quicker than the older generations. Considering this issue, a developing industry called 'Fam-Tech' aims to close the generational divide by

Whether it is teaching grandparents how to use social media or grandchildren learning about family history and traditions through digital storytelling

ucts and services, ranging from intuitive apps to wearable devices for monitoring health and safety. By simplifying technology and making it more inclusive, Fam-Tech empowers the older generation to embrace digital tools with confidence. promoting greater connectivity and engagement with younger family members.

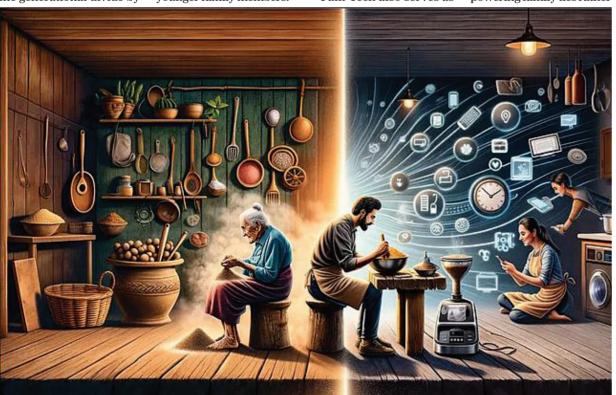
close the generational divide by using technology to promote regular communication and shared experiences, empowering a sense of belonging and togetherness between families.

FOSTERING INTER-GENERATIONAL LEARNING

Fam-Tech also serves as

been greater. Fam-Tech promises to change family dynamics and promote family ties in new ways by creating user-friendly technology solutions that encourage connection, communication, and learning across generations. As we dive into the future, let us embrace the transformative potential of Fam-Tech and use the power of technology to bring families together regardless of their age or geographical

To sum it up, Fam-Tech is a concept that sees technology as a tool for strengthening family bonds and empowering family ties rather



prompting connection, communication, and understanding among generations. Here we examine how Fam-Tech is revolutionizing interactions with a focus on its impact and potential.

CONNECTING GENERATIONS

One of the primary goals of Fam-Tech is to bridge the digital gap by providing user-friendly technological solutions. Fam-Tech hopes to close the digital generational gap between the young and the elderly. All people regardless of age and technological prowess can utilize Fam-Tech prod-

ENHANCING COMMU-NICATION AND CONNECTION Fam-Tech was intro-

duced in the market to help strengthen family bonds and facilitate meaningful communication across generations, regardless of location. From virtual family gatherings and shared digital photo albums to collaborative online games and video calls, Fam-Tech offers many methods for families to stay connected and engaged, regardless of geographical differences and technological barriers. Moreover, Fam-Tech helps

a platform for intergenerational learning and knowledge sharing. It creates opportunities for mutual learning and understanding among generations, enriching family relationships, and preserving cultural heritage.

Whether it is teaching grandparents how to use social media or grandchildren learning about family history and traditions through digital storytelling, As Fam-Tech continues to evolve and expand, its potential to bridge the gap between young and old to promote intergenerational connectivity has never than just a collection of devices and appliances. Fam-Tech can bridge the gap between the young and the old by encouraging communication, reducing disconnection, and nurturing care across generations resulting in a more cohesive and connected family unit. As technology continues to evolve, Fam-Tech will shape the future of family life, and remain boundless, providing new opportunities for connection, interaction, and shared experiences across generations.

The author is the Co-Founder and COO, Kintree.

AI OS holds the power to transform the customer journey at every stage



PRAVEER KOCHHAR

What if your inventory could talk to you and tell you exactly what your customers want? Or use customer information to deliver personalised experiences at every step of the customer journey? That's the power of Artificial Intelligence in retail. By harnessing AI, retailers can dive deep into their customer behaviour. Predicting end-customer desires, helps businesses curate experiences that feel personal and increase customer engagement.

Advanced analytics and AI are rapidly transforming the retail industry, revolutionising the way retailers operate and interact with customers. In India, more meaningful work of

conversational chatbots are fast becoming the norm as more and more businesses adopt generative AI. However, the future of customer experience lies in delivering immersive, personalised experiences at scale across the entire customer journey, is what AI can do for retailers and ecommerce businesses. With small action models, built to perform specific tasks, AI agents can vastly improve CX - both atthe front and back end.

with managing day-to-day operations while also trying to focus on growing their business. AI Agents are invaluable in performing day-to-day operations by handling administrative tasks. These may include scheduling appointments, inventory management, understanding customer expectations and preparing reports or documents. By delegating these time-consuming tasks to AI agents, retailers can have employees dedicate their time to

Retailers often struggle

innovation and developing strategies that can enhance digital experience, which impacts their bottom line directly. Unlike generative AI,

which is prone to hallucinations, small action moding it the perfect choice for retailers looking to adopt AI. Since Large Agentic Frameworks make way for retailers to deploy as many AI agents as they want, AI can also act as an analyst, understanding large volumes of customer data, and predicting future customer behaviour. For example: AI Agents can be built to predict outcomes based on the customer's usage patterns, enabling businesses to be proactive in solving customer problems.

With personalisation being an important factor that determines customer loyalty. This is because 60% of customers trust products and services recommended by generative AI and more importantly, 59% want personalised recommenda-

tions from AI that align with their personality. AI agents can act as a personal shopping guide, as they analyse customer history, preferences, and interests and identify buying behaviour. This makes it the perfect els built on Large Agentic tool to recommend prodfrom product discovery to Frameworks are far more ucts or services that the post-purchase support. This accurate and effective, mak-customer may be interested in. It can also be deployed as a customer service agent and provide conversational and personalised experiences at scale, while allowing humans to tackle more complex customer issues.

> AI is already helping retailers to gather, analyse, and interpret vast amounts of data, enabling them to make more informed decisions and improve the overall customer experience. In fact, businesses that have adopted AI, were able to significantly increase their market share compared to their counterparts that didn't. It's time for retailers to adopt such solutions or they risk losing out to competitors.

The author is the CPO & Co-Founder, KOGO.



HARDIK PANDYA ON TOP

First Indian to occupy top spot in ICC T20I all-rounder rankings

TDG NETWORK

'ardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the number one spot in the ICC's T2OI all-rounders' rankings on Wednesday, as the country's cricketers improved their standings following their title-winning performance in the just-concluded World

The 30-year-old, who handed telling blows to South Africa in the T20 World Cup final on July 29 by dismissing half-centurion Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller in his 3/20 effort, climbed up two places to go level with Sri Lankan star Wanindu Hasaranga as the top-ranked men's T2OI all-rounder.

Following a topsy-turvy IPL where he was the target of fans' boos as Mumbai Indians' new captain, Pandya



turned it around in style in the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.

Pandya made impactful cameos down the order with the bat and made breakthroughs with the ball when the team needed him to. He finished with 144 runs at a batting strike-rate of over 150 and also took 11 wickets

in the tournament.

His best performance came in the final when he triggered a dramatic South African collapse after the Proteas needed 30 runs from 30 balls with Klaasen in full

Pandya gave the decisive blow by dismissing Klaasen in the first ball of the 17th over. He went on to bowl the tense final over and defended 16 runs to help India pip South Africa by seven runs and win their second T20 World Cup title.

India's star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who won the Player of the Tournament award at the T2O World Cup for his 15 wickets, moved up 12 spots to be just outside the top-10. He's at 12th, his highest position since the end of 2020.

There were other movements in the top 10 of the T20I all-rounders' rankings, with Marcus Stoinis, Sikandar Raza, Shakib Al Hasan and Liam Livingstone rising by one spot each.

Mohammad Nabi moved down four spots to go out of the top five. In the T2OI bowling rankings, South Africa's Anrich Nortje rose seven places to a career-best second spot to be just behind top-ranked Adil Rashid with 675 rating points.

T20 World Cup winning Indian team to take part in open bus road show

TDG NETWORK

The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team will take part in an open bus road show followed by a felicitation ceremony here at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.The Indian team is expected to reach New Delhi early on Thursday morning (6:20am) after departing from Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport in a chartered flight which has a special call sign - AIC24WC - Air India Champions 24 World

The departure of the Indian squad was delayed due to Hurricane Beryl. However, the team, its support staff, the players' families, some board officials and travelling Indian media finally managed to leave Barbados in the charter flight arranged by the BCCI early

on Wednesday morning (4:50am local time).

"The team has left from Barbados on a special Air India flight hired by the BCCI. The Indian journalists who were stuck there (Barbados) are also coming on the same flight along with BCCI president (Roger Binny) and secretary (Jay Shah), who are looking after all the arrangements," BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla told PTI.

"The flight will land at Delhi airport tomorrow 6 am. The team will meet PM Narendra Modi at 11 am at his residence. After this, the team will fly to Mumbai, where a ceremony has been organised.

"There will be a road show from Nariman Point in an open bus and later we will honour and felicitate the players with the prize money of Rs 125 crore as announced, he

Robit and his men won the title after pulling off a thrilling seven-run win over South Africa in the final on Saturday at the Kensington Oval.

BCCI secretary Shah welcomed all fans to join the victory parade on Thursday evening.

«Join us for the Victory Parade honouring Team India's World Cup win! Head to Marine Drive and Wankhede Stadium on July 4th from 5:00 pm onwards to celebrate with us! Save the date! #Team-India,» Shah wrote on <X>, formerly twitter.

Victorious India captain Rohit Sharma also took to social media to welcome the fans.

«We want to enjoy this special moment with all of you. So let>s celebrate this win with a victory parade at Marine Drive & Wankhede on July 4th from 5:00pm onwards. It's coming home," Ro-

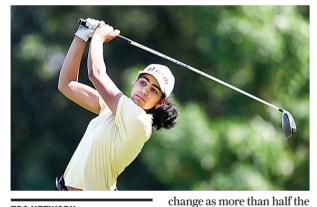
hit posted on $\langle X \rangle$. A felicitation event at the Wankhede Stadium

is also planned for the members of the Indian team.

A similar road show was held here 14 years ago when Mahendra Singh Dhonis team had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan in the final of the inaugural 2007 World T20 in South Africa.

Rohit and his men won the title after pulling off a thrilling seven-run win over South Africa in the final on Saturday at the Kensington Oval.

MODEST START FOR DIKSHA AT ARAMCO SERIES LONDON GOLF



TDG NETWORK

India's Diksha Dagar, who is recovering from a stiff neck which forced her to withdraw from the Italian Open last week, made a modest start with 2-over 75 to be placed tied 60th at the Aramco Series golf tournament here. Paris Olympics-bound Diksha, a two-time winner on the Ladies European Tour, had an up-and-down round with three birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey on nis of England and Laura Par-5 13th hole at the on the Par-73 Centurion Golf Club. Diksha was lying T-60

though the position will

field was yet to finish their first round. Diksha is the only Indian to have featured in a winning team in Aramco Series and that also came at the Aramco Series London in 2021. Of the other two Indians in this week's elite field at the one million dollar event, Tvesa Malik, who lost a play-off last week, was 1-over through three holes and Pranavi Urs was yet to start.

Three players, Nuria Iturrioz of Spain, Megan Den-Fuenfstueck of Germany were tied at the top at 4-under. The German was vet to finish her round.

Praggnanandhaa draws with Bogdan-Daniel in 6th round

TDG NETWORK

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic tournament, a part of the grand chess tour here. Iranian-French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja shined with his moves against Wesley So of the United States

With the World Championship on his mind, India's D Gukesh seemed to keep in reserve his real weapons and signed for peace with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

Praggnanandhaa tried his hand against the ever-solid Nimzo Indian defense. But it was an off day for the Indian who was confidently breached by the Romanian.

Bogdan-Daniel matched Praggnanandhaa move for move and the game was drawn through repetition



after 38 moves.

It was not so easy for Gukesh as well as he seemed to withheld his true preparation for the World Cham-Ding Liren, scheduled in November this year in Sin-

Alireza stole the show on a dull day in the grand chess tour. He was at his best and

crawled back with his second win of the tournament to be in striking distance of tournament leader Fabio Caruana of the United pionship match against States. With just three ime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA, granted," Advanisaid. rounds remaining in the USD 350000 prize money tournament, Caruna seems to be sitting pretty at the top, with three aspirants in Gukesh Praggnanandhaa

and Alireza in pursuit. Results after round 6: R

Praggnaanandhaa (IND. 3.5) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (ROM, 2); Max-3) drew with D Gukesh (IND, 3.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4) drew with Ian Nepomnichtchi (FID, 3); Alireza Firouzja (FRA, 3.5) beat Wesley So (USA, 2).

Advani off to a winning start at Asian Billiards Championship

TDG NETWORK

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani started his campaign at the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship on a high, notching victories over Aung Phyo and Yuttapop Pakpoj here.The 38-year-old, who is vying for a hat-trick of Asian Billiards titles, first beat Myanmar's Aung Phyo 4-2 and then emerged victorious in a thrilling clash over Thailand's Pakpoj 4-3.

"It is always good to start a tournament on a positive note. These two victories have boosted my confidence and I have my eyes set on my target. Given that the sport is quite unpredictable, I am not taking anything for

In the first match agains Aung Phyo, Advani took an early lead with a strong performance, winning Frame 1 with a score of 100(86)-35. Continuing his momentum



in Frame 2, Pankaj dominated the frame, finishing 104-34.

However, Aung Phyo fought back, narrowly edging out Advani 83(66)-101(54) in Frame 3. Aung Phyo levelled the match by winning another close frame 35-100(61).

But Advani remained composed under pressure and regained control, winning the next frame convincingly 100(53)-26, and he sealed the match with a commanding 100(100)-14 victory. His second match was a roller-coaster of emotions, with both the players putting their best performance for the fans.

Netherlands beat Romania 3-0 to reach first Euros quarter-final in 16 years

TDG NETWORK MUNICH

The Netherlands could be peaking at just the right time.

The Dutch team reached its first European Championship quarterfinal in 16 years with a 3-O win over Romania on Tuesday after its best performance by far at Euro

Cody Gakpo broke the deadlock in the 20th minute and substitute Donyell Malen scored two late goals to send the Dutch to their first quarterfinal in the tournament since 2008.

"I think the whole performance today was outstanding and that's what we need to have a chance to continue in this tournament," coach Ronald Koeman said. "This is the level. If you go down in that level, then we don't reach the final."

The Netherlands had missed a plethora of earlier



Nagal bows out in 1st round of Wimbledon men's doubles

opportunities to add to the lead and captain Virgil van Dijk also hit the woodwork. It was nevertheless a muchimproved display compared to its disappointing group stage performance, which ended in a 3-2 loss to Austria.

Koeman's side could get a quick rematch in Berlin on Saturday if Austria beats Turkey in the final round of 16 match later Tuesday.

"Sometimes it's difficult to explain why you play bad," Koeman said. "Even today,

the start was difficult.

They were really aggressive. But finally we found our ball position."

"What we created was good football ... Maybe one critical point was that it took too long to score the second one. ... It's difficult to explain why one time you play badly and the next time you are really sharp from the beginning." It was nevertheless a match to remember for Romania and its loud mass of yellow-clad fans, who have lit up the tournament. It was only the second time Romania had qualified for the knockout stage at a European Championship and it did so as group winner.

The bouncing yellow wall at one end of the stadium gave its team such a magnificent send-off singing and applauding the players long after the final whistle that it was almost as though Romania had won the game.

"Today we ended a great story, which we started two years ago. We continued that story here in Germany along with the fans of the national team," Romania coach Edward Iordanescu said. "The team gave a great effort, but there is some sadness.

"We wanted more, but we gave our all. Thank you to my lads, the supporters and Romanians everywhere in the world who supported us."

page time. "This was a match that we all wanted to have our strong moments of play, and I think we have taken another step forward," Lorenzo said. "With Brazil, you cannot be careless not

Colombia coach Néstor Lo-

renzo challenged his team to stay sharp and energized

through every physical and

emotional moment against

mighty Brazil, all the way

through two scorching-hot

halves of soccer and nearly

another 10 minutes of stop-

TDG NETWORK

Daniel Muñoz scored the tying goal in the first-half stoppage time, and Co-

even one second.'



Copa America: Colombia draw Brazil

1-1, to play Panama in quarter-finals

lombia won its first-round group at the Copa America with a 1-1 draw against Brazil on Tuesday night that extended its unbeaten streak to 26 games.

Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas saved Brazil's final chance on a shot by Andreas Pereira in the fifth

minute of second-half stoppage time.

Colombia plays Panama in a quarterfinal on Saturday in Glendale, Arizona, while Brazil fell into what appears to be a more difficult game against Uruguay later that night at Las Vegas.

"There's a sense of satis-

faction after playing such a strong opponent," Lorenzo said. "Now we need to think about Panama."

Los Cafeteros, who finished with seven points to Brazil's five, had back-toback scoring chances in the 84th minute but couldn't capitalize.

Brazil went ahead in the 12th minute when Raphinha launched a left-footed free kick into the upper right corner of the net just above the outstretched hand of Vargas.

The Brazilian winger jumped and pumped his fist as the seasoned Seleção struck first at Levi's Stadium, home of the NFL's San

Andy Murray and Emma Raducanu to play mixed doubles at Wimbledon

TDG NETWORK

Andy Murray and Emma Raducanu will team up in mixed doubles at Wimbledon, the tournament announced Wednesday, a pairing of the two biggest stars of

British tennis. The 37-year-old Murray owns three Grand Slam titles, including from the All England Club in 2013 and 2016. The 21-year-old Raducanu won the 2021 U.S. Open at age 18 and became the first qualifier to claim a

Murray withdrew from singles at Wimbledon on Tuesday, a little more than to remove a cyst from his spine. He is also entered in men's doubles with his older brother, Jamie,

Murray has said this will be his final appearance at the tournament. He is planning to retire after the Paris Olympics, which start later

awarded a wild-card entry to Murray and Raducanu in mixed doubles on Wednesday. The Murray brothers were given a wild card for men's doubles last week. Raducanu was scheduled

to play her second-round match in singles against Elise Mertens at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

TDG NETWORK WIMBLEDON

India's Sumit Nagal drew curtains on his campaign at the Wimbledon, crashing out in straight sets in the opening round of the men's doubles event along side his Serbian on Wednesday.Nagal and Lajovic lost 2-6 2-6 against Spanish pair of Jaume Munar and Pedro Martinez in one hour and seven minutes to bow out of the competition. Nagal, India's top-ranked player, had earlier lost in the

partner Dusan Lajovic here

opening round of men's singles on Monday.

Nagal, a former boys doubles Wimbledon champion, lost to Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 2-6 6-3 3-6 4-6 in 2 hours and 48 minute.

Nagal, playing his first match in the main draw of Wimble-

Later in the day, India's Rohan Bopanna and Australian Matthew Ebden, seeded second, will play Dutch combination of Sander Arends and Robin Haase.

don, put up a brave fight be-

fore going down in the open-

ing round.

major trophy.

a week after having surgery

this month. The All England Club