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



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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
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday took the Congress to the cleaners over making the 2024 general elections about the protection of the Constitution, saying Indians

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 protecting the Constitution during polls.

This infuriated I.N.D.I.A

bloc parties, who shouted slogans and calling Modi a "liar". Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge wanted to intervene but was not allowed, leading to the Opposition MPs trying to drown

out 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 fueling 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 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 understand 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

is my duty," he said as the Opposition walked out of the House.

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?"

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

TDG NETWORK
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 here.

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

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

On the direction of Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, the state government formed a three-member 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 Srivastava.

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 permitted.

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 Sikandrara 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

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



CM Champai Soren met Governor CP Radhakrishnan and tendered his resignation.

soon. If sworn in, Hemant Soren will be the 13th chief minister of Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000. "I have resigned as per the

decided in favour of Hemant Soren Ji," he said.

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

Amritpal Singh may take oath as MP on July 5

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

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 jail via helicopter, according to sources within the Punjab police.

P4

Govt constitutes fresh Cabinet committees

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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 Rajnath 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 members.

P4



Rescue and relief operations in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh: The Indian Army has been actively involved in extensive flood relief operations in the villages of Sivaguri (Dhemaj 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.

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

India. The T20 World Cup-winning 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.

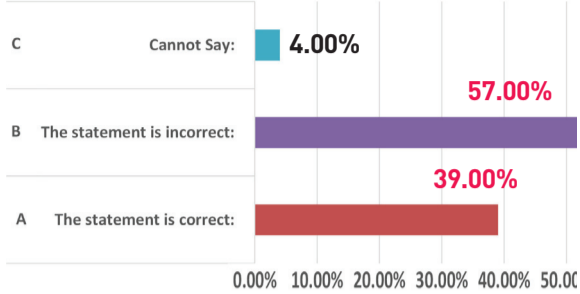
An Air India official said passengers were not inconvenienced by the deployment

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.

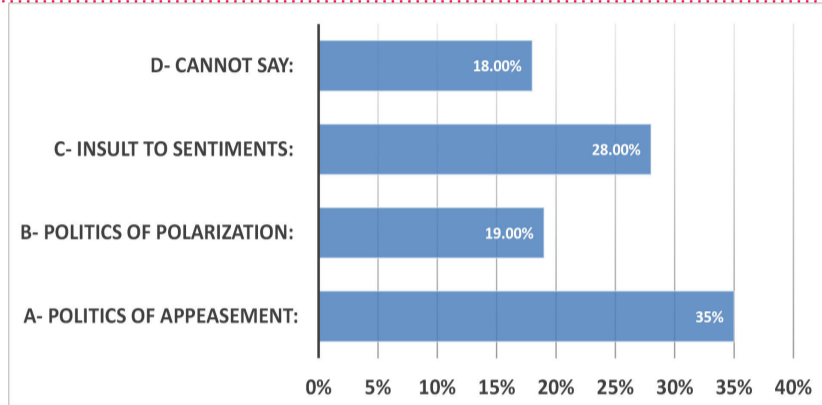
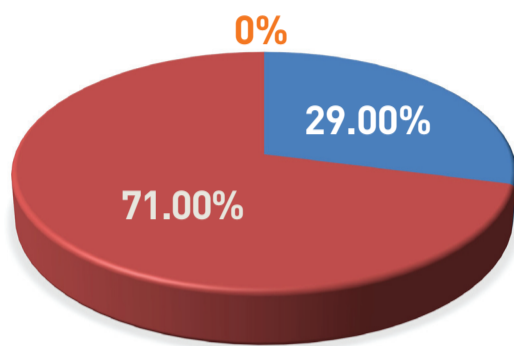
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY — 3RD JULY 2024

MP CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD'S STATEMENT



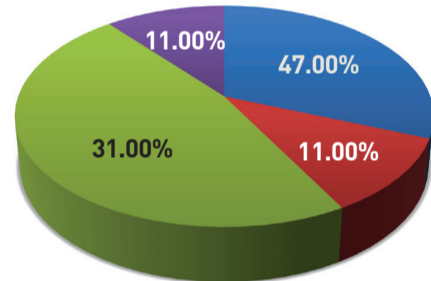
Q1. What is your opinion on Chandrashekhar's statement about Kanwar Yatra and Friday prayers?

Q2. Is it right to compare Kanwar Yatra and Friday prayers?



Q3. What do you think is the meaning of Chandrashekhar's statement on Kanwar Yatra and Friday prayers?

Q4. When do you face the most inconvenience on the road?

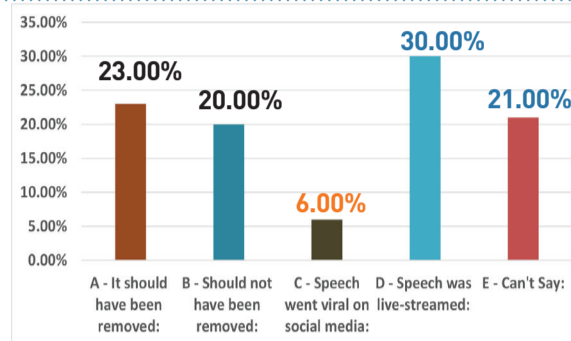
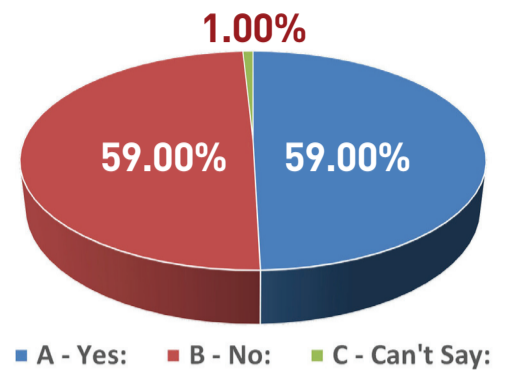


MALE: 88%

FEMALE: 12%

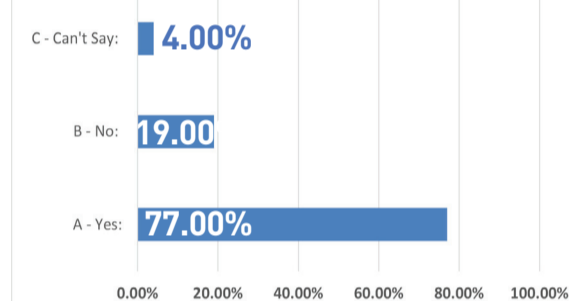
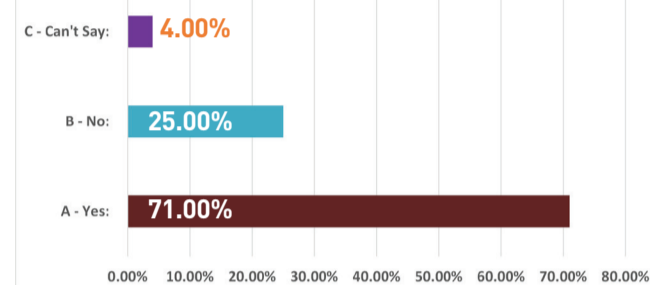
RAHUL GANDHI'S LOK SABHA SPEECH

Q1. Has the Parliamentary decision to remove Rahul Gandhi's speech on Hinduism and violence from the records been correct?



Q2. What is your opinion on the removal of the speech after it went viral on social media and was live-streamed from Parliament?

Q3. Has Rahul Gandhi insulted the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and broken the tradition of Parliamentary decorum?



Q4. Has Mallikarjun Kharge's behavior towards the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar, lowered the dignity of Parliament?

MALE: 93%

FEMALE: 7%

CITY

NEET-UG row: Youth Cong workers shave their heads; police books protestors under new criminal laws

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Raising slogans against the BJP-led Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA), the student outfits of some INDIA 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 Left-backed 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 march.

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 tests.

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

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

Meanwhile, the police has registered an FIR under the 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 students belonging to different outfits, including Left backed AISA and Delhi University's KYS under the banner

"India against NTA", were detained on Tuesday while attempting to march to the Parliament to press their demands. The police has now registered a case against the students under the new criminal laws, they said.

Their protest entered its eighth day on Wednesday as they joined the "Sansad Gherao" call by the student outfits of the INDIA bloc

parties.

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 Adhinyam (BSA) came into effect.

The NTA on Monday released the results of the re-test held for 1,565 candidates, who were given the opportunity to compensate for the loss of time due to late starting 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.

NTA working on CUET-UG results, date to be announced soon

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadeesh 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 (NTA).

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

said.

The delay in results come amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in the competitive exams, including NEET and NET.

The exam conducted in a hybrid 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 announced 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 common entrance test for admission to undergraduate courses in 261 central, state, deemed and private universities.

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
NEW DELHI

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 process.

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



years.

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 age".

"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 ruled.

T1 closure after canopy collapse; reopening will take time

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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 spokesperson 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 Metrological 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.

LANDSCAPE OF SECTION 377 OF IPC POST BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA

OPINION

V ABHINAV DEEP DORA &
DR. ALISHA VERMA



The entire nation is gearing for the July 1st, 2024 implementation 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 Shakhshaya Adhiniyam (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 exclusions of a few important sections of IPC which raises many questions on the efficacy and impact on the society. 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-consensual carnal intercourse against the order of nature between two adults, and bestiality (sexual intercourse with animal). Section 377 of the IPC says

"Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

Initially section 377 criminalised the unnatural sex between same genders or between man-woman and sex with animals. However, in *Naz Foundation case* and *Navtej Jobar 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 ultra vires to the constitu-

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 still 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, LGBTQ+ community and animals. Despite the parliamentary committee's recommendation to include the provisions of section 377 of the IPC in BNS, the non-inclusion created the vacuum in the legislation, makes the said community more vulnerable towards the 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 relative 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 sexual minority victims to



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 eye wash measure and shows the laxity of the government towards the sexual minority victims.

Another significant exclusion from the BNS is the offense 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 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 partners.

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

impose a 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, Pune, Maharashtra.

PERSPECTIVE LABOUR RISES

UK ELECTION: KEIR STARMER INCOMING

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 Bangladeshi and Pakistani 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 yet 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



of antibiotics in both human and veterinary medicine. Strict guidelines for prescription and dispensation of antibiotics, along with measures 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 em-

phasize the importance of completing prescribed antibiotic courses, the dangers of self-medication, and the need for responsible antibiotic use.

Moreover, there is a pressing 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 sec-

tors, 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.

The role of technology in 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.

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 forward-looking 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

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
NEW DELHI

Former 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 capabilities.

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.

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 SPEECH

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 pre-emptive 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 SPEECH

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 borders.

According to <https://archivepmo.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 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.



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.

And, having occupied it, 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 Declaration. It is a violation not just of one article of the Shimla Agreement, but an eight-fold violation of that solemn Agreement.

"I remain confident that the people of Pakistan too yearn for peace and harmony. 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 whoever launches aggression of any kind will get isolated in the international community," Vajpayee said.

Moreover both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers. So India's responsibilities in this regard are all the greater.

"Our first thought, and 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 Indian is grateful to you. The whole operation has been thrust upon us. To ensure victory, you would not be wanting in your requirements. 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,"

he said.

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 terrorists 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 Independence 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

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Arvind Kejriwal v. 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 agency.

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 Advocates 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 cooperated.

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.

The Vacation bench judge Amitabh Rawat in the case remanded Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal to CBI custody for three days on June 26, thus, the bench observed that the arrest, at this stage, cannot be said to be illegal.

The bench stated that while the arrest is not illegal, CBI should not be over zealous.

The Vacation bench headed by judge Sunena S Sharma remanded the Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody as CBI did not ask for his

further remand at this stage on June 29.

Last week, the probe agency examined the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Bihar 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 Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, ED on March 21. In May, Arvind Kejriwal was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till June 01 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
NEW DELHI

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



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

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 disposed of over 1,52,000 cases and delivered nearly 1,500 reported judgments.

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

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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, 2024.

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 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 08, 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

investigation into the alleged malpractices in the conduct of the examination.

The court in the case issued notice in the said matters and tagged together for a combined hearing on July 08, 2024.

Key Developments During Hearing By The Vacation Bench

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 candidates.

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'.

The Expert Committee will be chaired by Former ISRO Chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan.

Accordingly, the court listed the petitions for further consideration on July 08, 2024.

Delhi court grants custody parole to Engineer Rashid to take oath as MP



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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

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

The court stated that Rashid will not speak to media.

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 lodged in Tihar jail.

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 Yadav @Sharwan Yadav 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-

pressed 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 procurement of a minor girl done with common intention as stated under section 366A read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC.

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, 2024.

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
NEW DELHI

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 1989.



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, 2014.

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 05, 2024.

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

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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 Talaja Central Prison.

It has been decided by the prison authorities to shift Salem, who has spent over 15 years in the Talaja 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 Gokhale 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 Sayyad.

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-

ready been attacked twice in the Talaja Jail. The life term convict, in the alternative, sought to be shifted to some other barrack within the Talaja Jail itself.

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 pending.

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

TDG NETWORK
KATHMANDU

Nepali 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



premier - inked a power-sharing 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-

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-

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

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-a-half-year, 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 together.

UN wants to see Imran Khan's current situation improve: Spokesperson

TDG NETWORK
ISLAMABAD

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wants to see Imran Khan's current situation "evolve in a much more positive way", his spokesperson said, days after a UN panel termed cases against Pakistan's jailed former prime minister as "politically motivated".

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 violation of the Iddat period while marrying his current wife Bushra Bibi.

UN Secretary-General Guterres wants to see Khan's current situation "evolve in a much more



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 spokesperson said.

The government and its allies on Tuesday rejected the recommendations of the UN working group re-

garding 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-

ported the group's recommendation to immediately release the PTI founder, his spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said: "It's a recommendation from an independent panel.

"We want to see the current 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.

SriLankan Airlines restructuring, not sale: Aviation Minister

AGENCIES
COLUMBO

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 restructuring, not sale.

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.

Despite opposition and trade union claims, the airline cannot be sold outright. The divestiture would be subject to the government retaining its 51 per cent share, de Silva said, adding. The interest has been minimal, only six bidders came forward and we were unable to find a suitable partner. It can be granted to a Sri Lankan investor but they have to prove their credentials.



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.

SriLankan Airlines was one of the four key state-owned enterprises the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had prescribed for restructuring in the USD 2.9 billion bailout programme.

Furthermore, the IMF is actively involved in the restructuring process based strictly on legal frameworks, regulations, and objective criteria, without regard to

personal considerations, he said.

Countering opposition leader Sajith Premadasa's argument where he gave examples such as Argentina, Ecuador, and Ghana, which have successfully negotiated a 25 per cent reduction in commercial loans, the minister said, the commercial loans are distinct from bilateral debts.

Pak: Former senator, three others killed in a blast

AGENCIES
PESHAWAR

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.

In a tragic attack, former 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 July 12.

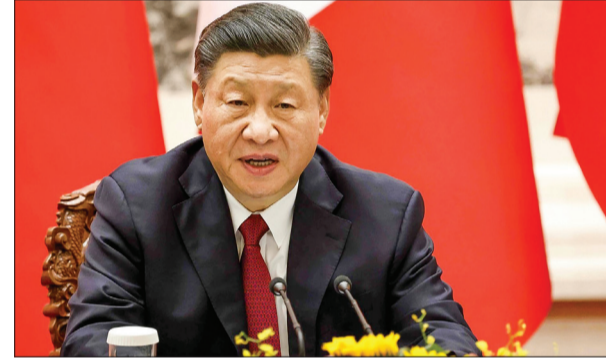
SCO summit brings together leaders of global south but also likely to test Beijing and Moscow's 'strategic partnership'

AGENCIES
BEIJING

Leaders from China, Russia and countries in the global south are gathering in Kazakhstan for the annual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a group that has been described as the "anti-Nato".

The summit is part of China's efforts to establish what it calls a "multilateral" world order that is not dominated by the US. But it is also a forum in which China and Russia's "strategic partnership" will be tested by their competing desires to wield influence in central Asia.

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



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

"sends a message to the western world that there are many different voices from the emerging economies that need to be heard and represented."

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

Israel strikes counter Hamas efforts to re-establish itself in Shejaya

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

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

Over the past day, the Israeli 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 humanitarian needs" of Palestinians sheltering in humanitarian zones, said Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who approved the move.

To prevent Hamas from stealing electricity, the power

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 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 dead.

Pay damages over forced sterilizations: Court to Japanese govt

AGENCIES
TOKYO

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

to do so.

All 15 supreme court judges found the eugenics law to be unconstitutional, the Kyodo 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
TAIPEI

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

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.

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-

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 FINALE



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

AGENCIES LONDON

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 strength to keep going."

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

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".

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

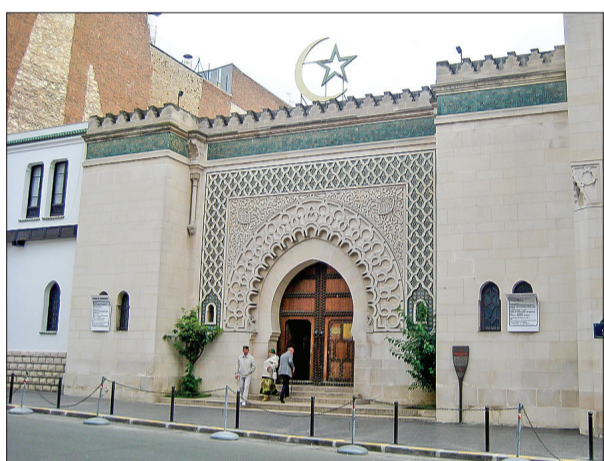
AGENCIES PARIS

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-right vote.

"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 first-round election with 33% of the vote, followed by the New Popular Front (NFP) alliance on 28% and the 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 likely.

Attal said centrist candidates were right to stand down even in favour of a rival from the radical-left 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 responsibility 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 butthheads with South American leftist leaders

AGENCIES BUENOS AIRES

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 well.

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 you have 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 Brasilia 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 be 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-



diately pushed back, with senior deputy press secretary and deputy assistant to the president Andrew Bates saying: "That claim is absolutely false. If the New York Times had provided us with 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.

At a Virginia campaign event on Tuesday evening, the US president blamed his weak debate on his international trips leading up to the event, saying: "I wasn't very 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 remarks.

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

Greek MP expelled from party after fight at airport

AGENCIES ATHENS

Greece's governing center-right 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 Constantinou 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 inde-

Lefteris 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 2023.

Russian missiles strike Ukraine's Dnipro in daylight attack

AGENCIES KYIV

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 Sinihubov



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, Sinihubov 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 social 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 Australian 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.

"There should be an especially 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.

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



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After years of giving the audience great movies, now the Hollywood besties are coming forth with another 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

shopped while aiming for a fall shoot.

The Netflix movie RIP will be directed by Joe Carnahan as per Deadline.

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 Jordan-focused film, Air by Amazon Prime.

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.

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.

Then the production company 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
MUMBAI

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 ghouly 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 delve into 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 S3 will 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 for me.

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

PICTURE PERFECT

MP Kangana Ranaut meets with Mantri Pankaj Chaudhary ji to discuss and advance work for her constituency. (X)



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

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Deepika 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.

After watching the film, 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



Haasan and the film's lead, Prabhas.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Ranveer wrote, "Kalki 2898 @kalki2898ad - a grand cinematic spectacle! That's what big screen cinema is all about! An unprecedented level of finesse in technical execution. The



very best in Indian cinema."

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

forever supreme! @ikamal-haasan."

Showering praises on 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! @amitabhbachchan."

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.

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

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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.

BRAIN PICKING

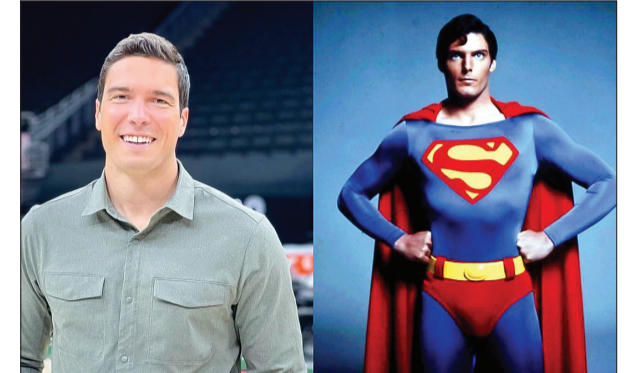


If I want to kiss, I shall kiss. If I am told that a lovemaking scene is integral to the script, I will consider it.



-KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN
(Indian actress)

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



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Will Reeve, son of the late Superman star Christopher Reeve, is set to have a cameo in James Gunn's upcoming DC movie Superman.

Christopher Reeve was the first Hollywood actor to portray the superhero, also known as Clark Kent, on the big screen.

Gunn's Superman will be fronted by David Corenswet, with Rachel Brosnahan and Nicholas Hoult as Daily Planet star reporter Lois Lane and Lex Luthor, Superman's arch nemesis, respectively.

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

Christopher Reeve starred in and as 1978's Superman, which marked the beginning of the film franchise. It was followed by Superman II (1980), Superman III (1983), and Superman IV: The Quest

for Peace (1987).

Gunn is directing Superman's latest revival from his own script. He also serves as the co-head of Warner Bros-owned DC Studios along 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 2025.

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 release.

Will Reeve and his older siblings Matthew and Alexandra appear in the documentary. Directed by Ian Bonhote and Peter Ettedgui, Super/Man follows Christopher Reeve's life following his horse riding accident

JEREMY IRONS JOINS 'THE MORNING SHOW' SEASON 4



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

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

2022.

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 Aniston's Alex Bradley

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

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

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

outsmaning 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.

JEEP COMPASS MODEL-S 4X2 AT REVIEW

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

A 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 today—the 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

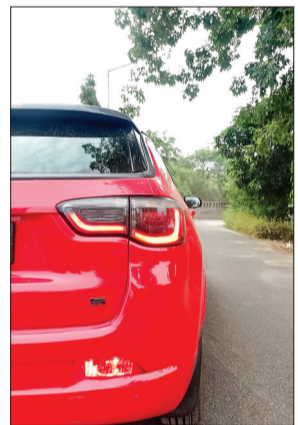


Shot on OnePlus 11R



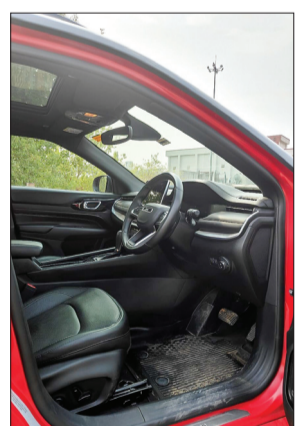
everything under 50 lakh rupees.

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 strength-tested 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 Thoroughbred...



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 wheel.

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-

which is bigger, the Compass 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 six-speed manual that extracts this motor's power exactly how you'd want it, the nine-speed torque converter isn't half bad either. I managed the customary 0-100

journeys.

In addition to the excellent NVH levels, and the aforementioned seats, what further keeps the occupants comfortable is the astounding ride quality and body composure of the 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



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 Compass, which allows



you to precisely dart in and out of gaps that you wouldn't dare to attempt in most of its competition. The braking is mind-boggling 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 re-

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.

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 at low speeds, if you encounter a sudden 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-

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 already.

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!



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



AUGMENTED REALITY: TRANSFORMING INDUSTRIES WITH IMMERSIVE INNOVATION



THE NEXT
ABHISHEKANAND

Augmented 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 decor items will look in their homes before making a purchase.

- **Product Information:** AR-enabled apps can provide detailed information about products by simply scanning them, enhancing the in-store experience.

2. HEALTHCARE

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-

gical techniques.

- **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 immersive.



- **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 landmarks.

- **Hotel Experience:** Hotels use AR to offer interactive room features, such as virtual concierge services, local attractions information, and room control

systems.

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 content.

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 heads-up 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

products 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 distance.

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 COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION

Fam-Tech was introduced 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,

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, from product discovery to post-purchase support. This is what AI can do for retailers and e-commerce businesses. With small action models, built to perform specific tasks, AI agents can vastly improve CX — both at the front and back end.

Retailers often struggle 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 more meaningful work of

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 models built on Large Agentic Frameworks are far more accurate and effective, making 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 tool to recommend products or services that the 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.

Success



HARDIK PANDYA ON TOP

First Indian to occupy top spot in ICC T20I all-rounder rankings

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

Hardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the number one spot in the ICC's T20I all-rounders' rankings on Wednesday, as the country's cricketers improved their standings following their title-winning performance in the just-concluded World Cup.

The 30-year-old, who handed telling blows to South Africa in the T20 World Cup final on July 29 by dismissing half-century 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 T20I 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

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 T20 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 T20I 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.

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 flow.

Pandya gave the decisive blow by dismissing Klaasen in the first ball of the 17th

MODEST START FOR DIKSHA AT ARAMCO SERIES LONDON GOLF



TDG NETWORK
LONDON

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 Par-5 13th hole at the on the Par-73 Centurion Golf Club.

Diksha was lying T-60 though the position will

change as more than half the 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 Iturio of Spain, Megan Dennis of England and Laura Fuenfstueck of Germany were tied at the top at 4-under. The German was yet to finish her round.

Praggnanandhaa draws with Bogdan-Daniel in 6th round

TDG NETWORK
BUCHAREST

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 withhold his true preparation for the World Championship match against Ding Liren, scheduled in November this year in Singapore.

Alireza stole the show on a dull day in the grand chess tour. He was at his best and

T20 World Cup winning Indian team to take part in open bus road show

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

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 Cup.

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 added.

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! #TeamIndia," 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," Rohit posted on X.

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 Dhoni's 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.

Advani off to a winning start at Asian Billiards Championship

TDG NETWORK
RIVADH

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani started his campaign at the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship on a high, notching victories over Aung Phyio and Yuttapop Pakpoj here. The 38-year-old, who is vying for a hat-trick of Asian Billiards titles, first beat Myanmar's Aung Phyio 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 granted," Advani said.

In the first match against Aung Phyio, 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 Phyio fought back, narrowly edging out Advani 83(66)-101(54) in Frame 3. Aung Phyio 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 quarter-final in 16 years with a 3-0 win over Romania on Tuesday after its best performance by far at Euro 2024.

Cody Gakpo broke the deadlock in the 20th minute and substitute Donyell Malen scored two late goals to send the Dutch to their first quarter-final 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



opportunities to add to the lead and captain Virgil van Dijk also hit the woodwork. It was nevertheless a much-improved 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."

Copa America: Colombia draw Brazil 1-1, to play Panama in quarter-finals

TDG NETWORK
SANTA CLARA

Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo 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 stoppage 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 even one second."

Daniel Muñoz scored the tying goal in the first-half stoppage time, and Co-



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-to-back 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 Francisco 49ers.

Nagal bows out in 1st round of Wimbledon men's doubles

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

partner Dusan Lajovic here 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

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-

don, put up a brave fight before going down in the opening round.

Later in the day, India's Rohan Bopanna and Australian Matthew Ebden, seeded second, will play Dutch combination of Sander Arends and Robin Haase.

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

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 major trophy.

Murray withdrew from singles at Wimbledon on Tuesday, a little more than a week after having surgery

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 this month.

The All England Club

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.